

# MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &  
Community Services

DATE: October 17, 2023

TO: Human Services Commission Members

FROM: Christy Stangland, Senior Planner  
Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: Communities Rise Capacity Building Program – Final Report

Communities Rise staff will provide the commission with the overview and outcomes of the capacity building program funded by the City of Bellevue, discuss their additional capacity building services, and answer questions about the cohort work and its benefits to participating organizations.

## **Background**

Communities Rise works with organizations, small businesses and communities located in Washington state that have been impacted by systemic oppression to increase capacity and build power. They recognize the strength and resilience in our communities and offer support through peer learning, coaching, and legal services and trainings. Communities Rise also work with community leaders in the broader nonprofit, public, and philanthropic sectors to create systemic change.

On July 7, 2021, the commission approved contracting with Communities Rise to administer a Capacity Building Cohort to support small and/or BIPOC-led community organizations. Communities Rise's completed intensive community outreach and the Capacity Building Cohort from March 2022 through August 2023.

The services provide by Communities Rise included the following:

- Cohort Participant Recruitment, Selection and Enrollment
- Organizational Capacity Building Workshops and Peer Learning Spaces
- Needs Assessment and Work Plan for Organizational Capacity Building for each organization
- Specialized Technical Assistance

- Cohort Participant Stipends
- Cohort Program Model Evaluation
- Individual coaching for non-profit participants
- Legal workshops and clinics