



Democracy. Wealth. Ownership.

# 2024 Impact Summary

As 2024 came to a close, Cooperation Buffalo celebrated a year of growth. Over the past year we deployed \$100,000 in non-extractive loan capital to two cooperatives, contributing over \$1 million in funding to co-ops in Western New York since 2016. We assisted Band of Bards, an independent comics publisher championing diversity and inclusion, in becoming Western New York's newest worker cooperative. Additionally, we provided over 450 hours of technical assistance to cooperatives in our network, including The Healing Grounds Café, Farmer Pirates Compost, and Rose Jade Consulting.

In 2024, we welcomed 37 community members to Buffalo State University for [Cooperative Changemakers: A Community Power Fellowship](#). This 11-week program fostered skills training, networking, and the exchange of ideas among a passionate cohort seeking to build democratic power in our community. We also partnered with Justice for Migrant Families and Pilgrim St. Luke's UCC to provide a multi-week training for refugee and immigrant food entrepreneurs, equipping them with the fundamentals of operating a successful food service co-op.

Throughout the year, we showed up in neighborhoods across the city to provide info about cooperative economics and how to start a co-op business. Perhaps you spotted us in [Buffalo Business First](#) in March, on [WBFO's What's Next?](#) in July, or on the [Black Gems Dive In Podcast](#) discussing Buffalo's rich cooperative history and emerging solidarity economy. We hosted workshops and clinics in co-op business fundamentals in partnership with the Women's Business Center at Canisius, The Exchange at Beverly Gray, and Lexington Co-op Markets. One of the biggest highlights was Co-op Fest, which brought together 100+ community members to celebrate Buffalo's cooperative ecosystem.

When we democratize the tools of business, we put power back into the hands of creative, resourceful, and resilient working-class people. In 2025, we remain committed to growing as a resource hub, providing quality technical assistance, capital, and training for the gutsy and trailblazing cooperatives building a people-first economy in Buffalo.



## COOPERATION BUFFALO

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tori Kuper, *Treasurer*  
India Walton, *Chair*  
Andrea Ó Súilleabháin

## STAFF

Andrew Delmonte, *Executive Director*  
Michael Heubusch, *Cooperative Developer*  
Cecilia Johnson, *Cooperative Developer*  
Mike Zak, *Cooperative Developer*

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## Cooperative Development

**23**

New co-op entrepreneurs & teams received technical assistance (TA)

**51**

Workers supported through funding or TA provided to their cooperatives

**450+**

Hours of technical assistance provided to cooperative businesses

**150+**

Total co-op entrepreneurs and teams that have received TA since 2016

**11**

Total new cooperatives that have launched with our support since 2016

## Cooperative Lending

**\$100K**

New lending to cooperative businesses in Western New York

**\$1M**

Total non-extractive loans to cooperative businesses in WNY since 2016

**\$1.3M**

Total capital secured for cooperative businesses in WNY since 2016

## Cooperative Entrepreneurship Training

**190**

Co-op entrepreneurs and advocates have completed our training in 6 years

**56%**

Black, Indigenous and other people of color make up over 1/2 of all participants

**68%**

Women, trans, and nonbinary individuals make up over 2/3 of all participants



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