

Organizing For A Just Economy

Families across the nation are facing a multitude of economic crises – from rising rents to skyrocketing costs of living – and Black and Latinx groups are experiencing disproportionate impacts. Due to the increasing racial wealth gap, many Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) households continue to lack the resources needed for economic security and longevity through these current economic conditions. Today, the typical Black and Latinx households own just 13 and 19 cents, respectively, for every White household's dollar of wealth. These systemic inequalities are leading organizers and communities in big cities and small towns to take action to imagine a different economic future centered on justice, equity, and a world where opportunity is not confined to a privileged few.

Both during and post-pandemic, we are seeing an increase in grassroots organizing and community engagement on a range of issues including labor organizing, tenant's

highest single-year increase since fiscal year 2016.

Housing shortages, inflation, and end to pandemic-era benefits are putting pressure on households, especially low-income families. In 2022, counts of individuals and chronically homeless people reached record highs and unsheltered rates are also trending upward. These challenges are being seen in rural and urban areas alike. In Louisville, KY, a city with more than 10,000 homeless individuals, the team at the **Root Cause Research Center** (RCRC) includes researchers and tenant organizers

who are working to shift power dynamics in their city.

RCRC spearheads structured tenant-led campaigns and creates solidarity with communities under threat of displacement, surveillance, and police violence. Through the work

of the community, RCRC, and other grassroots organizers, the Louisville Tenants Union was established in 2022. The union has pushed the Louisville Metro Housing

alliance, bringing together labor unions, community organizations, environmental groups, and various activist voices. United in their fight against economic inequality, they have focused on key initiatives that resonate across their broad membership. Their initiatives this year are focused on seminal trade negotiations in Seattle, which will impact jobs, wages, labor rights, climate action, and consumer privacy. Their community organizing work will include an educational webinar in partnership with the UW Department of Global Health, a series of educational panels tar-



Washington Fair Trade



Root Cause Research Center

“PDF funding supports base building for the Louisville Tenants Union. Without a broad base of working-class tenants supporting policies that protect them from displacement, our communities will be utterly devastated by financialization and gentrification.”

— Josh Poe, *Root Cause Research Center*

rights, and economic inequality. There is a notable resurgence in union organizing in the US in recent years—organizing drives at Starbucks, Trader Joe's, and Amazon have made the news. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) reports that between October 2021 and September 2022, the National Labor Relations Board saw a 53% increase in union elections petitions, the

Authority to end its contracts with The CT Group, a large private company that manages hundreds of units in low-income areas of the city. The union is also working to pass a Tenants Bill of Rights in the city, which includes city ordinances that would better protect renters.

In Seattle, WA, the **Washington Fair Trade Coalition** (WFTC) is a diverse

geted towards working people across the Pacific Northwest, and ongoing environment justice outreach campaign.

“The work that WFTC does is really unique. Throughout the country, there are only three state coalitions doing similar work in California, Texas, and New York. The work of connecting trade policy to real-world impacts that affect people is so important, and it has the ability to make an even greater difference with more resources” wrote Julie Bouanna, Director of WFTC.

Root Cause Research Center and Washington Fair Trade Coalition were among the organizations that we supported this spring with our Seeding the Movement Fund. These organizations, driven by the very communities most affected by systemic inequality, are challenging the status quo and actively shaping new paradigms that shift power to communities. ♦

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

This fall we begin the run-up to the 2024 elections; occurring in an uncertain landscape filled with chaos, electoral mistrust and misinformation, and crevasses deepening between all of us trying to navigate our uncertain world.

The recent Supreme Court ruling against admissions practices at Harvard and the University of North Carolina ended affirmative action as it has been practiced over the past 40 years. This

changes how we build racial, cultural, and economic equity (who goes to the Ivy League, who gets hired, etc.), but also offers a new era of opportunity to reorganize ourselves, to get it right this time, to make racial justice and equity legally solid and achievable, and to continue to redress the systemic and moral injustices hard-wired into our structures.

I want to share the great work, the ongoing commitment and the determination happening every day in our communities across the country, in red states and blue, in communities of color, in poor White communities, and in communities facing dire environmental crises. I am proud of the deep investment we have made for years in BIPOC organizing and organizations led by leaders of color.

While the culture wars are raging, LGBTQ+ communities, and the soon-to-be national majority BIPOC communities, are serving as the wedge point in this current attempt to divide us and diminish us, as progressive people, and as organized communities. We are determined to beat their swords into plough shares to blunt the assault on the most vulnerable among us.

Every day, we push back against the oppressive ideologies stemming from White supremacy and male domination that restrict access to prosperity, self-governance, and dignity. Our fight is for all, not just the few.

In that spirit and in that endeavor, we need bold, visionary organizing. Supporting grassroots organizations is a key component to building lasting change and I'm proud to do this work alongside you. Thank you for your partnership in this difficult and rewarding work.

With gratitude and hope,

Paul Haible, Executive Director

PDF Changes this Fall!

This fall, PDF's team is undergoing some staff transitions. We are so grateful for our team and the commitment they have shown to our important work.

Our program officer, **Emily Szerafy-Cox**, has been with PDF since 2019 and in that time has spearheaded our Fiscal Sponsorship Program. In the past four years, she has been an advocate for our allied organizations and provided technical support and answers to all kinds of different questions about running organizations and conducted live webinars on essential subjects, such as understanding financial reports, fundraising strategies, and administrative how-to's. Emily also facilitated and streamlined our Community Organizing Grant review and decision process. She will be returning to independent contractor work offering back-office support to small, community organizations. Emily has been an invaluable part of PDF's team, and the absence of her wisdom and insight will be felt.

Sonya Epstein has been with PDF for the past year doing behind the scenes work of donor data managing. Sonya's work has been vital in consolidating our database, refining workflows and fine-tuning our mailing lists. They are returning to education in the fall to study the intersection of trans liberation and prison abolition. Sonya's innovative ideas and charismatic energy will truly be missed.

We wish Emily and Sonya the absolute best in their next chapters and have no doubts that they both will continue to do great work in the social justice movement! ♦

Recognizing Iva Kaufman

Iva Kaufman recently stepped off PDF's board of directors, where she has served since 2012. Most recently, Iva led the Development Committee and PDF's work to diversify its donor base. She brought to PDF a wealth of experience as a fundraiser and philanthropic advisor. Thank you for your more than ten years of service and dedication to PDF. ♦

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Remembering Chris Lloyd; Community and Conservation Champion



In February, we lost a long-time supporter and environmental champion with the passing of Christopher Lloyd. Chris's life was a testament to community, love, intellectual curiosity, and the pursuit of justice. Born on January 7, 1946, in Evanston, IL, Chris left an indelible

mark on the world, most notably in his cherished Woodstock, Vermont community.

Chris's passion for philanthropy and environmental initiatives found a perfect home in his 29+ year association with the Peace Development Fund. An advocate for peace, his roots in international peace activism, and progressive politics were not only familial legacies but personal pursuits. Chris's dedication to the Woodstock community extended to serving as Justice of the Peace, officiating weddings, and contributing to the Norman Williams Public Library and the Billings Park Commission.

A man of many talents, Chris was an English and French major at Oberlin College, an editor at Countryman Press, a lover of literature, singing, and nature. His commitment to conservation was more than an ideology; it was a way of life manifested in his daily walks, forays into gardening, and even hunting for morels with his wife.

The Peace Development Fund is eternally grateful for his contributions to the grassroots movement, and Woodstock will always remember Chris Lloyd as a man who embodied the spirit of community, compassion, and commitment to a better world. ♦

Build Your Just Legacy

Your legacy can support the continued fight for social justice—not just today but for years to come. Many of our supporters have included a gift to PDF in their estate plans to make a lasting impact at no cost today. To create your legacy, we invite you to use FreeWill: an online estate planning tool that makes it 100% free to write your will and designate PDF as a beneficiary of your legacy.

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BRAIDING NEW WORLDS FUND

Youth led organizations selected by youth led advisory committee.

- Detroit Area Youth Uniting Michigan, Detroit, MI
- Queer Youth Assemble, South Easton, MA
- Fanm Saj, Inc, Miami, FL
- PVUSD Students Deserve, Watsonville, CA
- New Britain Racial Justice Coalition, New Britain, CT
- Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA
- The Queer-Trans Project, Atlantic Beach, FL

SEEDING THE MOVEMENT FUND

National grant program supporting social justice organizing.

- The Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice*, Calabasas, CA
- Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Lactation Collaborative of California, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
- Bantu Safe Haven, Philadelphia, PA
- Best Practices Policy Project, Morristown, NJ
- Beyond Trenches, Sanford, NC
- Center for Social Sustainable Systems (CESOSS), Albuquerque, NM
- Communities for Clean Water (CCW)*, Taos, NM
- Dignity Power, Orlando, FL
- Healing Communities of PA*, Philadelphia, PA
- Home Roots Foundation*, Washington, DC (Haiti)
- La Colectiva, Benito Juarez, Mexico
- Manasseh Ministry*, Black Jack, MO
- Marijan, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
- Montana Two Spirit Society, Missoula, MT
- NYCHA Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Arverne, NY
- Root Cause Research Center*, Louisville, KY
- Tight Lipped*, Richmond, CA
- Tranzlation, Seattle, WA
- UnHarming Ohio, East Liverpool, OH



Best Practices Policy Project

- Washington Fair Trade Coalition Education Fund, Seattle, WA
- Whiteswan Environmental*, Bellingham, WA
- yəhaw' Indigenous Creatives Collective, Seattle, WA

DE COLORES RAPID RESPONSE FUND

The De Colores Rapid Response Fund provides grants on a rolling basis to organizations responding to timely movement moments.

- Grow Food Northampton, Northampton, MA
- Red Roses Trans Movement, San Francisco, CA
- The Feminist Front- Oakland, CA
- Western Montana LGBTQ+ Center, Missoula, MT

PIONEER VALLEY COMMUNITY ADVISED FUND

Western MA organizing grants selected by local committee.

- Decarcerate Western Mass Bailout Project*, Easthampton, MA
- Nolumbeka Project*, Greenfield, MA
- Trans Asylum Support Network* (TASSN), Greenfield, MA

NEW FISCALLY SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS

- Fifth ID, Austin, TX
- Black Girls Nutrition, Boston, MA

* indicates previous PDF funding

Rockaways Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The aftermath of the pandemic has left a housing crisis in the United States fueled by a lack of available housing and inflation, driving rental costs through the roof. Additionally, the rate of homelessness has been steadily increasing each year since 2017 and research indicates that it will only continue to rise. Both urban and rural areas are seeing increased numbers of unhoused people in their communities. In New York specifically, 18% of people live below the poverty level (as of 2021) and 74,750 individuals were unhoused in the city according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Rockaway Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) is a 2023 grantee of the Seeding the Movement Fund. The group was organized by tenants of one of the five remaining public housing developments in Rockaway, Queens, NY. NHN's goal is to uplift, encourage and inspire one another to be involved in housing and civic matters so they may better advocate

for their rights and well-being. They help fight homelessness and advocate for better living conditions through organizing their neighbors.

Led by prominent voices like Vernell Robinson, NHN highlights the intersection of racially discriminatory capitalism and global financial expansion that fuels today's housing crisis.

"As housing has become a key vehicle for wealth accumulation for a global financial class, investors have plundered working-class Black and Brown neighborhoods, many of which were once excluded from [investment] capital, and scattered community members without care."

—Vernell Robinson, NHN Founder

With limited incomes or affordable housing options, New York Housing Authority tenants have few options other than public housing. These residents can feel trapped amidst deteriorating con-



ditions that impact their physical and mental health.

"We believe in the mission of grassroots organizing, which is to build deep and meaningful community networks and relationships."

—Teresa Scott, NHN

The group has been instrumental in carrying out a research and organizing project around the poor conditions and their impact on residents' health. NHN aims to bring awareness to the issues of housing and gentrification in their community, and furthermore provides context, analysis and explanation of the implications on the community. We are excited to support their work, which is especially crucial today. ♦

What The Heck Is Fiscal Sponsorship?

For the last 17 years, PDF has offered fiscal sponsorship support to organizations across the country and in all US territories which do not have their own 501(c)3 status. The program is part of our mission to build the capacity of community-based organizations. Being fiscally sponsored allows an organization to receive foundation grants and donations that are tax-deductible for their donors. Currently, more than 40 organizations ranging in size and issues are under the PDF umbrella—from new startups to long-established groups.

Our Fiscal Sponsorship Program provides administrative infrastructure and technical assistance to organizations so they can do their work without the burden of managing donations and other tax-exempt requirements.

For the past four years, Emily Szerafy-Cox has been one of the driving forces behind the program. She is there to be an advocate when they need it and help interpret jargon documents and contracts. She provides technical support



and answers all kinds of questions about running organizations.

She also enriches our partners with live webinars on essential subjects, such as understanding financial reports, fundraising strategies, and administrative how-to's. We offer a collective library of recorded webinars, opportunities for personalized one-on-one meetings, phone consultations, and a monthly newsletter filled with grant opportunities and other invaluable resources.

"As youth activists, [our organization] immensely appreciated the support that [PDF] provided in our first year of our first fiscal sponsorship. We found the webinar training very helpful, as well as the prompt responses, and patient support from [PDF's team]. Our Finance Team plans to utilize future training and refer to our Handbook first when there are internal questions."

—Julian Hynes, Generation Ratify Amherst

PDF's accessibility, insights, and genuine care has built trust with our grassroots partners. Our support for the success and well-being of these organizations has allowed them to focus on what they do best: making change in their communities. We are excited to witness their accomplishments and how they have grown and thrived through the program. Emily is stepping down in September and will be greatly missed by PDF and our FS groups. Our program services will continue unchanged/uninterrupted while we hire our next Foundation Officer. ♦



Restoring Justice for Indigenous Peoples

WHERE ARE THEY NOW:

Restoring Justice for Indigenous Peoples

Restoring Justice for Indigenous Peoples (RJIP) has been a part of PDF's fiscal sponsor program since 2016. After seven years, they have grown so much that they are now graduating the program as a newly minted 501(c)3 organization under the name **Indigenous Justice (IJ)**. IJ works to end the incarceration of Native peoples in jails, prisons, and group homes across California, to end the incarceration of salmon relatives by dams in rivers, and to end the incarceration of their ancestors' skeletons in universities and museums. Their work propels a powerful movement of system-involved Native peoples, dedicated to restoring freedom by recognizing the interconnectedness of life.

Founder, Morning Star Gali, is a member of the Ajumawi band of the Pit River Tribe. From fighting the disproportionate impact of the criminal and juvenile justice systems on Native Americans to demanding gender justice and sacred sites protection, Morning Star is a lifelong fierce Indigenous advocate.

Over the past four years, IJ has led several Indigenous justice initiatives, including COVID-19 Response, which provided support to system impacted Native youth, emergency supplies for unsheltered Native peoples,

and crucial well-ness support for elders and single parents in quarantine. They also helped non-federally recognized tribal communities who were unable to access emergency funding, providing critical resources to some of the most marginalized communities.

In 2021, the Sovereign Bodies Institute reported on 183 cases of missing or slain Indigenous women and girls in California. IJ's work has helped bring national focus on healing and advocacy for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) in California. Additionally, Indigenous Justice has focused on Native youth, recognizing their disproportionate numbers in school suspensions and juvenile detentions.

IJ employs a deeply spiritual and political focus resulting in healing and transformation for their communities. Through powerful leadership, community organizing, and unwavering advocacy, they have made concrete progress in their quest for justice. We celebrate Indigenous Justice's accomplishments and growth as an organization and have been privileged to support their work through our technical assistance and administrative support, and through our close moral and legal partnership. ♦

Rapid Response In Action: Western Montana LGBTQ Community Center

The Western Montana LGBTQ+ Community Center (The Center), based in Missoula, MT is a recent grant recipient of PDF's De Colores Rapid Response Fund. PDF became aware of The Center through one of our other grantees, the Montana Two Spirit Society. With the recent passage of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in the state and silencing of trans Representative Zooney Zephyr, the staff at PDF saw the need for rapid response funding there and reached out directly to The Center to apply. We were humbled to hear how The Center was responding and needed our support to keep their efforts going. We were also grateful to several Donor Advised Fund holders who we contacted and allowed us to increase our support.

"Over the past 5 months, we have been organizing like never before. From sending staff, board, and community members to Helena to testify to organizing rallies on the Capitol steps, we have been actively organizing our community and allies to fight against this hateful and harmful legislation and to ultimately come together during this difficult time."

– Andy Nelson, Executive Director



- September 29 PDF Annual Meeting
- October 3, 12 pm ET Reframing Philanthropy: Equitable Philanthropy Session
- November 15 PDF Community Organizing Grants Application Open
- January 24, 12 pm ET Reframing Philanthropy: Building the Solidarity Economy Session

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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 diverse, self-sustaining, and economically viable communities that are essential to building a peaceful, just, and equitable world.

Peace through Justice

Reframing Philanthropy: New Donor Series



We invite you to join us for a new series that is informative and interactive offering opportunities to engage, learn, and network with each other. The series reframes philanthropy through a more diverse, equitable, and

inclusive lens to foster new ways of being catalysts for social change in our own communities and around the country. Each session will be held virtually and will include expert speakers, knowledge sharing, and discussion. The series is open to donors, grantees, professional advisors, and staff and board members of organizations impacted by social justice philanthropy. We hope you will find the series thought-provoking, challenging, and inspiring. ♦

Make An Impact

Your gift to PDF helps to build and SUSTAIN our communities. Together we can provide the critical grants and capacity-building support that strengthen the social justice movement and creates the new systems essential to building a peaceful, just, and equitable world.

- ▶ **We make giving easy:** You can make your contributions to PDF by card, mail, or on our website!
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Contact Lora Wondolowski at lora@peacefund.org or 413/256-8306 for more information.



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