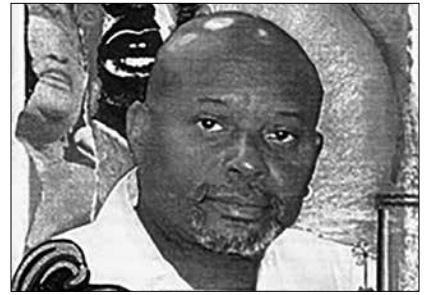


## BUILDING CAPACITY FOR THE MOVEMENT



### A LOOK BACK AT THE EXCHANGE PROJECT

All foundations fund organizations that fit their interests, as does PDF. But because we define our 'interests' as being that which is in the best interest of grassroots communities, PDF has always had a boots-on-the-ground approach, partnering with those grassroots organizations and responding to their needs. Founding Executive Director Meg Gage once said, "It became clear quite early on, that groups really need the technical assistance as much as they need the money."

So, in 1984, soon after PDF opened its doors, **The Exchange Project (EP)** launched, with Reverend Andrea Ayvazian, an educator and social justice activist, acting as the Director.

This training program at PDF went hand and in hand with grants, ensuring that grassroots organizations in the peace and justice movement had the tools and capacity to strengthen their work for the long haul. In the seventeen years of the program, the EP trained over 1100 groups (more than 3500 people).

In describing those early years, Andrea Ayvazian said recently, "We were on the road more than 100 days a year, going to different states all over the country. We'd find a retreat center somewhere, say in Charlotte, North Carolina, and invite all the grantees from the state together. Then we'd run trainings on board development, strategic planning, and fundraising, and gather for song and dance at night." Andrea added that part of the idea was also for those organizations to "exchange strategy and ideas with one another," helping build stronger coalitions and alliances across the country.



Andrea Ayvazian

Fortuitously, Kim Klein, a well-known social justice fundraising trainer, teamed up with the Exchange Project. She said, "I have never met more devoted people in my life than when I traveled around with Andrea Ayvazian, Andy Rothschild, and Meg Gage, to lead trainings. I felt I was part of something much bigger than myself." She continued, "I had never been an explicit peace activist, having spent most of my activism in feminism. The EP helped me to understand what we now call 'intersectionality'—how racism, white supremacy, sexism and so on were all part of a piece—all part of militarism and capitalism."



Andy Rothschild

The EP was never about "telling grantees how to do their work, we also listened," said Andrea Ayvazian, it was an "empowerment through education" approach. PDF continually refined the curriculum, responding to what they were hearing in the field, and running new trainings on anti-racism and non-violence, especially under the leadership of Kenneth Jones (pictured above on the bottom right).



Kim Klein

Randy Kehler, former Executive Director of the **National Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign**,

was on staff with the Exchange Project from 1986-1988. He recounted memorable moments, like trainings at the historic Highlander Center, and said, "I was not aware of anyone else doing this kind of training in those days and it played an important role in strengthening the peace and justice movement."

Many participants from the Exchange Project trainings conveyed their appreciation for the program, such as Sue Dinsmore of **Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament**, who said in 1988: "If people across the country benefit as much as we have from the workshops, the vision of a peaceful world is moving closer to becoming reality."

Karrie Potter of the **East Lansing Peace Education Center** said, "I hope you all realize that the ripples echo across the nation from your workshops. I find myself spreading the knowledge from my PDF training in my daily life. I cannot tell you enough how much I appreciate and use the training I received from PDF's workshops."

While the Exchange Project was one of the more intensive training initiatives of PDF's history, it was by no means the only one. PDF also helped organize the Economic Conversion Project, the South Carolina Focus Project, Training for Trainers, the Community Media Organizing Project, and finally the Capacity Building Program—which in 2002 included the Building Action for Sustainable Environment (BASE) Initiative, the Cross-Border Initiative and the Criminal Justice Initiative.

The EP was invaluable to PDF. As Meg Gage explained, "Visiting peace groups on-site, in the communities where they work and live, sends valuable information both ways, it gives us the chance to learn more about grassroots groups and the current state of the country's peace movement."

### THE SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT CARRIES ON THE LEGACY

Over the last several years, **The Sustainability Project** has carried on this legacy of capacity-building support for grassroots organizations. PDF provides three years of trainings and ongoing coaching to recent grantees and fiscal sponsorship projects, with a curriculum aimed at helping organizations improve their fundraising capacity, board development and financial management.

Kathy Sharkey helped pioneer this program and she said recently, "PDF has always had a willingness to engage with grantees face to face, not to tell them what to do, but to help them achieve their goals. That's always been an underlying motive of PDF—from the Exchange Project to the Sustainability Project." She added, "The trainings were married to the grants, so organizers could be empowered with tools and training, and also access the resources they need."

**Youth Rise Texas**, whose mission is to uplift the voices of young people harmed by parental criminalization and deportation, was a participant in TSP for three years. Executive Director Kandace Vallejo said, "PDF was the perfect partner to help us grow our wings. PDF embraced our commitment to centering our youth, we always felt loved and lifted up, rather than just trained. The knowledge we have gained informs the backbone of our organizational infrastructure."

Current participant **Pa'lante Restorative Justice**, based in Holyoke, Massachusetts said, "After just a few months with the Sustainability Project, we have the tools to get our fundraising planning efforts off the ground, including creating a donor recognition plan, organizing our donor lists and getting a good start on creating a five-year fundraising plan!" ■



#### Kim Klein said recently:

"PDF remains a critical piece of the progressive philanthropic landscape, and one of the pioneers of the idea of raising money and giving it away for social justice as well as the recognition that small, locally-based organizations are the keystone species of national and international movements."



1

# KEY MOMENTS IN PDF'S HISTORY – 40 YEARS!



2

**T**HROUGHOUT PDF'S 40 YEARS, PDF has undertaken special initiatives to enhance the work on an issue, within a constituency or across conflict boundaries. Never designed to be permanent individual programs, as the initiatives fulfill their goals and wind down, many of those involved continue to receive funding through our regular grants, donor advised or fiscal sponsorship programs, while making room for another initiative to evolve.



3

## 1980'S

**1** Meg Gage, Bob Mazer and others found PDF in 1981 in Amherst, MA. A year later, PDF's first grant cycle awards \$47,800 to 19 successful grantees, including S.T.O.P. Nuclear War and the War Resister's League. In 1984, the Pacific Peace Fund and PDF complete their first joint grant cycle. The Pacific Peace Fund eventually merged with PDF.

**2** Funded and fiscally sponsored by PDF, the 1986 Great Peace March for Global Disarmament treks across the U.S. with 1,200 marchers walking 3,200 miles from CA to Washington, D.C. In 1987, The Freeze/SANE Unity Commission, a special project of PDF, meets. PDF staff Andrea Ayvazian and Meg Gage are deeply involved in negotiations leading to the national SANE and Freeze merger, forming the largest peace organization in U.S. history



4

In 1988, PDF declares peace is a consequence of equitable relationships between peoples, nations and the environment and increases social and economic justice funding. The Exchange Project initiates workshops for people of color focusing on skills development and internalized oppression while also expanding its "Training for Trainers" nationwide.



5

## 1990'S

In 1991, PDF sponsors two meetings of Jewish, African American and other national leaders of the peace movement to examine issues surrounding the Gulf War and identity-related struggles. PDF responds to the Gulf Crisis with the special Persian Gulf War Fund to support 34 groups working against the war.

**3** In 1995, under Ravi Khanna as Executive Director, PDF's school-focused Teaching Peace program evolves into "From Generation to Generation." The new focus of PDF's youth work is community-based, youth-led projects building cultural, political and spiritual empowerment, helping young people identify and confront injustice.



6

**4** In 1997, under the leadership of Executive Director Linda Stout, PDF undertakes The Listening Project to bring the voices of the grassroots into creating effective strategies for PDF's funding and training. The Listening Project informs PDF implementing new initiatives to enable capacity building in grassroots social change groups. The initiatives involve building deeper relationships with organizations through combined grantmaking, training and technical assistance as well as facilitating inter-organizational collaboration.



7

PDF establishes the Community Media Organizing Project. Working with the Organizing Cooperative in the South, this project provides intensive training and support for media campaigns to grassroots organizations.



8

## 2000'S

**5** In 2002, with Rev. John Vaughn as Executive Director, PDF establishes the BASE (Building Action for Sustainable Environments) Initiative and the Criminal Justice Initiative. In 2007, PDF's BASE partners present a workshop at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues regarding development projects such as mining, logging and dams that harm or displace indigenous communities.

**6** PDF launches the Cross-Border Initiative in 2003, working with groups seeking justice and peace amid the exploitation of land, water, and people. The U.S./Mexico border provides an opportunity to build new partnerships among citizens and communities on either side, while respecting the integrity of the diverse cultures, complexities and communities.

Following three PDF-sponsored round table conversations which began in 2002 with more than 100 criminal justice activists, a report titled "The Power of Partnering with Authentic Community: Recommendations to the Philanthropic Community from Formerly Incarcerated Organizers" is distributed at the 2006 National Network of Grantmakers conference.

## 2010 TO THE PRESENT

In 2010, the 40-year legacy of the Agape Foundation finds a new home within PDF, which absorbed and now continues Agape's fiscal sponsorship program. Today, PDF's fiscal sponsorship program is home to over forty mission-aligned social justice projects and organizations, supporting work around the US and around the world.

Begun in 2008, and renewed in 2015, the Middle East Peace Initiative followed a similar initiative trajectory, supporting Palestinian and Israeli peace organizations and communities working across the physical, cultural, religious and political barriers, making grants to groups in the region and hosting experiential travel to both sides of the separation barrier.

**7** Eighteen women gather in San Francisco's Women's Building in 2019 as part of PDF's Women Peacemakers Initiative. Most came from organizations fiscally-sponsored by PDF, like Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and Women Cross DMZ. Creating relationships, enhancing their collective capacity and underscoring the value of and necessity for women peace-makers at all levels of international, national and local conflict.

**8** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, PDF increased grantmaking through the De Colores Rapid Response Fund. PDF distributed 22 grants to organizations across the country who were organizing for housing security, safety measures for incarcerated people, education reform in the remote context and economic protection for immigrant communities. ■

# SUCCESS STORIES FROM PDF GRANTS AND CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

## PDF'S PARTNERS TAKE ON BIG CORPORATIONS – AND WIN!

PDF has long been an early funder for emergent grassroots organizations that take on those who hold power, whether it's government actors or big corporations.

**INFACT** was a grantee in 1985, then a young organization best known for leading the famous international Nestle boycott. As INFACT grew, it began targeting other corporations like General Electric and its investments in the nuclear weapons industry. PDF continued supporting INFACT, providing grants to chapters in Boston (1985), Bay Area (1987) and Seattle (1989).

Thanks in part to support from PDF, INFACT reported that, "Our international boycott of GE products cost the company over \$100 million in lost sales" and in 1993, GE caved under immense public pressure and moved out of the nuclear weapons industry in the US.

INFACT, known today as **Corporate Accountability International**, is a large organization, widely-recognized as one of the leading voices in the fight against corporate entities damaging health, human rights, democracy and the planet. PDF continues to support Corporate Accountability International with grants through our Donor Advised Fund Program.

Just last year we saw a familiar story play out when PDF grant partner **Rise St. James**, a small, faith-based grassroots organization in "Cancer Alley" Louisiana, took on Formosa Plastics, to prevent yet another dangerous toxic facility from being built in their community. To date, the Army Corps of Engineers has suspended the permit for the Formosa project, and it's now in doubt whether the project will ever be completed.

## CONTINUED LEGACY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT

PDF's capacity-building initiatives have helped to strengthen several movements through partnerships that go beyond providing grants. For example, out of PDF's Criminal Justice Initiative, PDF partnered with **The Gathering for Justice**, an organization that focuses on youth incarceration and the juvenile justice system, to host its first national convention in 2007. PDF went on to support the **Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted Peoples Movement** in hosting their first national conference in 2016.

**All of Us or None**, a national grassroots civil rights organization fighting for the rights of formerly and currently incarcerated people and their families, was founded during the early PDF criminal justice retreats. This was one of the first organizations formed to support people in prison, and specifically women, at a time when their struggles were nearly invisible.

Today, PDF builds on this legacy with recent grant partners including **Women Against Mass Incarceration**, **Who Speaks for Me**, the **Human Rights Coalition**, and **Decarcerate, Inc.**

"PDF has always been visionary," says Claude Marks, of **Freedom Archives**, "advocating for and supporting the organizing of incarcerated and formerly-incarcerated folk is a laudable position, and one that PDF took well before it became more fundable and common."

PDF has long supported media projects connected to the criminal justice movement, such as **Freedom Archives**, which preserves and disseminates media from progressive movements between the 1960s and 1990s, and **Prison Radio**, whose mission is to include the voices of incarcerated people in

public debate through radio, television, and films. "There were numerous times where PDF's funding made a huge difference for our grassroots media work," says Marks.

He continued, "Something that has always stood out is the way PDF sees itself as integrated in the social justice movement by actually showing up and being there in the community. It sets PDF into a category that is far too rare."

## ASIAN AMERICAN EMPOWERMENT

In the past few years, there has been a horrific uptick in violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities throughout the United States, part of a long history of racism in this country targeting AAPI individuals and communities.

The **Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence**, CAAAV, was founded in 1986 by working-class Asian women in response to spikes in violence in New York City. CAAAV continues today to build capacity across diverse poor and working-class Asian immigrant and refugee communities.

PDF supported CAAAV with regular grants throughout the early 1990s and continues providing support through our Donor Advised Fund program to this day. PDF also provided grants in the 1990s to **Asian American Resource Workshop** of Boston and the **Asian Pacific Environmental Network** of Oakland.

"General operating grants from the Peace Development Fund are critical for us to meaningfully do our work with our immigrant communities," says one member of CAAAV, "interpretation and translation are vital for our beneficiaries and receiving a grant that can be utilized for this provides momentum to our organizing work."

More recently, PDF has supported **API-Equality Los Angeles** and **API-Equality Northern California** through our Community Organizing Grants program. Both organizations seek to empower AAPI communities to achieve LGBTQ, racial, and social justice. Tracy Zhao of API-Equality said recently, "We are deeply appreciative of a partnership with the Peace Development Fund. Being in community with other PDF grantees, who represent deep, transformative, and grassroots work around the nation, is also big validation that we're on the right path in alignment with our values." ■

**Claude Marks (Freedom Archives):**  
 "Something that has always stood out is the way PDF sees itself as integrated in the social justice movement by actually showing up and being there in the community. It sets PDF into a category that is far too rare."



In recognition of past PDF Staff and Board

As we commemorate PDF's 40th Anniversary, we want to recognize and extend our deepest gratitude to the more than one hundred and thirty staff and board members and the many volunteers and interns whose hard work and commitment enabled PDF to consistently support our many communities and partners across the country.



We'd especially like to thank PDF's founders, Meg Gage and Bob Mazer, and those whose vision of a public foundation working as part of and in service to the peace and justice movement crystallized into the Peace Development Fund. The fact that forty years later PDF continues to play a critical role in strengthening social justice and human rights movements in the United States and around the world is a testament to the power and capacity of their vision.



Former staff member Andrea Ayvazian said recently, "PDF has always been staffed by people who are activists, so there's a real sense that we're in this struggle together alongside the grassroots partners." Many former staff came with a background in social activism and most have gone on to play other important roles, starting new organizations or serving on boards of other prominent organizations and foundations.

Current Board Member Ali El-Issa added, "We as a staff and board come from different races, we come from different cultures and we work as a family, and the organizations we support are also part of that family and that community."

Executive Director Paul Haible says, "Without the leadership and commitments of our staff and board members, and of course our donors, PDF would not be where it is today – a leading philanthropic partner to progressive movements with robust grantmaking, training and fiscal sponsorship programs. To all of you who've played some part in our unfolding history, we say THANK YOU!"

## Thank you to our donor community

Unlike private foundations, as a public foundation PDF has always relied on the generous support of our loyal donor community. In the last year alone, PDF had the support of 1,400 individuals, building on a legacy of thousands of other individual supporters over those 40 years.

We want to make clear that our work would not be possible without you, and that your participation demonstrates the power of aggregating energy and resources to make a powerful and strategic impact.

Whether you've recently given to PDF for the first time, or you're one of our many consistent supporters who have given for decades, we want to extend our most sincere thanks for your contributions and for your belief in community organizing. Your support extends to the work of our grassroots partners, who rely on PDF for resources and training, and you all are essential participants in our vibrant social justice movement fabric.

From all of us at PDF, **THANK YOU!** for your commitment and support.

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## 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.



## IN THIS ISSUE

PDF Celebrates Our 40th Anniversary

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## PEACE TALKS ON ZOOM

### PDF's 40th Anniversary Event Series PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

**The Women Peacemakers Initiative: A Look Back at a PDF Success Story**

September 20, from 5:30 – 7:00 PM ET

A panel of representatives from PDF's 2017 - 2019 Women Peacemakers Initiative, including Women Cross DMZ, Whose Knowledge and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

**PDF's 40th Anniversary Short Film Premiere!**

Join us for a Cross-Generational Conversation on PDF and the Movement

October 28, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM ET

The premier of PDF's 40th Anniversary Short Film will kick-off a cross-generational dialogue among key PDF figures and youth leaders representing recent grant partners.

**A Vision to Free Our Folks: Ending Incarceration of Women, Girls and LGBTQ People**

November 17, from 5:30 – 7:00 PM ET

A Community Organizing Grantee Town Hall featuring partner organizations working to stop the growing incarceration of women, girls, and the LGBTQ+ community.

All events will take place via Zoom. To register, please visit

[www.tinyurl.com/PDF40thAnniversary](http://www.tinyurl.com/PDF40thAnniversary)



## SUPPORT PDF'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

We rely on individual supporters like you to sustain our annual operating budget, but as part of celebrating PDF's 40th milestone, we hope you will consider an additional donation to support our 40th Anniversary. Your 40th gift will go toward launching a new PDF grantmaking initiative, which will be announced in October!

Whether you give \$40 or \$400, or \$40 more than your average gift, your support ensures PDF can continue to thrive for the next decade and beyond. **Wish PDF a Happy 40th Birthday with your tax-deductible contribution today. Thank you!**

**Daniel Ellsberg, 1989:**

"1983 was the first year I gave to the Peace Development Fund. Supporting the Fund's work was one of the best ways I could encourage the locally-based organizing that most often brings about significant change in our society. With a donation to PDF, I know I am getting the maximum possible efficiency from my gifts to strengthen peace and democracy across the United States."

