2022 Annual Report
Non-Extractive Lending

$500,000+

In 2022 we deployed over half a million dollars of loan capital to support three new Western New York cooperatives.
Non-Extractive Lending

As members of Seed Commons, a national financial cooperative composed of over 30 peers across the US, we’ve supported the investment of over $25 million into cooperatively owned businesses that create jobs, build wealth, and challenge inequality.

As of December 31, 2021
Non-Extractive Lending

97% repayment rate for Seed Commons lending to cooperatives

92% of Seed Commons portfolio invested in Black or BIPOC-owned businesses

63% of Seed Commons portfolio invested in businesses owned by women, queer, and transgender people

As of December 31, 2021
Co-op Development

In 2022 we received 33 inquiries for potential new co-op projects, held 29 initial consultations, and made intake decisions to begin incubating 6 of those co-ops.

Since 2016, we have provided one-on-one technical assistance to over 100 co-op entrepreneurs in Western New York.
Co-op Development

350+
Hours in 2022 spent with the worker-owners of Anyone’s Cafe & Bakery, a cafe in the South Wedge neighborhood of Rochester, NY

300+
Hours spent with the worker-owners of Rose Garden Early Childhood Center in Buffalo, NY

200+
Hours spent with the worker-owners of The Healing Grounds Cooperative, a start-up cafe and healing space on Buffalo’s West Side

90+
Hours spent with the members of Mondragon Village Association, a new black-owned real estate investment cooperative in Buffalo, NY
Co-op Education

Six teams of co-op entrepreneurs graduated from our fourth Cooperative Academy, a 10-week training program where teams learn how to grow cooperative businesses that build wealth and solidarity. In 4 years we’ve trained 129 co-op entrepreneurs through the Academy who are 60% BIPOC and 67% women, trans, and gender non-conforming.
Co-op Education

In May, we hosted our second annual Worker Co-op Jumpstart workshop with the support of the Buffalo Small Business Development Center. And in June, we hosted Talk to a Co-oper, where aspiring co-op entrepreneurs had an opportunity to hear from current worker-owners about their co-op experiences.
We nurtured relationships to support our co-ops and to grow interest in the cooperative economy. In March, we presented to the WNY Regional Food System Initiative and Cornell Cooperative Extension about co-op farming models. In May, we held a workshop for lawyers, accountants, and professional service providers. And in November, we were the keynote for Our City Buffalo’s 2022 Anti-Displacement Summit.
Ecosystem Development

In its second year, our #ShopCoopBFLO promotional campaign and holiday market event highlighted small, local, cooperatively owned businesses rooted in our community. Our local co-ops offer a wide array of services and products, and meet important community needs.
Advocacy

In 2022 we continued our participation in the New York State Community Equity Agenda Coalition, calling for policies and actions that transform our fundamentally unjust social, political and economic systems. We also continued our participation in the Crossroads Coalition, advocating for a Just Transition for Buffalo.
Doing Our Homework

In September, Cooperation Buffalo staff and board participated in a two-week study and exploration of European cooperatives and solidarity economies in Spain and Italy. We learned from autonomous collectives, place-based organizers, neighborhood-led development projects, and established co-op enterprises including Mondragon and Legacoop.
THANK YOU!

A community-controlled economy requires community power to sustain it. Thank you to all of our volunteers, donors, partners, and community members. Learn more and get involved at our website cooperationbuffalo.org