



The Learning Council

2021 Year in Review

2021: EXPANDING OUR CAPACITY

On behalf of the Learning Council Board of Directors and Staff, we are proud to share an overview of our biggest year yet.

2021 was a year of immense growth and expansion for The Learning Council. While continuing to navigate a complex global pandemic, we met the needs of the community through offerings in education, advocacy, nutrition, and food sovereignty. Our capacity grew as we stretched ourselves in new ways, all while learning together. The end of the year marked an exciting new chapter: TLC purchased a building on Grand Avenue in Paonia to call home. This educational community hub will change everything in the most exciting ways!



EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS FOR ALL

The Learning Council offered an abundance of educational opportunities in 2021. In total, TLC hosted **14 workshops**/multi-part series, **12 events**, and **38 classes** this year. 22 of these classes were part of our agricultural class series in partnership with Valley Organic Growers Association (VOGA).

Here's a breakdown of our offerings from the year:

Workshops and Series:

Changing Hearts and Minds with Rivera Sun,
Food as Medicine, Food as Ally,
Freestyle Partner Dance Series,
Art and Movement Summer Camps,
West Slope Photo Journalism ,
Mama and Baby Yoga Series,
Biography Workshop,
Understanding White Privilege Series,
Lindy Hop Dance Series,
Women's Anatomy and Sexuality ,
Contemporary Dance Workshop,
Mobil Mural,
Apples, Aspens, and Art, Oh My!

Events and Festivals

Lights, Camera, Trans Action,
Día de Los Muertos,
National Public Lands Day,
Community Conversation on Sexual Health Education,
Pride Demonstration at DCSD,
Cherry Days Parade Floats,
Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Training,
World Music Performance by Miguel Espinosa,
Colorado Opera
Elf Crafter's Workshop

Classes

22 agricultural classes with VOGA,
10 sexual health education classes in local schools,
How to Be An LGBTQ Ally,
Dark Skies Astronomy Class,
Black History Book Club Discussion,
African Drum in Delta,
African Dance in Delta,
African Drum and Dance for elementary students in Delta with Ettienne Tolno

NUTRITION AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY



2021 marked huge growth in our effort to promote the livelihood of farmers and to offer nutritional access to all. This year marked the second season for the Arbol Farmers Market.

The Arbol Farmers Market moved locations from a small private farm to Paonia's Town Park where more vendors joined and more customers shopped. The market was held for **22 consecutive weeks** on Tuesday evenings.



TLC Kitchen prepared a community meal each week for **48 total weeks**, serving between 25 and 175 people each week. These meals were prepared with over 80% locally sourced ingredients, investing over **\$14,000** back into our local agricultural economy.

ADVOCATING FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION

In 2021 we expanded our efforts to create equity in our community. TLC co-created the Delta County Coalition Advocating for Radically Equitable Spaces (DC CARES) alongside our partner organizations. This coalition of nearly 30 individuals, businesses, and organizations have a common goal of making our county a safer, more affirming space for marginalized demographics. In 2021, we:

- Advocated for LGBTQ students and access to comprehensive sexual health education (CSHE) through demonstration
- Hosted a Community Conversation around CSHE featuring 10 panelists from our community and beyond
- Launched a workshop on Diversity, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for DC CARES members
- Brought the ACLU to Paonia to discuss social justice issues we face in Delta County

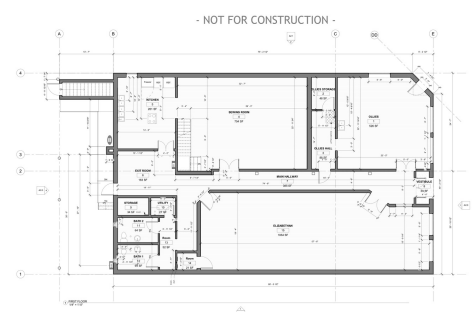
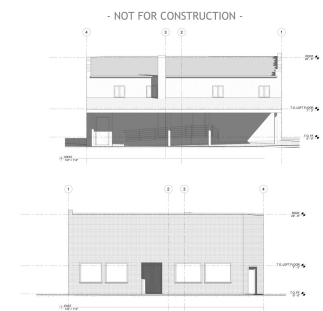


EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY HUB: A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR TLC

As our capacity has grown so much in the past few years, The Learning Council decided to take a huge step: we have purchased a building on Grand Avenue! This 4,600 square foot space, built in 1890, will become a permanent home for our organization and perennial programs. TLC closed on the building on December 29th for \$500,000, completing phase one of our capital campaign. Our next steps include environmental remediation, facility upgrades, renovations in the commercial kitchen and bathrooms, creating an outdoor classroom space, hiring a property manager, building a contingency fund, investing in solar panels, licensing and promoting our space.

With great enthusiasm, we are planning to home the following in our new hub:

- Teen-led icecream shop open year-round
- TLC Kitchen serving weekly community meals while teaching food classes
- Classroom Space for courses in health, dance, agriculture, social justice, and more
- Arts for All educational programs in visual arts, music, and performing arts
- Diversity Library to peruse a variety of books
- Working Area for Delta County Coalition Advocating for Radically Equitable Spaces
- Bike Co-op shop and outdoor space
- Space for coworking with our partner organizations and colleagues
- Educational space for the Health and Vitality Council to teach Comprehensive Sexual Ed to parents and students



FINANCIAL REPORT

2021 was the largest year for The Learning Council in a number of ways. Never before have we created so many programs, launched so many classes, and included so many participants. We feel deep gratitude towards our supporters who make our work in the North Fork Valley possible.

Current & Fixed Assets \$432,513

Net Income \$368,477

Total Expense \$283,716



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As we move into the new year, our organization will continue to grow, learn, and serve our community. Thank you for your support and care.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors

Pat Frazier

Dana Whitcomb

Patrick McCarney

Rachel Schmitzer

Candice Orlando

Staff

Alicia Michelsen

Amanda Campbell



THE LEARNING COUNCIL