

Photo credit: Keenan Rhodes



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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



# LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIRS



## Dear Friends and Allies,

As 2024 comes to a close we find ourselves at a pivotal moment in history. The past year has provided immense opportunities and threats to realizing a Just Transition.

Climate Justice Alliance (CJA) membership grew to nearly 100 organizations, and CJA members from across the country gathered to share inspiration and co-create strategy at our Change the Rules strategy series, Black Jubilee, multiple Training for Trainers, our Just Transition Finance Training, and shared international strategy at COP 29. We've also been working to build out a precedent-setting \$60 million grant program to support community-led environmental justice projects. And after an extensive search, we hired a powerful executive director, KD Chavez, to lead us through this new period.

All said and done, members achieved big wins for Climate Justice. California organizations took on Chevron and helped the city of Richmond receive a \$550 million settlement. The work of our member in Chicago saw another large corporation held accountable for a botched smokestack demolition, leading to a multi-million dollar settlement as well. We also forced the closing of a harmful Harvard-led solar geoengineering project in California. The Detroit People's Food Co-op opened its doors, Detroit's first Black-owned grocery store since 2014. And together, we defeated a dirty deal in Congress that would have slashed community rights and due process along with environmental safeguards that protect us all!

The year also saw a number of climate disasters.

The recent devastation wrought by Hurricanes Helene and Milton is a potent example of how climate change is not a distant threat but a daily lived experience for millions around the world.

Now we're in the midst of what many saw coming - There is a chasm of cognitive dissonance driven through the US that cannot solely be attributed to the incoming administration. Working class, BIPOC, and marginalized communities are hurting, oftentimes disconnected and more vulnerable than ever. As an organization dedicated to addressing the impacts of the legacy of extraction, we are recommitted to ensuring a Just Transition is not only possible but expanding in the coming years.

Climate Justice Alliance remains steadfast in our commitment to advancing environmental justice and creating a livable future for all. We are working tirelessly to empower frontline communities, advocate for equitable policies, and support transformative solutions. Together, we can build a just and sustainable world. We urge you to join us in this fight for a livable planet, as we honor all of Mother Earth's creatures and communities.

Sincerely,



**Elizabeth Yeampierre**  
Board Co-Chair, UPROSE



**Mateo Nube**  
Board Co-Chair, Movement Generation

Photo credit: Brooke Porter

# CJA WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Photo credit: Olivia Burlingame

After completing an extensive and thoroughly competitive search over the summer and into the fall of 2024, CJA's Board of Directors chose KD Chavez as our new permanent Executive Director!

As our Alliance continues to grow our power, lead innovative campaigns, and amplify effective movement strategy towards winning a Just Transition, we believe KD is the perfect match for our ambitious objectives in coming years.

KD has a longstanding commitment to their people and movement, making waves and disrupting while building the new in impressive ways, from organizing to resource mobilization. They know that the struggle is intersectional, with history in gender justice, reproductive rights, the abolitionist movement, Indigenous rights, LGBTQI+, and more.

Please help us welcome KD into this new role! Here's a few words from them:



**"I AM DEEPLY HUMBLLED TO ACCEPT THIS CALLING AND SERVE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CJA. I am ready to honor our people by remaining deeply rooted in our shared values of a Just Transition, working at an organization born from and for the grassroots climate justice movement. I look forward to serving and building with our incredible member alliance of grassroots climate justice leaders and partners. Together, we will work towards our liberation while creating the cultural conditions we need to build the just, equitable, and thriving future we all deserve."**

Feel free to reach out to KD directly at [kd@climatejusticealliance.org](mailto:kd@climatejusticealliance.org)

# WELCOME TO THE WORK OF CJA



**Climate Justice Alliance (CJA)** is a unique alliance of nearly 100 frontline, base-building groups; grassroots alliances and networks; and movement support organizations. All are at the forefront of the interlinked crises of climate change, racial injustice, and economic and social inequality. Our members span 28 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Tribal Territories across the United States and Canada, and are traditionally underrepresented constituencies. These include Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Asian-Pacific Islander, and low-income white communities, many of whom are located close to toxic facilities and polluting industries.

[Members of Climate Justice Alliance](#)



*Map of CJA's grassroots members*



# CONTEXT



Photo credit: Hendrick Voss



Storms are getting worse, fires are starting earlier in the year and lasting longer, and we're seeing the devastating human impacts of it all. Many of those who survive these catastrophes are uprooted from their lives: crossing hostile borders and raging seas as they try to survive. As the poet Warsan Shire put it, "no one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark."

Our world – our collective home – is starting to look more and more like the mouth of a shark. Climate change is presenting ever greater challenges, while social and political fissures deepen. It seems like every day more and more people recognize the hypocrisy and unsustainable nature of the globalized extractive economy. The vague and undefinable construct that is at once omnipotent and fragile.

As more people, across political divides and generations, come to this understanding, many are finding a home in the work to build the new economy. An economy that is actually made up of many, re-localized economies. And we need to make sure that nobody gets left behind or sacrificed in this process. It isn't a win for a mine to be shuttered or a refinery to go offline if the community that depends on it economically will be left in ruin as well. It's an important reminder for all of us that climate change isn't being caused by carbon emissions, it's being caused by the extractive economy – and its associated worldview – that causes those emissions.

Worsening climate and social disruptions are making this an important time to focus on community resilience, something that is strengthened through advancing a Just Transition. Every time we stop something harmful or build something new that people in our communities can turn to, we make ourselves more resilient. As we focus on bringing production, distribution, and consumption of food, energy, and other goods closer to home, we also make it that much easier for ourselves, our families, and our communities to weather these storms.

# CJA'S ROLE IN CLIMATE SOLUTIONS SPACE



Photo credit: Simoné Walls/@thalady (IG)



Climate Justice Alliance is the only national organization that was founded by, centers and is directly accountable to frontline communities. Our mandate is to organize those most impacted by the climate crisis – and the things causing it – to actualize [a Just Transition](#) out of the extractive economy.

Within the broader climate movement, we work to amplify the voices of frontline communities, center their demands, and aggregate their solutions.

We're moving into a new era when mainstream environmentalism is advocating for a zero-emission economy, by any means necessary and the voices of frontline communities continue to be ignored, or worse seen as impeding progress. These well-funded organizations continue to absorb nearly all philanthropic money directed towards solving the climate crisis and environmental issues, while working to bolster a renewable energy industry that is acting more and more like the fossil fuel industry every day – picking and choosing communities as collateral damage while neglecting to allow communities to have self-determination. At this important time in history, it is critical that we do two things:

1. Challenge the pursuit of supposed emissions reductions happening at the expense of the well-being of people and the planet
2. Make sure those most impacted by decisions have a seat at the table

Communities all around the world are building new economic systems, pulling resources, power, and legitimacy away from the dominant extractive economy. They are running CSA programs that helped feed communities through the pandemic, taking control of land for farming and housing, and building their renewable energy systems that power their work and homes. All of these solutions are reducing greenhouse gas emissions while also putting communities in control of their future.

# OVERVIEW OF CJA PROGRAMS



Photo credit: Hendrik Voss



## JUST RECOVERY

The conventional approach to disaster recovery has deep roots in the extractive economy and disaster capitalism. Just Recovery is an approach that focuses on bolstering the social and economic cohesion communities already have in place: building out resiliency hubs and mutual-aid networks that know the needs of the people. CJA's Just Recovery working group is a knowledge- and skill-sharing space where members can learn from one another. The working group also hosts brigades that bring people to different areas, offering support and building knowledge that they can bring back home. During disasters, CJA supports frontline communities on the ground, tracking ways to support, and sharing them with a broader audience. This year CJA supported 14 communities in the states of New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Florida, Kentucky, Alabama, North Carolina, Illinois, and Eastern Cherokee Nation. Learn more about our Just Recovery work at on our website [here](#).

## FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

All people have the right to healthy, clean, nutritious foods. CJA members/ frontline communities are rising to reclaim traditional and cultural farming knowledge, rebuild local food systems, and assert their rights to land and capital to farm sustainably and feed their communities. CJA's food sovereignty working group regularly convenes CJA member organizations to offer education and support for folks to make these 6 principles of food sovereignty a reality in their communities. See page 17 for food sovereignty wins.

1. Focus on Food for People
2. Makes Decisions Locally
3. Value Food Providers
4. Build Knowledge and Skill
5. Localize Food Systems
6. Work with Nature



## OUR POWER COMMUNITIES

CJA's 54 Our Power Communities represent the grassroots, base-building members of the alliance. These groups have deep roots in their communities. They work on everything from youth mentorship to sustainable housing, and all of them are committed to advancing a Just Transition for the people they serve. The solutions they are creating are as varied as their social, political, and geographic differences, but CJA provides a unifying set of principles and values through which these communities can transform their economy, and serve as living examples for what this work looks like. See page 12 to learn about Our Power Communities wins.

## REINVEST IN OUR POWER (RIOP)

Reinvest in Our Power is a collaborative effort led by CJA to address inequity and democratize wealth by moving capital and governance from the extractive to the regenerative economy. The Reinvest in Our Power Campaign calls on Philanthropy to divest \$100 million from the extractive economy and reinvest this capital in the regenerative economy being built and led by frontline communities. Over 92% of Philanthropy wealth—over \$1.2 trillion—fails to be circulated back to communities with the majority of it sitting in Wall Street and extractive investments that harm frontline Black, Indigenous, people of color, and working-class communities. By leveraging momentum and political power, RiOP is moving money into The Seed Commons, a democratically-governed cooperative of local, non-extractive revolving loan funds that invest in projects owned/operated by frontline communities to build economic democracy rooted in ecological integrity. See page 12, 13, and 17 to learn about RiOp wins.

## CHANGE THE RULES & BUILD THE NEW

CJA's policy work focuses on impacting a wide range of intersectional issues from environmental racism to energy democracy, community control, Zero Waste, Just Recovery, and a Just Transition, among others. Our Change the Rules Working Group drives this work forward, figuring out our approach to policy from the federal, state, and municipal level. See page 14 for Change the Rules Wins.

When it comes to policy work, those closest to the problems have the most innovative solutions and are the experts on the issues affecting their lives. We are changing the way governance works by building the collective power of the grassroots and pathways to solutions that work for frontline communities and workers while pushing back against [false solutions](#) to climate change. We also know that local and state-led initiatives can significantly impact federal legislation and vice-versa. That's why our members work to share, coordinate, and seed [successful and innovative projects](#) and strategies across the membership to coordinate positive legislative impact as much as possible.

## UNITE-EJ

In late 2023, CJA's application for the EPA's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program was selected as the National Grantmaker – West, supporting EPA regions eight, nine, and ten. This program aims to provide funds to community-based organizations working to advance environmental justice in their communities and is projected to distribute tens of millions of dollars to communities over the next few years.



# MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE PAST YEAR



## **BUILDING OUT A \$60 MILLION REGRANTING PROGRAM**

Years of environmental justice movement building went into CJA being selected as a national grantmaker for the EPA's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program. The goal of the program is to use public monies to fund community-based organizations and supportive institutions working to advance environmental justice in their communities. Over the last year, CJA has built infrastructure to implement these funds through the creation of the United Network for Impact, Transformation, and Equity in Environmental Justice Communities (UNITE-EJ) and assembled a team of 8 to oversee and distribute the grants over the next three years.

UNITE-EJ is the National Grantmaker – West supporting EPA regions eight, nine, and ten, responsible for distributing \$60,000,00. The funds from UNITE-EJ will support environmental justice communities through projects that identify, document, address, and respond to conditions related to environmental and/or climate injustice.

The goals of UNITE-EJ are to address environmental and public health issues and to cultivate healthy, thriving communities by building capacity within EJ communities and organizations. Over the next three years, UNITE-EJ will support environmental justice communities and become thriving communities.

### **To do this we plan to:**

1. Resource grassroots organizations to address past, current, and future environmental health and human health challenges;
2. Coordinate efficient, effective, and equitable grantmaking and reporting processes across EPA's regions eight, nine, ten, and at the national level, reducing grassroots organizations' barriers to accessing federal resources.

# 2025 GOALS



## 2025 GOALS:

- **Early 2025** - Convene executive leadership of all member organizations to navigate and create a robust strategy for the coming period.
- **Early-to-mid 2025** - Distribute Grasping at the Roots – a documentary film created by CJA's Black Caucus about environmental justice organizing in Black communities – through film festivals, community screenings, and broadcast television. Later in 2025 we hope to start using the documentary as a power-building and educational tool in communities across the country.
- **Spring 2025** - Complete and release Just Returns, a tri-fold research project. This project includes research on funders' investments, grantmaking practices and articulation of the impact of grassroots-led climate solutions. Findings from the research project will be used to influence and support efforts within climate philanthropy to move toward more equitable funding and investment practices, as part of our work to resource the Just Transition.
- **Mid 2025** - Hold our biannual Our Power Communities Solutions Summit. This is a space for CJA grassroots base-building members to be in community with one another, get grounded in collective political leadership, sharpen political analysis, and define collective action for trans-local power building, with an eye toward strengthening and protecting real solutions to the climate crisis such as community-owned solar and wind projects.
- **Late 2025** - Mobilize a delegation to attend, participate in, and support local efforts during COP 30 in Brazil.
- **Ongoing** - Convene our members through the Food Sovereignty, Change the Rules, and Just Recovery working groups with a focus on defending our policy wins and strengthening support systems for frontline communities.
- **Ongoing** - Build up a pool of trainers who can put on flagship Being the Change workshops and Just Transition Finance Trainings.



Photo credit: Simoné Walls/@thalady (IG)



# MAIN OBJECTIVES



CJA's overall goal is to actualize a Just Transition. This happens through bolstering community solutions that move us toward regenerative economies and healthy, resilient communities in areas that, historically, have been impacted most by environmental and climate injustice. We aim to accomplish this via our three core objectives:

**1 MAKE  
JUST TRANSITIONS REAL**

**2 CENTER  
FRONTLINE VOICES**

**3 RESOURCE  
THE JUST TRANSITION**

## OBJECTIVE 1

**Make Just Transition real on the ground** by building capacity and developing leadership in grassroots communities. This happens through providing technical assistance, popular education, training, resourcing, and communications to support Just Transition projects and campaigns, spanning 45 Our Power Communities and nine Just Transition regional hubs, anchored by CJA's frontline, base-building organizations.

## OBJECTIVE 2

**Center frontline voices** within the broader climate movement by deepening cross-movement solidarity and strengthening organizational capacity. CJA will continue to build the visibility of grassroots organizing power and frontline-led climate solutions using narrative and communications strategies; center accountability to frontline communities in movement partnership formations; and implement organizational development plans.

## OBJECTIVE 3

**Resource the Just Transition** by moving capital to grassroots organizations to support their strategies and projects. We do this through moving money directly to communities, organizing foundations, and influencing wealth holders. To move capital and resources to grassroots organizations we will partner with Amalgamated Foundation, [Center for the Urban Environment \(CUE\) at Kean University](#), [Climate Justice Alliance](#), [Fund for Frontline Power](#), [NDN Collective](#), and the [Tishman Environment and Design Center at the New School](#).

# WINS



CJA has a 6 part strategy to create a Just Transition. Here are examples of how the Climate Justice Alliance and our members put these strategies into practice in 2024.

- 1 FIGHT THE BAD**
- 2 MOVE THE MONEY**
- 3 CHANGE THE STORY**
- 4 CHANGE THE RULES**
- 5 BUILD THE BIGGER WE**
- 6 BUILD THE NEW**

## FIGHT THE BAD

### CJA Members Reclaim \$550 Million Settlement from Chevron

Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA), and Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), Richmond Our Power Coalition, and many others, in collaboration with the City of Richmond, reclaimed [a half-billion dollar payout from Chevron](#). This settlement was in response to a local tax initiative CJA members worked to put on the ballot and pass. The initiative would have taxed every oil barrel Chevron produced within Richmond's city limits. Several weeks after the tax was introduced, Chevron offered a \$550 million settlement with the City of Richmond to lift the tax. The money will go directly to the city's general fund, increasing the annual budget by a quarter, and drastically improving the city's resources for social services. CBE is currently working with the city to create a citizen advisory board to ensure the money is being used to move the city toward a Just Transition.

The success of the tax can be credited to decades of research and organizing from CBE and other local groups. The win demonstrates the power of grassroots-level movements to determine what's best for their communities and threaten even the most intimidating of corporations such as Chevron. Since the settlement, multiple cities with oil refineries have reached out to those involved with Richmond's win for guidance.



## MOVE THE MONEY

### Just Returns Research Series

We know that the most impacted communities are building Just Transitions to Regenerative Economies—now. We know they have replicable and scalable solutions, grounded in justice and sustainability, ready to meet the climate crisis—now. We know their solutions cool the planet, build resilience, and are ready for investment—now. So why has philanthropy not caught up?

To follow the impact of investing in grassroots efforts, CJA partnered with the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP), and the New School's Tishman Environment and Design Center to launch a multi-tiered research process to investigate where major philanthropic funding is going and the impact of grassroots movement.

[The first part of the Just Returns Project series](#), Put Your Money Where Your Mission Is: Hope to Make Your Investment Climate Justice Aligned, focused on endowments of 50 highly influential climate and environment funders in the United States, and their stated missions, programs, and investments. The research found that most foundations were undermining their grantmaking power and that of their grantees to make real and lasting change—getting less bang for their buck—because of the ways they invest and lock up their endowments.

Of the 50 foundations and \$146 billion in investment holdings researched, 28% of the foundations have investment holdings totaling \$550 million in at least one of the Dirty Dozen private equity firms. The “Dirty Dozen” consists of these 12 private equity firms known to keep the fossil fuel industry afloat: 1. Blackstone Group 2. Carlyle Group 3. KKR & Co. 4. ArcLight Capital Partners 5. Apollo Global Management 6. Ares Management 7. Global Infrastructure Partners 8. Kayne Anderson 9. Oaktree Capital Management 10. Warburg Pincus 11. Riverstone Holdings 12. EnCap Investments.

On average, foundations invest more annually in the Dirty Dozen funds and fossil fuels than in funding for climate issues. Private equity is notoriously cryptic, making it convenient for philanthropic institutions to overlook where their investments are going. Fortunately, the Just Return project also outlined 9 recommendations for how to make investments mission-aligned, redefine risk, redefine reward, redefine fiduciary responsibility, be transparent, break the wall between grantmaking and investing, increase grantmaking for technical assistance, make direct business investments that are mission-driven, and support the development of technical assistance waterways.

Part 2, Put Your Money Where Your Mission Is: How to Make Your Grantmaking Practices Climate-Justice Aligned is expected to be released in spring 2025. Part 3, Voicing the Power of Grassroots Climate Solutions: Perspectives on the Impact & Scale of Community-Led Action is expected in Late Fall/Winter 2025.

## CHANGE THE STORY

### Creative Wildfire 2023/2024 Cohort

In 2022, the Climate Justice Alliance, 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. Each year since there has been a cohort of artists that collaborate with 7 frontline climate and economic justice organizations. In partnership with the organizations, Creative Wildfire selects the 7 artists to collaboratively create art with the frontline groups and receive political education, mentorship, funding, and support. There were over 400 applications for the last cohort. The artists and organizations for the 2023 -2024 cohort were:

- Adamu Chan collaborating with [Richmond Our Power Coalition](#)
- Ashanti Fortson collaborating with [Food for the Spirit](#)
- Kai Lumumba Barrow collaborating with [Cooperation New Orleans](#)
- Lily Xie collaborating with [Boston Ujima Project](#)
- Lizzie Suarez collaborating with [Farm Worker Association of Florida](#)
- Roldy Agüero Ablao collaborating with [Micronesia Climate Justice Alliance](#)
- Trinidad Escobar collaborating with [Crip Survival Network \(Sins Invalid\)](#)

Key achievements included a collaboration between filmmaker Adamu Chan and Richmond Our Power Coalition, creating a film, “[What These Walls Won’t Hold](#)”, to highlight stories of resilience and environmental justice in California’s communities of color.

Another standout was Ashanti Fortson’s work with Food for the Spirit, creating visual art that centers narratives of racial healing and that powerfully depicts the role of frontline communities in cultivating sustainable, just food systems. This work struck a chord with frontline organizations and community members alike, and copies of the Food Sovereignty poster/brochure were distributed across the country.

## CHANGE THE RULES

### CJA Members Push for a New Jersey Clean Energy Standard

CJA’s Change the Rules working group plays a leading role in shaping the movement’s approach to the complex relationship between climate and policy. Whether at the state/local level or leading national campaigns, CJA and our member groups work to broaden the political discourse to incorporate racial, cultural, and economic justice.

The New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA) and Ironbond Community Corporation (ICC) are CJA members working to Change the Rules by crafting model legislation for environmental



justice communities throughout New Jersey. NJEJA is an alliance of New Jersey-based organizations and individuals working together to identify, prevent, and reduce and/or eliminate environmental injustices that exist in communities of color and low-income communities.

NJEJA and other EJ advocates have been calling for a strong, clear definition of clean energy in New Jersey that doesn't allow for potential loopholes or false solutions.

In March NJEJA, Ironbound Community Corporation, NJ Progressive Equitable Energy Coalition, and Earthjustice testified in Trenton calling for a clean energy bill that protects communities by: incentivizing the construction of new, truly clean energy generation sources serving the state; eliminating emissions of co-pollutants and greenhouse gasses from energy generation; and preventing polluting facilities such as incinerators from receiving ratepayer subsidies when they violate permit limits.

After the testimony, [the Senate Energy and Environment Committee voted in favor](#) of a Clean Energy Standard ([S237/A1480](#)).

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“**THIS MOMENT REPRESENTS A TURNING POINT** for the state and the country. Including co-pollutants in the definition makes New Jersey a leader in protecting frontline communities. There is more work to be done to make sure that the bill is as protective of EJ communities as possible, but we take this moment to celebrate and honor the many advocates who have worked tirelessly to protect public health, call for climate change mitigation, and ensure that EJ communities are not left behind in the energy transition.”

Melissa Miles, Executive Director, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance

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“**IT'S SO REFRESHING TO SEE** a holistic and necessary approach to defining clean energy. If we do not include co-pollutants, we stand to repeat the mistakes of the past where we sacrifice local communities for the so-called “greater good.” Today is an important step in leading the country towards a future that deals with both public health and climate change.”

Maria Lopez-Nuñez, Deputy Director, Organizing and Advocacy, Ironbound Community Corporation

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“**INCORPORATING GHG CO-POLLUTANT REDUCTIONS** into a clean energy standard is the type of action the environmental justice community has been strongly recommending for many years. It will help protect communities near energy infrastructure from locally harmful co-pollutant emissions while at the same time fighting climate change.”

Nicky Sheats, Ph.D., Esq. Director, Center for the Urban Environment, John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University, Member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance

## BUILD THE BIGGER WE

### Members Gather at Black Jubilee

Building the Bigger We simply means to build cross-movement solidarity. To do this, CJA participates in coalitions, and sometimes we're the ones to bring people together to unite social justice movements and build power. One of this year's convening spaces was Black Jubilee, hosted by CJA's Black Caucus. This group, composed of Black and Afro-Diasporic members within CJA, aims to center Black leadership, address environmental racism, and build power within the Climate Justice movement. Convening spaces like these have been instrumental in developing a long-term plan to achieve a Just Transition and shaping CJA's overall strategy. We asked the participants to reflect on their experience at Black Jubilee and share what Jubilee means to them.

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“**JUBILEE IS THE CELEBRATION OF US.** I think about our culture, our history, honoring ourselves and our relationships, and honoring the land especially.”

Zakia Elliot, Soil Generation

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“**I THINK OF PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER** and having a good time. You know one of the pillars of the Black Caucus is centering, joy. And the word joy and jubilee are synonymous to me, you know that they are one and the same.”

“**WE ARE REALLY AT A TIPPING POINT** if we haven't already gone over that tipping point in terms of climate and terms of political and social instability. Convenings like this are where we're able to build the strategy to be prepared for what comes next and what's happening around us right now.”

Jeru Qadar, Kheprw Institute

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“**THE BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT** for me was getting to do the plantation tour and understanding and learning new history about myself. I didn't know some of those revolts and rebellions did happen.”

Nyashia Gatewood, Kentucky's for the Commonwealth

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“**TO LEARN THAT HISTORY WAS EMPOWERING** as a true understanding of our actual history, of the actual history of people who fought for their humanity, who fought for the humanity of the next generation.”

Piper Carter - Detroit Black Community Food Sovereignty Network

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“**WE NEEDED TO BRING OUR PEOPLE BACK TO THE SOUTH.** Cultural preservation and realization is very important to me and one of the things I feel like will really help us stay rooted and connected to one another. And if we don't preserve our histories, our stories, our music, our sound, our language, our dance, our spirituality then those things will be co opted, commercialized, sold and taken away from us just as we were from Africa.”

Leah Humphrey - CJA Black Membership Organizer on why Jubilee was hosted in the South.

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## BUILD THE NEW

### Opening of Black-led Food Coop through the Detroit Food Commons

Part of building the new is redefining the terms of our economy to better suit the needs of the people. Detroit is a city of over 630 thousand people and is 80% Black, yet it didn't have a Black-owned grocery store for nearly a decade from 2014 to 2023. The majority of grocery stores in Detroit are corporate-owned and extractive. CJA member, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN) worked for 13 years to raise the \$22 million needed for the project and was finally able to open this year! The Detroit People's Food Coop is a Black-led, community-owned grocery store that includes a shared-use kitchen, a community meeting space, offices, and outdoor vendor booths.

CJA was able to help Detroit People's Food Coop get over the finish line and support the store opening, with a \$500,000 investment in the Detroit Food Commons, through the Our Power Loan Fund (OPLF). However, this isn't a typical loan. OPLF is a collectively governed non-extractive revolving loan fund with low interest rates and flexible repayment terms.

[The Detroit People's Food Co-op](#) is operational, with 4,013 members, and is creating a way to access quality food that promotes a circular economy through community leadership and accountability.



Photo credit: Keenan Rhodes



# FINANCIALS



CJA is organizing to move millions out of extractive economies and into regenerative economies. In 2016, CJA set a goal of shifting \$40 million in new climate funding to the grassroots organizing ecosystem. Since then, CJA has been directly involved in influencing more than \$166 million in new climate funding directly to the grassroots or through intermediaries. 2024 alone accounted for \$57.2 million.

## FISCAL YEAR 2023

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$9,580,361</b>
Foundations	\$8,830,519
Individuals	\$620,475
Corp	\$71,144
Other	\$58,223
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$9,256,401</b>
Salaries and Benefits	\$2,809,706
Regrants	\$5,632,260
General Operating	\$1,227,422
Prof Fees	\$529,157
Stipends, Honoraria and Sponsor	\$57,856

# LOOKING FORWARD



Photo credit: Jessica Xiao



The next year will require our revolutionary hope—hope that is born of deep care and stoked by action. We expect 2025 will contain major attempts to roll back environmental regulations, cut federal funding for climate protections, and reduce essential services for the people who need them most, especially in the face of increasing climate disasters.

We don't have to imagine the outcomes of these policy decisions on communities. Our communities know that this direction of governance will increase exposure to pollution, decrease resilience to natural disasters, and take resources away from community care because they live at the frontline of the climate crisis. Every day our communities face the consequences of divestment from environmental justice. We know what is needed to build thriving communities and we need to rely on each other to build it.

As always, we will keep building the new as we fight the bad. This report has detailed major accomplishments for making Just Transitions real on the ground, centering frontline voices, and resourcing the Just Transition, but we need continued investment and support to sustain the work. 2025 is a year to lean into mutual aid for Just Recovery and be ready to support when climate emergencies strike. We will work to support Just Transition solutions like community-owned renewable projects, resource housing and transportation solutions that focus on reducing pollution in grassroots communities, and ensure people have the space to gather and practice their cultures safely.

**This is what revolutionary hope looks like, building the new as we fight the bad, and we can't do it without you.**

**Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Climate Justice Alliance.** To get connected to our work reach out to our Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Hailey Sinoff at [hailey@climatejusticealliance.org](mailto:hailey@climatejusticealliance.org)



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