



**2023 highlights:  
a year of  
growing the  
solidarity  
economy**

**DC STREET VENDING  
DECRIMINALIZED!**

The Street Vendor Advancement Amendment Act of 2023 passed after 5 years of organizing from DC street vendors! The law removes discriminatory barriers to accessing a vending license and expands street vending areas throughout the city.

**EXCLUDED WORKERS:  
STOP THE SWIPE**

When DC's Mayor stole the final \$21 million of the \$61 million in cash assistance for Excluded Workers in her budget process, the Excluded Worker Coalition launched the Stop the Swipe Campaign, persuading the DC Council to recommit the \$21 million.

**CO-OP SUPPORT FOR  
BALDWIN HOUSE**

BCI designed a community mortgage program that gave organizers a way to raise over \$1.5M for a new, black-led limited equity and affordable housing cooperative in Shaw.

**2023 CO-OP  
CONVENING**

The BCI Network convened a first-of-its kind gathering of 19 co-ops and solidarity economy organizations in the DMV region to collaborate and share resources, visions, and dreams for a local solidarity economy.

**MIGRANT SOLIDARITY  
MUTUAL AID**

BCI continued to provide fiscal sponsorship for MSMA in 2023, and partnered with them to run a food managers course for prospective catering co-op worker owners and recently arrived asylum seekers.

**DC SELF LAUNCH**

On November 9th we publicly launched the DC Solidarity Economy Loan Fund, which has already funded nearly \$200,000 in non-extractive loans to local co-ops. We have a goal of funding \$1 million in loans within 2 years.

# 2023 Beloved Community Incubator Annual Report:

A year of growing the solidarity economy through organizing, cooperative support, and solidarity lending



## ORGANIZING + MUTUAL AID

- In 2022, the Excluded Worker Coalition won the final \$21 million of \$75 million total of humanitarian cash relief for 15,000 excluded worker households in DC. In Spring 2023, the Mayor stole the \$21 million as part of her budget plans and the Excluded Worker Coalition launched the Stop the Swipe Campaign. This innovative campaign persuaded the DC Council to recommit the \$21 million to workers. BCI, Dulce Hogar Co-op worker-owners, and vendors part of the Decrim Vending Campaign were leaders within the coalition, which is a unique partnership between solidarity economy organizations and local nonprofits.
- Since the Street Vendor Advancement Amendment Act passed, we have devoted 1,200 hours to implementation talking with vendors about their rights and explaining the new law, and 1,000 hours engaging with DC's Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, Office of Tax and Revenue, and DC Health to simplify the license application process and ensure that the law is implemented in a fair and accessible way for all vendors.
- BCI connected vendor campaign leaders from the Decrim Vending campaign with Tzedek DC and Washington Lawyers' Committee to sue the DC Government and argue that DC's Clean Hands Law is unconstitutional.
- In September DC's Office of Tax and Revenue sent vendor leaders into collections for debt that should have been forgiven under the new law. On December 19th, BCI joined vendors and supporters as they secured a meeting with the Office of Tax and Revenue's Director of Collections to receive assurances that vendors will be allowed to apply for the debt amnesty they qualify for under DC's new vending laws.
- BCI continued to organize with and provide fiscal sponsorship for Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid, which collaborated to launch the DC Immigrant Justice Platform and won the passage of the Migrant Services Eligibility Clarification Emergency and Temporary Amendment Acts, which contain essential harm reduction amendments to the Migrant Service and Supports legislation from 2022.

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## COOPERATIVE INCUBATION & SUPPORT

- Since 2018 BCI has incubated Dulce Hogar Cleaning Cooperative from idea to operational. DH is now in its fifth year with nine worker-owners and pays in the 90th percentile for house cleaners in the DMV. DH brought on four new worker owners in 2023, and is preparing to leave BCI's incubation program, covering their own back-end costs and hiring their own manager, as DC's only worker owned cleaning co-op.
- In late spring BCI convened a leadership team of vendors out of the Decriminalize Street Vending campaign and began the first phase of incubation for a vendor catering cooperative.
- The first in-person convening of the BCI Network brought together 19 cooperatives and solidarity organizations in the DMV to learn about the DC Solidarity Economy Loan fund, share resources and challenges, and get to know each other better. BCI held sessions on the most common legal questions co-ops face, democratic governance and consensus tools, and the phases of cooperative incubation.
- For the third year in a row, BCI provided more than 500 cooperative developer hours, 500 hours of administrative support, and 100+ hours of legal technical assistance to local cooperatives.
- BCI provided technical assistance to Baldwin House Community Collective for over 2 years and running, designing a community mortgage program that allowed organizers to raise over \$1.5 million and plug the TOPA affordability gap for a new, black-led limited equity and affordable housing cooperative in DC's Shaw neighborhood.
- BCI joined more than 200 solidarity economy organizations as a member of the New Economy Coalition, a membership-based network representing the solidarity economy movement in the United States. Along with other members, our work with the BCI Network was featured in a series of articles in Nonprofit Quarterly.

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## SOLIDARITY LENDING

- In partnership with Seed Commons, a national wealth-building cooperative, BCI launched the DC Solidarity Economy Loan Fund (DC SELF) in late 2022, which provides non-extractive loans to cooperatives in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. In contrast to traditional lending, non-extractive loans do not require personal guarantees from co-op owners, credit scores, or automatic loan repayments. Instead, the focus is on ensuring cooperatives are sustainable before and during repayment, including paying their workers a living wage before loan payments are made.
- In late 2022, two BCI staff members completed Loan Project Officer training through SEED Commons.
- In 2023 DC SELF's first three loans totaling \$182,000 were approved by Seed Commons' national sustainability committee (a \$10,000 loan to Dulce Hogar Cleaning Cooperative and a \$160,000 general expenses loan and \$12,000 equipment loan to Throneless Tech Cooperative).
- Throneless Tech, a queer tech cooperative, has already paid back their first \$12,000 equipment loan in full.
- In November 2023 BCI publicly launched the loan fund, educating the DMV area on non-extractive lending, the solidarity economy, and how to apply to and support DC SELF.
- The DC Solidarity Economy Loan Fund has a goal of providing \$1 million in loans to local cooperatives by the end of 2025.