



annual report

2024-2025



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To Our Community,

My word of the year is **uplift**, and this past year, FEEST Student Organizers showed us what it means to uplift each other and our communities. In a time when harmful policies, political tension, and the ongoing erasure of youth voices have weighed heavily on young people, they responded with vision, creativity, and care. Their leadership reminds us that **when students rise together, they build the future we all deserve.**

Throughout the 2024 - 2025 school year, **students uplifted their peers in both bold and everyday ways.** In our mental health campaign, Student Organizers led kick-offs at their schools, surveyed hundreds of peers, and brought their demands to district leaders. Their voices helped Wellness Rooms flourish across the Highline School District and moved plans forward for new spaces in Seattle Public Schools. In our Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, they handed out kiwis, peaches, mangoes with Tajín, and other fresh produce in crowded hallways, showing that food shared peer-to-peer is trusted and reflective of students' needs.

Young people know what they need. They know what the world needs. And it's our role to make space for them, to uplift their voices, not just to become the next leaders, but to lead today.

FEEST Student Organizers spoke at School Board meetings, gave testimony at Seattle City Hall, and met with nutrition services and other school decision-makers. Their voices rang loud and clear in so many spaces historically dominated by adults. Together, young people uplifted the needs of themselves and their peers, pushing for youth-led solutions to the challenges they face in schools.

Uplift is not only my word for the year, it is the thread running through every part of this report. Students uplifting each other. Communities uplifting youth. All of us finding ways to keep hope alive and strong. Our collective care ripples outward to shape what is possible. **Through the work our youth have been leading, we get to witness the power of what's to come.**

I invite you to join us in uplifting the power of youth: share this report, show up to a student-led action, become a sustaining supporter of FEEST, or start a conversation about what it means to uplift young people in your life. However you choose to uplift, know that we are so grateful that you are part of this story. Thank you!

In solidarity,

Jaimie
jaimée marsh
executive director



at a glance

This past school year, FEEST Student Organizers put in the work to dream big, organize campaigns, and care for their communities. From hours of strategy meetings to shared meals and creative projects, every moment added up to something larger: youth leading the way toward food justice and mental health resources in their schools.

\$105,500 distributed to Student Organizers in stipends, compensating them for their time and leadership.

Over 3,500 programming hours dedicated to building youth leadership and creating change in schools.

884 community members joined events and base-building meetings, building relationships, deepening their political analysis, and strengthening our youth-led campaigns.

2,500+ meals provided for students, ensuring access to fresh, culturally relevant food.

\$15,000+ invested in local BIPOC artists and facilitators sharing their expertise with youth to strengthen young people's organizing, community-building, and social-emotional skills.





from menus to hallways: growing food justice together

2018-2020

Healthy Food Round Table → Menu wins for culturally relevant meals on campus!

2020-2023:

COVID changed how we organized, but FEEST youth stayed active in policy meetings and advocated for food justice.

2024-2025:

pilots at Chief Sealth & Rainier Beach → student-led fresh fruit and veggie distributions

This past year, we welcomed our first-ever **Food Access Manager**, Hannah Wilson, who is helping revitalize our food justice program and deepen FEEST's role in the **Seattle School Meals & Food Education Working Group**.

Student Organizers distributed fresh fruits and veggies at school and sat down with district leaders, school board members, and city officials to talk about universal free meals and food justice more broadly. In doing so, they showed how everyday actions like passing out fruit in hallways or testifying in front of decision-makers are uplifting our communities and building the path to systemic change.

FEEST worked with the City of Seattle's Office of Sustainability and Environment to pilot an expansion of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable (FFVP) program into new high schools. At Chief Sealth and Rainier Beach, FEEST students surveyed 113 of their peers, created posters, raffles, and taste tests, and worked side-by-side with kitchen staff to identify the best ways to provide fresh produce to their peers.

Beyond handing out food, they were designing the model, collecting data, and presenting their recommendations to decision-makers. **Small, steady acts of boldness like lugging crates of peaches, talking to classmates, and convincing a busy school to try something new added up to something powerful.**

This same spirit showed up when **Student Organizers met with Nutrition Services and Highline Superintendent Dr. Ivan Duran**. Youth raised concerns ranging from food running out at second lunch to the need for gender neutral bathrooms, and were taken seriously. He committed to follow-up, future meetings, and collaboration, showing again how youth voice can move decision-makers to action.

By May 2025, the FFVP pilot expansion had brought kiwis, peaches, pineapple, and mango with Tajín directly to students. And this **new access to fresh, free, and culturally relevant food had big impacts**.

More students ate the produce, reporting better energy and focus. Kitchen staff noticed higher participation, and students said they felt better supported – **connections that link fresh snacks to well-being and even academic performance**.

What began as an expansion of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program into more high schools turned into us testing the best ways to distribute and serve students, and is now a model in motion: student-led, trusted, and joyful.

When youth see their peers distributing produce and shaping the program, it signals that their input is valued and reflected, making them more likely to eat the food and feel connected to the change. This is food justice growing in real time, alongside planting the seeds of youth leadership in our schools.



Chief Sealth
FFVP Day!



Highline Nutritional
Services Meet Up



Rainier Beach
FFVP Day!



the fight for mental health

FEEST's mental health campaign has three big goals: **more therapists of color, culturally responsive social-emotional learning in classrooms, and Wellness Rooms in every school.**

Students are navigating a challenging political landscape and significant budget cuts that are impacting their organizing.

In addition to students building the world they want to see on the outside, **we are also providing space for students to explore grief, accountability, and so much more** internally, allowing them to focus on mental health inside of our own spaces. Despite challenges, students advanced their priorities through testimony, relationship building, and consistent meetings with decision-makers.

Afifah, one of our recently graduated Student Organizers, spoke to the Highline District School Board in December of 2024, sharing the urgent need for better mental health resources in schools. She called attention to the real impact of budget cuts, saying:

“this shortage is not just about numbers; it's about students who feel unheard, unseen, and underserved.”

our mental health campaign timeline

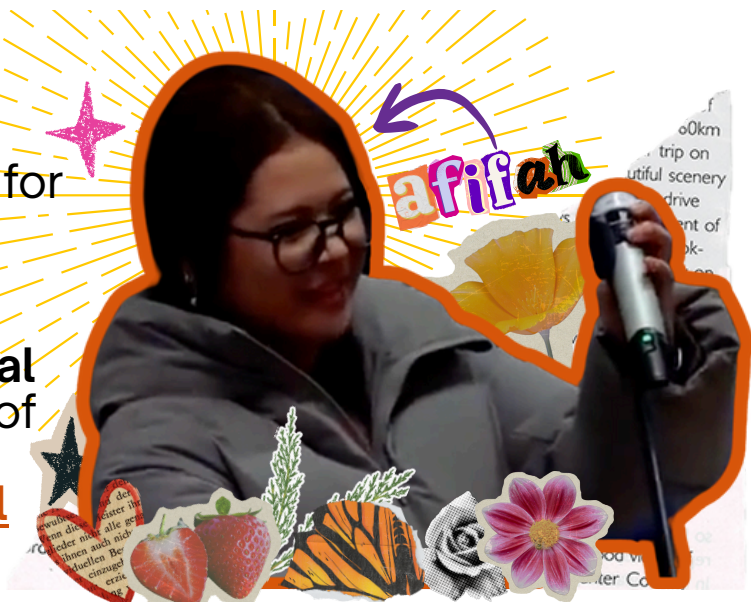
2021-2022:

Students name mental health as one of the most urgent issues they face at school.

2022-2023:

Built knowledge with experts, peers, and teachers, set campaign goals, hosted panels, surveyed fellow students, and built relationships with decision-makers.

Afifah urged the district to hire culturally competent mental health professionals, expand programming for underserved students, and increase outreach to reduce stigma. **Her speech was a powerful example of how student voices can push for real change in schools.** We're so proud of Afifah for leading this important conversation. **[You can watch her full testimony here.](#)**



Students have carried this vision from the classroom to the school board, all the way to city hall. At a press conference before a Seattle City Council hearing, FEEST Youth Organizer Yuna reminded leaders:

“Public dollars should be used to support, not criminalize, young people. Let’s keep investing in what works.”

That persistence is paying off. In Highline, there are now **over 11 Wellness Rooms across the district**, with FEEST students shaping their design. In Seattle, **Student Organizers met with the Social Work and Behavioral Health Coordinator and started discussions on a hub for mental health resources.** Rainier Beach’s new building opened in Spring 2025, and **work on the Wellness Room there is underway**; Students at Franklin and Chief Sealth **are moving their campaign for Wellness Rooms forward.** What started as a call for mental health support has grown into a movement reshaping school culture across two school districts.

our mental health campaign timeline

2023-2024:

Campaign kick-offs, surveyed hundreds, faced pushback, and kept organizing; 11 Wellness Rooms opened in Highline; Seattle moving toward implementation at three schools.

2024-2025

Wins in Highline continue, Seattle advances with new building and Wellness Room in progress, and students testify at Seattle City Hall.

student journeys: spotlight on youth leaders

musteria (she/her)

FEEST Student Organizer

“Good or bad mental health doesn’t look the same for everyone, and not every tool works for every student. Schools have to be more flexible in how they support us, especially those who might not seem interested in help at first.”

[read the full interview here!](#)



biniam (he/him)

FEEST Student Organizer

“Politicians don’t know about the real problems we face in schools. That’s why we need more youth to speak up: we know what’s actually happening, and we can’t just create noise, we have to create real change.”

[read the full interview here!](#)





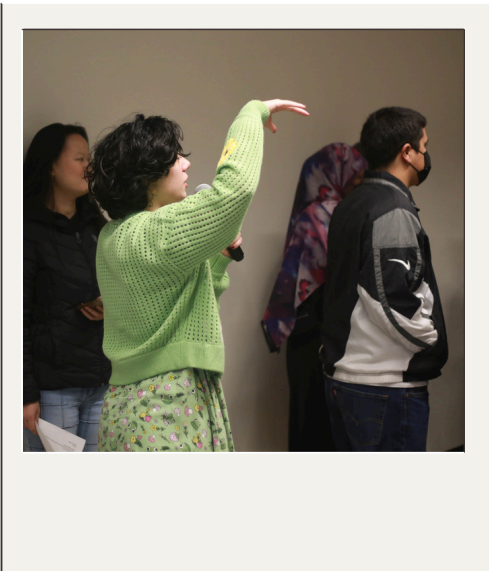
16 years strong

We turned 16 in 2024! Our student-led party planning committee threw the Sweet 16 Party of the decade. Not just a celebration, but a moment to honor the legacy of youth organizers who came before us, and build the relationships that will carry our movement forward.

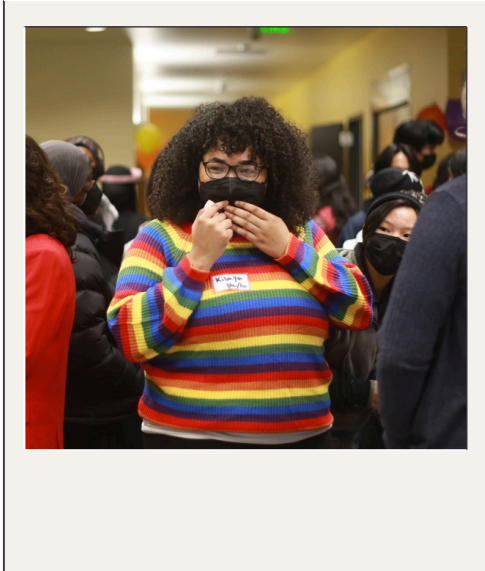
moments of radical joy

youth at the center

good food & good vibes



Youth-led panel discussion, games, and a lively photo booth brought the FEEST Fam together across generations.



Student Organizers planned every detail from the event goals to balloon towers.



Chef Mulu of Phresh Eats and Cakes of Paradise made sure the celebration lived up to its name.

Thanks to our sponsors: Social Justice Fund NW, Front & Centered, Stantec, Magic Cabinet, Inatai Foundation, and UFCW 3000, for making the celebration of this milestone possible!



summer stories 2025: uplifting our voices

This summer, 20 students from across Seattle and South King County came together to create, laugh, and imagine new worlds through art.

Over five weeks of workshops, we explored painting, photography, collage, poetry, and zine-making. Each session was guided by incredible teaching artists and grounded in joy, connection, and justice.

week 1 week 2

With our teaching artist Lo, we painted our emotions into color wheels and **imagined new worlds** on canvas.

Our teaching artist Brea brought out the film cameras, teaching us how to **capture light, movement, and community** in photographs.

week 3

We cut, layered, and pieced together collages that told our stories and dreams: **art as both reflection and resistance.**

week 4 week 5

Our teaching artist Nura led us into the world of poetry, where **students wrote and shared powerful free verse.**

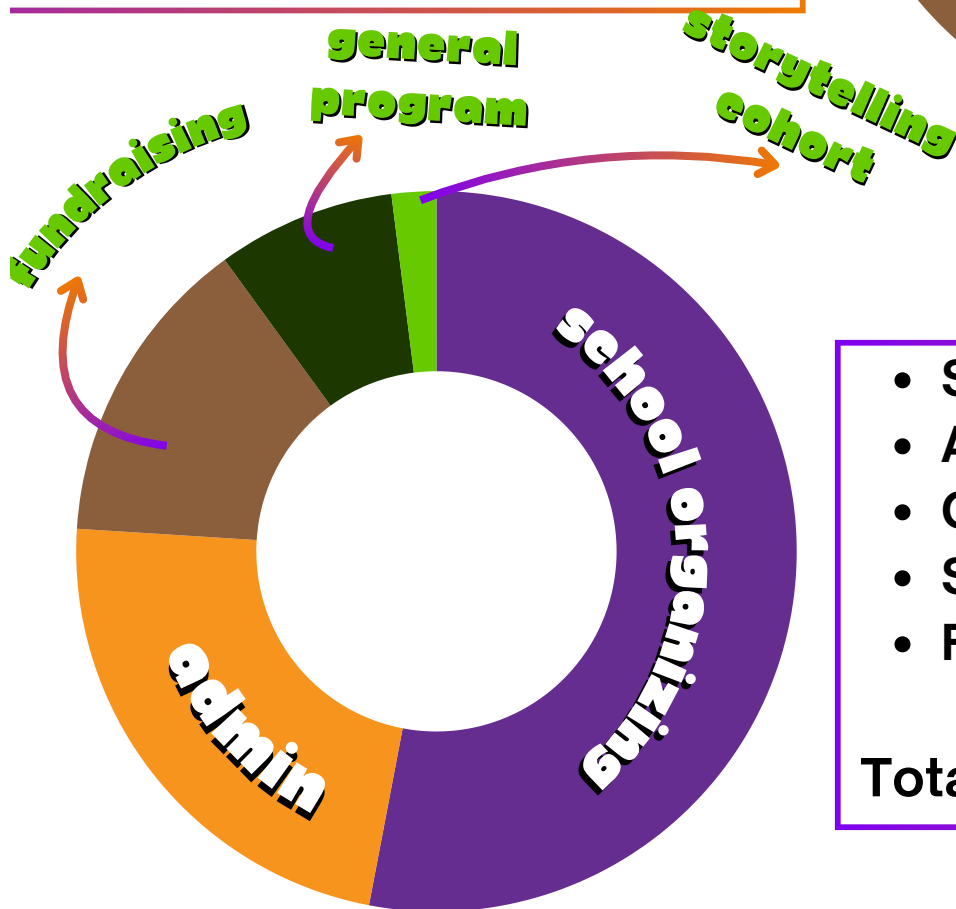
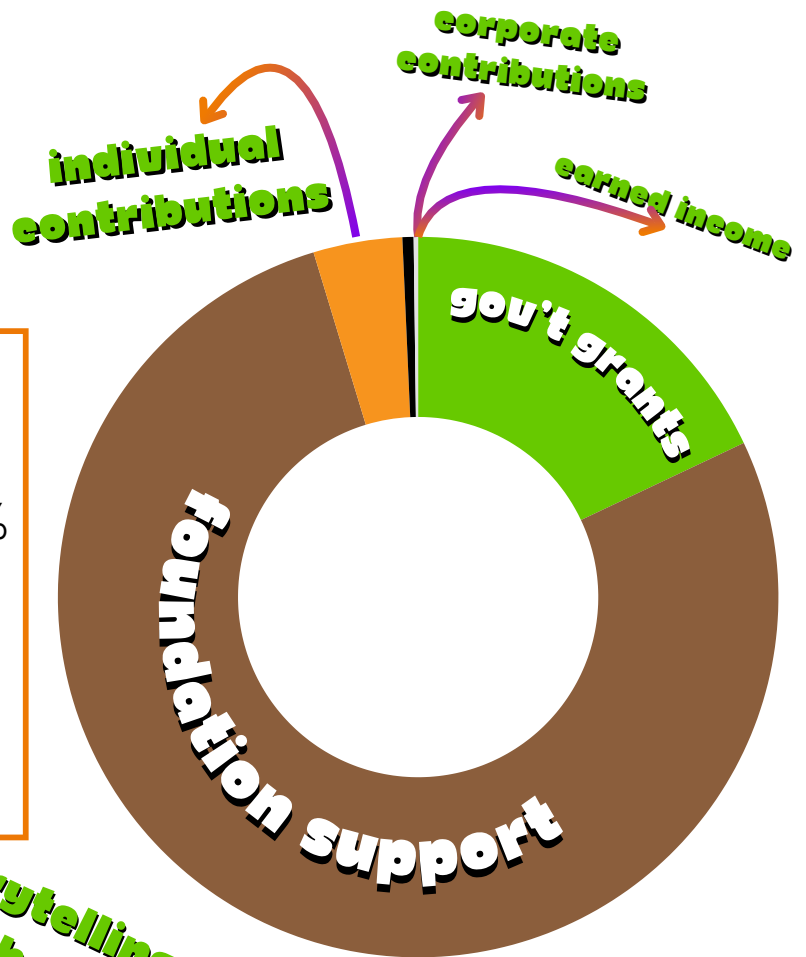
We brought it all together in a celebration, creating a collective zine: a snapshot of who we are, what we feel, and **how we imagine justice.**

financial health

income

- Foundation Support*: 77.5%
- Government Grants: 18%
- Individual Contribution: 3.6%
- Corporate Contribution: .5%
- Earned Income: 0.2%

Total Income: \$1,908,014



expenses

- School Organizing: 54%
- Admin: 23%
- General Program: 8%
- Storyteller Cohort: 2%
- Fundraising: 14%

Total Expenses: \$1,249,671

**includes family foundations and donor advised funds*

a moment of gratitude

At FEEST, **gratitude is a practice of lifting each other up.**

This year we witnessed how powerful it is when a community commits to uplifting youth leadership. Students dreamed of new possibilities for their schools, and because of your love, support, and solidarity, those dreams are taking root. Families, teachers, staff, and neighbors stood alongside them, reminding us that **movements are built by many hands.**

We celebrate:

- Students who uplifted their peers by speaking truth in classrooms, boardrooms, and community spaces.
- Families who uplifted students by holding space for their visions.
- Teachers and school staff who uplifted youth by making room for their leadership to grow.
- Community members who uplifted this work with time, resources, and unwavering belief.
- Our Staff and Board, who uplifted our youth by removing barriers, showing up when they need us, and honoring young people's innate wisdom.

We know that change is not only possible, but already in motion. **Together, we are rising.** Together, we are building schools and communities where every student can thrive.

Thank you for choosing to uplift FEEST students, and in doing so, uplifting the future we are creating together.



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