From the beginning in 1972, those of us who occupied and began to transform the old elementary school were joined by hundreds of previous movement allies of all races and economic sectors who were clear and trusted with our decisions. Like the surrounding neighborhood, and all of Seattle as a whole, we represented the rainbow of humanity.

Although the founding of El Centro de la Raza was sparked by Latinos and acquired a Spanish name, it began, and remains, “The Center for the People of All Races.” It is “home” for all people who are interested in continuing the struggle for a better world by serving, educating, defending and organizing each other and our people to build the “beloved community” as envisioned by King, Bolivar, Zapata, Gandhi, Martí, Joe Hill, Mother Teresa, Ho Chi Minh, Emma Tenayuca, Che, Black Elk, Geronimo, and thousands of others of our heroes and martyrs.

Since the beginning El Centro de la Raza has provided a gathering place for Seattle’s otherwise dispersed—and in 1972 largely invisible—Latino community and welcomes all individuals with open arms.
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Programs include home visiting programs for children birth to age three, after school mentoring and tutoring, and workshops for parents. We work with Seattle Public Schools to ensure children are ready for kindergarten.

- Growing and Learning Together
- Luis Alfonso Velasquez Flores After School Program
- ParentChild+

José Martí Child Development Centers
- Beacon Hill
- International District
- Roosevelt

Services that incorporate social change and community activism into the curriculum. Programs include after school mentoring and tutoring, summer programming, STEM programs, and workshops for parents. We also work within the Seattle and Federal Way School Districts.

- ANIMO Pre-Apprentice Program (Ages 16-21)
- Bahlam Bots Robotics (Grades 6th-8th)
- Corazoncito Program (Ages 6-10)
- ELEVAR (Grades 6th-12th)
- Hope For Youth (Ages 14-18)
- Roberto Maestas After School Program (Grades 6th-8th)
- Si Se Puede Academy, GED Prep (Ages 18-21)
- Youth J.O.B Readiness (Grades 8th-12th)
- Youth Cannabis and Tobacco Prevention
- Workforce Program (Ages 18+)

FOOD & HEALTH SERVICES

These programs are designed to promote the health and well-being of our community. We work to feed our neighbors, help them find healthcare, and keep our senior community active and connected.

- César Chávez Demonstration Garden
- Food Bank (Seattle)
- Health Equity Navigation
- Healthier Here Care Connect Navigation
- Senior Hub, Nutrition & Wellness

BENEFITS & SUPPORT

Our navigators help individuals and families learn how to navigate complex systems to access services like DSHS, food stamps, Medicaid, Medicare and more. Our Community Connectors can help people determine if they are eligible for and apply to public benefit programs (like SNAP).

- Community Connectors in the Food Bank
- Monthly Bilingual Legal Clinics (Seattle only)
- Government Benefits
- Homelessness Prevention
- Labor Standards Outreach & Education
- Pathfinders - Veterans Outreach
- Plaza Benefits Navigator
- System Navigator

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We believe in providing equitable access to employment opportunities, skill development, and economic self-sufficiency for all. Our programs are designed to assist individuals from diverse backgrounds, including youth, adults and immigrants, in gaining the necessary skills and knowledge to achieve their full potential.

- Digital Navigators
- ESL Classes
- Unidos at Work
- Unidos in Finance

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

We work with individuals, families and small businesses to provide education and support, meeting people where they are at in their financial journey. Our small business workshops and job training classes are available both virtually and in-person.

- First-Time Home Buyers Program
- Lending Circles/Tandas
- Rental Counseling & Foreclosure Prevention
- United Way of King County Tax Site

EL CENTRO SKATE RINK

Come to Federal Way to experience our Maple hardwood rink, curved to facilitate speed. Bring your friends and family for open skates fueled by pounding beats and hot slices of pizza!

- skatingrink@elcentrodelaraza.org
- Open Wednesday-Sunday

HOUSING

Providing community-inspired, mixed-use and transit-oriented affordable housing in King County to strengthen our community.

- Centilia Cultural Center (Seattle only)
- El Patio Affordable & ECR Transitional Housing
- Plaza Roberto Maestas Apartments

SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES

Our Business Opportunity Center assists entrepreneurs with the process of starting a small business and provides ongoing workshops, advice, credit counseling, and other resources.

- Business Opportunity Center
- Food Vendor Incubator

ADVOCACY & CULTURE

We believe that our community can effectively address the profound issues facing our world through civic involvement, grassroots organizing and social activism.

- Environmental & Health Justice
- Weatherization and Environmental Justice Program
- Get Out the Vote
- Volunteering