



The Learning Council

2022 Year in Review

www.thelearningcouncil.org

2022: Counting Our Blessings

On behalf of the Learning Council Board of Directors and Staff, we thank everyone who has supported us to accomplish so much in 2022!

The end of 2021 marked an exciting new chapter for TLC: we purchased a building on Grand Avenue in Paonia to call home. This educational community hub came alive throughout 2022 and we couldn't have done it without the creativity, talent, and support of our beloved community.



Educational Offerings for All

With our community space in downtown Paonia, The Learning Council was able to offer more educational opportunities in 2022 than in any other year! In total, TLC hosted **12** workshops, participated and supported **10** events, and offered over **70** classes this year. **22** of these classes were part of our agricultural class series in partnership with Valley Organic Growers Association (VOGA). Here is a breakdown of our events from the year:

Classes/offerings

22 agricultural classes with VOGA including an Animal Husbandry skills series, our Annual Seed Swap, and classes on growing produce, building compost & making fertilizers, beekeeping, fermentation, and so much more! We taught over 500 students throughout the season and learned so much from our local farmers.

4 sexual health education classes and trainings.

20 Movement as Medicine offerings.

Classes/offerings

8 West African Drum & Dance classes,
The Art of Living & Dying,
Community-based Rites of Passage Dialogue,
Preconception Epigenetics,
Wild Foods & Herbs, Child & Infant First Aid & CPR,
Painting Your World With Words, Primordial Breathwork, Super Glow Breathwork, Conscious Communication, Sunday Sanctuary with School of Magic, Climate Action

Workshops and Series:

Parent & Baby Yoga & Circle Time, Swing Dance, Earth Building Adobe, Day of Mindfulness, Northfork Explorers Club, Relating Across Differences, Consciousness & Meditation, Organize & Win with Rivera Sun, 4 Dark Skies Astronomy Outings, Life Drawing, Spring Into Art for Kids, Winter Speaker Series, 6 Seniors on Farms Outings

Nutrition and Food Sovereignty



2022 focused efforts on promoting the livelihood of farmers and offering nutritional access to all- year round! This year marked the Arbol Farmers Market's 3rd season, running for 22 weeks and the first ever Arbol Winter Market Series, monthly November-February!

TLC Kitchen prepared weekly community meals, dinners at the farmers market, Friday pop-up dinners and in total we served **5,400 meals in 2022!** These meals were prepared with **over 80% locally sourced ingredients, investing over \$40,000** back into our local agricultural economy. This program supports local farmers, the community, and local food access.

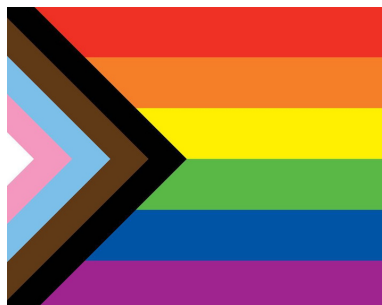
TLC also gathered a truck load of produce and goods which was delivered to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe at the Western Slope Native American Resource Center in Towaoc, CO as a way to continue building relations and honoring those that lived on this land before us.



Advocating for Equity and Inclusion

In 2022 we expanded our efforts to create equity in our community:

- TLC's collaborative program, Delta County Coalition Advocating for Radically Equitable Spaces (DC CARES), awarded 3 (\$1000) scholarships to graduating BIPOC & LGBTQIA+ seniors in Delta and The North Fork Valley
- Advocated/supported LGBTQ+ and minority students to speak out at Delta County School District Board Meeting
- Hosted Community Conversation & Sexual Health Education Training
- Rallied to fly RAINBOW flags in Paonia during Pride Month and participated in a series of street committee meetings with Town Council members, advocating for National Heritage Months to be celebrated in town
- Provided LGBTQ+ Cultural Fluency Safe Zone Training with Partnership for Community Action



Festivals, Festivities & Summer Camps

TLC participated in the Community Fair, Street Clean Up with NFSIS & PK8, Festival Agricola in Olathe, and Dia De Los Muertos. TLC also helped to put on the Arts For All Summer Circus Camp, Western Slope Photojournalism Workshop, Matter of Pride Show and Bread & Puppet Theater.

The Hearth was a stage to a lot of local musical talent this year DJ Dustdrops, DJ Rhythm Alchemist & Positive ID, Alternate Eye, and punk rock line-up Crashlanders and The Sep-ticks.



Art, Advocacy & Cultural Diversity



TLC strives to uplift diversity and bring cultural experiences to our community. TLC offers monthly West African Drum & Dance classes led by Etienne Tolno, seasonal Thai food meals from Thailand Native Ramphai Noikaew, and collaborates with Western Colorado Migrant & Rural Coalition to celebrate Mexican Heritage & more.



Arts For All offered 6 classes in 2022 reaching over 350 kids, reached over 900 kids in Delta County with their craft zones, and contracted 13 teachers and 8 youth artists! They utilized their Arts in Society grant to create a social justice oriented community project that connected local artists to Latinx community members and highlighted their stories in the form of a beautiful mural in downtown Olathe, CO. A second mural is in the process of being created in Paonia to honor the life of Eddie Carrillo.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023:

As our capacity has grown so much in the past few years, The Learning Council decided to take a huge step in buying a building downtown in 2021 which has become our permanent community educational hub called The Hearth. We have been busy this year conducting environmental remediation, facility upgrades, and renovations. We have beautified and opened the youth-led Ice Cream Corner serving locally made Third Bowl Ice Cream, wildcrafted infusions and more!

The year ahead will be focused on:

- Renovation & completion of the commercial kitchen, bathrooms, an outdoor classroom & green space
- TLC Kitchen serving weekly community meals while teaching food classes
- Continuing courses in health, dance, agriculture, social justice, and more
- Arts for All educational programs in visual arts, music, and performing arts
- Completion of our Diversity Library open to the community
- Working Area for Delta County Coalition Advocating for Radically Equitable Spaces
- 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
- continuing to build relations with Native Ute Tribes, collaborating in a healing relations ceremony and bringing back the Powwow to the city of Delta!



Financial Report

2022 was an tremendous 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 Assets \$29,138

Fixed Assets \$735,350

Net Income \$211,733

Total Expense \$458,614



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

Sara Johnstone

Taya Jae

Patrick McCarney

Rachel Schmitzer

Candice Orlando

Staff

Alicia Michelsen

Emily Goughary

Rose Costello



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