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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I’m still reeling from all that we accomplished in our 20th anniversary year.

We began the year regrouping from a major voting rights win for formerly incarcerated community members that Florida governor Ron DeSantis tried to reject. We introduced The 2045 Project, a forward-thinking series of convenings situated to prepare people of color for the year when we will make up the majority in the U.S. We were in courts fighting against wealth-based pre-trial detention; and we won! We joined a new partnership with Players Coalition Charitable Foundation, an effort to amplify our messages of #FreeAndSafe communities and we collaborated with Ben & Jerry’s - a long-term partnership which resulted in education justice wins in Miami, in addition to our very own, Limited Batch flavor, Justice ReMix’d. We tied a bow on the year with our very first Movement Lawyering Conference and a 20th anniversary celebration for the books. It was indeed a celebration of the movement and the communities that we work alongside.

And finally, what made everything come together was the fact that Advancement Project National Office adopted a new vision statement that proclaims: we envision a future where people of color are free – where they can thrive, be safe and exercise power. Driven by the genius of ordinary people and their movements, racism will no longer exist and justice will be radically transformed.

In 2019, we rolled up our sleeves, took to the streets and used our collective bullhorns to not only change hearts and minds but to take action in dismantling the structures that have blocked our path to equity and justice.

We are excited that our board of directors is strong, integrated in the movement for racial justice and Advancement Project’s campaigns advocating out there with us. Our team is growing with legal, communications and movement building campaign chops to reimagine justice. Our network of supporters is expanding and we are at the ready to answer their call to support on the ground action.

And our partners – the young people leading movements, the Returning Citizens who are winning the fight to have their voices heard at the polls and beyond, the communities that are taking back power instead of settling for the status quo – are depending on Advancement Project National Office. And we are here to stay. 2020 needs us and we are ready to take on a new year, a new trajectory for people of color. We hope you’re down with us!

Take a look at how we showed up in 2019 for communities of color around the country. I’m proud to be Executive Director of Advancement Project National Office and hope you share in some of that pride.

- Judith Browne Dianis

Advancement Project
NATIONAL OFFICE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT
Mission: Advancement Project National Office is a next generation, multi-racial civil rights organization. Rooted in the great human rights struggles for equality and justice, we exist to fulfill America’s promise of a caring, inclusive and just democracy. We use innovative tools and strategies to strengthen social movements to achieve high-impact policy change.

Vision: We envision a future where people of color are free – where they can thrive, be safe and exercise power. Driven by the genius of ordinary people and their movements, racism will no longer exist and justice will be radically transformed.
OUR WORK

Mission: Our cross-programmatic effort that focuses on transformative, community-led change recognizing the humanity and dignity of people of color, and seeks to end criminalization and its consequences.

Ending the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Track: This program works at the national level and on the ground to reduce the use of out-of-school suspensions and to end the criminalization of students while developing nurturing learning environments.

Quality Education for All: This campaign works with partners, allies and policymakers to lead the way in supporting the strengthening of public schools, pursuing equity, and opposing corporate takeover of public education to ensure that children can reach their potential.

Justice Project: This program provides short- and long-term support to local campaigns seeking not simply to reform, but to wholly dismantle systems that over-criminalize and over-incarcerate people of color in the name of “law and order.”

Immigrant Justice: In deep partnership with grassroots groups across the country, this program works to end the unnecessary criminalization of immigrants, while seeking to change the public discourse that dehumanizes and demonizes them.

Voter Protection: This campaign identifies and eliminates systemic barriers to voting, including voter ID challenges and unlawful purges, in an effort to ensure all voices have an equal opportunity to be heard in our democracy.

Right to Vote: This campaign works with grassroots leaders to foster a pro-democracy movement (including ensuring people with felony convictions are not excluded) and to achieve an affirmative, explicit right to vote, which currently does not exist in the Constitution.

WHERE WE ARE WORKING

Arizona
Colorado
Florida
Georgia
Illinois
Louisiana
Maryland
Michigan
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
New Jersey
New York
North Carolina
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Puerto Rico
Virginia
Washington, DC
Wisconsin
OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

20th Anniversary: It’s Not a Gala, It’s a Movement!

Advancement Project National Office celebrated 20 years of progressive racial justice movement work with an October event beyond any gala. Hundreds came out and joined our attorneys, organizers, grassroots partners and influencers in racial justice, sports, culture, arts, and entertainment as we celebrated with great food, performances, and more.

- We released a 20-year timeline and video retrospective highlighting our movement building and freedom fighting over the last two decades.

- Puente Human Rights Movement received the Just Democracy Award for the work they are doing to develop, educate, and empower communities in order to enhance the quality of life for their community members.

- Voice of the Experienced (VOTE), received the Turn the Tide Award for their dedication to restoring the full human and civil rights of those most impacted by the criminal (in)justice system.

- Advancement Project National Office Board Member, actor and activist, Jesse Williams, received the Lift Every Voice Award for using his own voice to lift every voice in impacted communities.

Movement Lawyering Conference

Movement lawyering is not just civil rights litigation, but rather a holistic strategy that centers and supports the genius of ordinary people to attack systems and build long-term power.

In celebration of our 20th anniversary, Advancement Project National Office along with co-sponsors Law for Black Lives and the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center hosted the inaugural Movement Lawyering Conference on October 16, 2019 at the historic Howard University School of Law in Washington, DC.

The conference was held to uplift the racial justice movement lawyering model that is used by Advancement Project National Office, Law for Black Lives and others. Throughout the day, breakout sessions fostered conversations on power building, fighting for liberation, protecting democracy, and more.
OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

2045 Project

This year, we launched the 2045 Project, a forward-looking series of convenings with experts, influencers and movement activists. Together, we hosted conversations to envision the future we want to build as people of color become the majority in the country in the year 2045.

For our first forum, Race, Movement & Politics, we were joined by author, activist and former Advancement Project board member, Rinku Sen; Co-Executive Director of the Highlander Research and Education Center, Movement for Black Lives Activist and current Advancement Project board member, Ash-Lee Henderson; and Deputy Executive Director of United We Dream, Greisa Martinez Rosas.

We also hosted The Revolution = Black Women + Girls, which shone a light on dynamic women, past, present, and future. We lifted up the dynamic voices of women who inspire through their advocacy, artistry, and dedication to making the world just for woman and girls of color.

The evening featured a talk led by Executive Director of SisterSong, Monica Simpson. A panel discussion followed, featuring organizer, speaker, strategist, and writer, Elle Hearns; Operations Manager at Operation Restoration, Dolfine Martin; and youth organizer from Girls for Gender Equity’s Young Women’s Advisory Council, Oumou Kaba.

There was also a live DJ set by award-winning political strategist, entrepreneur, radio host and DJ, Carmen Spindiego, and a dance performance by the students of Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

As we move forward, this series continues to envision the future we want to build as people of color and what it will take to get there.
PROGRAM UPDATES

Power & Democracy

We Vote, We Count: The Need for Congressional Action to Secure the Right to Vote for All Citizens
The Racial Equity Anchor Collaborative, a coalition of national racial justice and civil rights organizations gathered by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, presented its groundbreaking voting rights report, “We Vote, We Count.” The report centers the voices of people of color and describes accounts of voter interference which disproportionately affects communities of color, gathered through “People’s Hearings” in select states over several months in 2019.

Democracy Rising: The End of Florida’s History of Felony Disenfranchisement and Launch of a New Age of Empowerment
To support the organizing of voting rights partners after the historic passage of Amendment 4 to Florida’s State Constitution, we released an updated version of our seminal report, Democracy Disappeared. Renamed, Democracy Rising: The End of Florida’s History of Felony Disenfranchisement and Launch of a New Age of Empowerment, the report is a tool advocates can use to target outreach to returning citizens.

Top 10 Things Florida Voters Should Know 2019-2020
We released a fact sheet to prepare for upcoming state and federal elections. People with felony convictions are not excluded) and to achieve an affirmative, explicit right to vote, which currently does not exist in the Constitution.

We celebrated a significant legal victory in partnership with Missouri voting rights advocates in the defeat of a key provision of Missouri’s restrictive voter identification law. In a 5-2 decision in Priorities USA v. Missouri, the state Supreme Court struck down a provision requiring voters to present identification with a photo to cast a ballot. Previously, voters lacking a photo ID were forced to either cast a provisional ballot or sign an affidavit, a legal document attesting to their lack of approved identification, to vote.

Uncounted: The Crisis of Voter Suppression in America
In her book describing the many facets of voter suppression, including voter ID laws, voter purges, the disenfranchisement of felons, gerrymandering, fake ads, and intimidation campaigns, law professor and Advancement Project National Office Litigation Director Gilda Daniels, explained how voter suppression works and provided a road map and a call to action for participants in the fight to vote.

Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook
In affiliation with the Martha’s Vineyard African American Film Festival, we hosted a screening of Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook, a documentary that addresses the many ways American democracy is being threatened by silencing the voting power of people of color.

Following the screening, we hosted a panel discussion featuring former Obama Senior Advisor, Valerie Jarrett; American Urban Radio Network (AURN) White House Correspondent, April Ryan; and our Executive Director, Judith Browne Dianis, to discuss the roles and power of Black women voters historically and heading into the 2020 Presidential election.
PROGRAM UPDATES

Justice Project

The Genius of Ordinary People: How the Ferguson Collaborative Became the Voice of the Community

As the nation marked five years since the police killing of teenager Mike Brown and the series of protests known as the Ferguson Uprisings, a group of residents in Ferguson, MO, has worked locally since 2014 to take back their power. They refer to themselves as the Ferguson Collaborative and we proudly spotlighted our grassroots partner in our report, The Genius of Ordinary People: How the Ferguson Collaborative Became the Voice of the Community.

The report, the first from our Justice Project program, examines how a group of Ferguson community members became activists, changing the city’s unconstitutional policing and criminal legal system practices. This group of residents and allies have spent the last five years putting the pressure on local and federal policymakers and courts, ousting a court-appointed official, rallying for the dismissal of thousands of municipal court cases and positioning themselves in powerful seats – including the Ferguson City Council.

Politics of Abolition: Panel Discussion and Book Signing

What is policing in America? How do we address the racism at the heart of our country’s criminal legal system? What do we mean by abolition and how do we make abolition a part of our political framework in every city? Justice Project Director, Thomas B. Harvey; abolitionist, writer, organizer, and human rights lawyer, Derecka Purnell; and professor and author, Alex Vitale responded to these questions at a panel and book signing event in discussion on the Politics of Abolition.

Partner Support: Close the Workhouse, St. Louis, MO

In St. Louis, Missouri, a local jail (the Workhouse) houses almost 1,000 people, 95% of whom are there pre-trial because they cannot afford bail. There are eight times more Black detainees than there are white detainees, even though only 47% of St. Louis City’s population is Black.

The Workhouse is well known for its horrible conditions, including guards forcing people into gladiator fights, exchanging sex for food, black mold, rats, snakes, and inadequate medical care. We filed a lawsuit in January 2019 that alleges that the city and courts are running an illegal cash bail scheme that resulted in the unlawful detention of hundreds of poor people and Black people. In June, we experienced a major victory in the campaign when a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction requiring bail hearings to determine ability to pay bail to every person arrested within 48 hours of their arrest and a hearing within one week to all those who are currently being held in jail awaiting trial. Next year, the Board of Alderman will vote on closing the Workhouse officially.

Immigrant Justice Project

We filed suit on behalf of UndocuBlack Network for VISA Sanctions under FOIA

On January 10, 2019, we filed suit in federal court in the District of Columbia under FOIA to ensure transparency and gather information surrounding the 2017 Visa Sanctions against Cambodia, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. The lawsuit sought to hold DHS, ICE, U.S. Department of State (the State Department), and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) accountable to releasing the information regarding those affected by the sanctions, why these specific countries were targeted, as well as the nature of guidance and implementation from the agencies involved. The FOIA request was filed on behalf of the UndocuBlack Network,
PROGRAM UPDATES

a multi-generational network that advocates on issues affecting the Black immigrant diaspora.

We filed a complaint against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and ICE for failing to provide records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
On behalf of Tenants and Workers United (TWU), we filed a complaint to get access to information about the Trump Administration’s Anti-Immigrant Hotline and ICE Collaboration in Virginia. On March 20, 2019, we sued DHS and ICE for failing to provide records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), involving the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE) Office and ICE collaboration in several Northern Virginia jurisdictions.

With our partners Juntos and Casa San Jose, we filed a letter of findings with the Philadelphia U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Field Office, the York County Prison, and the ICE Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in Washington, DC. The letter details the organizations’ eyewitness accounts of deplorable conditions during their April 2, 2019, stakeholder visit to York County Prison.

Inside Eloy Detention Center
Run by private prison corporation, CoreCivic, Eloy Detention Center is located in Eloy, AZ, a small “prison town” located between Tucson and Phoenix. The “detention center” is in actuality an inhumane prison filled with migrants. In August 2019, Advancement Project National Office conducted a stakeholder visit of Eloy Detention Center on behalf of and in partnership with Puente Human Rights Movement.

The Carceral State of Arizona: The Human Cost of Being Confined
The findings of our report, The Carceral State of Arizona: The Human Cost of Being Confined, are a result of our visit of Eloy Detention Center in partnership with Puente Human Rights Movement, an attempt at transparency and to hold those who run and manage Eloy Detention Center accountable. The report was two pronged – released as a hard copy for media and partners to use as a toolkit and guide, as well as an immersive website that includes a collection of videos, narratives, and digital toolkits featuring the voices of people currently detained inside Eloy.

Ending the Schoolhouse-to-Jailhouse Project
We hosted a press roundtable to showcase our #AssaultAt map tool highlighting the importance of our national #PoliceFreeSchools campaign in advance of the U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos’ keynote address to the Education Writers Association.

We Came to Learn: A Call to Action for Police-Free Schools
We launched a new microsite to correspond with our report, We Came to Learn: A Call to Action for Police-Free Schools. We shared the website with partners and allies nationally along with an immersive digital experience. Like the report, the digital
PROGRAM UPDATES

experience delves into how school police became institutionalized in America’s public education system and the impact on Black and Brown students from the voices of Black and Brown young people.

In partnership with the Philadelphia Student Union, we sent an opposition letter to the Philadelphia Board of Education for its stance on Policy 805. Administrative procedures for Policy 805 mandate that all high schools use walk-through metal detectors and x-ray scanners at all points of student and visitor entry. In addition to the letter, we participated in a press conference hosted by Philadelphia Student Union and supported them at the Board’s vote on the policy.

We supported Power U Center for Social Change in Miami on a school budget campaign, successfully demanding a decrease in funding for school police and heavy security measures, and an increase in funding for student-centric support including counseling, nurses, and mental wellness services that are integral to their success. We successfully won the budget fight with our partners when the board announced that they would:

• Almost double the staff at the Department of Mental Health
• Increase certified mental health professionals from 30 to 55
• With the Department of Mental Health, roll out a “Community Advisory Committee” to monitor implementation
• Implement “Rights, Respect, and Responsibility” in providing a more comprehensive sexual health education
• Contract with the Working to Institutionalize Sex Ed (WISE) initiative to train teachers to become certified peer mentors

To wrap up the year, we hosted ActionCamp 2.0, a national Police-Free Schools campaign convening with more than 50 participants from our partners in the fight for police-free schools. Through this convening, we were able to align and plan for the next iterations of our collective fight to remove police from our schools and to end the criminalization of Black and Brown young people in their places of learning.

Formation

In 2019, we launched Formation, a racial justice network of organizations led by impacted people. This network creates a space for honest, uncompromising conversations about race and inter-racial conflicts, which allows the members of the network to dream together and push each other on power-building and transformational change, while building relationships that will support their ongoing learning. It is a convening opportunity to learn together, gain expertise, and create strategies and alliances that can work across space and place to not only address issues of fair elections and political voice, but to also do deep organizing on issues ranging from immigration to poverty to educational access.
PARTNERSHIPS

Justice ReMix’d

Advancement Project National Office partnered with Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream for a campaign, and limited-batch flavor: Justice ReMix’d. With cinnamon and chocolate ice creams, gobs of cinnamon bun dough, and spicy fudge brownies, Justice ReMix’d has just the right zip for kick starting a conversation about the importance of racial equity in America, and the need for criminal justice reform. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of Justice ReMix’d went to Advancement Project National Office to support our work in criminal justice reform.

Justice ReMix’d made headlines in the following news outlets: Associated Press; CNN; Forbes; Huffington Post; Yahoo! News; The Hill; and Essence Magazine.

The ice cream flavor was part of a larger partnership that helped forge an already existent relationship between our organization and Ben & Jerry’s which carried over into successful campaigns and strategizing for ending bail and closing a jail in St. Louis and demanding resources for students – not police.

National Week of Action

In partnership with Players Coalition Charitable Foundation, we called for a National Week of Action. From Friday, October 18, through Friday, October 25, we highlighted our partners across the nation who are working to create free and safe communities for people of color.

Each day of the week, we lifted up the work of our grassroots partners along with the ways that they address issues connected to our organization’s core programs.

Go ARTful

Partnership with GoARTful for 20th Anniversary Capsule Collection

Art has long been essential to building strong movements. As such, Advancement Project National Office partnered with GoARTful to create a capsule collection for our 20th anniversary. GoARTful is a primarily person-of-color founded company focused on ensuring that all people can access art, no matter your background, financial ability, or exposure.

We collaborated to curate a collection that speaks to our racial justice mission and deep commitment in communities of color. The Advancement Project: Organize, Protest, Vote collection addresses the racial disparities inherent in our daily lives while also celebrating the joy that can be a part of movement building. It featured multi-racial artists who have been motivated and inspired by the struggle for racial justice.
MEDIA REPORT


- “Destroying the right to vote: Nine leading racial justice organizations release report and find significant violations” article in the Dallas Examiner: https://dallasexaminer.com/featured/destroying-the-right-to-vote-nine-leading-racial-justice-organizations-release-report-and-find-significant-violations/


- “A Peak Inside Her Agenda: Judith Browne Dianis” article in Her Agenda: https://heragenda.com/power-agenda/judith-browne-dianis/


- “ICE’s raids were a win for corporate exploitation” article in The New Republic: https://newrepublic.com/article/154732/ices-raids-win-corporate-exploitation
DONOR LISTING

Thank you to our generous donors who joined us in celebrating 20 years of building power in communities of color. We appreciate you for standing with us!

20TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS

Movement Lawyering Conference Sponsors
Perkins Coie LLP

Freedom Now, Freedom Forever Gala Sponsors

Power Builders:
• Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
• Bill Lann Lee
• Unite Here

Mobilizers:
• A&E Network
• AFSCME
• Color of Change
• Indivisible
• International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, AFL-CIO
• Laborers’ International Union of North America
• NAACP
• Phillip Isom
• United Food and Commercial Workers International Union

Rapid Responders:
• American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
• Black Male Voter Project
• Demos
• Joe Alvarez, Alvarez Porter Group
• National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
• National Urban League
• Values Partnerships

Supporters:
• 1220 L Street/13th & L Associates
• AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust
• Andi Ryder
• Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
• Barry and Paula Litt
• Center for Constitutional Rights
• Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC
• Democracy Alliance
• Early, Cassidy & Schilling, LLC
• Faith in Action
• Florida Rights Restoration Coalition
• Helen Kim
• JOY Collective
• Judith Browne Dianis
• Katherine Peck
• Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law
• Machinist Non-Partisan Political League
• Michael Bell, InPartnership Consulting
• National Domestic Workers Alliance
• Race Forward
• The Taifa Group, LLC
• Washington National Cathedral
ANNUAL SUPPORTERS LIST

Over $1M
- Ford Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- The JPB Foundation
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Over $100,000
- Cedar Tree Foundation
- Craig Newmark Philanthropic Fund
- MALDEF
- Margarette Casey Foundation
- Max and Deborah Stone
- Nathan Cummings Foundation
- National Education Association
- Players Coalition Charitable Foundation

$1,000-$5,000
- Baishali Sen
- Barbara Cohn
- David and Janice Myers
- Katherine Peck
- Kathryn Greenberg and Ari Zentner
- Kathryn Love
- Lauren Robinson
- Marcus and Celena Smith
- Maria Seferian
- Mark Weiss and Nancy Meyer
- Rev. Eddie Hailes, Jr and Janet Hailes
- Tammy Jones Sykes and Kirk Sykes

$500-$999
- Alexandra Ordel
- Ana Reyes and Andrew Forman
- Arlene Holt-Baker
- Ash-Lee Henderson
- Bree Sheahan
- Dean Burrell
- Forman Foresight, LLC
- Jill Tauber
- Kea Taylor
- Marcia Smith
- Mark Tulchinskiy
- Nancy Fleischer
- Pedro Jimenez
- Roberta Tisch
- Rockell Metcalf
- Stephanie Jones
- Stephen Trimble and Joanne Slotnik
- Tanya Holcomb and Richard Webber
- United Methodist Women
- Vanita Gupta

$10,000-$99,999
- Anonymous
- Ben & Jerry’s
- Common Counsel Foundation
- Four Freedoms Fund
- Hazen Foundation
- Linda Powell
- Medea Benjamin
- Molly Munger and Stephen English
- Quinn Delaney and Wayne Jordan
- The Herb Block Foundation
- The Why Not Initiative
- Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund
- Wallace Global Fund
FINANCIALS

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2019 EXPENSES

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<td>Administration and Overhead</td>
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STAFF & BOARD

Board of Directors

Board Chair
Bill Lann Lee
Shareholder, Lewis, Feinberg, Lee, Renaker & Jackson, PC

Board President
Molly Munger
Founding Co-Director, Advancement Project

Secretary/Treasurer
Stephen English
Founding Co-Director, Advancement Project

Members
Jose “Joe” Alvarez
Partner, Alvarez Porter Group

Harry Belafonte
Belafonte Enterprises, Inc

Arlene Holt-Baker
Former Executive Vice President, AFL-CIO

Daniel Leon-Davis
Co-Founder and Partner, The Soze Agency

Ash-Lee Henderson
Co-Executive Director, Highlander Research & Education Center

Helen Kim
Independent Consultant, Roadmap Consulting

Barry Litt
Partner, Kaye, Meland, Benarski + Litt

Katherine Peck
Senior Vice President, Civic Participation Action Fund

Alberto Retena
President & CEO, Community Coalition

Connie Rice
Founding Co-Director, Advancement Project

Rinku Sen
Senior Strategist, Race Forward

Jesse Williams
Actor and Activist

Tom Unterman
Founding Partner, Rustic Canyon Partners

Advancement Project National Office Leadership Team

Executive Director
Judith Browne Dianis

Chief Financial Officer
Giovanni Cozzarelli

Managing Director and General Counsel
Edward “Eddie” Hailes

Managing Director of Organizational Development
Flavia Jimenez

Managing Director of Communications
Zerline Hughes Spruill

Managing Director of Campaign Strategy
Shuya Ohno

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