



PDF GRANTEES CONFRONT A NEW ERA

RECENT U.S. ELECTIONS have challenged PDF grantees to take their work to new levels of strategy, activism and awareness. Marginalized communities do not have the financial resources to create safe spaces, much less defend sanctuary cities, and PDF grantees are working for communities threatened by the new Trump order of the day.

LGBTQ people, immigrants, refugees and indigenous communities are just a few of those who are embattled. Criminal justice reform and climate change are being dismissed. The Movement for Black Lives has been smeared as terrorist. Such “alternate facts” force us to be vigilant about the words we choose and the spaces in which we speak.

Yet, in these uncertain times, the Peace Development Fund remains optimistic that through our grantmaking and capacity building programs, we can support our grantees to creatively resist oppression, defend human rights, and uphold the rule of law and the U.S. Constitution. PDF will defend our role as grantmaker and partner with our communities.

Communities like **LGBTQ+ Youth Kickback**, which organizes around the intersecting issues of safety, housing, and jobs for queer and trans youth in New Haven, CT. In doing so, they face many challenges. Some are mental and emotional, and some are material due to homelessness and housing instability

because of family, societal pressures and non-acceptance. In response to the new administration in Washington, DC, Kickback’s Lead Organizer Kenneth Reveiz affirms, “It will be more challenging to pursue justice for LGBTQ+ people in the coming years.”

But Kickback is dedicated and will remain active and strategic in their work and in their community. Kickback recently participated in the “Speak Out for Safety, Rally for Respect” event where members spoke about the importance of developing power at the local level before being able to make a sustainable impact on a statewide, regional or national level.

Reveiz states, “Because wealth and power is concentrated in the hands of a very few, we must come together in large numbers across differences to create the vibrant, inclusive, democratic and peacemaking community of our dreams.” He adds, “If those in power had the tools to build what we need, they certainly have not done so by now, and need our leadership to do so.”

LOUD: New Orleans Queer Youth Theater, based in Louisiana, also received a Community Organizing grant from PDF. LOUD utilizes Ensemble Theater as an organizing tactic that supports queer people through the core values of undoing oppression, youth leadership, solidarity and a commitment to devised (activist) theater. “We work from the premise that we are all worthy of love, acceptance, justice and understanding, and that in creating performance by us, for us and about us, we increase the power and reach of our voices.”

Most spaces for queer youth and adults center around sexual health issues, but LOUD wanted to



Courtesy of **LGBTQ+ Youth Kickback**

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PEACETALKS

Join us for spring events at the PDF Center for Peace and Justice, as well as in your local area!

Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

“Our Place in the Social Justice Movement”

Grantees and foundations explore ways to work together in challenging times.

Southern Connecticut State University
Engleman Hall B 121 A&B, 1st Floor
501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT

This evening is sponsored by 64 Days of Nonviolence.

Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Social Justice Networking Night

Our community partners, Board of Directors, staff and friends invite you for an evening of thoughtful conversations and a family-style barbecue.

44 North Prospect Street
Amherst, MA

STAY TUNED FOR PDF POP-UP EVENTS

Stay tuned for the film screening of “American Textures”, a documentary following the lives of six young Americans as they grapple with the concept of race. Film produced by PDF fiscally sponsored project, Crossing Borders Education.

Meet PDF staff and like-minded friends all over the country this spring in cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington, DC., New York City, Portland, Seattle and more! Subscribe to our e-newsletter to be sure you hear about PDF events in your area: www.peacedevelopmentfund.org.

For more info or to RSVP email us at peacedevfund@gmail.com or call 413-256-8306.



Courtesy of **LGBTQ+ Youth Kickback**



Courtesy of **LOUD: New Orleans Queer Youth Theatre**

RECENT GRANTS

A ★ denotes a new grantee

Aztlan Cultura A.C., Colonia del Valle, Mexico
 CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities, New York, NY
www.caaav.org

★ Center for Sustainable Economy, Lake Oswego, OR
www.sustainable-economy.org

Changing Worlds, Chicago, IL
www.changingworlds.org

★ City Life-Vida Urbana, Jamaica Plain, MA
www.clvu.org

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, South Deerfield, MA
www.buylocalfood.org

Community Partnership of Akuapim South, Ghana, Charleston, SC
www.cpasghana.org

Confederación Nacional Campesina (National Farmworker Federation) —
 CONFENACA, La Vega, Dominican Republic

★ Daughters of Mumbi Global Resource Center, Gitaru, Kabete, Kiambu County, Kenya
www.daughtersofmumbi.or.ke

Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment, Winslow, AZ
www.dinecare.org

Earthjustice, San Francisco, CA
www.earthjustice.org

★ Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Toledo, OH
www.floc.com

Freedom Summer Palestine, Bethlehem, Palestine

★ Global Diversity Foundation, Bristol, VT
www.global-diversity.org

Indigenous Peoples Power Project (IP3), Central Corson, SD
www.ip3action.org

Jewish Voice for Peace, Oakland, CA
www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org

Justice Committee, New York, NY
www.justicecommittee.org

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, San Francisco, CA
www.prisonerswithchildren.org

★ Lost Light Projects Inc., Brooklyn, NY
www.insideclimatenews.org

National Priorities Project, Northampton, MA
www.nationalpriorities.org

Natural Resources Defense Council, New York, NY
www.nrdc.org

New England Public Radio Foundation, Amherst, MA
www.wfcr.org/about/friends.php

Nodutdol for Korean Community Development, Woodside, NY
www.nodutdol.org

Ocean Conservancy, Inc., Washington, DC
www.oceanconservancy.org

Peoples' Justice for Community Control and Police Accountability, New York, NY
www.peoplesjustice.org

★ People's Palace Projects, London, UK
www.peoplespalaceprojects.org.uk

Picture the Homeless, New York, NY
www.picturethehomeless.org

Polaris Project, Washington, DC
www.polarisproject.org

★ Safe Passage, Northampton, MA
www.safepass.org

Third World Newsreel, New York, NY
www.twn.org

Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, Northampton, MA
www.uunorthampton.org

White Earth Land Recovery Project, Callaway, MN
www.welrp.org

★ Women's Earth and Climate Caucus/Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN), Mill Valley, CA
www.wecaninternational.org

NEW FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS

★ The Changing Room, New York City, NY
www.thechangingroom11.com

★ Crossing Borders Education, Shutesbury, MA
www.crossingborders.education

★ Friends of Taghyeer Movement, Scarsdale, NY
www.friendsoftaghyeer.org

★ Springfield Community-Based Doula Initiative, Conway, MA
www.projectbabyspringfield.com

★ Weaving Bonds Across Borders North America, Albuquerque, NM
www.weavingsbonds.org

★ Whose Knowledge? Santa Cruz, CA
www.whoseknowledge.org



Courtesy of Hondurans Against AIDS



Courtesy of CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities



Courtesy of the Southeast Immigrant Rights Network



Courtesy of Veterans Healing Veterans



Courtesy of the Justice Committee



Courtesy of Californians United for a Responsible Budget



Courtesy of Youth Rise Texas

THE WOMEN'S MARCHES GALVANIZED hundreds of thousands of women and men in Washington, DC, internationally and in every state in the U.S. After coming together in protest, many asked, "What's next?" For those in immigrant and border communities, "what's next" offers a complicated answer. Two PDF grantees explain their on-the-ground realities and response.

As both a statewide and national movement, **Domesticas Unidas** is working to address the abuse of domestic workers. Domesticas spokesperson, Amanda Haas, says that they hear painful stories every day: "Low pay, long hours, mental and physical abuse, and sexual violence. We are committed to doing something to help and support local women."

Domesticas Unidas was established in 2012 in San Antonio, TX and received a PDF Community Organizing grant in 2016. Most of their members are domestic workers that emigrated from Mexico and now live in the U.S. To support their members to speak out, feel knowledgeable, manage trauma and take leadership, they developed a series of workshops and programs that respond to their members' needs and that grow their movement.

Though immigration reform is their principal focus, Domesticas are involved with other issues too, such as working for an LGBT anti-discrimination ordinance in San Antonio. "We are active in local struggles against gentrification and displacement, against police violence, and for economic and environmental justice," Haas explains.

Another women-led group is **Youth Rise Texas**, based in Austin. They envision a world where criminal justice is trauma-informed, based on restorative — not punitive — practices, where people are able to move across borders as freely as "butterflies and businesses," declares Director Kandace Vallejo.

They believe that this change becomes possible when Youth Rise leaders and members build programs that envision their best futures and organize based on their lived experience. As impacted peoples (and mostly women of color), they have demonstrated that they can powerfully hold decision-makers accountable at the local level.

Youth Rise Texas views the growing threat of mass deportations as a corollary impact of mass incarceration. "Racial, gender and economic inequity are the root causes of both," Vallejo adds, which is why they are also working to build solidarity among a wide array of people who are impacted by these inequalities. "We must build Brown and Black coalitions from the ground up, further contributing to the

long-term movement to eradicate racial injustice."

These organizations are using their different platforms to spread awareness on how the new administration will affect their communities. "We realize just how fearful most domestic workers are about expressing their true feelings and sharing their stories," Haas says, as Domesticas works to augment and share their voices.

Despite being dismayed by the political and cultural climate that surrounds them, PDF grantees are looking forward to the future. Vallejo asserts, "We are advocates for change, and we are the ones best situated to envision and fight for the change our families and communities need."

PDF adds additional capacity to the work of these and other grassroots communities and their organizations by connecting them to each other, offering expanded opportunities through The Sustainability Project, and networking them into the larger movements for domestic workers, immigration reform and human rights. ■

"We are advocates for change, and we are the ones best situated to envision and fight for the change our families and communities need."



Courtesy of Domesticas Unidas



Courtesy of Youth Rise Texas

Action Steps

WHAT LAWS, RULES AND regulations are expected to change now that a new administration is in office? What do those changes mean practically for families and communities where PDF funds?

PDF grantee partners have been engaged all along, but the change of administration generated renewed energy for community organizing, with grantees kick-starting programs of resistance and popular education.



Courtesy of COPA

Culture of Peace Alliance (COPA), a member of PDF's capacity building program, The Sustainability Project, builds relationships among peace-focused groups in Tucson, AZ. COPA Coordinator Ann Yellot shared with PDF that one of COPA's programs, Non Violence Legacy Project (NVLP), decided after the elections they should begin offering a new workshop entitled "Nonviolence & Activism: Organizing for Social Change."

"In less than a week," Yellot says, "The workshop was full to capacity with 40 people and we had a waiting list of 30 more people. This has never happened in the eight years NVLP has been offering nonviolence training programs in Tucson."

COPA anticipates NVLP will conduct this workshop on a monthly basis as long as the demand in the community continues. Yellot maintains, "Adapting NVLP's usual nonviolence training to add a more activist focus is clearly meeting a significant need arising after the election. People want to become involved in some type of nonviolent social justice organizing, yet have not had any training about nonviolence. COPA's Kingian Nonviolence program is needed now more than ever."

Movement for Justice in El Barrio, based in New York City, is a majority women, immigrant community organization dedicated to organizing residents of East Harlem to win dignified housing conditions. It addresses the systemic elimination of affordable housing driving the displacement of low-income, immigrant tenants. They are partnering with American Friends Service Committee to develop and convene workshops focused on immigrants' rights in East Harlem. It is modeled after their successful leadership development workshop series they offer to immigrant tenants.

The decision to offer these workshops came together quickly. "I was walking down the street with my children in El Barrio in November after the election," says Maria, a Movement for Justice member. "A woman yelled at us, 'Trump won! Trump won! And now we're going to get the Mexicans!'" Shocked, Maria started thinking about how Movement for Justice could do something about the increase in harassment and hate crimes against immigrants. A group of members developed a plan to make sure that all immigrants and targeted groups know their rights, and to build and protect their community in the face of so much hate, fear and violence.

"Our members have assessed that El Barrio residents need to know their rights in order to break out of fear and take action," asserts Juan Haro, Movement for Justice's director.

Groups like COPA and Movement for Justice are taking action every day to inspire others in their communities. They are jumping in to share their knowledge and take responsibility, learning from each other for their mutual survival and safety. ■

"We need to know our rights in order to break out of fear and take action."



Peace Development Fund is pleased to welcome **Daniel W. Schreck** as a new Board member. Daniel has been in the foundation world for the past 30 years, including the Abelard Foundation (where he was also president), National Network of Grantmakers and The Funding Exchange. He continues his work with PDF through his donor-advised fund, The Aztlan Fund, which supports work in indigenous country, building on his work with the Paul Robeson Fund for Film and Media at The Funding Exchange. The late Saul Landau was very instrumental in mentoring Daniel on the idea of becoming an executive producer, and to fund indigenous people to retain their intellectual property rights by filming their own cultural material. Daniel is the producer of "The St. Patrick's Battalion." Daniel says, "I am happy to be of assistance to PDF in any way I can, and look forward to connecting with other PDF donors around the country."

PDF also welcomes **Evelin Aquino** as Senior Foundation Officer, joining the staff in Amherst, MA. Evelin says, "I have always believed in the power of people to come together in the vision of social justice and, in my career, have worked to build bridges from the local to the global." As an organizer, educator and performance artist, Evelin has worked across the U.S. with organizations committed to empowering communities and individuals, so they may advocate and lead in bringing about solutions, personally and collectively. She has worked with CD Tech, Public Allies, Youth Justice Movement (throughout California, including Innerscity Struggle and Community Coalition), CADRE and Youthbuild in Los Angeles, Brotherhood SisterSol, East Harlem Tutorial Program, Sisters on the Rise, and the Hip Hop Theater Festival in New York City.



Since returning to the Pioneer Valley where she grew up and attended UMass Amherst, Evelin has continued her commitment to social justice in positions throughout the region and is a volunteer organizer with the Julius Ford Harriet Tubman Healthy Living Community. ■



PDF GRANTEES CONFRONT A NEW ERA

CONTINUED FROM COVER

offer a more balanced community space for their members. Many of them are facing incarceration, homelessness or lack mental health services and schooling. Co-Directors Rachel Lee and Rebecca Mwase explain, "Theater is a creative and expressive form, allowing members to experiment with their voices in this craft, which ultimately translates to their activist work."

All of LOUD's theater productions and performances exhibit what their members often face. For example, the storyline of their past year's performance, "The Pursuit of Justice," followed five students in their community's Gay Straight Alliance as they dealt with love, sexuality, white supremacy, mental health and the criminal justice system. In February, LOUD presented a new production, "Nasty White Folks," which explored the "privilege" to be filthy. Based on the theater artist and scholar Sidney Monroe's experiences of living interracially, the play focused on the varying messages we receive about being - or not being - clean, sober and healthy.

LOUD performances focus on these unspoken issues. Mwase and Lee contend, "Our performance pieces always tackle a nexus of intersecting oppressions - white supremacy, racism, homophobia, transphobia, femmephobia, classism - we make sure

"We are leading with our strength, resiliency and vision for justice."

that each year the ensemble is engaged in training and education around these issues." The subsequent conversations cultivated in the spaces created

by LOUD's workshops and performances encourage people to think critically about the world around them; and they generate evolving understanding of these issues through LOUD's performances, workshops and productions.

In relation to the recent changes in the U.S. administration, Lee and Mwase declare, "We are fighting against centuries of white supremacy, heteropatriarchy and its children: homophobia, the creation of gender binary and economic disenfranchisement. In essence, LOUD is the world we know is possible and each year we dedicate to our process, practice and performance, we get better at making this world a reality for all."

LOUD and LGBTQ+ Youth Kickback are concentrating on creating systemic social change to lead their communities forward. As Kenneth Reveiz emphasizes, "We are leading with our strength, resiliency, and vision for justice despite numerous economic, cultural and societal challenges." Lee and Mwase add, "Our model is in itself an organizing strategy and a tool for education, awareness building and ultimately social change." ■

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Health Care: Inside and Outside the Criminal Justice System

ENTANGLEMENT IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE system exacerbates poor health, drives recidivism and weakens systemic efforts to improve community health outcomes. Incarcerated people experience an exorbitantly high rate of mental illness and substance abuse disorders. They exhibit significantly higher rates of infectious disease, such as human immunodeficiency virus and hepatitis C, than the general population.

Given the elevated poverty rate among those in jails and prisons, the Affordable Care Act's nonelderly adult Medicaid expansion was of special importance. But under potential changes to the Affordable Care Act, those in prison may feel even more isolated and silenced. PDF grantees are making sure that society pays attention.

Reentry Solutions Group (RSG), is a fiscally sponsored project of PDF whose mission is to create a peaceful, safe and supportive Contra Costa, CA and prevent and heal the harms related to trauma, incarceration and reentry. RSG Executive Director Rebecca Brown says, "We serve as a deeply informed, high quality learning and advocacy resource to address issues of incarceration in our county, spotlighting opportunities for learning and action."

RSG centers their work on the deeply personal and singular impacts that incarceration has on individuals, while also thinking broadly about larger systematic changes that need to occur to transform the U.S. justice system. Discussing juvenile detention, for example, Brown underscores, "Detention is not benign in its effects on kids. Detention does not decrease recidivism." Instead, "Detention increases school drop-out rates. Detention exacerbates mental illness and trauma."

As demand for criminal justice reform has increased nationally, Brown says that they focused locally on finding ways to debate and challenge systems, policies and practices that have the potential to have an impact on a larger scale. "Our work demands deep local knowledge and connection to the community; an informed and constantly evolving understanding of county-wide efforts (both policy and operations, both public and private); technical skills of public communications; community organizing, research and analysis, strategic planning, and participatory processes; and subject-matter expertise in multiple areas."

The issue of mental health within the context of the prison system is also being tackled by PDF Community Organizing grantee **Veterans Healing Veterans** (VHV). VHV, in San Quentin, CA, is organizing at the intersection of military service and the criminal justice system, providing services and healing care for incarcerated veterans with mental health issues.

Because of their shared experience, most veterans feel comfortable talking about their trauma and history only with other veterans. Military service can create a lifetime of hyper masculinity causing veterans to be shut off from the empathy, vulnerability and self-compassion needed to work through trauma.

"Veterans are a sensitive demographic which have a disproportionately high rate of suicide, exacerbated by the inherent isolation of prisons," says Mary Donovan VHV's executive director. "These sites remove individuals from their support networks and then fail to provide adequate mental health care services."

VHV offers peer support through writing, yoga and theater programs in the San Quentin State Prison. "Until VHV I had never told anyone about what happened in the military, and was never able to until I joined VHV," another member emphasizes. "I am in prison because I was raped twice, and the second time I killed the man that did that to me. The trauma that I experienced in the military may always be a part of me, but it's the Veterans Healing Veterans philosophy that defines me now."

In another testimonial a U.S. Marine vet stresses, "Long held notions of masculinity, enforced in boyhood and deeply entrenched during military service and in prison has been damaging. My story of shame started when I was fourteen years old, when something happened to me that used to trouble me considerably. I was forced to do things no child should ever be forced to do. I remember the entire time feeling a fear I have never felt since, even after my service. VHV is the program that is solely responsible for providing me with a platform that allowed me to purge myself of this thing that I thought would haunt me forever."

RSG and VHV understand that their work spreads awareness about the issues inside prison walls, while also helping to heal their members while they are inside. As one VHV member explains, "After listening to other vets, I've discovered that I am not as unique in my trauma as I once thought. This knowledge has allowed me to develop implicit trust in those men, and in the process of healing overall." ■



Courtesy of the **Veterans Healing Veterans**

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Perseverance and Resistance



Peace through Justice

MISSION STATEMENT

The PEACE DEVELOPMENT FUND works to build the capacity of community-based organizations through grants, training, and other resources as partners in the human rights and social justice movements. As a public foundation, we nourish, foster and encourage the diverse, self-sustaining and economically viable communities that are essential to building a peaceful, just and equitable world.