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Black Lives Matter, ALWAYS



In Nebraska and across the nation, Black communities felt the pain of witnessing the May 25, 2020, murder of George Floyd by a white police officer in Minneapolis - giving way to months of righteous uprisings and protests against the recent and long history of state violence committed against Black people.

That pain was deepened locally by the loss of James Scurlock, a young Black man who was murdered by a white man during protests in Omaha. Since then, police violence has continued to claim the lives of people who deserved far better.

We demand justice for all the Black lives lost to racist violence. We acknowledge and affirm that Black Lives Matter.

Our work is to collaboratively, strategically, and intentionally fight for a multiracial democracy where Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color can live and thrive in full dignity and power.

While 2020 was an historic year in our country, the racist violence and harm perpetrated against Black people on this land was not new. We stand in support of and hope for a reimagined future where justice and safety are available to all, so that all may be free.

READ OUR FULL STATEMENT













Dear Friends

From our launch in 2016, we knew 2020 would be pivotal for the Nebraska Civic Engagement Table. The completion of our first full election cycle, which coincided with the decennial census, was our first opportunity to demonstrate our theory of change: that nonprofit-led civic engagement programs are more effective than partisan political campaigns at building voting power in Nebraska's historically silenced communities. Years of intentional collaboration between nonprofits laid the groundwork for voter mobilization, census, and issue advocacy efforts. We were ready.

Then 2020 happened. I don't need to tell you why we needed to make significant adjustments to our plans. I do, however, want to underscore the strength of our network's response.

That our nonprofit members engaged more Nebraskans than ever during a worldwide pandemic is a testament to their dedication and innovation. That the number of BIPOC Nebraskans who voted in the 2020 General Election increased over 2016 is a testament to the deep desire for a multiracial, representative democracy. And that the Nebraska Table was here to provide more funding and capacity-building support than ever (13,680 hours!) is a testament to our incredible staff, board of directors, and supporters.





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Given the collective and personal pain caused by this incredibly difficult year, we are proud to share with you the achievements of our relentless network of individuals and organizations. We stand with fierce hope for a future where all voices are heard, and where justice and safety are available to all Nebraskans. As you review this report, I invite you to consider how you will play a part in this future. Please reach out to discuss, and join us.

In gratitude,

Angie Remington Interim Executive Director



Gratitude for Our Supporters

The Nebraska Civic Engagement Table grew from an idea into a reality with the vision and trust of local and national donors and foundations. Their support has helped historically underrepresented communities build collective power through voting, public policy advocacy, and leadership development. We extend our gratitude to the following major donors:

Cooper Foundation

Holland Foundation

Lincoln Community Foundation

Lozier Foundation

Movement Voter Project

Mutual of Omaha

Nebraska State Education Association

NEO Philanthropy

- Committee on States

Sherwood Foundation

Fred and Eve Simon Foundation

Todd and Betiana Simon

Annette and Paul Smith

Dr. Katie Weitz

State Voices

Weitz Family Foundation

Woods Charitable Fund









Growing Engagement Within Our Communities

In 2020, the Table launched its individual donor program. This came from a belief that change for communities should grow from within communities and the knowledge that diverse funding is more equitable. In building this program, we are drawing from the 10 principles for equitable fundraising laid out by Community-Centric Fundraising.

IN OUR FIRST YEAR WE:

- Raised \$5,195 in small donations from 37 individual donors
- Engaged our supporters through virtual block parties, text banks, and our first mail campaign

We believe in change from the ground up, starting with the people in the communities we're impacting. So whatever supporting our game-changing work looks like for you, get in touch with J. Peterson to learn more.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS











2021 Board of Directors



PRESIDENT **Dr. Katie Weitz**Weitz Family Foundation

TREASURER

Kathy Steinauer Smith

Woods Charitable Fund

SECRETARY

Meg Mikolajczyk

Planned Parenthood

North Central States

Odochi Akwani, Rabble Mill

Karen Bell-Dancy, YWCA of Lincoln

Shannon Gilroy, Brownell Talbot College Preparatory School

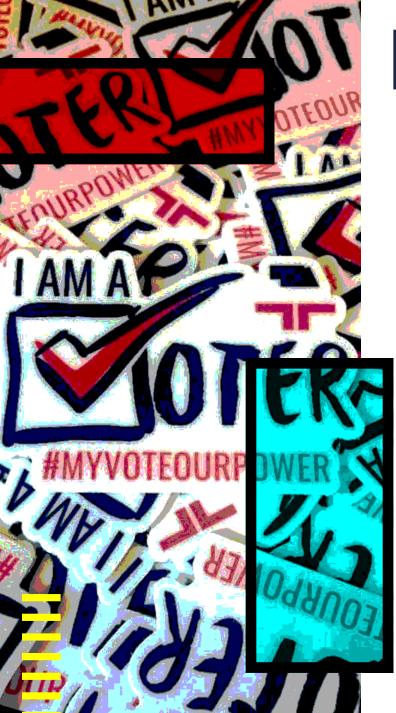
Rachel Fox, You Go Girl

Sarah Ann Kotchian, Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative

Valeria Rodriguez, Empowering Families

Nic Swiercek, Nebraska Appleseed

We share additional gratitude to **Jasmine Harris** of RISE, **Kimberly Goins** of Boys & Girls Club of Lincoln/Lancaster County, and **Raul Muñoz** of Heartland Workers Center for their board service in 2020.





2021 Staff



Angie Remington, Interim Executive Director
Aracely Rodriguez, Operations Director/Translator
Arielle Wiedenbeck, Data Intern
Emma Craig, Data Director
Guadalupe Esquivel, Digital Communications Manager
J. Petersen, Supporter Engagement Manager
Karina Hernandez, Voter Registration Program Manager
Kimara Snipes, Community Partnership Manager
Kinzie Mabon, Field Director
Melissa Breazile, Director of Communications & External Affairs
Sandy Griffin, Field Manager
Sarah Bartolomei, Administrative Assistant
Sofia Gavia, Field Intern

FAREWELLS

In March 2021, we announced the departure of founding Executive Director **Zack Burgin**. During his five-year tenure at NCET, Zack successfully led a growing and powerful network of nonprofit members and expanded our talented and tight-knit staff from one to 11 staff members spanning four departments. Zack's leadership, vision, and floral ties will be greatly missed by the staff and the network. **Angie Remington**, formerly the Deputy Director, has been named Interim Executive Director during the transition.

We would also be remiss if we didn't mention and extend our gratitude to **Claire Johnson** for her work as a Field Intern in 2020, and to **Kaitlan Wong** for her contributions as our Data Manager until May 2021.

Thank you to Zack, Claire, and Kaitlan for lending your many talents to NCET!



In 2020, we developed a new program to strengthen our statewide network by including organizations committed to racial equity and representation that do not engage in voter mobilization. Kimara Snipes leads our Partnership Program, which connects trusted community organizations with Table members and each other to collaborate, share resources, and create successful civic engagement opportunities.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PARTNERS

APPLY TO BE A PARTNER ORGANIZATION





Table Members



*FOUNDING MEMBERS



JOINED 2016

ACLU Nebraska **Bold Alliance*** Center for Rural Affairs* Centro Hispano Civic Nebraska* Common Cause* Conservation Nebraska Disability Rights of Nebraska Habitat for Humanity Omaha Heartland Workers Center* Holland Children's Institute* Immigrant Legal Center inCOMMON Community Development Institute for Public Leadership League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha Malcolm X Memorial Foundation* Nebraska AIDS Project* Nebraska Appleseed* Neighborworks Lincoln Nonprofit Association of the Midlands* OutNebraska* Planned Parenthood of the North Central States **Together Omaha**

Voices for Children*

Women's Fund of Omaha*

JOINED 2017

Arc of Nebraska
Compassion in Action Omaha
GLSEN - Omaha Chapter
Latino Center of the Midlands
National Coalition of 100 Black
Women - Omaha Chapter
South of Downtown Community
Development
Union for Contemporary Art
Unity in Action
Wellbeing Partners

JOINED 2018

Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska Collective for Youth Community Justice Center East African Community of Nebraska Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partnership **Education Rights Counsel Empowerment Network** League of Women Voters of Nebraska Malone Center Nebraskans for the Arts New Life Family Alliance No More Empty Pots **Omaha Community Broadcasting** Omega Psi Phi Rabble Mill Somali American Heritage Society of Nebraska Tri-Faith Initiative YWCA Lincoln

JOINED 2019

Asian Cultural Community Center
Black Votes Matter Institute for
Community Engagement
Comunidad Maya: Pixan Ixim
El Centro de las Americas Cultural
Center
Empowering Families
Nebraskans Against Gun Violence
North Omaha Neighborhood Alliance
RISE
South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance
Women's Foundation of Lincoln/
Lancaster County
You Go Girl
YWCA Grand Island

JOINED 2020

Anti-Defamation League
Lincoln Calling
MYLPA
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and
Domestic Violence
OpenSky Policy Institute
Our Climate
Somali Community Services
Urban League
Yazda Yazidi Cultural Center





Organizer School: Meet the Organizers







CHRISTY YANG

South of Downtown Community Development Organization she/her

Christy organized successful Get-Outthe-Vote programming and events such as the Civic Sidewalk Series, and she hired canvassers from the neighborhood to increase voter participation. She also mobilized community members to participate in the 2020 Census.

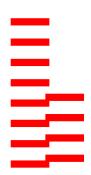
"During my time as an organizer working in a pandemic, I've learned the importance of community. I think as long as we live and serve under a capitalist system/society, I will never have a dream career, but I do have a dream community. And I believe my role as a community organizer is to be able to uplift and amplify these marginalized voices, as much as I can, for as long as I can. I will always choose to serve my community."

CREIGHTON HOEFER

Common Cause Nebraska he/him

Creighton trained, organized, and ran Common Cause Nebraska's first Election Protection volunteer team for the 2020 General Election.

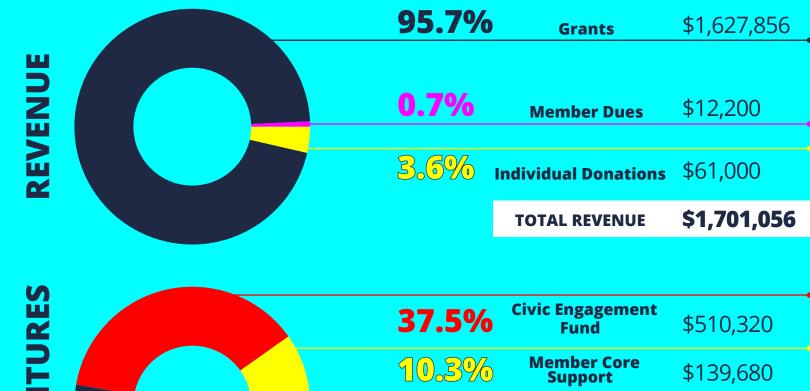
"Put short, last year was a challenge to begin as a first-time organizer. I deeply appreciate the resources, training and, most of all, humanity that the Nebraska Civic Engagement Table staff provided me throughout the last year. If I learned anything this past year, it's that folks working at the Table are committed to practicing and demonstrating the values of the organization."





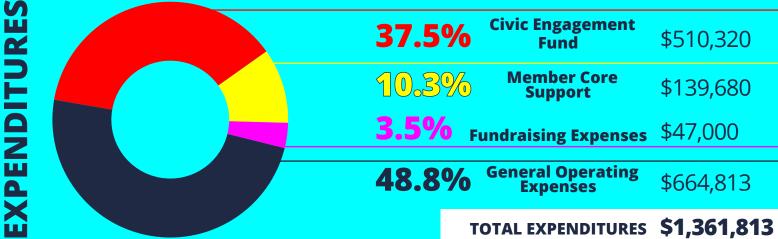
Transparency: Revenue & Expenditures







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Civic Engagement Fund

GETTING OUT THE VOTE AND THE COUNT

Latino Center of the Midlands was one member organization that did GOTV work for the first time and helped their community get counted in the 2020 Census.

"A big success is the new community organizing skillset that this work has brought to the Latino Center. . . . New partnerships helped this project succeed and will support future collaborative efforts as well. For example, our partnership with Comunidad Pixam Ixim allowed us to effectively reach members of the local Maya community and especially that community's young people. Indigenous youth are historically under-served and unheard; this grant created an opportunity for the Latino Center to engage with them."

to 28 member nonprofits in Nebraska. Twelve of these nonprofits were equipped to do field work for the first time, building civic engagement capacity for our state for years to come.

55% went to organizations that were BIPOC-led

35% went to rural-serving organizations





Civic Engagement Fund

BRIDGE FUNDING

Bridge funding allows grantees to carry programming past the election cycle into the next year.

Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim*	\$5,000
Nebraska Appleeseed**	\$10,000
National Coalition of 100 Black Women*	\$5,000
Somali American Heritage Society of Nebraska*	\$5,000
Yazidi Cultural Center*	\$5,000
You Go Girl*	\$5,000

CENSUS

Empowering Families* ** \$5,00 East African Community of Nebraska* ** \$5,00 Heartland Workers Center* ** \$5,40 National Coalition of 100 Black Women* \$2,50 Nebraska Appleseed** \$10,00 Somali American Heritage Society* \$15,00 Union for Contemporary Art* \$2,00	00 00 00 000 100
Unity in Action* **\$5,00	

COMMUNITY CONNECT

Brain Injury Alliance	\$3,960
Voices for Children	\$4,000

GRASSROOTS LOBBYING

RISE	. \$1,500
OutNebraska	. \$500

GOTV/VR

ACLU of Nebraska	
Asian Community & Cultural Center	. \$9,720
Black Votes Matter Institute of Community Engagement	
	. \$24,460
Centro Hispano* **	. \$5,500
Comunidad Maya Pixan ixim*	. \$25,000
East African Community of Nebraska* **	
Empowering Families* **	. \$14,700
Heartland Workers Center* **	. \$49,600
inCOMMON Community Development	.\$27,470
Latino Center of the Midlands*	
League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha	. \$15,808
League of Women Voters of Nebraska	
National Coalition of 100 Black Women*	
Nebraska Appleseed**	. \$30,012
Our Climate Education Fund	. \$11,100
OutNebraska	. \$11,400
Planned Parenthood	. \$18,750
Rabble Mill	. \$10,000
Union for Contemporary Art*	
Somali American Heritage Society of Nebraska*	. \$10,500
South of Downtown Community Development Organ	nization
	. \$3,000
Unity in Action* **	. \$21,000
Yazidi Cultural Center	
YWCA Grand Island**	. \$7,840
Brain Injury Alliance	
Voices for Children	

^{*}Indicates BIPOC-led organization
**Indicates rural-serving organization



2020 Elections

The 2020 elections challenged people's right to make their voice heard, but our member nonprofits heroically met the moment to mobilize voters - and then some.

Due to swift responses and the availability of network tools and support, we helped our members pivot from in-person to digital, via text and virtual events, staying on track with our 2020 voter contact and turnout goals.

Table members engaged more than ever in field work last year, including multi-organization collaborative efforts.

Of the 35 member organizations doing field work in 2020, 12 organizations did so for the first time. This led to an impressive total of more than 1 million voter contact attempts in-person, by phone and text message, digitally, and through other means. Over 300 unique new VAN accounts were created to account for the new volunteers that our members mobilized for GOTV.

We believe nonprofits are best suited to build long-term power in their communities through year-round civic engagement programs because of their deep roots in the communities they serve. In 2020, we saw how sustained community organizing and investment leads to greater engagement at the polls and beyond.









2020 Elections: By the Numbers



VOTER REGISTRATION

Total people registered in counties where members concentrated efforts:

61,131

Total people registered in counties where members did not work:

14,906

Total people **directly** registered by the network:

9,214



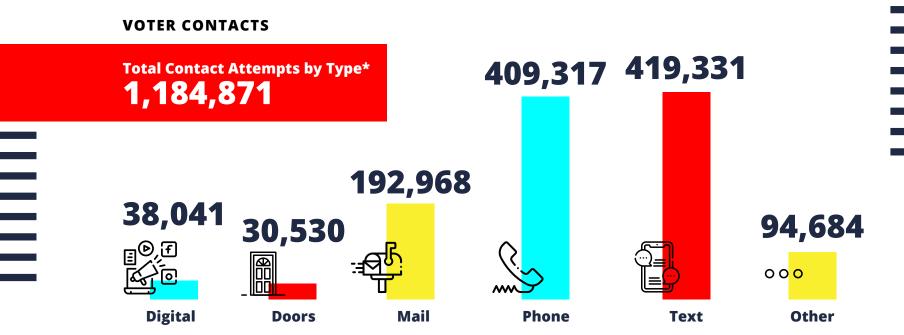
Member organizations that registered voters:

ACLU of Nebraska Foundation, Asian Community and Cultural Center, Black Votes Matter, Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska, Civic Nebraska, Comunidad Maya: Pixan Ixim, East African Community of Nebraska, Empowering Families, Heartland Workers Center, inCOMMON Community Development, Latino Center of the Midlands, League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha, League of Women Voters of Nebraska, National Coalition of 100 Black Women - Greater Omaha, Nebraska Appleseed, Neighborworks Lincoln, Our Climate, Planned Parenthood North Central States, Rabble Mill, Somali American Heritage Society of Nebraska, South of Downtown Community Development Organization, Union for Contemporary Art, Unity in Action, Yazidi Cultural Center, YWCA Grand Island, YWCA Lincoln



2020 Elections: By the Numbers





^{*}A contact attempt is when an organizer attempts to contact a community member in any way. Examples include door-to-door canvassing, texting, and calling.

Member organizations that contacted voters:

ACLU, Asian Community and Cultural Center, Civic Nebraska, Community Impact Lincoln, Heartland Workers Center, inCOMMON, Latino Center of the Midlands, League of Women Voters, Nebraska Community Power (Centro Hispano, Empowering Families, Nebraska Appleseed, and Unity in Action), Our Climate, OutNebraska, Planned Parenthood c3, South of Downtown Community Development Organization, YWCA Grand Island

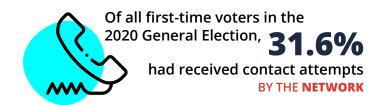


2020 Elections: By the Numbers



VOTER TURNOUT





Votes Added Per 1,000 People (2016-2020)



Non-target counties



Target counties

Clear differences in turnout emerged between target counties, where members focused their work, and non-target counties. Between 2016-2020, target counties showed an increase of 106 voters per 1,000 people, while non-target counties increased by only 87 voters per 1,000 people.



2020 Elections: Member Perspectives



COMUNIDAD MAYA PIXAM IXIM

"Through a mentorship with Heartland Workers Center and Latino Center, Comunidad Maya Pixam Ixam learned about canvassing, phone banking, digital organizing, and relational organizing - and gained networking experience with its mentoring organizations."



EMPOWERING FAMILIES

"Empowering Families accomplished their first GOTV campaign and given being under pandemic we had various successes that can't go unmentioned."

- Increased voter participation by 3% from the 2016 presidential election
- Convened a virtual candidate forum
- Engaged and built relationships with over 250 community members, a majority of whom are Latinos and Oglala Lakota members

inCOMMON

"Text banking was probably the most effective part of our program. Additionally, giving neighbors meaningful work in their own communities... We had no clue what we were doing before we started and table members were incredibly helpful with everything from VAN training to data reporting. By the end we felt at least moderately comfortable using things like VAN and ThruText!"





2020 Elections: Member Perspectives



OUR CLIMATE

Voter Registration and GOTV

"Our program provided an opportunity for youth leaders to gain formal experience planning and implementing a voter mobilization program and utilizing digital tools; this experience has helped them to become lifelong climate and civic engagement advocates."



NE Young Voters Project video



Take the NE Young Voter DNA Quiz

RABBLE MILL

Voter Registration and GOTV

"The creation and implementation of rabblemedia.vote was the cornerstone of the NE Young Voters Project. It was the home of our Voter DNA Assessment and our how-to guide for registering and voting, and where we directed their audience. It allowed us to have all relevant voting information in one central location, making dissemination easier."





2020 Elections: Member Perspectives



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UNITY IN ACTION

Voter Engagement and GOTV

"In South Sioux City, we safely distributed over 350 tote bags at schools, churches, and other community events. We created a billboard in Spanish and coordinated a candidate questionnaire with a race-equity focus."

YWCA GRAND ISLAND

"We have never been able to do GOTV work, so this grant money helped us fulfill a dream our organization has had. We were able to continue gathering a group of 13 organizations to do GOTV work. . . . All of these organizations serve historically marginalized communities from homeless individuals to immigrant and refugee populations. Additionally, we know that civic engagement is a racial justice issue, and doing this work helped make this more visible in our community as we were able to connect our mission of eliminating racism with civic engagement."





Leading in the 2020 Census Count



Nebraska Counts was a coalition of nonpartisan organizations who serve thousands of fellow Nebraskans across the state. Coalition partners worked together to ensure that every person in Nebraska is counted in the 2020 Census. Nebraska Civic Engagement Table took a lead role, along with Civic Nebraska and the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands, in forming the coalition, managing a statewide media campaign, and coordinating in-person, digital, and SMS text messaging field organizing efforts. The Table also regranted \$50,000 to our own member organizations to support field programs. We expect to learn more about the impact of person-to-person contact by trusted nonprofit messengers on self-response rates when the U.S. Census Bureau releases detailed data in the fall of 2021.

#4 IN THE U.S.

Nebraska consistently ranked in the top 5 states for census self-response rates (completing the census online, by phone, or by mail - not with a census taker) and finished in 4th place.



Nebraska Counts Coalition



NEBRASKA COUNTS COALITION PARTNERS

Asian Cultural and Community Center Black Votes Matter Central Nebraska Civic Nebraska

Coalition for a Strong Nebraska Common Cause Nebraska Community Action of Nebraska

Conservation Nebraska

East African Community of Nebraska

Eastern Nebraska

El Centro de las Americas Heartland Workers Center Immigrant Legal Center

Inclusive Communities in COMMON

Community Development
Intercultural Senior Center
Lancaster and Saunders
Latino Center of the Midlands
League of United Latin American Citizens
(LULAC) Women's Council of Nebraska
League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha
League of Women Voters of Nebraska

Learning For All

Mid-Nebraska

National Coalition of 100 Black Women

Nebraska Appleseed

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Nebraska Civic Engagement Table

Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition, Inc.

Nebraskans Against Gun Violence

NeighborWorks Lincoln No More Empty Pots

Nonprofit Association of the Midlands

Northeast Nebraska

NSEA

Panhandle Partnership Planned Parenthood

SHARE Omaha

South of Downtown Community

Development Organization

Tri-Faith Initiative

Unity In Action Nebraska

Voices for Children in Nebraska

Western Nebraska

Women's Foundation Lincoln Lancaster

YWCA of Grand Island

Census Highlights



UNITY IN ACTION AND EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY OF NEBRASKA

Unity in Action partnered with East African Community of Nebraska, One Siouxland, and other community partners to reach undercounted populations in the South Sioux City area. They hosted numerous events before the pandemic, and shifted to phone and text outreach for the remainder of the self response period.

SOMALI AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Somali American Heritage Society conducted a door-to-door campaign in Somali neighborhoods, hosted events to increase community awareness, advertised, and used social media platforms in Somali language to get out the count.

HEARTLAND WORKERS CENTER

Heartland Workers Center ran programs for both GOTC and GOTV efforts by phone banking to people throughout North and South Omaha. They also used relational organizing through a text and digital campaign.

NEBRASKA APPLESEED

Nebraska Appleseed encouraged census participation among historically undercounted Nebraskans of color through text banking, education, and canvassing, and by working with rural partners, organizing teams, and leaders of color at community events and site-based canvassing. In response to the pandemic, Appleseed shifted to relational organizing tactics via digital outreach.

Photo credit: Empowering Families





Census Highlights



...CONTINUED

Photo credit: Empowering Families

EMPOWERING FAMILIES

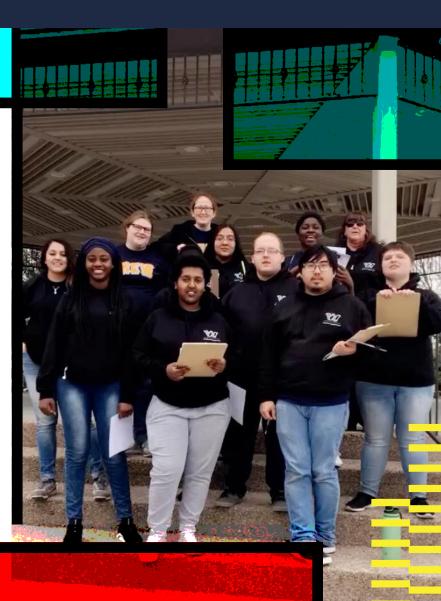
Empowering Families educated their community and encouraged census participation by canvassing, phonebanking, and through outreach at community events before the pandemic.

UNION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

The Union for Contemporary Art co-hosted a GOTC virtual concert with Culxr House, using local performers to encourage census participation, and by sending postcards to their targeted census tracts.

NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN The National Coalition of 100 Black Women initially planned to set up census cafe kiosks across targeted census tracts in Omaha.

After the pandemic, this shifted to phone banking and texting people in those target tracts to encourage participation.





Thank You



If you're reading this, that means you've shown some interest in our work.

As someone who cares about representative democracy in our state, you're invited to stick around. Please consider how you'd like to stay up to date and involved with our work to change the landscape of democracy in Nebraska. Some people want to scan the monthly Civic Engagement Statement email and send a donation. For other folks, being a supporter means helping us send text messages to remind voters to turn in their ballots.

We believe in change from the ground up, starting with building people power in communities impacted by racism, historical oppression, and exclusion from decision-making processes and representation by elected officials. Whatever supporting our game-changing work looks like for you, let's talk!

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CONNECT WITH US







And Stay in Touch