



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

SETTING PRECEDENT IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

We've heard it time and time again, but it truly can't be overstated: the year 2020 was unprecedented.

We started the year emboldened from all that we accomplished during our 20th anniversary year and were quickly called to step into our organizational purpose to show up fully in the movement. Our people, our partners, and our allies needed us. We needed each other.

As coronavirus infections steadily increased, it became clear that the Black and Brown communities we work with and fight for would be the most impacted. It wasn't long before the pandemic began to heighten the inequities that communities of color experience regularly. From healthcare, educational access and safety, to issues of criminal justice, police violence, and immigration – the pandemic was exacerbating every issue and tensions were rising.

Alongside our local partners, we began litigation across the country to urge state officials to release incarcerated people from jails in St. Louis, Miami, Detroit, and East Baton Rouge. We made progress, set precedents, and overcame bumps in the road. We issued demands to release people detained in immigration detention centers. We knew what was happening on the ground was generating a human rights crisis.

Following the brutal murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, at the hands of Minneapolis police officers in May, we saw an increase in national public scrutiny of policing and police violence. Shortly thereafter, the University of Minnesota made a decision to end their contract with the Minneapolis Police Department, a crucial step forward in our fight for police-free schools. The ripple effects of the decision were felt across the country – in Milwaukee, Portland, Oakland, Seattle, Denver, Rochester, San Francisco, and Madison we saw big wins. These victories for our #PoliceFreeSchools movement provided respite in an otherwise difficult time. It was so beautiful to see the decades of work by Black and Brown organizers come to fruition in this moment. It was also a reminder of all the work that remained ahead of us.

As the year went on, we focused on the upcoming election to ensure our voices would be heard. The 2020 election cycle was democracy's stress test. In many places voters were faced with choosing between their health and their right to vote because states refused to make it easier to vote unless pushed by litigation. We filed the first pandemic voting rights case in the country in March against the state of Florida to provide drop boxes and access to mail-in ballots and sued Florida and Virginia to extend voter registration deadlines. We spent significant resources to demystify mail-in voting requirements and focused on ensuring that young voters were prepared to vote, while pushing back on disinformation about voter fraud.

Our team and our partners gave their all during one of the most challenging periods of history in our lifetimes. None of the progress that we saw this year would have been possible without them. I am so grateful for our staff, our partners, and our allies! Their hard work during this dark time helped us all to see the light.

And with that, we continue to 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.

This report is just a glimpse of how we showed up in 2020 for communities of color during this unprecedented time. Your support makes all of this possible and we thank you for standing with us.

Onward,

Judith Browne Dianis

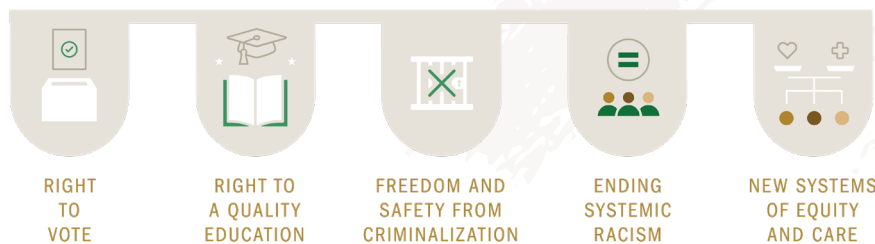


ADVANCEMENT PROJECT NATIONAL OFFICE AT A GLANCE

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.



THE FUTURE WE FIGHT FOR



OUR PROGRAMS

Our programs focus on transformative, community-led change recognizing the humanity and dignity of people of color and seek to end criminalization and its consequences. We believe that impacted people should be at the forefront of change and that structural racism can be eliminated by building power to transform systems.

Justice Project: We work with grassroots movements that challenge racial criminalization and call for genuine police accountability, supporting local campaigns seeking not simply to reform, but to wholly dismantle systems that criminalize and 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.

Opportunity to Learn: We work at the national level and on the ground to lead the way in ensuring access to strong and equitable public education, create nurturing learning environments, and end the schoolhouse to jailhouse track including removing police from schools.

Power and Democracy: We work to build political power and ensure all voices have an equal opportunity to be heard in our democracy by eliminating systemic barriers to voting and rampant voter suppression, working to restore the right to vote to Returning Citizens, and fighting for an affirmative, explicit right to vote, which currently does not exist in the Constitution.

Formation: Formation is an intersectional network of grassroots racial justice groups that provides critical infrastructure, learning, and capacity building for organizations led by people of color.

WHERE WE WORK

Arizona
Colorado
Florida
Georgia
Illinois
Louisiana
Maryland
Michigan
Mississippi
Missouri

New York
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Tennessee
Virginia
Washington, DC
Wisconsin
National

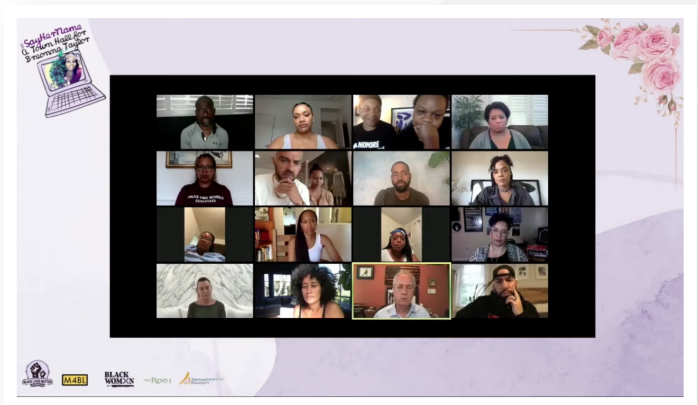


2020 IN REVIEW: RESPONDING TO THE MOMENT

Setting precedent in unprecedented times means staying nimble and showing up however we can for our people. We have been on the frontlines during the most significant civil rights crises in the modern era, and this is the moment we were made for!

Starting in March 2020, as coronavirus infections steadily increased, Advancement Project National Office and local partners sprang into action, urging state officials to **release incarcerated people from jails and ICE detention centers**. Due to the criminalization of race and poverty through policies like cash bail, we knew that people were stuck in jail and at increased risk. We also know that people who are incarcerated lack access to adequate health care and the ability to socially distance, putting them at greater risk of falling victim to COVID-19. Our collective efforts to decarcerate went beyond the public health issue that was on the horizon, we knew that getting people free was a human rights necessity. That's why we [filed 5 lawsuits](#) demanding releases and safe conditions.

By the summer of 2020, the crisis around criminalization and policing became a reckoning on racial justice. We joined the calls to transform and re-envision policing and safety in the aftermath of the police murders of Black men and women. We were standing with our partners across the country, doing whatever we could to amplify and support the organizers on the ground, and calling for action to divest from policing. We organized a coalition of celebrities, grassroots organizers and national racial justice groups for a virtual town hall to the demand accountability and celebrate the life of Breonna Taylor. The **#SayHerName: National Town Hall for Breonna Taylor**, co-hosted by the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), Black Lives Matter – Louisville, Black Womxn and The Root, calling for [action and divestment from police](#).



Advancement Project National Office Executive Director, Judith Browne Dianis, also **did media appearances to join the calls to #DefundPolice**, discuss the uprisings of 2020, and the need for serious changes to the criminal legal system.



Amid these dueling pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice, and with a huge election coming up, we pivoted to focus on educating voters on local sheriff elections. Sheriffs control conditions and budgets for many county jails and in some counties, they are the police; they coordinate with ICE and play a role in immigrant detention; and they are elected officials that can be held accountable by the voters. We also know that down ballot races have a huge impact on turnout.

We launched a voter education effort with partners in two key states, Florida and Georgia. We created an [infographic](#) explaining the role of sheriffs. We published a [website](#) for Georgia voters to see where sheriff candidates stood on issues. Finally, we hosted cross-programmatic webinars to discuss the role of sheriffs on issues from [immigration](#) to [school policing](#).



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Power & Democracy

The 2020 election was too consequential for us to sit on the sidelines, we needed to be on the ground with the partners and communities we work with. Our Power and Democracy team was on the front line of the fight for voting rights because access to the ballot gives communities of color power and self-determination in the matters that impact their lives. **For a full recap, view our [Every Voter Counts report](#).**

We had more than 15 staff from across programs on the ground in key states like Florida, Georgia, Virginia, Michigan, and Pennsylvania working with local partners including **New Georgia Project, Florida Rising (formerly New Florida Majority), New Virginia Majority, Dream Defenders, and Lehigh Valley Stands Up**. Together, we turned out the vote and educated voters, monitored the polls to protect voting access, and celebrated our collective power with [parades to the polls](#).

Core to our work for over 20 years is protecting voters' power and access to the polls. In 2020, we filed litigation in two critical swing states:

**EXTENDED
REGISTRATION
DEADLINES!**
50K more people
registered in Florida
24K more people
registered in Virginia

- ▶ We [sued Florida in March](#), the first pandemic lawsuit about voting rights, to push the state to expand early voting, expand the cure period for vote by mail, improve online voter registration, and improve access. We eventually [settled our lawsuit](#), requiring the state to make changes to expand access to voter registration and vote-by-mail.
- ▶ In the Fall, when the voter registration portal crashed on the last day to register, we [filed another lawsuit in Florida](#) with Demos and LatinoJustice to seek an extension of the online voter registration deadline. Ultimately the state extended the online voter registration portal for 12 hours.
- ▶ Together with Lawyers Committee, we [filed a similar lawsuit in Virginia](#) when its online voter registration portal crashed on the final registration day. Ultimately, the State settled resulting in the deadline being extended for 48 hours.

Our model to protect voter access to free and fair elections is centered on building local power to hold election officials accountable. In 2020 we launched the **Democratizing Voter Protection** initiative to train voter protection captains at the local level on ways to expand and protect access to the polls. These individuals attend local meetings with election supervisors and identify potential barriers to the polls, holding local officials accountable. We help to troubleshoot and provide expert legal and policy support where necessary.

Power and Democracy also released new research that indicated racial justice was a top factor motivating young voters of color. As part of our **Vote By Any Means Necessary** campaign, we released a [messaging guide](#) based on our findings. Understanding that narrative change is critical in the fight for voting rights, we also developed a messaging guide to help **voting rights advocates discuss the subject with a racial justice lens**. This multi-part guide highlights the complexity of vote-by-mail and provides counterpoints to false claims about the process.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Justice Project

In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Justice Project team brought together organizers and activists from across the country to discuss how **decarceration was an essential strategy for COVID-19 prevention.**

Our first priority was protecting individuals trapped in cages who are at extreme risk. During pandemics, jails are ticking time bombs: people are jailed in cramped quarters, cannot practice social distancing and do not have regular access to soap or adequate health care. Once inside this perfect breeding ground, we knew that the coronavirus would rapidly spread, leading to countless illnesses and deaths both in and out of facilities. We quickly organized in St. Louis, MO; Miami, FL; Oakland County and Detroit, MI; and East Baton Rouge, LA alongside our partners Michigan Liberation, Close the Workhouse, Dream Defenders, and East Baton Rouge Parish Prison Reform Coalition to take [legal action](#) and ensure that people would be #FreeAndSafe from COVID-19.



While our cases experienced a setback in the federal courts, we continued to amplify the stories of people trapped inside and advocate for releases. We have been able to obtain the release of a number of pretrial detainees, including our named plaintiffs. We uplifted the [story of Anthony Swain](#), plaintiff in our Miami case who is a 43-year-old paraplegic with other health conditions that make him especially vulnerable. We [shared the story of Jamaal Cameron](#), plaintiff in our Oakland County case, and his family as they fought to keep him safe and detailed his experience inside.

We also continued to support our partners in their ongoing campaigns to close jails and end the criminalization of their communities. We celebrated with **Close the Workhouse** when they [won a vote to close the jail](#), and continued to support them when local officials delayed and failed to implement. We collaborated with **Michigan Liberation** for a [Bailout Day report](#) and brought in our partners at Ben & Jerry's to amplify the effort across [their platforms](#). Bailout Day is rooted in the history of Black Liberation, where enslaved and free Black people used their collective resources to other's freedom. We produced [materials](#) and [hosted webinars](#) to educate voters on the role of prosecutors in the criminal legal system, joined by our partners from the Players Coalition Charitable Foundation.

Until we end the practice of caging human beings, we will continue to find ways to get our people free.

Immigrant Justice

Our Immigrant Justice team continued their fight against criminalization, and the COVID-19 pandemic created even more urgency because of the conditions inside of detention centers. **By the end of March, we had already shared our demands regarding Pennsylvania detention centers in an [open letter](#).** In June 2020, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) transferred 74 people from detention centers in Florida and Arizona to Virginia's ICA-Farmville. The transfer, compounded by the irresponsible management within the facilities, led to a dramatic spike in coronavirus infections. Our Immigrant Justice team worked with La ColectiVA, Sanctuary DMV, Detention Watch Network (DWN), and the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) on a campaign to demand the [urgent release](#) of everyone detained at ICA-Farmville.

The Immigrant Justice team also partnered with **Puente Human Rights Movement** and **Mijente** to co-host the [webinar](#), *Who's Incarcerating Us in Maricopa County?: The Role of Sheriffs and County Attorneys in the Carceral State*. The webinar highlighted how policies and practices of sheriffs and county attorneys impact who is incarcerated.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Opportunity to Learn

Youth organizers have been **fighting to remove police from their schools** for decades and their work created a lot of momentum last year. In 2020, decision makers across the country began to take the necessary steps to ensure that the same police on the streets killing Black and Brown people no longer had the ability to brutalize young people in their schools.

As the co-leaders of the National Campaign for Police Free Schools, our team was proud to support our partners as they drove [wins and actions](#) nationwide. **To lift up the work of young organizers and our allies, we helped to coordinate** a weeklong, [nationwide call to action](#) in collaboration with the Alliance for Educational Justice (AEJ), Center for Popular Democracy, the Communities for Just Schools Fund, and the Funder's Collaborative Youth Organizing (FCYO).

Finally, the Ending the Schoolhouse-to-Jailhouse team [penned two letters](#) – one to Congress and one an open letter – adamantly opposing the physical reopening of schools during the COVID-19 health crisis. The letters also listed clear demands that addressed the emotional, mental, and physical health, safety, and well-being of students.

POLICE FREE SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN WINS:
MINNEAPOLIS • MILWAUKEE
PORTLAND • OAKLAND
SEATTLE • DENVER
ROCHESTER • SAN FRANCISCO
MADISON

Formation

In September 2020, Advancement Project National Office **convened organizers and advocates** leading efforts to engage Returning Citizens and those previously disenfranchised by criminal convictions around the November elections. In conjunction, we created a [convening toolkit](#) that provides how-to voting guidance for Returning Citizens, information around jail voting, know-your-rights at the polls guidance and a model memorandum of understanding between election officials and law enforcement. The toolkit also provides messaging guidance around talking with Returning Citizens about the upcoming election.

PARTNERSHIPS

Our partnerships help us to drive critical conversations with new audiences, expanding our reach and growing the movement. We're proud to work with these organizations, networks, and powerful allies.

Executive Director, Judith Browne Dianis, joined Oprah Winfrey for her new initiative, **OWN Your Vote**, along with leaders in the fight for voting rights, namely Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley; Stacey Abrams, Fair Fight; Minyon Moore, Power Rising; and Tiffany Dena Loftin, NAACP Youth and College. The OWN Your Vote initiative is focused specifically on mobilizing Black women to vote.



Following its 2019 release, we again partnered with **Ben & Jerry's** to [relaunch](#) our Advancement Project National Office ice cream: Justice Remix'd! In addition to our ice cream, Ben & Jerry's joined us and our Board Member and Actor, Jesse Williams for a panel at AfroPunk to discuss abolition, showcasing the organizing power of our partners Power U and Close the Workhouse.



In an effort to [increase voter turnout](#) and encourage voters to stay in line to cast their early ballots, we co-hosted a parade to the polls across five cities making nearly 20 stops along the way. In partnership with **The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and NAACP** we worked to make sure voters would be entertained, nourished and educated during early voting — offering a temporary answer to one of the biggest challenges to voters of color.



Arnold & Porter and Advancement Project National Office announced that they together established a [three-year partnership](#) to address systemic inequalities in the United States education system. The partnership will support our organization's mission to fight systemic racism in schools, which continues to disproportionately impact students of color, as well as low-income students.



Executive Director, Judith Browne Dianis joined **Jane Fonda** for a **Fireside Fire Drill** in a conversation about moving between protest and power, securing wins for racial justice, and protecting voting rights for a just democracy.



[The Sip Hour](#) launched in 2020 as an online program to ensure Black women stay engaged and informed on politics, policy, personal care, and culture during the COVID-19 pandemic and leading up to the election. Executive Director, Judith Browne Dianis co-hosts this online show along with Black women leaders from National Women's Law Center, Black PAC, Higher Heights, and The League. Guests have included Senator Elizabeth Warren, then Senator Kamala Harris, NAACP President Derrick Johnson, movement leaders Alicia Garza and Tarana Burke, and many more.

MEDIA REPORT

ADVANCEMENT PROJECT IN THE NEWS

Resources to teach the history of policing in America that you won't find in textbooks

teenVOGUE

The Washington Post

POLITICO

REUTERS

THE 74

newsy

The New York Times

"This is the systemic change that this moment calls for," said **Judith Browne Dianis, the executive director of the Advancement Project**, a civil rights organization that has worked to get the police out of schools. "There can be convictions of the police officers, but at the end of the day we know that we need structural change. And the school board's decision gives us that type of victory."

"Louisville's law 'is going to be incredibly significant nationwide' given it takes place amid a 'nationwide uprising that's responding to police violence,' said **Thomas B. Harvey, Justice Project director with the Advancement Project National Office**, a non-profit.

THE NEW YORKER

U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

Fifty-seven years after Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington, the families of Black Americans shot or killed by police officers joined civil rights activists for an anniversary demonstration Friday at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. **Judith Browne Dianis, executive director of the Advancement Project**, joins CBSN to discuss the significance of this year's protest.

CBS

FOX 2
DETROIT

PHILANTHROPY NEWS DIGEST
a service of Foundation Center

USA TODAY

"Research and the experiences of young people of color have taught us that police in schools create a toxic school climate and fuel the school-to-prison pipeline," says **Judith Browne Dianis, executive director of the Advancement Project**. "Police-free schools are essential to the well-being of our black and brown youth."

MSNBC

Mashable

Chalkbeat

La abogada **Losmin Jiménez, de 'Advanced Project'**, nos comenta cómo ha documentado estos casos en un centro de inmigración en Virginia donde se registra el mayor número de contagios por COVID-19.

TELEMUNDO

DONOR LISTING



2020 was a year of rapid change and growth for Advancement Project National Office. The summer uprisings and swell of support for Black and Brown communities strengthened our longstanding work and accelerated our movement for justice. Thank you to everyone who believes in our work and vision.

INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS

\$1,000,000 +

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Open Society Foundation
The JPB Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

\$250,000 - \$750,000

Arnold Ventures
Clara Lionel Foundation
MALDEF
Stand for Children Leadership Center
StartSmall Foundation

\$100,000 - \$200,000

Arnold & Porter LLP
Cedar Tree Foundation
CoBANK, ACB
Democracy Fund
GoFundMe Charitable
Nathan Cummings Foundation
Park Foundation
Players Coalition Charitable Foundation
SAP
Solidarity Giving
Vital Projects Fund
Wallace Global Fund

\$50,000 - \$100,000

Annie E. Casey Foundation
Ben & Jerry's
Genentech
Goodnation Foundation
Horizon Therapeutics

Lennox International
Sony Music Group
Trimble Corporation
The Why Not Initiative

\$10,000 - \$25,000

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AllScripts
Amherst Pierpont
Common Counsel Foundation
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Charitable Foundation
Grenzebach Corporation
The Herb Block Foundation
Home Point Financial
Joya Charitable Foundation
O'Melveny Myers LLP
Stitch Fix
Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund

\$1,000 - \$9,000

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Bupa Global Latinamerica
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Connor Maxwell
Courtney St. John
Daniel Moreno
David Bible

David Briggs
David Domenici
David Young
Douglas Tuchler
Emma Sokoloff
Eric Lankton
Gretchen Herrick
Ian Lyons
Isatta Jalloh
Jaclyn Brown
Jacob Teton-Landis
Jeff Perry
Jennifer Bowen
Jesse Kuroki
Jill Sergi
Joanne Farquharson
Joseph Cruz
Joseph Lyons
Joseph Wempe
Julia Raccuglia
Julie Keersmaekers
Julie Nunes
Justin Roller
Kacey Cressey
Kalen Robeson
Kelsey Sinichko
Kristin Dexter
Kristina Olsen
Laura Gottesdiener
Lauren Espeseth
Lauren Haman
Lauren Howze
Lauren Nevin
Lindsay Anderson
Lorin Dole
Macy Bradach
Margaret Dallett

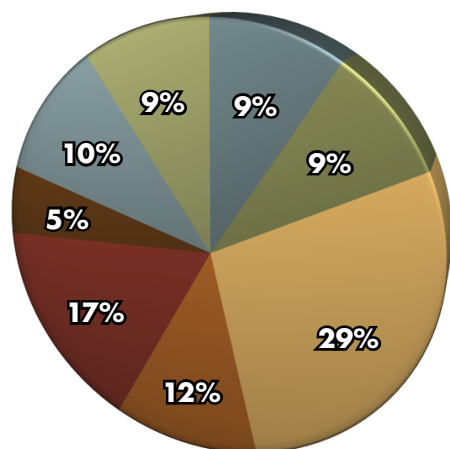
Marit Vike
Martha Lovelace
Marty McFadden
Mary Ann Cooney
Matt McClure
Mayano Ochi
Mekia Cox
Melanie Galvez
Melinda Johnson
Melinda Johnson
Mengchu Wei
Michael Dance
Mike Vincent
Miles Matthias
Mimi Millard
Nancy Sehnert
Narihiko Watanabe
Nathanael Herring
Nicholas Almquist
Nikki Cohn
Rebecca Guise
Sam Svilar
Samuel Wilson
Sandra Midkiff
Sara Nickel
Sarah Greubel
Stephanie Neeson
Stephen E. Jantschi
Steven Luck and Lisa Oakes
Tamara McClelland
Tami Groves
Tamryn Mistretta
Tara Lewis
Taylor Emmerson
Tomeka Hart
Victoria Van Hyning
William Letsky

A special thank you to the many names we were unable to list here. Your generosity, at any amount, is noticed and deeply appreciated.

FINANCIALS

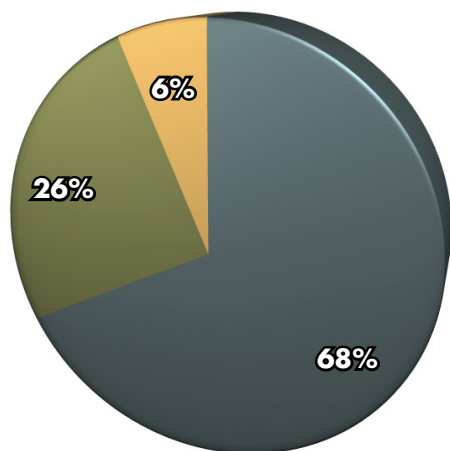


2020 EXPENSES



General Programs	\$715,657.52
Strategic Communications	\$683,377.10
Power and Democracy	\$2,233,215.76
Opportunity to Learn	\$911,550.66
Justice Project	\$1,319,875.34
Immigrant Justice	\$413,083.47
Fundraising	\$818,397.45
Administration and Infrastructure	\$732,893.77
TOTAL	\$7,864,051.07

2020 REVENUES



Unrestricted	\$10,667,686
Restricted	\$4,039,310
Other revenues	\$1,018,384
TOTAL	\$15,725,380

All financials are preliminary and pre-audited numbers on accrual basis.

STAFF & BOARD

2020 was an extraordinary year for our team and the movement. With the additional support we received from donors we've been able to scale our programs by adding more than 10 new staff positions. Led by the Board and Senior Leadership team below, we thank you for making this expansion possible!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chair; Senior Counsel, California Office of the Civil Rights Education & Enforcement Center

Board President

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Founding Co-Director, Advancement Project

Secretary/Treasurer

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Founding Co-Director, Advancement Project

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Belafonte Enterprises, Inc

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Independent Consultant, Roadmap Consulting

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Founding Partner, Rustic Canyon Partners

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Edward "Eddie" Hailes

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Flavia Jimenez

Managing Director of Development

Andi Ryder

Managing Director of Campaigns

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