



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends:

To improve transparency and communications we have prepared this Annual Report of the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program (Program) and the Master Gardener Foundation of King County (Foundation) 2023 progress and financials and goals for 2024.

The Annual Report consists of:

- [2023 Highlights](#)
- [2023 Program Performance](#)
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- [2024 Program and Foundation Initiatives](#)
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- [Program Leadership](#)
- [Foundation Board Members](#)
- [2023 Partners](#)
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Please let us know if you find this information helpful.

Regards,

Joan Baldwin, President, Master Gardener Foundation of King County  
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Joe Jennings, Vice President, Master Gardener Foundation of King County, and Development Chair  
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Master Gardener Foundation of King County  
<https://kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org>  
Tax ID#: 91-1276424  
UW CUH Box 354115  
Seattle, WA 981954115



## 2023 Highlights

We continue extend our outreach into the communities that we serve as Master Gardeners and as Stewards of our precious resources.

### Outreach Clinics:

The Clinic Leadership Team took a new approach to clinic requests, with a goal of building connections in communities where we have not yet established relationships. In 2023 we added:

- The King County Fair in Enumclaw
- The Tilth Alliance Farm Fest in the Rainier Valley
- City of Seattle P-Patch Garden Program 50th anniversary event
- Northwest Flower and Garden Festival
- 17 popups at special events, netting more than 500 engagements with gardeners.

### New Kenmore Rhododendron Park

When the Finn Hill Demonstration Garden lease ended in 2023, members initiated a partnership to provide classes and workshops at the Kenmore Rhododendron Park, bringing new vitality to the team and are in discussions on how to expand the partnership in 2024.

### Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

Our new DEI team is focused on removing barriers to becoming a Master Gardener and to increasing the cultural competency of its members to better engage with the diverse population of King County.

### Spring Plant Sale

The Bellevue Demonstration Garden spring plant sale was a major success and raised over \$10,000. Many thanks to the BDG team!

### New Partners and Funding

- We partnered with the City of Shoreline to create a series of in person home gardening classes, focusing on IPM and sustainable gardening practices. In return, we received a grant for \$6,000.
- Bellevue Demonstration Garden applied for and received a \$2,100 grant for new garden signage from the King Conservation District.



## Program Performance

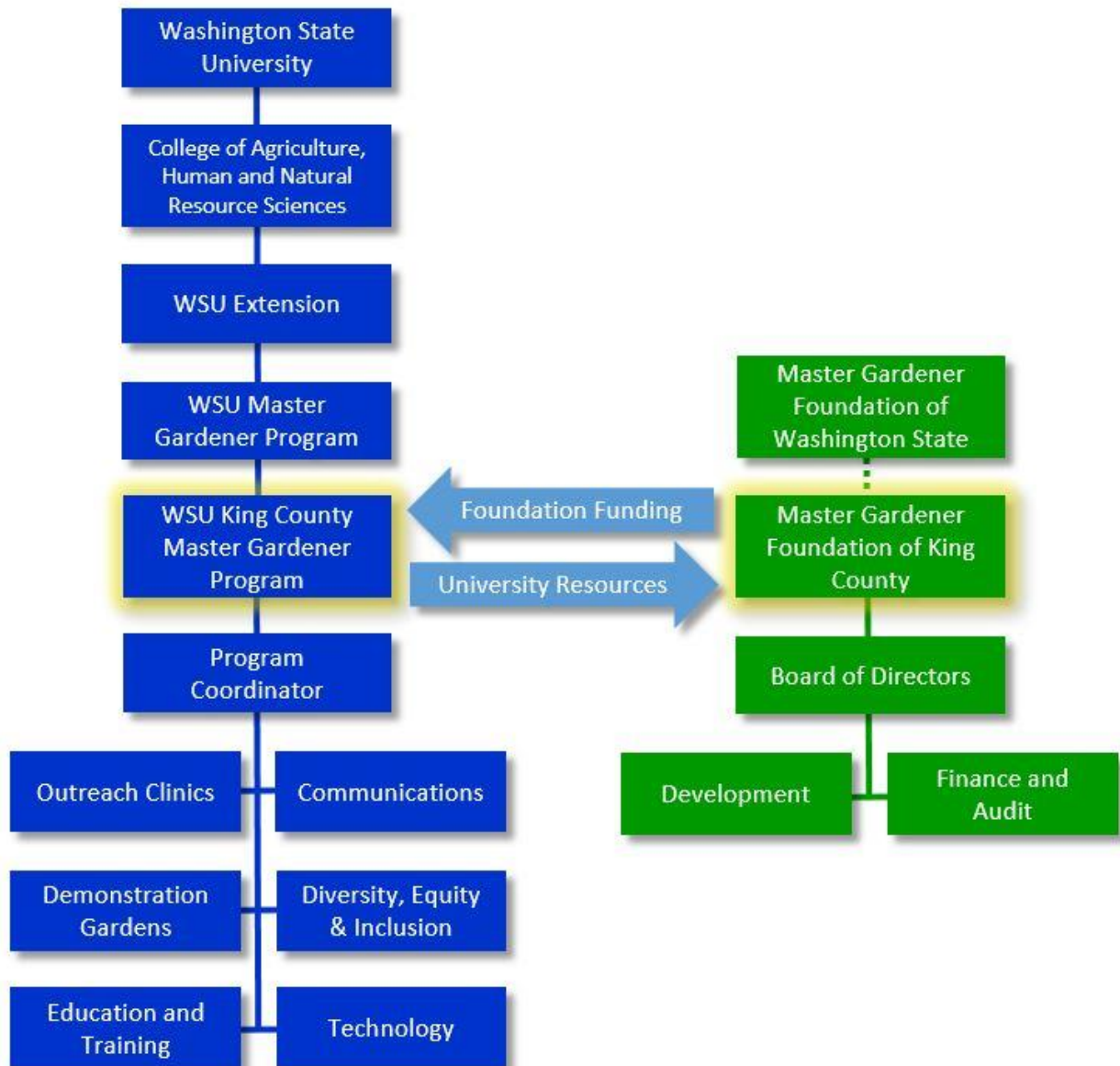
YTD as of 9/13/2023

The Master Gardener Program of King County continues to expand its outreach into local communities as shown in the table below.

Criteria	2023 YTD Metrics
People Served In Person	15,066 people served at 595 clinic events
People Served Via Email	745 email responses -- 745 volunteer hours
Training Class	107 Interns completed training -- 3,286 training hours
Volunteers	512 Certified Master Gardeners
Volunteer Hours	20,693 hours
Continuing Education Hours	5,369 hours
Gardens	13 locations
Recurring Clinics	39 locations
Pop-Up Clinics	20 locations
Diagnostic Lab	165 samples
Garden Food Donated	4,252 pounds
Education	
▪ Bellevue Demonstration Garden	21 classes, 1086 attendees to date
▪ Growing Groceries	12 classes, 883 attendees to date

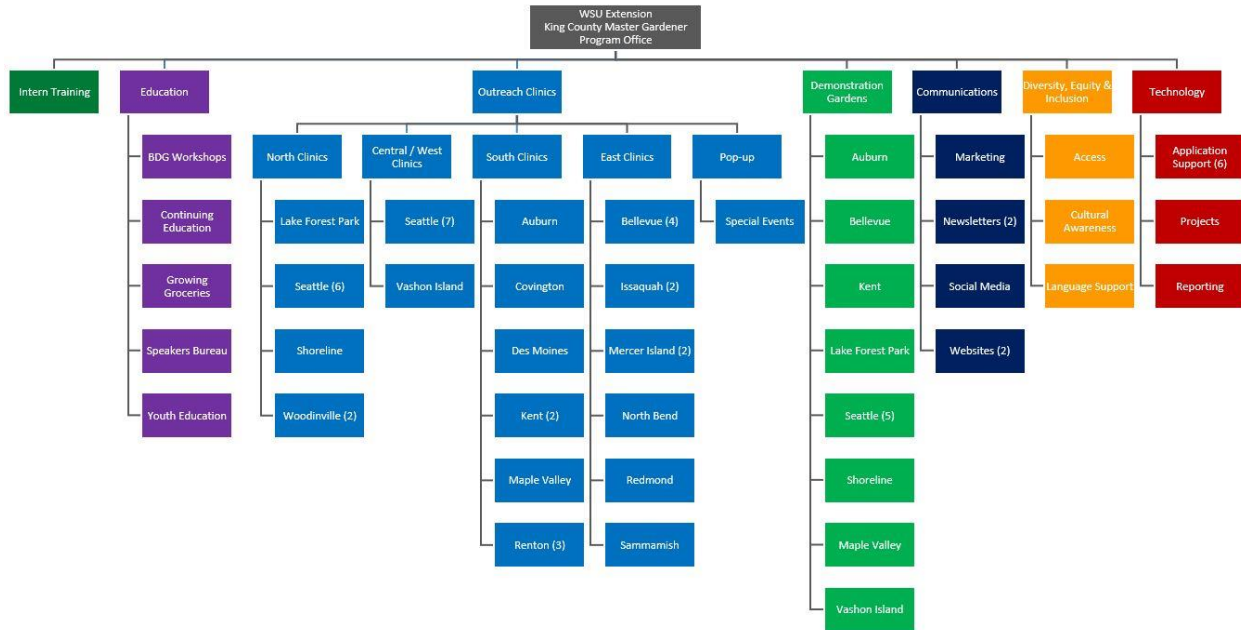
## How We Are Organized

The Program operates under the management of WSU Extension and the State Master Gardener Program. The Foundation is a 501c3 dedicated to raising funds to pay for Program operation costs, over and above what WSU provides. The following chart shows how the Program is organized and managed under the auspices of WSU, and how the Foundation is a separate non-profit whose purpose is to raise funds to support the program.



# Program Organizational Chart

The Program delivers an extensive set of education, clinics, gardens, classes, and outreach within its organization (see chart below):





## 2023 Financial Performance

Year To Date

### 2023 Budget and Estimated (Forecast) Actuals

In January, the 2023 budget was passed by the Foundation Board. We have managed to reduce the deficit by a combination of higher revenues than expected and cost management. Based on year-to-date actuals and an estimate of end-of-year expenses we have made a 2023 Forecast in October for year-end results.

Accounts	2023 Budget	2023 Forecast
Total Revenues*	\$60,759	\$96,485
Foundation Expenses	\$13,399	\$11,942
Program Expenses	\$134,838	\$113,234
Net Income for 2023	<b>\$(87,478)</b>	<b>\$(28,691)</b>
Total Reserves	\$419,112	\$404,809

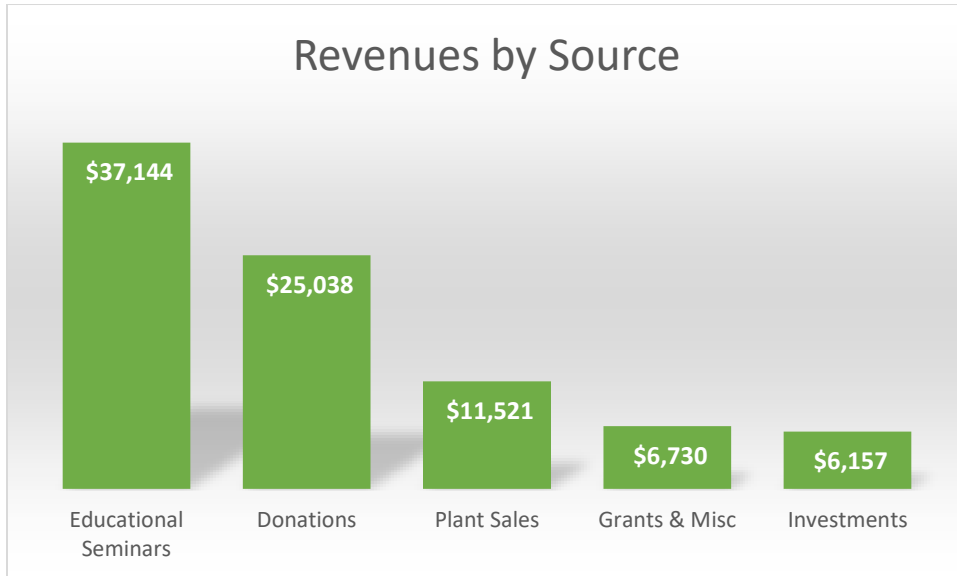
The estimated \$28,691 deficit will be funded from our cash reserve in 2023. The Master Gardener Foundation of King County September 30, 2023, Balance Sheet total was \$404,809.

\*WSU contribution of \$105,000 in program expenses in salary and benefits for two positions. The funds do not appear as income or expense for the Foundation because they are paid for through WSU not the Foundation. The full cost of the program including the WSU contribution is \$223,000 (\$108,000+\$105,000).

The following tables provide additional detail for our Revenues, Foundation and Program Expenses.

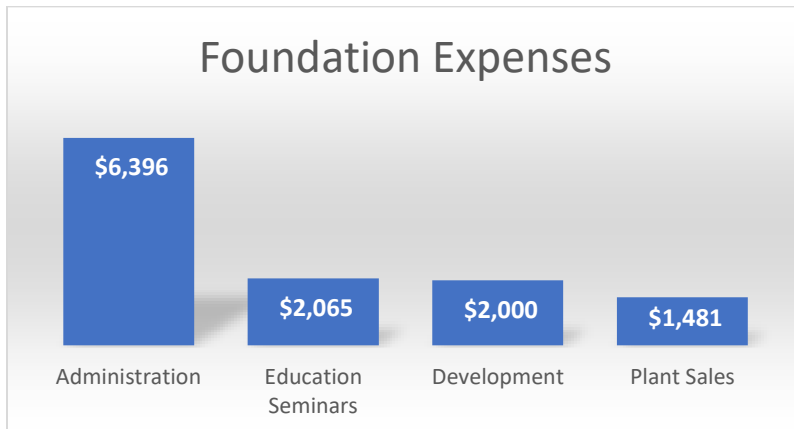
## 2023 Estimated Revenues: \$96,485

The Foundation has several revenue sources. The different sources are represented below.



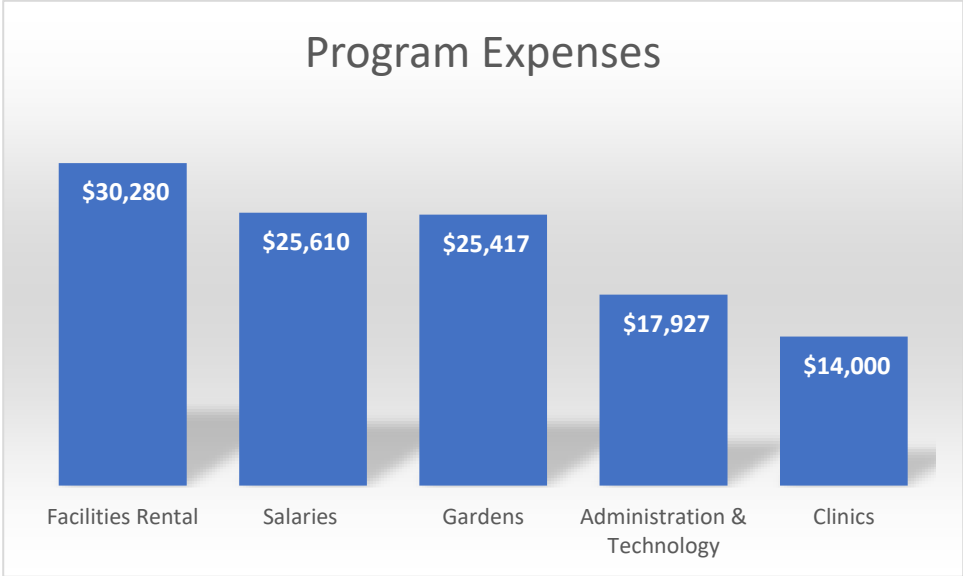
## 2023 Foundation Estimated Expenses \$11,942

Foundation expenses pay for the costs of the Foundation and to raise funds for the Program.



# 2023 Program Estimated Expenses \$113,234

The program has a set of expenses that relate to the different activities of the Program.



\*WSU contribution \$105,000 annually in salary and benefits for two Program positions, along with enterprise software applications. The funds do not appear as income or expense for the Foundation. The full cost of the Program, including the WSU contribution, is \$212,659 (\$107,659+\$105,000).

Any 2023 deficit remaining after additional fundraising is completed will be funded by our reserves.



## 2024 Program and Foundation Initiatives

Although the Program and the Foundation are separate organizations, they are tightly linked through fundraising and community outreach. The following outlines our initiatives.



Joan Baldwin, Foundation President and Sarah Moore, Program Coordinator.  
Photo by Nora Larsen

### Program Initiatives

These Program Initiatives are those that the Program, in collaboration with the Foundation, have developed for implementation in 2024. The primary Master Gardener Program goals are to:

- Continue teaching sustainable gardening practices to address critical issues facing King County residents, such as climate change and food insecurity.
- Increase our in-person events and social opportunities to build our Master Gardener community. (Increase to \$5,000 from 2023 budget of \$1,800.)
- Expand our presence in underserved and underrepresented communities within King County.
- Translate Program materials into a broader range of languages to improve multi-cultural accessibility. (\$5,000 a year for translation services.)

### Organizational Initiatives

These Organizational Initiatives are those that the Foundation, in collaboration with the Program, have developed for implementation in 2024. The primary Master Gardener Foundation goals are to:

- Improve Foundation Communications to our members, including posting annual Foundation tax returns, budgets, and board agendas and minutes on the Foundation website.
- Continue to seek out relationships with like-minded organizations who can help us expand and improve our Program goals.
- Move our offices and diagnostic lab to the Extension office in Renton to save \$35,000 a year.
- Manage spending to stay within our projected revenues each year.

## 2023 Outstanding Master Gardener Awards

Master Gardeners nominate their peers for the King County program's Outstanding Master Gardener Award. These nominations acknowledge the volunteers' degree of commitment and their ability to inspire others. In addition to these nominations, there are four awards that are presented by the Foundation, which include the National Gold Presidential Award, the Foundation Award, the President's Award and the Program Coordinator's Award. It is their exceptional commitment and enthusiasm and willingness to take on leadership roles in the program that sets these awardees apart.

### Team Awards

Team awards are presented to groups of Master Gardeners making a difference on a leadership team or at a specific location.

- 2023 Basic Training Steering Team
- New Clinic Leaders/CICs/Schedulers for 2023
- 2023 Mentors
- Foundation Website Migration Team
- Diagnostic Teaching Team
- Bellevue Demonstration Garden Team
- Carkeek Demonstration Garden Team
- Finn Hill Demonstration Garden Team
- Lake City Intern Team
- Bellevue Botanical Garden Planters Team

### Dynamic Duo Awards

Dynamic Duo awards are presented to pairs of Master Gardeners making a difference on a Program team or at a specific location.

- Sharon O'Grady and Carol Johnson
- Susan Sparrowhawk and Claire Acey
- Bruce Williams and Laura Watson
- Gia Parsons and Janine Allen
- Katie Testin and Kelly Bosworth
- Lin Provost and Tujuana Simon
- Penny Kriese and Carol Laurier

### Individual Awards

Individual awards are presented to Master Gardeners nominated by their peers as outstanding Master Gardeners. Individuals nominated this year for going the extra mile are listed below:

- Anne Neilson
- April Creasey
- Barbara Waxman
- Beth Naczkowski
- Bruce Caredio
- Carol Laurier
- Daryl Schlesser
- Drexie Malone
- Elaine Sherbrook
- Gary Scheider
- Gudrun Utz
- Jeff Cox
- Joe Jennings
- Lin Provost
- Lois Hanson
- Marcia Campbell Dillon
- Mary Warren
- Maxine Smith
- Mostafa Mokhtari
- Nancy Purcell
- Randi Smith
- Rhonda Dafforn
- Richard Newman
- Steve Behnen

### National Gold Presidential Award

This award is presented to Master Gardeners who go above and beyond in the number of hours worked during a calendar year (greater than 400 hours in a year). Awardees for both 2021 and 2022 are shown below:

- Carol Laurier 2022
- Carrie Hill 2021
- Daryl Schlesser 2021, 2022
- Gary Scheider 2022
- Jim Olson 2022
- Lucy Homans 2022
- Penny Kriese 2021, 2022

### **Program Coordinator Award**

**Emily Bishton** is receiving this award for her extensive years of enthusiastic support of many aspects of our program. She is currently working remotely from Arizona. From 1996 – 2021, she served 200 – 2000 hours per year, developing children’s programming, designing demonstration gardens, and cultivating new Master Gardeners. Emily designed and led children’s gardens, wrote a newsletter, wrote a book for the KCMG Program entitled “Dirty Knees: 30 years of King Co. Youth Programs”, which resulted in her being nominated for and awarded WA State MG of the Year in 2005. Emily has been an active member of the Magnuson Children’s Garden Committee since 2003, including co-chair from 2007-2011 and chair from 2012-2017. Her volunteer work has included teaching youth and family classes, teaching sustainable gardening practices to community volunteers at stewardship events, and mentoring MG interns. Emily has let us know that 2023 is her last year in the Master Gardener Program, but that she will be eternally our supporter, well-wisher and friend. It is with gratitude and pleasure that we award her the Program Coordinator Award for 2023.

### **Foundation Awards**

#### **President’s Award**

Sharon O’Grady received the 2023 President’s Award for her devotion to the Master Gardener Program, her leadership at the Finn Hill Demo Garden and now the Kenmore Rhododendron Gardens, and her enthusiasm to share knowledge through teaching and speaking. Her commitment to sharing the Master Gardener experience to the community and volunteers is sincere, generous, and shows a high level of commitment to the purpose of KCMGs. She excels at leadership, encouraging those who volunteer with her to share their knowledge and find their niche in the Master Gardener Program. Sharon leads by example, cultivates leaders amongst her team by encouragement, lighting the spark of creativity and empowerment.

#### **Foundation Award**

Jim Olson received the 2023 Foundation Award for constantly working on ways to improve the program. He seems tireless in these pursuits and is always available to answer questions and deal with suggestions, whether it be Redmond Saturday Market MG Clinic issues or MG Foundation issues. He has taught innumerable gardening classes especially relating to vegetable gardening. He recently gave a Bellevue Demo Garden talk about water in the garden which was excellent. In addition, he has served as President of the Board of Directors for the KCMGF until this year. Jim has been an incredibly effective clinic leader for a number of years at the Redmond Saturday Market MG Clinic. He also has been deeply involved in improving metrics for determining clinic contacts. Jim is constantly presenting new things and ways to improve clinic operations.



## 2023 Program Leadership

We would like to recognize the Program Leadership Team who are the program every day of the year. Thank you!

Program Office	Sarah Moore Program Coordinator Nora Larson, Program Assistant
Clinics	Wesa Anderson
Communications	Marty Byrne and April Creasey
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)	Gia Parsons and Janine Allen
Education	Dawn Rubstello
Gardens	TBD
Technology	Emanii Owens



## 2023-24 Foundation Board Members

We would like to recognize our past and current board members and officers who work to raise funds for the program. Thank you!

### Board Members

Joan Baldwin  
Class of 2018  
President  
Joined the Board in 2023

Trish Bloor  
Class of 2019  
Joined the Board in 2020

Phil Fordyce  
Secretary  
Class of 2014  
Joined the Board in 2022

Joe Jennings  
Class of 2022  
Vice President  
Joined the Board in 2023

Matt Jennings  
Class of 2022  
Joined the Board in 2023

TerryJo (TJ) Johnson  
Class Of 2016  
Joined the Board in 2019

Linda Kaufman  
Class of 2017  
Joined the Board in 2023

Nancy Marshall  
Class of 2007  
Treasurer  
Joined the Board in 2022

Suzi O'Byrne  
Class of 2009  
Joined the Board in 2020

Linda Peterson  
Class of 2015  
Joined the Board in 2022

Lin Provost  
Class of 2020  
Joined the Board in 2022

Dawn Rubstello  
Class of 2020  
Joined the Board in 2023

Gary Scheider  
Class of 2010  
Joined the Board in 2023, 2013-2019

Daryl Schlessor  
Class of 2003  
Joined the Board in 2023

### Retiring Board Members

Jim Olson  
Class of 2013  
President 2019-2023  
Director 2016-2023

Bruce Caredio  
Class of 2015  
Director 2020-2023

Carrie Hill  
Class of 2014  
President 2018-2019  
Director 2017-2023

Amy Lee  
Class of 2016  
Director 2017-2023

Bruce Williams  
Class of 2016  
Director 2019-2023

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance and Audit  
Nancy Marshall, Treasurer/Chair

Development  
Joe Jennings, Vice  
President/Chair



## 2023 Partners

We would like to recognize all the organizations that enable us to deliver our services county-wide. They provide space, resources, collaborations, and friendships which have enabled King County Master Gardeners to flourish for 50 years. Thank you!

Arboretums, Botanical Gardens and Parks	Bellevue, Carkeek Park, Kent, Lake Wilderness Arboretum, Sammamish, Soos Creek, Washington Park Arboretum, Woodland Park Zoo
Churches and Public Organizations	St John Vianney Catholic Church, El Centro de la Raza
Cities	Auburn, Bellevue, Lake Forest Park, Shoreline
Community Gardens	Magnuson Community Garden
Farmers Markets	Auburn, Ballard, Crossroads, Des Moines Waterfront, Issaquah, Lake City, Maple Valley, Mercer Island, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Shoreline, University District, Wallingford, West Seattle, Woodinville
Horticultural organizations	Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, Northwest Horticultural Society, PlantAmnesty, Washington Native Plant Society, Woodinville Garden Club
King County and City of Seattle	King County Conservation District, Food Banks King County Public Library System Seattle Public Library System
Nurseries	Bellevue Nursery, East Hill Nursery, Kent East Hill Nursery, Molbak's Nursery, Squak Mountain Nursery,
Retailers	Ace Hardware, Fred Meyer, Home Depot, McLendon Hardware, Rite Aid
Schools	Shorewood High School Culinary Program, José Martí Child Development Center, Luis Alfonso Velasquez After School Program
Master Gardener Programs	WSU Extension State Master Gardener Program, Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State



## 2023 Board Agendas and Minutes

The board posts its monthly meeting agendas and minutes on the [Board](#) page of the foundation website.

## Prior Year Tax Filings

Based on the Foundation’s annual tax returns, you will find below our total revenue, expenses, deficit, and fund balances for the past 5 years.

Item/Years	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Total revenue</b>	\$ 94,778	\$ 113,629	\$ 58,446	\$ 102,121	\$ 95,490
<b>Total expenses.</b>	\$ 124,455	\$ 79,401	\$ 101,973	\$ 100,877	\$ 102,176
<b>Excess or (deficit) for the year</b>	\$ (29,677)	\$ 34,228	\$ (43,527)	\$ 1,244	\$ (6,686)
<b>Net assets or fund balances</b>	\$ 301,880	\$ 336,108	\$ 292,581	\$ 293,825	\$ 391,452

Please note: Line 27 Net Assets or Fund Balances was understated in prior years by \$104,313. The correct balance for 2022 is \$398,138 (\$391,452+\$6686).

Please see the IRS 990 tax filings by year for further information.

- [2022](#)
- [2021](#)
- [2020](#)
- [2019](#)
- [2018](#)



## Being Thankful

Thank you for reading our first Annual Report. You know after three years of Covid, Zoom meetings, and many, many disruptions – we are still here and serving our mission. We are challenged but we have plans to make the best of the opportunities before us and grow Master Gardeners to serve King County.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Joan Baldwin, President, Master Gardener Foundation of King County

[president@mgfkc.org](mailto:president@mgfkc.org)

Joe Jennings, Vice President, Master Gardener Foundation of King County, and Development Chair

[vice-president@mgfkc.org](mailto:vice-president@mgfkc.org)