



# People's Economy Lab

Building a solidarity economy in Washington state.



## Our Vision

Imagine an economy that serves people, instead of people serving the economy. Where community and worker-owned businesses meet local needs. Where the government is driven by participation instead of partisan politics. Where investing means closing the racial wealth gap instead of making the rich richer.



## The People's Economy Lab Network

Achieving this vision will take all of us. There's a place for everyone in this movement.

The PEL Network includes Black and Indigenous leaders and leaders of color, other frontline community leaders, community-led organizations and businesses, funders, policymakers, and policy implementers. We're part of a national and international solidarity economy movement. Our day-to-day work is led by a team of Lab Leaders and support staff.



## What We Believe

People create the economy, and we can do better. In order to bring our vision to life, we need to shift who makes decisions about the economy, how, and to what end. That means addressing who has access and agency, how decisions are made and assets controlled, and for what purpose. We want to move...

**Access** from Privilege to **Equity**

**Agency** from Individual to **Cooperative**

**Decision-making** from Exclusionary to **Participatory**

**Ownership** from Private to **Common**

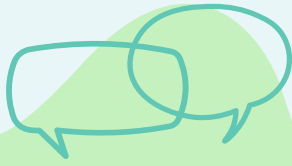
**Purpose** from Accumulation to **Regeneration**

## PEL's Role



People's Economy Lab identifies, co-creates, and makes the case for better economic models. We convene leaders, develop and test better models, and push the bounds of what's possible for a Just Transition to a solidarity economy.

# Our Programs



## Economic Democracy

Building collaborative governance strategies for macro-economic changes in policy and resource distribution.

### Example: Just Futures Partnership

The Just Futures Partners (PEL, Front and Centered, & Statewide Poverty Action Network) collaborated with frontline communities to create the Cornerstones of Co-Governance for a Just & Equitable Future and develop the Community Assemblies model. Now we're working with the City of Seattle and State of Washington to pilot Community Assemblies for the purpose of gathering frontline communities' recommendations on environmental justice policy.

## Community Wealth Building

Local economic development through direct ownership and control of assets.

### Example: Generational Wealth Building Initiative

PEL researched generational wealth building frameworks and consulted with a roundtable of BIPOC community leaders to develop strategies for closing the racial wealth gap in the City of Seattle. In the end, we recommended a Community Wealth Building approach and supported the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods in resourcing BIPOC community-led businesses and organizations to pilot Community Wealth Building strategies.



## People's Economy Movement Building

Building connections, learning, and practice through events, education, and communications.

### Example: Economics for Emancipation King County

We're facilitating an interactive, popular education style learning series based on the Economics for Emancipation curriculum with a cohort of 20 participants from BIPOC-led community organizations and collectives, businesses, government, and foundations. Our goal is to bring more people into the solidarity economy movement and continue to build a network of relationships to support the work.

**Learn more:** <https://peopleseconomylab.org>

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