Over the past few weeks, the King County Play Equity Coalition has been engaging new members and has begun small pilot projects to increase equitable access to youth physical activity in the region, especially among those youth identified in *State of Play: Seattle-King County* as lacking adequate opportunity. Namely, *State of Play: Seattle-King County* found that youth of color and youth who don’t speak English at home are less likely to have ever participated in organized sports than their white and/or English-speaking peers.

**Rave Foundation and Congolese Integration Network**

Two organizations involved with the coalition, Seattle Sounders FC’s charitable arm, RAVE Foundation, and the Congolese Integration Network, are working together to make a weekly soccer tournament possible for Congolese immigrant youth in South King County.

The [Congolese Integration Network](#) works to create a space and platform for Congolese immigrants and refugees to find community, support, and resources during their transition to the United States. Founder Floribert Mubalama has been an active participant in the *State of Play: Seattle-King County Advisory Board* and will continue his involvement in this work via the King County Play Equity Coalition.

[RAVE Foundation](#)’s mission is to build small fields for free play and invest in programs that use soccer as a vehicle to inspire youth and strengthen communities. RAVE sees supporting CIN with kits, equipment, and soccer balls as an important step toward play equity and in utilizing the inclusive nature of sports to bind kids and communities.

**Yes Initiative: Seattle Children’s Research Institute, UW Center for Leadership in Athletics (UWCLA), Upower, and Highline Public Schools**

As a result of relationship-building via the King County Play Equity Coalition, the Seattle Children’s Research Institute, UWCLA, Upower, and Highline Public Schools were awarded a federal grant for the Youth Engagement in Sports: Collaboration to Improve Adolescent Physical Activity and Nutrition (YES) Initiative. YES is part of the newly-released [National Sports Strategy](#), and supports the Department of Health and Human Services’ Physical Activity Guidelines, which mirror the CDC recommendation of 1 hour of physical activity each day for youth nationwide. YES also focuses on improving physical activity and nutrition behaviors among minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged youth. Read more [here](#).

The Seattle Children’s Research Institute, UWCLA, Upower, and Highline Public Schools will bring high-quality, developmentally appropriate programming to support physical activity, fitness, sports participation, healthy nutrition, and social-emotional skill development among Highline middle school students.

As the coalition begins to tackle systemic issues in our community related to youth access to physical activity, organized sport, and outdoor recreation, we will continue to pursue these types of projects and build connections between coalition members to strengthen youth-serving programs and take small steps towards our mission.
Organization Spotlight

Each newsletter we will spotlight an organization involved with the King County Play Equity Coalition. This week, we highlight **Baseball Beyond Borders**. Baseball Beyond Borders affords families and communities the opportunity to expose their youth to critical skills necessary for life through participation in the sport of baseball. Baseball Beyond Borders focuses on urban youth and the development of their baseball skills, as well as leaders and coaches in the communities they serve. The organization was founded in 2007 by Seattle native Bookie Gates.

Upcoming Related Events

**Bridge Conference**
Date: Monday, October 28 to Tuesday, October 29, 2019
Location: Hyatt Regency Lake Washington at Seattle's Southport - 1053 Lake Washington Blvd N, Renton, WA 98056
Details: This conference brings together nationally renowned speakers, expanded learning professionals, school leaders, funders, researchers, policymakers, trainers/coaches and more to focus on engaging and interactive program practices, educational equity, partnership building, research, resources, and more.

**Northwest Nature and Health Symposium**
Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2019
Time: 9:30am-5:30pm
Location: waʃəba?albxʷ – Intellectual House - 4249 Whitman Court, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98105
Details: This annual symposium brings together professionals and community leaders in health, conservation, design and planning, and education to learn from each other and explore common goals and collective strategies related to the human health benefits of being in nature.

The **Center for Leadership in Athletics** (Center) develops effective leaders and leadership practices that maximize the positive, educational impact of athletics. If you have any news to share with the Center, please send a message to uwcla@uw.edu.