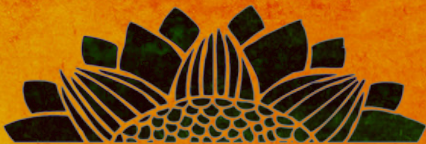


# RESISTING A RETURN TO NORMAL BY BUILDING A JUST TRANSITION NOW



**CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE**  
COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR A JUST TRANSITION

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**





## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

*Dearest CJA family,*

*What an honor it is, to engage in continual co-creation with you. Embarking on a Just Transition demands a lot from us: unabashed honesty, risk-taking, unusual alliances, flexing of muscles that have been dormant for too long. We birthed CJA almost a decade ago because as instability became the new status quo, we knew that a strong, strategically-aligned political vehicle was a necessity – one firmly rooted in Reparations, Rematriation, and Ecological Regeneration. One rooted in deep democracy, embarking on a Just Transition – led by its membership, accountable to frontline communities. Thank you for bringing that vision and aspiration to life! Our achievements, over a ten+ year arc, are vast and beautiful.*

As fires rage all around us, and we collectively navigate troubled waters, we need each other more than ever. Together, we are liberating our spirits from the cognitive concrete that has paved over our imaginations. Every day, across Turtle Island and beyond, CJA member organizations are reclaiming land and regenerating soil, birthing worker-led cooperatives, standing up to the banks and tanks, confronting empire, and winning strategic victories.

The pages ahead are full of inspiring stories from our vast Alliance over the last year. As we move forth into this coming year, let us lean into the strength of our core strategy - to be both Visionary and Oppositional. Let us continue sowing liberatory seeds across the land, and nourishing Regenerative Economies, while also identifying evolving threats and seizing new opportunities as they arise: False promises to solve the climate crisis, rooted in newly emerging

profit-based technologies like carbon capture and storage, threaten to keep us on the same extractivist path; Fascism is real and on the rise and must be resisted head-on; Cooptation of our Just Transition movements and language is advanced by status-quo voices and institutions.

In 2021 we reaffirmed our commitment to this Alliance through establishing it as a 501(c)3 and bringing on a bold triad of women to co-lead the organization into the future. Looking ahead we have much to look forward to:

- Our new, ten year strategy will be developed through 2022;
- We are building out the regional organizing needed to support grassroots power building and visionary policy wins;
- CJA's Black Caucus publicly launched its long-term plan to build power, heal and strengthen movement relationships in a collaborative way,

and organize for Black liberation and Black self-determination;

- The transformative Communicating Our Power Fellowship launched to support 20 grassroots organizations in advancing their narrative strategies in sharing their stories,
- The second season of CJA's podcast, Stories From Home, is going to bring us back to the basics and elaborate on different dimensions of the movement with over 15 interviews from movement leaders; and

- This summer we are launching a bold campaign to challenge philanthropy to make a 100 million+ investment in the regenerative economy.

Thank you for joining in this inspiring process of collective reflection! We are excited to journey forward, by your side, into a future full of creation and transformation.

In solidarity,

Elizabeth Yeampierre and Mateo Nube  
Board of Director Co-Chairs

## MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



From left to right: Marion Gee, Ozawa Bineshi Albert, and Monica Atkins



## In Their Own Words

### What excites you most about being part of the Co-Ed structure?

**MA:** *This co-leadership model reminds me of communities on the ground working together to build solutions to address the climate crisis. Doing this work at a national scale challenges our movement and systems to be intentional in building a leaderful movement that's representative of who we are. I'm most excited about the cultural shift this model fosters at CJA and across our movement.*

**MG:** *I am excited to explore this leadership structure with such talented, brilliant, and creative Co-Directors.*

**OBA:** *I love the idea of shared leadership, especially the different type of leadership that comes from Matriarchy, led from a place of fierce love, community, and wholeness.*

### How has being a part of CJA impacted you personally?

**OBA:** *Coming from a member organization, Indigenous Environmental Network, CJA really helped support the fight of indigenous peoples' in climate change, making my work easier as an organizer.*

**MA:** *Being a part of CJA has grown my ability to self examine and decolonize my own daily practices to strive toward living a regenerative lifestyle.*

**MG:** *My first time meeting CJA members was at an action in front of the EPA regional office in D.C., we shared Our Power Plan, our take on what we thought the Clean Power Plan should look like. I knew then that these were the folks I wanted to roll with moving forward!*

### Looking back on the history of the environmental justice movement, and CJA, what do you hope we can accomplish in the next 10 years? 40 years?

**MG:** *I hope that we can incorporate the vision, lessons learned, and wisdom of the environmental justice movement with the passion, creativity, and drive of today's broader movement to organize and win the conditions needed for a regenerative economy in the next ten years, so that it is flourishing in the next 40 years for my niece and nephew.*

**OBA:** *Win, win, and then win some more! There are wins we want around policy, but the big win is how we shift the extractive economy into the regenerative. Win something, build on that success, then do it again.*

**MA:** *In the next decade, I hope to see a stronger political orientation of what it means to do local grassroots organizing and the centering of grassroots communities, particularly Black and Indigenous, at a national level through resources and initiatives that strengthen place-based organizing. In the next 40 years, my hope is that grassroots communities' solutions are resourced, visible, scalable, and supported by the environmental justice movement.*

### What's one of your favorite memories from the past year?

**OBA:** *My grandson coming into the world, ByŌshtŪ agŪ.*

**MA:** *The day I decided to apply for the Co-Directorship role at CJA came from deep meditation and prayer, and affirmation from spirit that this was the direction I was destined to move toward.*

**MG:** *Our annual member meeting in December - even though it was on Zoom it was so energizing to hear the music, to twerk for justice, to share the love and loss I have experienced this past year, to reconnect with our members and celebrate our wins!*



# OUR MEMBERS

**43** Our Power Communities

**24** Alliances and Networks

**15** Movement Support Organizations

*Acta Non Verba\**

*Alliance for Appalachia*

*Alternatives for Community and Environment\**

*Another Gulf is Possible*

*Asian Pacific Environmental Network\**

*Black Dirt Farm Collective*

*California Environmental Justice Alliance*

*Center for Coalfield Justice\**

*Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy*

*Center for Story-based Strategy*

*Chisholm Legacy Project*

*Communities for a Better Environment\**

*Community Housing and Empowerment  
Connections\**

*Community in Resistance For Economic and  
Cultural Empowerment Urban Farming  
Cooperative\**

*Community to Community Development\**

*Connecticut Coalition for Environmental and  
Economic Justice\**

*Cooperation Humboldt\**

*Cooperation Jackson\**

*Detroit Black Community Food Security Network\**

*East Michigan Environmental Action Council\**

*Energy Justice Network*

*Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint\**

*FANG Collective*

*Farmworker Association of Florida\**

*Florida Rising\**

*Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives*

*Got Green\**

*Grassroots Global Justice Alliance*

*Grassroots International*

*GreenRoots Chelsea\**

*Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy*

*Indigenous Environmental Network*

*Institute for Policy Studies*

*Ironbound Community Corporation\**

*Jobs with Justice*

*Just Transition Alliance*

*Just Transition Northwest Indiana\**

*Kentuckians for the Commonwealth\**

*Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition\**

*Kheprw Insititute\**

*Labor Network for Sustainability*

*Little Village Environmental Justice  
Organization\**

*Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition*

*Micronesia Climate Change Alliance\**



*Minnow*  
*Movement Generation*  
*Movement Strategy Center*  
*NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program*  
*National Family Farm Coalition*  
*Native Organizers Alliance*  
*New Economy Coalition*  
*New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance\**  
*New York City Environmental Justice Alliance*  
*North Carolina Climate Justice Collective*  
*OPAL EJ of Oregon\**  
*Orange County Environmental Justice Education Fund\**  
*Oregon Just Transition Alliance*  
*Organización Boricúa\**  
*Parable of the Sower Cooperative*  
*People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights\**  
*People's Justice Council\**  
*Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada\**  
*PUSH Buffalo\**  
*Rich City Rides\**  
*Richmond Our Power Coalition*  
*Rising Tide North America*  
*Ruckus Society*  
*Seeds of Resistance\**  
*Soil Generation\**  
*Soulardarity\**  
*Southwest Organizing Project\**  
*Southwest Workers Union\**

*Sunflower Alliance*  
*Sustainable Economies Law Center*  
*Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services\**  
*The Bright Side Cooperative*  
*Thousand Currents*  
*Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (formerly CGLI)*  
*UPROSE\**  
*Urban Tilth\**  
*US Food Sovereignty Alliance*  
*Verde\**

*\*Our Power Communities*

## What's an Our Power Community?

Our Power Communities (OPCs) are base-building frontline organizations – led by and accountable to people, neighborhoods, or whole communities – that are directly impacted by systemic racism and the industries driving the climate crisis. Our Power Communities are committed to upholding Just Transition principles through cooperative community development initiatives and policy change.

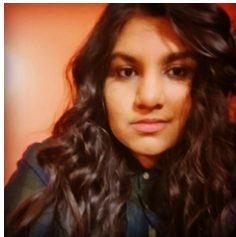
They are organizing regionally and united by a common goal to create living examples of how communities can put people to work transforming their localities towards a Just Transition, while building out equity-based economic models in right relationship with the earth, and reducing pollution burdens for present and future generations.



# OUR TEAM

## Board of Directors

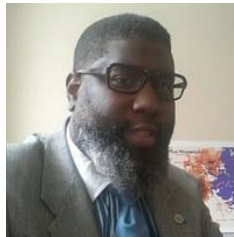
The CJA Board of Directors is elected by our organizational members and must be at least 51% representatives from Our Power Communities. Additionally, to concretize the organization's commitment to centering Black leadership, at least two seats are reserved for Black Caucus representatives. Since this group provides political leadership and assures that the Alliance stays on strategic course toward climate justice, it is critical that it be truly accountable to our grassroots, frontline base in its composition and election. If you're a CJA member and interested in joining the board, we'd love to hear from you! Check out [the Snapshot of CJA's bylaws](#) to learn more about how CJA is grassroots-led and accountable.



**Aghilah Nadaraj**  
Kheprw Institute



**Darryl Molina Sarmiento**  
Communities for a Better Environment



**Dwaigh Tyndal**  
Alternatives for Community and Environment



**Elizabeth Yeampierre**  
(Co-Chair)  
UPROSE



**Jaron Browne**  
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance



**Jayeesha Dutta**  
Another Gulf is Possible



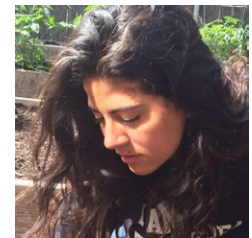
**Jesús Vásquez**  
Organización Boricúa



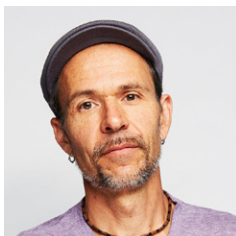
**Kirtrina Baxter**  
Black Dirt Farm Collective



**Lisa Abbott**  
Kentuckians for the Commonwealth



**Maria Lopez-Núñez**  
Ironbound Community Corporation



**Mateo Nube**  
(Co-Chair)  
Movement Generation



**Miya Yoshitani**  
Asian Pacific Environmental Network



**Sharon Lewis**  
CT Coalition for Environmental Justice



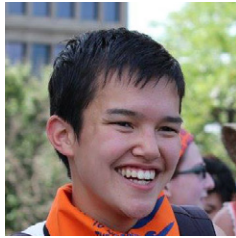
**Tom Goldtooth**  
Indigenous Environmental Network



# Staff Members



**Andrew Hughes**  
Finance Manager



**Chloe Henson**  
Organizing Associate



**Dominic Hosack**  
Part-Time Project Steward



**Esteban Arenas-Pino**  
Policy Associate



**Heather Thiry**  
Radical Operations  
Manager



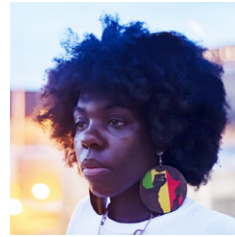
**Hendrik Voss**  
Digital Media  
Coordinator



**Holly Baker**  
Philanthropic  
Partnerships Director



**Jolene Mafnas**  
Reinvest Campaign  
Organizer



**Kari Fulton**  
Frontline Policy  
Coordinator



**Karina Gonzalez**  
Radical Operations  
Associate



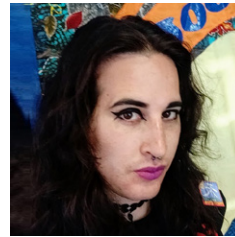
**LaTisha Harris**  
Campaigns Director



**Liren Ma**  
Executive Assistant



**Luis Gonzalez**  
Funder Relations  
Coordinator



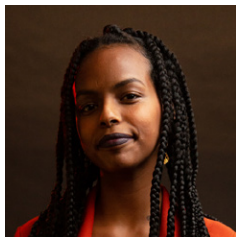
**Lupe Romero**  
Project Steward



**Marion Gee**  
Co-Executive Director



**Mark Chavez**  
Donor Relations  
Organizer



**Meron Tebeje**  
Frontline Communications  
Coordinator



**Monica Atkins**  
Co-Executive Director



**Olivia Burlingame**  
Communications  
Director



**Ozawa Bineshi Albert**  
Co-Executive Director



**Shantell Bingham**  
Organizing Director



**Veronica Moreno**  
Tech and Database  
Coordinator



**Yuki Kidokoro**  
Reinvest Project Director

If you want to get in touch with a staff member, our emails are [first name]@climatejusticealliance.org.





# BUILDING THE JUST TRANSITION NOW

Photo by Brooke Anderson | @movementphotographer

Photo by Brooke Anderson

*When the pandemic hit we decided to use our four-year strategy from 2016 as continued guidance for an interim strategy until we could create a new strategic plan, which is currently in process. This year we were guided by six meta-strategies: Fight the Bad; Build the New; Move the Money; Change the Story; Build the Bigger We; and Change the Rules, as well as continuing to harvest the seeds planted by our Four Year Strategy.*

*The following pages are a cross-section of this work in 2021.*



# FIGHT THE BAD

## Wins and Accomplishments

### **New York City Coalition Halted Power Plant**

In September, CJA members UPROSE and New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA), along with their allies as part of the PEAK Coalition, successfully halted the repowering of a large gas peaker plant in the Astoria neighborhood of New York City. The decision sets a precedent for shutting down New York City's remaining fossil-fuel peakers and sets a model for opposition campaigns.

### **Bay Area Groups Forced Refineries to Adopt Clean Air Tech**

CJA's Bay Area members scored a victory when the Bay Area Air Quality Management District voted to force refineries to install scrubbers that would cut emissions and reduce health impacts. Communities for a Better Environment was highlighted in the San Francisco Chronicle, in an article that describes the work environmental justice communities put into making the vote possible.

## Ongoing Work

### **ETM Flint in Process of Fighting Asphalt Plant**

The Environmental Transformation Movement (ETM) of Flint in Michigan is part of a lawsuit in an ongoing fight against a proposed asphalt plant bordering the city. State environmental regulators approved construction of the plant in November 2021, despite opposition from local communities. ETM Flint fought the asphalt plant for the latter half of 2021, using a mix of tactics like direct action and coalition building with other local organizations.

### **LVEJO Leading Efforts Against Environmental Racism in Chicago**

Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) has been fighting construction of a Target warehouse – on the grounds of an old coal plant in the Little Village community that local groups organized to shut down – because of the threat of increased diesel pollution in the neighborhood. They are also continuing to fight to hold Hilco and city officials accountable for a botched demolition of the coal plant in 2020.

### **Indigenous-led Fights Against Pipelines**

Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) has been opposing and delaying the construction of pipelines across Turtle Island, and actively preventing carbon emissions. This included Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline in Minnesota and ongoing issues related to the Dakota Access and Keystone XL pipelines. IEN continues to support Wet'suwet'en and Secwepemc struggles against the Coastal Gaslink and Transmountain pipelines, and resistance fights against Line 5 and Mountain Valley Pipeline, while tackling the threat of carbon pipelines.

### **GreenRoots Has Faced Setbacks but is Continuing to Fight an Approved Substation**

GreenRoots Chelsea has been fighting an electrical substation planned for East Boston after decision makers failed to include community groups in the process of assessing the plant and have ignored their feedback. GreenRoots appealed the decision through a lawsuit in March, with another group of organizations filing a second appeal against the substation in January 2022.



Photo by Marion Gee

## Wins and Accomplishments

### Two-year Fellowship Program Finishes

Deep thanks goes to these fellows as they built capacity and knowledge within their organizations while also providing support to CJA around communications, policy, and organizing:

**Inkza Angeles** - Youth Articulation Organizing Fellow, People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights (PODER)

**Keenan Rhodes** - Frontline Solutions Storytelling Fellow, Kheprw Institute

**Kristen Jeré** - Just Transition Digital Media Fellow, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization

**Moñeka De Oro** - Just Transition Policy & Curriculum Fellow, Micronesia Climate Change Alliance

### Members Advance Solar Energy in their Communities

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) and local allies halted an attempt to cut rate compensation for rooftop solar users. Instead the current rate increased, creating an opportunity to comprehensively integrate solar and other renewable energy generation sources into Kentucky's power system, while making rooftop solar financially rewarding for customers with panels.

Soulardarity installed ten solar-powered street lights in Highland Park, Michigan a decade after the utility company, DTE Energy, removed over 1,000 streetlights as a means of settling its debt. The newly-installed streetlights provide community-driven, renewable energy infrastructure.

### Just Transition Finance Training

Reinvest in Our Power's 5th Annual Just Transition Finance Virtual Training hosted 27 members from 12 member organizations. They workshopped 5 projects that are helping to build the economic



infrastructure we'll need for a Just Transition. They ranged from an affordable housing tiny homes eco-village and community land trust in Richmond California to a zero waste business in Guam, from a construction cooperative in Indianapolis to an ancestral herbs cooperative in southern Florida. This year we expanded our training team and strengthened our language justice practice.

## Ongoing Work

### Indy Member Kheprw Leading by Example

After years in the making, Kheprw Institute is leading the launch of a city-wide community land trust, as part of their community wealth building model. They also recently launched Kheprw Integrated Fund to provide non-extractive funding support to Black and Brown entrepreneurs dedicated to community wealth

building. In addition, they purchased and are rehabbing a building that will serve as a center for their regenerative economy work.

### Urban Tilth Buys Three-Acre Farm, but Faces New Challenge

After nearly seven years of building healthy soil, farm infrastructure, and community engagement on county-owned land at their North Richmond Farm, Urban Tilth was able to buy their farm. Owning the property will allow them to double their growing and food distribution capacity; and provide more jobs to community members, incubation space for small businesses, a cultural venue for community events, and so much more. Unfortunately, this project is now in jeopardy because of a recently proposed 4-story warehouse project that would significantly impact food production because of shade and increased pollution from trucking.



Photo by Dorothy Joy

## Wins and Accomplishments

### Organizing Funding to the Frontlines

Throughout the year we used our position within the movement to influence foundations, individuals, and corporations to give to the grassroots

organizing ecosystem. This ranged from multiple interventions with funders appropriating our language, to coordinating briefings and working alongside The Solutions Project to steward creation of the movement-led and -accountable Fund for Frontline Power. This fund is a movement response to the Bezos Earth Fund announcement in 2020 that it was moving \$10 billion to address

climate change, subsequently followed by out-sized commitments to well-resourced big greens whose top-down strategies do not center equity. To date we have raised \$4.3 million for the Fund.

## Ongoing Work

### Continuing Dialogues Around Moving Money

After a lot of deep discussions with members about our movement's relationship with capital in the wake of more controversial individuals and foundations starting to invest in and fund social movements, our team came up with this guide for CJA members and the movement: [Collectively Navigating the Contradictions Around Stolen Wealth](#).

### Reinvest Campaign Development

CJA hired a Reinvest Campaign Organizer and began a member-led design process to develop a campaign to move a large amount of investments toward Just Transition projects. The campaign will publicly launch in 2022.

### Regenerative Economy Project Support

The Our Power Loan Fund successfully moved its second loan. This one went to Numa'lo Refillery, a zero waste enterprise connected to the work of the Micronesia Climate Change Alliance in Guam. Our first loan and support to Earthbound Building helped them get a second loan (\$316k) to secure land for their cooperative. They were supported by the local peer fund member of Seed Commons, Baltimore Roundtable for Economic Democracy (BRED). We also supported the L.A. Co-op Lab to secure a \$60k loan for THRIVE to develop a parcel of land that will incubate cooperative businesses, including CRECE, an urban garden project and new member of CJA. We continued to provide ongoing support to strengthen Just Transition enterprises through coaching and office hours for various projects, including Hierbas Ancestrales, an herbal remedies cooperative supported by the Farmworker Association of Florida.



Photos by Maria Martinez





Illustration by Maisie Richards & Lokotah Sanborn

## Wins and Accomplishments

### CJA in Media and Creating Our Own

Throughout the year, CJA worked to lift up and amplify the stories of frontline communities. Through these efforts, mainstream, philanthropic and climate and energy news, along with international outlets featured stories about CJA and our members. CJA was mentioned by name, quoted or featured in the media on a daily basis with more than 700 media hits, and our social media posts earned over 5.5 million impressions.

Our Stories from Home podcast wrapped up season 1 by featuring episodes with Soil Generation and PODER, and we began interviewing other powerful environmental justice organizers and community leaders for season 2.

We also supported CJA leadership and members to appear in print and publicly in front of a wide range of audiences to reframe critical political narratives around what real solutions to the climate crisis look like and the dangers of false ones such as net-zero and geoengineering schemes like carbon capture and storage. Shortly following her participation at the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, CJA Co-Executive Director Bineshi Albert gave a TED Talk at the TedWomen Conference in Palm



Springs, CA where she urgently called for public officials and global leaders to follow the wisdom and leadership of environmental justice communities and implement their solutions now.

Through direct and often public discussions with Members of Congress, the Administration and federal agencies, CJA members argued the urgency of resourcing environmental justice community solutions like CJA Co-Chair Elizabeth Yeampierre did when hosting a visit by Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm.



Illustration by Jackie Fawn Mendez

## Sparkling Creative Wildfire

CJA, Movement Generation and New Economy Coalition released the Creative Wildfire Manifesto and a call to creatives, artists, and cultural workers to spark the collective imagination leading to 14 projects created by 21 artists. Cultural workers have an important role in strategizing, visioning, and creating the Just Transition. Our work is to change the narrative, amplify transformative frameworks from our communities, and inspire others to resist a return to normal by reinvesting in community power.

## Ongoing Work

### Communicating Our Power Fellowship

In response to our members' frequently-identified communications capacity needs, we worked with partners Center for Story-based Strategy and The Solutions Project to develop a new two-year fellowship program – Communicating Our Power (CommOP). Following a nine-month design process with frontline leaders, 20 frontline organizations were selected to receive resources to integrate a full-time communications fellow, as well as equipment and tools, training, and technical assistance for two years. CommOP builds collective narrative capacity and skills to communicate frontline communities' bold, solution-centric visions for climate justice and Just Transitions to Regenerative Economies.





Photo by Hendrik Voss

## Wins and Accomplishments

### CJA Joins Delegation to COP26

The 26th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) took place in November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, and thirteen member groups were on the ground as part of the It Takes Roots Frontline Delegation. Grassroots leaders not only brought their solutions to the table, but put direct pressure on decision makers to shift towards true commitments to tackling the climate crises including joining over 100,000 people marching the streets. The delegation made strides in advancing the conversation on accounting for military carbon emissions (currently exempt from reporting), banks divesting from fossil fuel

extraction and investing in sustainable clean energy, and shining a light on the missing and murdered Indigenous women, queer, trans, and two-spirit peoples.

## Ongoing Work

### The Black Caucus Grows

After years of development within CJA, The Black Caucus has finally launched its collective work. Under the leadership of co-chairs, Dwaigh Tyndal, Alternatives for Community & Environment; Kirtrina Baxter, Soil Generation/Black Dirt Farm Collective; Leah Humphrey, KHEPRW Institute; Melissa Miles, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (formerly Ironbound Community Corporation); the Black Caucus works to center Black liberation strategies



rooted in a Just Transition, cultivate narrative power within the Black environmental justice movement, and develop People's Teach-Ins to expand Black leadership and participation within climate justice.

This past November, the Black Caucus sent representatives to the UN Climate Change Conference to build the foundation for Black Afrodiasporic organizing within the larger conversations on climate change. The delegation met with the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance to build organizing relationships for the African People's COP27 hosted in Egypt in 2022.

## Global South

Grassroots International and Thousand Currents spent this year co-leading an effort through the REO Collaborative to organize with other grassroots accountable funder intermediaries. As always they brought a sharp analysis and focus on lifting up Global South social movements. On top of that, through CLIMA Fund – their joint climate justice funding effort alongside Global Greengrants Fund and Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights – they reached the milestone of raising and disbursing over \$10 million, through 300+ grants to grassroots groups in 71 countries.



Photo by Brooke Anderson

## Wins and Accomplishments

### Policy Highlights 2021

13 Bills Endorsed

34 Sign-On letters

18 Press Releases

Visit <https://climatejusticealliance.org/policy/> for more information

### CJA Members Included in White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council

A few months into his term, President Biden announced the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, which included four CJA members: Maria Lopez-Núñez of Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC), Maria Belen-Power of GreenRoots, Miya Yoshitani of Asian Pacific Environmental Network, and Juan Parras of T.E.J.A.S.



## **Northeast Regional Organizing Brings Demise to Harmful Climate Pact**

CJA members organized to stop the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI); a cap and trade scheme that would have created a pollution credit system and regressively increased the price of gas in thirteen states and D.C. without directly addressing pollution at source or supporting community favored solutions like increased public transportation funding. By November only two states and Washington D.C. were left in the pact. This win wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of CJA members Alternatives for Community and Environment, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, GreenRoots, Institute for Policy Studies, Ironbound Community Corporation, NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice Program (and their Maryland chapter), NYC Environmental Justice Alliance and UPROSE, along with their state partners.

## **Oregon Work Around Clean Energy Bill and Other Legislative Wins**

Oregon members spearheaded efforts to pass one of the most ambitious climate plans in the country. Oregon Just Transition Alliance, OPAL, Verde and State House Representative Khanh Pham organized for [House Bill 2021](#). The new law requires Portland General Electric and Pacific Power, the state's two major power companies, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% from a baseline amount by 2030, 90% by 2035, and 100% by 2040. The law also includes a ban on the expansion or new construction of power plants that burn fossil fuels in addition to an allocation of \$50 million in grants for community-based energy projects.

## **Frontline Groups Win Important Legislation in Massachusetts**

In March, after relentless organizing by CJA members Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) and GreenRoots along with others, Massachusetts passed a law which defines environmental justice communities, raises barriers to fossil fuel projects in communities of color, and creates jobs in the clean energy sector via capacity building programs for certified minority-owned and women-owned small business enterprises; individuals residing within an environmental justice community; and current and former workers from the fossil fuel industry.

## **Ongoing Work**

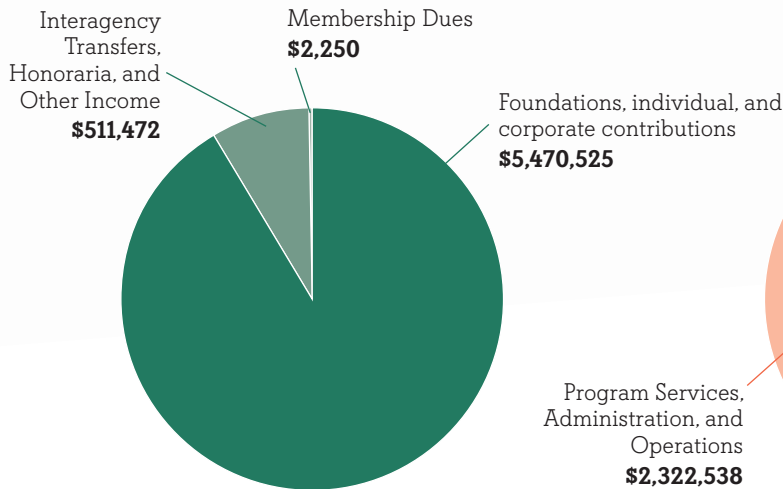
### **Centering Frontline Solutions in National Policy Discussions**

Throughout the year, CJA staff and members organized within the United Frontline Table (UFT) and Green New Deal Network (GNDN) to amplify cross-movement support of just climate solutions. The UFT commissioned movement artists to create poster art highlighting the 15 advocacy planks featured in [A People's Orientation to a Regenerative Economy](#). We worked within the GNDN to center frontline priorities and incorporate the vision of the Peoples Orientation into the [THRIVE Agenda](#) – a congressional resolution supported by over 85 members of congress and 250 diverse organizations.

In collaboration with the UFT and GNDN, we took coordinated, strategic action to inform policy makers and advance frontline policy recommendations to the Build Back Better Agenda and EJ for All Act. We also supported CJA member engagement in demonstrations, direct actions, press and social media events.

# 2021 FINANCIALS

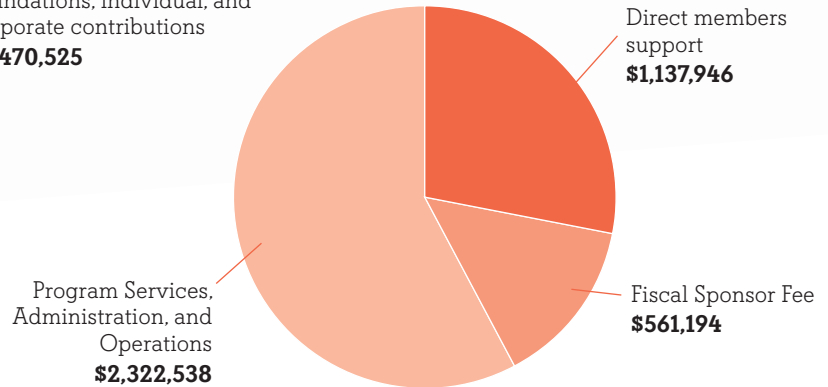
## Revenue



**Total: \$5,984,247**

\*This only reflects new revenue booked in FY 20-21, not including reserves or revenue booked in previous years. In this fiscal year, CJA's 990 and audited financials will mostly reflect the income transfer, including our reserves and income booked in previous fiscal years, from MSC (our fiscal sponsor) to CJA.

## Expenses

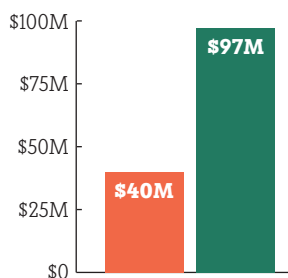


**Total: \$4,021,678**

\*Direct Member Support includes stipends, honoraria, sponsorships, and grants.

## Move the Money

In 2016 our four year strategy gave us the goal to influence **\$40 million** in new climate funding to move to the grassroots organizing ecosystem<sup>1</sup>.



Since then CJA has been directly involved<sup>2</sup> in influencing more than

**\$97 million**

in new climate funding directly to the grassroots or through intermediaries.



**2021 alone** accounted for **\$52.7 million<sup>3</sup>**.

<sup>1</sup> Directly to grassroots organizing and grassroots accountable intermediaries.

<sup>2</sup> CJA was directly involved through informing shifts in governance and giving priorities at foundations; providing input on individual, foundation, and corporate giving plans; and moving money directly through our rapid response and loan funds.

<sup>3</sup> Total amount given or committed in the calendar year.





**CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE**  
COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR A JUST TRANSITION