

## The Power Is in You(th)!

In a world with mounting crises like climate change and gun violence, PDF understands the importance our youth play in making our global society more just and equitable. Change will not happen without youth taking matters into their own hands, thankfully, we know that they are. At PDF, we support the collective fight for a better future and work to contribute to the success of young activists.

**The collective importance of youth organizing is indisputable.** In recent years, examples like the Black Lives Matter Movement and the immense increase in young voter turnout, make clear that young people now—more than ever—are educating themselves on social issues and are taking matters into their own hands.

**“Young people must hold older generations accountable for the mess they have created.”** —Greta Thunberg, 19, Climate Activist

The current generation of youth has promoted the importance of awareness to national issues and has made strides to disprove the age-old expectation of being young and naïve.

Given the current state of the government and the deep-rooted, systemic issues that Americans face, our nation's youth is confronted with a tough choice: to be in denial or to take action.

Last year in celebration of PDF's 40th anniversary, PDF established the youth-focused **Braiding New Worlds Fund**. Grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$6,500 were given to seven youth-led and youth-oriented organizations around the country.

The Braiding New Worlds Fund's committee members are young people aged 18 to 25 years old. Each brings an important perspective and knowledge of youth activism and organizing to the process. PDF is excited to make this fund an ongoing part of our grant portfolio.

Grant distribution committee member, Avery Smedley, believes that youth play a much larger role in activism than they are given credit for. She notes **“Youth don't hold the same disillusionment as adults and can envision more creative solutions and greater change, youth are more [invested] in transformative change because it's our future.”**



Avery Smedley, Grant Distribution Committee

of fresh air,” she said. “Because of this grant, we're able to do so much more through our events, branding, and in terms of people recognizing us as an organization. We're really able to sustain ourselves.”

Like QYA, there are six other Braiding New Worlds Fund partner organizations: **Maine Youth Power** in Swanville, ME; **New Britain Racial Justice Coalition** in New Britain, CT; **People of the Confluence** in Bothell, WA; **Queer-Trans Project** in Atlantic Beach, FL; **The Focus Center** in Chesapeake, VA; and **Tucson Youth and Peace** in Tucson, AZ.

Braiding New Worlds Fund grantee Tucson Youth and Peace (TYP) centers themselves on a shared mission to create safe and diverse community dialogue to protect equitable educational progress and dismantle systemic racism. TYP hosts a yearlong peace leadership program for children and young adults between the ages of 12 and 24 in which uniquely themed free monthly workshops are organized

to educate and promote leadership. Individuals in this program are prepared to attend the Tucson Annual Youth and Peace Conference, an event that empowers youth to become courageous and creative leaders and peacemakers.

Tucson Youth and Peace shared that with the Braiding New Worlds Fund grant **“we are able to pay youth for their sacred time and energy! This empowers youth to no end!”** TYP focuses on social issues including gender-based violence, racial injustice, public education, etc. The workshops aim to educate and raise awareness in the community about BIPOC, LGBTQ+ folk, and more.

PDF's funding niche is in supporting grassroots organizing and capacity-building initiatives that shift power dynamics and create systemic change. While supporting direct services is critical in this time of great need, we must also double down on our efforts to uplift those confronting structural inequities. We invest in local leaders, especially young people, because we know they are building a more just and equitable future that our communities need to survive and thrive. ♦



Support the Braiding New Worlds Fund



Tucson Youth and Peace

# Self-Managed Abortion; Safe and Supported in the US



Susan  
Yanow

PDF's 40th anniversary culminated in an event at the Amherst office last June with guest speaker Susan Yanow, cofounder of *Women Help Women* and long-time reproductive rights activist. Attendees heard her thoughts on the *Roe v. Wade* decision, its impact, and what's next for activists.

**Self-Managed Abortion; Safe and Supported in the US (SASS)**, fiscally sponsored by PDF, is a US project of *Women Help Women*,

a global nonprofit organization that supports the rights of people around the world to have information about and access to safe abortion with medication.

In the US, abortion is not legal in every state, and access is dwindling. With a hostile environment in Washington and the recent overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, access to abortion for those who are young, low-income and/or part of a disenfranchised group, has become impossible in many states. According to FIGO, the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics, "lack of access to safe abortion care is one of the leading causes of preventable maternal death and disability. Each year, 47,000 women in the world die as a result of unsafe abortion and an estimated 5 million are hospitalized for the treatment of serious complications such as bleeding or infection."

SASS aids in the access to reproductive autonomy, health and safety through providing one-on-one support and information to people in the US who choose to use abortion pills on their own, through secure online communications with trained counselors overseas. Since the Supreme Court struck down the constitutional right to end a pregnancy, demand for abortion pills has soared. In some states, using those pills or helping others could be grounds for prosecution. The SASS website provides critical information about **medication, clinics**, and practical support options (accommodation, travel support) for those seeking a clinic-based abortion.

SASS is more important than ever in providing safe, fact-based information to those who may not otherwise have access to it. ♦

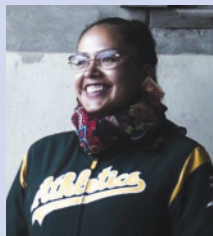


We're thinking about self managed abortion. You?

## AT THE FOUNDATION

### NEW STAFF

We are excited to announce the addition of three new staff: **Lakota Holder** as Executive Assistant in San Francisco and **Sophia Trifone** and **Sonya Epstein** as Foundation Associates in Amherst. Lakota will ensure the smooth functioning of the San Francisco office. Sophia will be overseeing the organization's communication work including social media, newsletters, press outreach, and annual publications. Sonya will be focused on donor data management, ensuring accurate accounting of donations, grant requests, campaigns and providing support for fiscally-sponsored organizations.



**Lakota Holder** is a 2nd generation relocated Native born in Denver, CO, who has been living in the Bay Area since she was 8 years old. She is an enrolled member of the Tlingit & Haida Tribe of Alaska.

She has worked as a nanny, youth Powwow dance instructor, coordinator of cultural performances, and is currently serving on committees for Bay Area Powwows.



After earning her Associates Degree from Holyoke Community College, **Sophia Trifone** (she/her) began her career with a prominent Holyoke-based nonprofit focusing on arts and culture in

Holyoke's Puerto Rican cultural district. In her time there she notably fundraised for signature events and projects, hosted walking tours of the city's artwork, collaborated with other community organizations and aided in weekly food distribution.



**Sonya Epstein** (they/ them) is a community organizer who has been deeply involved with student activism around restorative justice, free public higher education, and LGBTQ liberation for many years. They

are an immigrant from Belarus and studied Social Thought & Political Economy and Sociology at UMass Amherst.

# Preparing For Our Next Forty Years

## Last year we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Peace Development Fund, founded in 1981.

Since then, we have granted more than **\$56.8 million to nearly 2,100 organizations**. Many organizations that started out small have gone on to make huge impacts in the movement for peace and justice. Over the years, we launched dozens of special initiatives leading to new collaborations on critical issues. Additionally, we have provided **capacity-building trainings** for more than **1,000 groups** and **3,500 people** around the country. We commemorated our anniversary through several reflections and new projects over the course of the year. These included a retrospective video, five Peace Talks, a Celebration of Women's Leadership at our Peace and Justice Center in Amherst, and the creation of a new grant program, Braiding New Worlds Fund.

As we move into our next 40 years, we know that PDF will continue to play an important role in advancing peace and justice in the US. As the times have changed, so has PDF. Because we focus on funding organizing led by people in the community and small organizations, we can be nimble about what issues we fund. As mentioned above, the new Braiding New Worlds Fund is providing funding for the youth organizing movement around today's issues like climate change, transgender rights, and gun violence. We look forward to 40 more years and finding new ways to bend the arc towards justice—and to working with you to make that happen! ♦

## Honoring Jamie Babson

James "Jamie" Babson (1954–2022) was a gracious and generous man and a longtime supporter of PDF's vision. Jamie was regarded as humorous, lively and immensely big-hearted. Over the years, Jamie was an avid world traveler, with an affinity for both Sri Lanka and India, and an energetic philanthropist. He was a founding member of the Threshold Foundation and an integral member of Green America and the Investor's Circle. He served on the boards of the Massachusetts Peace Action and the Veterans Education Project and was deeply involved in peace activism and investment research, and a dedicated funder of Indigenous organizations.

Jamie first began his relationship with PDF in November of 1990, and continued to support PDF for almost three full decades. He generously donated gifts through stock sales as well as holding a donor advised fund with PDF. PDF extends our deepest condolences to the Babson family and friends of Jamie.



## IN THE FIELD

### BRAIDING NEW WORLDS FUND GRANTEES

Youth led organizations selected by youth-led advisory committee.

- **Maine Youth Power**  
*Swanville, ME*
- **New Britain Racial Justice Coalition**  
*New Britain, CT*
- **People of the Confluence**  
*Bothell, WA*
- **Queer-Trans Project**  
*Atlantic Beach, FL*
- **Queer Youth Assemble**  
*Old Saybrook, CT*
- **The Focus Center**  
*Chesapeake, VA*
- **Tucson Youth and Peace**  
*Tucson, AZ*
- **Change Labs**  
*Oakland, CA*
- **Confederación Nacional Campesina**  
*Provincia La Vega, Dominican Republic*
- **Encampment for Citizenship**  
*Aptos, CA*
- **Freedom Archives**  
*San Francisco, CA*
- **Grow Food Northampton, Inc.**  
*Northampton, MA*
- **Hope Community Services**  
*Oklahoma City, OK*
- **Intertribal Friendship House**  
*Oakland, CA*
- **La Peña Cultural Center**  
*Berkeley, CA*
- **Menikanaehkem (Menominee Rebuilders)**  
*Gresham, WI*
- **Migrant Justice**  
*Burlington, VT*
- **Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment**  
*Pullman, WA*
- **People's Palace Projects**  
*London, UK*
- **Rural Alternative Center of El Limon**  
*El Limon, DR*
- **Teh Luh Lah Learning Center**  
*Chimayo, NM*
- **Urban Indigenous Collective**  
*New York, NY*

### DE COLORES RAPID RESPONSE FUND GRANTEES

The De Colores Rapid Response Fund was created by staff to provide grants on a rolling basis to organizations responding to a timely movement moment.

- **Healing Communities PA**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **Manasseh Ministry**  
*St. Louis, MO*
- **People's Justice Project**  
*Columbus, OH*
- **Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities**  
*Encinitas, CA*
- **Sol2Soul Freedom**  
*Philadelphia, PA*
- **Texas Prisons Community Advocates**  
*Fulton, TX*

### DAF GRANTEES

Grants generated by our donor advised funds.

- **Arriba Las Vegas**  
*Las Vegas, NV*
- **Camps in Common**  
*Oakland, CA*
- **BIPOC Collective**  
*New York, NY*
- **Brew and Forge**  
*Amherst, MA*
- **Decarcerate Western Mass Bail Out Fund**  
*Hampden County, MA*
- **Galvanized**  
*Northampton, MA*
- **Latino Y Sano**  
*Providence, RI*
- **Oceti Sakowin Learning Center**  
*Rapid City, SD*
- **Think Again Training and Consulting**  
*Guilford, VT*
- **Whose Knowledge?**  
*San Diego, CA*

### NEW FISCALLY SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS

- **BIPOC Collective**  
*New York, NY*
- **Brew and Forge**  
*Amherst, MA*
- **Decarcerate Western Mass Bail Out Fund**  
*Hampden County, MA*
- **Galvanized**  
*Northampton, MA*
- **Latino Y Sano**  
*Providence, RI*
- **Oceti Sakowin Learning Center**  
*Rapid City, SD*
- **Think Again Training and Consulting**  
*Guilford, VT*
- **Whose Knowledge?**  
*San Diego, CA*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 18, 1pm ET..... Fiscal Sponsorship Info Session Webinar  
October 27, 1pm ET..... Fundraising 201: Deepening Your Fundraising Work Webinar  
November 15, 1 pm ET..... Community Organizing Grants Info Session Webinar  
November 16, 7 pm ET..... Virtual PeaceTalk: Youth Organizing  
December 8, 7 pm ET..... PeaceTalk: Election Results and Resistance, Amherst, MA

For more information  
or to register, scan this  
QR code or visit  
our website at  
[peacedevelopmentfund.org](http://peacedevelopmentfund.org)



PEACE  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND

PDF

PO Box 1280, Amherst, MA 01004-1280

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.

# Peace through Justice

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**Early Tulley**  
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As we go to press, we learned that Ali El-Issa, longtime board member, passed away suddenly on Sep. 27. We will offer a remembrance in our Spring issue.

## STAFF

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## Be Your Own Grant Maker

A **Donor Advised Fund**, or DAF, allows donors to make a charitable contribution to PDF, for an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants (donations) from the fund to the groups that you want to support. You sit back while we do all the paperwork!

A DAF is easy to establish and manage at PDF, and we offer 40 years of grant making experience and knowledge of hundreds of organizations around the country. We have a top-rating from Charity Navigator and were highlighted by *Forbes Magazine* on “How to Find the Right DAF (And Why).”

For more information, contact Lora at (413) 256-8306 or [lora@peacefund.org](mailto:lora@peacefund.org).



Support PDF today. Your support means more grants, trainings and support for community organizing.

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