



# IMPACT REPORT

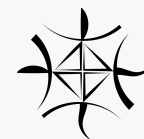
[info@denkyemcoop.com](mailto:info@denkyemcoop.com)

[denkyemcoop.com](http://denkyemcoop.com)

20  
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# REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CEO

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Dear Community,

Denkyem has grown intentionally and responsibly since 2018. We're now at a point of inflection and are aware of how important timing & momentum are for realizing our vision of a thriving Black business community that serves as an anchor for economic mobility.

Entrepreneurship can spark a contagious sense of ingenuity. As a result, this sense of creativity can lead to unimaginable outcomes. I can attest to this as someone that was an elementary teacher in independent schools, after serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay, and is now the CEO of a CDFI.

An unimaginable outcome.

Our team has grown by over 300%! We are focused on responsible growth, operational excellence, collaborative lending, and brand resonance. Furthermore, we have strategic partnerships with public, private, and non-profit organizations, with more to come. This Annual Report is meant to highlight where we've been and to prepare us for where we are going.

Join us in our commitment to creating safe pathways for Black entrepreneurship & innovation.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dion Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

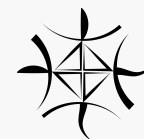
CEO, Denkyem Co-op

P.S. Remember the symbolism of Denkyem's logo: a two-headed crocodile. If they fight over food, neither one is fed. Once they realize they share the same stomach, and coordinate, their belly is filled. When we collaborate we all benefit. Let's eat!



# WHO WE ARE

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Denkyem [den·CHEM] is a certified Community Development Financial institution (CDFI) dedicated to providing affordable lending and personalized business support services in King County, WA.

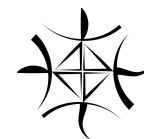
CDFI's are community-based, mission-driven financial institutions certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

**Denkyem is on a mission to create safe pathways for Black entrepreneurship and innovation.**

Being CDFI certified allows us to make informed decisions for the greatest community impact.

# GROWING OUR CAPACITY

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In 2023, Denkyem added 3 members to the team. The team is entrepreneurial in spirit and grounded by our community.

As we grow, we are anchored by the shared strategy of **moving beyond systemic barriers, earning trust, and leveraging deep collaboration to invest in a thriving black business community.**



**Dion Cook**  
*Co-Founder & CEO*



**Mele Miller**  
*Fractional CFO/COO*



**Kenny Shelton**  
*Chief Lending Officer*



**Amanda Williams**  
*Chief Marketing Officer*



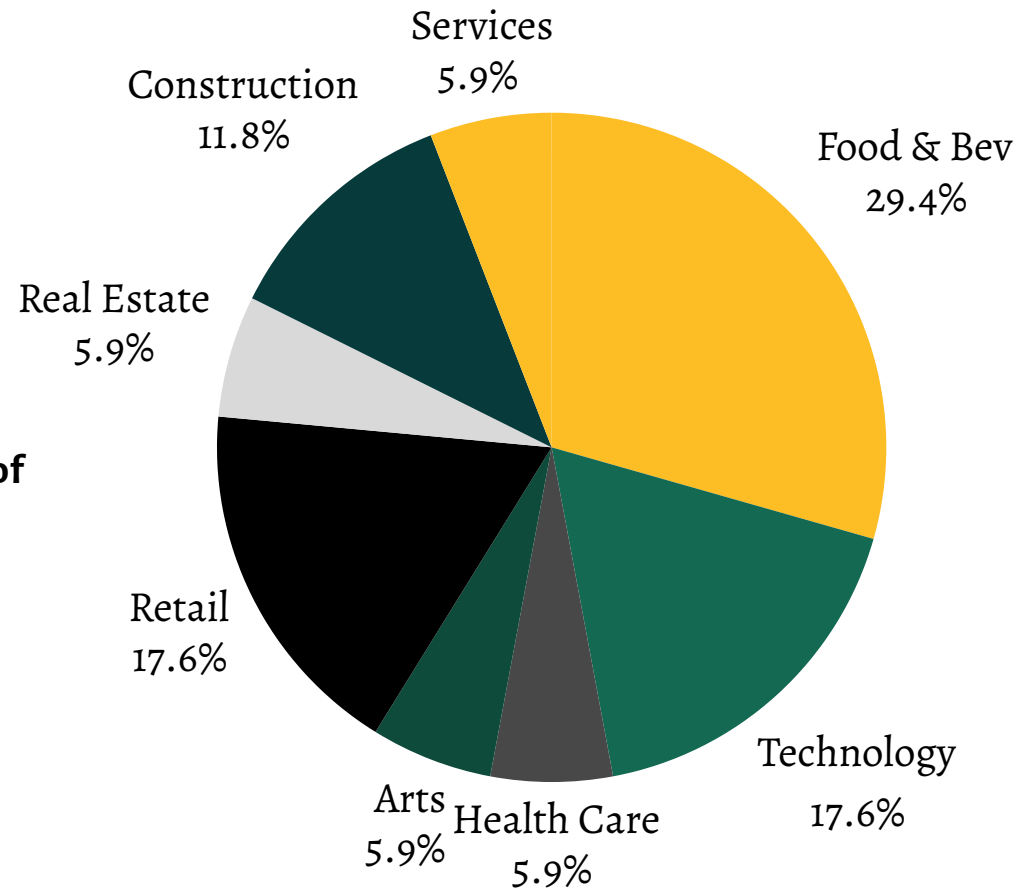
# INVESTING IN BLACK BUSINESSES



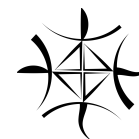
We are committed to providing Black-owned businesses the **resources, support, and trust required to grow and sustain their business.**

As we have connected to the business owners doing good work in our community, we are inspired by the wealth of knowledge every person brings to the table.

We are proud to invest in a thriving Black business community. In 2023, we served **8 new clients and a total of 20 active clients in our portfolio.**



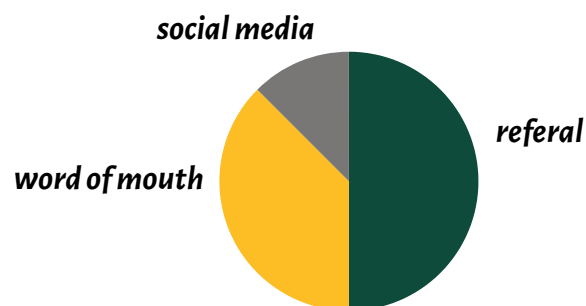
# A THRIVING COMMUNITY



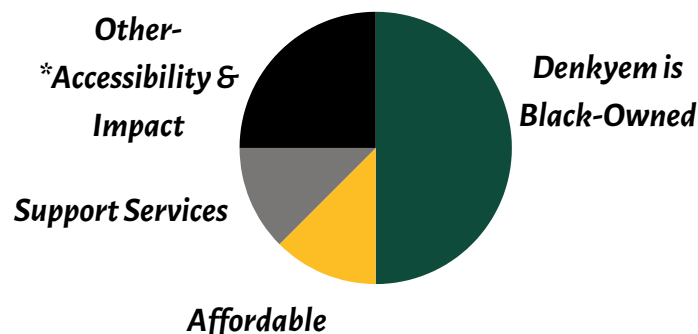
In August, we hosted our first annual Denkyem Symposium. Clients, board members, and staff gathered for an evening of co-learning and thought-sharing. During the event, clients provided input on their experience with our loan product which will help to inform our decisions as we continue to refine our customer journey.



## How Clients Learned About Denkyem:



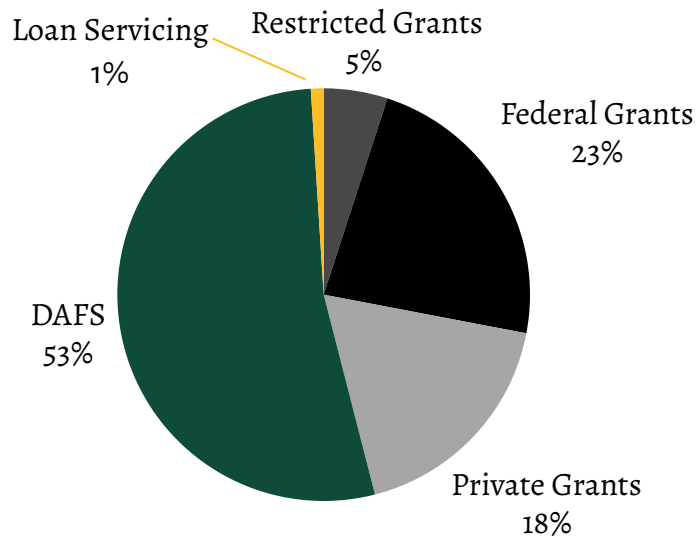
## Why Clients Chose Denkyem:



# FINANCIALS



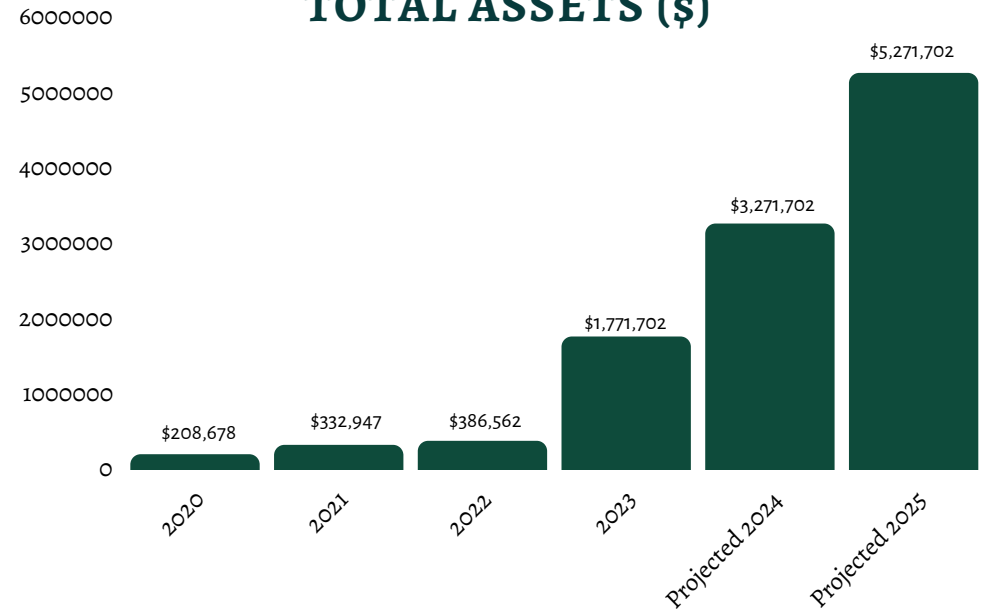
## 2023 FUNDING SOURCES



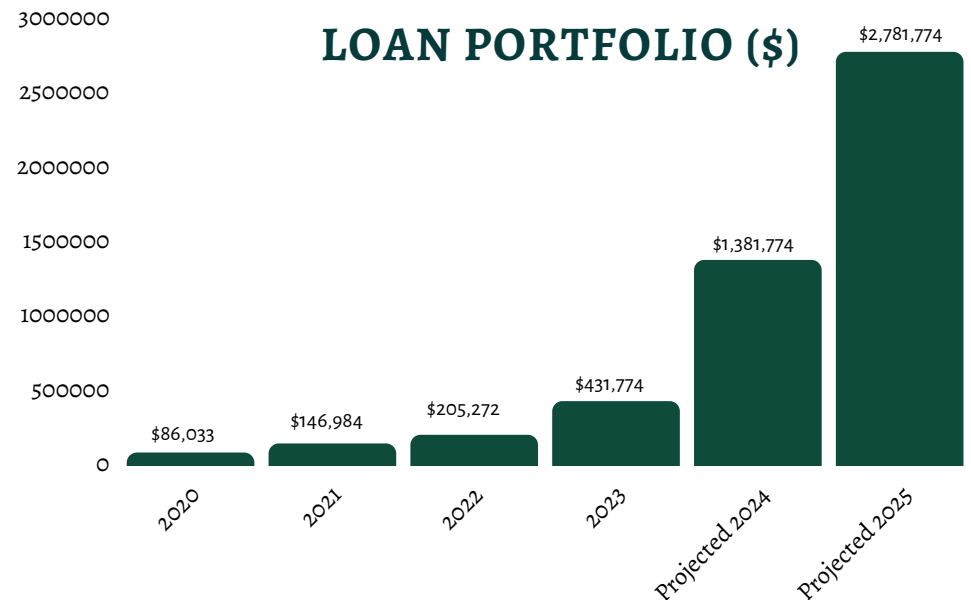
## 2023 PORTFOLIO INSIGHTS

- 7 Business Loans Deployed
- \$314,815 in Total Funds Disbursed
- \$44,973 Average Loan Size
- 3 Loans Repaid in Full
- \$90,000 in Fully Paid Loans

## TOTAL ASSETS (\$)



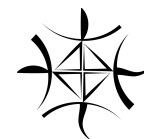
## LOAN PORTFOLIO (\$)





# MILESTONES

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351% YOY Asset  
Growth

218% YOY  
Net Income  
Growth

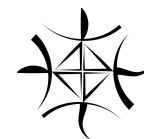
300%  
Increase  
Full Time  
Staff

\$3MM  
Capital  
Raise



Record Loan  
Production

# TESTIMONIALS



Ryan James, PhD (He/Him) **Author**

4d ...

CEO @ Dopl | Techstars '22 | Ex-Microsoft, Ex-NVIDIA

**Amanda**, thank you! Shout out to **Denkyem Coop** for believing in us early, which enabled us to server our second customer, learn and grow to where we are today.



Monika C. Mathews • 1st

CEO | Entrepreneur | Philanthropist | Community Builder

2w • Edited •

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Sending a Special Thank You out to **Denkyem Coop** for your continued investment in the growth of small businesses including QueenCare!! Small businesses are at the heart of every community driving positive economic and community development. Access to capital is critical to sustainability and growth leading to the creation of generational wealth.

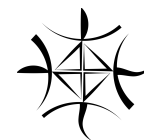
The Denkyem Fund offers an effective way for individuals with donor-advised funds (DAF), faith-based organizations, and foundations to make recoverable grants that create a positive impact. They invest in high potential Black-owned businesses committed to their community."

Thank you again to the Denkyem team! Our work in the community is enhanced with your support!

-Monika

# OUR COMMUNITY

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# THANK YOU

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**We thank you for your continued support in  
our efforts to create safe pathways for Black  
entrepreneurs and innovation**

## Contact

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