

2013 Report

Contents

Acknowledgements.....	3
Introducing The Trans Justice Funding Project.....	4
A Growing Movement for Trans Justice by Nico Amador.....	7
The TJFP Team	9
2013 Funding Criteria.....	10
Letter of Support by Holmes	11
Grantee Directory	12
Applicant Directory.....	16
Reflections from the Panel by Lil' Snoopy Fujikawa.....	19
The Breakdown: What the Numbers Told Us	20
Next Steps: A New Funding Model.....	22
The Future.....	25

The Trans Justice Funding Project is a community-led funding initiative supporting grassroots, trans justice groups run by and for trans people.



Acknowledgements

The Trans Justice Funding Project (TJFP) recognizes that none of this would have been possible without the support of generous individuals and fierce communities from across the nation. Thank you to everyone who submitted an application, made a donation, shared our information with others, selected grantees, volunteered, spoke on behalf of the project, shared your wisdom and feedback with us, asked how you could help, and cheered us on. Most of all, we thank you for trusting and believing in this project. This happened as a result of several people and communities coming together to share resources. It is clear that something very powerful happened.

A special shout out to: our TJFP panelists and facilitator, Chriss Sneed, Tyrone Boucher, Alison Goldberg, Alison King, Kurt Leege, Rebecca Fox, Alicia Ohs, Elana Redfield, Helen Stillman, Aleah B. Vaughn and the Criminal Justice Initiative, Ryan Li, Caitlin Breedlove and SONG, Kristen Cox, Denise Brown and the Leeway Foundation, Daniel McGee and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project.

Trans Justice Funding Project Organizers

Karen Pittelman, Co-Organizer
Karen@transjusticefundingproject.org

Gabriel Foster, Co-Organizer
Gabriel@transjusticefundingproject.org

Chriss Sneed, Intern 2013-2014
Chriss@transjusticefundingproject.org

Online

Website www.transjusticefundingproject.org

Facebook
www.facebook.com/TransJusticeFundingProject

Twitter
twitter.com/theTJFP

Tumblr
www.transjusticefundingproject.tumblr.com

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 purpose 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, cross dressers, 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.

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 identity as Two-Spirit; in many Nations, being Two-Spirit carries both great respect and additional commitments and responsibilities to one's community.

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 out of the right to self-determine our gender and gender expression, free from all forms of violence and oppression, including personal and state violence.

*This report is also
available on our website.*

Introducing The Trans Justice Funding Project

104 applications. From Selma, Alabama to Missoula, Montana. Portland, Oregon to Portland, Maine.

It was why we started this project in the first place. We knew there were so many grassroots trans justice groups across the country struggling to fund their work. And we knew just how little funding was out there for them. Still, the weight of those 104 applications—more than a thousand pages of organizing strategies, newsletters, snapshots of marches and celebrations, poems written from prison cells, quotes from young leaders who had built their skills in community trainings, outreach flyers offering emergency aid, hard-won local articles spreading the word about campaigns—it was enough to make us dance with joy and cry at the same time. Joy because there was so much more going on than we'd ever imagined. And tears because while \$50,000 had felt like an astronomical sum to raise, we knew it wouldn't be near enough to fund even a fraction of these requests.

We're writing this report because we want to help get the word out about the incredible groups we funded as well as the incredible groups we weren't able to support. We believe in the power of local grassroots organizing to serve 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 in a way that is accountable, effective and strategic. We hope that by sharing a little of our story, we might inspire others to join us in supporting this vital social justice work.

The plan...

We started this project a year ago, in the summer of 2012, to help call attention to the importance of supporting local, grassroots trans justice work at a time when most funders are focused on



The 2013 T7FP panelists, facilitator, and co-organizers

national or state policy initiatives. We aimed to raise \$50,000 and then bring together a panel of activists from across the country to distribute it.

Our plan was to fund organizations that were run by and for trans communities across the U.S. from rural areas to big cities. We wanted to center the leadership of trans people who were bringing their own experiences with racism, economic injustice, transmisogyny, ableism, immigration, incarceration, and other oppressions to their work, and who were thinking deeply about how these oppressions intersect. We hoped to support projects rooted in their local communities that were also strategic about collaborating and envisioned themselves as part of a bigger picture of trans-led work that sought dignity and justice for all people. We also wanted to remember that groundbreaking programs in a big city can sometimes look very different from groundbreaking programs in a more rural area, and that we'd need to pay attention to our map so that all our funding didn't cluster in just one or two spots.

We spent the rest of 2012 creating outreach and application materials, setting up a Collective Action Fund at Tides Foundation so that donations could be tax deductible, raising money, and bringing together our activist panel.

Community-led giving

It was crucial for us to distribute these funds through a community-led process. **We're keenly aware of the power that funders hold over what work gets prioritized and what organizations have to do to keep themselves afloat.** Rooted in the

traditions of social justice philanthropy, TJFP's purpose is to invest in trans communities making decisions by and for ourselves. So a central part of our focus as co-organizers was to create a welcoming space for a national panel of activist community members to convene and lead our grantmaking.

Who gave?

When we began fundraising, we thought we would primarily be leveraging donations from wealthier donors. But as soon as we announced the project, people from all backgrounds, from trans, queer, and allied communities, claimed the TJFP for their own. In the span of just a few months, we received a total of 79 donations, and 54 of these—68%—were under \$50. While we would not have met our fundraising goal without a number of major gifts in the \$2000-\$10,000 range, our base of support was broad.

Co-organizer Karen Pittelman's donation was to cover all the fund's expenses out-of-pocket (from travel to stipends to Tides' fees) so that every cent contributed to the TJFP went directly to our grantees. While we are committed to supporting trans leadership and creating respectful, nurturing working conditions, we also understand this is expensive and that many donors feel uncomfortable with overhead. So, at least during our initial year—especially because we are a fundraising initiative not an organization—we felt it was important to make it clear to our donors that 100% of their money would be re-granted. The question of how to balance expenses and respect people's labor while also moving the maximum amount of resources possible is one we know almost every group struggles with and that we will continue to ask ourselves as we move forward.

An overwhelming response

We released the grant application at the start of 2013 and began doing outreach. The news spread quickly especially via facebook and blogs. Still, we expected to receive at most 40 applications, especially given that this was a new project and we were working with a much shorter turn-around time than we would have liked. We were stunned when, by the night of our deadline

in mid-February, we had received 104 applications from around the country.

Our decision-making process

When the panel finally convened in New York City on March 8th, they had an impossible task ahead of them. The incredibly dedicated TJFP panelists, along with the help of one fierce facilitator, spent two long days discussing page after page of applications, newsletters, pictures, brochures, and articles (not to mention 25 videos). Because so many of the groups who applied fit our original criteria, the panel faced some hard choices about how to narrow the field. In particular, they made the difficult decision to focus only on smaller, less established groups—groups that other funders might consider “risky.”

Excluding larger groups meant leaving out organizations that have been true beacons of inspiration not only for everyone involved with the TJFP, but for many of our grantees. One of the toughest questions we are left with after this first year is: how can we find ways to provide support for smaller groups while also drawing attention to the needs of larger trans justice groups who have their own very immediate funding struggles? This is a question we know we will continue to grapple with.



Trans Justice Funding Project



Grantees 2013

Focusing on smaller groups meant that one third of our grantees do not have a fiscal sponsor. With the exception of one organization with a slightly larger budget, all the organizations we funded had a budget of under \$70,000. Half of our grantees have a budget of \$5,000 or less. This means that the total combined budgets of our 22 grantees is less than \$520,000.

It's a good example of just how much gets done with very little money and an enormous amount of committed, volunteer labor. ***It's also an example of how vastly underfunded grassroots trans justice work is, and how long the road ahead will be if we want to help change that.***

What's next?

After such an outpouring of support, we couldn't help but be inspired to continue the project. We hope that you'll join us in our mission to back trans justice work in whatever way you can. We're committed to organizing a second round of funding for 2014, and we'd love to have your help raising the money and getting the word out to groups that might want to apply. Or consider sending a gift directly to one of our grantees. They need the support of long-term donors to make their work sustainable! Or take a look at the list of applicants who met our criteria. It's organized by state, so you can get a glimpse of what's going on in your own area, find new ways to get involved, and reach out to create new collaborations and coalitions. We know that this is just the beginning.

A Growing Movement for Trans Justice

By Nico Amador, 2013 TJFP Facilitator

Many of us involved in the TJFP saw this project not just as an opportunity to resource individual organizations but also as a way to increase capacity for movement-building work across the country. Different people have different opinions about what constitutes a social movement, but here is one way to think about it: social movements are made up of a series of collective actions in which people, usually those most impacted by an injustice, mobilize to raise public awareness and change the systems, policies, and culture responsible for perpetuating that injustice.

Before social movements begin, most people are either unaware that a problem exists or don't believe there's anything they can do about it. When we think back thirty or forty years, that was the case for gender non-conforming people or anyone who desired to transition: no public awareness and very few ways to find support, self-advocate, or organize. Thanks to the brave work of many elders in our community who fought the early battles for recognition, trans people are now more visible and resources are multiplying. This is not to say that the experience of many trans groups and individuals isn't still one of isolation and vulnerability, but the national picture of leadership on trans issues that we saw through the applications to the TJFP affirms that things are changing: a movement has begun.

What can we expect a movement for trans justice to accomplish? We might not see a singular, coordinated campaign on a clear platform of issues, but rather a decentralized effort in which an increasing number of trans-led projects, like the ones we saw through the TJFP, bring various trans health and rights issues to the forefront. The individual goals of these projects are specific to their context and geography, but if we generalize to some of the broader themes that emerged, we can say that the growing movement for trans justice seeks to: expand and complicate



"It has been a really gratifying pleasure and honor to have been involved in this project. I am hoping and praying, considering the enthusiastic response from donors this time, that this has proven to be just the beginning of an ongoing project or foundation for struggling transgender organizations and groups. Too often they are ignored and left to flounder, wondering how they will survive."

—Cheryl Courtney-Evans,
2013 TJFP Panelist

definitions and notions of gender; make various kinds of gender transition and expression safe, accessible, and affordable; create environments in which trans people can find resources and community, be less vulnerable to violence, and feel affirmed in whatever choices they make in regard to their bodies and identities; change systems with binary expectations of gender as for example, gendered restrooms; give trans people voice and influence within work happening at the intersection of other issues, such as immigration, prison abolition, economic justice, and access for people with disabilities; fight discrimination in employment, education, health care, and other institutions.

Most social movements don't take off and transform the culture overnight. To achieve the kind of profile we associate with historic actions such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott in the 50s, ACT UP's confrontational tactics during the AIDS crisis, or even recent activism in support of gay marriage, social movements often go through quieter stages of development that lay the ground-work for the victories to come.

Many of the projects we read about in the applications for the TJFP suggest that right now,

the movement for trans justice is in the stage that happens right before a movement takes off, a stage of ripening conditions.* If the work that is happening right now continues to thrive, more groups will be poised to collaborate on campaigns and use bolder tactics that address the root causes of many issues, and allow us to exercise our collective power as a community.

What's exciting about this stage is that almost any new or existing project that serves to build networks, provide support, train leaders, expose issues, impact trans communities, collect data, foster hope and empowerment, and broaden public awareness will contribute to inciting opportunities for deeper change. Within trans-led projects, it's an important time for experimentation, relationship-building, and nurturing a sense of vision.

It's also a strategic time for these projects to be asking for and receiving support from donors. A movement usually cannot be successful without a strong element of broad-based coalition building and direct action. This kind of work is still mostly lacking in the big picture of trans justice work happening across the country, but we're likely to see much more of it soon, if the resources are there. It's not that we should ask every project to include organizing and direct action as part of its mission, but we should continue to nurture the conditions that make it possible for more of that work to emerge organically. The TJFP gave support to a range of grantees, some that did have an organizing focus, and others that were oriented toward support services, art, and awareness-raising. However, just about all of the projects we supported had a strong component of leadership by trans people, and this seems most critical in supporting the potential for movement growth at this time.

One danger at this stage is that the momentum that is currently being generated by these individual projects will be co-opted by larger organizations and used to push a mainstream agenda in which more transformative opportunities will be lost. Related to this is another danger—the possibility that critical voices within trans communities won't be represented as these agendas are moved forward. This stage is a crucial one for giving resources and influence to those at the margins:

youth and the elderly, people living in rural areas, indigenous people and people of color, people with disabilities, people who are homeless, poor, or working class people, immigrants, people in prison or formerly incarcerated, etc.

This was a major source of consideration and conversation among the panelists who were a part of selecting the TJFP grantees and a place where we challenged ourselves to interrogate our own biases. While all of us can and should continue to grow in this regard, we were as thoughtful as we could be in choosing a pool of grantees that reflected significant work being done by some of the margins within our community.

There were, of course, many other projects that we would have loved to support and hope that others do. For that reason we encourage people who want to continue to give to check out our directory of applicants. We think that for all of us interested in supporting the growth of a movement for trans justice, now is the time to continue giving to these and other projects where trans leadership is at the forefront.

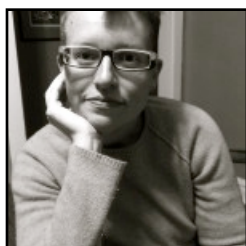
**This description of the stages of social movements comes from activist and scholar Bill Moyer and his Movement Action Plan articulated in Doing Democracy, New Society Publishers, 2001.*



The Team



Kay Ulanday Barrett, *panelist* (New York/New Jersey) is a poet, performer, educator, and martial artist navigating life as a disabled pin@y-amerikan transgender queer. K. is also a Campus Pride 2009 Hot List artist who turns art into action, dedicated to LGBTQ, API, youth communities, and remixing recipes.

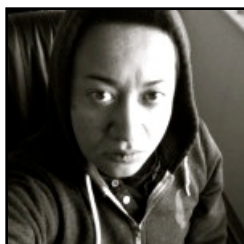


Lara Brooks, *panelist* (Chicago, IL) is the Director of the Broadway Youth Center and has worked with street-based and homeless youth, survivors of violence, and queer and trans youth for more than a decade. Brooks is currently on the Community Advisory Counsel for Sage Community Health Collective, a Chicago-based healing justice worker collective that offers sliding scale alternative health care.

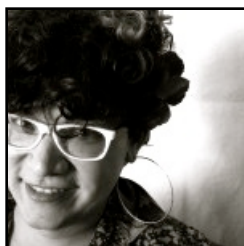


Cheryl Courtney-Evans, *panelist* (Atlanta, GA) is the founder of TILTT, the first transgender support and advocacy organization in Atlanta to serve both transgender men and women. She is the winner of the TransFaith In Color/Freedom Center for Social Justice

Conference “Pioneer Award” for “years of courageous work toward transgender rights and empowerment.”



Jordan T. Garcia, *panelist* (Denver, CO) is the Immigrant Ally Organizing Director for Coloradans For Immigrant Rights at the American Friends Service Committee. He serves on the board of directors for the Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training and contributes to the LUZ Reproductive Justice Think Tank.

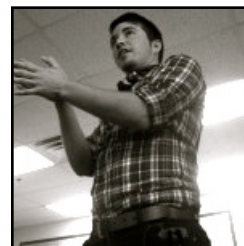


Lil' Snoopy Fujikawa, *panelist* (Seattle, WA) currently organizes with a collective of nikkei folks called Tadaima, plays music in an intentionally People Of Color dance-punk band called My Parade, works as a Participation Coordinator at an all-ages music and arts non-profit, and facilitates workshops on Transformative Justice.



Bamby Salcedo, *panelist* (Los Angeles, CA) is the HIV Prevention Services Project Coordinator with Children's Hospital Los Angeles and founder of the Trans-Latin@ Coalition, a national advocacy organization to

address the needs of trans Latina immigrant women residing in the US.



Nico Amador, *facilitator* (Philadelphia, PA) is a trainer, organizer and writer. Nico got his start as a trainer leading workshops on the impacts of militarism and the prison industrial complex on people of color. In his role at Training for Change, Nico has led workshops in the US, Canada and Europe.



Karen Pittelman, *co-organizer* (Brooklyn, NY) is the author of Resource Generation's *Classified: How to Stop Hiding Your Privilege and Use It For Social Change* and a co-founder of Chahara Foundation, a fund run by and for low-income women activists in Boston for a decade.



Gabriel Foster, *co-organizer* (Brooklyn, NY) has had the honor of doing community organizing work for almost 20 years with and for queer and trans communities in Seattle, Oakland, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and now in New York with the Sylvia Rivera Law Project.

2013 Funding Criteria

We are committed to supporting groups that:

- Are run by and for trans communities.
- Support and encourage trans leadership.
- Are guided by a commitment to trans justice and anti-oppression work.
- Center the leadership of trans people organizing around their experiences with racism, economic injustice, transmisogyny, ableism, immigration, incarceration, and other intersecting oppressions.
- Collaborate with other local groups and think of themselves as part of a bigger picture of trans-led work that seeks dignity and justice for all people.
- Are meeting the needs of different local communities and using organizing and/or providing services to help bring people together.

What we fund:

- Groups, projects and organizations across the U.S. from rural areas to big cities
- Groups that have 501c3 status or fiscal sponsorship
- Groups that don't have 501c3 status or fiscal sponsorship
- Established organizations
- Groups that are just getting started

What we don't fund:

- Individuals
- Groups outside the U.S.

"This is an amazing accomplishment! So many wonderful organizations are going to benefit so much—which is amazing for our entire trans justice movement."

—Lisa Mottet,
Deputy Executive Director,
National Center for
Transgender Equality

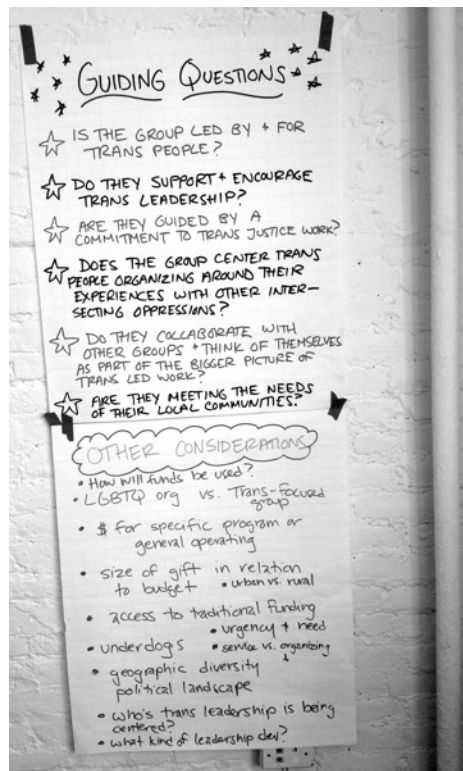
A Letter of Support

By Holmes, 2013 TJFP donor

You have given so many people a good cause for celebration, not just for the money but, perhaps more importantly, for the recognition, the validation, and the encouragement. Every group you chose to offer support is fueled by zillions of volunteer hours and great love—and the kind of fuel the philanthropic industry can't buy, and so many people would never see.

That's why well-grounded activist-advised funds can put money in places where it is most precious. And that's also why I am grateful to all the TJFP participants as one of the folks who pitched in with money that needed to reach higher potential. Thank you for what you know, all the hard-won ways you know it, what you were willing to learn from the applicants themselves, and what you have shared with all of us through your contributions in this process.

Thank you also for finding ways to draw more attention to all the applicants that met your



“Every group you chose to offer support is fueled by zillions of volunteer hours and great love—and the kind of fuel the philanthropic industry can't buy, and so many people would never see.”

—Holmes

criteria. Not only is this a wonderful, humble acknowledgment that the grantees in this round are not the only worthy ones, it is a resourceful in-kind contribution to every eligible applicant—a valuable consolation prize that recognizes the effort, hope, and love invested in every submission to the grantmaking team.

The Trans Justice Funding Project announcement letter so clearly makes the case for both need and potential impact. Not just for grants. For everything that makes movements grow. With this first round experience, you have helped put out a call to action, waving flags over opportunity and inviting for us all to reach each other with offers of mutual aid, connection, and support.

Tonight I am celebrating all the groups that are celebrating support from TJFP, and to everyone who has helped make it possible, I am writing to thank you for your guiding light.



2013 Grantees

Casa Ruby is a multicultural center and safe space serving the transgender community in Washington, D.C. and where all are welcome. Their mission is to create success stories, particularly among trans communities of color. Through advocacy, employment and housing assistance, HIV testing and counseling, and other services, they enable individuals to overcome discrimination, poverty, and other oppressions so they may reach their full potential. Furthermore, through community outreach and collaboration with other agencies, they strive to unite, strengthen, and empower the transgender community.

DC Trans Coalition (DCTC) is a volunteer, grassroots, community-based organization dedicated to fighting for human rights, dignity, and liberation for transgender, transsexual, and gender-diverse (hereafter: trans) people in the District of Columbia. DCTC organizes local communities to spread awareness, increase trans people's access to resources and information, and ensure that their communities' experiences are treated with respect and dignity. They work toward changing laws, policies, and services to improve the lives and realize gender self-determination for all of D.C.'s trans communities. DCTC works to ensure that all trans people have what they need to self-determine their genders.

Durham Gender Alliance (DGA)

is a moderated, gender-issues support group serving Durham, Cary, Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and nearby regions of North Carolina. DGA is guided

"It sounds like you had a very thoughtful process and a stellar panel to make these tough choices. I appreciate the values behind your funding decisions. Thanks again for the great work you are doing."

—Marcos Martinez,
Entre Hermanos

by the principles of mutual respect, support and education. Its goals are developing community, fostering leadership, and offering outreach. Membership in the DGA is also available to all gender-diverse individuals (cross dresser, transgender, transsexual, intersex, and questioning), their significant others, family members, friends, and allies.

First Rain is a commitment to creating more accessibility, reconnection, and awareness of brave spaces for making ritual around all stages of transformation during a two-spirited person's realization of body, heart, and mind. First Rain supports the self-determination of their own ceremonies to celebrate, grieve, and create passage through each stage of life and death as two-spirited and trans people. They are a humble group of three two-spirited people located in Seattle, WA with many sister-brothers/brother-sisters from this land and across the water, all of whom are an essential part of the heart-work they do collectively. The core of what they strive to do is living, preserving, and reconnecting trans people of color to indigenous ways of life, while surviving in the context of an imperialist nation.

Gender Equity Arkansas (geAR) is focused on serving the Transgender, Gender Variant, and Gender Queer community and open as well to supportive allies, family, and friends. Since its beginning, geAR has been open, inclusive, and a safe place where people can find support and build friendships whether they are deciding on transition, identifying outside the normal constructs of "Male" or "Female," or have questions about gender and/or the overall parameters of gender. Because a person's needs change over time, geAR is in the process of expanding its focus to building community, raising awareness, and making a positive impact. geAR offers opportunities for individuals to work together and share their energy, voices, and talents toward projects and activities based on the group's needs and desires. geAR is open to ages 14+.

Hearts on a Wire is a Philadelphia-based transgender and gender variant prisoner justice collective. By organizing across prison walls, the collective supports incarcerated trans and gender variant (T/GV) people throughout Pennsylvania while engaging local communities affected by

mass imprisonment and state violence. Hearts on a Wire formed in 2007 in response to the need for local grassroots prison organizing that addresses policing and incarceration as a major issue facing T/GV communities. T/GV people, prison justice activists, and social service providers came together to create an advocacy network for supporting incarcerated T/GV people and assessing the impact of mass incarceration in our communities.

hotpot! is a Philadelphia-based gathering working to build community for queer Asian + Pacific Islander lesbian, bisexual women, trans*, gender variant/queer/non-conforming identified folks through social gatherings, political action, and good food. hotpot! came together in Philadelphia in 2009, and as they experience continual self-examination and transformation, they are gratefully challenged by the diversity of experiences. hotpot! seeks to be sensitive, intentional, and inclusive in their mission, especially around the myriad of gendered, ethnic, and national cultures within their community. This tension is an ongoing conversation that they honor.

Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project (K-STEP) works to lift the veil of mystery and ignorance which commonly surrounds the phenomenon of transgender people by providing education to universities, community colleges, drug/alcohol treatment centers, YWCAs, Kansas Equality Coalition chapters, PFLAG chapters, human relations commissions, SRS offices, faith organizations, governmental entities, employers, independent living centers, and other interested organizations throughout Kansas; and to train interested persons as transgender educators, advocates, and leaders. Their hope is that K-STEP will enable a society free of discrimination against transgender, gender queer, gender non-conforming, and gender questioning individuals and their families.

Louisiana Trans Advocates strengthens and supports transgender and allied communities across the state through social support, education, empowerment, and advocacy in order to promote self-determination of gender identity and gender expression for everyone. Their core principles include the following: the interests and concerns of all classes, subgroups, and



U.T.O.P.I.A Seattle

minorities within the transgender community in Louisiana are valuable and should be heard and fairly represented; mutual benefit can be achieved by working with other organizations in the pursuit of civil and human rights; all people, regardless of individual socioeconomic condition or degree of technological sophistication, should have an opportunity to participate fully in organizational activities.

Montana Two Spirit Society formed in 1996 to conduct an annual Two Spirit gathering. Over the years, the gathering has grown from a handful of participants to nearly 100 attendees from not only Montana but surrounding states as well. Tribes from all over the west are represented at the gathering. The Montana Two Spirit Society has brought more awareness about Two Spirit and Native LGBT issues by: hosting the International Two Spirit Gathering; conducting workshops and presentations at conferences, summits and retreats; attending similar Two Spirit Gatherings around the country; networking with other Two Spirit Societies around the country; and collaborating with other LGBT organizations.

Prison Doula Project a reproductive justice collective of non-paid doulas working to interrupt the pervasive and systemic sexism, classism, racism, homophobia and transphobia within the prison industrial complex. They provide prenatal, labor, and postpartum support to all interested incarcerated parents at the Washington Correction Center for Women. Some of the topics and issues that they work with include re-connection with adopted children, pregnancy loss, parenting from prison, advocating for medical care while incarcerated, zine writing, and emotional support.

Rainbow Community Cares is co-creating safe places in supportive community where transgender and lesbian, gay and bisexual folk and their allies gather. They believe that love in action comes out of exploring and affirming self-expression and self-determination, exploring what it is that brings wellbeing and spiritual health to individual life expressions. It is RCC's vision that through care of self we can reach out in care and concern to encourage others to embrace human dignity in all its diverse expressions. Connected to trans community, leaders organize to enable fairer access to the resources and support that honor the needs of all people.

SICK is an artist driven collective that unites a community of artists who are simultaneously navigating chronic illness as well as transgender and/or gender variant identity in the Bay Area and beyond. Their collective strives to create multidisciplinary showcases that bring together performance, video, and visual artists.

TGI (Transgender, Gender Variant, & Intersex) Justice Project is a group of transgender people —inside and outside of prison—creating a united family in the struggle for survival and freedom. They work in collaboration with others to forge a culture of resistance and resilience to strengthen them for the fight against imprisonment, police violence, racism, poverty, and societal pressures. They seek to create a world rooted in self-determination, freedom of expression, and gender justice. Their members are low-income transgender women of color and their families who are in prison, formerly incarcerated, or targeted by the police.



Transgender Individuals Living Their Truth (TILTT)

Transgender Individuals Living Their Truth (TILTT) works to provide a safe, supportive place for the transgender community, giving them the tools to cope with the community at large. TILTT, Inc. is on a global mission to provide positive images through participation in positive events and activities and living healthily through HIV/ AIDS and Hepatitis C prevention and testing. They wish to address the health care disparities as they relate to the transgender community. In this way they believe they can begin a new movement to "tilt the world toward change."

TransLatina@ Coalition is a group of TransLatin@ immigrant women from different parts of the United States who have organized to address the specific needs of TransLatin@ immigrants and plan advocacy strategies that would improve their quality of life. Since their inception, members have been volunteering their time to ensure the voices of TransLatin@ immigrants are heard. TransLatin@ is based in Los Angeles with membership in several states including Florida, Minnesota, DC, New York, and beyond.

Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico is dedicated to serving the transgender communities of the state of New Mexico. In collaboration with their community and many other organizations, agencies and programs, they create and cultivate resources that support, assist, educate, and advocate for transgender people and their families and loved ones. The Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico provides a wide range of support and educational services to trans people and their allies in New Mexico and beyond. Their services range from support groups to a speakers' bureau to educational programs for medical and social service providers.

Trans Youth Support Network (TYSN) works to promote racial, social, and economic justice for trans youth, with the freedom to self-define gender identity and expression. Founded in Minneapolis in 2007 as a response to violence against youth trans women of color, they have two main goals: 1) to transform Minnesota youth-serving organizations to be more accessible and accountable to trans youth, and 2) to develop the leadership and skills of trans youth to play key roles in social justice movements. TYSN's

constituency is trans people under age 26, with African American trans women representing the majority of current active members/leaders.

Transcendents is a transgender support group for Savannah, GA and the surrounding area that is working to become a major presence in the community through social justice and community service. Founded in May, 2012, they have grown to 11 regular members in a short amount of time. They hope to become a resource for the area and to raise awareness in the community that transgender people exist in the South. Through this, they hope to change the media and political playing field.

Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois (TJLP) is a collective of radical lawyers, activists, and community organizers founded in 2008 in response to the urgent need for holistic criminal legal services for transgender and gender non-conforming people in Illinois who are targeted by the criminal legal system. TJLP goes beyond providing “traditional legal services” by seeing affirming defense work as a tool to support social change and reduce the harm that the legal system has on marginalized groups. To hold ourselves accountable to broader goals of liberation, they work under three core values: 1) the right to gender self-determination, 2) a long-term goal of prison abolition, and 3) development of transformative justice models as necessary alternatives to the U.S. penal system.

U.T.O.P.I.A Seattle (United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance) creates a safe space for Pacific Islanders lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) communities in advocating for social justice, education, and overall wellness. The journey from Island life to a life on the U.S. Mainland is one riddled with many difficulties for members of their communities here in Seattle. Often they are unaware of the hardships they will face when they arrive. In many of their island homelands, transgender individuals are affirmed as healers, teachers, and cherished members of their families and communities. At U.T.O.P.I.A, programming aims to incorporate the cultural traditions of their homelands into monthly meetings, organizing activities, and fundraising efforts—emboldening cultural pride with and across sexual, gendered, and racial borders as

“We are so excited that the Trans Justice Funding Project exists and was able to support so many under-resourced groups across the country doing amazing grassroots work.”

—Jai Dulani, FIERCE

well as empowering and strengthening their trans community from the inside out.

Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP) seeks a safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) street-based youth between the ages of 12 and 24 to explore their history, investigate new ways to address their struggles, and to celebrate their strengths through the process of developing a theatrical performance piece. YEPP uses harm reduction, social justice, transformative justice, and education for liberation (theatre of the oppressed and popular education) frameworks to contain and guide their work.

2013 Directory

The following are groups that applied, matched our original criteria, and gave us permission to share their information. We hope this list will help connect groups with each other and inspire everyone to support the important work happening right now in their communities! For links, please see our website.

Alabama

Alpha Sigma Omega Fraternity
Selma, AL

Arkansas

Gender Equality Arkansas
(geAR) (grantee)
Little Rock, AR

Arizona

Rainbow Defense Fund
Tucson, AZ

California

Gender Justice L.A.
Los Angeles, CA

Groundswell
(formerly FCQ! For Colored
Queers)
San Francisco, CA

Los Angeles Transgender Film
Festival
Los Angeles, CA

Pacific Pride Foundation
Santa Barbara, CA

Queer Yo Mind Conference
San Leandro, CA

Stockton Transgender
Alliance
Stockton, CA

SICK (grantee)
*San Francisco,
CA*

St. James
Infirmary
*San Francisco,
CA*

Topsy Turvy: A
Queer Circus
Extravaganza
Oakland, CA

TransLatin@
Coalition
(grantee)
Glendale, CA

Trans March
San Francisco, CA

Transgender, Gender Variant
& Intersex Justice Project
(TGI Justice) (grantee)
San Francisco, CA

Transgender Law Center
San Francisco, CA

Who We Know
Oakland, CA

Florida

Jacksonville Area Sexual
Minority Youth Network
(JASMYN)
Jacksonville, FL

Georgia

Alphabet Soup Atlanta
Atlanta, GA

JustUsATL
Atlanta, GA

Juxtaposed Center for
Transformation
Decatur, GA



Gender Justice L.A.

Transgender Individuals Living
Their Truth (TILTT) (grantee)
Atlanta, GA

Trans(forming)
Atlanta, GA

Iowa

Transformations
Des Moines, IA

Illinois

Chicago Women's Health Center
Chicago, IL

KokumoMedia Inc
Chicago, IL

Transformative Justice Law
Project of Illinois (TJLP) (grantee)
Chicago, IL

Youth Empowerment
Performance Project (grantee)
Chicago, IL

Indiana

Gender Warriors
Evansville, IN

Kansas

Kansas Statewide
Transgender Education
Project (K-STEP) (grantee)
Topeka, KS

Louisiana
BreakOUT!
New Orleans, LA

Louisiana Trans Advocates
(grantee)
Baton Rouge, LA

Massachusetts
Massachusetts Transgender
Political Coalition
Boston, MA

Transgender Emergency Fund
Worcester, MA

Maryland
Equality Maryland
Baltimore, MD

Maine
Trans Youth Equality Foundation
Portland, ME

Minnesota
RECLAIM
Minneapolis, MN

Minnesota Transgender Health
Coalition
Minneapolis, MN

Trans Youth Support Network
(TYSN) (grantee)
Minneapolis, MN

Mississippi
Bois of the Sippi
Corinth, MS

Missouri
LGBT Center of St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

Montana
MontanaTDOR
Missoula, MT

Montana Two Spirit Society
(grantee)
Missoula, MT

North Carolina
Durham Gender Alliance
(grantee)
Durham, NC

Greensboro Health Cooperative
Efland, NC

Rainbow Community Cares
(grantee)
Cary, NC

New Hampshire
Those Queers
Hanover, NH

New Jersey
Interfaith Working Group
(Transfaith)
Lawrenceville, NJ

New Mexico
Transgender Resource Center
of New Mexico (grantee)
Albuquerque, NM

Nevada
Gender Justice Nevada
Las Vegas, NV

New York
Destination Tomorrow
Brooklyn, NY

FIERCE
New York, NY

Organization for
Transgender
Health
Empowerment
Resources
(OTHER)
Ridgewood, NY

New York
Citizens for
Transgender
Rights (NYCTR)
Delmar, NY

PERSIST Health Project
Brooklyn, NY

Third Root Education Exchange
Brooklyn, NY

Sylvia Rivera Law Project
New York, NY

Transgender Advocates of the
Capitol Region
Albany, NY

TransJustice/Audre Lorde
Project
New York, NY

Ohio
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual &
Transgender Community
Center or Greater Cleveland
Cleveland, OH

The Midwest Trans* and
Queer Wellness Initiative
Cincinnati, OH

Oregon
Basic Rights Education Fund
Portland, OR

TransActive Education &
Advocacy
Portland, OR



Midwest Trans Queer Wellness Initiative
with Cincinnati Trans* Community Group.*

Pennsylvania

Hearts on a Wire (grantee)
Philadelphia, PA

hotpot! (grantee)
Philadelphia, PA

Trans Oral History Project
Upper Darby, PA

Rhode Island

Transgender Intersex
Network of Rhode Island
Providence, RI

South Carolina

Gender Benders
Greenville, SC

Transcendents (grantee)
Bluffton, SC

Texas

Trans Pride Initiative
Dallas, TX

Transgender Education
Network of Texas
College Station, TX

Washington, DC

Casa Ruby (grantee)
Washington, DC

DC Trans Coalition (grantee)
Washington, DC

Community Education Group
Washington, DC

DMV Trans Circulator
Washington, DC

HIPS
Washington, DC

Pride at Work/LGBT Labor
Leadership Initiative
Washington, DC

Trans People of Color Coalition
Washington, DC

Washington

Camp Ten Trees
Seattle, WA

Entre Hermanos
Seattle, WA

First Rain (grantee)
Seattle, WA

Gender Diversity
Bellingham WA

LGBTQ Allyship
Seattle, WA

Prison Doula Project (grantee)
Olympia, WA

Reteaching Gender & Sexuality
Seattle, WA

Stonewall Youth
Olympia, WA

Three Wings/Queer Youth Space
Seattle, WA

We Are Family
Seattle, WA

Gender Alliance of the South
Sound
Gig Harbor, WA

Gender Justice League
Seattle, WA

Gendercast: Our
Transmasculine Genderqueery
Seattle, WA

Ingersoll Gender Center
Seattle, WA

Queer Art Heals Your Heart
(QAHYH)
Olympia, WA

United Territories of Pacific
Islanders Alliance
(U.T.O.P.I.A Seattle) (grantee)
Seattle, WA

Wisconsin
FORGE, Inc.,
Milwaukee, WI



Reflections from the Panel

By Lil' Snoopy Fujikawa, 2013 TJFP Panelist

I'm incredibly grateful to have been a panelist for the 2013 Trans Justice Funding Project. I was inspired by the work that's going on across the country— both in organizations with deep histories as well as relatively new ones. I was humbled to work with my fellow panelists and to be able to move through the process with grace, love, and a delicate push-and-pull. (Big love to our facilitator Nico Amador for coaching us through this process and the warm hospitality and guidance of TJFP founders Karen Pittelman and Gabriel Foster).

This process of community-led grantmaking reminded me that giving is so incredibly important. We had a huge response to our request for proposals, and we were only able to fund 22 of them. Reading over the applications, it became clear that even small grants of \$1000-\$5000 would have a big impact for every grantee. The act of redistributing wealth by a community-led panel—who were not tied to any of the donors—reified our value that the people impacted were making the decisions about how the money would be most effectively distributed. Being a national, and mostly a people of color panel of trans* and gender-non-conforming folks helped inform our intersectional lens and value organizations that were building the leadership of the trans* and gender-non-conforming people who are most marginalized.

I also learned that giving—while incredibly important and impacting—isn't enough. I left the experience feeling exhausted and overwhelmed. Although we quickly found wonderful organizations to support, we were left with many other amazing organizations we were unable to fund because \$50,000 would not stretch far enough. In the face of all the inspiring work that was happening, I was feeling hella deep scarcity. Maybe that's the nature of funding social justice work in a capitalist society that doesn't value our work or our lives—funding alone won't solve the problems and the system that is benefiting off our communities and labor will always have more money. I want to see funding for folks doing trans* justice work grow, and I also want to see us do it in a way that

simultaneously builds our power outside of a complete reliance on funding and non-profit structures. I also want to know what are the other links and connections that are coming out of this work that we can build on. I'm hoping that the directory of the folks we couldn't fund can start mapping some places where trans* liberation work is happening, and we can also work toward locally supporting trans* justice.

One of biggest gaps was funding organizations based in rural communities, and outside the lower 48 states. One of the challenges I ran into was that the work that I was personally most excited about was based in overwhelmingly urban areas, and largely along the coasts—work centering trans* people of color, low-income folks, sex workers, people targeted by the police and ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), and disabled folks. We ended up not funding some of the organizations that I consider to be the leaders in working for trans* justice because we wanted to make sure that we were valuing the work of rural organizations. But as a movement we aren't valuing the work that's happening in rural communities—often privileging urban queer and trans* communities instead.

I'm looking forward to the future of the TJFP and our movements to keep supporting the work of trans* organizations across the country.

“Please, as you do this work, remember there are trans individuals and communities in the heartland, in the south, in rural and farming communities, in the Pacific Northwest. Please, in your work, remember them. They are, I believe, the soul of this trans movement.”

—Donna Red Wing,
Transformations,
Des Moines, Iowa

The Breakdown:

What the Numbers Told Us

There was so much to learn from the 104 applications we received from across the country, especially about what areas and issues trans justice groups are focused on right now. Here are some of the numbers:

73% of the applicants focus their work based on a commitment to continuing **public education** on trans issues through workshop facilitation, advisement, programming, and other platforms.

65% of the groups have an emphasis on relationship building within communities through **cultural work & collaboration**.

57% center the establishment of **support groups** for trans people and their allies.

41% prioritize providing **wellness, health and medical services, and education**.

34% focus on **racial justice and trans people of color**.

31% are involved in **policy reform and political advocacy**.

29% focus on **trans youth** through programming, service provision, advocacy, and leadership.

17% focus on **economic justice** through programming and advocacy.

13% emphasize or provide advocacy through **art and creative expression**.

11% focus on **housing issues and homelessness**.

10% focus on issues related to **prison reform and experience**.

7% focus on connecting trans communities with **legal services** or provide legal services directly through their organization.

6% focus on issues related to **immigration and immigrant rights**.

3% specifically focus on **spirituality** in trans communities.

Applicants by Region

West 41%

South 27%

Midwest 13%

Northeast 19%



Next Steps: A New Funding Model

How it worked this year

Last fall, we opened a donor-advised fund at Tides Foundation to house our contributions. A donor-advised fund is like a philanthropic bank account at a public charity. Here's how it worked: everyone who contributed money to the account got a tax deduction because Tides Foundation is a public charity. Next, the Trans Justice Funding Project recommended to Tides Foundation how we wanted that money to be distributed, based on our activist panel's decisions. Then Tides did their due diligence for each recommendation. This means they researched each group to make sure they were using their funds for the public good. Tides has to do this (and report back to the government about it) in order to maintain their tax-deductible public charity status. While we had hoped our own grant application process would be sufficient due diligence for Tides, that wasn't always true, and we got surprised by some red tape. But after a few bumps in the road, Tides distributed all the grants for us. In return, we paid Tides a fee for their services.

Why did we decide to open up a donor-advised fund? As a start-up initiative, we knew most donors would not feel comfortable giving money to a random bank account, no matter how transparent we were about our process. But creating our own public or private foundation would have been a complicated, expensive process, and we didn't have the assets it would require since we were raising all our grant money from scratch. We also knew that if we focused on creating a non-profit organization, we might soon be in the same boat as (and even competing with) most of our grantees, scrambling for scarce funding just to keep the doors open and pay staff while spending countless hours on documentation. We wanted to keep our focus on moving resources instead. Opening a donor-advised fund seemed like our best option: we could let contributors know we were legit and offer them a tax deduction while we would have

the freedom to focus on fundraising and grantmaking.

We chose Tides Foundation because they are one of the few places that allow donor-advised funds to make gifts to unincorporated groups. Unincorporated groups do not have their own 501c3 non-profit standing or a fiscal sponsor with non-profit status to accept donations for them. Though technically any foundation can give to unincorporated groups, it requires that foundation to do additional due diligence in order to prove to the government that those funds will be used for the public good. We suspected that our commitment to supporting small, local, grassroots projects would mean that at least a few of our potential grantees would not be incorporated, and we wanted our activist panel to have the freedom to fund work regardless of tax status.

What we learned

What we learned from our first round of applicants is that many trans justice groups, especially in areas outside of the two coasts, are not incorporated. Some see 501c3 status as a future goal and some do not. Either way, it's almost impossible for them to get grants without it. ***This year's experience made it clear to us that funding unincorporated groups is central to our mission of supporting local, grassroots work.***



Six of our twenty-two grantees were unincorporated groups, and we expect that number to increase for our next grant cycle. While Tides made it possible for us to fund these groups, we were concerned about the additional processes and reporting they required from our grantees. Keeping our application process as simple as possible is one of our core values. So as we began to think about a second year of funding, we realized we had some deep questions to consider.

Why is tax status so important?

Many donors see 501c3 status as a vetting process, one that shows a group's commitment to their mission, professionalism, and fiscal responsibility. And of course, it seems only fair that an organization working for the public good should get a break on taxes when they are not out to make a profit. By that token, donors and foundations deserve to be rewarded with a tax break for their charitable motives, too. Most folks take it as a given that there should be a link between donating money, serving the public good, and tax status.

On the other hand, here are a few questions and issues we've been thinking about:

- Looking back at the long history of destructive government intervention in social justice movements (for example, COINTELPRO), are there disadvantages and even dangers to inviting the kind of government oversight that 501c3 status requires?
- To become a 501c3, a group must take on specific organizational structures, like a board of directors. Some of these structures are from the corporate world, and while they may work well there, are corporate structures the best form for getting collective, community-based work done? (See *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded* for stories about how becoming a 501c3 and applying for foundation funding got in the way of many groups' radical work.)
- Using 501c3 status to vet a group encourages us to look to the government and to foundation funders to determine what accountability and legitimacy look like. But if our goal is social change, shouldn't the communities that a group serves be the ones to decide what work is truly accountable to them? Who are the real experts when it comes to justice? Who is most affected by the issues a group is addressing? And who has a vested interest in keeping things the way they are?
- Who benefits most from the charitable giving deduction? Short answer: the wealthy. In order to claim this write-off on your taxes, you must itemize your deductions instead of using the standard deduction. In 2013, the standard deduction was \$6,100 for an individual. That means that unless you are giving away a lot of money, or you have other tax-deductible expenses that you can itemize (like paying a mortgage, business costs, or medical bills), the standard deduction will usually save you more. The Tax Policy Center estimated that about 70 percent of taxpayers claimed the standard deduction on their 2010 tax returns.

This is one of the reasons why wealthy taxpayers in higher tax brackets are much more likely to itemize than lower-income people in lower tax brackets. According to the Tax Policy Center, just 16 percent of people in the 10 percent tax bracket itemize as opposed to 89 percent of people in the 35 percent tax bracket. The charitable-giving deduction also disproportionately benefits the wealthy. When taxpayers in the 35 percent bracket donate \$100, they get \$35 dollars back. Meanwhile taxpayers in the 10 percent bracket only get \$10 back from that same \$100 donation.

- Most foundations won't even consider a group for funding unless they have 501c3 status or a fiscal sponsor. This focus on government-approved tax status (both for their grantees and for the grantors themselves) is just one of the many ways that institutional philanthropy controls and restricts the work of social change. We can't forget that institutional philanthropy in the US was not created to support social change. Like most institutions, it was designed to protect privilege and shelter assets. For example, until 1969, private foundations weren't even required to give any money away. And today, foundations only have to spend 5% of their assets a year from which they can also deduct operating expenses. Philanthropy may be about charity, but it is also

about power, especially the power that comes with deciding what to fund. And the bulk of that philanthropic power in this country belongs to the wealthy. Which brings us back to the question: who are the real experts when it comes to justice? And who has a vested interest in the status quo?

All the restrictions and requirements it takes for a group to maintain 501c3 status and apply for foundation funding keep folks *busy*. So we have to ask: who benefits from making it harder for these groups to fight for systemic change? It seems to us that the answer is people with power who'd like to make sure things stay just as they are.

A new funding model

After lots of questions, conversations and research, we decided to create a new structure for our upcoming grant cycle. We have incorporated as a small business—a limited liability company (LLC), one of the simpler forms a business can take.

By forming an LLC, we'll be able to open a Trans Justice Funding Project bank account where we can receive and distribute donations. We'll then use this account to write checks directly to unincorporated groups. This will allow us to avoid some of the restrictions of the non-profit industrial complex.

Will donations to the TJFP be tax deductible?

Donations won't be tax deductible if they are to our LLC. We will owe taxes as well, just like any other small business. However, since we will be re-distributing all our "profits," our tax burden will be small. And since the most people don't itemize their deductions anyway, whether or not their gift is tax-deductible will have a limited impact.

We will also still have our donor-advised fund at Tides. So anyone who does need to claim a tax deduction for their giving or feels uncomfortable with this new model can still make a tax-deductible gift to us. Hopefully, we'll be able to phase out the donor-advised fund eventually, but

we know that may take some time and conversations. In the meantime, we don't want to undermine our central goal, which is to move as much money as possible to trans justice work any way we can.

Where will you open the bank account?

We're opening our account at the Self Help Credit Union (www.self-help.org), based in North Carolina. Their mission is "to create and protect ownership and economic opportunity for all, especially people of color, women, rural residents, and low-wealth families and communities." This way everyone's dollars will be doing important work even before that money makes its way to our grantees.

Has anyone ever done this before?

We were inspired by the Fire This Time Fund (www.firethistimefund.org). They were a Chicago-based giving circle which for five years supported small, local, creative social change projects and developed a similar funding model. We don't know of anyone who has tried this on a larger, national scale yet. (Please get in touch with us if you're out there!) We hope our experiment will help open the door for more conversations about alternative funding models that allow grassroots work to flourish.

"I LOVE this concept too. I think it is totally pioneering and a great model. I'd love to see it continue and also to see others pick it up and run with it!"

-Adrien Lawyer,
Transgender Resource Center
of New Mexico, Grantee

The Future

Grant writing fatigue is something that many of us doing trans justice—or social justice work in general—experience almost regularly. We're already trying to "fight the good fight," but then there's the other side of working for justice, and that's about keeping the lights on. So many hours and so much effort gets put into writing what can seem like an endless maze of paragraphs, budget reports, and buzzwords. It's not all bad though—you get to help people connect with the issues and maybe even fine tune your goals for the next one to five years. If you're really lucky, you might even receive funding.

There are those of us who have witnessed single issue strategies be heavily funded and resourced to secure rights and benefits for some LGBT community members but not all, leaving several of us behind. Some of us have had to bring our constituents to meet face-to-face with city council members, forced to beg for more funding. To some degree, many of us share the experience of catering our work to meet the requirements of individual donors or foundations. The danger of this dynamic is that it can strip away authentic decision-making powers from our community members, the people who are most impacted by these decisions. These are a few of the constant struggles for groups in the trans justice movement who are fighting for change both figuratively and literally, and we're tired.

As the work of the TJFP is primarily guided and led by trans people who bring an extensive history of experience and leadership, we know firsthand how funding power conflicts and tensions have readied us for something different, something more. So maybe the success of the TJFP 2013 funding cycle isn't really a surprise after all.

Starting the TJFP was a leap of faith. An idea that very quickly became a reality. ***This risk-taking venture required a lot from a nationwide network of people who may not know one another but collectively chose to support and hold a vision of trans justice.*** Even if supporters could not make financial donations, they found ways to help make

this project effective. None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary trust of hundreds of people.

As the Trans Justice Funding Project moves ahead, we find ourselves better equipped with more knowledge and experience. We're not saying that we have it all figured out, but as we thoughtfully prepare for the 2014 funding cycle, we have learned from our previous challenges and careful evaluation.

Along with a continued commitment to believing in and supporting grassroots, trans-led, trans justice work, here are a few of our priorities for the upcoming year:

- Moving money! And helping build long-term commitments to supporting trans justice work.
- Providing more opportunities for grassroots giving and leveraging funds.
- Supporting under-resourced areas and issues.
- Working to inspire LGBT foundations to fund more grassroots, intersectional, trans-led justice work.
- Continuing to build a model with community-led giving at its heart, and developing new grantmaking, investing, and evaluation practices that reflect our values.
- Investing in bringing trans activists together to think big about movement strategy and grantmaking.
- Helping to get the word out about all the amazing trans justice work that is going on around the country and making it easier for groups to connect with each other.

The TJFP is still in its formative stage—there is so much potential for innovation and growth. We invite you, the reader, to help us carve new paths for supporting trans justice work. Through shared giving, we are investing in the livelihood of our friends, family members, colleagues, partners, community members, and ourselves.

We look forward to supporting even more visionary trans justice work with you.

TRANS JUSTICE FUNDING PROJECT
www.transjusticefundingproject.org



*Trusting and supporting
trans justice leadership*