



SEAPAX 2021 Annual Report

Dear SEAPAX Members,

2021 was a year where we seemingly took two steps forward, and then one step backward as we continued to live with the unrelenting and shifting challenges presented by a once in a century pandemic. Thanks to our amazing scientific and medical communities, we witnessed the development and deployment of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines and therapeutic interventions, which became publicly available in the United States at record speeds. Despite this fact, SARS-CoV-2 infections remain uncomfortably high at the year's end, both domestically and globally, as new variants continue to emerge. The unpredictable nature of 2021 made it challenging at times to plan SEAPAX-related activities. Still, local RPCVs found ways to adapt and continue to serve and connect with various people and communities throughout the Greater Seattle Area. I would like to highlight a few of the positive accomplishments from our community in 2021.

From our Community Service program, we saw a huge outpour of support for local refugees through our partnership with Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW). The demand was large due to immigration policy changes made by the Biden Administration and the influx of Afghans after the collapse of the Afghanistan government. We thank everyone who donated supplies/money and/or volunteered his or her time to this cause. Your contributions resulted in more than 30 welcome kits for Afghan refugees. I know your support has gone a long way in lessening the burden of adapting and learning how to live in a foreign country. I would like to give a special thanks to Ellen Arnstein (Community Service Chair) and Lillian Baer (Mentorship Co-Chair) for all your efforts in organizing and coordinating with LCSNW. This was no small task! We look forward to your leadership on this front in 2022.

The NPCA Emergency Response Network (ERN) team, comprised exclusively of SEAPAX members, also remained intact through 2021 and continued to do exceptional work on the COVID-19 pandemic front. Their high-value work is reflected in their multiple contract extensions, and the team is currently contracted through 2022. The ERN was also asked to take on a new role to help fill local and state-wide gaps in providing COVID-19-related information to the public. To all former and current ERN team members, we are deeply appreciative of your contributions. Our local communities are safer and healthier because of your work. Keep up the great work!

Our Mentorship Program saw a decline in new mentees in 2021 compared to 2020, but it was still active as we averaged one new mentee per month. We can't thank the mentors enough for all their help in supporting other members in our community. The last two years have been unprecedented in the number of challenges presented, and there has been a real demand for SEAPAX members to connect with other local RPCVs. The pandemic has likely left many people feeling isolated due to restrictions and safety concerns associated with in-person events. If you would like to connect with another RPCV, for whatever reason, please give our Mentorship Program consideration. You do not have to be a recently returned volunteer to apply. If you would like to learn more, please visit our [Mentorship Program](#) page and/or send us an email. Jenn Ritchey and Lillian Baer, thank you for all that you have done for this program!

Looking forward, I believe there is a lot to be optimistic for as we head into 2022. This begins with the real possibility that Peace Corps will soon start sending volunteers abroad again. Many of the countries wanting to receive Peace Corps Volunteers are likely to have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and can use programs like Peace Corps today more than ever. Most importantly, these types of programs can help spread friendship, love, and understanding by creating a more integrated and connected world among people and communities who would otherwise have no direct connection.

I am also highly optimistic that SEAPAX will be able to continue hosting in-person events in 2022, as we began to do in the second half of 2021, even though they might have to be adjusted from time to time depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. As things start to open up again, I hope people will continue to engage or reengage with SEAPAX-related activities.

As my term ends as president, I would like to thank the SEAPAX community for all your support and for being a wonderful organization to represent. It has been a great honor to lead SEAPAX over the last three years. Moving forward, I am excited to hand the torch off to someone as capable as our next president, Kathleen Sebastian. We are lucky to have her, and I know the torch will glow brighter under her leadership.

If you would like to learn more about our 2021 activities, please read our Annual Report.

Stay safe and healthy.

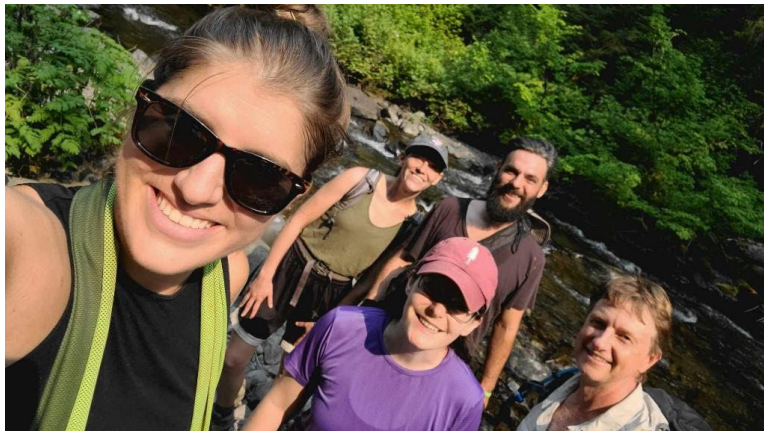
Warm regards,



Brad Cleveland
SEAPAX President
South Africa 2006-2008

SEAPAX is a group of former Peace Corps volunteers whose mission is to support, connect, and engage Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) in the greater Seattle area. We do so by supporting RPCVs' transition back to life in the United States through social, professional, and service opportunities, while also offering a forum for communication and connection. We are dedicated to improving international understanding at all levels, drawing on the lessons we have learned from living in the countries where we once served to promote awareness of the social, political, and economic circumstances, as well as the global interdependence, of people worldwide. This dedication stems from our aim to fulfill the Third Goal of the Peace Corps: help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans. SEAPAX also provides opportunities to advocate for the Peace Corps and supports community-based

local and international organizations in the form of small grants and contributions.



Governance

SEAPAX is run by an annually elected volunteer Board of Directors. Voting is conducted electronically by December of each year for positions that run from January to December of the following year.

Elected Directors* January – December 2021

Officers

- President – *Brad Cleveland (South Africa 2006-2008)*
- Vice President – *Brendan Chiesa (Mongolia 2011-2013)*
- Treasurer – *Joshua Jackson (Paraguay 2005-2007)*
- Secretary – *Erin Collins (Myanmar 2018-2020)*

Directors at Large

- *John Berry (Niger 1986-1989)*
- *Carolee Walters (Belize 1996-1998)*
- *Britany Ferrell (Ghana 2010-2012)*

*Voting members

Non-Elected Directors (Appointed)

- Book Club Chair - **Darren Luce (Costa Rica 2011-2013)*
- Community Service Co-Chairs - **Britany Ferrell (Ghana 2010-2012)*
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair - *Megyn Rodriguez*, Kenny Tran (Colombia 2018-2020)*

- Events Co-Chairs - *Aaron De Sal (Costa Rica 2015-2017)*, * *Hillary Abrams (South Africa 2009-2011)*
- Grants Committee Chair – *Brianna Celaya (Guyana 2019-2020)*
- Happy Hour Coordinator - *Garrett Morkill (The Gambia 2014-2016)*
- Calendar Chair– *Carolee Walters (Cota Rica 1996-1998)*
- Membership and Communications Chair – *Kathleen Sebastian (Benin 1975-1977)*
- Mentorship Co-Chairs - *Jenn Ritchey (Swaziland 2008-2010)*, *Lillian Baer (Cote d'Ivoire 1966-1968)*
- Newsletter Editor – *Sally Holmes (Zambia 2014-2016)*
- NPCA Advocacy Co-Chairs – *Beth Ahlstrom (Senegal 2002-2004)*, *Erin Branigan (Morocco 1986-1988)*, *Jerome Siangco (China 2019-2020)*, *Kenny Tran (Colombia 2018-2020)*
- Speakers' Bureau Chair -
- Webmaster – *Evangelina Sundgrenz (Uzbekistan 2000-2001)*

Board Meetings held in 2021

SEAPAX Board meetings are held regularly and are open to all interested parties. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all 2021 Board meetings were held virtually via Zoom. Minutes of the meetings are available through <https://www.seapax.org/cpages/docs-reports>.

The following board meetings were held via Zoom:

- January 10
- March 7
- May 2
- July 11
- October 3
- November 7 (2021 Board Retreat)

Social and Service Activities

February

- 14: Virtual Book Club Meeting

March

- 5: Story Slam: Moments that inspired or moved me during service
- 16: Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services Culture kitchen

April

- 11: Virtual Book Club meeting

June

- 13: Virtual Book Club meeting

August

- 8: Virtual Book Club meeting

- 12-15: Campout at Sol Duc campground
- 18: Happy Hour at Art Marble 21
- 21: Seattle Picnic

September

- 15: Happy Hour at Growler Guys

October

- 10: Virtual Book Club meeting
- 13: Sex and Gender Based violence event 1: Community Circle

November

- 17: Happy Hour at Mulleady's Irish Pub

December

- 15: Happy Hour at Life on Mars

Mentorship Program

As predicted, the Mentor Program **slowed down** a lot in 2021. In 2020, we matched 49 mentees and recruited 29 mentors. For 2021, we have matched 12 mentees and there are 2 new mentors that have signed up with the program. Most new mentees have been matched with the original mentors. Several of the original mentors have continued with the program.

SEAPAX International Book Club

The Book Club discusses books with themes and authors with an international focus. It meets every two months on Sunday afternoon at rotating locations. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, all five 2021 Book Club meetings were held via Zoom. All interested parties, whether or not they have read the book, are welcomed to participate.

Below is the reading list from 2021:

- **February 14:** "The Famished Road" by Ben Okri
- **April 11:** "Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line" By Deepa Anappara
- **June 13:** "King Leopold's Ghost: A story of Greed, Terror and heroism in Colonial Africa" by Adam Hochschild
- **August 15:** "Crooked Hallelujah" by Kelli Jo Ford
- **October 10:** "The Pull of the Starts" by Emma Donoghue



Communications

In 2021, the Communications Committee finalized the SEAPAX Communications Strategy, which includes information on purpose, branding, audiences, platforms, roles, and processes.

Social Media

SEAPAX maintains a public Facebook page and private Facebook group for its members. In 2021, followers increased by 156 from the previous year to a total of 1,822 as of November. Posts on the public page garnered 200 views on average.

Newsletter

SEAPAX sends a monthly e-newsletter to its membership, in addition to mid-month newsletters as needed. As of October 2021, 1,228 members received the newsletter, down 85 from 2020. The newsletter saw a 39% mean open rate and 4% mean click rate, both marginal increases from 2020. In 2021, the Newsletter Editor updated the template used for monthly newsletters to improve reading experience.

Website

SEAPAX manages an external-facing website through SilkStart.

Community Service Committee

The goal for the Community Service committee is to identify, promote and participate in opportunities for continuity of service for the SEAPAX community. In 2021, the committee established a relationship with Lutheran Community Services NW (LCSNW) and promoted their volunteer needs through SEAPAX's website, newsletter, and Facebook page. The committee also organized a supply drive that resulted in 30+ welcome kits for Afghan refugees.

Advocacy Committee

The SEAPAX Advocacy Committee works to engage and inform Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and friends of the Peace Corps in the Pacific Northwest with what is occurring in Washington, D.C. as it relates to Congressional legislation and actions that impact Peace Corps' operations and those who have served. In 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all of the Advocacy Committee's work was done remotely over Zoom, emails, phone calls, and letter writing.

Engagement with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA)

Advocacy Committee Chairs represented SEAPAX at NPCA's weekly advocacy meetings held nationally for all affiliate groups to report and coordinate local and national events. Advocacy Committee Chairs also attended NPCA's annual *Action Day on the Hill*, held virtually in March and September this year, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy creating the Peace Corps.

Meetings with Legislators in August and September

In August and September, the Advocacy Committee held six virtual constituency meetings with members of Washington state's Congressional delegation and their respective offices. The

purpose of these meetings were to inform Washington state's elected officials of pertinent Peace Corps legislation and to ask for their support. The Advocacy Committee met with the offices of:

- Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (WA-01)
- Congressman Rick Larsen (WA-02)
- Congresswoman Kim Schrier (WA-08)
- Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland (WA-10)
- Senator Patty Murray (joint meeting with Inland Northwest Peace Corps Association)
- Senator Maria Cantwell (joint meeting with Inland Northwest Peace Corps Association)

Additionally, the Advocacy Committee outreached to five more offices throughout the year, thanking representatives for the ongoing support of the Peace Corps and keeping these offices informed of Peace Corps legislation and action items as they arose. In 2021, the following members of WA's congressional delegation signed onto the *Dear Colleague Letter*, urging members of Congress in both the House and the Senate to support an increase in Peace Corps funding: Senator Cantwell and Representatives DelBene, Jayapal, Larsen, Schrier, Smith, and Strickland.

Membership

SEAPAX is open to all RPCVs and friends. We ask volunteers along with their family and friends to attend social events held throughout the year. An annual donation of \$15.00 for our events, advocacy work, projects, etc., is encouraged though we kindly accept any contribution.

2021 Donor list

Beth Ahlstrom	Lee Daneker	Suzanne Griffin
Terry Armstrong	Aaron De Sal	Gary Hedrick
Maggie Aspland	Beth Do	Hillary Holman
Lillian Baer	Deborah Dohrmann	Sally Holmes
Carolyn Bain	Michelle Emerson	Ilene Jaffe
Mindy Banker	Shelby Enright	Shannon De Jong
Scott Bash	Gina Fabara	Austin Kincaid
Glenn Blumhorst	Kathryn Finau	Greg Lambert
Eunice Bonaparte	Daniel Fleming	Nikoline Larsen
Erin Branigan	Daniel Frey	Julie MacDonald
Janet Callis	Joanna Fuller	William Marcouiller
Michele Cato	Marilee Fuller	Emily Mather
Heather Caturia	Brian Gay	Grace McDaniel
Sharon Chiang	Darigold Matching Gift	Patricia McGovern
Jacquelyn Clark	Jonathan Green	Annette McKelvey
Brad Cleveland	Susan Greisen	Patrick Medina
Teena Curry	Josh Grenzsund	Alyssa Moy

Lan Nguyen
Andrea Odle
Jonathan Olds
Leslie Otto
Charlotte Papp
Zachary Pavlik
Kimberly Pearson
Dave Perrin
Eugenia Petty
Deb Radziewicz

Kathy Ragan
Jenn Ritchey
Gregory Schaffer
Kathleen Sebastian
Jerome Siangco
Daniel Stantus
Aviva Stein
Bill Stein
Evangalina Sundgrenz
Sala (Sallie) Sweet

Sarah Swenson
Melinda Tsuchiya
Sakaru Tsuchiya
Carolee Walters
Jill Warner
Alan Waugh
Tony Weeks
Joel Wingard
Alexandra Woodwar

SEAPAX and NPCA Emergency Response Network (ERN)

In 2020, nine SEAPAX members formed the inaugural group of the NPCA Emergency Response Network (ERN), contracted to work as COVID-19 contact tracers for Public Health - Seattle & King County. In March 2021, as contract tracing services shifted from county- to state-level resources, the SEAPAX - ERN team made the transition to the Public Information Contact Center (PICC), serving as Public Information Resource Coordinators. PICC is the King County inbound call center established to assist the community with COVID-19 information and assistance with appointments for COVID vaccines and testing. In 2021, three additional RPCVs joined the original team, and the contract was extended through 2022.

Grants

Money for SEAPAX grants are generated by calendar and merchandise sales, though general funds may also be used by vote of the SEAPAX Board. In 2021, SEAPAX did not award any entities with a grant.

Financial Activity

501(c)(3)

SEAPAX is a registered 501(c)(3) Charitable Nonprofit. Depending on your filing status, individuals may be able to deduct their contributions to SEAPAX when they file their federal income taxes.

This status also enables SEAPAX to collect a portion of Amazon sales via AmazonSmile. To register, go to smile.amazon.com and search for "SEAPAX."

Calendar Sales and Membership Donations

SEAPAX uses donations from supporting members and revenue from calendar sales to execute our local activities and projects, distribute grants, and donate to local and international organizations. In years past, SEAPAX would bulk-purchase calendars and notecards and sell them at in-person SEAPAX events;

however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the limited ability to host in-person events, the Board decided in 2020 to no longer purchase calendars and notecards for resale. As an alternative, the Board is now promoting online International Calendar and notcard sales directly through the RPCV Wisconsin-Madison website (<https://www.rpcvcalendar.org/shop/>). By entering the code **PC4SEAPAX** at checkout, a proportion of the proceeds will be directed to SEAPAX, which will go towards supporting our grants program.

Merchandise

SEAPAX continues to offer merchandise through an online retailer. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds from these sales benefit the SEAPAX grant committee to provide funding for local and international non-profits that align with the core values of SEAPAX. You can find all of our merchandise at <https://www.seapax.org/cpages/merchandise>.

Financial Report

Lee Daneker, our treasurer, has provided a detailed report of 2021's expenses and financial position:

Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2021

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Business Basic Checking (7766)	\$ 4,760.88
Business Member Share Savings (7758)	\$ 5,276.30
Total Bank Accounts	\$10,037.18
Other current Assets	\$ 28.83
<u>Total Current Assets</u>	<u>\$10,066.01</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$10,066.01
 LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Total Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$ 8,471.21
Net Revenue	\$ 1,594.80
<u>Total Equity</u>	<u>\$10,066.01</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$10,066.01

Statement of Activity January - December 2020

	Total
Revenue	
Amazon Smiles	\$ 5.21
Benevity Donations	\$ 50.00
Calendar Sales	\$ 590.80
Campout Fee Refund	\$ 240.00
Campout Ticket Sales	\$ 540.00
Donation	\$ 1,909.88
Unclassified	\$ 86.81
Interest	\$ 0.98
TeeSpring Profits	\$ 116.75
<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>\$ 3,540.43</u>
Gross Profit	\$ 3,540.43
Expenditures	
Calendar Expenses	\$ 111.00
Campout Fee	\$ 688.16
Legal & Professional services	\$ 204.00
Office Supplies & Software	\$ 932.47
Taxes & Licenses	\$ 10.00
<u>Total Expenditures</u>	<u>\$1,945.63</u>
Net Operating Revenue	\$1,594.80
Net Revenue	\$1,594.80