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## Wrap up: How You Can Be Part of the Table’s Work

Design credit: chelsyaquila.com
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

Image credits, from top: Stephen Coles' photo of mural by Amend TDK, agentdecoy, and WillieMaze; office of U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush's photo of mural by unknown artist; My Omaha Obsession's photo of mural by A.D. Swolley and Hugo Zamorano; Judson McCranie's photo of mural by Marvin Meeks; and Seward Community Co-op's photo of mural by Malya Lea Hartman.
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.
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.
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!
INTRODUCING TABLE PARTNERS!

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

Photo credit: Somali American Heritage Society of Nebraska
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JOINED 2016</th>
<th>JOINED 2017</th>
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**CHRISTY YANG**

South of Downtown Community Development Organization

she/her

Christy organized successful Get-Out-the-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

**Revenue**
- **Grants**: $1,627,856 (95.7%)
- **Member Dues**: $12,200 (0.7%)
- **Individual Donations**: $61,000 (3.6%)
- **Total Revenue**: $1,701,056

**Expenditures**
- **Civic Engagement Fund**: $510,320 (37.5%)
- **Member Core Support**: $139,680 (10.3%)
- **Fundraising Expenses**: $47,000 (3.5%)
- **General Operating Expenses**: $664,813 (48.8%)
- **Total Expenditures**: $1,361,813
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.”

In 2020, we re-granted $510,320 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

Photo credit: Latino Center of the Midlands
**Civic Engagement Fund**

### BRIDGE FUNDING

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>National Coalition of 100 Black Women*</td>
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### CENSUS

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### COMMUNITY CONNECT

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*Indicates BIPOC-led organization

**Indicates rural-serving organization

### GOTV/VR

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Voices for Children</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
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*Indicates BIPOC-led organization

**Indicates rural-serving organization
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.
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**

**VOTER CONTACTS**

**Total Contact Attempts by Type***

1,184,871

* 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.

- **Digital**: 38,041
- **Doors**: 30,530
- **Mail**: 192,968
- **Phone**: 409,317
- **Text**: 419,331
- **Other**: 94,684

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

+ 50,289 VOTES were added in target counties from 2016-2020 (1% TURNOUT INCREASE)

Of all first-time voters in the 2020 General Election, 31.6% had received contact attempts by the network.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-target counties</th>
<th>Target counties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87.1 VOTES</td>
<td>105.5 VOTES</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.
COMUNIDAD MAYA PIXAM IXIM
“Through a mentorship with Heartland Workers Center and Latino Center, Comunidad Maya Pixam Ixm 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!”
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.”

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.”
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.”
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 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 inCOMMON  
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
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.
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.
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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