

**Southeast Seattle Education Coalition Report for the Equity and Equality in Education  
Project in partnership with UW College of Education Family Design Leadership  
Collaborative, and National SEED Project**

**July 2018**

Change-making Aims Southeast Seattle Education Coalition's (SESEC) project aims to:

1. Invest in coalition partners by providing racial equity facilitation training.
2. Continue to build, strengthen, widen and invest in the network of partners, parents, educators, etc. in Southeast Seattle.
3. Host a series of events to talk about racial equity and share interesting information about racial equity and education.

Through these actions and co-designing with the SESEC community we are changing the dynamics of the community. Concretely design partners have gained skills they are reporting they are using in their own organizations and others who attend the events are thinking about race differently. While SESEC doesn't work directly with families many of our partners work with families and this project is helping them shape their interactions with families differently. They have brought back information on how they are working differently with families as a result of our work together.

Our theory of change is by building and investing in a stronger network of diverse people and working with people of color and communities of color we will see a more connected and resilient network able to support students and families of color.

***Co-Design Process and Partners***

Our EEE planning team is comprised of SESEC partners. It is a diverse group including partners from small nonprofits to a small state level department. Partners include people of color, multiracial, and white allies. We work hard to keep the space intentionally poc centered. Partners are all learning about co-design as they participate. Experience levels vary with the content and because we are co-designing there are different levels of participation. It is rewarding to seeing partners continue to return and want to invest time in working on projects together.

We've held four public event, three of which were co-designed, and two of those three were co-designed by the current project team. The work is sustainable by investing in partners once we end this current iteration of the project. Many of the partners are using the skills they learn and infusing it into their daily work at their own work sites.

***Learning with Families & Communities***

We've learned to slow down and take time to do upfront relationship building. Often the opening question becomes the learning topic for the session and we build off of those conversations. The learning has also come through the conversations and the 'work' is secondary, such as planning tasks are handed off to staff with the design partners trusting us to do the logistical work. In other settings the logistics would have dominated our time together.

There were learnings in working cross-racially and specifically scaffolding activities to support white facilitators. At our first event we didn't prep the facilitators well due to managing multiple speakers and logistical challenges. As a result some of the facilitators requested more preparation

and support before heading into the second event which we were able to provide since we had more committee time and a different format for the event.

With feedback from EEE members we pivoted and make changes to the public events to continue to focus on community request. Such as ensuring our public events have child care and we worked to create ways children could participate in the day. This required designing the event in very different ways and shifting away from an adult-centric event. We shifted the event from a weeknight to a weekend morning, used a location that has breakout rooms for childcare, paid for licensed child care providers to offer onsite childcare, scaffolded questions and created ways for older children to participate in the event, and tried to be cognizant of including children where we could.

Including older children to participate in the last event added new views and was a great way to center our work more on families. An ongoing tension is how to continue to do this inclusion of children while recognizing scheduling and logistical needs of adult participants. Adding children into the event added a lot of insight and new thoughts, but we sacrificed attendance by shifting to a weekend morning.

### ***Implementation, Reflection, and Redesign***

SESEC's activities will resume in the fall due to summer youth programs. We are planning on hosting our next public event in October or November of 2019, with planning by our EEE team resuming in September. The public event will also serve as our FLDC site visit.

The fall event will build off of the last event with a tentative theme of looking at Vibrant Democracies and how education and families can support and change the definition of vibrant democracies. This event will go along with our theory of change in broadening the network of people who attend and have deepening conversations and to help support each other. As with other events we will collect stories and use those to shape our racial literacy and data collection to shape our priorities and narratives.

**Cross-site Collaboration** The all-calls and site visits have been interesting to learn what others are working on. It has been interesting to hear what other sites are working on and how they approach co-design work. Partners who attended the Chicago site visit learned about indigenous culture and history, especially as it relates to place.

**Transformative Impacts** The transformative impacts of our co-design project have been made through where our partners have taken and pushed the work. The partners have extended the transformation by taking activities and new ways of co-designing work to their own organizations. This was always part of the design model, train-the-facilitator, and it is gratifying to see the theory of change work.

We are measuring impact through the attendance at events, conversations and discussions -- depth and longevity, story collection, and partnerships.