



THE
LEARNING
COUNCIL

2024 Impact Report

www.thelearningcouncil.org

Educational Offerings for All

With our community hub located in the heart of downtown Paonia, The Learning Council is able to offer many educational opportunities to our local community.



Learning Opportunities

22

Agricultural
Education
events with
VOGA

Participated
in **6** regional
festivals

Over **50**
Mindful Mama's
Groups

Over **100**
community
yoga & tai chi
classes

Monthly
Day of
Mindfulness
Events

10 Movement
As Medicine
Classes with
Live Music

Monthly
West African
Drum &
Dance Classes

Over
30 wellness &
women's
health classes

Over
a dozen
Build Guild
Gatherings &
Skill Shares

22 Outdoor
Farmers Markets
& **6** Winter
Markets

20 Heritage
Month Film
Screenings &
Cultural
Events

13
Community
Grief Rituals &
End of Life
Classes

Honoring & Celebrating Heritage Months & Cultural Events



In 2024, TLC continued collaborating 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 Cinco de Mayo, celebrating Mexican Independence Day and uplifting Latin@ agricultural workers at Festival Agrícola, and creating a community ofrenda for Dia De Los Muertos.

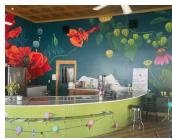
Uplifting Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

In 2024 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
- Hosted Community Conflict Resolution Conversations and Cultural Fluency Trainings in collaboration with Loving Beyond Understanding
- Offered films and cultural events celebrating & honoring each Heritage Month
- Provided Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Training to community and staff as well as Safety Trainings in the face of adversity
- Brought BUBBLES the rainbow trout to the Telluride Mushroom Festival
- Offered monthly Yoniversal Health Care Days to inform, connect and uplift women's experiences
- Attended over 40 meetings with City Council, Town Council, and School Board concerning LGBTQ & BIPOC rights, migrant rights and sanctuary spaces, and social studies reform



FOOD EQUITY PROJECTS



This year, TLC offered a total of **28** Arbol Farmers Markets, **8** TLC Kitchen Pop-Up Community Dinners, and **20** days of offering hot community lunch meals from the TLC Kitchen & Market! All in all, TLC served **6,500** meals in 2024! These meals were prepared with over **80% locally sourced ingredients**, investing over **\$55,000** back into our local agricultural economy. This program supports local farmers, the community, and access to healthy, local food.

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.

TLC KITCHEN & MARKET

MAY ALL BE FED!

In 2024 we launched a new facet of our food equity program: TLC Kitchen & Market!



Our goal is to continue uplifting local farmers by providing produce and goods to the community year-round!

Through the TLC Kitchen and Market, we aim to support regional farmers more than ever- by getting local food into local bellies. Not only does this help uplift the agricultural economy, but also promotes health, wellness, connection, and sustainability in our community.

Art, Advocacy & Cultural Diversity



Our program branch Arts For All (A4A) was very proud to receive the Elevate, Foundations for the Future grant, that brought music recording, arts and dance together for our first ever album, recorded by over 100 Delta county youth.

A4A offered 5 kids craft zones in 2024 reaching over 650 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 10 teachers and 12 youth artists!

A4A taught classes to 18 kids at their annual Summer Camp, as well as 15-20 kids weekly for 10 weeks of after school art classes.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

The year ahead will be focused on:

- Building an outdoor classroom & green space behind The Hearth
- Continuing reparation projects such as a Ute Tribal Council Conference
- TLC Kitchen serving weekly community meals
- Latin@ Cultural Days at The Hearth: a space to practice speaking Spanish while making heritage foods
- Launching Diversity Library
- Continuing courses in health, dance, agriculture, social justice, and more
- Arts for All educational programs in music, performance & visual arts
- Participating in Voces del Campo: Conferencia de Liderasco (Agricultural Workers Conference) providing essential education & resources to migrant community
- Continue to deepen healing relationships with Native Ute Tribes
- Build Guild: community art, design, apprenticeship & mentorship projects to remember our roots and enliven our community stories
- Create a GSA and offer more Comprehensive Sexual Health Education

Financial Report

2024 was another year of incredible growth for The Learning Council. We feel deep gratitude towards our supporters who make our work in the North Fork Valley possible.

Year End Assets: \$25,150
Fixed Assets: \$1,347,640
Mortgage Liability: \$103,760
2024 Net Income: \$742,120
2024 Expenses: \$749,970

To show our gratitude, we pour that support back into the local community by collaborating with NFV farmers, artists, teachers, and businesses. We are proud to report that over 70% of supplies across all our programs are purchased from locally owned businesses or community members. In 2024, we invested over \$400,000 in the NFV economy by purchasing supplies and paying for services & wages, including:

- \$52,000 to local farmers for organic produce
- \$40,000 to locally owned businesses for supplies
- \$157,000 to local artists, crafts people, and contractors
- \$4,800 in sponsorships for other NFV events and orgs
- \$3,300 in student scholarships through DC Cares
- And we employed 20 people in 2024. We are grateful to everyone that makes TLC run!



As we reflect on a year of meaningful impact and growth, we also face the growing challenge of securing the funding needed to sustain and expand our programs. Every contribution, helps us continue building a stronger, healthier, and more connected community. If you believe in the work we're doing, please consider making a donation today or volunteering with us. Together, we can keep this momentum going for years to come.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors

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Sara Brody	Betsy Johnson	Laura Parker

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