



FINALIST

ELI KASARGOD-STAUB

FA-1870

WASHINGTON, D.C.

CORPORATE AND POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$775,000

EVALUATOR: Bruce Freed

PROVOCATIVE PROPOSITION:

In order to fully address economic inequality, racial injustice, and climate change, we need to build new, powerful, self-sustaining platforms for corporate accountability.

APPLICANT

INFORMATION

- Mr. Kasargod-Staub is a partner at Springboard Partners, an incubator of both cutting-edge social justice campaigns and socially-oriented startup ventures.
- As Deputy Director of Research for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Mr. Kasargod-Staub led teams to develop innovative strategies and tactics for national worker organizing campaigns. Mr. Kasargod-Staub specialized in financial analysis, corporate governance, and shareholder activism, earning the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Designation.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- Mr. Kasargod-Staub will launch a set of new investment funds dedicated to actively promoting corporate social responsibility. These funds will fill a gap in the market for investors who want to ensure that their values and voice are being represented in boardroom and capital market debates about corporate accountability and responsibility. They will be structured to allow both small and large investors to participate, and will be particularly suitable for individuals and institutions trying to ensure that their portfolios are fully aligned for impact.
- These funds will champion progressive values and long-term perspectives through its proxy voting strategies and shareholder activism. They will partner with advocacy organizations to ensure that the funds' approaches are informed by current issues and concerns.
- These funds will achieve impact both through their shareholder advocacy work and their support for investigative research that fuels further corporate accountability efforts.



FINALIST
YVAN ITURRIAGA

FA-1920

OAKLAND, CA

VOICE, CREATIVITY AND CULTURE - ARTS AND CULTURE

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$152,000

EVALUATOR: Michael Leon Guerrero

PROVOCATIVE PROPOSITION:

At a time when the political talking heads constantly tell us there is no alternative to the dystopian status quo, we need to shift the narrative with much-needed hope, humor, and a new generation of multi-racial young artists and activists.

APPLICANT

INFORMATION

- Mr. Iturriaga is a director, producer, and cultural organizer who believes in the power of film to inspire and activate communities.
- He co-produced several award-winning PBS documentaries, including “The Storm That Swept Mexico” (2010) and “Latino Americans” (2013). He has directed comedic climate videos such as What the “Frack, Jerry Brown?!” (2015) and “Brother Earth” (2014), starring legendary rapper Boots Riley in support of the historic People’s Climate March.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- Mr. Iturriaga will launch a political comedy web series entitled the “North Pole.” The series will amplify the voices of communities of color that are on both the frontlines of climate change and increasing social, racial, and economic inequality. Addressing the global climate crisis while highlighting the rapid gentrification of Oakland, CA, he will produce and direct a full season of “The North Pole”: eight comedic, strategic videos that lift up communities’ common ecological and social struggles across lines of race, class, and culture.
- By showcasing diverse, comedic characters alongside real-life heroes and sheroes, The North Pole will support multi-racial communities in viewing themselves not as outsiders or victims of climate change – but as brilliant, powerful, and yes, hilarious leaders for the changes that are so desperately needed.
- Collaborators for this project include award-winning comedians, writers, and activists W. Kamau Bell, Adam Mansbach, Chinaka Hodge, and Josh Heale as well as Movement Generation and their national Climate Justice Alliance.
- For each video, Mr. Iturriaga will organize a community premiere in Oakland. These events will allow the public to explore the issues raised in the film, while Movement Generation staff offer ways for local residents to join campaigns for ecological justice and community resiliency. His national partners in the Climate Justice Alliance will screen the videos in their communities, from the coal-impacted towns of Eastern Kentucky to the drought-impacted neighborhoods of East LA. Taken together, the project will be seen by over 5,000 people live.



FELLOW
ANNA CLAUSSEN

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MINNEAPOLIS, MN

INCLUSIVE CLEAN ECONOMY

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$165,000

EVALUATOR: Michael Leon
Guerrero

APPLICANT

INFORMATION

- As the Director of Rural Strategies, Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy, Ms. Claussen partnered with the Jefferson Center to implement climate dialogs in three rural communities in Minnesota. The dialogs challenged narratives and structures of food and agricultural systems that reinforce concentrated power and racial, gender and geographic inequality.

PROVOCATIVE PROPOSITION:

Rural resistance to climate action has often been viewed as a “messaging” problem by environmentalists—rather than a need to better understand their challenges and involve rural citizens in designing a new approach to climate policy. Climate change offers an opportunity to engage differently with rural communities, one target audience, in a way that focuses on solutions rather than assigning blame.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- Recognizing that there’s a lot of action on climate already taking place in rural communities and instead of trying to “sell” climate policy ideas to rural communities, Ms. Claussen will engage and empower organizations and leaders, rooted in rural communities, on climate policy under development and measure its impact, when implemented.
- Ms. Claussen will launch a National Rural Climate Dialogue Engagement Effort. This engagement effort will build on a series of Rural Climate Dialogs, that she developed in her role at the Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy, which elevated the voices of rural Minnesotans to advance more inclusive state climate policy. The dialogs connect climate policy with rural economic development concerns, empower rural communities, and identified cross-agency opportunities for improving programs and policies to better enable local governments to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This fellowship would provide the opportunity to launch this effort nationally.



FINALIST
AARON TANAKA

FA-1892
ROXBURY, MA

RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$450,000

EVALUATOR: Lorraine Ramirez

PROVOCATIVE PROPOSITION:

We need innovative ways to pool our own resources to grow local wealth and meet community needs.

APPLICANT

INFORMATION

- As a young person growing up in San Francisco’s East Bay, Mr. Tanaka witnessed the school to prison pipeline first-hand. The only student in his school district to attend Harvard, he founded the Boston Workers Alliance, the organization credited with introducing the precedent-setting “Ban the Box” policy in Massachusetts.
- Mr. Tanaka is the co-founder and director of the Center for Economic Democracy (CED), a new social movement research and action center that builds economic and political infrastructure in low-income communities of color.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- The Ujima Project will bring Leading Local Economy strategies to Boston’s low income communities of color with an explicitly racial and economic justice orientation. Bringing together community residents, grassroots and labor organizations, business owners, funders and investors the project will work to create a new infrastructure for front line communities to shepherd a just transition from capitalist extraction to an economic democracy.
- Ujima is exploring a partnership with B-lab to host a local Good Business Certification. Businesses that meet community standards (such as: paying a living wage, hiring ex-prisoners, and reducing environmental footprint) will be listed in a directory, receive a storefront seal and have access to the Ujima Capital Fund.
- Ujima will create a risk adjusted multi-tranche fund, democratizing investment through participatory budgeting. In our first pilot investment, they raised \$22,000 from 175 investors over 3 days, and voted on loans for 5 Black and immigrant owned social enterprises. Ujima’s Fund helps transition capital into a “financial commons” that serves collective needs over private profits.
- Ujima members will have access to a local payment platform that offers loyalty discounts at Certified Good Businesses. Ujima is exploring union partnerships to pilot an Ujima debit card, while exploring longer term blockchain based currency and time-trade solutions. These tools incentivize purchasing and trade within the Ujima network, and help grow local wealth by increasing the circulation of resources within Ujima’s ecosystem.



FELLOW

FRANCISCA PORCHAS CORONADO

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PHEONIX, AZ

VOICE, CREATIVITY AND CULTURE - RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$115,000

EVALUATOR: Darrick Hamilton

PROVOCATIVE PROPOSITION:

The suffering inflicted by mass criminalization, incarceration, and deportation can only be expected to worsen within the current political climate. In this moment, there will be a need for culturally-relevant organizing and justice-oriented trauma healing accessible to frontline communities.

APPLICANT

INFORMATION

- As the Organizing Director of Puente Human Rights Movement Ms. Porchas Coronado co-led the Campaign to End All Detention, advocating for the end of mandatory immigrant detention. She also co-led the No More SB1070s campaign to defeat 11 anti-immigrant bills in Arizona, during the 2016 legislative season.
- Prior to her time with Puente, Ms. Porchas Coronado co-founded Dignity and Power Now, organizing formally incarcerated people and their loved ones in LA County.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- Ms. Porchas Coronado will develop a national network of community healers to assist in serving the emotional needs of the immigrant community currently facing criminalization and deportation. Resisting anti-immigrant assaults builds resiliency and movements, but it is critical to incorporate healing and restorative practices these communities to make our movements even stronger.
- In order to accomplish this, Ms. Porchas Coronado will build a network of healers across the country that employ contemplative practices, such as meditation, expression through art, ancestral spiritual practices, therapy, and bodywork to address the needs of the immigrant community. These teams will address community trauma, and provide guidance to frontline organizations on how to integrate healing practices into their work. The healers will be first responders to immigrant communities targeted by ICE and law enforcement for deportation and provide basic trainings to community members and organizers to transfer skills and ensure ongoing support.



FINALIST
SHARON HAUSAM

FA-1882
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$100,000

EVALUATOR: Lorraine Ramirez

PROVOCATIVE PROPOSITION:

The best approach to addressing Native American and Alaska Native communities' vulnerability to climate change is not to begin with scientific data and rational planning methods, but with culturally-appropriate conversations.

APPLICANT

INFORMATION

- Dr. Hausam has served as an award-winning and respected community-based planner in Native American communities for twenty years, working on issues related to water, forestry, land use, housing, economic development, transportation, and health. She has experience interviewing Native American elders, hosting community meetings, and documenting all forms of input for use in planning documents to meet community goals.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- Dr. Hausam will convene tribal leaders, elders, women, healers, hunters, fishers, gatherers, farmers, ranchers and others in a selected group of Native communities discuss climate change from an indigenous planning theory framework. This may include the topics of historic, recent, and predicted environmental changes; traditional strategies for resilience; interdependence with and obligations to the natural world; and opportunities for moving forward. These conversations will be documented in writing and other appropriate forms created by the community, potentially including audio, video, art or graphic media.
- The documentation will also reflect on how the results of these conversations can be used in ongoing climate change adaptation planning; that is, where possible, it will express a strategy for integrating traditional stories and responsibilities into a rational planning method. An initial draft of this strategy will be discussed with the community and revised as needed.
- The second phase of this project will adapt the documentation to set the Native communities' strategies in motion. This may include taking excerpts, revising, formatting, or transferring results into new documents and media for specific purposes, such as adaptation planning, mitigation projects such as clean energy development, political strategy, community education, direct action, and spiritual activity.



FINALIST
SABRINA ARTEL

FA-1958

LIBERTY, NY

INCLUSIVE CLEAN ECONOMY

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$100,000

EVALUATOR: Faith Bynoe

PROVOCATIVE PROPOSITION:

First-person narratives are a powerful resource for changing the public discourse around climate change. By using direct storytelling and public recorded events with every day people, deep dialogs can be a catalyst to make climate change impacts accessible, activate local voices and amplify environmental injustices.

APPLICANT

INFORMATION

- Ms. Artel created a partnership between Catskill Mountain keeper and the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health to develop a community response to fracking-related poor health outcomes in upstate New York.
- Ms. Artel has also created several multi-media campaigns focused on first person narratives related to shale fracking and local food economies that have appeared on NPR, Air America Radio, Pacifica Radio and CNN.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- The Civic Ecology Staging Climate Change project is a multi-disciplinary storytelling based climate project that will advance awareness and support resistance to climate injustice. Using historic, but complicated, decisions in California, New York, North Dakota and Pennsylvania, the proposed project would focus on climate change by examining three to five specific instances of community response to environmental injustice in the U.S. The project intends to expose the complexities of these impacts on communities and explore suggested solutions.
- Ms. Artel would conduct a series of live events, and to produce audio/visual stories focusing on: the significance of continued battles at Standing Rock to prevent the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline; the impacts of fracking for gas in the Marcellus Shale region of Pennsylvania; the water and air quality issues related to oil extraction in the southern and central valley regions of California; and a huge array of extractive industry related economic and health problems in the Southern tier of New York, including Seneca Lake. Through engagement with multi-media tools, audio stories and a mobile town hall, the project will provide resources for action to mitigate the destruction caused by the extractive energy industry. She will create a virtual, web-based space that will reflect the in-person dialogs that capture the very real threats caused by extreme energy extraction and the incredible resistance movement in response to these threats. The portal will serve as a living archive that would develop over the course of the fellowship.

FELLOWSHIP GRANT RECOMMENDATION MEMO



FELLOW
JASIRI X

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PITTSBURGH, PA

VOICE, CREATIVITY AND CULTURE - ARTS AND CULTURE

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$200,000

EVALUATOR: Faith Bynoe

PROVOCATIVE PROPOSITION:

We need a space to train artists to become public advocates for social justice.

APPLICANT

INFORMATION

- Mr. X has won several awards for his work at the intersection of Hip Hop and social justice including: the Ronald H. Brown Community Leadership Award, The Black man Can Award (for excellence in entertainment) the key to the city of Louisville, Kentucky and the Pittsburgh Hip Hop Award (single of the year).
- Mr. X has been acknowledged by Harry Belafonte, Angela Davis and Chuck D as being at the vanguard of a new movement for social change.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- Mr. X will develop the 1Hood Artist Academy that will foster an army of artists/activists who stand as the first artistic response to matters negatively impacting social justice--through the universal language of Hip Hop. 1Hood Artist Academy takes the time needed to cultivate both the artist and the activist. The artists at the academy will produce songs, videos, discussions, products and concerts related to the social justice issues of our time. A yearlong artistic activism development program, 1Hood Artist Academy will mentor artists who have a track record of activism, display extraordinary skill in the art of Hip Hop mc-ing, and desire entrepreneurial independence. After an application and interview selection process, each socially conscious artist/activist will be invited to take in the program's rigorous curriculum.
- The Academy's courses will be directed in a conversational manner to inspire critical thinking and an understanding of the variety of ways to strongly challenge the unethical manifestations of racism, xenophobia, misogyny, patriarchy, etc. A few topics covered will include: Understanding racism's impact on self and society; Entering, exiting and respecting communities; Intergenerational unity; Cultivating leadership in self and others; Knowing individual and collective rights; Community service and; Organizing. The Academy will also teach professional arts courses including courses on: defining self ad personal success; financing your gift; songwriting and contract.



FINALIST
VALARIE KAUR

FA-2056

MANHATTAN BEACH, CA

VOICE, CREATIVITY AND CULTURE - ARTS AND CULTURE

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$300,000

EVALUATOR: Faith Bynoe

PROVOCATIVE PROPOSITION:

When we practice love it has the power to transform an encounter, a relationship, a community, a culture, even a country -- it becomes revolutionary. In an era defined by rage, revolutionary love is a form of civil disobedience.

APPLICANT

INFORMATION

- A Sikh American, Ms. Kaur has worked at the intersection of faith, law, innovation and justice for 15 years. In 2011, she founded the Groundswell Movement, the United States’ largest multi-faith online organizing community.
- Ms. Kaur also founded the Yale Visual Law Project which trains students to make films that change policy.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- Ms. Kaur posits that if rage is the pandemic of our time, then Revolutionary Love is the antidote. This project defines “love” as the desire to extend one’s will toward the flourishing of others and ourselves, a definition that builds on the work of Erich Fromm and bell hooks. The descriptor “revolutionary” posits love as a source of personal, social, and political transformation. When one practices love where it didn’t previously exist, then it has the power to transform an encounter, a relationship, a community, a culture, even a country -- it becomes revolutionary. In an era defined by rage, Revolutionary Love is a form of civil disobedience.
- Expounding on this theory of change, Ms. Kaur will write a book entitled, “The Civil Disobedience of Revolutionary Love: A Political Manifesto and Personal Memoir on How to Love in an Era of Rage.” The book will blend storytelling and analysis, drawing from present-day activism, faith traditions, and American history.
- Ms. Kaur will grow her Revolutionary Love Project, housed at the University of Southern California, Office of Religious Life, through convening, storytelling and action. She will engage her base, speak as one of three keynote speakers on the Together Tour with William Morris Endeavor, speak on the university lecture circuit and co-host the Revolutionary Love Conference with Middle Church. Ms. Kaur will also engage media outlets where she is a contributor such as, MSNBC, CNN, NPR, PRI and the New York Times to further publicize her project.