IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2026

MISSION

Provide a safe, after-school drop-in place for teens where they can gather with friends and access programming and services as needed.

VISION

Teens are not only valued for their differences, but cherished for the unique history, beliefs, traditions and perspectives they bring to the Garage.







OUR REACH

652 High School Teens

14,863 Total Visits

80+ Average Number of Teens Visiting Daily

OUR COMMUNITY

38% LGBTQIA+

55% BIPOC or Teens of Color

44% Neurodivergent

1 IN 4 Students at Issaquah High School & Gibson Ek

REFLECTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Garage Community!

As I step into the role of Executive Director, I'm honored to be part of the Garage's next chapter and to work alongside our incredible team to build on the strong foundation already in place.

For more than eight years, KayLee Jaech brought a vision to life: a place where teens can show up as they are, find their people, and access resources and support when they need it. **I'm grateful for KayLee's leadership and the foundation she built, and honored to carry this work forward.**

My background in human services in Issaquah has shown me how essential it is for teens to access support that meets them where they are. The Garage brings this commitment to life in a truly unique way, pairing a welcoming place to belong with free therapy, case management, and help navigating life's challenges ~ all without the barriers that too often stand between teens and the support they deserve.

What inspires me most is that the Garage is built with teens, not simply for them. Their voices shape this space, their ideas become reality, and their relationships are at the heart of our work. As Mayra's story in this report illustrates, having a place to belong can help a teen feel less alone, find their footing, imagine new possibilities and grow in a supportive environment.

I'm excited to work alongside our remarkable staff, board, partners, donors, and community to deepen the Garage's impact. As teens' needs and the human services landscape evolve, ensuring our financial sustainability is essential to protecting access to these vital services for years to come.

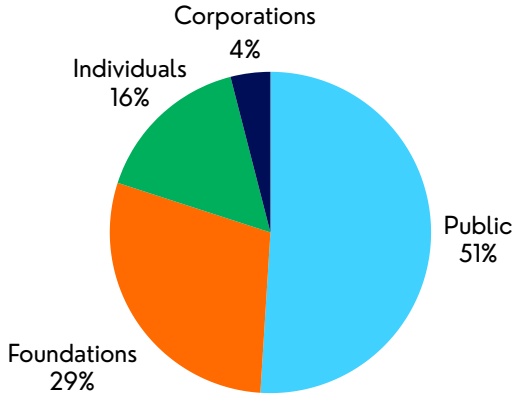
To everyone who makes this work possible through your generosity, advocacy, time, and care ~ thank you! I hope you'll celebrate what we've built together and join us in shaping what comes next. If you haven't visited the Garage, I'd love to welcome you and let you experience this extraordinary community firsthand.

With gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead,

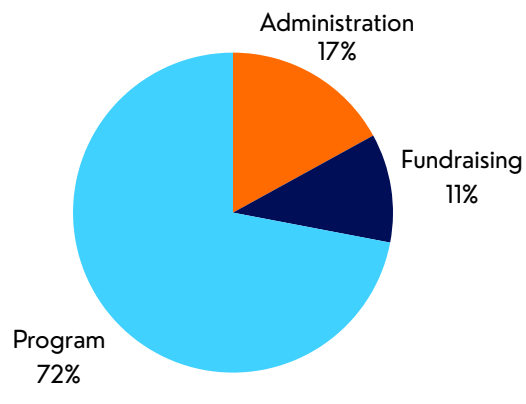
Erin Longchari | Executive Director

FINANCIALS

FY26 Revenue | $1,019,344



FY26 Expenses | $751,440



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Teens help guide everything at the Garage ~ including our events. All events are planned collaboratively to bring teens' ideas to life.



Rainbow Prom 2026: Alice in Rainbowland

FY26 Events

Art Gallery, Rainbow Prom, Garage Pride, Bedazzle Party, Bracelet Making, Trivia Night, Five Nights at Freddy's Party, Open Mic Nights, Mad Hatter Tea Party, Bingo Night, Holiday Party, Friendsgiving, Halloween Party, Senior Night, Sonic the Hedgehog Party, Smash Bros Tournaments, Mario Kart Tournament, **and more!**



Garage Community Event: Art Gallery



Free Prom Clothing Event



Garage Community Event: Trusting Teens Panel

REFLECTIONS FROM A GRADUATE

We asked a former Garage attendee, Mayra Shoshitaishvili, to reflect on their time at the Garage before they graduated in 2021. They were a member of Teens 4 Teens and a Garage intern through Gibson Ek High School



Pictured: Angeline (left) Mayra (right) at the Garage

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE MEMORY FROM THE GARAGE?

Probably the time I was having a really bad day and I came to the Garage crying and two of my friends decided to put on a song and dance around me. It made me feel better so quick and I felt so much love not only from the people around me but from the space itself as well making those positive vibes so much stronger!

HOW DID YOUR TIME SPENT AT THE GARAGE IMPACT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE?

I think it helped me grow as a person and get me out of my shell. Those positive experiences and relationships built helped me actually focus on graduating.

DID THE GARAGE HAVE AN IMPACT ON YOUR OVERALL MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING?

Having a space I could go to that wasn't work or school was vital for me during that part of my life, especially since I was struggling with my mental health quite a lot. **Going to the Garage helped keep me from isolating and provided support that I didn't have at home.**

WHAT DID BEING PART OF TEENS 4 TEENS AND A GARAGE INTERN MEAN TO YOU?

I loved being able to see the administrative side of running a space like that and being able to give back to a space I valued so much meant quite a lot to me.

WHY WAS THIS SOMEWHERE YOU SPENT TIME AS A TEEN?

It was a positive environment with nothing being expected of me. Also the free drinks, super nice staff, and friends were a plus 🙂

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO SHARE?

I do really appreciate you guys for making the Garage such a light-filled space. **I don't think I would've been able to pursue my current path if I didn't have you guys.** You not only saved my life but also helped me to save others! ❤️

SUPPORT SERVICES

Teen-led services at the Garage; a model reflective of the mission!



In 2021, the Garage responded to teens' requests for embedded services by launching an in-house **case management** and **mental health therapy** program. As with all aspects of the Garage, keeping these services teen-centered was our top priority. We designed our model to be accessible and comfortable, forgoing traditional intake processes, expectations of compliance, and attendance, or progress-based exits. Instead, our clients access services on their terms and at their pace, and conclude with us when they feel ready. **In our model, teens direct their goals, and our service providers partner with them in achieving those goals, allowing them to develop sustainable skills for decision-making and self-advocacy.**

Teens can access support at the Garage as needed. Whether that's a safe place to visit after school and be in community, access to basic needs and resources, mental health therapy, or case management, the Garage is poised to say yes and be in partnership with them.

Did You Know?

Our Case Managers help teens with:

- Employment
- Advocacy
- Housing
- Transportation
- And More!

Like everything else at the Garage, our therapy services are completely free!

[Without the Garage] "I would not have a space to meet other teens, hang out with friends, ask for help, get food/drink when it is unavailable to me, and feel safe in the space I choose to socialize in." - Garage teen

"I would spend a lot more time by myself, be a lot less confident, and would have been subjected to more abuse during a hard time in my life since I would've gone straight home after school." - Garage teen

GARAGE RECOGNITION

KayLee Jaech receiving **King County's Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation** from King County Council





Erin Longchari and KayLee Jaech receiving **Issaquah's Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation** from Mayor Mark Mullet

Christine Knight and Tiana Parry accepting the **Youth Impact Award** from the East King County Human Services Collaborative





The Garage was featured in a **Newspaper Article in the Issaquah Spotlight**

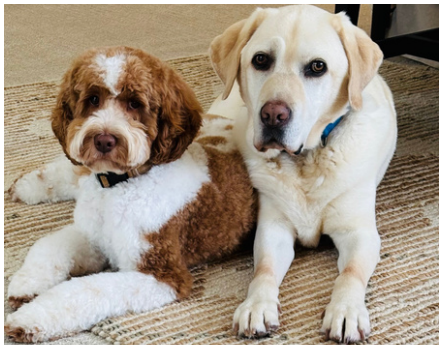
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PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

WHY I GIVE

We invited Garage donor, Sheryl Speight, to share what inspires her support and what the Garage means to her.

Pictured: Sheryl's Dogs, Waffle and Wilson ❤️



WHAT FIRST DREW YOU TO THE GARAGE AND MADE YOU WANT TO SUPPORT OUR WORK?

Several years ago, I had the privilege of getting to know an incredible high school student who helped shape the Garage in its early days. They shared how much it meant to have a dedicated, safe space for teens - a place where they were genuinely seen, heard, and valued. Watching their confidence grow and their leadership skills sharpen made it undeniably clear: **The Garage gives teens the perfect foundation to excel.**

Life brought me back this year when our local Indivisible group had the opportunity to apply for a national grant providing in-kind support to a local nonprofit. Through the application process, I gained a much deeper understanding of the extensive, wraparound services the Garage provides and the critical financial support needed to sustain them. It became increasingly clear that I wanted to do everything in my power to support their mission.

WHAT STANDS OUT ABOUT OUR APPROACH TO SUPPORTING TEENS?

What makes The Garage truly exceptional to me is its core philosophy: **teens completely own the programs**. Every initiative is teen-designed, teen-led, and teen-centered. This unique structure empowers high schoolers to build, run, and maintain their own safe space. The Garage also fosters a deeply inclusive culture - an LGBTQIA+-friendly, neurodivergent-affirming, and transgender-safe environment where every young person can find a genuine sense of belonging.

WHY IS A SPACE LIKE THIS IMPORTANT FOR TEENS & OUR COMMUNITY?

The Garage is so much more than a casual after-school hangout. It is a vital, barrier-free space offering essential resources like free drop-in therapy, case management, and housing resolution. For teens who aren't involved in traditional sports or clubs, the Garage provides a safe, accepting environment where they truly belong and are celebrated for who they are.**Without a space like this in our community, there would not be a place for so many to find the support they need to thrive.**

HAS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT TEENS NEED CHANGED SINCE YOU FIRST BECAME INVOLVED?

Like many volunteers, my first instinct was to jump in and help at the café. Our Indivisible group was eager to mentor youth. But we quickly learned the real secret to the Garage's success: it is entirely teen-driven. The last thing these teens need is more adult oversight. **This is a powerful space where they run the show, shape their own environment, and decide exactly how it serves them.**

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING SUPPORTING THE GARAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME?

I knew immediately that I wanted to invest in a local organization where my dollars would have the greatest impact. After evaluating several worthy options in our community, the Garage quickly rose to the top of my list. Learning about recent funding cuts, the comprehensive range of services, and how the Garage's growth - welcoming nearly 100 teens every day - made it clear that this growth has created a truly critical need for support. **There is no place like this in the area, and without it, many teens would undoubtedly fall through the cracks.**

THANK YOU!

STAFF

Quentin Allaire
Case Manager

Brett Baldwin
Mental Health Therapist

Christine Knight
Deputy Director

Erin Longchari
Executive Director

Serena Narisawa
Program Manager

Brenna Moore
Program Coordinator

Tiana Parry
Program Director

Patrick White
Mental Health Therapist

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