



Annual Report 2023

SEED'S VISION

We envisage a transformed Cape Flats where young people are inspired and empowered to create thriving and resilient communities.

SEED'S MISSION

To skill and inspire youth to grow personal, household and community resilience and prepare them for work in the local green economy to contribute to a thriving city.



OUR SEEDING FUTURES YOUTH PROGRAMME

The Seeding Futures Youth Programme serves as the cornerstone of SEED's work. With pressing issues of climate change and youth unemployment in mind, the Seeding Futures Programme is designed to inspire individuals to live out the permaculture values of People Care, Earth Care and Fair Share by cultivating their own resilience and forging pathways to employment in the local green economy.

Additionally, the Seeding Futures Youth Programme offers students job placements opportunities with local green businesses. Through our continuous efforts to map to Cape Flats Green Economy, SEED has identified 150 Green Economy partners, with more added to our database yearly. In 2023, 51 of our students contributed 822 days of job shadow experience to our ever-growing green network.

Our Seeding Futures Youth Programme is made up of four core courses: Applied Permaculture and Resilience Training. In 2023 we graduated 84 students from our APT course, 102 students from the Resilience Training and prepared 5632 students meals from our onsite Soul Kitchen, run by alumnus Brenda Marley Quinn Davis.





OUR ALUMNI IGNITE PROGRAMME



With the support of the Lemonaid and ChariTea Foundation, SEED was able to commence with one of our more recent programmes, Alumni Ignite, in January 2023. This programme focuses on strengthening our Alumni network through continued learning opportunities, ongoing mentorship and community support for graduates of our courses. Alumni Ignite is comprised of three initiatives: **Alumni Enterprise Growth, Alumni Facilitator Programme and Feed Our People.**



The goal of Alumni Ignite is to establish structured programs to boost alumni capabilities, emphasizing livelihoods and maximizing impact. The results of these efforts have been truly impressive, showcasing the potential for broader implementation of this program.



In 2023 we had a total of 129 SEED Alumni participate in our Alumni Ignite programme. We have been inspired by what our Alumni have gone on to achieve after their time at SEED, contributing their time and skills back to their communities and growing the local green economy.





OUR ALUMNI IGNITE INITIATIVES



Alumni Enterprise Growth: In partnership with **Ubuntu Business**, SEED put out a call for Alumni Enterprise Growth participants in 2023 and met with 42 young entrepreneurs who applied for the program. Over the course of three meetings, the participants' needs were assessed and we mapped out the local green economy. Before selecting 15 entrepreneurs for further mentoring, we ran an intensive one-day bootcamp with workshops to equip the participants with the necessary skills and information for their enterprises to thrive. The mentoring of the 15 entrepreneurs was delivered through 30 weekly coaching sessions, 6 masterclasses, and 4 quarterly on-site visits.

Alumni Facilitator Programme: In 2023, SEED ran two **Introduction to Facilitation** courses. This four-day course equips participants with the necessary skills and confidence to become trainers through a series of workshops and group exercises. SEED provides Alumni from this course with a stipend to jumpstart their facilitation careers through hosting their own resilience workshops and upskilling members of their communities. In 2023 Alumni-taught workshops enabled 40 Alumni to deliver 87 workshops, impacting 3810 individuals.

Feed Our People: SEED successfully graduated 150 participants through six **Organic Gardening Basics** courses in 2023. The Organic Gardening Basics course offered by SEED is aimed at upskilling good food gardeners. In this four-day workshop, we cover production planning and crop rotation for a full year and also thoroughly equip students with the hands-on skills of composting, planting and propagation. Another important aspect of the Feed our People initiative is **Resilience Design and Community Garden Resources**. This training has been designed, in partnership with our Alumni community gardens, and will commence in 2024. The training supports community gardeners to apply Permaculture design to existing gardens, with a focus on growing resilience. Garden resources were distributed to 21 community gardens, directly impacting 3161 individuals through feeding schemes.





OUR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM PROGRAM

SEED's Outdoor Classroom Program partners with students from Rocklands Primary School at our Abundance Site. Together with Rocklands teachers, a training schedule is created to merge the school curriculum with interactive nature-based lessons. By moving teaching outdoors, our program brings the curriculum to life, linking children with the surrounding ecosystems as a hands-on learning environment.

In 2023, SEED conducted 165 Outdoor Classes, involving 160 Rocklands students on a weekly basis. The classes covered diverse subjects like the water cycle, germination, renewable energy, mapping, cardinal points, and indigenous plants. Although the program focuses on Grade 4 and 6 students, learners from other grades often visit the Abundance site after school. Furthermore, in 2023, SEED organized an after-school program for 360 students, offering practical exercises and garden activities.

The environmental education project at Rocklands has sparked considerable interest, leading to plans to expand the Outdoor Classroom to more schools in Mitchells Plain in 2024.





OUR SEED ABUNDANCE SITE

The SEED Abundance Site is the headquarters of our organization, currently nurturing five enterprises which are integral to our local food resilience system and lay the groundwork for our food system tour. We hold regular markets, providing Alumni and community members with the opportunity to showcase their businesses. We are inspired by the many Alumni we see returning to these markets as sellers, managing their own enterprises. In 2023, we organized four bi-monthly markets.

Our on-site gardens grow nutrient-dense, organic vegetables for local feeding programs. These gardens celebrate the beauty and harmony of permaculture and regenerative agriculture; this year we harvested 281kg of produce. The garden team also collaborates with the Regeneration Nursery to grow food specifically for Marleys Soul Café. The Regeneration Nursery houses Easy Peasy, an Alumni enterprise offering seedling trays for home gardeners in Cape Town. Our nursery also supplies vegetable seedling trays to community gardens and individual seedlings to residents of Mitchells Plain and beyond.

Marleys Soul Café, an offshoot of our on-site kitchen, initially catered to participants on SEED's courses. We value the impact of healthy, filling meals on student well-being and learning. The café serves cost-effective, nutritious meals like pumpkin soup with fresh bread sticks, home-made falafel with a garden salad and lentil curry with Marley's famous garlic naan. The Soul Café plays an important role in, not only, showcasing the creativity of vegetarian cooking, but educating visitors and students about the benefits of a plant-rich diet.

To raise awareness of local food systems, we conduct food system tours at the Abundance site, where visitors get a taste of Marley's Soul Café creations. In 2023, we hosted 49 individuals on food system tours and collaborated with Uthando Tours, welcoming an additional 267 visitors.





OUR DIRECTOR'S LETTER

SEED continues to do the very difficult, but incredibly necessary work of capacitating individuals. Not just technically, but at the personal level, building an internal resilience that only a programme like our outdoor classroom can achieve.

The organisation is now in a period of change, exciting and scary, as the organisation braces itself for the growth that is needed to widen and deepen SEED's reach and impact.

We have had tremendous support from a multitude of funders over the years, some for many years, who have all seen the vision and understood the importance of SEED's work. To all funders, in all their forms, cheque sizes and duration, we say baie dankie, Siyabulela, enkosi kakhulu. Long may we walk the journey of empowering South African's to change their lives and the story of this nation.

In the year ahead, the organisation will be strengthening its internal infrastructure, to enable the growth we project. The Board has been working tirelessly to guide Management's growth in this aspect and we look forward to continued work and strengthened relations with partners, funders and community stakeholders.

This Annual Report is a great glimpse into a year of deep work, big changes and continued dedication to the human. The Board thanks Management, specifically Leigh Brown and Logie Soobramoney for the work (many many hours) put in, in this time and phase for the organisation. A thank you to the staff of SEED for holding space during some difficult times, but always mixing that in with a human magic. Finally, thank you to all the learners that walk through our SEED garden and go out into the world as agents of sustainable change. We take pride in each and every one of you!



Maloba G. Tshehla *(On Behalf of The Board)*



OUR FINANCIAL REPORT



OUR INCOME STREAMS

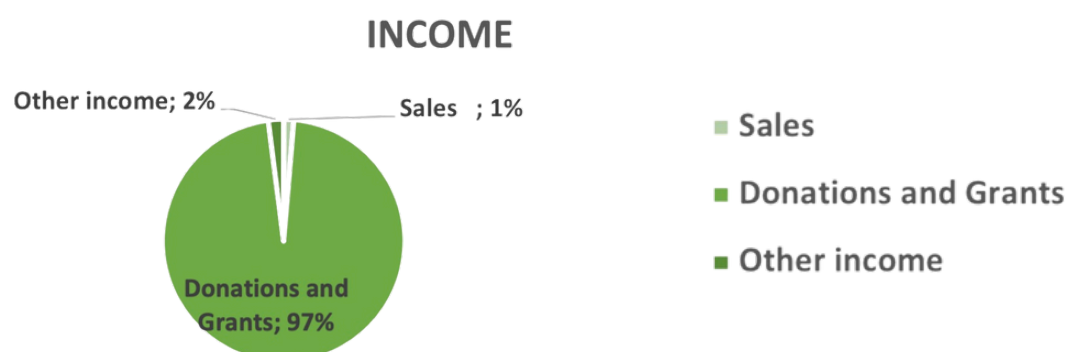
Schools Environmental Education and Development

(registration number: 052-316 NPO)

Trading as SEED

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

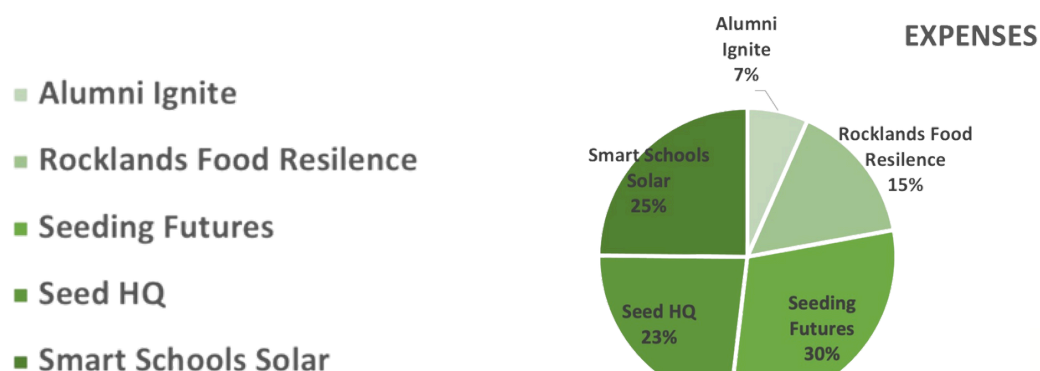
INCOME	2023	2022
Sales	53 023	51 713
Donations and Grants	3 818 652	5 125 183
Other income	80 460	171 213
TOTAL	3 952 135	5 348 109



EXPENSES

Alumni Ignite	296 628	476 691
Rocklands Food Resilience	692 956	607 921
Seeding Futures	1 331 385	1 277 903
Seed HQ	1 041 002	964 796
Smart Schools Solar	1 112 324	1 381 858
TOTAL EXPENSES	4 474 295	4 709 169

Shortfall	-522 160	638 940
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OUR SPECIAL THANKS

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Thank you to Leigh Brown

Leigh has been the Co-founder and Director of SEED for the last 22 years. What an achievement!

As the SEED family, we would like to extend our gratitude to Leigh for all her hard work, dedication and enthusiasm over the years. What started as a pilot project over two decades ago, has now blossomed into a richly diverse ecosystem of people committed to transforming the Cape Flats and creating a world in which young people are inspired and empowered to create thriving and resilient communities.

Leigh, you are leaving a lasting legacy that is impactful through changed mindsets of all those you have walked through the Rocklands Site.

We celebrate your passion!

