

AT THE CROSSROADS



Cover photo by Sarah-Ji, Love and Struggle Photos. All other photos by Alexis Sanchez-Boyzo.

“To be truly visionary we have to root our imagination in our concrete reality while simultaneously imagining possibilities beyond that reality.” –bell hooks

Movements across the world demand our attention and our collective resources. Everywhere from Iran to Puerto Rico, from Mississippi to Illinois, from North Lawndale to South Shore—there are people in the streets demanding an end to state repression, colonial control, surveillance and gun violence, while fighting for the right to clean water, bodily autonomy, and vibrant public parks. More than two years into the global coronavirus pandemic, we continue to feel the systems of oppression that have always been present in our lives.

And still, our justice movements insist on their place in the discourse. Beyond our collective attention, these movements require action and commitment—a commitment to transformation for ourselves and being in alignment with our values. The process of change is not easy or comfortable. It requires us to confront where our values meet reality and create complexity and nuance. And as James Baldwin said, in so many words, it is incumbent on us to take action.

The grantees we have listed in our Fall newsletter are creating a collective vision for Chicago that is equitable, dynamic, adaptive, and genuinely cared for. This vision imagines the radical possibilities of a world where our people have the freedom to thrive, create art, and be in authentic relationships

with one another. They are also the vision of our ancestors—a long lineage of people who loved with full hearts, who struggled and fought for liberation, and who chose joy and connection amid oppression.

In Fiscal Year 2022, Crossroads Fund granted **\$4,338,041 to 206 organizations** in the Chicago area. This is the highest amount we have redistributed to grassroots groups working on racial, social, and economic justice. This total amount includes our grantmaking and pooled funds with foundation partners and individual donors. Every dollar we raise and redistribute requires many people working in different ways, and we hope you will be able to share the good news with your networks. Together, we are participating in a broader movement to support grassroots organizing and activism.

In solidarity,

Michael Aguhar
Program Director

About Crossroads Fund

Crossroads Fund supports community organizations working on issues of racial, social, and economic justice in the Chicago area. A public foundation, Crossroads Fund pools the resources of individuals, foundations, and businesses, building a broad base of support for grassroots organizations working for social change.

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Crossroads Fund is proud to announce that in fiscal year 2022 (FY22) we gave out \$4,338,041 to 206 groups working for social change.

Although the following list categorizes grantees based on one primary focus, grantees' work is rarely limited to a single issue area. Most work across issues and prioritize the multiple needs of their diverse constituents. A notation after the grantee description indicates from which grant fund(s) they received funding. Funds include the **Seed Fund (SF)**, **Technical Assistance Fund (TA)**, **Youth Fund for Social Change (YF)**, **501(c)(4) nonprofits (C4)**, and the **Critical Response Fund (CRF)**, which provides rapid response grants to organizations working on issues that arise due to urgent political and social moments. Some organizations also received grants through the **Capacity Building Initiative (CBI)**, a collaborative program that supports organizational growth and development.

Grantees also received funding from our **Partner Funds (PF)**, which include pooled funds and donor advised funds:

- **Anti-Surveillance Network (Anti-Surveillance)**, a network of technologists and community organizers working to hold government and corporations accountable for their use of technology and data;
- **Chicago Racial Justice Pooled Fund (CRJPF)**, a funders collaborative housed at Crossroads Fund that supports Black-led community organizing and ally-led groups addressing anti-Blackness;

- **Eleuterio Fund (Eleuterio)**, which supports community-based arts, education, peace activism, and reproductive rights;
- **GRAM Fund (GRAM)**, which supports women and girls, rights for Arab Americans, and youth projects;
- **James Thindwa Grassroots Organizing Fund**, which supports an annual event and project in honor of the late activist James Thindwa;
- **Monica George and Kyle Johnson Fund (MK Fund)**, which supports community organizing in Chicago;
- **Monica Cosby Fund**, which supports community-based organizations working towards a society less reliant on the criminal legal system by creating alternative systems of care;
- **Women's Voices Fund**, a project of Women & Children First Bookstore, helps sustain and develop an ongoing program series focused on women's lives, ideas, and work;
- **Anonymous donors**

We also list the awards we grant at our annual benefit, *Seeds of Change*, by name. They are the **Donald F. Erickson Synapses Award**, the **Lynda J. Tipton Memorial Award for Social Justice**, and the **Ron Sable Award for Activism**.

In FY22, grant amounts ranged from \$117 to \$75,000. Unless otherwise noted, grants are for general operating support.

CROSSROADS FUND 2022 GRANTEES

ARTS, CULTURE & MEDIA

AirGo Radio is a weekly podcast and movement media hub that reshapes the culture of Chicago for the more liberatory and creative. Through conversations with movement workers, artists, rappers, poets, musicians, organizers, and changemakers, AirGo puts reimaginers in conversation and creates a dialogue-based archive of creative communities and social movements. The CRJPF grant aided in the production of *Help This Garden Grow*, a documentary podcast exploring the story of Hazel Johnson, a resident of the Altgeld Gardens community on the far South Side, who founded the People for Community Recovery to address the toxic industrial pollution that was killing the families of her community. (CRJPF)

AlMosaic provides support, access, and exposure for artists in immigrant and Arab Muslim communities. They challenge social misconceptions in the creative field, promote equal access to the arts, and strengthen movement work through art collectives, youth programs, and workshops. (SF)

alt_Chicago is an artist-led organization dedicated to revitalizing communities through art and culture. alt_Chicago provides an alternative to the dominant cultural narrative, manifesting new opportunities in a time of need on the South and West Sides of Chicago. (SF)

The Center for International Performance and Exhibition dba HotHouse presents performances, exhibitions, and cultural events that build diverse audiences, foster international exchange, and support grassroots development and social justice activism. (SF)

ChiResists uses creativity, media, cultural/popular education and direct action to spark conversation, demand justice and uplift the power of Black, Brown and Indigenous communities. A recent offering includes Joyful Resistance: The People's Choir, which is a BIPOC community space for joyful activation and joyful resistance to create new music. (SF)

Chicago Art Department (CAD) provides socially minded artists with equitable and accessible space to grow their practice. Through residencies, think-tank programs, community events, and contemporary exhibitions, CAD creates a space for artists to question the city we live in. Their project "Seeds in My Pocket" brought together artists, activists, and organizers like Sam Kirk and Alexei Young to highlight stories from Little Village and North Lawndale. (SF)

The Chicago Palestine Film Festival (CPFF) exhibits and promotes art and films to spur productive conversations about Palestinian culture and the diaspora. CPFF is the world's longest consecutive-running Palestinian film festival. They have screened over 250 films and offer a space that is open, critical, and reflective of the culture, experience, and vision of the filmmakers and artists. (SF)

Cicero Independiente is an independent news outlet providing accurate reporting of Cicero, a suburb of Chicago. They connect residents to important resources and information and equip residents with journalism skills to engage in local democracy. This year their fellowship is focused on creating a bilingual photojournalism program to investigate environmental justice issues in Cicero, like unexpected tree removals and access to water bill assistance for low-income residents. (SF)

CIRCA Pintig educates, mobilizes, and organizes community members, primarily Asian immigrants and their families, through performing arts and community-centered intergenerational programs and services. Their work focuses on community engagement to debunk the model minority myth and producing a new play that tells the story of four multiracial families impacted by gun violence. (SF)

City Bricks: Report Card Project is a civic art project consisting of public murals and a documentary film that explores racial wealth inequality and building community power in Chicago's West and South Sides to address poverty. A Technical Assistance Fund grant supported a website redesign, program evaluation, and community screenings. (TA)

Community Film Workshop of Chicago (CFWC) provides training, access, and support to independent media artists on Chicago's South Side. CFWC offers the tools for people of color, youth and women to uplift social issues, counter narratives, and transform their communities. (SF)

El Griot and Areito Project decolonizes history by centering Black, Indigenous, and people of color's stories of resistance and liberation to reclaim stories, healing, and carrying cultural wealth forward for future generations. El Griot and Areito is co-creating a curriculum about the Young Lords' history and organizing a Young Lords Liberation Summer Camp. (CRJPF)

The Emcays Philanthropies is an organization for community and art-based action projects that are focused on racism and injustice including: incarceration, policing, community violence, homelessness, LGBTQ+ rights, immigration and the environment. *Demand Justice Chicago* is their art initiative, rooted in a series of installations by Maxwell Emcays, of Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King sculptures. These installations seek to decolonize places by reclaiming space through a Black civil rights lens. (CRJPF)

First Nations Film and Video Festival (FNFVF) advocates for and celebrates the works of Native American filmmakers and films that break racial stereotypes to promote awareness of Native American issues. FNFVF operates two annual festivals to showcase individual films or short films with a long-term goal of becoming a film distributor for Native American directors. (SF)

Full Spectrum Features is a full-service production company that increases equity in the independent film industry by producing, exhibiting, and supporting the work of women, LGBTQ+, and minority filmmakers. Their Seed Fund grant went to support the newly formed Chicago BIPOC Media Fund to support general operations of Sisters in Cinema, Full Spectrum Features, Mezcla Media Collective, and OTV | Open Television. A Critical Response Fund grant supported organizational strategies to promote healing and solidarity. (SF, CRF)

Gage Park Latinx Council (GPLXC) is a Queer, DACA-led community cultural center in the Gage Park neighborhood that serves as a hub for mutual aid, civic engagement, and free arts programming. Their community pantry, "El Mercadito" feeds 200-250 families weekly and will expand to deepen their work around food access and health. A Critical Response Fund grant supported vaccination outreach in partnership with the Chicago Department of Public Health to make vaccines accessible to Gage Park residents. (TA, CRF, SF)

The Guild Literary Complex, a community-based literary organization, presents and supports diverse, divergent, and emerging voices through innovative literary programs including performances and readings. A Critical Response Fund grant supported virtual programs and discussions related to trans rights, disability access in the arts, and Native American storytelling. (CRF)

Honey Pot Performance (HPP) is a creative, Afro-diasporic, feminist collaborative that uses performance to document, interrogate, and examine human relationships including the ways we negotiate identity, belonging, and difference in our lives and cultural memberships. HPP is launching a public website of their Chicago Black Social Culture map, presenting public performance projects, and a community curriculum to formalize 20 years of research and processes used for collaborative new work. (SF)

The Hoodoisie works as a collective of artists, organizers, activists, and cultural workers who produce an underground, traveling, live and live-streamed news show that aims to deliver "block-optic" and radically politicized takes on news and current events. Their work centers the experiences and perspectives of people of color, queers and women of color, and working-class people. (SF)

Illinois Humanities Council programs broaden public involvement in civic dialogue, deepen the quality of community conversation and reflection, increase public access to the humanities by lowering barriers to participation, and bring humanities activities to unexpected places. (Eleuterio)

Mezcla Media Collective supports women and non-binary filmmakers of color by creating access to a collaborative network and offering workshops and convenings. They advocate for economic justice and permanent change in the film industry. A Technical Assistance Fund grant supported their database system to streamline employment opportunities for Chicago-based members. (SF, TA)

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Perceptions Theatre brings affordable theater to Black communities and works to be an economic and artistic resource for Chicago's South Shore. Perceptions Theatre works to diversify theater, amplify underrepresented voices, and eliminate bigotry and racial injustice in the industry. Their work includes the 2nd Annual BIPOC Playwrights Fest, staged readings, full productions, year-round workshops, monthly discussions with members, and online videos dedicated to Black theater and film history. (SF)

SoapBox Productions and Organizing utilize video and photography to amplify social movements in Chicago, centering education, culture, and structural change. Their podcast series, "The Collective Freedom Project," highlighted many local organizing efforts around the intersection of prison industrial complex abolition and immigration. (CRJPF, SF, TA)

St. Kateri Center of Chicago provides a space for Native American youth and adults to gather, preserve, and deepen their Indigenous identities through advocacy and programming. They provide cultural and leadership skill activities to urban Native American youth through community members with expertise in culturally rich teachings. (SF, TA)

Stomping Grounds Literary Arts Initiative (SGLAI) provides incarcerated and criminalized youth with visual, literary, and musical arts as a creative gateway for liberation. Their approach catalyzes healing from community violence while amplifying students' voices in a public call to action for structural changes to racist policing. (SF, TA)

Truthout is a nonprofit news organization dedicated to providing independent reporting and commentary on a diverse range of social justice issues. (Donald F. Erickson Synapses)

Watched Films produced the documentary, *The Feeling of Being Watched*, which investigates the surveillance of Chicago Muslim communities and uncovers the "terrorism" surveillance operations conducted by the FBI. They also created *The Inverse Surveillance Project*, an interactive media installation, repurposing thousands of FBI documents as a site of collective disruption, healing, and reclaiming of a narrative for those traumatized by surveillance; a project which was supported by the Critical Response Fund grant. (SF, CRF)

Wild Yams: Black Mothers Artist Residency is an art residency experience designed to support, uplift, and encourage artist sustainability for Black mothers on the South Side of Chicago. The annual residency program provides studio, gallery, and office space, solo and group exhibition opportunities, art and design resource tools, and monthly creative leadership development sessions. (SF)

DISABILITY JUSTICE

Chicagoland Disabled People of Color promotes disability justice; celebrates communities of color; educates on disability acceptance, accessibility, and inclusion; and fosters a safe space for disabled people of color to advocate and discover their disability pride. They supported the passing of the Community Emergency Services and Supports Act, which requires emergency response operators to dispatch calls seeking mental and behavioral health support to a team of mental health professionals instead of police. (SF)

ECONOMIC JUSTICE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Alliance of the Southeast (ASE) is a membership organization addressing issues in Southeast Chicago. ASE develops and organizes residents to reduce community violence, develops youth leaders, builds environmentally and racially equitable developments. Their work aims to increase mental health resources in schools, to find alternatives to policing in schools, and to prevent General Iron from relocating to the Southeast Side. (CRJPF, SF, YF)

Equity and Transformation (EAT) is dedicated to creating a democratic society in which Black Chicagoans engaged in the informal economy—activities, enterprises, and jobs not protected by the state—have the resources to change the social and economic conditions affecting their lives. Currently, EAT's *Cannabis Equity Campaign* utilizes a holistic approach to addressing racial disparities in The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act; providing people of color access to the cannabis industry; and reversing the harms done to communities of color by the War on Drugs. (CRJPF)

Evanston Present and Future educates and empowers individuals, families, and the community to build a better future together. Their Reparations Ambassadors program works to: educate residents on reparations, repair harm done to the Black community, and strengthen the "Community Repair Fund" to ensure the well-being of those facing prejudice or discrimination. (CRJPF)

Free Root Operation intercepts poverty-induced gun violence and combats economic injustice by investing in the healing and power of Black and Brown communities with community-based programming, dialogues, and mutual aid. Their program Education Emancipation centers students' holistic wellness while putting a stop to the school-to-prison pipeline while the Chicago Food Pairing Program combats the unequal distribution of city resources and fosters connections between residents of the South and West Sides. (SF)

Hustle Mommies (HM) is a collective of Chicago Black mothers affected by gun violence that advocates for economic opportunity, quality education, and an end to gun violence through training, organizing, collective healing, and direct services. (SF)

Justice Cream develops a solidarity economy through ice cream while cultivating a collective consciousness through liberatory education. They do so by redistributing economic power, building capacity among grassroots groups, and generating new norms rooted in abundance. (SF, CRJPF)

Nehemiah Group DBA Chicago Eco House is a Black-led organization using Chicago agriculture to reclaim and repurpose vacant land for the social and economic benefit of Black people. Their *Southside Blooms* program builds trauma informed skills and sustainable jobs in the local flower industry. (CRJPF)

Not Me, We is a Black-led organizing group in the South Shore neighborhood of Chicago fighting injustices of racism, housing, and education. They organize working class community members for mutual aid and collective power. Campaigns include the Obama Center Community Benefits Agreement and reparations from University of Chicago. A Critical Response Fund grant supported direct actions led by South Shore tenants experiencing eviction and displacement. (SF, CRF)

Women for Economic Justice (WEJ) is a network of working-class women working to end poverty and gender violence through policy, popular education, and organizing. WEJ views the labor movement through a gender lens and uses principles of solidarity, autonomy and community accountability to build power and heal. (SF)

Working Family Solidarity strives to educate and unify working families in Chicago and Illinois to create a culture of labor and housing rights education and inter-racial solidarity among low-wage workers. Their *Racial Unity Dialogues* is an education series offering a historical analysis of racism in our society to build stronger alliances and reach economic stability. (SF, CBI, CRJPF)

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

360 Nation promotes holistic economic development and self-determination for the Black community on Chicago's West Side through critical race consciousness and community-driven efforts. Their *Nutrient Film Technique* reclaims vacant space to offer popular education and community transformation. (SF)

Just Transition Northwest Indiana (JTNWI) educates and organizes Northwest Indiana communities and workers and elevates stories in support of a just transition to a regenerative economy that protects our environment, climate and futures. A Critical Response Fund grant supported the *Protect Lake Michigan* campaign which addresses the environmental impacts of industrial pollution in the region. (CRF)

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People for Community Recovery (PCR) is a community-based organization addressing environmental racism, the harsh impacts of Chicago Housing Authority policies, and economic inequities on Chicago's South Side. With a number of development projects coming to the South Side, including a CTA Redline Extension and riverfront revitalization project, PCR is working to ensure developments benefit community members rather than displacement. They are organizing to leverage opportunities, including historic designation of Altgeld Gardens, that will secure needed resources for their neighborhoods. (CRJPF)

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Acting OutSide is an abolitionist troupe of formerly incarcerated women scholars and artists, builders and philosophers, poets and people of the theater, activists and organizers, students and teachers, healers, survivors and shapers. (Monica Cosby)

Believers Bail Out (BBO) is a volunteer-led community effort to support and free Muslims in pretrial and immigration incarceration. They raise awareness of the injustices of the bail bond system, immigration bonds, and the overall carceral system. Their work of participatory defense, is a community organizing model supporting those facing charges by mobilizing those incarcerated, their families, and their communities to impact their case and transform the landscape of power in the court system. (SF)

Blackroots Alliance is a network that builds the research, leadership, communications, legal, campaign, and non-profit management capacity for institutions that share a vision for Black Liberation. They organize in areas of safety, economic security, health and wholeness, education justice, and democracy engagement—and they are currently bringing awareness to the implementation of reparations for Black people. (CRJPF)

Black Leaders Building Together (BLB2) utilizes community organizing to build a civically educated and empowered base of Black people in Chicago that will win equitable policy and legislation fights for thriving futures in the Black community. (CRJPF)

Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100) is a national member-based organization of young activists and organizers creating freedom and justice for all Black people through a Black, Queer, feminist lens. A Critical Response Fund grant supported the *Stop ShotSpotter* campaign which is a call to amplify the discriminatory use of ShotSpotter surveillance technology by the Chicago Police Department. (CRF, CRJPF, Anonymous)

Chicago 400 Alliance is a multidisciplinary campaign organized with and on behalf of the Chicago 400, people listed on public conviction registries experiencing homelessness who must re-register weekly at Chicago police stations. Their work is to change lifetime banishment and registry laws creating unjust barriers to housing, travel, and employment. (SF)

Chicago Community Bond Fund (CCBF) operates a revolving bond fund that supports people charged with crimes in Cook County, educates on the role of bond in the criminal legal system, and advocates for the abolition of money bond and other forms of pretrial punishment. (CBI)

Chicago Torture Justice Center (CTJC) addresses the impact of police violence and institutionalized racism through access to healing and wellness services, trauma-informed resources, and community connection. CTJC was part of the coalition that fought and won a historic reparations package for the torture survivors of the late Chicago Police Department Commander Jon Burge. (CRJPF)

Chicago Torture Justice Memorial (CTJM) works to educate, mobilize, and transform consciousness about police violence and mass incarceration. They aim to honor and to seek justice for the survivors of Chicago police torture, their family members, and the Black communities affected by the torture. Currently, CTJM's work includes negotiations with the city to demand investment in the creation of the public memorial per the historic reparations legislation. (CRJPF)

Children's Best Interest Project prevents parental incarceration and childhood trauma by organizing to win full implementation of sentence mitigation under the Children's Best Interest Act. They organize community members to challenge the carceral system and preserve families targeted by the prison and foster systems through participatory defense and education. (SF)

Christianaire works to shift the use of force policy by the Chicago Police Department, fighting for more transparency in misconduct by law enforcement, and advocating for city-funded mental wellness services in Black communities. Christianaire has organized Justice 4 Laquan Summits that include families impacted by police brutality from across the country and hosts annual MLK Solidarity Dinners to build community and engage leaders. (CRJPF)

Citizen Advocacy Center provides free civic, legal, and community resources to build democracy through community organizing, coalition building, legal advocacy, civic education, and litigation in order to make the government accountable, accessible, and transparent. They utilize a model of grassroots Community Lawyering where people contact them for support and they provide training, organizing tools, monitoring of government decisions, and enforcement of good-governance laws. (SF, TA)

Coalition to Decarcerate IL is a group of loved ones of the incarcerated, formerly and currently incarcerated individuals, activists, and creatives working towards abolition and fighting for the rights and dignity of those incarcerated. A Critical Response Fund grant supported the *Illinois Prison Water Crisis* campaign which addresses water contamination at 12 Illinois state prisons. (CRF, Thindwa)

Coalition to End Money Bond tackles bail reform and the abolition of money bonds as part of its member organizations' larger efforts to achieve racial and economic justice for all residents of Cook County. A Critical Response Fund grant continued the implementation of the Pretrial Fairness Act as misinformation drives efforts to rollback pretrial justice reforms. (CRF)

The Electronic Monitoring Mutual Aid Network responds to the harm and trauma of surveillance technology inflicted on Black and Brown communities by the Cook County Sheriff's office. A Critical Response Fund grant strengthened the abolitionist movement through political education and mutual aid for those on electronic monitoring. (CRF)

First Defense Legal Aid (FDLA) offers public defense and creates, protects, and engages replicable alternatives to the criminal justice system starting with its entry points. A Critical Response Fund grant increased the capacity for the organization's civil rights attorneys due to the SAFE-T Act, which provides detainees access to three phone calls within three hours of an arrest. (CRF, CRJPF)

Goldin Institute's Chicago Peace Fellows Mutual Aid Collaborative is a collection of local leaders who advocate for racial justice in philanthropy, address harms in the criminal justice system, and provide economic development programs on the South and West Sides of Chicago. They offer workshops to help organizations add expungement services to their work, train residents in restorative practices, and develop public advocacy strategies for police accountability and criminal justice reform. (CRJPF)

Grassroots Illinois Action (GIA) builds a permanent, independent, grassroots electoral movement in and for working-class communities in Chicago and Peoria. GIA advocates for progressive tax reforms and organizes strong community-based electoral work to pursue a vision that values Chicago's families, children, and neighborhoods. (C4)

IL Muslim Civic Coalition is a statewide coalition that convenes, collaborates, and amplifies social and civic efforts of the broader Chicago Muslim community. Their work includes voter engagement, government accountability, and advocacy to advance civic voices, political access, and visibility. (SF)

Live Free Chicago (LF) organizes Black congregations across Illinois to ensure Black and Brown people are free from all forms of violence. LF builds economic and political power as part of its broader campaign to address structural violence, racism, and poverty with the goal of ending gun violence and mass incarceration. (SF, CRJPF)

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Love & Protect supports those who identify as women and gender non-conforming persons of color who are criminalized or harmed by state and interpersonal violence. Their *Coming Home Fund* assists criminalized survivors of domestic and interpersonal violence who are returning to their communities after being incarcerated. (CRJPF, Monica Cosby Fund)

Lucy Parsons Labs (LPL) is a Chicago-based collaboration between technologists and activists that sheds light on the role technology plays in creating harm in society and how advancements exploit Black, Brown and low-income communities. Their areas of work include providing digital security trainings, pursuing police accountability, researching the use of civil asset forfeiture, and filing public records requests. (SF, Ron Sable, CRJPF)

Midwest Books to Prisoners is a volunteer-led group in Chicago offering solidarity and free reading materials to incarcerated people in the Midwest. A Critical Response Fund grant supported the influx of book requests from Cook County Jail due to COVID lockdowns with no access to libraries and the enforcement of strict book distributor protocols and book bans. (CRF)

Moms United Against Violence and Incarceration (MUAVI) is a mutual-support organizing group in solidarity with mothers surviving state violence, particularly those harmed by incarceration and family separation. (SF)

Mothers Opposed to Violence Everywhere (MOVE) engages Black families in grassroots organizing to address racist policies that have limited housing and employment opportunities. They are also working to win policies that dismantle systemic racism in the criminal justice system by ensuring that those most impacted by racism are at the forefront of transforming their lives. MOVE's youth organizers work on their *We Fight for Her Campaign* to keep the youth on the South and West Sides engaged in getting answers for unsolved murders of Black women and girls. (CRJPF)

National Restorative Justice Conference advances restorative justice as a social movement to transform individuals, relationships, communities and systems through prevention, repair, and deep healing from harm. A Critical Response Fund grant supported the July 2022 Chicago conference that provided guidance and community for practitioners to promote anti-racist policies, high quality practices to restorative principles. (CRF)

The Nickolas Lee Foundation (NLF) was formed in response to the COVID-19 death of Nickolas Lee due to poor healthcare conditions at the Illinois Department of Corrections and Cook County Jail. A Critical Response Fund grant supported efforts to deliver clean drinking water to those incarcerated at Statesville Prison suffering from water contamination. (CRF)

Parole Illinois changes the perceptions, policies, and power relations that have maintained mass incarceration and extreme-sentencing in Illinois. They amplify incarcerated voices into prison-policy discussions, train impacted people, mobilize, and educate the public and policymakers about the harms of extreme sentencing. A Critical Response Fund grant supported training to strategize and build power. (SF, CRF)

Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project (PNAP) is a visual arts and humanities project that connects artists, educators, and organizers to men serving long-term sentences at Statesville Maximum Security Prison. Through classes, workshops, and guest lectures, PNAP examines the political impact of criminalization and the transformation of systems through policy advocacy. A Critical Response Fund grant supported the Learning Fellows model, providing re-entry support to formerly incarcerated students. (CRJPF, CRF, TA, CBI)

Sister Survivor uplifts the civic voices of Black women and girls who have been harmed by America's prison policies. Sister Survivor expands anti-carceral campaigns and advocacy networks for hyper-incarcerated communities while offering political education and art to transform lives and build healing communities. (SF)

Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation (SOUL) is a multi-issue organization serving Chicago's South Side and south suburbs to strengthen civic engagement and build power in Black communities to advance racial and economic justice. Their work includes protecting the Pretrial Fairness Act and the Water-for-All campaign to demand clean and affordable water for all Chicagoans. (SF, CRJPF)

SOUL in Action offers residents the tools to advance racial and economic equity through legislative impact, accountability-centered relationships with elected officials, and public education around public policy. (C4)

Westside Rising is a Black, woman-led organization engaging and uniting local residents and organizations through training and capacity-building to leverage collective power and shape a just, livable, and vibrant Greater West Side. The coalition works to engage stakeholders in issues like workers' rights, violence prevention, voter education and engagement, and housing. (CRJPF)

HEALTH & EDUCATION

The African American Leadership and Policy Institute (AALPI) is an independent community-based public policy and research organization fostering equitable and lasting solutions to the most pressing challenges facing African-Americans. Their advocacy work includes advancing policy and practice change within government agencies, proposing legislation, and supporting the creation of new groups or organizations that can more effectively respond to institutional racism. (CRJPF)

Alliance for Community Services / RPCAN is a community-labor coalition of people with disabilities, low-income families, front-line public service workers, students, and seniors seeking an end to the privatization of public services while protecting, expanding, and improving Medicaid, SNAP, and Social Security. Their recent work has been to bring dignity and justice to residents and employees of nursing homes. (SF, TA)

The Black Researchers Collective is a Black women-led organization training and equipping communities with the research tools to be more civically engaged and policy informed. Their work centers and ensures meaningful involvement of Black leadership by tailoring program activities to meet the needs of Black communities in the epicenter of the work and encouraging them to leverage their personal and professional assets toward systemic change. They empower their communities to build collective power rooted in their own leadership, using tools and skills gained in political education workshops. (CRJPF)

The Chicago Coalition to Save Our Mental Health Centers makes affordable mental healthcare accessible to all Chicagoans by creating community-funded and overseen centers like Expanded Mental Health Services Programs (EMHSP). Their recent work included a Bronzeville community mental health needs assessment to inform the services of a new Bronzeville EMHSP. (SF)

Chicago Law and Education Foundation (CLEF) provides free legal services, resources, and education for undocumented immigrants, Chicago Public Schools youth, and families. They utilize a community lawyer system that partners with the Chicago Public Schools and Chicago Public Libraries. (SF)

Fathers, Families & Healthy Communities (FFHC) challenges racist policies that inflict harm on Black and Brown fathers, families, and communities through direct services, leadership training, and advocacy. Their work includes advocacy related to improving the Illinois Clean Slate program, which seeks to eliminate past due child support debt in exchange for regular payments of child support to the family. (CRJPF, SF)

Health Policy Institute of Chicago (HPIC) encourages collaborative associations with diverse community-based organizations, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), public or private institutions of higher learning interested in providing a much-needed African-American centric perspective for the analysis of racial/ethnic group health disparities. (CRJPF)

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Holistic Birth Collective (HBC) promotes and advocates for access to midwife-led continuity of care models among unjustly served communities. HBC increases the racial diversity of Certified Professional Midwives in Illinois and raises awareness about obstetric racism. HBC has addressed Black maternal health care issues through *The Consumer Choice in Maternal Care for African American Mothers Act*. This bill will prevent Black maternal deaths by ensuring equitable access to reproductive health options to families. (CRJPF)

LSCs.4.ALL is an education justice organization shaping governance in schools and throughout Chicago. They educate, empower, and expand Local School Councils (LSCs) in Chicago as a citywide force for educational equity. This past year, the coalition advocated for the The LSC Quorum Law allowing LSCs that have fallen below the level of quorum to add members immediately instead of waiting for the next election cycle. The LSC Empowerment Law expands who can serve on LSCs, removes barriers to participation, and adds additional student representatives to each LSC, among other reforms. (CRJPF)

The Love Package Project (LPP) is a community-led effort of doula providing care packages for Black birthing people in Chicago. Through a participatory-action model that honors people's lived experiences of race, age and culture, LPP builds practices of collective care and education for young parents. A Critical Response Fund grant supported the group's mutual aid efforts. (CRF)

Parents 4 Teachers is a coalition of parents building unity with teachers to forge a just and equitable public school system for Chicago youth. Through solidarity, organizing, and advocacy, they expand campaigns to fight racist school policies, press for progressive school funding, and increase accountability in district decision-making while pushing for safe conditions in school buildings as the pandemic continues. (SF)

People Matter (PM) uplifts, unearths, and untethers people through direct services, political education, and multiple issue advocacy to preserve affordable housing, improve language access, and tackle anti-Blackness in Chinatown. A Critical Response Fund grant supported collaborative efforts of violence prevention through the Public Safety Commission to counter demands in police, surveillance, and harsh sentencing as solutions for gun violence. (SF, CRF, TA, CRJPF)

People's Archive & Research Collective is a collective of community-members, activists, and students dedicated to producing research, analysis, and evidence to communities subjected to state violence. Their first investigative research project is focused on compiling an archive and launching a political education program of Chicago police officers murdering nearly 1,700 people in the city going back to the 1800s. (SF)

Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky is a health care provider working to improve women's health and safety, prevent unintended pregnancies, offer sexual health education, and advocate for individual choice in matters of sexual health and reproductive justice. (Eleuterio)

The Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago enhances the capacity of public health and healthcare systems to promote equity and expand access to care through leadership development, system changes, and LGBTQ+ youth programming. The grant went toward supporting the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, a program that amplifies LGBTQ+ youth organizing efforts and strengthens collaboration with partners to meet the advocacy needs of LGBTQ+ youth experiencing harassment and discrimination. (SF)

Race Conscious Dialogues (RCD) helps white people deepen their awareness of identity, power, and privilege with the ultimate goal of developing tools for anti-racism work. They meet quarterly with a cohort of white people and support a BIPOC specific affinity space while also deepening relationships with institutions like the Oak Park Library and the Oak Park PTO Diversity Committees. (SF)

Racial Equity Parents Group at Peirce Elementary works to engage parents in discussions about racial equity through dialogues and events at the school. A Technical Assistance Fund grant funded a Next Steps *Anti-Racism Learning Studio* to strengthen the skills and collective power of parents towards antiracist action at Peirce Elementary. (TA, CRFJP)

Raise Your Hand for IL Public Education is a coalition of parents that engage, inform, and empower parents to protect and strengthen education for all children in Chicago and Illinois. Their work advocates for fully funding education and pushing a family led platform of demands around COVID that would transform the district instead of returning to a normal that doesn't work. (SF, CBI)

The Salaam Community Wellness Center is a health and wellness center providing a culturally-competent, integrative medical model that offers holistic healing alternatives to the healthcare system and equips neighbors with resources to address social determinants. (SF)

Undoing Our Erasure (UOE) is a podcast and workshop series providing the building blocks needed to achieve a Black liberated future. UOE offers accessible resources and workshops that center political education and decolonized ways of schooling. A Critical Response Fund grant supported the group's mutual aid efforts. (CRF)

The **Women's Voices Fund** is a project of independent, feminist bookstore *Women & Children First*. The fund seeks to support, sustain, and develop an ongoing program series focused on women's lives, ideas, and work. (PF)

YogaCare catalyzes the spread of yoga in Chicago to promote healing while actively working to close the gaps in health disparities and life expectancy along the racial wealth divide. The grant went to support the Socially Engaged Yoga Network (SEYN) to create tools for collective liberation (e.g. rest, collective care, sharing resources, wellness practice) for organizers, activists, and healers to increase connections to community resource, embed self-care into organizational policies, and feel more sustained in organizing work. (SF)

HOUSING JUSTICE

Autonomous Tenants Union (ATU) is a tenant, volunteer-led organization in Albany Park organizing for housing justice, community control, and an end to all evictions. Their recent work includes a campaign to inform tenants, media, and the public of their rights around security deposits. ATU is also training volunteers on bilingual interpretation to increase their capacity during meetings and continue their commitment to language justice with their members. (SF)

Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance (CAFHA) is a membership-based nonprofit working to combat housing discrimination and promote equitable opportunity through education, advocacy, and collaborative action. CAFHA co-led efforts to pass the *Cook County Residential Tenant and Landlord Ordinance*, ensuring basic protections for 245,000+ Cook County rental households. (CRJPF)

Chicago Housing Justice League (CHJL) is a collaborative of groups organizing and advocating for the City of Chicago's 5-Year Housing Plan to improve projects, programs, and policies to create more equitable housing opportunities. A Critical Response Fund grant supported the league's advocacy for the Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance, which protects Chicago households from evictions after the statewide eviction moratorium ended in October 2021. (CRF, CRJPF)

Chicago Solidarity Collective provides stable, affordable, resident-controlled housing for formerly incarcerated Chicagoans and people who have aged out of the foster system. The collective includes ChiFresh Kitchen, a worker cooperative that delivers fresh, nutritious, and culturally appropriate meals, and Upside Down Consulting, which incubates cooperatives and focuses on economic democracy. (SF)

Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community (CBCAC) unites member organizations and individuals to empower Chinese American communities in Chicago through civic education, issue advocacy, policy, and community action. CBCAC is organizing listening sessions with Chinatown and Bridgeport residents to understand their concerns with a focus on how to make housing more stable and prevent tenants from being forced out of their homes due to rising rents and property taxes. (SF)

CROSSROADS FUND 2021 GRANTEES

Connections for the Homeless prevents homelessness by providing financial assistance to those facing eviction. They provide emergency shelter for people in crisis, securing permanent housing for individuals and families, and organizing their community through advocacy efforts. (CRJPF)

Here to Stay is a community land trust and anti-displacement effort led by neighbors disrupting the speculative real estate market in Logan Square and Hermosa. Their work provides a mechanism for communities to own land and create affordable homeownership for legacy families. (SF)

Jane Addams Senior Caucus (JASC) is a strong grassroots organization, built by seniors to take collective action to improve seniors' lives and their communities. A Critical Response Fund grant supported virtual training for seniors to strengthen organizing strategies to address pandemic needs and stability in their buildings. (CRF)

Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing provides free legal and supportive services to improve housing stability for lower income renters while advocating for the rights of all renters until everyone in Chicago has a safe, decent, and affordable home. The grant went to support the Chicago Housing Justice League which is focused on passing Just Cause for Eviction, a flagship tenant protection policy that would keep 10,000 Chicago households from facing no-fault evictions each year. (SF)

Lugenia Burns Hope Center promotes civic engagement in the Bronzeville neighborhood through education, leadership development, and organizing to preserve public housing and other community-based issues. Lugenia Burns Hope Center is the founding organization of the LSCs.4.All Coalition, which was formed with the specific purpose of increasing the effectiveness of Local School Councils (LSC). (CRJPF)

Pilsen Alliance (PA) is committed to creating grassroots leadership and community-driven developments in Pilsen and neighboring working-class, immigrant communities. PA helps to build and support parents, teachers, and youth leaders advocating and organizing for education equity, justice, and democratic representation at the Chicago Board of Education. (SF, CRJPF)

Northside Action for Justice (NA4J) is a multi-issue organization on the North Side of Chicago building power for working people to advance campaigns for living wages, affordable housing, and quality public education. Their campaigns work to stop gentrification and displacement in Uptown and Rogers Park through tenant organizing, education, and building resident-led decisions. (SF)

Metropolitan Tenants Organization advocates, educates, organizes, and empowers tenants to exercise their human right to affordable and safe housing. A Critical Response Fund grant supported MTO's Eviction Prevention Program as the IL state moratorium ended in October 2022. (CRF)

Sex Workers Outreach Project Chicago (SWOP) supports the rights of sex workers and their communities with a focus on ending violence and stigma through education, advocacy, and peer support. A Critical Response Fund grant supported their free housing initiative and outreach to those suffering from homelessness. (SF, CRF, TA, CRJPF)

Tenant Education Network (TEN) supports the leadership of Project Based Section 8 tenants in Illinois. Through union organizing tools and innovative technology, TEN demystifies the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and holds power brokers accountable to win tenant contracts and housing transformation. Recently, TEN won new management for tenants at the Ellis Lakeview Apartments. (SF)

HUMAN RIGHTS & INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) places trained violence-reduction teams in crisis situations and militarized areas around the world to build partnerships and confront violence and oppression through nonviolent direct action. (SF)

Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine (CJPIP) is a community-based group dedicated to organizing and educating to advance the cause of peace and justice for both Palestinians and Israelis. (SF)

Women's All Points Bulletin (WAPB) offers services, education, and training to eradicate all forms of state violence against women and girls, particularly violence perpetrated by police. WAPB is currently changing policies, practices and procedures of the Chicago Police Department through the Consent Decree and work groups focused on police violence against women, specifically Project ASAP. (SF, CRJPF)

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE

Albany Park Defense Network (APDN) is a community-based, rapid-response network protecting and defending immigrants and residents from deportations and displacement, including housing evictions and rental discrimination. Their work includes community building, know-your-rights workshops, and mutual aid while advocating for change in the enforcement of immigration law. (SF)

Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (AFIRE) organizes the Filipino/a/o community on issues of immigration and workers' rights. AFIRE strengthens workers' rights in Illinois, promotes immigration policies that unite families and communities, and develops grassroots leaders. AFIRE's recent work is expanding beyond domestic workers to include gig workers, retail workers, and supply chain workers, especially those impacted by COVID-19. (SF)

Borderless Magazine is a bilingual news outlet dismantling racist and harmful media coverage of immigrants. They offer pathways for emerging journalists from immigrant communities to build a more representative media landscape. A Critical Response Fund grant supported Afghan Refugee journalism, reporting on the needs and resources for those made vulnerable due to policy, exploitation, and federal disinvestment. (SF, CRF, CRJPF)

Illinois Dream Fund is a revolving scholarship fund that offers financial resources to undocumented students in Illinois. They advocate for equitable access and pathways to citizenship for students while urging better practices, support, and resources from Illinois colleges and universities. (SF, TA)

Illinois Immigration Funders Collaborative consists of local and national foundations working to support issues facing the immigrant community. Funding priorities include organizing, legal assistance, community defense, and capacity-building to help organizations serve clients and work in coalitions to mobilize for change. (TA)

Immigrant Solidarity DuPage (ISD) educates, organizes and mobilizes DuPage County around the rights, culture, and collective struggles of the Latinx community. ISD leads campaigns, workshops, rallies, and cultural events to combat racial profiling, labor abuse, housing discrimination, and amplify the diverse civic voices within the Latinx community. (SF, TA)

Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors (NIJFON) provides free legal services to low-income immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in Aurora, Chicago, and Rockford. They also offer education to the general public on immigration issues and advocate for an accessible immigration system. (SF, TA)

Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD) fights alongside families and individuals challenging deportations, detention, and the criminalization of immigrants and people of color in Chicago and surrounding areas. A Critical Response Fund grant supported a campaign strategy to demand the release of those detained in Illinois immigration detention centers, as the Federal Court sealed an end to ICE detention in IL. (SF, CRF, CBI, CRJPF)

United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African community-based organizations that promotes social and economic justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois. (CBI)

CROSSROADS FUND 2021 GRANTEES

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER/QUESTIONING, INTERSEX, ASEXUAL

Affinity Community Services advances health, wellness, and safety for Black LGBTQ+ women on Chicago's South Side through education, advocacy, and collective action. Recently, they held a series of online workshops featuring Black LGBTQ wellness experts that provided education about health disparities and supported direct access to mental health services by Black LGBTQ mental health professionals. (SF, CBI)

Chicago Therapy Collective promotes city-wide action to alleviate LGBTQIA health disparities and advance our collective well-being through therapy, training and advocacy. A Critical Response Fund grant supported the collective's citywide call to action confronting anti-trans violence and uplifting Transgender Day of Resilience on November 20th. (CRF)

Life Is Work is a grassroots organization led exclusively by Black and Brown transgender and non-binary individuals committed to using education, direct services, and advocacy to increase the health, safety, and security of the LGBTQ+ community. A Critical Response Fund grant supported the Transgender Advocacy Project (TAP) to elevate Black and Brown transgender, and gender nonconforming voices advocating for access to economic, health and social services, housing, and legislative systems. (SF, CRF)

Lighthouse Foundation (LF) advances justice for Black LGBTQ+ people across Chicago through empowerment, education, and entertainment. Recently, LF launched the Black Queer Equity Index (BQEI) a research-grounded tool assessing organizational barriers to entry and equity experienced by Black Queer Chicagoans. (SF, CRJPF)

Lorde, Rustin & Bates, Inc. (LRB) centers Black and Latinx LGBTQ+ people, people living with HIV, and other marginalized groups towards justice and equity. They build a world where economic, health access, and justice disparities are closed; civic and community engagement is consistent; and underserved communities are well resourced and free from harm. LRB's *Fahrenheit Chicago 3.0 Consortium Project* convenes four arts-based not-for-profits to: pool resources, collectively build capacity; and provide grants for member organizations. (CRJPF)

The National LGBTQ Workers Center works to ensure all LGBTQ+ people understand and defend their rights as workers through organizing, legal services, and labor education. Their annual *LGBTQ Workers Economic Justice Summit and Chicago LGBTQ Anti-Discrimination Watch* educates, activates, and convenes LGBTQ workers and leaders while offering support to address workplace discrimination. (SF)

Taskforce Prevention and Community Services improves the health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ youth of color on Chicago's West Side. Through LGBTQ+ affirming services and advocacy the Taskforce provides space for fellowship, preservation, education, and violence prevention. A Critical Response Fund grant supported mutual aid, and strategies to confront anti-trans violence. (CRF)

Therapy Access Project (TAP) serves the LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC community locally and nationwide to reduce the stigma and barriers faced by these communities in finding mental healthcare, education, and resources for self and community preservation. (SF)

Transformative Justice Law Project (TJLP) is a collective of social workers, activists, attorneys, and organizers committed to gender self-determination, transformative justice, and prison abolition. TJLP offers free and affirming legal services, education, and community organizing to trans folks impacted by the criminal legal system. (CBI)

WORKERS RIGHTS

Black Workers Matter (BWM) is an Austin neighborhood-based movement of workers fighting racism in hiring and on the job on the West Side and near west suburbs of Chicago in the tax increment financing (TIF) industrial districts. BWM is helping to develop a "solidarity unionism" model for BWM's Amazon worker/driver-members in Chicago. The approach combines worker direct action with community organizing to hold Amazon accountable both to warehouse workers and drivers to local neighborhoods and consumers. (CRJPF)

Blue Tin Production (BTP) is a sustainable apparel manufacturing worker co-operative run by working-class women of color to counter capitalist logic. They address sweatshops and gender-based violence in fashion production facilities while advancing stable opportunities to build economic mobility and holistic care in the workplace. (SF, CRJPF)

Center for Racial and Gender Equity organizes Black workers and families to address high rates of unemployment, low-wage work, and the over-criminalization of Black communities through political education and electoral work to bolster civic participation and electoral power of Black Illinoisans. (C4)

Chicago Community and Workers' Rights collectively defends the rights of immigrant workers and utilizes strategies of resistance against labor rights abuses. They fight for fair working conditions, dignified wages, and just living conditions through organizing, advocacy, education, and emergency support for workers in crisis. (SF)

Chicago Teamsters for a Democratic Union (Chicago TDU) is a worker-led movement that organizes and trains workers for economic justice campaigns and promotes community-labor alliances. Recently, they kicked off their campaign, *UPS Teamsters United for a Strong Contract*, advocating for part-time raises, an end to workplace harassment, and safer working conditions. (SF)

The Co-op Ed Center (CEC) builds a restorative economy based on education, solidarity, and collective self-determination. CEC guides worker cooperatives in communities of color to restore and heal communities while focusing on people, not profit. Their work builds democratic governance structures and promotes cooperation over competition while addressing the racial wealth divide in Chicago. (SF)

Healing to Action (HTA) advances a worker-led movement to end gender-based violence in Chicago. HTA centers on the healing and leadership of survivors who are low-wage workers, people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, and immigrants. HTA is launching a new program, the Survivor Power Institute, which enables a cohort of organizers, advocates, and leaders to explore the root causes of gender-based violence, obtain concrete skills for supporting survivors, and strategies to build survivor power within their organizations. (CRJPF, SF, CBI)

Illinois Workers in Action organizes factory and temporary workers in Chicago to ensure all workers, regardless of employment, have safe and dignified working conditions. Their work includes education; organizing; and policy to unite workers and address COVID safety, wage theft, and discrimination in the workplace. A Critical Response Fund grant supported workers' digital infrastructure. (SF, CRF, Thindwa)

The Street Vendors Association of Chicago (SVAC) fights for an inclusive economy by organizing street vendors to build political and economic power without fear of police harassment, excessive fines, and discrimination. Their "Greenhouse Project" addresses the injustices of redlining by building a greenhouse that will address food insecurity in the North Lawndale neighborhood. The project will bring employment opportunities and aid in addressing health inequities that plague communities. (CRJPF)

Survivors Know is a membership organization of survivors that channels the power of those most impacted by sexual violence and sexual harassment to organize workplaces against misogyny and violent patriarchy. They place survivors' needs, rights, and hopes over those of perpetrators, corporations, and institutions. Their current #StopGolf Campaign aims to build corporate accountability and responsibility due to workplace violence at Topgolf. (SF)

CROSSROADS FUND 2022 GRANTEES

United Transporters Community Council (UTCC) organizes, advocates, and builds coalitions for taxi, limo, and ride-share drivers to improve working conditions, unionize workplaces, and strengthen economic progress in Chicago's transportation industry. Their newsletter, *UTCC Voice*, provides information and resources to transportation workers so they can fight for their rights and safety and that of their passengers. (SF)

United Working Families is an independent political organization by and for working-class families. They have affiliated labor and community organizations across many identities contributing to several coalition spaces such as the Right to Recovery platform, #Defund-CPD, and #StopGeneralIron. Their goals include member organizing to grow their base and engaging policymakers on city, county, and state levels. (C4, CRJPF)

Workers Center for Racial Justice fights for Black liberation and a fair and inclusive society by organizing Black workers and families to address high rates of unemployment, low-wage work, and the criminalization of Chicago communities. To end the over-criminalization of Black people, they pursue improved police accountability and policies to reduce mass incarceration. They advocate for more and better-quality economic opportunities for Black people, including access to sustainable, living-wage jobs with benefits. (CRJPF)

YOUTH

A Long Walk Home (ALWH) uses art to advocate for racial and gender equity, and calling for an end to violence against Black women, girls and gender-expansive youth in Chicago. Their Girl/Friends' Leadership program showcased the *Black Girls, Are Monuments* exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art, allowing people to explore monuments as sites of memory, resistance, and joy while honoring missing and murdered Black girls, such as Rekia Boyd, in Chicago. (YF, Lynda J. Tipton)

About Face Theatre (AFT) creates innovative theater productions and educational programming to foster awareness, understanding, and celebration of all sexual and gender expressions. A Youth Fund grant supports AFT's Outreach and Education initiatives within schools and communities, as well as their Youth Task Force. Together, these programs increase the safety and leadership capacity of LGBTQI+ youth. (YF)

The Arab American Action Network (AAAN) strengthens the Arab community in the Chicago area working for social change. Their youth organizing program continues the *Campaign to End Racial Profiling*—a call to end the state surveillance and harassment of Arab communities. (YF)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago (AAAJC) strengthens the voice and power of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community through collective action, advocacy and organizing to achieve racial equity. Their KINETIC program advances the civic leadership and visibility of Chicago high school youth. (YF)

Assata's Daughters (AD) is a Black women-led, young person-directed organization rooted in the Black Radical Tradition. AD organizes young Black people in Chicago by providing political education, leadership development, and mentorship. They aim to deepen, escalate, and sustain the Movement for Black Liberation. (Anti-Surveillance)

The Cannabis Equity IL Coalition (CEIC) works to shape the legalization of cannabis in Illinois to repair and reinvest in communities most impacted by the War on Drugs. Through organizing, community programming, and advocacy they fight for change that prioritizes people over cannabis profits. A Youth Fund grant supported a youth convening centered around advocacy, political education, and record expungement to develop young leaders for change. (YF)

Chasing23 Youth Empowerment Group mentors and advocates for Black boys and men in Chicago. Through campaign organizing they demand an end to deadly and discriminatory policing and the surveillance and criminalization of people of color. (YF)

Chi Student Pandemic Response (CSPR) is a volunteer-led mutual aid and community building group advocating for quality resources for Chicago students and schools. CSPR provides resources to young people of color to become civic leaders in their communities. (SF)

Chicago Desi Youth Rising (CDYR) trains, mobilizes, and activates Chicago youth to combat racial, economic, and social inequity. CDYR's Youth Leadership cohort and Summer Leadership Retreat celebrate South Asian identities and teach histories of resistance and solidarity. (TA, CRJPF)

Chicago Freedom School (CFS) is inspired by the Mississippi Freedom Schools of the Civil Rights Era, and takes an innovative approach to youth activism, leadership development, and movement building through youth programs and training to develop actionable strategies for social change. CFS' *Freedom Fellowship* allows young leaders of color to explore the history of social movements, racism, the school to prison pipeline, sexism, climate change, and much more in order to develop skills and analysis for dismantling injustice in our communities. (CRJPF)

Chicago Peacebuilding is a program of the **American Friends Service Committee** working to dismantle militarist practices that disproportionately target and criminalize communities of color. Through workshops, youth internships, political education, and direct action, they work with other abolitionist organizations to address policing and national security policies. (YF)

Circles & Ciphers is a hip-hop infused restorative justice organization led by and for young people impacted by violence and their criminalization by the Chicago police. Through art-based peace circles, education, and direct action they heal collectively and work to bring about the abolition of the prison-industrial complex. (YF, SF, PF)

Dissenters is an anti-militarism organization of young people reclaiming resources from the war industry through education and direct action. A Critical Response Fund grant supported the Rapid Response team to conduct political education, mobilization and strategy refinement as Russian invasions escalated in Ukraine. (CRF, TA, CRJPF)

The Every Voice Coalition works to end sexual violence and advocates for survivors in higher education by filing and passing student- and survivor-written legislation across the nation. Their efforts include the Every Voice IL ordinance, requiring all Illinois Institutions of Higher Education to conduct on-campus climate surveys of sexual violence, prevent sexual violence, and support survivors. (SF)

Free Street Theater creates original, joyful, and thought-provoking theater by, for, about, with, and in Chicago's diverse communities. Recently, their Youth Ensembles created *57 Blocks*, an immersive and interactive performance connecting audiences to youth spaces by way of a bus ride to learn and change Chicago's education system. (YF)

The Final Five Campaign is dedicated to the closure of the final five youth prisons in Illinois. Placing a high value on community investment and youth leadership, their campaign has the power to reduce the number of youth in Illinois prisons to zero. (YF)

Friends of Roger C. Sullivan High School hosts a Global Issues civic action seminar and the Social Justice Club for students at Sullivan High School in Rogers Park. They work towards an abolitionist future through education and organizing while building the civic leadership of Chicago high school youth. (YF)

The Hana Center's Fighting Youth Shouting Out for Humanity (FYSH) is a youth council that engages in civic education, creative expression, campaigns, and collective action for youth and their communities. FYSH develops leaders and centers efforts on citizenship, education, health, and justice for all, particularly organizing around the decriminalization of immigrants and youth of color and the redistribution of funds toward equitable schools, communities, and cities. (YF)

CROSSROADS FUND 2022 GRANTEES

The Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH) organizes and trains young people to advocate for issues that directly affect their lives and communities. ICAH has conducted statewide research, public policy change, and hosted events and training sessions for youth and service providers. The Chicago Racial Justice Pooled Fund grant supported their *Change, Heal, Act Together (CHAT) Network*, which engages youth and their communities through peer education, gatherings, and arts-based campaigns for systems change and culture shift. (CRJPF)

InterAction Initiative Inc is a youth-led organization harnessing the power of counter-narratives (stories from the margins) to develop and activate leaders and thinkers who prioritize inclusion, intersectionality, and racial equity. Their *Young Black-Asian Solidarity Working Group* uproots anti-Blackness within communities and practices cross-racial solidarity in Chicago. They develop partnerships between Black-led and Asian-led youth organizations to co-develop a publication on a Black-Asian solidarity timeline. (SF, YF, CRJPF)

ONE Northside is a mixed-income, multi-ethnic, intergenerational organization building collective power to eliminate injustice through organizing. ONE Northside works with activated youth to address climate change and police accountability, focusing on passing the civilian oversight ordinance with Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability Coalition and removing School Resource Officers (SROs) from schools. (YF, CBI)

Chicago Park District's **Queering the Parks (QTP)** is a partnership-based, youth-led initiative that creates uncontested public space by and for LGBTQ+ youth of color. Their Youth Leadership Committee produces and hosts events, resources, and a podcast to uplift cultural production, education, advocacy, and resource sharing. (YF)

Revolutionary Oak Park Youth Action League (ROYAL) is a youth-led, abolitionist organization taking action to regain agency and heal from racialized trauma and oppression, while creating change in their schools and communities through education and organizing. A Critical Response Fund Grant supported the organization's capacity to grow organizing, heal, and support mutual aid efforts. (CRF, Anonymous)

Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP) is a multi-issue community organization addressing housing, cuts to mental health services, and the criminalization of youth of color. Recent victories include the passage of a Community Benefits Agreement near the Obama Center to prevent community displacement. (CRJPF, SF, YF)

Stick Talk is a youth-led, abolitionist collective of organizers and restorative justice practitioners offering conversations, political education, and skill acquisition about guns with and for young people of color who carry them. Stick Talk reassesses abstinence-only gun education through the lens of harm reduction and mutual aid, while developing strategies for community safety and collective care without the police, criminalization, and stigma for those who routinely carry. (YF, CRJPF)

Student-Led Ed is a student-led organization and fellowship program providing professional development solutions to improve school culture, amplify student voices, and revolutionize the way educators and students learn and experience school. (YF)

Territory is a youth-led design studio on Chicago's West Side where young people of color build better futures for themselves and their communities through the practice of design, city planning, and equity. (YF)

TGI Movement cultivates creative spaces and programming for Chicago youth. They work to end Dream Deserts—a condition pushing young people to not follow their passions due to enforced austerity. Their creative programs civically engage youth, and their *Reclaiming the Hood* campaign revitalizes Black businesses in the Chicago Lawn community to tackle disinvestment and racial inequities. (SF, YF, TA, CRJPF)

The Warehouse Project & Gallery utilizes the arts to explore issues of poverty, consent, reproductive justice, and racism to create community change for young people in Summit, IL. (SF)



Woodlawn Restorative Justice Hub, Inc. (WRJH) engages young people most impacted by violence in Chicago through restorative justice, economic empowerment, and civic engagement. Their *Young Leaders for Peace Program* is an intensive cohort that teaches participants about restorative justice practices, economic development, cultural pedagogy, and mental health. (CRJPF)

Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP) creates a safe environment for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness to explore and express their struggles while celebrating their strengths through theater productions. A Critical Response grant supported the Chicago Youth Mutual Aid (CYMA), a partnership built among Black and Brown-led organizations supporting young people as basic necessities intensify during the global pandemic. (SF, CRF, CBI)

Youth Outlook engages youth, families, and communities to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ youth and build welcoming environments through direct services and community education. They offer advocacy tools for parents, educators, organizations, and community institutions to counteract harassment, bullying, and violence. (SF, YF)

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Philanthropy for a Racially Equitable Chicago (PREGC) is a collaborative composed of Field Foundation, Grand Victoria Foundation, Healthy Communities Foundation, Woods Fund of Chicago and local philanthropic affinity groups including:

- **Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy Chicago (AAPIC)** is an affiliate of the national membership organization dedicated to expanding and mobilizing philanthropic and community resources for underserved Asian American Pacific Islander communities to build a more just and equitable society.
- **Chicago Latinos in Philanthropy (CLIP)** is a professional network of philanthropic individuals, including grantmakers, board trustees, and individual donors in the Chicago metropolitan area.
- **Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP)** is a membership organization committed to achieving racial equity in philanthropy by advocating for investments in Black communities and expanding Black leadership opportunities in the social sector.

The Chicago Independent Media Alliance (CIMA), a project of the Chicago Reader newspaper, launched in 2019 as a response to the industry's revenue decline. CIMA believes in collaboration over competition in the media industry and thus launched a collaborative fundraising effort.

Twenty-nine media outlets benefited from CIMA's fundraising efforts, including:

AirGo Radio, Block Club Chicago, Borderless Magazine, Chicago Independent Radio Project (CHIRP), Chicago Reader, Cicero Independentiente, City Bureau, Current Magazine, E3 Radio, Evanston Roundtable Media, Gazette Chicago, Growing Community Media, Hyde Park Herald, Injustice Watch, Inside Publications, Invisible Institute, La Raza, Midway Minute, Mild Sauce, New City, North Lawndale Community News, Paseo Media, Rebellious Magazine for Women, Rivet, Sixty Inches From Center, South Side Weekly, StreetWise, Third Coast Review, Windy City Times.

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to benefit Crossroads Fund and reduce your tax burden.

For more information, please contact Emmanuel Garcia, Development and Communications Director, at **773.227.7676** or emmanuel@crossroadsfund.org

THANK YOU CROSSROADS FUND VISIONARIES

These dedicated individuals have included Crossroads Fund in their will or estate plan, ensuring the long-term strength and stability of the fund and leaving a legacy of their values and vision.

Anonymous (4)	Jeanne Kracher & Laura McAlpine
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For more information, please contact Jane Kimondo, Executive Director, at **773.227.7676** or jane@crossroadsfund.org

**in memory*



CROSSROADS FUND

3411 West Diversey Avenue, #20
Chicago, IL 60647-1245

www.crossroadsfund.org

SAVE THE DATE: Friday March 31, 2023 SEEDS OF CHANGE

Join grantees, board members, and friends of the Crossroads Fund as our Annual Benefit, Seeds of Change, returns to an in-person celebration at Malcolm X College in Chicago.

Visit crossroadsfund.org/seedsofchange for more information.

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