The mission of UTOPIA is to provide sacred spaces to strengthen the minds and bodies of QTPIs—Queer and Trans Pacific Islanders—through community organizing, community care, civic engagement, and cultural stewardship.

Our vision is to create a world of cultural wealth, dignity, healing and liberation for QTPIs that honors our ancestors and support future generations and ourselves.
UTOPIA was born out of the struggles, challenges, strength, and resilience of the Pacific Islander LGBTQI community in the raise funds for those affected by the 2009 earthquake and tsunami in the South Pacific. We realized that Pacific Islanders were often left out of resources that were available under the API umbrella and have limited access to healthcare, employment, education, and leadership opportunities. And LGBTQI members of the Pacific Islander community have been even further marginalized. UTOPIA works to create a vibrant space for members of our community to address basic needs, build pathways toward new expanded career and life opportunities, foster a sense of common purpose, and advocate for social justice, education and overall wellness among members of the QTPI community.
UTOPIA Values Diversity

“Fa’afafine/ Fa’atane”

“In the manner of a woman/of a man.”

Fa’afafine are people who identify themselves as having a third-gender or non-binary role in Samoa, and the Samoan diaspora. A recognized gender identity/gender role in traditional Samoan society, and an integral part of Samoan culture, can be understood as the journey between the masculine to the feminine. Fa’atane can be understood as the journey between the feminine to the masculine.

UTOPIA is led and founded by Pacific Islander women who identify as unapologetically transgender and/or Fa’afafine. We are authentically community led, and all of our programming comes directly from the needs of our community. Our strength as a community is in our diversity of stories, experiences, and identities. As Fa’afafine, Māhū, Leiti and Tagata Tapu, our identities and our very beings are by nature intersectional and our work cannot help but be so as well.
“Ukuli’i ka pua, onaona I ka mau’u”
“Tiny is the flower, yet it scents the grass around it.”
-Hawai’i

One person can make a significant impact in the universe. We at UTOPIA believe in the importance and worth of every person in a society, we aim to assist in building that leadership. We value dignity and believe that everyone is worthy of honor and respect. From the very start, our work has been steeped in the barriers, challenges and experiences of Pacific Islander members of the LGBTQI community who face pervasive racism, homophobia and transphobia in ways that impact their safety, health, sense of wellness, and their desire to build a positive future. Over the past ten years, our work has evolved to include street outreach services, basic needs support, sex worker leadership development and organizing, advocacy, community building, and cultural sharing.
Sex Worker Empowerment Initiative

Street outreach, resources, and services for QTPI and BIPOC involved in the sex trade. Our community outreach work focuses on the urgent needs of QTPI and others whose safety and wellbeing are jeopardized by their work in the sex industry. The program includes:

- Sex Work Is Work, a project working to decriminalize and destigmatize sex work through public education and a Sex Workers Toolkit
- Street outreach services to provide healthcare, safety, and survival resources
- Clinics on housing, name changes, legal support, healthcare, and other emergent issues
- SWEI: The collaborative development of a King County-wide Commercial Sexual Exploitation Cohort offering resources and services
- The collaborative development of a King County-wide Commercial Sexual Exploitation Cohort offering resources and services: Sex Worker Empowerment Initiative
- Monthly TransAction support groups
- Quarterly Sex Worker Story Collection project
- New Possibilities Gender Affirming Clothing Project
- Real Talk, an LGBTQI BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color) support group
- Trans Prisoner Reentry
Community Organizing Program

Leadership development, civic engagement, advocacy, and systems change work for trans and POC liberation and justice. UTOPIA is concerned with addressing both the immediate physical safety of our community and the systems, policies, and beliefs that make us unsafe.

- Trans Economic Empowerment Coalition
- Alphabet Alliance of Color
- Leadership Development Retreats
- Campaign Organizing work to form a leadership cohort to address inequity in the policies and systems that impact this community most
- Voter and Census Engagement and Citizenship access
- Reproductive Justice policy cohort
- Climate Justice: King County Climate Equity Taskforce
UTOPIA values Cultural Heritage

“Ko taku reo taku ohooho, ko taku reo taku mapihi mauria.”

“My language is my awakening; my language is the window to my soul.”

-Maori

This is a proverb closely associated with language revitalization, a struggle which is very important in maintaining culture. We embrace cultural heritage as a part of our identities. We also hope to preserve the languages and traditions from our ancestors that make us indigenous people of the Pacific.

Cultural Empowerment Program

Celebrating and lifting up QTPI cultural identity via community connection.

- Talanoa Dialogues series
- QTPI Retreats
- Trans Day of Remembrance
- Trans Awareness Week celebrations
- Language Revitalization program
UTOPIA values Diligence

“’O le ala i le pule o le Tautua”
“The path to leadership is through good service.” -Samoan

As this Samoan proverb speaks to the importance of diligence in order to achieve leadership, we at UTOPIA also value careful, consistent and intentional work. UTOPIA believes in working diligently to achieve the best outcomes for the QTPI community.

2019 was an incredible year of growth. We hired three new staff people, increased our budget, and laid the groundwork to significantly increase our programs.

In 2019, UTOPIA:

- Provided 300 QTPI and other queer and trans people of color with essential health and safety resources through our street outreach and other work.
- Provided community outreach to over 1,000 people at over 40 events.
- Developed the leadership and organizing skills of 32 QTPI through two retreats.
- Held 25 clinics including on HIV/STI, PREP clinic, legal name and gender changes, and much more.
- Held 5 Talanoa Dialogues on Dismantling Racism, QTPIs and Church, Pasifika Cultural Indigenous Identities, Climate Justice, and Talanoa with Jaiyah Saelua, the first Transgender FIFA qualifier football player.
- Hired Operations Manager Donato Fatuesi, Community Engagement Manager, SWEI Tepatasi Vaina, and Cultural Community Organizer Tweetie Fatuesi.
What I admire most about UTOPIA is the positive impact they have on our QTPI and LGBTQ community; inspiring and empowering people, people like me. My name is Donato Fatuesi, and this is my story.

UTOPIA Seattle found me at a very critical time in my life. Forced to drop out of college with enormous debt, faced with housing insecurity, I felt lost and alone. Eventually, I found full-time work, however $480.00 every two weeks made it impossible to thrive on my own. Engaging in sex work allowed me to save money and become more independent but most importantly offered me a newfound confidence in how I chose to navigate the world as an indigenous Trans woman of color. The risk of further discrimination and possible criminalization meant that I needed to re-strategize.

UTOPIA Seattle was known to have a close-knit Pacific Islander community. During a brief visit, they reached out to me about an event to meet and connect with other Fa’afafine. Finding a room full of professionals in their respective agencies; entrepreneurs, business owners, community leaders, and activists, some with current or former experience in sex work, all Queer and Trans Pacific Islanders – QTPI’s – left quite the impression on me. Sharing similarities, I connected deeply with their stories of how they were able to thrive here in Washington. Moving to Washington was not an option at the time, but quickly became a priority. In a sense, I recognized the possibilities which gave me the hope I needed to stay.
UTOPIA provided me with gender affirming resources and a list of LGBTQ friendly service providers and employers to help me re-enter the workforce. Amending my legal documents and starting HRT was a truly redefining moment for me. Slowly, I was beginning to overcome many socio-economic barriers that prevented me once from gaining full independence. UTOPIA became my political home, my refuge, my haven. Volunteering to advance the mission in creating sacred spaces for QTPI’s through community organizing, community care, cultural stewardship and civic engagement was a gratifying “Yes” decision.

From a volunteer to staff, my growth through here became directly correlated to that of my personal and professional life. My relationship with my friends and family is deeply bonded than ever. I am happy to share that I now serve as Operations Manager for UTOPIA Seattle and will be graduating this summer with an Associates of Arts in Accounting, with plans to pursue onto my Bachelors.

Through this entire experience I have found strength, immense healing and self-love. Through this work I get to help others to define what that looks like for them to live truly dignified lives.
Our Finances

UTOPIA Growth 2016 through 2020 (Anticipated)

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Our Gratitude

UTOPIA extends our deepest gratitude for every single dollar our community invested in our work in 2019. This amazing community would not be possible without you!
Fa’afetai tele lava!
Si Yu'us ma'åse'
Malo ‘Aupito
Vinaka
Mahalo
Meitaki
Māururu
Ke Kmal Mesaul
Kia Ora, Kew Emmal
THANK YOU!