

CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

A woman with dark skin and braided hair is kissing a young child with curly hair on the cheek. They are standing in a lush green field under a clear blue sky. The woman is wearing a black t-shirt with a graphic of a pink umbrella and a blue smiley face. The child is wearing a white tank top and yellow pants. The background is filled with tall green grass and trees.

2023

WRAP

UP

CELEBRATING

10 YEARS

OF OUR POWER



LETTER FROM CO-CHAIRS ON CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



**DEAR CJA FAMILY,
WE KNOW THAT LAST
YEAR WAS OUR TEN YEAR
ANNIVERSARY, BUT WE
CAN'T HELP OURSELVES
AND WANT TO KEEP THE
CELEBRATION ALIVE!**

AS we take stock of how far we've come – thanks to the brilliance, courage and commitment of our 88 member organizations throughout Turtle Island and beyond – we also remind ourselves of the big task ahead and what's at stake. Our team has put together [this video to commemorate our first in-person member convening since the pandemic](#), hosted by Kheprw Institute in Indianapolis, where we began envisioning another decade of frontline power.

The consequences of policies and practices of extraction, whether that be here at home in frontline communities or abroad in places like Palestine, are clear and remind us just how important it is to engage in principled struggle with love and bravery. Ecological and climate justice is needed now more than ever.

When CJA was formed, we aimed to change the center of gravity around the climate change debate from a traditional nature-based concept of environment to one that was grounded in environmental justice, honoring Mother Earth and all her creatures. For 10 years we've worked to bring forward just policies, projects and funding that levels the playing field and centers the frontline and stopping the harmful practice of sacrifice zones; and we've had big success. We have shifted the narrative: environmental justice communities, climate justice and Just Transition are now seen as critical components to any serious climate policy. But the fight is just beginning.

We hope you'll join us this year, as we celebrate a decade of living our power by recommitting alongside us to resist, rebuild and reconnect through operationalizing Just Transitions and implementing policies that move us away from our outdated extractive economic model riddled with false promises and corporate scams and towards a truly just one based in principles of ecological justice, well-being, and deep solidarity.

**With love,
Mateo Nube & Elizabeth Yeampierre
CJA's Board Co-Chairs**

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF OUR POWER



Photo by Simoné Walls

**ENJOY CJA'S MEMBER
CONVENING VIDEO**
(BY CLICKING ON THE PHOTO ABOVE)



CELEBRATING

10 YEARS

OF OUR POWER



“IT’S BEEN AN EXCITING YEAR
as we have deployed \$1.5 Million into
Regenerative Economy projects and
secured \$2 Million dollars!”




-JOLENE MAFNAS,
RIOP CAMPAIGN ORGANIZER



10 YEARS
OF OUR POWER

"WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY

from relying on the Seed Commons to do all our lending to now doing the hard work of creating our own infrastructure to take capital and finance our members' projects. It's a lot of work but this will have a long term impact on the resources that our communities will have at their disposal to build the new. We are looking at a time line of not years but decades to come in both the lending processes and lifetime of the projects."



-LUPE ROMERO,
CO-DIRECTOR
REINVEST IN OUR POWER



10 YEARS
OF OUR POWER

“I AM REALLY PROUD OF OUR PACIFIC MEMBERS

in the Mariãnas for hosting an international gathering that CJA proudly supported. Over the course of 2 days, grassroots leaders from Guam, the US, Japan and New Zealand developed a declaration with specific calls to action that was presented at the United Nations COP28 supported by the Tishman Center and CJA.”

**-MICHELLE VOACOLO,
REGIONAL ORGANIZER**





10 YEARS
OF OUR POWER

“I’VE BEEN SO EXCITED TO SEE THE GROWTH OF CJA’S

regional work. Our three regional organizers came in at the beginning of the year ready to go – from supporting regional trainings in Buffalo to recruiting more members in the South and Micronesia – they’ve been building relationships and capacity. It’s inspiring to see members strategize and contest for power together for climate justice on state and regional scales.”



**-CHLO HENSON,
INTERIM SR. REGIONAL
ORGANIZING MANAGER**



CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE
COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR JUSTICE

10 YEARS
OF OUR POWER

“CJA MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SHOWING UP AND FLEXIN’

our power federally to interrupt the Biden Administration’s promotion of false solutions. Because of the direct efforts of CJA members commenting during the June White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) meeting on the dangers of CCUS and hydrogen, the WHEJAC published a report in September condemning these false solutions.”



**-MICHELLE WRIGHT,
POLICY ORGANIZING MANAGER**



10 YEARS
OF OUR POWER

“THRILLED THAT THE JUST TRANSITION FINANCE TRAINING WAS LITERALLY

**my introduction to working with CJA,
as it was my first week with the org.
I’m proud that the relationships start-
ed and rekindled during the Just Tran-
sition Finance Training ‘23 allowed me
to hit the ground running and contin-
ue with the work of Lupe and Dom, the
previous project stewards.”**



**-PIA DESANGLES,
RIOP PROJECT STEWARD**



MY FUTURE IS
IN YOUR HANDS

10YEARS
OF OUR POWER

“IN MY SHORT TIME AT CJA, IT’S BEEN REALLY GRATIFYING

to see how much everyone genuinely cares about our membership. It’s unfortunate to have seen so many climate disasters affecting our communities this year but I’m proud to have seen the whole staff mobilize during these by checking in on our membership in the affected areas. I’m also proud to have seen our fearless co-executive directors make quick decisions in order to provide rapid response funding to the organizations affected.”



**EDNA AVELAR,
COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR**



10 YEARS
OF OUR POWER

“I’M MOST PROUD OF OUR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN

Coal Ash Regulation Rules at the EPA. This work was member led, taking the direction of Just Transition NW Indiana as we got other environmental justice localities involved during the summer hearings in Chicago. It was beautiful to see our translocal organizing in practice, with members facing the same issues in their own communities coming together to shift federal regulations that impact us all.”

A portrait of Shantell Bingham, a Black woman with short, curly hair, smiling. The image is partially obscured by a large, diagonal, semi-transparent yellow shape that covers the right side of the page. The background of the entire page is a bright yellow with a pattern of small, white, irregular shapes resembling confetti or paper scraps.

**SHANTELL BINGHAM,
ORGANIZING DIRECTOR**



10 YEARS
OF OUR POWER

“OUR TIME WITH THE CJA MEMBERSHIP IN INDIANAPOLIS WAS SO BEAUTIFUL!

The space felt like an embodiment of the world we're seeking to build together. We worked together outside to clear garden beds, painted murals, enjoyed good food, and learned from one another in workshop and plenary sessions. I felt so proud of our planning team for bringing the logistics and program together, and so lucky to spend the time onsite learning from the wisdom of Kheprw Institute and our membership.”

**-HEATHER THIRY,
RADICAL OPERATIONS
& FINANCE DIRECTOR**





10 YEARS
OF OUR POWER

**“I AM SO HAPPY THAT I
GOT TO JOIN CJA AS THE**

**Black Caucus organizer. This year the
Black Caucus was able to premiere our
first documentary and I am so honored
that I got a chance to be a part of that.”**



**-LEAH DERRAY,
BLACK MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZER**



ILITIES U

ANGELA

10 YEARS
OF OUR POWER

“AS A FUNDRAISER I WILL ALWAYS BE PROUD OF THE
regrants CJA awards to members and other formations that traditionally have trouble accessing foundation dollars. In FY22-23 alone our regrants to grassroots totalled \$3.69 million.”

A portrait of Luis Gonzalez, a man with a beard and a light-colored beanie, looking slightly upwards and to the right. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. To the right of the portrait, there is a large, stylized graphic of a hand holding a bunch of yellow confetti or small paper pieces, also overlaid with the same orange filter.

-LUIS GONZALEZ,
FUNDER RELATIONS COORDINATOR



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10 YEARS
OF OUR POWER