Charlotte Vetter (Treasurer), David Del Vecchio, (VP), Elijah Brunson, Laurie Cone (Secretary), Marcela Slade, Sarah Pohlig, Angi Parrish, Patrick McGarry, and Ian Thomas (President, pictured center)

Abundance Staff and Board

**Staff 2019**

Marcela Slade, Empress Pepper  
Keeping it spicy

Amanda Egdorf-Sand, Bookeeper  
running things on track

Alisa Esposito, Creative Force  
passionate designer

Jenn Hansen, Office Valkyrie  
industrious renaissance woman

Tami Schwerin, Executive Director  
fun loving, fearless visionary

Hannah Eck, Operations Alchemist  
brazen programming mixologist

**Board 2019**

Clockwise from Upper Left:

Charlotte Vetter (Treasurer),

David Del Vecchio, (VP), Elijah Brunson,

Laurie Cone (Secretary), Marcela Slade,

Sarah Pohlig, Angi Parrish,

Patrick McGarry, and

Ian Thomas (President, pictured center)
Dear Beloved Community,

It is with great pride and great emotion that I write my last Executive Director Annual Report letter.

I went over all the annual reports that are on our “About” page on our website.

We have done an amazing amount of good work over the past 14 years. It makes me tired to even think about it. From hundreds of sustainability workshops to renewable energy and climate change conferences to pepper festivals, Pecha Kucha’s, Death Faires, Summer Camps, incubation of dozens of organizations, wacky events that we made up, responding to the community’s needs, and modeling our mission of community resilience. In collaboration with LaShauna Austria, we held difficult talks about injustice at the Chatham Social Justice Exchange.

Abundance NC has touched thousands through the work, the messaging, and the modeling. Our staff and board and our constituents care deeply about making this community and this world a better place via clean energy, living soils, water, air, local food, local economy, justice, diving into the depths of spirit and examining topics that seem too hard to talk about.

We all know that when you shine a light on the darkness, it heals.

We certainly understand darkness and we’ve made our mistakes. In fact, I take pride in the mistakes we have made because, of course, that is the best way to learn.

In 2019 we decided to tackle the topic of LOVE. For some reason that was harder than death! The complexities of tolerance, differences, diversity, consent, envy, baggage, sexism, racism, homophobia, not to mention capitalism made our event very juicy and maybe hard to explain as well. Think Again. Love was a beautiful and diverse event and needs more attention in the future.

We all know that when you shine a light on the darkness, it heals.

As soon as we wrapped up LOVE, we held our largest, most fun, possibly dangerous Bikes and Barnyards Summer Camp. In collaboration with the soulful Triangle Bikeworks, we learned bike safety, skills and also about sustainable farming, drumming, getting along with each other, honeybees, art, and many other topics.

On the last day, a bagpiper surprised us by walking out of the woods and playing Ozzie Osbourne’s “Crazy Train” to get the 40 pumped for the long bike ride to Lake Jordan. Our Chatham County Sheriffs were there to give a safety talk and also to escort. As we came down highway 64, very dark clouds loomed ahead. With the help of Sheriff Roberson and his team, we took over a local business until the storm passed. Back onto the bikes and to the campground safely for an over night camping trip. Whew...magic.

In collaboration with Main Street Pittsboro, the Town of Pittsboro and all the chefs, sponsors, volunteers, and Spice Squad, we had the most successful local food festival yet. 2019 PepperFest is the year we held the first Electric Vehicle Meetup in conjunction to educate the public about all the questions involved in making that transportation decision.

We caught our breath and went into the 4th Annual Death Faire with keynote speaker Charles Eisenstein in November.

Charles has a way of articulating things that are hard to communicate. With the children’s eulogies, the art show, the poetry reading, the launch of Heartspace, the education and vendors, it couldn’t have been any better. And then the Bulltown Strutters came out with their 2nd Line parade and Mystic sang a version of I’ll Fly Away that I’ll never forget. The angels were ecstatic hearing them as the sun set over The Plant while the veil was the thinnest.

After a beautiful 14 years leading Abundance NC, I have decided to step to the side and offer mentorship and support to the next leaders. I wouldn’t change a thing. I’ll be training and guiding a new crew. The staff and board will ultimately change. The organization belongs to the community and I look forward to seeing where the community wants to go.

"All that you touch you change. All that you change changes you. The only lasting truth is change. God Is Change." Octavia Butler

With deep gratitude,

Tami Schwerin,
Executive Director
Imagine a community centered on **LOVE**. In April 2019, we explored the always fascinating and curious subject matter of Love in the modern age.

Together, we reclaimed our sense of childhood wonder. Re-evaluated cultural constructs. Began re-thinking inherited expectations, while working to revive our relationship with the natural world. And by attempting to embrace what has hurt us, we remembered, that we are born to love.
2019’s Death Faire was truly the best ever! Attendees brought photos, letters, poems, and offerings for the altar. We thanked our ancestors for providing us with the gorgeous weather!.....

We thank the 450 attendees, Charles Eisenstein, the workshop educators and vendors, food & beverage providers, entertainers, grief tenders, Emcee, kids tent facilitators, and the many volunteers who helped make this event a success!
There was so much life at Death Faire! Highlights included a grief dance ceremony lead by the Living Arts Collective, live birds of prey, and an art exhibit of art at Smelt Gallery.

We thank the spirits that provided amazing weather! The healers, donors, artists, musicians, photographer, dancers, the staff and board for their contributions! A tipping point indeed. Thank you!
Our 12th Annual Pepper Festival was held in Downtown Pittsboro! It felt so right collaborating with Main Street Pittsboro, and returning this amazing festival of local food and community resiliency to the little town so many of our participants call home.

PEPPER POWER!
617 lbs in 74 pepper varieties grown by small, local farmers!
$ spent on peppers: $4,730!

TENTS & TABLES!
45 fabulous Chefs
15 Beverage Makers
110 Vendors

ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHOWDOWN
14 electric vehicles
350 conversations about EV!

TALKING TRASH!
37,000 Compostable dishes
920 lbs Compost
Cost to Compost: $395

PEOPLE POWER
100 Volunteers
6 Staff
10 Board Members
2 Bands
1 Imagine Circus
5 Belly Dancers
1 Theatre Group
12TH ANNUAL AMAZING PEPPER FESTIVAL

BEVERAGE WINNERS

Most Loved Libation (Best Beverage)
Boro Beverage

Ale Drink to That (Best Beer/Cider/Mead)
James Creek Cider House

Feeling Spirited (Best Spirit):
Brothers Vilgalys

CULINARY WINNERS

The Savory Stunner (Best Savory Dish):
Soul Fresh Spring Rolls

My Sweet Heat (Best Sweet Dish):
In Good Heart Farm

The Double Take (Most Creative Dish):
Haw River Mushrooms

The Platinum Pepper (Best in Show):
Harvest 18

The Staff Sweetheart (Most Local):
Angelina’s Kitchen

Pepperfest King:
Paul Sacca, for his hard work with sponsors, parking & vendors.

Pepperfest Queen:
Meredith Leight, for her work in pepper farming & sustainability, & for her ongoing support.
Thirty-four kids (aged 11-14) built their confidence with road riding, trail biking and building up their resilience with permaculture education, pollinator discovery, re-wilding in nature, and ceremony rooted in gratitude. Thanks to the partnership and collaboration with Triangle Bikeworks in making this youth summer camp happen. This year, we were able to offer 12 full camp scholarships for children in our community! This was an outstanding summer for all of us!
Pecha Kucha is a quarterly storytelling event that brings people together to present and discuss new ideas around sustainability topics. Each season, several people from the community give presentations that challenge people to think differently about conservation, the environment, climate change and each other.

Pecha Kucha translates as “the sound of conversation” in Japanese. It is a terrific venue for getting ideas and concepts out in all sorts of topic areas. Presenters have 20 slides and 20 seconds per slide to discuss. Slides are automatically timed to be exactly 20 seconds, with the total time for each presenter at 6 minutes and 40 seconds. This keeps the pace fun & exciting!
Through our ‘non-profit business incubation’ program - we provide nonprofit status and assistance to organizations that align with our mission, helping them get started, progress and succeed.

The mission of the Piedmont Earthskills Gathering is to provide a learning experience which empowers people through the development of skills and inspires a deep appreciation of interconnectedness, cultural heritage, and ecological respect.

Our Gathering continues to become more popular. We are excited to announce that the Gathering is moving to a new site at the 2,450-acre forest G.W. Hill Demonstration Forest near Durham, North Carolina. Known as the Hill for short, the forest is owned by NCSU University, established in 1929 as a teaching laboratory with an emphasis on outdoor education- a perfect fit for our event.

The 2020 gathering was canceled due to Covid-19. Stay tuned for 2021 information.
Joy of Movement

Joy of Movement offers classes and events to enhance personal well-being and create meaningful connections within the community through movement, music, and meditation. We strive to create a vibrant inclusive community where people of all abilities are inspired to nurture their body, mind, and spirit.

Join us for Nia dance fitness, yoga, Kindermusik, sound healing, meditation, ballroom dance, belly dance, Taijiquan, drum jams, concerts, free community classes, and much more. The studio is also available to rent for your special event.

Over 2019, JoM offered several training opportunities: Nia White and Blue Belt trainings and Sensorimotor Psychotherapy Institute trainings for therapists working trauma victims.

heart2heart

heart2heart’s mission and vision is to provide affordable, alternative and heart centered services such as massage and energy healings, gentle guidance, live music and soundscapes to individuals, families and communities as they navigate the living path of dying, death and beyond.

Our accomplishments during 2019 include securing financial funds of over $15,000. These funds allowed us to continue our in-home services of hands on healing and live soundscapes to several individuals and their families who were in their dying time.

We also strengthened our two community programs. Our program “Death and Cupcakes” was invited to be hosted by The Friends of the Library in Pittsboro North Carolina. This expands the abilities to reach a larger population in the support of the “death positive” movement and the December event had over 40 people in attendance.

Our largest accomplishment was the release of heart2heart’s 1st anthology, “Heartspace: Real Life Stories on Death and Dying.” This was a collection from 19 storytellers who shared their death and dying experiences. The book was released at The Abundance Death Faire on November 2, 2019 and is continuing to have a meaningful impact on our community.

heart2heart is looking forward to a 2020 Heartspace music and soundscape CD as well as continued community programing and providing working with individuals and their families during their dying time. heart2heart has been invited to participate in a ‘Living with Dying’ art show and storytelling from the anthology in upper state New York next October.

Fiscally Sponsored Organizations

heart2heart
**Local Organic Y'all**

**Mission:** Expand access to and increase benefits from locally-grown organic foods by engaging with the mainstream supermarket and wholesale food industries.

Local Organic Y'all continues to be a wholly-independent voice for change and accepts no funding from industry sources.

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**Sparkroot Farm**

Sparkroot hosts events with world-renowned teachers and authors in emergent culture and mythic imagination. We manage our community garden and land permaculturally, restoring soils and growing food together. We tend our community’s green burial ground, and organize gatherings around story, folklore, culture, village making and decolonization. We’re thinking dangerous ideas, and taking imagination seriously as we remember how to be human again in this modern world.

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**Apex Farmers Market**

**Mission:** Dedicated to being a resource to the town of Apex and surrounding communities, Apex Farmers Market’s mission is to provide educational outreach about healthful living and the health and economic benefits of consuming locally grown food and supporting locally produced products - all the while providing farmers and local producers opportunities to directly market their goods and services.
Powerhouse community leader LaShauna Austria teamed up with Abundance NC and Rural Advancement Foundation International to co-create Chatham’s first social justice exchange. The purpose of the monthly gathering is to hold space for conversation, action, and expressing grief about racism in our society. Our largest gathering topped out at 80 participants - showing a community need that we’re so fortunate to be able to help fulfill.

The Chatham Social Justice Exchange

DEEP RIVER TIME BANK

The Deep River Timebank is committed to fostering the well-being of our community by providing an exchange network of as currency that strengthens social interdependence and honors the wealth that is our collective abundance of skills and unique gifts. We value each person’s usefulness. Deep River Timebank is built on a foundation of respect and equality for all in our multicultural community and supports ecologically sustainable practices which promote community resilience.
Thank You for Your Support!

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The Farthest Pixel, LLC  
Amanda Robertson  
Ameritech Construction LLC  
Angelina’s Kitchen  
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Chatham Community Library  
Chatham County Line  
Chatham Habitat for Humanity  
Chatham Magazine  
Chatham Marketplace  
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Crude Bitters and Sodas  
Fiddlehead Farm  
Duke Energy  
Fair Game Beverage Company  
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Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
First Bank  
Fitzgerald Family Foundation  
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Hobbs Architects, P.A.  
InSight Fund of Triangle Community Foundation  
Shakori Hills Community Arts Center  
Julie Cummins Inc  
Russell & Associates  
Apex Outfitter and Board Co.  
Integrative Healing Solutions  
Absolute Construction and Development, LLC  
Local Yelp  
Rainwater Solutions  
Main Street Pittsboro  
Manifold Recording Inc.  
Marcia Angle and Mark Trustin Fund of  
Triangle Community Foundation  
GumCha4Health  
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Oak Foundation  
Morgenstern Orthodontics  
New Karma for Old Threads  
Northampton Peanut Company  
Pittsboro Business Association  
Pittsboro Toys  
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Mellow Marsh Farm  
Solar Seed Inc.  
NNP-Briar Chapel, LLC  
The Chatham News & Record  
The Clorox Company  
The Local Church  
The Phoenix Bakery  
The Rosemary House B&B  
Town of Apex  
Triangle Bikeworks, Inc  
UNC Health Care System  
Vickers Fence Company  
Wolecraft  
WUNC Radio  
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Oak City Hemp  
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Alisa Esposito  
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Taylor Houchens
Terese Schoen
Thomas Krebs
Vanessa Jackson
Wilton Connor
Winalee Zeeb

Income: $339,142
- Programs: $189,863
- Events: $123,027
- Donations: $26,252

Expenses: $372,109
- Programs: $202,721
- Events: $82,981
- Fundraising: $8,696
- Operations: $77,711

Annual Income Growth

Programs: $189,863
Events: $123,027
Donations: $26,252
The Year Ahead…We have no idea! Ha! Actually, we do… and it’s beginning to present itself.

We set out with a plan for 2020 and as everyone in the world knows, those plans have changed. A strength Abundance NC has is that we react to community needs and as we reassess the needs of the community, opportunities are arising. Connecting our community is top priority. This year marks the death of an old world. It all feels on-theme.

As all the broken systems come to the surface, we intend to support the historically oppressed, and to listen and learn about how to understand our own role in the injustice. We are all connected. It is up to each of us to make change.

We are in the midst of a multi-layered transition and may come out looking quite a bit different in 2021. Along with the entire world, we will carve a new path from the observations, introspection, and work we do now amidst the stillness and chaos.

A rebirth.

Our Executive Director is stepping to the side and with any major change, we expect some bumps in the road while we resituate and maneuver post pandemic. We will come out stronger and hope to be of better service to community needs in the changing climate.

Our main area of focus will be our Non-Profit incubation program. For over a decade, Abundance has been doing fiscal sponsorship. Helping grass-roots programs weave together the right connections, and supporting their dreams has inspired us. We have a feeling many unique ideas will rise to the surface over the next few years. We will be here to offer our guidance.

Our goal is to move us into this decade with innovative visionary programs and help expand our mission of building resilient communities, everywhere.

Last year’s PepperFest was a hit being on the streets of downtown Pittsboro. We started our planning early and were eager to make it the biggest and brightest yet. Our other event, Death Faire, seems more important than ever. With impermanence lingering over us all, we envision a deep dive into questions and conversation previously unexplored. Uncharted and uncomfortable territory is our absolute favorite.

We are facing the reality that our signature, huge community events could look a lot different this year. We are ruminating, not rushing. Visions of scaling down, mixing it all up, and bringing it home to parallel the current times and future we face.

Stay tuned. We need more support this year than ever as we move through these changes. Please reach out to volunteer, think about a committee or board position or donate and become a sustainer. Share your perspectives. Together we can build healthy community culture.

Let us all reinvent the rusty, overworked wheel.

Thank you,

Allison DeJong
Associate Director
"No one is born hating another person because of the color of their skin, or their background, or their religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom