



**The
Learning
Council**

2023 Year in Review

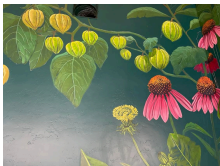
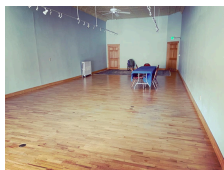
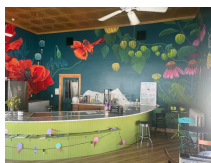
www.thelearningcouncil.org

2023: Making Great Strides

On behalf of the Learning Council Board of Directors and Staff, we thank everyone who has supported TLC to accomplish so much in 2023.

TLC acquired The Hearth building in December of 2021. Since then, it has changed drastically from the inside out! With the help of many supporters, artists, builders, architects, and visionaries, The Hearth has undergone significant transformation. This educational community hub came alive throughout 2023 and we couldn't have done it without the creativity, talent, and support of our beloved community.

Updates Inside & Out



Educational Offerings for All

With our community space located in the heart of downtown Paonia, The Learning Council is able to offer many educational opportunities to our local community. In total, TLC hosted **8** workshops, participated in and supported **10** events, and offered over **100** classes this year. **All in all, TLC provided educational experiences to over 2,000 community members this year.**



Classes, Workshops & Festivals

Agriculture: TLC offered **21** agricultural classes with VOGA including cheesemaking, beekeeping, our Annual Seed Swap, building compost & making fertilizers, Cottage Food Safety Cert, Fermentation Celebration, and more! In collaboration with VOGA, we taught over **500** students throughout the season and learned so much from our local farmers.

Health & Wellness: **9** Movement as Medicine offerings with live musical accompaniment, **6** Comprehensive Sexual Health Education classes and trainings, Birth Stories, Spring into Herbal Health, **40** Senior Yoga Classes, **10** Harvest for Health Lunches, **12** Sunday Sanctuary Events with the School of Magick, **9** Day of Mindfulness Events, Women's Wisdom Circle, **4** Blues Swing Dance Classes, **4** Song Workshops and Singing Circles, **27** Mindful Mamas Events, Acro Yoga, Overcoming Trauma, **6** Healthy Natural Lifeways, **8** Contact Movement Labs

Art, Culture & Diversity Upliftment: **2** Drag Events with Delta Pride, **4** Painting & Sacred Geometry workshops, **10** Heritage Films with The Paradise & KVNF, **4** Dark Skies Astronomy Outings, Spring Into Art for Kids Series, North Fork Explorers Club, **21** Figure Drawing Classes, **9** West African Drum & Dance classes, **2** Environmental and Social Activism workshops, **1st ever** Justice Equity Diversity & Inclusion Training with the City of Delta, Festival Agricola with Migrant Rural Coalition, Dia De Los Muertos ofrenda, **7** LGBTQ+ Family & Friends Pizza & Rainbow Closet, Litter Clean Up with NFSIS/PK8/ Rain & Shine/Forest Service, BUBBLES debut in Cherry Days Parade & Delta Pride Fest, Foundations for Restorative Justice

Honoring & Celebrating Heritage Months



In 2023 we collaborated with **DC CARES, KVNf & The Paradise Theatre** to create events to uplift each Heritage Month as a way to educate, celebrate and honor diversity, equity and inclusion.



Highlights of the year included TLC collaborating and participating in Pride Month by unleashing BUBBLES into the public arena, celebrating Mexican Independence Day and uplifting Latin@ agricultural workers in our region at Festival Agricola, creating an ofrenda for Dia De Los Muertos, and donating abundance from the NFV to the Western Slope Native American Resource Center!

Uplifting Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

In 2023 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
- Distributed 175 Rainbow Flags to community members
- Hosted Community Conversation & Sexual Health Education Training in collaboration with Loving Beyond Understanding
- Offered films and cultural events celebrating & honoring each Heritage Month
- Provided LGBTQ+ Cultural Fluency Training and Friends & Family Pizza Events with access to the Rainbow Closet in collaboration with Loving Beyond Understanding
- Helped coordinate City of Delta's first ever Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Training for City employees and community members
- Community Conversations for Conflict Resolution in reference to discrimination experienced by LGBTQIA+ community members in Delta and Paonia



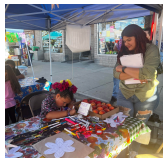
FOOD EQUITY PROJECT



This year, TLC offered **28 Arbol Farmers Markets** and **12 TLC Kitchen Pop-Up Community Dinners**. All in all, TLC served **5,400 meals** in 2023! 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 **4,500lbs** of produce and goods from the NFV and delivered it 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.

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 and more.

Arts For All offered **6 workshop series** and **several kids craft zones** in 2023 reaching over **600 kids** in Delta County. Their craft zones were offered at Cherry Days, Pickin' In The Park, Harvest Fest, Festival Agricola, and the Holiday Fair. Not only do they touch the imaginations and hone the talents of hundreds of children, but they employed **13 teachers** and **15 youth artists**!

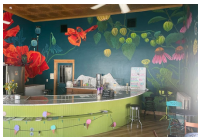


LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

2023 has been filled with conducting environmental remediation, facility upgrades, and renovations at our educational hub, The Hearth. We have beautified and opened the youth-led Ice Cream Corner serving locally made Third Bowl Ice Cream, wildcrafted infusions. Our TLC Commercial Kitchen has been officially approved and we have cooked our first community meal from there!

The year ahead will be focused on:

- Build an outdoor classroom & green space
- TLC Kitchen serving weekly community meals while teaching food classes
- Latin@ Cultural Mondays at The Hearth: a space to practice speaking Spanish while making tamales and other heritage foods
- Launching Diversity Library
- Continuing courses in health, dance, agriculture, social justice, and more
- Arts for All educational programs in visual arts, music, and performing arts
- sponsoring state wide Colorado Migrant Rural Coalition in Delta
- continuing to build relations with Native Ute Tribes, collaborating in a healing relations ceremony and bringing back the Powwow to the city of Delta
- Build Guild: community art, design, apprenticeship & mentorship program to remember our roots and enliven our community stories.



Financial Report

2023 was a transformative 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: \$43,560

Fixed Assets: \$1,188,413

Other Assets: \$4,929

Total Assets: \$1,236,902

Net Income: \$457,445

Total Expenses: \$482,267



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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,

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