



2022

GRANTMAKING & PROGRAM REPORT



For those who commit themselves to the pursuit of a society centered in justice for all individuals and communities and a fully representative democracy, there will be times of triumph as well as despair. We experienced both ends of that spectrum in 2022, the latter most notably with the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* which gutted *Roe v. Wade* and rolled back 50 years of hard-fought progress on abortion access and reproductive justice. And though few and far between, there were also positive developments as well, such as the success of the Kansas abortion access ballot initiative.

Our work is grounded in the strategic understanding that what we are now experiencing is the direct result of decades of work and funding by the most extreme anti-equality and anti-democracy forces in the country. As happened after the Civil War and at the height of the civil rights movements, we are in a period of backlash that is profound in every way, from its comprehensiveness to its viciousness and violence. In 2022, as will be the case in future years, the key to Proteus Fund’s successes is centering our work in the intersectional nature of the movements we support—racial, gender, queer, and disability justice in a thriving, fully representative democracy.

While our Proteus Fund team shared in the disappointment and trauma that was felt across the country by so many in 2022, we were prepared and ready to work with organizations, communities, and movements to fight back – taking energy from the resilience and tenacity of our grantees and other close collaborators. With the ongoing funding from our many donor partners as well as support from a wide array of new funders, we deepened our investment in critical social justice movements. In fact, last year was Proteus Fund’s largest grantmaking year to date.

We provided more funding and other forms of programmatic support to more organizations than ever before, underpinning and strengthening grantees’ efforts to build long term, sustainable, and effective change. We supported immediate, exigent needs of field organizers and advocates through expanded rapid response funding, including urgently needed funds to protect the security, health, and wellness of frontline actors. And, we made great strides in ensuring that our donor collaboratives worked in closer alignment than ever before, combining resources and developing cross-movement strategies to maximize the impact of our support.

We also doubled down on our commitment to evolving philanthropy by expanding our donor education and mobilization efforts. Core to Proteus Fund’s mission and strategies is our role as an effective and consistent connector between the philanthropic community and the frontlines of social justice, not just in how we resource movements, but in the ways we support movement leaders in sharing their work with funders.

Moving forward, we will need to be just as steadfast, strategic, and coordinated in our approach. The successes of many of our grantees last year, as well as progress made toward victories that are coming to fruition this year, demonstrate that, together, we are moving the needle.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Di Donato". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Paul Di Donato

President and CEO
Proteus Fund and Proteus Action League



PIPER FUND



As the new director of Piper Fund, I benefit greatly from the legacy and relationship-building of our past and interim program leaders who, in 2022, guided the work of our three programs: Judicial Independence, Protecting the Right to Protest, and Money in Politics. Throughout that year, we faced continued undermining of the autonomy of state courts, increased restrictions and criminalization of freedom of assembly in multiple states, and the enduring influence of corporate and oligarchic control over the levers of power – a familiar set of threats that imperils the future of our democracy and signals rising authoritarianism.

Piper Fund responded to these threats by actively building momentum across our three program areas and helping position our grantees to meet the needs of this moment. Not only did we increase our grantmaking and provide more sustained funding in priority states, we did so more proactively. Through monitoring and analyzing trends, we were able to anticipate challenges in the field and invest earlier in the work, allowing existing and emerging coalitions to get out ahead of issues. Our investments in state-based organizing efforts help inspire communities to believe in their ability to effect change and bolster state and federal issue reform campaigns. With the addition of two new team members in 2022, Tiffany Mendoza and Ebony Simpson, we are well positioned for even greater impact in the current year.



Vina Kay
Piper Fund Director



Judicial Independence

Following a record number of bills in over 30 states in 2021 aimed at consolidating power and reducing the authority of state courts, the US Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. JWHO* further demonstrated that these courts are the last line of defense for bedrock democratic norms and institutions, cementing the critical need to maintain their independence. In the first six months of 2022 alone, bills were proposed in 12 states to limit the enforcement of laws or court decisions related to abortion. Idaho, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas each began to enforce near-total abortion bans that not only allow private citizens to sue individuals who have received an abortion, but also prohibit state courts from considering claims seeking to stop the enforcement of these laws.

In preparation for the *Dobbs v. JWHO* decision, Piper Fund teamed up with the Rights, Faith & Democracy Collaborative (RFDC) to prepare the field to respond to the interconnected issues of state judicial independence and reproductive rights so that grassroots organizations and coalitions could be ready to respond. Together, Piper Fund and RFDC spearheaded virtual meetings with over 50 advocacy groups from 19 states to share messaging research focused on the anticipated ruling and underscoring the importance of both reproductive rights and a healthy democracy. Following the convening, Piper Fund provided 37 grants to support the implementation of organizing and messaging plans.



Beyond Dobbs, Piper Fund recognized clear, compelling messaging about judicial independence as a significant gap in the field. It worked with a strategic research firm to produce a new messaging guide, “Justice Not Politics: Effective Messaging to Protect State Courts.” This guide is aimed at helping state groups navigate the new threats to courts and sway public opinion on the importance of judicial independence. The Piper Fund-supported messaging research and guide serve an important function in equipping groups to respond to these new threats.

In September, Piper Fund hosted two funder briefings focused on threats and opportunities related to state courts. The briefings, which featured state and national advocates, highlighted the “heroes and villains of judicial independence,” acknowledging the powerful forces seeking to undermine state courts’ authority and the heroic efforts of under-resourced advocacy groups working tirelessly to combat these blatant attacks. The briefings called attention to how highly impactful multi-directional, multi-issue coalitions are using a comprehensive ecosystem of strategies to help connect the dire need to protect state courts to a spectrum of issues, from abortion to education.

Protecting the Right to Protest

Over the last two years, an aggressive, organized effort to criminalize protest has been occurring at the state level. During this time, lawmakers introduced 118 anti-protest bills in 37 states, a dramatic increase from prior years, and sought to legalize various threats such as prohibiting boycotting and providing immunity for individuals who attack protestors. Many of these bills were a direct backlash to the historic Black Lives Matter protests of 2020, but climate justice was another target. With the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, which will continue to inspire communities to advocate for reproductive rights, efforts to pass additional restrictions are anticipated.

In response to the overwhelming threats to protest rights, Piper Fund grantees and their allies built out stronger organizing, advocacy, and litigation infrastructure at both the state and national level. The Protect Dissent Network, which Piper Fund and Piper Action Fund coordinate, grew to over 250 people representing over 70 organizations.

Piper Fund deepened its right to protest work in several ways in 2022:

- **Grantmaking:** Piper Fund awarded more than \$749,174 in grants to protect the right to protest, with a continued focus on providing grants to those directly impacted by these threats to protest including Black and Indigenous-led organizations.
- **Research:** Piper Fund commissioned research to better understand who is promoting this wave of anti-protest bills. The research exposed how police unions and former law enforcement are the primary supporters of this new wave of anti-protest bills targeting the Black Lives Matter movement. We also supported efforts by the Center for Media and Democracy to build out the Anti-Protest Lobbying tracker that is an important resource for state groups and media to understand who is pushing for the anti-protest bills.
- **Narrative Support:** Piper Fund continued to invest in building the communications capacity of the field, hiring a consultant to work with the Protect Dissent Network to develop messaging and a narrative framework on protecting protest. These efforts led to successful pitching of an eight-part series in Nonprofit Quarterly featuring many members discussing the various threats and the ways the Network is fighting back.
- **Mobilizing Philanthropy:** Piper Fund worked to actively engage philanthropy to invest in the right to protest as a foundation for a thriving democracy, organizing panels at the Funders Committee on Civic Participation and the Environmental Grantmakers Association annual convenings.



Photo provided by Piper Fund grantee Alabama Moves

Despite the overwhelming threats to protest rights, Piper Fund and Piper Action Fund grantees were incredibly successful in thwarting efforts to further criminalize protest in 2022. Advocacy groups led public education efforts in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin, and nearly all the anti-protest bills were stalled or defeated. In Alabama, grantees shared their stories of being unjustly targeted and harassed for protesting for Black Lives with the community, lawmakers, and

media. They drew attention to how a so-called “anti-riot bill” was an attempt to silence and intimidate the Black community. Similarly, in Georgia, grantees prepared over 50 people to testify against a bill that would have banned spontaneous protests and created a new defense for drivers who hit protesters. Ultimately, both bills were defeated. While these are incredible victories, advocates are aware that the opposition will continue to advance efforts to crack down on dissent and are remaining vigilant and preparing for future threats.

Money in Politics

Wealthy, unaccountable, dark interests continue to obstruct government action to address the most pressing issues of our time. A growing alliance between Christian Nationalists and corporate actors, who see multicultural progressivism as a threat to the power they hold, is collectively working to invest financial resources into efforts that distort and undermine the public will. Building on the overwhelming public understanding of the negative impact of money in politics, community-led groups are organizing for public finance solutions. Several jurisdictions made considerable progress on this front in 2022 as an increasing number of coalitions worked to build momentum for money in politics reforms at the local and state level.

One of the most promising proactive reform efforts took place in Oakland where a strong coalition led by Piper Action Fund grantees, Oakland Rising and California Common Cause, actively organized communities in support of

a democracy vouchers measure. This model, also known as “Democracy Dollars,” has been successful in democratizing political giving in Seattle by diversifying the donor pool while increasing voter turnout among historically disenfranchised communities. Oakland was the second city in the nation to pass the reform. Building off this victory, other coalitions are forming to replicate and expand efforts across the country, with Democracy Dollar policy campaigns underway in Los Angeles, Minnesota, and Washington.



Photos provided by Piper Fund grantee California Common Cause

At the end of 2022, Piper Fund hosted “Money in Politics: A look at the election and the years ahead.” This briefing examined the results of key money in politics reform efforts from this year and the lessons learned. Planning began for a national convening in 2023 to further build the money in politics reform field. This event will bring together advocates from across the country to network with one another, share best practices, learn about policy and organizing tools, and collectively plan for how they will build momentum for reform.

PIPER FUND SPOTLIGHT:

Oakland Rising & California Common Cause

Pushing for Public Campaign Finance Reform in Oakland

Oakland's Hills and Flatland areas are distinguishable by more than just geographic location. They are also representative of the city's income inequality that is replicated as political inequality. The majority of the money raised by candidates in local elections comes from an extremely small segment of Oakland's population – residents who tend to live in the Hills and are disproportionately older, richer, and whiter than the rest of the people. There is far less disposable income with which to support candidates in the Flatlands, home to predominantly working class communities and communities of color. As a result, even candidates seeking to represent Flatlands districts are forced to fundraise in the Hills, and are consequently influenced more by the positions of a wealthy few than by the voices of their many constituents.

Committed to a shared goal of democratizing campaign fundraising in Oakland and ensuring candidates are meeting with and listening to all of the city's communities, a group of seven statewide and local organizations and collaboratives formed a core coalition, with a larger network of endorsing organizations pledging their support. The coalition called Oakland Fair Elections, which includes Piper Fund grantees California Common Cause and Oakland Rising, sought to enact reform in Oakland similar to the pioneering democracy voucher program passed in Seattle in 2015, which has since resulted in a steady growth in the number and diversity of donors and candidates and has driven voter participation. Calling Oakland's version "Democracy Dollars," the coalition worked to advance a ballot initiative to create a public campaign financing program that disperses \$100 in Democracy Dollar vouchers to Oakland residents who can then assign the Dollars to the candidate of their choice. Each member of the coalition leaned into what they uniquely brought to the table to support the effort, from fundraising to community outreach to thousands of voters in the Flatlands to drafting the measure and working with the Oakland City Council to get it on the ballot in November 2022.

The Oakland Fair Election Act, the official name for the Democracy Dollars measure, passed by 74% on the November ballot. Due to Oakland's current budget deficit, it may not be funded in the city's next two-year budget, but the public campaign finance reform will eventually be implemented. Meanwhile, building off of the momentum in Oakland, similar efforts are being explored in San Jose and San Diego, which could help open the door to an attempt at statewide reform in the coming years. Leaders from California Common Cause and Oakland Rising say the support of Piper Fund was immensely important to their ultimate success.



Photo provided by Piper Fund grantee California Common Cause

“Democracy movement work is a niche space within electoral work, which is a niche space within the progressive movement. So, to be able to be in that space and have that support from a donor base that was committed to that is important. Piper Fund also helped to open doors for us to be able to tell our story to people who might not understand it otherwise.”



LIZ SUK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OAKLAND RISING

“Piper Fund was with us every step of the way. They were supportive of this work, regardless of whether we're on the verge of a win or a milestone. They were with us on the work because they believed in a vision for a different kind of democracy.”



JONATHAN MEHTA STEIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CALIFORNIA COMMON CAUSE

BY THE NUMBERS

131 GRANTS

- Money in Politics – 22
- Judicial Independence – 58
- Right to Protest – 24
- Cross-Program – 1
- Piper Action Fund – 26

\$3.2M GRANTED

- Money in Politics – \$845,000
- Judicial Independence – \$795,368
- Right to Protest – \$749,174
- Cross-program – \$300,000
- Piper Action Fund – \$528,826

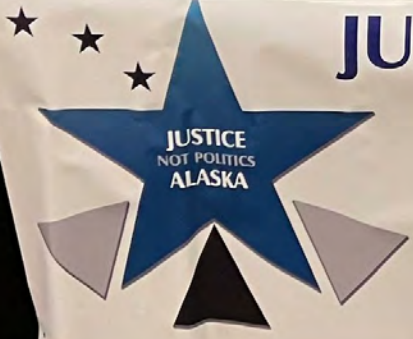
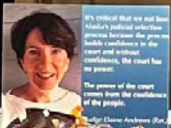
30 STATES

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Photo provided by Piper Fund grantee
Justice Not Politics Alaska



Justice Not Politics Alaska



JUSTICE NOT POLITICS ALASKA

Keeping Alaska's Judiciary Free, Fair and Independent!

justicenotpoliticalsalaska.org



RIGHTS, FAITH & DEMOCRACY COLLABORATIVE



Coming to my role as the Rights, Faith & Democracy Collaborative's (RFDC) director with experience as a program officer of Piper Fund, I am acutely aware of the overlapping and interlocking nature of the work we do at Proteus Fund and the pervasive forces that we face in that work. White Christian Nationalists seek to undo decades of progress in this country, weaponizing religion under the guise of religious freedom to eviscerate rights and entrench minority control. While an anti-democratic, minority-driven law and policy agenda saw a major victory in the Dobbs decision, all around us we can see that a majority of people in this country are organizing, and often successfully, pushing back. This majority, which supports LGBTQ equality, reproductive justice, and an inclusive democracy that respects people of all faiths or none in America is also laying the long-term groundwork for durable change.



As a resurgence of anti-LGBT movements spreads in states, RFDC grantees and field partners are at the frontlines, fighting back. Recognizing the immediate needs and ongoing effects of this work, RFDC was proud to provide rapid response grants and expand access to grantee safety and security funds in 11 states. I'm proud to be supporting vital movements alongside RFDC's first program officer, Rev. Kenyetta Chinwe, who has a wealth of experience organizing faith voices in support of reproductive justice and trans rights. All together, we are meeting the moment with strength and conviction.



Julia Reticker-Flynn
RFDC Director



Pushing back on LGBTQ attacks

Concerted efforts to target LGBTQ communities, and specifically trans individuals, began sweeping the nation in the latter part of 2022. Under the guise of religious freedom, lawmakers introduced bills aimed at prohibiting gender-affirming care, banning trans young people from participation in youth sports, and banning access to books with LGBTQ characters and characters of color in school libraries. As Governor Ivey of Alabama signed a law banning trans youth access to gender affirming medical care, she stated, “If the Good Lord made you a boy, you are a boy, and if he made you a girl, you are a girl”, weaponizing religion to deny young people access to lifesaving care.

In New Mexico, grantees Bold Futures New Mexico and American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico Foundation advocated within state health care agencies and organized aligned health care providers and hospitals to create policies that prohibit religious refusals to providing health care. Bold Futures published a Reproductive Health Care Success Guide in coordination with a team of University of New Mexico doctors and health care professionals. They are also working closely with the University of New Mexico Health and Sciences Center to bring a “full-spectrum reproductive health care center” that includes trans inclusive medical care to Dona Ana County, New Mexico. This work to create and pursue an affirmative vision of gender-affirming and reproductive health care without space for religious refusals is on the very cutting edge of reproductive justice and LGBTQ freedom work in the United States.

In Minnesota, grantee Gender Justice won a huge victory for abortion rights when a state district court ruled several Minnesota abortion restrictions unconstitutional and permanently blocked their enforcement. In August, Gender Justice went to trial on behalf of client Andrea Anderson, in a case where a pharmacist refused to provide a morning after pill to a woman based on religious objections to do so. While a county jury ruled for the pharmacist, Gender Justice has appealed the matter. They are also pursuing litigation and policy advocacy strategies to protect gender affirming care. Equality Foundation of Georgia is leading resistance to book banning in Georgia, with help from faith leaders organized by SisterSong and Vacation Justice School. Equality Foundation of Georgia also hosted in-person town halls in the districts of legislators on Georgia Senate and House Judiciary, Education, and Health & Human Services Committees, which see most religious refusal proposals, to educate the committee members on the need for local nondiscrimination ordinances and narrowly defined religious exemptions that do not enable discrimination.

Elevating faith voices

As a home for intersectional LGBTQ, reproductive justice, and faith organizing, RFDC has consciously worked to elevate faith voices that have not received enough attention and support pushback against religion's weaponization. RFDC has been front and center in an organized effort to reconstitute the Clergy Consultation Service, a pre-Roe v. Wade configuration of priests, nuns, reverends, and rabbis who worked to help those who wanted to receive safe abortion care. RFDC also continues to lead an effort to build a network of legislators around the country ready to defend LGBTQ freedom and reproductive justice.

Grantees are also leading faith organizing efforts in their states. New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, together with Bold Futures New Mexico, has been reaching out to faith leaders in the state's southern communities of color to hold conversations, develop relationships, and engage in messaging strategies that will add to ongoing culture shift work around the protection and expansion of full spectrum reproductive healthcare, including abortion, contraception, and gender affirming care across New Mexico.

RFDC provided a rapid response grant to Faith Choice Ohio to educate the faith community on the harms of HB616, a bill that would have restricted what teachers could say about sexual orientation, gender identity, and race in the classroom. Faith Choice Ohio led five educational gatherings for clergy to discuss the harms of the bill and uplift key values of racial justice, reproductive justice, and LGBTQ



Photo provided by RFDC grantee Texas Freedom Network

liberation. More than a dozen faith communities spoke out about the harms of the HB616 as a result of these trainings, and the bill did not move out of committee. This was a major victory, not only in stopping harmful legislation, but also in linking values-aligned faith communities together to build local power in defense of democratic rights for the long term.

RFDC SPOTLIGHT:

Bold Futures NM

Expanding Access to High Quality Reproductive Health Care in New Mexico

In large, predominantly rural New Mexico, Bold Futures was born out of a desire for people of color in the majority-minority state to have a voice in reproductive decision making that affects their lives. Led by and for Black, Indigenous, and Latina women and nonbinary people of color, Bold Futures is a reproductive justice organization that works across the state, supporting change related to specific issue areas through policy advocacy, culture shift, place-based organizing, and research. As a community-advised organization, Bold Futures works authentically with groups to inform their approach on issues, empowering and emboldening individuals to become storytellers and share their complex, intersectional identities and lived experience with decision makers and other stakeholders who are ultimately responsible for creating change.

Bold Futures NM along with allied organizations led powerful and prescient organizing to protect abortion access in the state. Anticipating threats to Roe, they helped overturn a statewide abortion trigger ban three years before Dobbs. This meant that New Mexico was not directly impacted by the Supreme Court’s decision, however, the state did experience an influx of patients coming from nearby states where they could no longer access safe, legal abortion care. With only three centers in New Mexico that could provide procedural abortion care at the time, this increase significantly strained providers’ capacity. Additionally, even prior to Dobbs, many Indigenous communities and military members were not included in the amendment protecting abortion in the state, which meant they could not receive abortion care. For these reasons, Bold Futures deepened its work focused on expanding access to the full spectrum of high quality reproduction services.

Alongside partners Strong Families and the University of New Mexico, Bold Futures led community engagement efforts in three counties that were potential sites for an abortion clinic. More than 40 individuals – including OBGYNs, midwives, doulas, mental health providers, youth services providers, and members of the LGBTQ community – participated in discussions about challenges related to experiencing or accessing reproductive care in their respective counties. From this engagement, a new combined effort called the Reproductive Healthcare Success Project was launched between Bold Futures, Strong Families, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, and the University of New Mexico. Bringing their individual areas of expertise to the project, all of the partners, along with an advisory board representing organizations like the New Mexico Doula Association, are fully committed to opening a new reproductive health care center. The endeavor is now further bolstered by a \$10 million contribution from the state’s leadership.

In 2022, Bold Futures was also able support legislation, public education, and community organizing around two bills, prohibiting public entities from creating barriers to reproductive health care services for individuals and adding gender affirming care to the definition of reproductive health care, and develop a Reproductive Healthcare Success Guide as a community-led resource for care providers in the state.



RFDC grantee Bold Futures NM and other members of the Reproductive Healthcare Success Project with Governor Lujan Grisham

“RFDC was really understanding and trusted that we knew our communities well enough to do the work in the ways that we need. Time and again, the trust was extended, and we’ve been able to really call in folks with valuable and different perspectives that are creating a more long term solution for some of the issues that we’re having legislatively.”



CHARLENE BENCOMO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BOLD FUTURES NM

BY THE NUMBERS

23 GRANTS

- **National – 4**
(American Atheists, Vacation Justice School, Queer Crescent, Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity)
- **Arizona – 1**
(Valley Beit Midrash)
- **Florida – 2**
(Equality Florida Action, Equality Florida Institute)
- **Georgia – 2**
(Equality Foundation of Georgia, SisterSong)
- **Kentucky – 1**
(Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice)
- **Minnesota – 4**
(Gender Justice, Jewish Community Action, OutFront Minnesota Community Services, TakeAction Minnesota Education Fund)
- **New Hampshire – 1**
(Granite State Progress)
- **New Mexico – 4**
(American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico, Bold Futures NM, New Mexico Dream Team, New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice)
- **North Carolina – 1**
(Freedom Center for Social Justice)
- **Ohio – 1**
(Faith Choice Ohio)
- **South Carolina – 1**
(South Carolina United for Justice & Equality)
- **West Virginia – 1**
(Fairness WV Institute)

\$1.27M GRANTED

- **State Cohorts – \$1.13 M**
- **Rights, Faith & Democracy Action Fund – \$5,000**
- **Other – \$142,500**



RISE TOGETHER FUND



More than 20 years after the misguided War on Terror, its legacy of criminalization, surveillance, and targeting is enduring, as is the mainstreaming of white supremacist ideologies. Black, Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (BAMEMSA) communities continue to be harmed by government policies and practices designed to target and exclude them and white Christian nationalist attacks driven and catalyzed by these policies. Yet, against the odds, these communities continue to survive and thrive, building intersectional coalitions, community power, and voice share.



As the director of RISE Together Fund (RTF), I'm extremely proud of our work to strengthen movements led by these resilient communities, through strategic partnership, innovative solutions, and action support. With the recent attacks on our communities, including arson attacks on our mosques in Minnesota, and threats in the form of increasing digital and physical attacks on grantee organizations and staff, RTF is meeting the moment by providing funds to support their safety, security, and wellness. We also made rapid response grants in 2022 to address the urgent reproductive needs of the Muslim communities, too often ignored, after the fall of Roe v. Wade.

BAMEMSA communities' efforts to build power continue to be impeded by significant under-resourcing. RTF is mobilizing philanthropy to invest more by helping to create a greater understanding that BAMEMSA justice builds our democracy and is, at its core, racial justice, gender justice, and human and civil rights. In 2022, RTF welcomed a significant gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott and increased the capacity of our team with the addition of a new program officer, Kamardip Singh. The growth we experienced last year will fuel our impact in the current year and beyond.



Rana Elmir
RTF Director



Building power through civic engagement, advocacy, and capacity support

Since its inception, RTF has supported grantees' work to build community power and agency in BAMEMSA communities in pursuit of a multiracial, inclusive, and representative democracy. RTF has invested in this power building by deploying proven tactics. Civic engagement is an essential component of this work, supporting the ability of grassroots organizations to reach and activate larger segments of BAMEMSA communities on critical issues. Since 2019, RTF has provided capacity-building support, training, convenings, and nonpartisan voter data access to address challenges which too often stymie efforts.

In 2022, RTF continued its partnership with Dr. Tom Wong to provide grantees with accurate nonpartisan voter data to ensure BAMEMSA voter engagement in elections and issue advocacy. Information about BAMEMSA voters does not exist in traditional voter databases such as the VAN, rendering these communities invisible even to BAMEMSA organizations. RTF also funded several nonpartisan research polls for grantee organizations like CAIR-Ohio and North Carolina Asian American Together to understand issue motivation, the political climate, and guide the communications and nonpartisan voter engagement work. Partnering with Dr. Wong, grantees ReThink Media and Equality Labs, and consultant Bolder Advocacy, RTF hosted a virtual grantee convening covering data access, voter engagement, legal compliance, communications planning, and digital security.

An evaluation of RTF's civic engagement program in 2022 measured the effectiveness of these efforts. It showed that four grantees alone conducted nonpartisan voter outreach to more than half a million voters who otherwise would have been ignored by traditional campaigns. Even more remarkable, given the difficulties in mobilizing BAMEMSA communities, voters who grantees successfully reached via nonpartisan door-to-door canvassing, voted at a 9.7 percent higher rate than the voters who were not reached, and voters successfully canvassed via nonpartisan live phone banking voted at a 6.4 percent higher rate than

the voters who were not. These numbers reflect Arab American Civic Council's (AACC) first-ever nonpartisan door-to-door canvas focused on Arab voters in Orange County, California, Georgia Muslim Voter Project's (GAMVP) nonpartisan statewide phone banking of likely Muslim voters, North Carolina Asian American Together's (NCAAT) nonpartisan statewide phone banking of South Asian voters, and Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition's (TIRRC) nonpartisan efforts to phone bank Black immigrant voters.



Photo provided by RTF grantee Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)

RTF grantees experienced significant progress and key wins in 2022, addressing immigration, surveillance, and criminalization issues in their communities:

- Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM) **successfully mobilized for the release of Prakash Churaman, a wrongfully incarcerated teen held at Rikers Island from the age of 15 in 2014 until his release in 2022.**
- After 20 years of base building and advocacy by Arab American Civic Council, the city of **Anaheim, CA finally recognized "Little Arabia," a business district that is a symbol of belonging.**
- Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA) **helped ensure that more than 1,550 unaccompanied Afghan children do not lose government benefits** once they fall out of parole status.
- South Dakota Voices for Peace (SDVP) **helped win Medicaid Expansion in the state through a targeted multilingual public education campaign** to engage immigrants.
- Local Dalit activists and Equality Labs pushed **Seattle to become the first city to ban caste discrimination.**
- A bill to restrict so-called foreign land ownership was delayed in Texas, and a similar Georgia **bill stalled after advocacy from RTF and RTAF grantees Project South, NIAC Action, and others.**
- **Sikh Coalition successfully advocated in Mississippi, Utah, and Virginia** for teachings about Sikhs to be added to school curriculum standards.
- **A Tennessee legislator stopped his own anti-refugee bill** that would have decimated resettlement programs after speaking to refugee families during a Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition lobby day.

Providing reproductive rights support and advocacy for LGBTQ Muslim communities



Photo provided by RTF grantee HEART Women & Girls

Since 2017, RTF has funded resilience and leadership development resources for cohorts of women, queer, trans and non-binary leaders in our field, in several cases pairing cohort members with queer Muslim coaches—a first-time opportunity for many to benefit from coaching with someone whose identity mirrors their own. In 2022, 20 BAMEMSA women and non-binary leaders, representing a range of self-identified racial and ethnic backgrounds and religious identities, had access to coaching sessions through Change Elemental, as well as three group resilience coaching sessions.

The Dobbs ruling has again put reproductive justice at the center of the national conversation, but as is too often the case, that conversation has largely failed to acknowledge the intersectional impact for certain groups which are now experiencing assaults on bodily autonomy on multiple levels, such as Muslim communities. In the more than 20 years since 9/11, state-sanctioned surveillance of Muslim communities continues to occur across the country. With abortion bans being imposed in multiple states, there are looming threats of use of surveillance to criminalize people capable of pregnancy seeking information about abortion services.

With grantmaking support from RTF, Queer Crescent, a grantee that centers its work on community, culture, safety, and healing arts for LGBTQ Muslims, launched the Muslim Fund for Bodily Autonomy, a mutual aid program designed to provide resource connection, cash assistance, and community to Muslims most impacted by abortion restrictions and bans. Queer Crescent co-led a Reclaiming Bodily Autonomy campaign with HEART Women & Girls Project, another RTF grantee, to draw connections between abortion bans and surveillance.

BY THE NUMBERS

27 GRANTS

- Field Building – 18
- Rapid Response Fund – 4
- RISE Together Action Fund – 4
- Communications – 1

\$1.45M GRANTED

- Field building – \$895K
- Rapid Response Fund – \$40K
- RISE Together Action Fund – \$200K
- Communications – \$320 K

10 STATES

California, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee

RTF SPOTLIGHT:

Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)

Building a Strong Ecosystem for BAMEMSA Refugee Communities in California

While the San Diego area is home to more than 30,000 refugees, what the founding “elders” of the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA) determined, was that the issues of those refugees – specifically ones from Black, African, Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (BAMEMSA) communities – were not being prioritized in the region. PANA was established in 2015 to fight to advance the full economic, social, and civic inclusion of immigrants and refugees as equal stakeholders. As an advocacy organization, PANA focuses on a wide range of issues, prioritized by its steering committee, and works to amplify the lived experiences of these communities at the local, state, and national levels.

Through relational organizing, PANA works to develop a powerful ecosystem of change, engaging smaller groups providing direct services or culture-building support to combine their voices and experiences. While the broader BAMEMSA refugee community in Southern California is representative of ethnic populations from three continents, speaking hundreds of languages, many of the challenges they face, such as affordable house and tenant protections, are mutual ones. Another shared issue, the deep-rooted impacts of surveillance, was exacerbated by the recognition that the San Diego police department had access to thousands of smart street light cameras – also referred to as “spy street cameras” – that were being used in communities. This led PANA to establish the TRUST (Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology San Diego) Coalition.

Comprised of more than 30 community partners, the TRUST Coalition called for community oversight of the use of city’s surveillance technology. On behalf of the coalition, PANA drafted two ordinances, one calling for the creation of a privacy advisory board and another that developed expectations for the board’s work, instilling reporting requirements for the city government and a process for reviewing existing

technologies and new ones the city seeks to acquire. The ordinance language was intentionally drafted to ensure individuals installed on the advisory board would be experts in tech and other relevant fields. Both ordinances proposed by PANA and the TRUST Coalition passed San Diego’s City County Council unanimously in 2022 and are already taking effect. The city has conducted community meetings in all nine districts to gather input on surveillance technology, and the advisory board is engaged in the process of vetting a potential new contract for smart street lights.

In 2022, PANA also served on a national coalition working to support the resettlement of 76,000 Afghans who came to the United States after the withdrawal of armed forces from Afghanistan, as well as helping to reunify thousands of Afghan children who arrived in the country unaccompanied with their families. Additionally, PANA planned and fundraised in 2022 to build a refugee and immigrant hub that would create a safe environment for more intentional gathering and collaboration among the communities it serves, purchasing the space for that hub earlier this year. PANA’s leadership says being part of another community comprised of RTF grantees has brought value to all of its efforts.



Photos provided by RTF grantee Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)

“I think that having the other grantees and having that network has always been super useful. We’re connecting with other national partners who are also doing this work. Whenever issues arise and, for example, being on the RISE calls together, learning and collaborating together, has been absolutely useful. Oftentimes, the way that other organizations or other funders hear about us is through RTF because people know the work we’re doing on the ground.”



HOMAYRA YUSUFI
INTERIM DIRECTOR, PANA

FISCALLY SPONSORED PROJECTS

Through fiscal sponsorship, Proteus Fund partners with emerging initiatives and innovative movement leaders – enabling them to focus on growing their impact with the support of a trusted operational partner. From supporting organizing and advocacy led by and for communities of color and LGBTQ communities to building progressive narrative power and critical movement messaging, we closely partner with strategic initiatives that are aligned with our vision and values and that we believe can have a significant impact on our world. Supporting the growth and success of these projects accelerates our collective impact and leads to important wins for racial, gender, queer, and disability justice and inclusive democracy.

Proteus Fund was excited to welcome four new fiscally sponsored projects in 2022: Black Campaign School, Disability & Philanthropy Forum, The Visiting Room Project, and The Weavers Project.

2022 FISCALLY SPONSORED PROJECTS:



Black Campaign School is a nonpartisan leadership development and training program that provides essential training and resources to build local power, movements, and successful strategy building for Black leaders who wish to embed themselves in deeper positions of leadership and service.



Bridges is a hub for strategic progressive initiatives dedicated to exploring innovative tactics to engage diverse audiences, foster strategic thinking, and encourage alignment across movements, geographies, and disciplines.



Contigo Fund is the first and only LGBTQ+ Latinx fund in the United States, a top funder of LGBTQ+ Latinx communities in the nation, and the largest LGBTQ+ participatory and grantmaking organization supporting LGBTQ+ communities of color in the U.S. South.



The **Disability & Philanthropy Forum** is an emerging philanthropy-serving organization created by the Presidents' Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy. Central to the Forum's mission is expanding philanthropic commitment to disability rights and justice by centering the leadership of the disability community – essential tenets of achieving a more equitable, inclusive future for all.



Raising a generation of children who are thoughtful, informed, and brave about race, **EmbraceRace** is a multiracial community of parents, teachers, experts, and other caring adults who support each other to meet the challenges that race poses to our children, families, and communities.



The **Horizon Forum** provides a research based convening space for stakeholders in the grant-making community to address this shared public challenge of charitable dollars, often in the form of donor-advised funds, inadvertently being directed to dangerous and xenophobic activity.



The **Impact-Driven Philanthropy Collaborative (IDPC)** promotes thoughtful and intentional giving practices by convening representatives from the donor support ecosystem to strengthen the overall field.



The **Jewish Liberation Fund (JLF)** mobilizes resources to sustain and grow a progressive Jewish movement for justice and liberation.



The **Prevention Collaborative** works to reduce violence against women and their children by strengthening the capacity of key actors to deliver effective prevention programs, based on feminist principles and evidence-and practice-based knowledge.



ReFrame builds narrative power to win, investing in people—strategists, creatives, leaders, and dreamers—developing the skills, acumen, and networks needed to advance just narratives at scale.



State Law Research Initiative's mission is to help build a body of legal research on the state constitutional law of the right to be free of cruel and unusual punishment.



The **Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network** is a broad network of CSOs that works to ensure that open, inclusive, accountable, effective governance and peaceful societies are at the heart of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Third Wave Fund resources and supports youth-led, intersectional gender justice activism, using responsive and participatory grantmaking to sustain our movements and thrive—now and long term. Third Wave Fund's grant-making and donor mobilizing advances the community power, well-being, and self-determination of young Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) most directly impacted by and best positioned to end gender oppression.



The **Visiting Room Project (TVRP)** is a digital experience that invites the public to sit face-to-face with people serving life without the possibility of parole (LWOP) to hear them tell their own stories, in their own words. More than five years in the making, TVRP is home to the largest collection of first-person testimonials ever gathered from people serving LWOP.



With feminism at the center, **The Weavers Project** experiments with building and sharing ideas and practices that dismantle racial and gendered capitalism and materialize the world we imagine. Their programming creates spaces of sharing across sector, race, gender, and class boundaries.



The **Transparency & Accountability Initiative (TAI)** is a donor collaborative working toward a world where citizens are informed and empowered; governments are open and responsive; and collective action advances the public good.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$7.8M

awarded through
159 grants

**63 TOTAL
STAFF**

members at FSPs

**4 NEW
PROJECTS**

started, bringing total to 16 FSPs

FSP SPOTLIGHT:

CONTIGO FUND

Turning Tragedy Into Action for Central Florida's Queer and Trans Community

The mass shooting in Orlando's Pulse nightclub in 2016 shone a light on existing disparities experienced by the LGBTQ, Black, and Latinx communities most impacted by that tragedy – including unstable housing, living paycheck to paycheck, and generally lacking a sense of belonging. Contigo Fund was formed in response to those needs with the goal of catalyzing change in Central Florida's underresourced queer and trans infrastructure. As a participatory intermediary, Contigo Fund's community selected steering committee represents the vast diversity of the metro Orlando area. Contigo Fund is committed to intersectional grantmaking, funding community-driven grassroots organizations working across a number of issues from access to abortion services to gender affirming healthcare to police violence, and also supports these organizations' capacity building efforts.

Initially, Contigo Fund was a project of the state's only LGBTQ community foundation located in South Florida, which provided needed LGBTQ competence and infrastructure in the fund's early years. Contigo's executive director, Marco Antonio Quiroga, however, says it was important for the fund to lean more into its autonomy and the work it was doing in Central Florida with the support of a partner that has a strong social justice and equity framework. Contigo Fund transitioned to Proteus Fund in 2020, and since then, has doubled in size and now distributed more than \$4 million to over 100 grantees.

Additionally, the ecosystem that Contigo Fund seeks to strengthen has tripled in size, with over 20 nonprofit organizations coming into existence, over a dozen of which are led by queer and trans youth and women of color.

A generous \$1 million gift from Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott in 2022 has increased Contigo Fund's ability to respond to the needs of this ecosystem, at a time when the Florida legislature is introducing bills specifically focused on the erasure of marginalized communities. With that gift, Contigo Fund has been able to increase the cap on Movement and Power Building annual grants by 50 percent. It has also expanded its support to counties surrounding Orlando, rural areas where queer and trans individuals are at higher risk for violence and discrimination. Proteus Fund's operational support helps to make these grantmaking efforts and several others possible, including an All Black Lives Fund for Black trans leaders often invisibilized in larger movements, rapid response grants to support safety and security infrastructure for grantees, and emergency trans care mutual aid for mental and physical health care.

“We wanted a fiscal sponsor that we knew could support our organization to be autonomous for the long term, that understood that queer and trans people of color are at the helm, that they have unique needs, and that we want them to be sustainable leaders in this work. Having a partner like Proteus made it extraordinarily easy to do what we do best, which is focusing on our work, and they've been a really great partner in allowing us to do that.”



MARCO ANTONIO QUIROGA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CONTIGO FUND



Photo provided by Contigo Fund

FSP SPOTLIGHT:

Jewish Liberation Fund

Strengthening the Presence of Jewish Philanthropy in Social Justice Movements

The Jewish Liberation Fund (JLF) began with a small group of volunteers in Brooklyn, New York who identified a gap in the Jewish philanthropic landscape. Progressive, social justice-oriented Jewish philanthropy was far less organized than its conservative counterparts and less responsive to the needs of social movements than secular philanthropy. JLF was formed in 2017 to help fill that gap and elevate different voices and perspectives in the space. JLF's steering committee is composed of Jews of color and Mizrahi and Sephardic Jews, two of the ethnic subgroups in the Jewish community that are underrepresented in leadership in the United States. As part of their commitment to building a more diverse, inclusive, and intersectional movement, JLF practices participatory grantmaking and does not impose limitations on grantees around Anti-Zionism or Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) support.

JLF's grantmaking, the largest core areas of its work, is specifically focused on funding progressive Jewish movement-building work, providing needed support to grassroots organizers and spiritually nourishing arts and culture efforts. Working along the grassroots and grasstops, JLF also organizes small donors and helps major funders build deeper, more meaningful relationships with social justice movement leaders. As JLF grew from its initial state as a volunteer-based organization and eventually landed on fiscal sponsorship as the right structure, the fund partnered with Proteus Fund in early 2020 and launched publicly later that year.

JLF continued to grow into 2022, which ended up being its largest year of grantmaking with roughly \$550,000 going to 39 grantees. Director Joanna Ware says that this "scale of grantmaking would have been impossible without Proteus's support." In 2022, JLF also began piloting a funder organizing project, starting with a three-part education series for trustees, board members, and staff of smaller Jewish family foundations. The goal of the series was to support these foundations in becoming more effective partners to social justice movements by helping them gain a deeper understanding of how those movements operate and intersect. JLF engaged participating funders in sharing the challenges they face in shifting to more equitable, movement-focused funding practices.

The education series directly informed a fellowship, specifically for people connected to funding entities, which JLF is now launching to help guide changes to their philanthropic practices. With that fellowship coming to fruition and more exciting work on the horizon, Ware says having allies beyond the Jewish community through Proteus Fund and its other fiscally sponsored projects is hugely beneficial.



Photo provided by Jewish Liberation Fund

“It was really unclear what kind of reception we were going to receive from the established Jewish funding world. I wouldn't say that we are intentionally oppositional, but we are intentionally agitational, and so to know that we have the backing and support of a deeply values-aligned, philanthropy serving and oriented organization really makes a difference.”



JOANNA WARE
DIRECTOR, JEWISH LIBERATION FUND

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Proteus Fund's donor-advised funds (DAFs) are dedicated grantmaking funds that act as a streamlined alternative to establishing a private foundation, allowing philanthropists aligned with our vision, mission, and values to shape their grantmaking while benefiting from the institutional knowledge and capacity of a trusted partner. With over two decades of experience, we are a leader in rapid response grant-making and have particular expertise in making grants to new and grassroots groups. We streamline requirements and processes to lessen the burden on grantees, allowing us to move funds quickly.



BY THE NUMBERS

\$22.3M

Awarded through 159 grants

24 STATES

Awarded grant money for local organizations





PROTEUS FUND

