When you look at a field of dandelions, you can either see a hundred weeds or a thousand wishes.

**IT’S ALL IN YOUR PERSPECTIVE.**

2020 sent us almost to our knees. In 2021, we got back up. Our world changed and so did we. We got creative, focused, more purposeful, more expansive. We got a new perspective: We saw the wishes.

**WHAT’S INSIDE...**

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A MESSAGE FROM REBECCA STAHL, JD, LLM, SEP

BOARD CHAIR

ZOOM IN ... THAT EYE!

When I look at the image on the front of this report, I can easily get lost in the individual colors. Each paint stroke can draw me in. When I pull back and look at the entire image together, I see the beauty in how it all comes together.

My initial response to the image was discomfort — it was too much for me. As I sat with it, however, that feeling shifted, and I was drawn into the colors and held by the overall beauty. We often talk about why having more diversity and more perspectives matters, but often relegate it to a box to be checked. In fact, it’s about genuine curiosity to see more, to see differently, and to experience the world through each other’s lived experiences. It is what makes life worth living. Just as my perspective on the cover image shifted, SE has helped me to hold multiple perspectives about so much of what shows up in my life and here at SEI. And SE has been the basis for all of us at the organization to allow our perspectives to shift.

What does perspective mean from a Somatic Experiencing angle? What does it mean for Somatic Experiencing International? The past two years have asked us as humans to reconsider everything. As an organization, this has meant reconsidering how we physically offer trainings, what community means to us, and how we grow to support our larger vision to transform lives by healing trauma. How does SE help us navigate these new perspectives? How does it help us to see the individual paint strokes and the broader image of the eye... at the same time?

SEI is not the organization it was when I joined the board 3.5 years ago. Not only do we have a new name, but there are many more people involved, with their own unique perspectives and backgrounds and visions for what SEI is and how SEI can show up in the world. For the past three years, SEI has focused on incorporating more voices into every decision we make. That means more perspectives. That means navigating the minutiae and the larger vision together. That means finding ways to incorporate ideas that are different from our own. That means learning to sit with discomfort and to grow and learn from it.

And this is exactly where SE helps us to thrive. Although SEI has always strived to incorporate SE principles into what we do for the organization, recently we have incorporated SE into more of our meetings and more of our discussions. With the entire world feeling so overwhelming and with no one really knowing what is safe and how we are supposed to show up, SE gives us the tools to hold it all. We have all had to do this during a pandemic, and as our community grows, as our perspectives grow, SEI can grow to hold it all in an ever-growing container.

SE is more than a trauma healing modality. SE has the potential to help us all sit with discomfort and the excitement of new experiences in a way that helps us to broaden how we see the world. As an organization, SEI has been doing exactly that. We have asked ourselves how to be an organization that continues to offer SE training and that makes SE available in ways that impact more people. We have reached out to the larger community, bringing new voices to multiple committees and workgroups. We have hired new staff to help bring SE into the mainstream. We have worked on disaster relief. And through it all, we have all asked ourselves to sit with the discomfort of growth, shifting perspectives, and how we can be of service in the world.

This past year, SEI has focused on shifting our perspective to see the minutiae and the global vision together. And this report reflects how we have done that: Moving forward, we intend to become more visible, support our community even more, and continue to offer the learning opportunities that help us all hold more, and different, perspectives. I invite you to look through this year’s annual report and see for yourself how SEI’s perspective has changed and will shift into the future.

Warmly,

Rebecca Stahl, JD, LLM, SEP
Chair of the SEI Board
A MESSAGE FROM MARV TUTTLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ZOOM OUT

We all know that we can get too close to our work and it can be difficult — to use an old adage — to see the forest for the trees. In thinking about our year just passed and our theme of a new perspective, I came across this simple, but profound, quote: To see something with a different perspective . . . zoom out.

I also thought a lot about how our “zoomed out” perspective of SE and SEI felt much like renovating an old house. Do you know the television show This Old House? This popular, award-winning show focuses on renovating, modernizing, and upgrading old houses in the northeast United States, with the homeowners providing “sweat equity” alongside professional contractors and tradespeople. During the years it’s been aired, since 1979, the show has brought new life to old houses—expanding out and up, changing the room layout, ripping out and adding on, and using thousands of gallons of paint and miles of new wiring. During its 1,500 episodes, it has also had host squabbles, owner disagreements, and behind-the-cameras conflicts.

The Board and I discussed at the beginning of 2021 that, after some major transformative steps in 2019 and 2020, it was time to renovate. We needed to rip off some of the old “Band Aid” repairs and build a smart, new house. Most importantly, we needed to alter our footprint — enlarging, modernizing, and energizing our shelter and its residents.

The blueprint has been updated to make room for how we evolve and determine how we will live together as a global community with an enduring invitation for all who share our vision, mission, and core values.

We are still working on our new foundation, but our work in 2021 has relied on our Strategic Plan to guide us. We have taken forward the idea that our organization’s foundation is based on conversation, connection, and collaboration. It relies on multiple perspectives and views, a new blueprint, and a lot of skilled people working together. We had necessary conversations and undertook important outreach — whether that was multiple Town Halls or new connections with our international partners. We established a governance structure that relies on multiple committees and work groups — made up of board, faculty, organizational leadership, and SE community members — that allow many to have voices and help shape the work we want to do for the future. We strengthened our staff, bringing in expertise in specific areas, including fundraising, faculty relations, communications, and customer service. We introduced our new name and new branding, reflecting our new perspective of SEI as a truly global organization. Through social media, our first Annual Conference, our expanded webinar offerings and, soon, a new public relations and outreach initiative, we are making small steps toward the big goal of positioning SE as a leading best practice for healing trauma.

All our goals and accomplishments in 2021 were set in the context of one undeniably challenging environment — COVID-19. It has affected processes, workplaces, financial security, and the very nature of work but, most importantly, it has affected people. We can never lose sight of the fact that for all the talk about our organizational improvements, we also needed to focus on compassion, kindness, and care of people. We believe that SE is a vital tool to help people around the world heal from the collective trauma of this pandemic and we know that you, members of our SE community, are taking that promise forward.

While COVID-19 brought us humility, grief, and constant change, it also brought us hope. We know that SEI and other groups of like-minded people can adapt, re-create, and pivot — and use serious sweat equity — to address these types of challenges. When you’re building or renovating a house, you can’t predict if a storm will come along and send a tree crashing into the roof. But you can clean away the debris and keep building, hopeful that the new house will be better, sounder, stronger. And when you need a new perspective on what that house can be for the future . . . zoom out. The view can be inspiring.

With gratitude,

Marvin Tuttle, Executive Director

READ MORE ABOUT:
Our Board and our Staff
Our Committees and Work Groups
Our Strategic Plan

Somatic Experiencing® International Annual Report 2021
This is the story of a year in the life of SEI — a year of change, growth, and a new perspective.

We thank and honor all of you who are helping advance our possibilities, from spreading the word through our global conference to responding to disasters to taking SE to new parts of the world. Watch the 2021 highlights video.

A NEW LOOK, A NEW GLOBAL CONFERENCE, A NEW PRESENCE AROUND THE WORLD

6 new Faculty Track candidates announced
1st Annual Peter Levine Research Award winners announced
New Board member joins: Carmen Casado, SEP
SEI co-hosts crisis counseling in Boulder with the Therapy Aid Coalition
New SEI name and branding unveiled
SE training expands to China
New SEI website launched
Substance Abuse, Addiction Recovery, and Frontiers in Neuropsychology Community Conversation
Dr. Kristin Velazquez-Kenefick joins SEI as new Director of Training
SEI welcomes new Faculty member Maya Su-Chen Tung in Taiwan

SEI Board of Directors meets in-person in Boulder for the first time since November 2019. Holds international visioning conversation with selected global leaders and faculty.

Registration opens for the 2021 Virtual Annual Conference

SEI announces new digital SEP and PSEP certificates
Mental Wellness in the Line of Duty Community Conversation
Three more board members join: Tadas Velazquez, MD, Diverse Embr, PhD, and Scott Palmer, PhD, SEP

First Annual Virtual Conference with almost 1,000 attendees
SEI’s director of public health initiatives works with relief organizations in South Louisiana, establishing relationships for a larger group to provide crisis counseling
In Memoriam: Maggie Phillips, PhD, SEP, one of the first SE Faculty members

Leadership attends, as guests, the European Association of Somatic Experiencing (EASE) General Assembly in Portugal
First in-person 2-day experiential training since the start of COVID

2022 Advanced Trainings announced
SEI sends a nine-person staff and volunteer team to South Louisiana, helping communities in their on-going recovery from Hurricane Ida
Research Salon on the new SEI Research Mentorship Program
Neurobiology of Chronic Pain Community Conversation
New Research newsletter launched
A NEW SET OF CLOTHES — ON A NEW PERSON

We changed our name. In April, we became Somatic Experiencing International and also got a new visual identity. The new name and new logo were an opportunity for the SEI community to grow into a space of holding more, holding everything that is happening, and giving our community more space to feel the shifts and the movement. Somatic Experiencing helps us notice that if we can move the tension into a larger space, there is more room for it to move around — to shift and change. As we move toward a more global mindset, there is more space for everything we are holding as a community — more people to connect, more ways to engage, and more space to move. The new name, Somatic Experiencing International, is also a global mindset, which reminds us how unique we all are and how connected and similar we all are. Read more about our new name and identity.

“When you go through a transformation and a change you often cut your hair or buy some new clothes, so it is visible on the outside. SEI went through profound changes in the last two years to really start becoming an international organization. It is very important that this is also reflected in the name.

The world needs trauma therapy more than ever. I would love to see SE in parts of the world where the people don’t have easy access to trauma therapy but really do need it. It is a long, but necessary, path to walk. On the Global Culture Committee, we can experience what it really means to be international, seeing the differences in culture and the way of seeing and experiencing daily life of SE in different areas of the world. We meet those differences with curiosity, instead of rejection, and see and feel what unites us as humans. Each difference contributes to the colors of the world. Our only differences are on the surface.”

— Su Messerschmidt-Mount, Germany, member of the European Association of Somatic Experiencing (EASE) Board of Directors

“YOU’RE ON MUTE”

We held trainings online and developed protocol to safely restart our programs in person. In 2021, 2,509 individuals took their first steps in their professional SE journey. In November, we celebrated a major milestone — a return to in-person training with a special two-day Advanced II session held in Colorado, one of several planned in 2021 and 2022 for Provisional SEPs (PSEPs) to complete their SEP journey. The pandemic wasn’t over then; it isn’t over now. We don’t know how long it will continue or where the world will “be” when it’s finally over. We do know that we’ll use COVID-19 as a learning tool — how to continue to offer trainings and community building in ways that support people, in-person and virtually, for years to come.

*Online trainings have truly been a gift for so many of us during a time that might otherwise have felt completely isolating from each other. Moving trainings online allowed us to find ways to connect with ourselves and our SE community during a time that we needed it most.

We got to show up with each other: in our comfy places, in our homes, with our cozy clothes, with numerous appearances from our loved ones and pets, surrounded by our favorite things. We got to appreciate an intentionally slower and gentler pace in our homes (while integrating SE material no less). And, we got to build community, grow our SE family, and be gently reminded that we are all connected with each other in our ‘human-ness,’ even when the world feels chaotic.”

— Rachel Broome, SEP, LPC, Arizona
In 2021, we developed and offered varied conversation and sharing opportunities: six SE Global Community Town Halls and eight SE Community Conversation forums on the neurobiology of chronic pain, mental health in rural communities, parenting and parenthood during crisis, and substance use, addiction recovery, and frontiers in neuropsychology, among other topics. You can view all our past Community Conversations here.

“Community conversations are important because they allow a larger group of people to have access to the modality of SE. It removes some of the mystery of how SE works and brings it into everyday life. I enjoyed being on the panel for our Community Conversation on men’s mental health. The space was inviting, and it felt like a bunch of folks having a leisurely chat about the many different aspects of SE. I wanted to participate to show the many ways SE could be useful to a variety of populations and circumstances.”

— Burt Rogers, SEP, Kansas

My own experience is a good example. I wanted to show a glimpse of how my journey to SE helped me as a person who grew up in a pervasively traumatic environment. Seeing all the violence in my neighborhood growing up left me with a lot of trauma, but not many options to process it all. Fortunately, I found a therapist who is an SEP and after years of work my nervous system finally quieted enough to begin thriving, not just surviving.”

— Gina Ross, MFCC, SEP, International Trauma-Healing Institute, Israel and United States

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— Burt Rogers, SEP, Kansas

We presented our first ever International Virtual Conference with almost 1,000 participants from around the world. The Conference offered 30 sessions (including 10 with a global focus and 6 on research) — on topics such as children and SE, healing sex trafficking victims, resolving birth trauma, SE in vulnerable populations such as LGBTQ+, collective trauma, and diversity, equity, and inclusion — along with 8 pre-recorded on-demand sessions. The Conference also featured 9 “Conversations with Peter,” recorded sessions between Somatic Experiencing creator and SEI founder Peter Levine, PhD, and notable people in the world of trauma healing and resolution such as Efu Nyaki, Dr. Edith Eger, Dr. Stephen Porges, and Jack Kornfield. The Conference recording package is available here.

“My presentation was based on what people all over the world have in common: an autonomic nervous system and the same universal needs, even if their priorities might be influenced by cross cultural differences. SE can be the emotional foundation necessary for conflict resolution — I believe it has a major place in global resolution of trauma and conflict. Self-regulation is vital to the process of dialogue, conflict resolution, and peace. Unresolved conflict often is caused by trauma and leads to the disregulation of the autonomic nervous system and its many disturbances, both at individual and collective levels. The most problematic symptom is extreme polarization between people, and the consequent inability to communicate in any reasonable way. Mistrust, anger, and hatred dominate. Violence ensues, starting with verbal violence, reflecting emotional and mental violence, and ending in physical violence.

People must be self-regulated and free themselves from trauma in order to resolve conflicts in constructive ways and be real channels for peace.”

— Gina Ross, MFCC, SEP, International Trauma-Healing Institute, Israel and United States
WE'RE EXPANDING – AND ALSO SHRINKING THE WORLD

We became more globally focused. Trainings in Hungary, Mainland China, Malaysia, Nepal, and Ukraine are making our network even larger, while renewed efforts to bring better communication with our international partners make our relationships even stronger. With representation in more than 40 countries around the globe, SEI is truly addressing resolving trauma worldwide.

The growth of SE in India brings with it a sense of hope: hope that the trainings continue to flourish, that SE becomes more accessible, and that more generational and racial trauma is resolved. "SE culture is a much-needed therapeutic modality in India, bringing compassion and non-judgmental energy to psychological distress. In India, our very sensitive and deep approach to the body and spirit was deeply disturbed by our colonization experience. But along with our ancestral trauma is equally powerful ancestral wisdom and cultural memory that has been informed over generations by eastern philosophy, meditation, yoga and Ayurveda. If SE enters India in a 'non-colonizing' way, it has the potential to offer healing for intergenerational colonial trauma."

— Kusum Dhar Prabhu, SEP, India

BECOMING BETTER LISTENERS AND COLLABORATORS

We promoted diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility within the SEI community. We raised more than $30,000 toward the new Black Indigenous People of Color scholarship program — this is thanks to YOUR commitment. We’re grateful for our community continuing to inspire SEI to find ways to do more for others. We’re working hard on becoming an organization whose people and actions really reflect the words “diversity, equity, and inclusion.”

"SEI has taken steps in the past year towards being more inclusive and equitable as part of its Core Value of Community. We’re increasing diversity in faculty. For international faculty there has been work on increasing the number of faculty who can provide trainings in the language of the country being provided; for example, training in Japan provided in Japanese, rather than in English with Japanese translation. In North America, the work has been on adding culturally diverse faculty.

We’re supporting research for establishing SE as a leading evidence-based treatment to increase its usage. One way is to increase insurance reimbursement and for SE to be used in government programs that provide services to people that cannot afford private pay practitioners. We’re also rolling out Black Indigenous People of Color scholarships in the United States in 2022, updating the curriculum to better address cultural diversity and the intersection of racism and trauma, providing diversity training for faculty and staff, and collaborating with Black Therapists Rock to offer the three-year SE training to Black cohorts. Most importantly, we are actively listening and improving collaboration with international partners."

— Scott Palmer, PhD, SEP, member of the SEI Board, Oregon

Read the whole story here.
ADVANCING RESEARCH INTO SE

In 2021, we saw a significant growth in SE research and research development—and we were part of it.

The 2021 SE International Virtual conference highlighted the work of SE researchers and the work the SEI Research Committee is doing to support the SE community to develop a culture of research. Six research topics were presented, including a roundtable on Demystifying SE Research and Returning Home: A Brief SE-Informed Intervention for PTSD and Veterans. SEI held four Research Salons in 2021, all focused on the goals of encouraging research into SE’s impact on a variety of issues related to trauma and to understanding trauma better for all of us. The Committee also introduced a new research-focused newsletter in late 2021.

One of our most important events was establishing and awarding the first Annual Peter A. Levine Research Awards, honoring outstanding research that expands the impact of SE in the world. Our student winner, Dr. Madeleine Lowman, developed a screening tool for mental health counselors to determine the type of trauma response a client is experiencing. Our professional research winner was an all-woman, all-volunteer team of SE practitioners in Turkey, led by Didem Caylak, who used SE to help medical professionals during COVID-19.

Listen to Dr. Lowman here and the team from Turkey here.

“The most valuable contribution of our Returning Home Project presentation at the 2021 Virtual Annual Conference was offering an innovative SE intensive road map to treat combat PTSD. Our research highlights the unique versatility and leverage of SE in the mental health care field as a whole. Aspects of the research we conducted took place during the SARS global pandemic and additionally validated the power of SE to help mitigate some of the prolonged traumatic stress symptoms that may result from the conditions of a global crisis.”

— Alexandra Whitney, PhD, SEP, Retreat Director, Returning Home, Maine and Florida

SE IN THE FIELD, IN CRISIS: AN EARTHQUAKE, A SHOOTING, A HURRICANE

In late 2020, Croatia experienced a 6.4 magnitude earthquake, felt across the Balkans. Seven people were killed, and hundreds were displaced, lost their homes, and had no running water or electricity for weeks. In response to the situation, SEI held a panel in March 2021 for the SEPs and SE students in Croatia who were helping people suffering the traumatic after-effects. In March, after a tragic shooting in Boulder, Colorado, SEI co-hosted crisis counseling (complete with a therapy dog on-site) with The Therapy Aid Coalition (TAC). Prior to the counseling, SEI offered a micro-session on our Crisis Stabilization and Safety (CSS) pilot program for local responders and therapists. And in December, our director of public health initiatives organized a group of SEPs to provide mobile mental health counseling in the parishes of south Louisiana still trying to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Ida.

“The experience in Louisiana was amazing in so many ways: to witness the devastation three months after the event, the magnitude of the generosity in response to the community’s needs, and the gratitude many expressed for our presence in the face of the most recent disaster—the tornadoes in Kentucky. “Y’all haven’t already gone to Kentucky?” they would ask, followed by a warm thank you when told, “No, we’re here for you. We haven’t forgotten you.”

— Inge Sengelmann, SE Assistant, Ida team volunteer, Colorado
At the end of 2021, 2,994 people are members of SEI, participating in education, learning, sharing, and community. Read more about membership.

Despite COVID-19, we continued training people and supporting them in their journey to become an SEP. We also held our first in-person training in almost two years in November.

SE training is now offered in 38 countries around the world. In 2021, we approved new trainings for Malaysia, Nepal, and three cities in China.

We grew our staff by 10, including 3 in new leadership positions, our faculty track candidates by 6, and our coordinators by 3. The new leadership positions are Director of Training and Faculty Relations, Director of Business Development and Fundraising, and Director of Strategic Communications. We also created a new Constituent Services team devoted to strengthening the organization’s commitment to responsiveness and top-quality service. Each of these vital new positions will help us reach our goals in the Strategic Plan.
OUR NUMBERS

“Where does the money come from? Where does it go?”

These are common questions about transparency of “financials” for any organization, whether non-profit or for profit. They are fair, and the answers to them are essential for our community to have trust and confidence in us and to get better clarity on our financial condition. We hope the information following gives you both the big picture and some of the small details. We believe you will recognize in our financials both “tomorrow’s money”—the need for re-investment in SEI for the future—as well as “today’s money”—the funds expended on a routine basis for critical operating expenses. Unlike a traditional 501(c)3 non-profit, our revenue comes primarily from tuition, as opposed to donations, and funds the entire organization. Our expenses include direct costs for training, as well as scholarships, curriculum updates, and intellectual property royalties, and overhead, or indirect costs, including staff, technology, and professional development, among other things.

We fully understand your need to know “where does the money go?” As always, we are grateful for your support. All financials are audited by an independent, outside audit firm and are as of fiscal year-end 2020. They reflect the unusual circumstances we dealt with because of COVID-19, which limited our ability to do in-person trainings, a primary source of revenue.

**THE BIG PICTURE**

$5,060,086
**TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT**

$5,125,234
**TOTAL EXPENSES**

**REVENUE AND SUPPORT BY TYPE**

- **Training, lectures and workshops, net:** $4,269,724
- **Membership and Practitioner Registry Fees:** $301,825
- **Contributions:** $491,650
- **Investment return, net:** ($11,717)
- **Other:** $8,604

**EXPENSES**

- **Program services:** $3,637,820
- **Management & general:** $1,480,953
- **Fundraising:** $6,461
- **Bank and credit card fees:** $162,695
- **Training and education program:** $142,599
- **Rent:** $60,973
- **Operational expenses:** $604,292

- **Personnel costs:** $2,392,141
- **Professional fees:** $1,145,133
- **Facility rental:** $360,401
- **Intellectual property royalties:** $249,000

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Having worked for nearly a decade in the state and federal justice systems, including as a prosecutor and a defense attorney, and then having worked in more than 20 countries across the globe, including many that have been rolled by violent conflict, insecurity, and upheaval, I’ve experienced firsthand the stress and trauma of working in uncertain, high-pressure, and dangerous environments. I’ve also witnessed the role that unresolved trauma plays in continuing cycles of violence.

My passion is to support processes to build cohesive, just, secure, and resilient societies, by approaching complex problems with humility, determination, reflection, and attentiveness. I’ve learned that the key to any successful process begins with scaffolding solutions that bolster each individual’s or organization’s existing points of resilience and ensuring those most impacted play an active role in formulating successful outcomes. So Somatic Experiencing deeply resonates with me.

My first experience with SE was as a client, after recognizing the immense toll my work took on my health and nervous system. After experiencing the restorative benefits of SE, and with the encouragement of my SE practitioner, I joined a Somatic Experiencing Practitioner (SEP) training cohort and became a SEP myself. Through these experiences, it became clear to me that SE was important not only on the individual level but is equally beneficial at the community and societal levels too.

An incredible strength of Somatic Experiencing International is its breadth both geographically and across practices. During my SEP training, I was with social workers, psychologists, body workers, and others like me, whose work is outside the traditional trauma healing field. Yet, we were all looking for ways to better inform our work and to facilitate healing. Many of us found that the missing piece in our work and practice is the integration of somatic practices and a deeper understanding and recognition of the neurobiology of stress and trauma.

In my own work on peacebuilding, conflict resolution and reconciliation, I found that my SEP training was transformational at a personal and professional level. Trauma healing is essential for reconciliation. Healing of unresolved trauma and building the capacity for individuals and groups to come together in relationships is critical for conflict resolution processes. Processes that fail to consider the impact of individual, collective and intergenerational trauma risk causing additional harm to the individuals involved in those processes — sparking re-traumatization and hindering prospects for bridging divides and building a sustainable peace.”

— Colette Rausch, JD, SEP, Director, Neuroscience & Peacebuilding, Mary Hoch Foundation; Research Professor, George Mason University, Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation; Facilitator, Think Peace Learning & Support Hub; Member, SEI Crisis Stabilization and Safety Advisory Committee

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