

Our Journey Home

Trans Justice Funding Project
2016 REPORT

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This report is available at transjusticefundingproject.org, along with more resources.

Acknowledgements

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This report is dedicated to the beloved Juan Evans and Ms. Cheryl Courtney-Evans, both fierce black trans leaders in Atlanta who we lost in 2016. Thank you for finding your way and for leaving your mark.

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Visiting panelist Emani Love in her garden, Detroit, MI



Terminology

Terminology is constantly changing as we grow, expanding our knowledge while finding home within ourselves and in our identities. We realize the definitions below may not speak for each individual's experience, but we hope they are broad enough to create a useful baseline of understanding for the purposes of this report.

Trans: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity, expression, or behavior is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth, including but not limited to transgender people, transsexuals, crossdressers, androgynous people, genderqueers, and gender non-conforming people.

Sometimes **Trans*** is also used to include a wide range of identities and expressions within trans communities.

Gender Non-Conforming: A term for individuals whose gender expression is different from societal expectations related to gender.

Intersex: A general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. Individuals who are Intersex can have variations in their gonads, chromosomes or genitalia.

Two-Spirit: A contemporary term that references historical multiple-gender traditions in many First Nations cultures. Many Native/First Nations people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming identify as Two-Spirit. In many Nations, being Two-Spirit elicits both great respect from one's community and carries additional commitments and responsibilities to it.

Trans Justice: A movement that works to mobilize trans and allied communities into action around pressing issues like access to education, employment, health care and basic needs, incarceration, immigration, disability rights, policy reform, racial and economic justice, art and culture, and coalition building within trans communities. On the simplest level, it is based on the right to self-determine our gender and gender expression, free from all forms of violence and oppression, including personal and state violence.

2016 Grantee TAJA's Coalition



Dearest friends, family, and community,

Thank you for making the extraordinary possible!

When the Trans Justice Funding Project (TJFP) was still an idea and being formed, we couldn't even imagine everything that we would one day make into reality. And we certainly never dreamed for one moment that any of it would be possible without you.

Can you believe that in 2016, as the result of community generosity, TJFP was able to raise and give away \$427,000 to 102 grassroots groups with no restrictions and no strings attached? Astonishing!

If you can, I'd like you to imagine how it must have felt being in the room as our community grantmaking panel made their final decisions. What an exhilarating joy it is, to know that you are part of moving much-needed resources to communities across the country and supporting them in doing some of the most difficult liberation work of our times.

Even if you weren't in the room selecting grantees, I hope it feels just as celebratory as you read on.



We gave more this year than ever before!

TJFP has a process. It's not a perfect one, and we continue to fine-tune it as we learn and grow. But we believe our process is something special, and we're moving money into trans communities like we've never seen before—with our communities at the core of everything we do.

After the election of Donald Trump and so many other conservatives in November, several foundations started to provide rapid response grants, knowing our communities will be needing additional support. It's important for us at TJFP to remain as true to our community-led grantmaking process as possible, so instead of making rapid response grants – and because we were given an extremely generous contribution from a very caring donor – TJFP decided to give an additional grant to all 102 groups selected in the 2016 cycle.

"I constantly quote the constitution, "equal protection of the law." To me that is the definition [of trans justice]. No discrimination to anyone, anywhere, for any reason."

**– Marisa Richmond,
Tennessee Transgender
Political Coalition (TTPC)**



Aaryn Lang and Joshua Allen lead Black Trans Lives Matter action in Brooklyn, NY. Photo by Meredith Talusan.

We also gave an extra \$5,000 through our Sweetgrass awards, which was a special one-time award that went to trans justice groups in Native American/Two-Spirit communities, particularly in rural areas.

That means in 2016 we distributed an outstanding total of \$427,000!

Every year we're fortunate to have the most incredible base of grantees, community

grantmakers, donors, supporters, applicants, volunteers, and staff. Year after year, we can never find the words to fully express our gratitude for everyone who believes in justice enough to make TJFP possible.

We hope you'll take some time with this report to read the guest articles, meet our 2016 panelists, and learn about our fabulous grantees and applicants.



"From the Ground to the Sky" Listening Tour Update

In 2015, when TJFP set out on the first leg of our "From the Ground to the Sky" listening tour, we began what would quickly become an eye-opening journey. During the second year of our tour in 2016, we ventured out to the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, sitting down to engage in conversations with grantees, former panelists, trans activists, and allies across the country to listen and learn.

On our most recent trip in the fall of 2016, we headed to the Southeast, excited to hear from organizers and activists in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas

and Louisiana. Driving in and out of hollows, along the historic Blues Highway, past swamplands and cotton plantations, everything felt like a reminder that the beauty of this region is abundant and complex, much like the other areas we've traveled to.

But it was in Selma, Alabama, where our hearts jumped into our throats. Often referred to as the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement, the energy in Selma was undeniable. Quentin Bell, one of the founders of the Knights & Orchids Society (TKO), invited us to meet him at one of his favorite spots along the Alabama River. TKO is a TJFP grantee and a Southern-centered group that supports gender justice and LGBTQ visibility. As we sat beside the river, Quentin

graciously shared about the work of TKO, the local history, and why he chooses to live and organize in Selma, Alabama.

"Honestly, because I had tried to run from Selma my entire life, when I did finally get an opportunity to go away and saw how great things were outside of Selma, I didn't wanna go back. But my parents, my family, are here; this is where I grew up.

"But by God I wasn't broken, because someone had the courage to be visible.

"Because I didn't have a role model growing up and I know how important visibility is, I knew that it wasn't up to me to come back to Selma. I had a responsibility to

"But by God I wasn't broken, because someone had the courage to be visible."

**– Quentin Bell,
Knights & Orchids
Society (TKO)**



Quentin Bell, The Knights & Orchids Society (TKO), Selma, AL

come back so I could save somebody else. Selma to me is paying it forward. I was able to escape here, so how dare I go away and keep that knowledge and not bring it back to the very place it needs to be? There is so much work to be done here in Selma, so much work to be done."

After hearing the vibrations and passion in Quentin's words, I was moved to tears.

Quentin sat so proud and tall on that park bench, happy to share his story and Selma's history of resilience, a movement from before his time that shaped him and helped him form a deep love for his home and people. As we continued talking, the sun started to set behind him, illuminating the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

This bridge was the site of "Bloody Sunday," where an estimated 600 civil rights marchers were brutally attacked by state troopers as they headed on their 54-mile trek from Selma to Montgomery, in support of the Selma Voting Rights Campaign in 1965. Many say that this moment was the political peak of the Civil Rights Movement.

To this very day, that bridge stands, still bearing the name of a confederate general and Grand Dragon of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan.

As we sat with Quentin, under the beautiful Spanish moss, letting it all sink in, it's no surprise that tears fell from my eyes. I couldn't help but think of the many events that bind the past to the present, and the lessons that have been learned or ignored. I thought about our ability to push past personal fear for survival – and the sacrifices and unimaginable power of marginalized people as we call out and say, "Enough!"

I sat by the river thinking what that bridge represents to our elders, and I left Selma that night wondering what the bridge, the symbolic representation of resistance in this moment, will look like. Who of us will show up, and how?



The historical site of "Bloody Sunday", Selma, AL

Our Journey Home

After 60 interviews with trans justice activists and organizers, and approximately 350 grant applications later, I truly believe we are what our queer and trans ancestors dreamed of. I've seen our power: working from a politic of love for liberation, centering

the needs of our movements over our egos, and transforming the notion that no one is disposable into a deep practice. There are grassroots groups around the world that are strategic, demanding, and unapologetically queer and trans. Some of these groups are a culmination of people who made the decision long ago to never be afraid, and they have never turned back. These groups give me hope in my most hopeless moments and they desperately need our support for survival.

The day after the presidential election, I received a message from an old friend I haven't seen in years. Dismayed by the election results, he reached out wanting to get involved in activism again, saying he was tired of "being passive." I've heard several other stories about people who are turning their post-election frustration into action – whether they are getting re-activated or attending their very first protest or community meeting. Nobody is sure about what we can expect in the next few years and many of us are grappling with how to prepare and for what. But whether you've always been committed to movement work, are just coming back to it, or have newly arrived – we've needed you all along and we need you right now. Even if the direction we're headed isn't clear yet, our purpose is undeniable.

In 2017, I carry the words of Audre Lorde with me: "So their dreams will not reflect the death of ours" ("A Litany for Survival").

What can we do to make sure that what she writes about is no longer a reality for our communities? We have all been called on to meet the needs of this moment in whatever ways we can, because we all have a role to play.



Downtown Selma, Alabama

The concept of "home" can be a terribly complicated notion. Not all of us have a place we can call home and some of us have never felt safe at home. What if we re-envisioned or re-created what it means to be "home"? It can be a feeling, a special space we create in other people's arms, or in our own minds and hearts. As oppressed people we don't always get to hold on to hope or have visionary dreams. Sometimes it's simply about surviving. But at the end of the day, when we're feeling weary and seeking a space to feel nourished and cared for, many of us just want to go home.

TJFP is sending you love. Whichever path we take over the next year, let it bring us one step closer on our journey to find home, together.

With love and gratitude,

Gabriel Foster
Executive Director

Our Grantmaking Year in Review

1. What We Do and Why We Do It

TJFP is a community-led funding initiative founded in 2012 to support grassroots trans justice groups run by and for trans people. We make grants annually by bringing together a panel of six trans justice activists from around the country to carefully review every application we receive. We center the leadership of trans people organizing around their experiences with racism, economic injustice, transmisogyny, ableism, immigration, incarceration, and other intersecting oppressions.



Many of our grantees don't have nonprofit status or a fiscal sponsor, and they are all small groups with budgets ranging from \$0 to \$250,000. We believe in the power of local, grassroots groups like these to respond to

people's immediate and long-term needs, to help create compassionate, resilient communities, and to fight for lasting, systemic change. And we believe in the power of community-led grantmaking to redistribute resources to these groups in a way that is strategic, effective, and accountable.

For us, community-led means trusting and supporting trans leadership. We keep our grant process simple and quick, so that groups can get back to their real work. We believe

that a short application – and a wise and experienced activist panel to read it – is all it takes to make informed funding decisions. We give unrestricted funds because we have confidence that our grantees know best how to use that money. We love to learn from the leaders we support and to share their work far and wide, but we don't have site visits and we don't require any reporting. And each year we work hard to put together a geographically diverse, intergenerational, multi-ability, multi-racial panel of new and established trans justice activists to make the grant decisions. We are deeply committed to removing barriers and building access so that community members who are most affected by intersecting oppressions are able to participate in this process with us.

2016 has been an extremely turbulent year for all of us. We're seeing an increase in violence targeting black trans women and queer communities of color, and there has been an enormous amount of aggressive anti-trans

legislation popping up across the United States. From the tragic mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando to the results of the elections, it's hard to imagine what battles will be fought in 2017.

Racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, misogyny, anti-Semitism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of oppression are swelling.

With all that is happening in the world, there is a clear need for increased support for grassroots trans justice groups. And in 2016, TJFP did something we don't normally do – we gave each grantee an additional grant. Our hope is that by doubling the amount of money these groups received, they would feel encouraged to keep pushing forward and would feel the appreciation and support, especially during such rough times. TJFP's main role

is to support trans justice by moving money quickly to trans justice groups so that they can do the much-needed work that will strengthen our communities.

In 2016 TJFP did something we don't normally do – we gave each grantee an additional grant, hoping they would feel encouraged to keep pushing forward.

TJFP is about investing in trans communities making decisions by and for ourselves. Over the last four years, we've received 486 applications, and raised and given away over 315 grants totaling more than \$800,000 through our community-led process.

It's because of all of you who have provided so much community love and support in the form of volunteer hours, love notes, and financial donations that we are able get all this done. We're so excited to share our fourth report with you.

2. Our Fourth Year

Even More Applications

This year we received 132 applications from all over the United States. We've seen a jump in applications from the South and the Midwest, and received applications from

places we've haven't before, such as Alaska and Hawaii. There is so much important work happening in our communities and it looks different in each region.



Tent City Kweenz, Waianae, Hawaii

Our Fabulous Funding Panel

We brought together another brilliant panel of trans justice activists to make this year's grant decisions: Elle Hearn, Asher Kolieboi, Luce Lincoln, Emani Love, Stephanie Mott, and Fabian Romero. From Black Lives Matter to faith-based organizing, our amazing panelists brought their experience in movement work, regional understanding, and love for justice to the decision-making process.

Nico Amador and 2014 TJFP panelist Andrea Jenkins returned for another year to co-facilitate our grantmaking meeting. Nico and Andrea brought so much love, intention, and experience to the process that their facilitation of this weekend-long, in-person

meeting was downright magical. And our panelists poured over the applications, tirelessly reviewing and discussing each group with care.

About Our Grants and Grantees

In June, we made 102 grants, giving away a total of \$211,000. The panel allocated that with 56 grants of \$1,000, 30 grants of \$2,500, and 16 grants of \$5,000. The panel also decided to prioritize supporting groups led by trans women of color, Native/indigenous groups, and groups working on policy change at the highest level.

In addition to our typical grants, there were five groups this year that received a one-time grant called the Sweetgrass Award. Last summer, Sydney Freeland – the director of Drunktown's Finest and a Navajo trans woman – selected TJFP to receive a portion of her film's earnings, and with the guidance of our former grantmaking panelist, Trudie Jackson (who is an enrolled tribal member of the Navajo Nation from Teec Nos Pos,



Left: Marisa Richmond, Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition, Tennessee. Right: Interviewing grantees Ezak Perez (l) and Shear Avory (r) from Gender Justice LA at the Creating Change Conference.



Arizona), we created the Sweetgrass Award. And although ticket sales from the film didn't generate enough sales for TJFP to receive any funds, we decided to honor our commitment to the community by giving this award to TJFP grantees focusing on trans justice organizing within Native American/Two-Spirit communities, with an emphasis on rural Native communities.

Also, after the election results came in, we decided to give an additional grant to all 102 groups selected in the 2016 cycle. TJFP is a community-led funder and we're not set up to have more than one grantmaking panel

per year. And it's important for us to remain as true to our community-led grantmaking process as possible, so instead of making rapid response grants like other funders are doing, we simply gave an additional grant to each group selected this past year. That's an additional \$211,000 that went directly toward trans justice this year, which totals approximately \$427,000 to over 100 grassroots trans-led trans justice groups around the country.

This year, 25 percent of TJFP's grantees were 501c3 nonprofits, 32 percent had fiscal sponsors, and 43 percent had no nonprofit status.

Out of the 85 grantees from 2015, 45 of those groups applied again, and almost all of them received another grant. We know that one reason some groups don't apply again is that sometimes there just isn't enough time for even a simple application. We are working on making our application even easier to submit, but we still have some work to do to make that happen.

In 2016, 87 percent of our grantees had a budget of less than \$50,000, 82 percent had a budget of less than \$25,000, and 51 percent had a budget of less than \$5,000. Many of those groups had no budget at all, paying for everything out of their own pockets. The amount of volunteer time, effort, love, passion, fierceness, and savvy it takes to make all this work happen continues to blow us away.

One of the main reasons we put together this report is that our applications contain an enormous amount of information about the state of trans justice organizing right now. We hope that sharing this information can help connect, inform, and inspire local groups as they continue their work.

Most trans justice groups understand that their communities survive at the intersection of multiple oppressions. We are continually inspired by the ways these activists expand their experience and understanding into big and bold visions for radical change. To help visualize the way that organizing for trans justice can mean working on many intersecting issues at once, we created the infographics on the following pages. It'll give a clearer sense of some of the intersecting issues our applicants and grantees were focused on this year.

"I so appreciate the vision of the Trans Justice Fund. The idea that small grassroots organizations finally has someone who hears and understands us."

– 2016 TJFP Grantee

"The more we've looked into other funding sources the more we realize how unique TJFP is and how positive it is to share values with a funder."

**- 2016
TJFP Grantee**

Who Gave?

From June 1, 2015 to June 1, 2016, we raised over \$211,000 to give to our grantees in the 2016 cycle and in the fall, we received an additional \$211,000 from a very generous donor that allowed us to give out an additional round of grants post-election.

Operational expenses were again covered by co-founder Karen Pittelman, which meant that every penny raised from our supporters went directly to our grantees!

We continued to build a broad base of support, with contributions from 196 donors, many of whom have given to us every year. Forty-five percent of those donors gave \$50 or less, with many people sending in gifts of \$10 and \$5. We're always grateful for the large gifts, of course, but it's those \$5 donations that remind us why we do what we do. We've also begun building a core group of monthly donors who help us create a reliable base of donations for our grantees. We are so thankful for the community support that comes in – each and every dollar makes a difference. So many lives depend on the work trans justice groups are doing. Thank you for supporting trans justice!



Rae Nelson and Zachary Miller, Arkansas Transgender Equality Coalition, Little Rock, AK

3. What's Next?

Right now, we're busy getting the word out about our fifth grant cycle and raising as much money as we can for those grants. Applications are open in English and Spanish on our website and due February 15, 2017. Help us spread the news! And we hope you'll also join us by making a donation. Every penny you give will once again go directly to our grantees.

In our ongoing collaboration with the Transgender Law Center, we have been able to connect a number of TJFP grantees with ongoing leadership training and support for transgender and gender non-conforming organizers and activists through the National Training Institute. And over the last few years, we've been working on our online map of trans justice groups that have applied for a grant through TJFP. This map is a visual representation of our online directory, which will be available on our website in 2017. As part of this map, you'll see videos and articles that we've been gathering that highlight TJFP's grantees.

During our "From the Ground to the Sky" listening tour, we had the pleasure of sitting with an incredible group of trans activists and organizers, learning more about the work they're doing and the kind of support they need. These videos and interviews are available on our website, YouTube and through our online map.

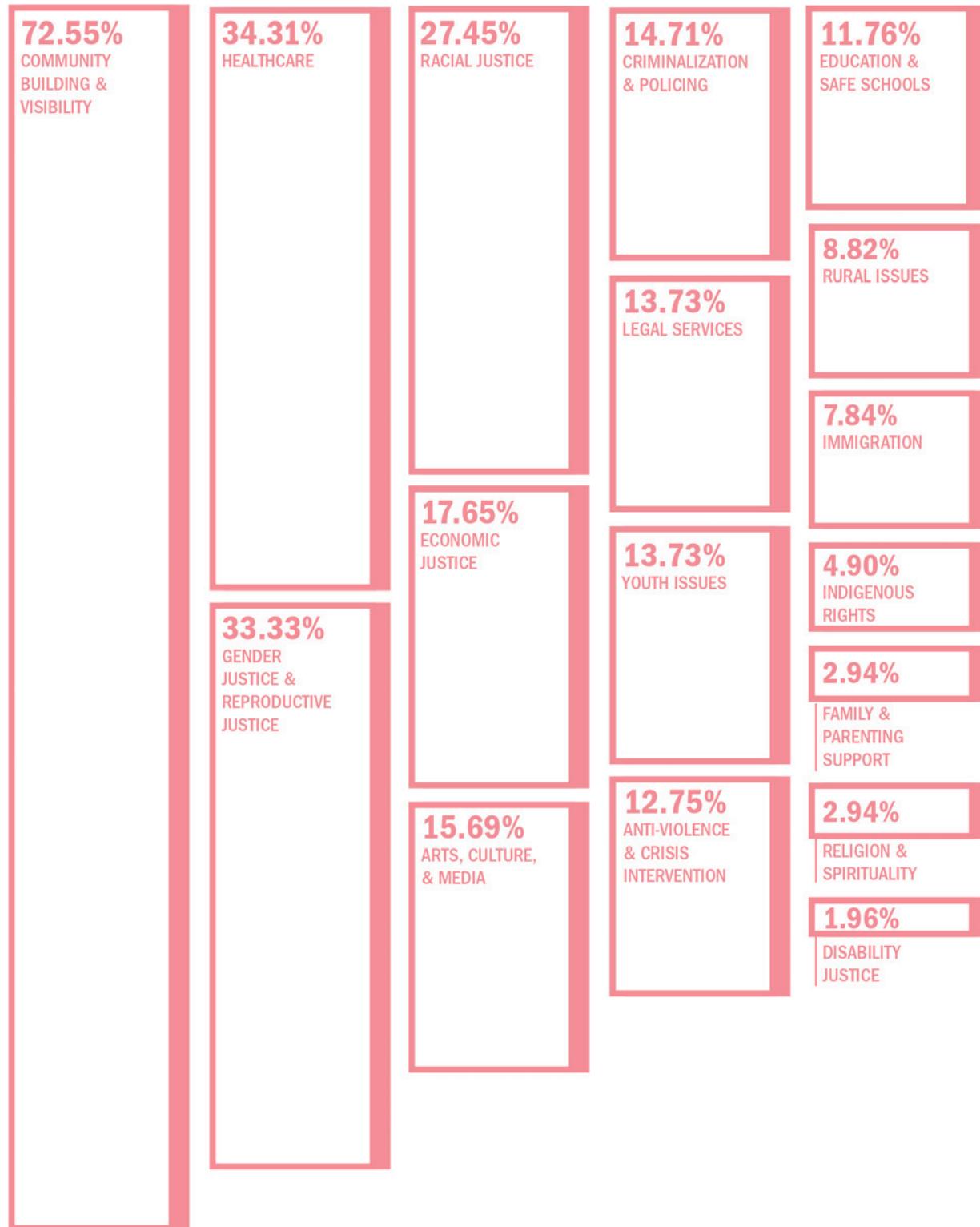
Our grantees and applicants need the support of long-term donors and volunteers too, so we hope you'll also consider reaching out to your local trans justice group. We encourage you to find out what's going on in your area, donate, volunteer, and spread the word!

Let's continue to dream big and fund even more trans justice work in 2017!

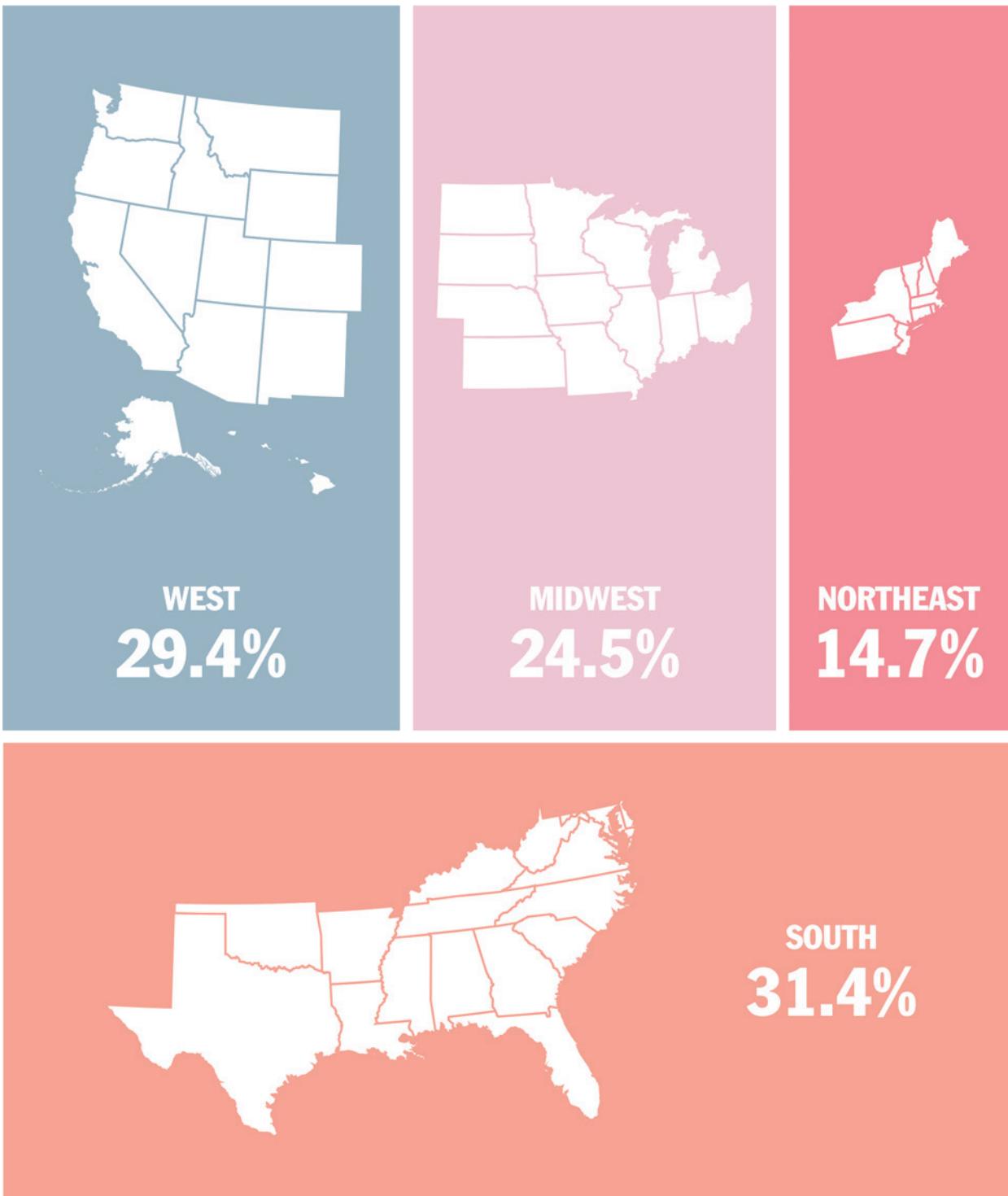
The 2016 TJFP panelists, facilitators and staff



Grantee and Applicant Issue Areas of Focus



Grantees and Applicants by Region



The 2016 TJFP Team



Elle Hearn, Panelist

Washington, D.C.

Elle is a revolutionary organizer, freedom fighter, and strategy expert. Elle has spent a lifetime committed to ensuring marginalized voices are centered and reflected in today's society. Elle is a highly noted public speaker, facilitator, trainer, and writer. She's well known for her work in mobilizing communities, rapid response, and campaign development. As an organizer Elle spearheaded notable grassroots efforts such as Trans Liberation Tuesday, and digital campaigns More Than Marriage and Raise the Debate. She also served as a lead organizer of the Movement for Black Lives Convening. Elle is currently an organizing coordinator for Black Lives Matter, where she's been a strategic partner since its organizational inception. She previously served as the Central Region Coordinator for the grassroots organization GetEQUAL and is the former creative director for TWOCC (Trans Women of Color Collective). Elle's experience has influenced the ways in which social justice movements are perceived today. Elle's writings have been featured in TruthOut, Huffington Post, and Ebony. Her remarkable work has been chronicled by many media outlets, including Time, CNN, MTV, The New York Times, Alternet, Democracy Now!, The Daily Dot, Jet magazine, Fusion, Essence magazine, Telesur English and The Washington Post. Elle hails from Columbus, Ohio, and currently lives in Washington, D.C.



Asher Kolieboi, Panelist

Baltimore, MD

Asher hails from Saint Louis, Missouri, by way of Monrovia, Liberia. A longtime LGBTQ and racial justice community organizer, Asher currently serves as the assistant university chaplain at Johns Hopkins University. In addition to his work as a minister, Asher has worked with the National LGBT Task Force, Planned Parenthood, the Center for Progressive Leadership, and the Trans 100. Asher co-organized the 2010 Soulforce Equality Ride, a two-month bus tour of young adults ages 18-28 who traveled to Christian colleges and universities to discuss the intersections of LGBTQ identities and faith. Later that year, he co-founded Legalize Trans, a trans-affirming T-shirt company and social media campaign. In 2011, Asher launched (un)heard: Transmasculine People of Color Speak!, an ethnographic audio-visual installation about the experiences of transmasculine people of color that debuted at Princeton University that year.



Luce Capco Lincoln, Panelist

Brooklyn, NY

Luce is a trans, non-binary, queer Filipino filmmaker, media educator and organizer committed to using media to fight for social justice. He's originally from Gainesville, Florida, and currently living in Brooklyn. He works as program director at Global Action Project, where media is used as tool to build leadership, relationships, and political power for Trans, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Immigrant youth of color in New York City. In

addition, over the last decade he has taken hours and hours of video footage of meetings, rallies, and actions documenting radical Queer movement history, including of organizations such as Southerners On New Ground and the Audre Lorde Project. In his spare time, Luce likes to make documentaries, experience art, and dance with friends.



Emani Love, Panelist

Detroit, MI

Emani is a trans justice activist from Detroit, Michigan. She started youth organizing work in 2012 through youth leadership programming at the Ruth Ellis Center. Emani currently does youth organizing and coalition building.



Stephanie Mott, Panelist

Topeka, KS

Stephanie is the executive director and president of Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project (K-STEP) and the founder/director of the Transgender Faith Tour. She has been a columnist for Liberty Press and lgbtSr, and a volunteer blogger for Huffington Post. She has published more than 100 articles about being transgender. As the executive director of K-STEP, she has done nearly 400 workshops and presentations related to gender identity in venues from college classrooms and mental health centers to jails and prisons. She is currently serving as the community liaison for transgender inmates with the Shawnee County Jail in Kansas, and as the state vice-chair of Equality Kansas. In addition, she is a board member of the Topeka Human Relations Commission, the Topeka Chief of Police Advisory Board, Topeka Pride, and Capital City Equality Center, as well as serving on the advisory board for the Beacon Youth Group. Her awards include the Pioneer Woman award from the University of Kansas Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity, the Kansas Stonewall Marsha P. Johnson Award for Exceptional Activism, and the Donna Love Award for Outstanding Social Work Student from Washburn University.



Fabian Romero, Panelist

Seattle, WA

Fabian is a Queer Indigenous writer, performance artist, and activist. They co-founded and participated in several writing and performance groups, including Hijas de Su Madre, Las Mamalogues, and Mixed Messages: Stories by People of Color. Their sincere writing stems from their intersections of privileges and marginalizations. You can read their work in several zines and publications, including Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics, Untangling the Knot: Queer Voices on Marriage, Relationships & Identity; Queer and Trans Artists of Color: Stories of Some of Our Lives; and Writing the Walls Down: A Convergence of LGBTQ Voices. Fabian was born in Michoacán, Mexico, and came to North America when they were 7 years old. Since 2007 they have performed and facilitated workshops throughout North America. They have a B.A. with a focus in Social Justice Writing and Education and will be pursuing a higher education degree. Find more of their work at fabianromero.com.



Nico Amador, Co-facilitator

Nico Amador grew up in California and is now a trainer, organizer, and writer based in Vermont. Nico got his start as a trainer working with youth around issues of oppression and leading workshops on the impacts of militarism and the prison industrial complex on people of color. Nico is the former director of Training for Change and now works as a freelance trainer, facilitator, and curriculum writer. Nico has led workshops in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Latin America, and has worked with such groups as Choice USA, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the Energy Action Coalition, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Aquelarre Trans Coalition, the Diverse City Fund, the Audre Lorde Project and the Global Philanthropy Project. Nico is also an experienced community organizer who has participated in grassroots efforts for prison abolition, urban farming, keeping casinos out of residential neighborhoods, and stopping the harassment of transgender riders on Philadelphia's public transportation system.



Andrea Jenkins, Co-facilitator

Andrea Jenkins is a poet and writer living and working in the Twin Cities. She is currently employed by the University of Minnesota Libraries as staff for the Transgender Oral History Project. Previously she worked for the Minneapolis City Council as a senior policy aide. As an African American, Out Transgender Woman she has faced her share of significant challenges, however she continues to move on with grace, dignity, and pride. Andrea has worked on many causes to improve the lives of young TG Women of Color, to help them realize that sex work is not the only occupation they have to rely on. Her work has also appeared in several publications, including The International Journal of Transgenderism. Andrea has a B.A. in Human Services, an M.S. in Community Economic Development and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Hamline University.



Karen Pittelman, Co-founder

Karen is the author of Resource Generation's *Classified: How to Stop Hiding Your Privilege and Use It For Social Change* and co-author of *Creating Change Through Family Philanthropy*. In 1999, she dissolved her \$3 million trust to co-found the Chahara Foundation, a fund run by and for low-income women activists in Boston. She's been organizing people with class privilege ever since. She lives in Brooklyn where she works as a writer and a writing coach, and sings with her country band Karen & the Sorrows.



Gabriel Foster, Co-founder and Executive Director

Gabriel Foster is a black, queer, trans 'momma's boy' living and loving in New York. Prior to making his way to the Eastern Time Zone, he worked in Seattle, Washington, with the Northwest Network of bisexual, trans, lesbian, and gay survivors of abuse, helping to create their youth programming. From age 15 to 26, he went from a program constituent to program staff in the American Friends Service Committee's GLBTQ Youth Program. Before arriving in New York, he worked at SPARK Reproductive Justice Now

with LGBTQ youth of color and allies in Atlanta, Georgia; supported women and trans people creating art and social change through the Leeway Foundation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and provided outreach for the Johnathan Lax Fund at the Bread and Roses Foundation, also in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Gabriel is also a former staff member of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. Gabriel is a retired disco dancer extraordinaire and lives for laughter and pug memes.



Marin Watts, Operations and Communications Director

Marin Watts is a queer, trans, Filipino multimedia artist and educator who is deeply committed to social justice. Before joining TJFP's team he provided art and media education to LGBTQ youth through a program he co-founded, Media Masters Alliance, a media arts and mentorship program and worked on building communications and community outreach strategies at the digital library and archive Artstor. Marin has been volunteering as a videographer at TJFP since 2014, documenting the annual community-led grantmaking process and the work being done by grantee organizations across the country, and also participated in the 2015 Community Funding Panel. Marin lives in Brooklyn and in his playtime he's making a mess in his studio, working on his personal art practice.

TJFP community grant making panel meeting altar



New Staff, New Office!

This year brought about many firsts for TJFP, including a new staff member and our very first office space!

In January 2016, our beloved co-founder Karen Pittelman, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes donating her services as administrative coordinator since TJFP's inception, passed the torch to Marin Watts!

Marin is a queer, trans, Filipino multimedia artist and educator who is deeply committed to social justice. Before joining TJFP's team as director of operations and communications, Marin

started off as TJFP's volunteer videographer, documenting our annual community-led grantmaking process and the work being done by grantee organizations while on our "From the Ground to the Sky" listening tour. He was also a community grantmaking panelist in 2015 before becoming staff.

Karen's magic always astonishes us. Karen always thinks at least four steps ahead and with an eagerness to provide support whenever it's needed. TJFP will forever have an endless amount of love and deep adoration for Karen's vision, the thousands of hours she put in building our database and operational infrastructure, her unshakable commitment to the redistribution of wealth, and her work as an ally to trans people. The list of contributions she made to TJFP goes on and on for miles!

TJFP will always be thankful for the many gifts Karen leaves us

with, and for all of the enthusiasm and skills Marin joins us with. This transition makes TJFP a funding initiative led entirely by trans people of color, and we're awfully proud of that.

And for the very first time ever, TJFP has an office. We are very happily settled into a lovely space in Brooklyn. Who knew having actual desks could be so exciting!



On My Role and Moving Resources

Karen Pittelman

Co-founder

When Marin and Gabriel first asked me to write this piece about my role as TJFP's co-founder and leaving my job as TJFP's administrative coordinator, I was hesitant. It's been an inspiration to learn from so many genius organizers around the country and an honor to help move more resources to their work. Of course, there is so much more I could say about my experiences. But over the past four years, I've done my best to keep a low profile. This isn't because I have an aversion to the spotlight – as anyone who has ever seen my band perform knows, I'm happy to be there when the time is right! It's because, as a non-trans woman, I believe that being an ally means not taking up a bunch of space talking about what I've been doing as an ally. And as a white person with a lot of class privilege, I believe similarly that part of transferring money and power is getting it done and then getting out of the way.

**I believe that part of
transferring money and power
is getting it done and then
getting out of the way**

some key questions. Probably the most significant of these questions is: How did we get the money to do what we've done over the last four years?

We have hundreds of amazing, dedicated donors. They are people from our communities and allies who support us by giving at all levels, from \$5 to \$500. Almost all of these donors have also chosen to give through TJFP's non-charitable trust, which has allowed us to then pass that money on to grassroots groups with a minimum of red tape. But while these gifts certainly add up, they don't cover it all.

A number of foundations and major donors have also given us grants, especially this year. However, most mainstream funders won't support us – or we won't accept their money – for a few reasons. First, we don't ask our grantees for reports, we don't track or evaluate them, and we do not accept any donations that require us to do so. We see this as an essential part of trusting trans leadership, even if the majority of funders don't agree.

At the same time, Gabriel and I have been committed since Day 1 to making TJFP's process as transparent as possible. This is one way we strive to be accountable to the communities we serve, and also to share our model with anyone who might find it useful. I realized that without going into more detail about the role I've played, our story would be missing the answers to

2016 Grantee NOTAFLO Collective



Second, building an inclusive, accessible, community-led grantmaking process is labor-intensive and expensive. While we see these expenses as central to our mission, many foundations and major donors see them as just “overhead.” (Overhead is the percentage of a budget that goes to things like administration, infrastructure, and fundraising.) Too much overhead is usually viewed as a bad and un-fundable thing.

Finally, even when funders are on board, they require their donation to be tax-deductible. This means their money must go to our donor-advised fund at the Tides Foundation, not to our non-charitable trust. And it is TJFP’s non-charitable trust that makes it possible for us to give without strings to groups that have no nonprofit status. Last year, half of our grantees were groups like this! So mainstream funders cannot support some of our most important grantmaking.

The truth is that we would not have had enough funding – and, more importantly, we would not have had the freedom to do what we did with it – if I hadn’t inherited a big pile of money and given it to TJFP. So now we’ve arrived at the part where I have to start talking about myself. The short version is: for the last four years, I have covered all of our operating expenses by donating money I inherited from my family and also by donating my labor as administrative coordinator.

The history of social justice philanthropy includes other weirdos like me: radical rich people who believe in the transfer of wealth and power. In fact, radical rich people have played a founding role at many activist-led funds in the United States. I’m not pointing this out as a way of saying how special people like me are. Or that I think social justice philanthropy serves as anything more than a too-small Band-Aid over the unequal and racist distribution of resources in this country and around the world. I’m pointing it out because I want to talk about why weirdos like me are often a part of the story at a community-led fund,

2016 Grantees Immigrant Youth Coalition (l) and Santa Barbara Transgender Advocacy Network (r)



and about why it matters that most rich people give away money without giving away the decision-making power over that money.

From tax write-offs to improving public relations to using their donor status to control and co-opt the groups that rely on them, most wealthy people gain an enormous amount of power from philanthropy. Deciding where those charitable dollars go is at the heart of this power. If the 1 percent transferred that decision-making to activists struggling to dismantle the very systems that keep rich people rich, they would relinquish many of these financial and political benefits. Most importantly, they would no longer be able to use their philanthropic power over the non-profit sector to help maintain the status quo. This is why wealthy people may give away a lot of money, but they almost never let go of control over that money.

Because I transferred not only the money but also the power over that money to TJFP, our grantmaking panel had the freedom to answer to our communities instead of to a funder. And because of the safety net I had from my family's wealth, I was able to donate my labor to TJFP until we could afford to pay someone else to do it. This in turn gave us the freedom to tackle the complicated administrative details that community-led grantmaking requires. (To be clear, as administrative coordinator, I helped handle the logistics of things like the grantmaking meeting, but I never had any say in the decision-making. I did make sure, however, that everyone had snacks.)

There is another, less obvious role that my class privilege played in TJFP's story that I think is worth looking at. Part of the skill set I brought was my experience dealing with financial advisors, accountants, lawyers, and philanthropic professionals. This is a skill I was able to develop in no small part because financial, legal, and philanthropic institutions are geared

toward serving people with wealth, especially white people with wealth. Though sometimes the sexist dynamics of these interactions were enough to make me scream, I was still able to remain confident that I belonged in the room, and, more importantly, confident in my ability to enlist their help to rewrite the rules and create new structures to better support our grantees. What we asked of these specialists often went directly against their training in wealth preservation. I had to draw on all my rich girl moxy to get them to take us seriously and listen to what we needed.

The transfer of wealth and power can be a strange, messy, slow, and even painful project for everyone involved. Like running a machine that was only ever meant to move forward in reverse, sometimes the gears grind and it can be downright dangerous. But above all, for me, transferring these resources to the struggle for trans justice has always been an act of love.

I'm so grateful I've been able to work alongside Gabriel as my co-conspirator, all our incredible panelists, the hundreds of applicants and grantees who are our reason for being, and everyone who has helped and cheered us on along the way. I'm thrilled that this year we had the resources to hire someone to take over my administrative role and that TJFP is now run entirely by trans people of color. Most of all, I feel honored and humbled to pass my coordinator torch to the miracle that is Marin Watts! I'll still be around, of course, if and when anybody needs me. But otherwise I intend to keep giving the money I can and getting out of the way. While I admit I won't miss trying to keep up with two jobs at the same time, I will deeply miss being on the other end of the email with so many of you. Thank you for inspiring me every day!

Funding Criteria

Is Your Group Eligible for a TJFP Grant?

- Are you a grassroots, trans justice group of two or more, run by and for trans people?
- Is your group's total budget less than \$250,000?
- Are you located in the United States or Puerto Rico?
- Are you centering the leadership of trans people organizing around their experiences with racism, economic injustice, transmisogyny, ableism, immigration, incarceration, and other intersecting oppressions?
- Are you meeting the needs of different local communities and using organizing and/or providing services to help bring people together?
- Do you see your work as part of a bigger picture of trans-led work that seeks dignity and justice for all people?

You do not need to be a 501c3 nonprofit or have a fiscal sponsor to apply!

"We're super grateful and excited about TJFP's support of our work! We really appreciate the thoughtfulness and integrity of your decision-making process...I wish more funders would follow your lead."
- 2016 TJFP Grantee



Interviewing former panelist Trudie Jackson, Phoenix, AZ

Doing Philanthropy Differently

Here are some of the things we think about when we make grants.

1. We give unrestricted funds.

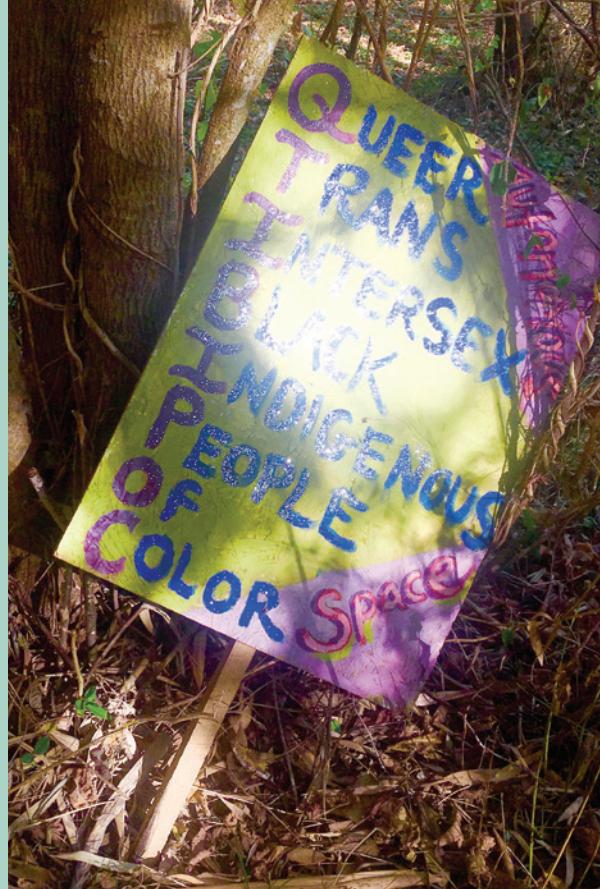
That means we don't tell our grantees what to do with the money or put any conditions on it. So when we read about a group's plans for their grant money, we keep in mind that we're here to help them not only with exciting program expenses but also with boring stuff like the cost of meeting space, electricity bills, buying a new computer, paying staff, and helping a group that feels isolated go to a conference. In fact, we are especially excited about funding the boring stuff!

2. We know that trans justice work can take many forms. So the way people organize may look very different from community to community.

For those of us who live in a big city with lots of services, a support group might not seem like a radical or interesting thing to fund. But, as one of our applicants reminded us our first year, if you are in a small town in Iowa, the fact that a support group even exists may already be a radical success. What matters to us is that communities are organizing themselves and setting priorities based on what feels most urgent to them.

3. The way people talk about their work can also look very different.

Not everyone uses the same political language to describe their work – or to describe themselves. A lot of things factor into the way a grant application reads, including: where the writer is from, their communities, their



Walking and learning about IDA's Work Hard, Stay Hard, Dowelltown, TN

class and education background, and their experiences with intersecting oppressions. It's easy to get excited about applications that are super well-written or use familiar language. But we don't want our decisions to be based on who is the best writer or who has access to the most current political thinking. We try to look past writing and vocabulary to make decisions based on what the group is actually doing.

4. We aim to keep our grant process as simple, easy, and quick as possible.

Our grant application is only a few pages. We don't have site visits. We don't require reports. People just fill out our form online and that's it. Why? Because we know these groups have more important work to do than spending all their time trying to romance us. We believe that a short application – plus a community panel of wise and experienced trans justice activists! – is all it takes to make informed funding decisions.

5. We want to be sure to support groups all around the country, not just in the big cities on the coasts.

We especially want to have a balance between rural and urban, small town and big city, and to keep in mind that groups in more isolated areas often have less access to funding.

6. Providing services can be an important part of organizing.

Some grantmakers, especially social-justice oriented funds, see organizing as separate from providing services. But we've seen how providing services can sometimes be an important step in bringing communities together. Providing services can also make it possible for people to participate who might otherwise be unable to because they are busy meeting their survival needs.

7. There is more than one way to define success.

A lot of funders see grantmaking as an investment. And the return on their investment is their grantees' success. They want tangible results from their grantees (like big numbers or big policy changes) so that they can prove they made a good investment.

But we know that grassroots social justice movements are messy. Endless. Complicated. That tangible results may be the flower at the end of a long process, but you don't expect to see a flower when you are looking at the roots. Movements need sustainable groups that will be there for the long run, and they also need short-term, kitchen table groups that may only be around for a year or two. A group that may look like a failure to some

funders may have in fact trained a crucial future leader, provided important resources in the moment, or done inspiring work that others will build on. So we try to take the long view of the movement and remember that there is more than one way to define success in grassroots organizing.

8. We fund groups that aren't incorporated.

This means that even if a group is not a 501c3 nonprofit and does not have a fiscal sponsor, we can still fund them. Sometimes it makes sense for a group to be incorporated, sometimes it doesn't. It depends on what their goals are. All that matters to us is: Are they doing good work?

9. We reject the idea that grantees should be accountable to funders. We think funders need to be accountable to grantees.

Above all, we believe that grantees must be accountable to the communities they serve, especially to those who are most affected by oppression.

10. We are here to provide resources, not to pit everyone against each other in the Thunderdome.

Funding in the nonprofit world usually turns us all into competing activist-gladiators, fighting each other for scarce resources. Instead, we ask our panelists to read the applications as a friend. As someone who is shepherding resources to nurture a growing movement and to support the people and the communities that are making that movement happen. This is grassroots funding – we want to try and support the whole field of grass, not just a few blades!

Above all, we believe that grantees must be accountable to the communities they serve, especially to those who are most affected by oppression.

With All of Us at the Table

Nico Amador

TJFP Community Panel Facilitator

Trans* communities have made tremendous and visible strides to define the language, narratives, and public images that best represent how we actually see ourselves. In the few years that TJFP has been in existence, we've witnessed a wave of new organizations and projects being formed and taking leadership on the issues that impact us. Individually, there are more and more trans* people who have found positions from which to influence how trans* people are regarded in health care systems, schools, public policy, and many other sectors.

One person's experience and point of view cannot fully encompass the vast cultural, generational, regional, and economic realities, among many others, that exist within the broad spectrum of the trans* community.



However, as each of us navigates the world of media, activism, and advocacy, the experience is still frequently one of isolation and tokenism. Even well-meaning groups too often rely on one voice at the table to give a "trans* perspective" on a host of complex considerations. The problems with this are obvious – one person's experience and point of view cannot fully encompass the vast cultural, generational, regional, and economic realities, among many others, that exist within the broad spectrum of the trans* community. Not only that, but any time one of us is called on to be the single voice advocating for "our own," whether that be the trans* community as a whole or one part of it – trans* women, people of color, disabled folks, etc. – it quickly creates a dynamic of scarcity and defensiveness. In other words, when we sense that we're the only one in the room who can stand up for a particular position, we'll often fight for that position at all costs – and in the process, lose the space for careful reflection, nuance, and deliberation.

TJFP has a unique model, and not only because it is the only grantmaking group in the United States that is led by and for trans* people working at a grassroots level to make change. TJFP also seeks to center other identities that need full representation in order for us to ensure a fair process for how applications are read and, as much as possible, make sure that no one person is being asked to speak on behalf of an entire segment of the community. This has meant that even in our small panel of six people, there is a majority of people of color, multiple trans* women, and people from a variety of other experiences related to geography, faith, age, ability, and class.

This past year, there was a particularly striking example of why a truly inclusive process is so needed. At one point in the decision-making, a disagreement emerged about a few of the applications. For a little while, tensions ran high – there was a racial component at play, as well as conflicting opinions about how to apply the criteria and the panelists' own knowledge of these particular groups in

interpreting the applications and reaching a just decision.

As a facilitator, I have watched many groups struggle in moments like these over the years. I could easily imagine the process failing had the group not had multiple people of color who could work together to find the best answers to the dilemma at hand. In groups where there is a greater degree of tokenism, the sole representative is often either deferred to – with the others usually acting out of guilt – or disregarded and shut down. Neither outcome has true integrity. Instead, what I saw in this case was how better representation created room for complexity in the conversation. I saw high engagement, a willingness to listen to each other and step back if needed, to offer challenges, to voice vulnerability and frustration, and to slowly find a way forward so that a decision could be made in a way that respected the many insights being offered and the inherent value of the applicants themselves. With all of us at the table, we had what we needed to give our best to the process and to each other.

2016 Grantee Black Transwomen Inc, Dallas, TX



Black Trans

1 for the love of power
1 for the sake of power
1 in service to power



that becomes my relationship to risk, connected strings of images that bring you to a moment – to connect your experience to what is happening onstage

everything you do
everything you don't do
Deceives

When I love, you are no longer my enemy
But the words you spoke I keep within me.

Langston Hughes once said "nobody loves a genius child"
My Beautiful genius children stay getting murdered in the streets

Black Trans girl brilliance, shining too too bright
The boys on the block can't escape their light

They reach to the heavens, but the girls throw shade
They step back to their villas, to sip Lemonade

The recent increase in celebrity "visibility" that clearly
Does nothing for the most vulnerable

Makes us all targets for bigots in statehouses
Whose hatred is uncontrollable

Black women carry around pain in brown paper sacks, in shack packs, in Louis Vuitton,
Chanel, and Coach, sometimes it's a laundry bag that looks too heavy
Or a backpack, or a diaper bag, "damn Ma what you got in yo' purse, a 45?"

We carry the weight of movements strapped over our shoulders, burlap sacks filled with
dead bodies

#sayhername

Monica Loera, 43 y/o Trans woman
Jasmine Sierra, 52 y/o Trans woman
Demarkis Stansberry, 30 y/o Black Trans man
Kayden Clarke, 24 y/o Trans man
Nadine Stransen, 89 y/o Trans woman
Kedarie/Kandicee Johnson, 16 y/o Black gender-fluid person
Kourtney Yochum, 32 y/o Trans woman of color
Maya Young, 25 y/o Black Trans woman
Veronica Banks Cano, 41 y/o Trans woman of color
Shante Thompson, 34 y/o Trans woman of color
Keyonna Blakeney, 22 y/o Trans woman of color
Reese Walker, 32 y/o Trans woman of color
Mercedes Successful, 32 y/o Trans woman of color

by **Andrea Jenkins**

TJFP Community Panel Facilitator

Reflections from the Table

We Need a Trans Spirituality Movement

Asher Kolieboi
2016 TJFP Panelist



The past five years have seen an increase in what can only be thought of as a "Trans Spirituality Movement." There is a growing number of out transgender faith leaders, transgender-led spiritual communities, and spiritual discourse within trans-specific spaces (i.e. conferences), as well as a growing body of literature on the spiritual lives of transgender people. This increased focus and visibility of trans people of faith is essential in this moment in history.

Transgender people have often been denied spiritual community. Spirituality is an integral part of the lived experience because it gives practitioners a sense of hope, possibility, and comfort. And given the significant social and economic marginalization transgender people's experience, faith and spirituality may contribute a greater feeling of hope, resilience, and strength.

"It is my hope that our people have a fighting chance – that those of us that are able, continue to use our strengths to pursue life and ensure that all of us have a chance at the lives that we dream of."

– Elle Hearns, 2016 Grantmaking Panelist

Many spiritual and faith communities serve as social and identity networks for transgender people. Faith and spirituality do not exist in a vacuum. Instead, they can be connected to specific racial, ethnic, and geographic communities. Thus, continued participation in faith communities is an integral part of authentic self-expression and identity for many transgender people, especially people of color.

Yes, we have seen faith communities commit spiritual violence, or use religion to harm transgender people. But as we see a growing community of transgender people engage in spiritual activism and spiritual liberation work through worship, ritual, contemplative practice, and spiritual leadership, we challenge cissexism and create a counter narrative of spiritual flourishing and survival.

Funding the Grassroots, Becoming Family

Stephanie Mott
2016 TJFP Panelist

I was honored to be selected as a 2016 community grantmaking panelist for TJFP. This experience included reading about 130 applications and trying to decide which ones I thought should be funded. The easy answer would have been all of them.

The applicants were doing amazing things all around the country, and working on expanding their ability to reach out to transgender and gender non-conforming people with an amazingly diverse array of ethnicities, identities, needs, and challenges.

The experience also included a weekend trip to New York City, during which I spent most of my time with the five other panelists, facilitators, and TJFP staff. This community-led funding process had clearly been fine-tuned over the course of the three previous funding years.

Six trans and gender non-conforming activists from different lived experiences and geographic areas sat down at a table, and tried to decipher how more than \$200,000 might be distributed between small grassroots groups polka-dotting cities, towns, and rural areas all across America.

It was an honor, indeed.



"The mix of lived experiences in this group of panelists seemed like it had been orchestrated with great skill."

We began the grantmaking panel on a Friday evening. Like each of the other panelists, I had studied all the applications thoroughly. I was a little unsure about how my small-town, Midwestern, white-influenced opinions would align with the perceptions of the other panelists.

In the back of my mind were memories of my own grant applications to TJFP in 2013 and 2014. In 2013, the Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project (K-STEP) was awarded \$1,000 and we used that money to help fund the first two-day regional transgender conference in the state of Kansas. The following year, K-STEP's request was not funded. We were disappointed, sure, but at that point K-STEP had established itself. We had just celebrated our sixth anniversary, by which point we had provided more than 400 educational presentations across Kansas, from police departments, jails, and prisons to faith institutions, health agencies, and mental health centers.

August 26 and 27, 2016 was the fourth annual TransKansas Conference. It is hard for me to say that K-STEP would have been so successful without that first \$1,000 we were awarded from TJFP back in 2013.

Being part of the 2016 funding panel had so much meaning for me, far beyond the honor of being asked to serve. I'm not sure how TJFP did it, but the mix of lived experiences in this group of panelists seemed like it had been orchestrated with great skill. We worked together—we agreed, we disagreed, and we agreed to disagree. But I don't believe there was a moment in which I didn't see the dedication and commitment from each of the panelists.

We ended up funding most of the applicants in various amounts – out of 132 applications, we were able to give money to 102 groups.

As we finished our extraordinarily special quest, it seemed to me that we had become family in a way that always surprises me, even though it might have been predictable.

By lunchtime on Sunday, we had completed our task and took time to share thoughts and gratitudes. I shared my experiences with requesting funding from TJFP in the past – one application granted and one denied. I shared that because it gave me great comfort to know that both of my funding requests were given the same dedication and commitment that I saw around the room that weekend and I was honored to be a part of the 2016 community grantmaking panel.

Out of these grassroots efforts, led by people on the ground who are dedicating their lives to creating a better world for trans and gender non-conforming people, and with the help of the TJFP, times are changing.

I am changed. I have seen the world through the eyes of many. And I have seen honorable actions that make me believe that America is moving – even if kicking and screaming – toward the day when we will truly have liberty and justice for all.

Our First Full Year as a Non-Charitable Trust

Over the last four years, we've been on a roller coaster ride of an adventure as we searched for the perfect funding structure that will best serve our grantees. We really want to give grantees the maximum amount of freedom with the minimum amount of red tape, and we think we found it – a non-charitable trust!

Trusts are usually a way for the wealthy to preserve and pass on their assets to the next generation. But we are hoping that a structure that was created to preserve wealth, when guided by community leadership, can also become a powerful means of redistributing it.

Our funding evolution

In 2013, when TJFP was just getting off the ground, we operated like a nonprofit and opened a donor-advised fund at the Tides Foundation to house our contributions. Because the Tides Foundation is a public charity, this meant that anyone who contributed to TJFP's fund would get a tax deduction, and then TJFP would recommend that the money get distributed to all of the TJFP grantees. One of the reasons we chose Tides was because they are one of the few places that allow donor-advised funds to make gifts to unincorporated groups. And since all of our grantees are grassroots groups, many of them do not have or choose not to get 501c3 status. At the time it made a lot of sense to make grants through this donor-advised account, since we were a new funding project and we knew most donors would not feel comfortable giving money to a random bank account. But after the first round of applicants,

We are hoping that a structure that was created to preserve wealth, when guided by community leadership, can also become a powerful means of redistributing it.



Dylan Waguespack, Louisiana Trans Advocates, Baton Rouge

we ran into quite a few bumps in the road and learned that if we want to stay true to our mission of supporting local, grassroots work, we had to create a structure that will make it much easier to fund groups that are unincorporated. So after lots of questions, conversations, research, and consultations with lawyers and accountants, we decided to try venturing outside of the nonprofit world and incorporate as a small business – a limited liability company (LLC), one of the simpler forms a business can take. We did, however, keep the donor-advised account at Tides so donors who need their contribution to be tax-deductible can still make a donation.

At first, we were feeling pretty happy with the LLC. Funding groups without nonprofit status was simple: they became our consultants in the business of trans justice! And our tax burden stayed low. Then, in the summer of 2014, we learned that if co-founder Karen Pittelman kept making donations to the LLC, it might be a red flag for the IRS. Turns out the IRS gets worried when someone keeps

putting money into a business and never gets any of it back.

The good news was that Karen had unexpectedly inherited more money and could keep covering TJFP's operating expenses. The bad news was that this meant we had to revisit the question of our structure. After talking to more lawyers, accountants, and a tax law specialist, we settled on a non-charitable trust.

One of TJFP's core values is to keep things as simple as possible for our applicants and grantees. A non-charitable trust allows us the freedom to give money to groups without forcing them to get a fiscal sponsor or have nonprofit status, especially since both will require all kinds of paperwork and reporting. We would rather groups focus their time on fighting for trans justice instead of filling out forms, and so far on our end, the non-charitable trust is working to support that goal.

Now that we are functioning as a non-charitable trust, we have the freedom to cut checks directly to our grantees, regardless of their nonprofit status. Non-charitable means we do not claim any charitable deduction for our giving, so our grantees don't need to have nonprofit status. Our tax burden will remain low, and because it's a trust, the IRS expects us to be giving away money instead of making it.

We're constantly learning and growing, but we're hoping this model sticks. So far, so good!

What does our funding model have to do with you?

Does nonprofit status help trans justice groups succeed? Or does it make it harder for them to stay true to their missions? We



TJFP presents with limay Ho from Resource Generation at Southern's on New Ground's Vision Values, & Money Donorship Retreat.

believe groups should have the freedom to choose for themselves what financial structure works best, based on their own goals. And so we had to ask ourselves the very same questions.

Technically, any foundation can make grants to groups without nonprofit status. However, for that foundation to keep its own nonprofit standing, they must prove to the government that all the money they give away goes to the "public good." For a grantee without nonprofit status, the foundation must submit much more documentation to prove this, including receipts demonstrating how the money was spent.

We also felt that a closer look at the history of institutional philanthropy in the United States revealed plenty of reasons why we needed a unique funding structure. Like most American institutions, philanthropy here was designed to protect privilege and property and to shelter assets. For example, until 1969, private foundations weren't even

required to give any money away! Today, foundations only have to distribute 5 percent of their assets annually, and they can also deduct their operating expenses from that sum.

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It's a big deal that institutional philanthropy uses nonprofit tax status to determine who is eligible for funding and how they can spend that money. This means that the government, together with the wealthy funders who follow these rules to get their own tax benefits, are the ones deciding what movement legitimacy and accountability look like. They are the ones defining what "the public good" means. They also tend to have the highest stake in preserving their power and making sure things stay the way they are.

Trans communities are the real experts in trans justice. We should have the power to decide for ourselves what gets funded and why.

Will anyone donate if it isn't tax-deductible?

Donations to the non-charitable trust are not tax-deductible. We know this is a fundraising risk. What if no one wants to contribute without a tax deduction? But once again, the support we received last year has been

inspiring. Out of the 196 people who donated to our 2016 grant cycle, 85 percent contributed a total of \$95,356 without requiring a tax deduction.

What about donors who need their contribution to be tax-deductible?

Donors who need their contribution to be tax-deductible can still give to TJFP via our Collective Action Fund at the Tides Foundation. This is a donor-advised fund, which is like having a philanthropic bank account at a public charity. This fund is how we made all our grants our first year, and we have kept it as an option for our donors since then.

Although many of our donors chose to give through our non-charitable trust, some of our biggest gifts still came through our donor-advised account. In 2016 we made about half of our grants through Tides. Here's how we did it: groups that had 501c3 status or a fiscal sponsor were funded through the donor-advised account, and we pulled together

the information Tides would need ourselves, doing our best to not to burden the grantees. Groups without nonprofit status or with other circumstances were funded through TJFP's trust.

With over 100 grants to distribute, the TJFP office and staff was a bit of a mess! But we believe it's our job as funders to take on these complicated logistics so that our grantees can keep their focus on the movement. Each year we learn more and come up with new ways to streamline the process. We know that together we can continue to build new models that move resources – and the decision-making power over those resources – to the communities that need them most.



Transgender Education Network of Texas, San Marcos, Texas

From the Ground to the Sky: On Ongoing Journey

"Trans justice looks like immigration justice, it looks like racial justice, it looks like fighting gentrification, it looks like fighting police brutality, it looks like fighting ICE and its detention centers, it looks like health care, making sure we're all okay, that we're surviving and thriving but also that these systems and structures of oppression are being dismantled."

– RJ Robles, Trans Buddy Program

Since early 2015, TJFP has been meeting with trans activists and organizers across the country to learn more about the work they're doing and what kind of support they need. TJFP has been welcomed by activists and organizers in Michigan, California, Florida, Montana, South Dakota, Washington, and many other states. During our "From the Ground to the Sky" listening tour, we intentionally chose to visit states and rural areas from which we had never received applications. This gave us an opportunity to do outreach and meet new people while learning more about what trans justice organizing looks like in states and towns we didn't know much about.



Queer Trans Pueblo (left to right) Dagoberto Bailon, Karyna Jaramillo, Jon Beebe Giudice. Phoenix, AZ

In February 2016, TJFP staff once again packed our bags, boarded flights and drove hundreds of miles to meet trans and gender non-conforming leaders. Our first tour of the year took us to Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah. Our eyes widened as we traveled alongside rolling tumbleweeds, dramatic desert landscapes, snow-peaked mountains, and the Navajo Nation reservation.

One of our stops brought us to Phoenix, Arizona, where we had the pleasure of meeting grantees Dago Bailón, Jonathan Beebe Giudice, and Karyna Jaramillo from Queer Trans Pueblo. While we were setting up the video cameras and readying ourselves in the backyard for the interview, a yellow bird sang its little heart out, while the grandfather of one of our hosts sweetly walked around, tending to his yard. Like so many of our grantees, they did not have an office or building of their own. It felt like such an honor to finally be face-to-face, learning how the Queer Trans Pueblo group came to be and why.

Immediately, Dago started us off. "We noticed that there wasn't a space where we could be LGBT and also migrants. We felt like we had to wear two different hats in different spaces that we were navigating, so we really wanted to create a space where we felt safe and we could be ourselves fully." In 2011 they started an organization for the trans and queer migrant community organizing for collective liberation, in and out of detention centers.

Karyna, another leader of the group, spoke about how she went from being detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to a community organizer. After being released from Eloy Detention Center in Pinal County, Arizona, Jaramillo returned to Phoenix and got involved with Queer Trans Pueblo. "I came to [the group] in 2015 since I was detained by ICE. I was in deportation proceedings."



Left: 2016 Grantee Renae Gray of Indigenous Trans Coalition, Gallup, New Mexico. Right: OUTreach Resource Center, Ogden, Utah

Karyna went on to tell us about life in detention:

"The process of being trans while in detention is difficult because they place you in an environment where you are susceptible to be be[ing] harassed, where you can be beat. Inside the detention center there is rape, and suicide due to the reason that people are not given medical services. They put you in isolated spaces, alone, and it causes depression.

"That causes conflict, and that's why suicide occurs. That apparently no one sees, that this exists.

"After you come out you are exposed to society without a job, without medical services, without people to support you."

In addition to training community organizers, Queer Trans Pueblo is responding to community needs by running a health clinic for undocumented TLGBQ+ individuals. They also organize through the Trans Queer Migrant Defense Project, which works in collaboration with another

"I'm here because of miraculous reasons. I've been in positions when I've almost been killed. ... I have purpose and I'm still alive because of that."

– Renae Gray, Indigenous Trans Coalition

local group to provide pro bono lawyers and coordinate legal representation for LGBTQ+ people in detention.

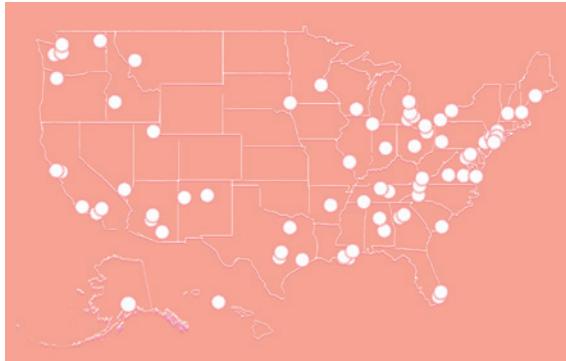
While we were on this trip, Oklahomans were voting on an unprecedented 27 anti-LGBT policies that had been proposed. Communities in New Mexico were seeking access to adequate health services, and ICE raids were tearing families and communities apart in Arizona. Meanwhile, after the Mormon Church created a policy that excluded children of same-sex couples from getting baptized until they are 18, organizers in Utah were struggling with the heartbreak of the spike in LGBT youth suicides that followed.

It's overwhelming, the task of battling unacceptable inequalities. But as TJFP travelled from town to town, it became clearer with each visit that the kinds of groups TJFP supports are doing some of the most needed work there is.

Visiting with past grantees, Adrien Lawyer and Zane Stephens from the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico



2016 Grantees by Location



Identity, Inc. Anchorage, AK
TAKE Peer Group Birmingham, AL
The Knights and Orchids Society Montgomery, AL
Arkansas Transgender Equality Coalition Little Rock, AR
Transcend Arizona Paradise Valley, AZ
Mariposas Sin Fronteras Tucson, AZ
ArcoÁris Liberation Team Phoenix, AZ
Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) Tucson, AZ
NOTAFLOF Collective Oakland, CA
The First API Transmasculine Retreat Oakland, CA
FRESH MEAT L.A. Los Angeles, CA
Trans Lifeline San Francisco, CA
TAJA's Coalition San Francisco, CA
Trans' Advocacy Visitation Team Oakland, CA
Santa Barbara Transgender Advocacy Network Goleta, CA
Trans Student Educational Resources Claremont, CA
Gender Justice LA Los Angeles, CA
Gay Shame San Francisco, CA
Immigrant Youth Coalition Los Angeles, CA
Good Sense Farm & Apiary Washington, DC
The East Coast Two Spirit Society Angola by the Bay, DE
Translatina Coalition FL chapter Fort Lauderdale, FL
Translatina T Services, Inc. Fort Lauderdale, FL
Trans-Miami Miami Beach, FL
Trans(forming) Lithonia, GA
LaGender Eastpoint, GA
The Queer & Trans People of Color Birthwerq Project Atlanta, GA
Tent City Kweenz Waianae, HI
Idaho Transgender Healthcare Advocacy Boise, ID
RAD Remedy Chicago, IL
Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois Chicago, IL
TransTech Social Enterprises Chicago, IL
Upswing Advocates Chicago, IL
Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP) Chicago, IL
Trans Oral History Project Chicago, IL
GenderNexus Indianapolis, IN
New Legacy Ministries New Orleans, LA
Louisiana Trans Advocates Metairie, LA
BodyImage4Justice Boston, MA
Sistas of The "t" Baltimore, MD
Mid Coast Queer Collective Damariscotta, ME
Detroit REPRESENT! Detroit, MI
FTM A2 Ypsi Ypsilanti, MI

Transgender connect Flint, MI
Trans Sistas of Color Project Detroit, MI
Genderqueer Minneapolis-St. Paul Minneapolis, MN
Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition Minneapolis, MN
RARE Productions Minneapolis, MN
Metro Trans Umbrella Group St. Louis, MO
Missouri GSA Network/The Sisterhood St Louis, MO
Bois of the Sippi Corinth, MS
Montana Two Spirit Society Missoula, MT
Gender Expansion Project Missoula, MT
Asheville Transformers Asheville, NC
Tranzmission Prison Project Asheville, NC
Tranzmission Asheville, NC
Hudson Pride Connections Center Jersey City, NJ
Indigenous Trans Coalition Jamestown, NM
Four Direction Fire Keepers - Eagle Evolution Santa Fe, NM
Gender Justice Nevada Las Vegas, NV
Trans Pride Foundation Las Vegas, NV
Lorena Borjas Community Fund Jackson Heights, NY
#BlackTransLivesMatter Tour New York, NY
TRANSGRESSIONSwny Buffalo, NY
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project New York, NY
Magical Black Bitches Brooklyn, NY
Community Kinship Life (CK Life) Bronx, NY
Translatina Network Brooklyn, NY
Inclusive Eastern Orthodox Church Toledo, OH
Black Trans Lives Matter Columbus, OH
Margie's Hope Akron, OH
Cleveland Is Ready Cleveland, OH
Beyond These Walls Portland, OR
The Bridgewalkers Alliance Portland, OR
Hearts on a Wire Philadelphia, PA
TransFamily of Erie Erie, PA
Garden of Peace Project Homestead, PA
We Are Family's Trans* Love Fund Charleston, SC
TransAction South Dakota Sioux Falls, SD
Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition Nashville, TN
PFLAG Tri-Cities Johnson City, TN
Daffodil Meadow Collective Liberty, TN
Black Transwomen Inc Dallas, TX
Chat-N-Chew/Transwomen Excelling Successfully Together Dallas, TX
Cicada Collective Austin, TX
Organizacion Latina de Trans en Texas Houston, TX
allgo Austin, TX
Transgender Education Network of Texas San Marcos, TX
Trans Pride Initiative Dallas, TX
OUTreach Resource Centers Ogden, UT
Community Ele'te Richmond, VA
Transgender Assistance Program of Virginia Virginia Beach, VA
Tri-Cities Transgender Abingdon, VA
Lynchburg Transgender Alliance Lynchburg, VA
Nationz Foundation Richmond, VA
Green Mountain Crossroads Brattleboro, VT
Stonewall Youth Olympia, WA
Spokane TALL Addy, WA
Community Law Project Seattle, WA
Outshine NW Burien, WA
Dane County Trans Health Group Madison, WI
Wisconsin Transgender Health Coalition Madison, WI

Our 2016 Grantees

20% Theatre Company Twin Cities (Minneapolis, MN) supports and vigorously promotes the work of female and transgender theatre artists and celebrates the unique contribution of these artists to social justice and human rights.

#BlackTransLivesMatter Tour (New York, NY) is a speaking tour about addressing issues of race, gender, and policing while centering black trans bodies.

algo (Austin, TX) works to create and sustain queer people of color activists, groups, organizations, and allies through artistic expression, promoting wellness, and grassroots organizing.

Arcoíris Liberation Team (Phoenix, AZ) is a trans and queer migrant community organizing for our collective liberation in and out of detention.

Arkansas Transgender Equality Coalition (Little Rock, AR) seeks to advance equality, justice, and inclusiveness for transgender and gender non-conforming Arkansans.

Asheville Transformers (Asheville, NC) organizes support groups, social events, and educational panel discussions for the western North Carolina trans community.

Beyond These Walls (Portland, OR) is a trans-led and trans-run network of LGBT prisoners and free-world volunteers who provide support for each other.

Black Trans Lives Matter (Columbus, OH) aims to empower all black trans, gender non-conforming, and intersex folks, by organizing and influencing art and culture.

Black Transwomen, Inc. (Dallas, TX) is committed to empowerment, providing the male to female transfeminine community with programs and resources to help inspire individual growth and contributions to a greater society.

BodyImage4Justice (Boston, MA) empowers and brings the Trans community together through the interest of body image, health, wellness, and love.

Bois of the Sippi (Corinth, MS) educates the student bodies at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in rural Mississippi.

Chat-N-Chew (Dallas, TX) is a monthly support group where Black & Latina trans women gather to discuss issues and share resources in a safe and affirming environment.

Cicada Collective (Austin, TX) aims to provide access to reproductive resources and transition-related care in Texas.

Cleveland is Ready (Cleveland, OH) is a coalition of local activists and organizations seeking to pass ordinance 1446-13 to remove discriminatory restroom language in Cleveland's laws.



English Fields, Bois of the Sippi, Corinth, MS



GenderNexus, Inc., Indianapolis, IN

Community Ele'te (Richmond, VA) conducts HIV awareness and general support for the LGBTQ community, and builds community by providing resources for supportive services.

Community Kinship Life (Bronx, NY) educates people of trans experience about how to access competent health care and gender-affirming surgery using insurance.

Community Law Project (Seattle, WA) will provide free and low-cost civil legal services to low-income members of the trans, gender-nonconforming, intersex, and LGB communities.

Daffodil Meadow Collective (Liberty, TN) is a queer and trans collective focused on food and housing security, medical autonomy, and collective leadership to provide for our needs outside of the capitalist economy.

The Dane County Trans Health Group (Madison, WI) works toward full health care through advocacy and organizing for trans people.

Detroit REPRESENT! (Detroit, MI) is a collective of LGBTQ youth of color and supportive LGBTQ adults of color who work for racial justice and LGBTQ youth liberation through youth-led media campaign work, participatory action research, and community building.

Four Direction Fire Keepers - Eagle Evolution (Santa Fe, NM) uses trans-formative and indigenous approaches to support sustainability within the fields of organizational and leadership development.

FRESH MEAT (Los Angeles, CA) is L.A.'s premier play party for queer and trans people of color. Through workshops, skill shares, play parties, and munches, they build QTPOC autonomy and sexual liberation.

FTM A2 Ypsi (Ypsilanti, MI) is a support and social group, by and for transmasculine-identified people in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and the greater Southeast Michigan region.

Garden of Peace Project (Homestead, PA) was created to uplift, uphold, and empower the narratives and lived experiences of queer and/or trans people of color.

Gay Shame (San Francisco, CA) is a radical trans/queer direct action collective. We plan creative interventions, direct action trainings, and have built community in the SF Bay Area for the last 15 years.

The Gender Expansion Project (Missoula, MT) promotes gender-inclusive education and awareness around transgender, intersex, and gender-diverse people through evidence-based care, education, research, advocacy, public and private policy, and respect for transgender health and well-being.

Gender Justice L.A. (Los Angeles, CA) works to resist oppression, develop community responses to violence, heal from trauma, and come together in ways that feel brave and affirming.

Gender Justice Nevada (Las Vegas, NV) offers anti-violence services consciously inclusive of sex/gender-diverse people and communities, including LGBTQIA2 people, sex workers, people in BDSM relationships, and polyamorous people.

GenderNexus (Indianapolis, IN) empowers gender-diverse individuals to live authentically healthy and holistic lives in all areas of individual wellness.

Genderqueer Minneapolis-St. Paul (Minneapolis, MN) is a social and support group for trans people who identify under the genderqueer or non-binary umbrella.

Good Sense Farm & Apiary (Washington, D.C.) is a collectively-run, trans-led urban farm specializing in nutrient-dense local delicacies.

Green Mountain Crossroads (Brattleboro, VT) connects rural LGBTQ people across issues, identities, and generations to build community, visibility, knowledge, and power.

Hudson Pride Connections Center (Jersey City, NJ) and the **TransView** support group provide general support, name change, and linkage-to-care services.

Idaho Transgender Healthcare Advocacy (Boise, ID) provides resources, connections, and safe spaces in areas of health care and personal development for transgender people in Idaho.

Identity, Inc. (Anchorage, AK) hosts the **Anchorage Transgender Community (ATC)**, which is a weekly social and educational support group for transgender/genderqueer/intersex adults.

Inclusive Eastern Orthodox Church (Toledo, OH) is a small community grounded in the Eastern Church traditions that affirm everyone exactly as they are, and promote acceptance of gender expression and sexuality, in a spiritual and communal setting.

Indigenous Trans Coalition (Jamestown, NM) is an Indigenous trans women of color group that comes together to share stories, build sisterhood, and help one another thrive.



Left: Immigrant Youth Coalition, Los Angeles, CA. Right: LaGender Inc., Eastpoint, GA



Hearts on a Wire (Philadelphia, PA) is a collective organizing across prison walls to support incarcerated transgender and gender-variant people throughout Pennsylvania while engaging local communities affected by mass imprisonment and state violence.

Immigrant Youth Coalition (Los Angeles, CA) is an undocumented and queer/trans youth-led organization that mobilizes youth, families, and incarcerated people to end the criminalization of immigrants of color.

LaGender (Eastpoint, GA) envisions a sisterhood for trans women free from HIV/AIDS, homelessness, mass incarceration, police profiling, mental health duress, and racial and gender discrimination.

The Lorena Borjas Community Fund (Jackson Heights, NY) is a volunteer-run organization that helps transgender and gender non-conforming immigrants avoid the collateral consequences associated with criminal convictions, jail time, and court appearances.

Louisiana Trans Advocates (Metairie, LA) provides support for trans people and their families around the state of Louisiana and maintains a resource list of doctors, therapists, and other services.

The Lynchburg Transgender Alliance (Lynchburg, VA) is a peer-to-peer support group and a safe space servicing the needs of Lynchburg, Virginia, and its surrounding areas.

Magical Black Bitches (Brooklyn, NY) is an interactive, immersive, multimedia performance project that reflects the lived experiences of Black gender non-conforming and transfeminine people, ciswomen, and girls.

Margie's Hope (Akron, OH) assists transgender individuals in finding employment, housing, mental health services, and medical referrals.

Mariposas Sin Fronteras (Tucson, AZ) is a group of LGBTQ immigrants who fight for the freedom of LGBTQ immigrants.

Metro Trans Umbrella Group (St. Louis, MO) builds power and provides support for transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex individuals.

Mid Coast Queer Collective (Damariscotta, ME) is a trans youth-led, trans and queer community-building organization that uses compassion, peer-to-peer support, and proven organizational models to seek answers to questions like "What does it mean to be the trans/queer community here in rural Maine?"

The Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition (Minneapolis, MN) is committed to improving health care access and the quality of health care received by trans and gender non-conforming people through education, resources, and advocacy.

The Montana Two-Spirit Society (Missoula, MT) works to educate people about Native/Indigenous two-spirit culture through its outreach, programs, annual Gathering, and social media.

Nationz Foundation (Richmond, VA) conducts rapid HIV and syphilis testing to the LGBTQ community, offers education and supportive services, and referrals to outside agencies.

New Legacy Ministries (New Orleans, LA) builds community by serving as a guide for positive expression while providing overlooked minorities, trans, and queer people of color with the tools to productively advance in society.

NOTAFLOF Collective (Oakland, CA) is a collective of queer and trans* people in the North Oakland community providing safe space, affordable haircuts, bodywork, and healing services.



2016 Grantee Mariposas Sin Fronteras, Tucson, AZ

Organización Latina de Trans en Texas (Houston, TX) works to protect, defend, and ensure the rights of the trans Latina population in the state of Texas.

OUtreach Resource Center (Ogden, UT) is dedicated to transforming communities and saving lives through comprehensive programming, community advocacy, and training designed to promote positive outcomes for underserved populations.

Outshine NW (Burien, WA) promotes trans health and equity through education and advocacy. **PFLAG Tri-Cities (Johnson City, TN)** provides education, support, and advocacy for all individuals of diverse sexualities and genders (DSG).

Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (New York, NY) provides support services and organizes around the structural barriers and state violence that LGBTQI detained/undocumented folks face regarding immigration status, race, sexuality, and gender expression/identity.

RAD Remedy (Chicago, IL) is dedicated to connecting trans, gender non-conforming, intersex, and queer folks to accurate, safe, respectful, and comprehensive care by creating a national review and referral database for TGIQ health.

RARE Productions (Minneapolis, MN) is an arts and entertainment media production company creating opportunities and engaging artists of color and centering queer and trans artists of color.

The Santa Barbara Transgender Advocacy Network (Goleta, CA) educates institutions and individuals on best practices for transgender and gender-expansive clients, patients, students, congregants and families.

Sistas of the "t" (Baltimore, MD) helps transgender women who seek to live with dignity and character turn their dreams into realities through education, activism, and advocacy.

Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (Tucson, AZ) provides peer support, social activities, community advocacy, and economic empowerment training for gender non-conforming and trans* people of all ages and backgrounds living in Southern Arizona.

Spokane TALL (Addy, WA) provides general support, organizes community events, and provides referrals to resources for the trans community.

Trans Excellence Advocacy (Olympia, WA) is part of Stonewall Youth and celebrates the creativity, brilliance, and power of trans youth by providing support and mentoring.

TAJA's Coalition (San Francisco, CA) is dedicated to ending the genocide of trans women of color by building trans leadership, provide emergency assistance to TWOC in need, and enhancing the overall safety and well-being of transgender people.

T.A.K.E (Transgender Advocates Knowledgeable Empowering) (Birmingham, AL) provides supportive services and skill-building opportunities to improve the quality of life for trans people.

Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition (Nashville, TN) is designed to educate and advocate on behalf of transgender-related legislation at the federal, state, and local levels. The Coalition is dedicated to raising public awareness and building alliances with other organizations concerned with equal rights legislation.



Daroneshia Duncan, TAKE, Birmingham, AL



Left: Sadie Lee, Tennessee Trans Journey Project, Nashville, TN. Right: TJFP Staff with RJ Robles, Trans Buddy Program, Nashville, TN

Tent City Kweenz (Waianae, HI) is comprised of displaced/houseless/landless and otherwise Native home-free (those reclaiming Native land) queer trans people of color living without formal shelter in contemporary Hawai'i and working to indigenize queer liberation, digital self-determination, and environmental justice.

The Bridgewalkers Alliance (Portland, OR) is a collective of trans people and people of color working as a bridge for marginalized communities to access the land at Tryon Farm, which serves as a resource for outdoor education, healing, and community events.

The East Coast Two-Spirit Society (Angola by the Bay, DE) is a group of Native American and First Nations Two-Spirit individuals promoting the culture and history of Two-Spirit people while also bringing Two-Spirit people back into the Sacred Circle.

The First API Transmasculine Retreat (Oakland, CA) will provide an opportunity for Asian and Pacific Islander transmasculine individuals to build community, develop self-acceptance and self-confidence, share resources, and leave energized to live authentically and with pride.

The Knights and Orchids Society (Montgomery, AL) is a civic service organization whose goal is to improve the quality of life within the LGBTQ community by creating safe spaces for trans people.

The Queer & Trans People of Color Birthwerq Project (Atlanta, GA) offers labor support training to trans people of color, hosts local community conversations on trans and reproductive justice movement building, and provides resources to individuals seeking reproductive support.

Trans Lifeline (San Francisco, CA) is a hotline that provides culturally competent services to trans and gender non-conforming people in crisis in order to end the plague of trans suicide.

The Transgender Oral History Project (Chicago, IL) promotes a diversity of stories from transgender and GNC communities by documenting people's experiences and teaching media production skills.

Trans Pride Foundation (Las Vegas, NV) offers housing, job assistance, and social services, and has two nationwide projects, the Trans Memorial Quilt and a portable history museum.

Trans Pride Initiative (Dallas, TX) advocates for trans and gender non-conforming people in health care, housing, employment, and education.

Trans Sistas of Color Project (Detroit, MI) uplifts and supports the lives and general well-being of transgender women of color in Detroit.

Trans Student Educational Resources (Claremont, CA) is a youth-led organization dedicated to transforming the educational environment for trans students through advocacy and empowerment.

Trans-Miami (Miami Beach, FL) provides education, public health, art, and employment to the transgender community in South Florida.

Trans(forming) (Lithonia, GA) provides peer support, resources, and a social group for trans people of color.

The Trans* Advocacy Visitation Team (Oakland, CA) is committed to relationship-building, supports organizing inside prisons, and provides advocacy alongside incarcerated transgender folks in California.

TransAction South Dakota (Sioux Falls, SD) has a goal to educate, raise awareness, understanding, and acceptance of transgender people living in South Dakota.

Transcend Arizona (Paradise Valley, AZ) is mostly formerly detained trans, gender non-conforming, and queer migrants and refugees doing solidarity work with other trans, gender non-conforming, and queer people currently in ICE detention centers.

TransFamily of Erie (Erie, PA) is a support group that serves the transgender community of Northwestern Pennsylvania and the surrounding region.

Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois (Chicago, IL) responds to the urgent need of trans people targeted by the criminal legal system for legal services.

The Transgender Assistance Program of Virginia (Virginia Beach, VA) is a grassroots support network comprised of transgender people and allies, offering emergency housing and resources to homeless transgender adults in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Transgender Connect (Flint, MI) provides an all-inclusive support group that highlights fellowship, believing that the best support is friends talking with one another so they know they are not alone.

Transgender Education Network of Texas (San Marcos, TX) works to promote justice for transgender and non-binary Texans.

TRANSGRESSIONSwny (Buffalo, NY) encourages trans-focused outreach and support to the eight counties of Western New York.

Translatina Coalition (Florida Chapter) (Fort Lauderdale, FL) strives to bring gender equality by helping the transgender community better understand the laws, their rights, and ways to cope with society during and after the transition process.

Translatina Network (Brooklyn, NY) mobilizes the transgender community on issues of health, economic justice, immigration and equal rights.

Translatina T Services, Inc. (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) supports the transgender community by providing education, advocacy, training, case management for HIV and non-HIV clients, and small focus groups.

TransTech Social Enterprises (Chicago, IL) works to empower, educate, and employ trans and gender non-conforming people facing barriers in education and in the workplace, as well as to reduce instances of discrimination.

Tranzmission (Asheville, NC) is dedicated to education, advocacy, and community building that promotes healthier and happier lives for transgender and non-binary people.

Tranzmission Prison Project (Asheville, NC) sends books to trans and gender non-conforming inmates.

Tri-Cities Transgender (Abingdon, VA) is a trans-led and trans-run community group that provides social peer support and resource distribution, as well as outreach and education to local government, health care providers, employers, businesses, and other regional assets.

Upswing Advocates (Chicago, IL) provides transgender-focused and LGBTQIA-inclusive, individualized coaching services, support groups, and research as well as trainings for those seeking to build competence working with transgender and queer communities.

We Are Family's Trans* Love Fund (Charleston, SC) seeks to assist the transgender community of South Carolina by financing the care and support of trans* individuals through need-based micro grants for legal expenses, health care, and emergency assistance.

Wisconsin Transgender Health Coalition (Madison, WI) creates an environment and conditions in Wisconsin that provide equitable access to health care for transgender and gender non-conforming people.

Youth Empowerment Performance Project (Chicago, IL) creates safe space for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness to explore their history, struggles, and to celebrate their strengths through developing a theatrical performance piece.

Donor Reflections

"The decision to donate money toward the efforts of the Trans Justice Funding Project is perhaps the most obvious decision I've ever had to make. When it comes to giving your money to a worthwhile cause, whether you donate \$5 or \$500, I think it's important to think not only about where the money is going, but also about who will be allocating the money. With TJFP, decisions to allocate funding are made by a group of leaders and advocates from trans communities. Given that people who do not understand what it means to be trans often make decisions about funding for our communities, the panel that TJFP brings together to make funding decisions is such an important part of the process. On top of that, Gabriel Foster and the staff members at TJFP oversee the decision-making process, and those who know Gabriel know that he has an incredible vision for trans survival and liberation. We, as trans and gender non-conforming people, get to call the shots on what is important, what is necessary, and what needs support within our communities. Knowing all of this makes donating to TJFP a complete no-brainer. To me, TJFP is about the closest you can get to funding trans liberation directly, and, in terms of helping to provide support for the decisions made among trans community leaders, the closest you can get to helping make magic happen."

– V. Chaudhry, TJFP supporter

"I'm super happy to be a personal supporter of the Trans Justice Funding Project, and extremely proud that Trans Pride Initiative has been a recipient of three TJFP grants to date!

Funding is one of the most significant barriers community organizations face, and even though funding is increasing for trans issues, the larger organizations tend to be

"I've been donating to TJFP since it started because I believe that our people are our most valuable resource, and it's obvious that TJFP prioritized the needs and vision of Trans and GNC communities across the country."

– Elliott Fukui, TJFP supporter

the beneficiaries of that funding far more often than small grassroots organizations. It's extremely important to support community-based efforts because we are the direct link to those most affected by harmful social and administrative regulation of gender norms. The large organizations often only focus on policy changes that make a sensational splash, after which those organizations move on to the next pretty win, chalking up bullet points for brochures to give out to funders.

It's community-based organizations that are left to complete the remaining 90 percent of the job – holding agencies and entities accountable once the big organizations have moved on to their next fundraising opportunity. Trans Justice Funding Project is a necessary lifeline for the incredibly necessary work of accountability, undertaken by community organizations that are very often underfunded, understaffed, and overworked. TJFP is essential to accomplishing true social change."

– Nell Gaither, president of Trans Pride Initiative and TJFP Supporter

Thank You to Our Donors!

Listed are the names of most of our amazing donors who supported our fourth grant cycle. We wanted to share their names to inspire others to support trans justice around the country. Thank you so much – we couldn't have done this without you!

Abby Jensen	Casey Llewellyn
Ada Smith	Catherine Smith
Addison Rose Vincent	Charlene Carruthers
Ailene Richard	Chelsea Bland
Alberto Guerrero	Cherry Johnson
Aleksei Wagner	Chriss Sneed
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Allison Palmer	Consuela Foster
Alyson Weiss	Cori Hook
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Amelia Korangy	Daniel Hunter
Amy Reddinger and Rhonda Mellinger	Daniel McGee
Amy Laura Cahn	Danny Kirchoff
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And to our amazing monthly donors!

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Danny Kirchoff
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Rebecca Wisotsky
Ryan Bennett
Ryan Pryor
Sloka Krishnan
Vic Wiener

"Trans justice is investment. It is understanding of the importance of trans people running trans projects and investing in leadership and be that a long process or a short process but understanding that is the only root to get to liberty and justice for our community."
-Jonathan Beebe Giudice, Queer Trans Pueblo, Phoenix Arizona

The Passing of a Legend: Honoring the Legacy of Ms. Cheryl Courtney-Evans

On October 2, 2016, we were tremendously saddened by the passing of trans activist Ms. Cheryl Courtney-Evans. Ms. Cheryl joined the TJFP team in 2013 as one of our very first community grantmaking panelists.

Ms. Cheryl Courtney-Evans was well known in her hometown of Atlanta as well as nationally for her dedication to trans justice. She was the co-founder and executive director of Transgender Individuals Living Their Truth (TILTT), a TJFP grantee and managed her own blog, "A Bitch For Justice." Her contributions and impact are everlasting.

In 2014, TJFP interviewed her about the work of TILTT.

At that time, our interviewer wrote, "TILTT is dedicated to creating visibility. For the first time, they were able to represent and participate in Atlanta Pride by having their own booth at the festival. Ms. Cheryl used some of the TJFP funds to make TILTT their very first banner which they marched proudly with in the Trans March. For many members it was their first time being in a pride march. She proudly told me, 'At the end of the two days, I felt like we really accomplished something and that it was critical that we were there.'"



Artwork by Nikki Jackson

"Ms. Cheryl is truly a treasure to the community and a key activist dismantling racism, transphobia, sexism, the prison industrial complex, and many other forces that limit people from living their truths."

— Nikki Jackson

Ms. Cheryl's vision and boldness were a gift to us all and it was absolutely critical that she was here. Her transformation from fearless elder and community leader to beloved ancestor reminds us what and who we're fighting for.

Let us honor her life and her life's work each and every day.

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