

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

For 44 years, FCA has been considering and acting on concerns that affect residents' quality of life and the character of our community.

This year, we confronted concerns that could radically alter both.



## ADVOCACY

**Proposed upzoning:** In response to the mayor's draft One Seattle Plan to increase housing density across the city, the FCA Board informed residents about elements of the plan that could diminish quality of life, degrade environmental habitat, and alter the character of this neighborhood.

We rallied volunteers to leaflet the community with a summary of the board's concerns and how to comment. By the hundreds, residents here and across West Seattle did so. Officers and board members are continuing to be proactive as the review process advances to make sure Fauntleroy's voices are heard.

**Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal:** FCA closely monitored planning as Washington State Ferries and its advisory groups homed in on a preferred design for rebuilding the terminal. Four aspects came into focus this year:

- ❑ planners took the position that advances in automated toll collection would be insufficient to eliminate the need for more vehicle capacity on the trestle,
- ❑ gaining that capacity would require more shading of nearshore habitat,
- ❑ the terminal would be larger during years of construction in order to maintain service, and
- ❑ state ownership of shoreline in the cove would increase with purchase of an adjacent residential property for a construction office/staff breakroom. The next major step will be federal environmental review of a preferred design.

## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

**Resident concerns:** Early this year, the FCA Board reviewed findings of our 2023 community survey and their implications. Half of respondents credited FCA's advocacy for improving traffic-

related safety, and public safety continued to top their list of concerns. SW Precinct representatives attended nearly every business meeting to keep us abreast of criminal activities and issues such as officer recruitment affecting service.

**Fauntleroy Y:** After this century-old community institution announced in December 2023 that it would close, the FCA Board kept a watchful eye as a reduction in rent by Fauntleroy Church enabled the Y to slowly resume service and as the church sought nonprofit tenants to replace lost revenue.

**Environment:** In late summer 2023, Seattle Parks invited public comment on proposals for Lincoln Park: converting tennis courts for pickleball and creating an off-leash dog area. The FCA Board monitored the sometimes-contentious debate that continued into 2024, with potential threats to wildlife habitat in the park topping the list of concerns. After weighing pros and cons and hearing directly from residents, the board voted unanimously in February to oppose both ideas.

As FCA's environmental arm, the Fauntleroy Watershed Council had a productive year, most notably: documenting a record number (347) of coho that found healthy spawning habitat in Fauntleroy Creek, hosting a record number (872) of students for salmon-releases, and gaining experience in welcoming special-education students for creekside experiences.

Together with the watershed council, the FCA Board monitored city planning to replace culverts under 45th Ave. SW and the Fauntleroy Church parking lot that block fish passage.

**Beautification:** Kim Frost led a winter work party to weed the 23 planter boxes in the Endolyne business area and plant bulbs for spring color. She and other volunteers were back in the spring for more maintenance and planting.

**Street end:** The FCA Board voiced objections to the Seattle Department of Transportation's proposed improvements to the SW Brace Point Drive street end on the beach in Fauntleroy Cove. Concerns included the city's expectation that volunteers would install and maintain landscaping and log benches and signage would be adequate to prevent the area from becoming a nuisance.

## CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

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**Annual Meeting & Food Fest:** This March event drew upwards of 100 residents to reconnect, browse information tables, sample food from local eateries, and elect board members and officers.

**Hunts:** In late March, about 80 children hunting in two waves needed only a half hour to score during FCA's annual egg hunt. Coordinators Candace Blue and Scott Weismann enlisted additional volunteers to stuff and hide the eggs, then oversee the action.

They were back in October to hide 400 pumpkins for FCA's annual pumpkin search. Children combed the Endolyne business area to find them and win prizes, including a glass pumpkin donated by Avalon Glassworks.

**Fauntleroy Fall Festival:** Fueled by enthusiasm, dedication, and donations, this annual all-ages event drew an estimated 2,000 residents to the church/Y/ schoolhouse hub in October for an afternoon of activities, music, food, and catching up that included an FCA information booth.

## COMMUNICATION

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**Website:** Bill Wellington managed our website, Facebook page, and special FCA Flash alerts.

**Newsletter:** Judy Pickens edited our quarterly *Neighbors* newsletter and annual report. She regularly solicited news from FCA's business partners to enhance the value of their advertising.

## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

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**Meetings:** Except in August and December, the FCA Board had monthly business meetings open to all members. To encourage more participation, meetings began half an hour earlier.

**Leadership:** In the fall, board member Alan Grainger accepted the position of treasurer and David Follis joined the board. After 11 years as president, Mike Dey announced his intention to step down. Frank Immel agreed to stand for president at the 2025 annual meeting.

**Membership:** FCA closed this year with 207 household members and 14 business members. We introduced software to improve automatic renewal and personally contacted business owners as part of our ongoing effort to restore membership to pre-pandemic levels.

**Finances:** While revenue from memberships increased this year, inflation increased as well, leading to more money going out than coming in. Income from memberships and business partnerships totaled \$8,240 and we incurred \$13,659.64 in expenses. At year's end, we had a balance of \$27,723.81.

As fiscal agent for the Fauntleroy Fall Festival, we started the year with a balance of \$6,527.81 in the festival's account and added \$10,900 from fund-raising events at Endolyne Joe's, The Birdhouse, and Wildwood Market and donations. After \$12,671.71 in expenses, the festival closed the year with a balance of \$4,756.10.

## ON OUR RADAR

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Issues and opportunities on the FCA Board's radar for 2025 include

- advocating for zoning changes that increase **housing supply and affordability** while preserving this community's character and environmental assets.
- designing a new **Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal** that incorporates priorities of this residential neighborhood.
- evaluating proposed designs for two new **Fauntleroy Creek culverts**.
- advocating for and implementing effective ways to **improve public safety**.
- developing a policy for **opinion content on the FCA website**.
- annual traditions and new activities** that strengthen ties within our community.