



2021 ANNUAL SUMMARY



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OUR MISSION

To celebrate and explore horticultural education, provide equitable access to healthy food, and support intergenerational community connections.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

- **95** community members of all ages volunteered to work and learn in the HOEC arboretum, contributing a total of **3,077** volunteer hours!
- **30** horticultural workshops were hosted on-site, with a total of more than **360** students in attendance.
- A 5 day trial youth & family program served a mixed age cohort of **12** youth and their accompanying adults.
- **122** additional students from outside educational programs, ranging from preschool to college age, attended tailored programming & field trips in the arboretum.
- Over **136** independent visitors came to the arboretum during open hours to ask for fruit growing advice, recreate in the space, and gain inspiration for their home gardens.
- **21** people participated in a community orchard work-trade program.
- Over **11,000** pounds of organic fruit was grown in the arboretum, and distributed throughout the community; including but not limited to **36** volunteer households & **70** Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) participants.
- In addition **\$1,900** worth of fruit and propagation materials were gifted to local farms, educational programs, and food banks.



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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Volunteer Programming

Volunteers of all ages signed up to work and learn year-round with the HOEC team this year. Rain or shine, they contributed essential services, gained new skills, learned about growing fruit, and took home a share of the bounty. Perhaps even more valuable, they were provided the space and opportunity to connect with other humans. Volunteers get involved for different reasons, but almost all are seeking connection. Many who participate are retired, some live alone, others are working hard to increase availability of food in their own community, and many more have expressed a deep need for connection that has been hard to find during these unusual times. The HOEC team feels incredibly honored for the opportunity to keep this special volunteer program running safely this year. We extend a profound thank you with deep gratitude to the ninety-five volunteers who donated their extra time and energy to this amazing volunteer community they helped create ♥

Community Education Workshops

At the start of 2021, the effects the pandemic would have on in-person education were anyone's guess. Given our unique outdoor setting, the HOEC team chose to move forward on a trial basis while making adjustments to keep our staff and students safe. One of the biggest changes made was to drastically cut the number of attendees allowed in each workshop. Because this workshop series was intended to be our main source of income, this was a huge financial hit especially as a fledgling organization. As the year progressed, it became clear that not only did people still want in person horticultural education - now they seemed to feel it was essential, and our year round **Organic Orcharding Workshop Series** sold out quickly. So we opened our gates, donned our masks, spread out across the orchard and taught our neighbors how to grow, tend, and harvest fruit for their community using sustainable methods.



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Youth & Family Programming

Hoping to inspire the next generation of food growers and lure families into nature, we offered a trial youth & family education series. It was a hit! A pod of mixed age kiddos joined us once a week for five weeks to learn about being good stewards of the land, explore ways to help nature thrive, plant seeds for pollinators, build bug houses, and get to know plants that feed us.



Farm Share CSA Program

Our 2021 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program turned out to be a successful avenue for distributing fruit grown in the arboretum directly into the hands of our local community. It was our second largest source of funding, but also one of the most labor intensive operations. We piqued the interest of our participants by introducing them to new and uncommon varieties of fruit, provided them with educational information related to growing and cooking their fruit, and encouraged them to spend time in the arboretum.



Online Learning Resources

To help support those who are unable to join us in person, we created an arboretum blog to house fruit and orchard related articles & inspiring horticultural information. You can learn about the history and lore of unusual fruits, propagating plants, harvesting, storing, & cooking with fruit, tool selection, organic orchard care, resources for further education, and more!



Community Orchard Program

Similar to our regular volunteer program, we trialed a slightly more intensive partial work-trade option for participants who wanted to delve a bit deeper, take home even more of the harvest, and generally spend more time in the arboretum.



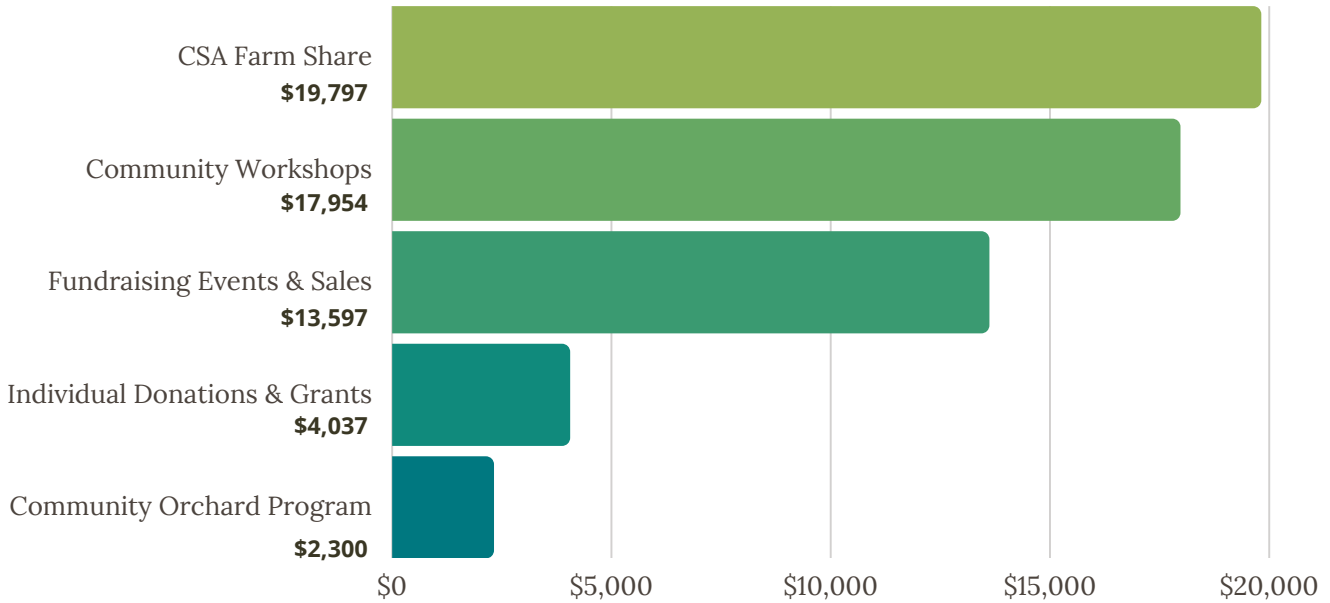
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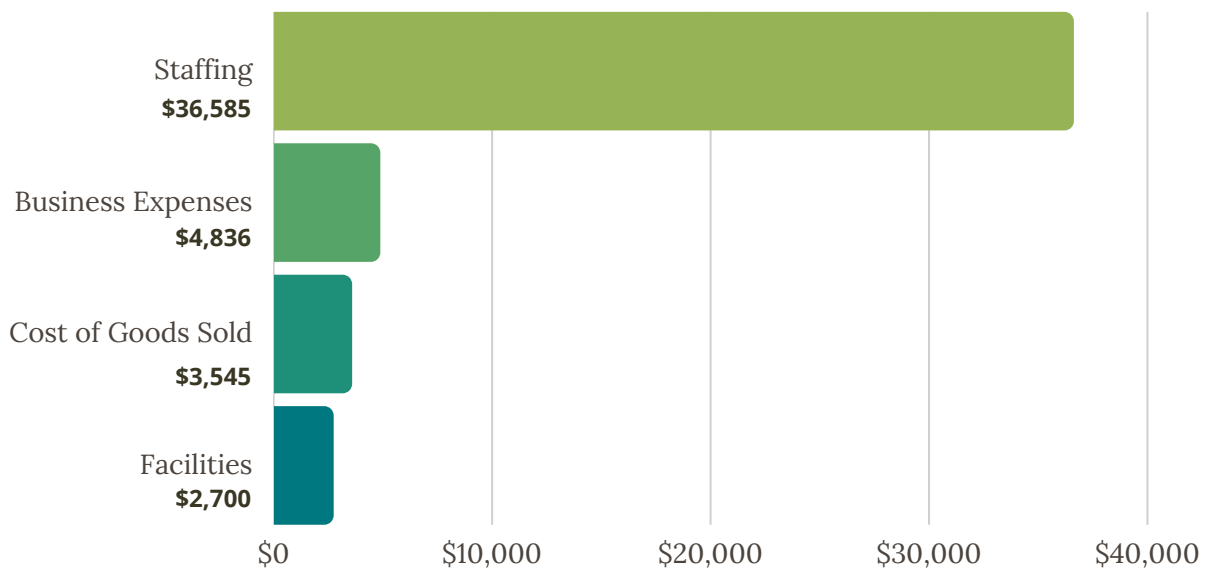
2021 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Opening Balance: \$1,248 | Closing Balance: \$11,267

Income: \$57,685



Operating Expenses: \$47,666



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LOOKING AHEAD

2022 GOALS

- **Develop a long term strategic plan.**
- **Develop a fundraising plan.**
- **Develop a scholarship program that helps provide equitable access for food and educational programming.**
- **Expand educational offerings**
- **Add to the pool of community educators.**
- **Enrich benefits of the community orchard volunteer program.**
- **Secure funding for a honey bee educational demo area and adjacent pollinator garden.**
- **Seek out supportive relationships with complimentary organizations.**
- **Hire a part-time arboretum employee.**



The future of HOEC is looking bright!



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