

# BELOVED COMMUNITY INCUBATOR

## 2024 IMPACT REPORT

RESHAPING THE ECONOMY  
ONE LOAN AND ONE CO-OP  
AT A TIME.



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# FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

Beloved Community Incubator supports and equips workers in order to organize a regional solidarity economy that centers a livable planet and people, especially poor and working class immigrants and people of color, over profit.

This year, we joined hands with community members and worker-owners to dream big: imagining what we, as workers, can build and own together. We envisioned the infrastructure our communities truly need and the workplaces and institutions we can nurture collectively.

As we set our sights on 2025, the future may feel uncertain, but we find strength in reflecting on all we've achieved over the past 8 years. With every loan, every co-op, and every step forward, we're shaping a world of possibility—together.

In Solidarity,



Bianca



Samantha



Geoff

# FROM SWAMP ROSE COOPERATIVE

Native plants transform our yards into dynamic, ecologically thriving spaces, with almost immediate benefits to local wildlife. Gardening represents one of the most straightforward tools that we—as individuals and community—can deploy in the fight against climate change and biodiversity collapse, issues that often feel overwhelming.

The mechanics of owning a small business can be overwhelming too. This year alone, BCI helped us with legal support and conflict mediation and gave us a loan for \$50,000 — to buy a new truck and new tools. Without the financing from BCI, we wouldn't have been able to bring on three workers full-time or expand our operations. The terms from a regular bank would have prohibitive.

We launched Swamp Rose to bring to our work a reciprocity with the natural systems that sustain us, solidarity with the workers whose labor we rely on, and a passion to share the beauty of our native landscapes. We're grateful to have the support from BCI in this endeavor.



MEASURING OUR IMPACT

\$1.8 MILLION

LOANS TO LOCAL COOPERATIVES & COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS



**\$1 MILLION**  
bridge construction  
loan to Dreaming Out Loud to build a grocery store & food hub in Ward 8 that will provide 60+ jobs in Anacostia and combat food apartheid in Ward 8.



**\$50,000**  
loan to Swamp Rose Co-op to purchase their first truck, allowing three worker-owners to go full time.



**\$750,000**  
to Community Purchasing Alliance increased their racial equity purchasing from BIPOC businesses in the DC region.

## MEASURING OUR IMPACT

# 500 HOURS

## COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

We supported the incorporation and launch of The 51st, a worker-led news outlet for the District of Columbia. From The 51st staff:

“We believe that all D.C. residents deserve a more equitable and just place to live, and our reporting is rooted in our conviction that local journalism is meant to make people’s lives better.”



MEASURING OUR IMPACT

# 100 HOURS

## LEGAL SUPPORT

With our support, Baldwin House Community Collective received their 501(c)(3) status, allowing them to support limited equity housing coops as a strategy for resisting displacement in the District.

We provided community mortgage agreements so that Rhizome DC could complete the fundraising required to purchase their own building and continue to promote local artists and create vibrant grassroots art experiences in the DC region.



## MEASURING OUR IMPACT

# 400 HOURS TRAINING COOP DEVELOPERS

We invested in an eight month Solidarity Economy Apprenticeship Program — bringing on five paid apprentices. These apprentices got weekly training to learn the organizing and cooperative development tools they need to make reshaping the economy more than a theoretical idea. Apprentices also got concrete, hands-on experience working with existing coops in order to support sustainable, long-term projects in the DC region.



## MEASURING OUR IMPACT

# PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

We hired 8 Community Researchers who talked to neighbors, coworkers, and community members, including legacy business owners, parents and caregivers, migrant communities, and hotel and domestic workers.

### Community Researchers:

- ✦ Held 250 conversations with workers and business owners
- ✦ Presented our PAR project at New Economy Coalition's annual member meeting & Seed Commons' Annual Gathering



Our work with PAR was featured on New Economy Coalition's podcast: [Solidarity Economy Shorts](#).

## MEASURING OUR IMPACT

# ORGANIZING WORKER POWER: STREET VENDORS



In 2023 - we won the passage of the Street Vendor Advancement Act and in 2024, we we launched The BCI License Fund -- a \$125,000 fund to support license costs and inspection fees for vendors who fought for a path to legalization during the 2023 campaign.

Unfortunately, as is the case with so many progressive laws in Washington, DC, the implementation of the law has run into significant barriers. Delays, non-compliance with the law, and resistance from the executive agencies has been present at all stages of implementation.

In an effort to support workers and realize the wins of the historic campaign, this year we have provided **250+** hours of license accompaniment -- supporting vendors with application forms and visits to the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection. As we move into 2025, we will be accompanying food vendors to prepare for Micro-enterprise Home Kitchen Permits.

## MEASURING OUR IMPACT

# ORGANIZING WORKER POWER: STREET VENDORS

We stopped the DC Office of Tax & Revenue from collecting debt from vendors who should have been granted amnesty under the new vending laws.

We mobilized public comments on the Department of Health's home kitchen permit and DC's Tax Revision Commission's (TRC) rule on minimum quarterly sales tax, which resulted in TRC recommending the elimination of the minimum quarterly sales tax to DC Council.

In partnership with Tzedek DC and The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, we successfully pushed for the DC Council to raise the minimum threshold for the DC Clean Hands Law from \$100 to \$1000, which means that fines are less of a barrier to vendors seeking licenses.





**Visit: [belovedcommunityincubator.org](http://belovedcommunityincubator.org)**

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