

Resisting Together

THE ATTACKS on our communities, non-profits, civil society, and our democracy has hit us at a dizzying pace over the last three months. It has been hard to process and keep up with the barrage of changes. Many service providers, organizing groups, and non-profits are experiencing federal funding cuts resulting in layoffs and pauses in their services.

Executive Orders have ended Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs and gender inclusion for trans folk. We have seen corporations, colleges, and others “obeying in advance” through ending programs or removing DEI language from websites.

Public servants who protect our health, provide vital data and information, and provide public safety have been vilified. Tens of thousands of probationary federal workers were laid off and thousands more will face downsizing in the coming weeks and months. Additionally, leases are being cancelled at federal workplaces around the country. These include the National Park Service, US Department of Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, the National Institutes of Health, and tribal colleges.

Additionally, non-profits and grassroots organizations are facing increased scrutiny. Last summer Senator Jim Comer directed the Treasury Secretary to investigate 20 foundations and grassroots organizations for their involvement in funding and opposing the war in Gaza. This oversight is looking more carefully at international grants and support of protesters, all of which PDF has funded. Last month, a graduate student at Columbia was arrested after the administration pledged to detain and deport student activists. The recent “non-profit killer” bill would have allowed the Trump administration to

revoke the charitable status of nonprofits it suspects of supporting terrorism. We expect this legislation to come back and there may be other proposals that limit tax deductibility of certain donations. This overreach will jeopardize many organizations and

cause many other to be more cautious or stop funding organizing.

Many of our grassroots partners are already experiencing federal funding cuts and pull-back from foundations. These draconian measures may force organizations to end vital programs for the most vulnerable. Additionally, philanthropy will never have the resources to make up for these kinds of deep cuts.

The current moment should be a wake-up call for the industrial non-profit complex. Many large non-profits and funders have lost touch with the communities they serve. We know that the coming months and years will require more engagement and organizing. Foundations need to step and not shy away from funding organizing and issues that may draw the attention of the administration.

Internally, we have been reviewing our practices over the last few months to see how PDF can be bold and better support our grassroots partners. We recently reviewed our grant priorities to better prioritize the most vulnerable groups right now. Our participatory grant makers are currently reviewing applications for our 2025 grants, which will be announced in May. We are also shifting our rapid response fund to better serve current needs for essentials like mutual aid. We are working to build collaborations with other funders to better resource and leverage our rapid response fund and expertise for getting funds out quickly to organizations.

Lastly, we are reconfiguring our technical assistance and capacity-building programs to de-risk our partners. This includes providing short-term fiscal sponsorship for groups being targeting. Helping organizations collaborate for funding and using our influence to call on our funder partners to do more in this uncertain and destabilizing time. Now is not the time to shrink away. We will continue to pivot and find new ways to support organizing and defend grassroots partners around the country. ♦



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Comrades,

I am writing with a deep sense of tenderness and uncertainty amidst everything happening around the country and world. At times like this, I always lean on the words of Gracee Lee Boggs when she asked, “what time is it on the clock of the world?”

I joined the team at the Peace Development Fund the day before the 2024 elections, and what a few months it has been. As I meet more folks in our PDF universe, I am finding many points of connection-- I reside in the Bay Area with my wife and daughter, but for more than a decade, I called Boston home. When I relocated to the Bay Area, it was at a moment of personal and professional transition. And it was at this time that I found Resource Generation (RG), an organization focused on redistribution of wealth. RG has been critical in my development over the years, and it was not until recently that I learned RG was first incubated and housed at PDF.

Our PDF has a four-decade-plus legacy of transforming philanthropy and incubating transformative organizing efforts at the frontline of change. This is our secret sauce – seeding and believing in groups of people manifesting the strategies needed to change the world. We are boldly supporting fledgling groups in ways that larger philanthropy can – and will – not. By often being the first funder to the table, we are holding the doors open for other donors, funders, and resources to follow.

We are often the first supporters to say we believe in your vision and work, and we will walk alongside you in your journey.

This solidarity, this allyship, this power is what I know we need at this time. We are in the midst of chaos where the road ahead is murky, but we will weather these times together. From my days as an organizer, I know we have been here before, we will be here again, and we need to lean into one another during these times. I am excited to be here at PDF at this time with you.

In peace,

Allistair Mallillin

Leaning into PDF's Future

A CONVERSATION WITH PDF'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We sat down (virtually) with Allistair over his favorite cold brew to hear more about his vision for PDF and how he sees the value of our legacy.

Q: How do you see PDF's role as being unique in the philanthropic sphere?

A: We have a rich legacy of being the leading edge of philanthropy before things become popular, such as engaging in donor organizing and having community-led funds. In this moment, people are looking for anchors with track records like PDF. We have the unique ability to incubate transformative organizing efforts and derisk the work on the ground so other funders can join in.

Q: What is your vision for PDF?

A: We need to stay focused on our north star of ‘peace through justice’ by shifting power to frontline groups. The social and political conditions may have changed since the days when PDF was first founded, but the goal is the same. I hope we can build on our legacy by pushing the envelope on transformative philanthropic practices, as well as deepening the engagement of PDF's supporters with frontline leaders to build the connections we need for justice.

Q: West Coast or East Coast?

A: What a trap question! Both have their amazingness. On the east coast, I love the fall season, particularly apple cider donuts and the foliage in New England during those times. As someone who did not really go on hikes until I was an adult, access to the outdoors has been the most amazing thing on the west coast.

Q: What book is on your bedside table?

A: *The Financial Activist Playbook: 8 Strategies for Everyday People to Reclaim Wealth and Collective Well-Being* by Jasmine Rashid. The author is a friend here in the Bay Area, and she gives a tangible mapping for how to personally build the world we are looking for.

Q: What inspires you? What brings you joy?

A: Saving the easiest question for last! The answer to both is my little, almost 2-year-old daughter. She has already helped me understand overwhelming joy and abundance, and teaches me every day to be present. ♦

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Welcome New Faces, Fresh Perspectives!

Joining the Peace Development Fund Team

Allistair Mallillin (he/him) joined Peace Development Fund as Executive Director in November 2024. In this role, he is charged with guiding the strategy and overall direction of PDF in this next phase. This will build on his deep experience around participatory and community-led grantmaking funds, as well as bridging relationships within the philanthropic field. Hear more from Allistair on page X of this newsletter.

Martha Marteney (she/her). With business administration experience in a wide range of organizations, Martha joined PDF in October 2024 as Finance Manager. In addition to her background in bookkeeping, project management and HR, Martha has also worked in grant administration, marketing and development. She holds a BA from Georgetown University in German with a minor in Business Economics.

REMEMBRANCES



The Peace Development Fund mourns the loss of **Hildegard Kate Hannum**, a longtime supporter. Since 1986, Hildegard has been a steadfast ally in our work, generously contributing her time and resources to advance peace and justice globally.

Hildegard's commitment to social change extended far beyond her financial support. She was a woman of profound intellect and deep compassion, dedicating her life to fostering understanding and promoting a more equitable world. Her academic pursuits, her active involvement in organizations like the American Friends Service Committee and the E.F. Schumacher Society, and her tireless efforts to promote renewable energy all reflect her unwavering belief in a just and sustainable future.

Hildegard's legacy will continue to inspire us at the Peace Development Fund.



PDF also mourns the loss of **Vassie Sinopoulos** last fall. Vassie was the widow of long-time PDF supporter Chris Lloyd, who passed away two years ago. Like Chris, Vassie was also committed to peace and non-violence, having grown up in the shadow of two wars in Greece. She played an

important role in organizing anti-war protests in Woodstock, VT. Her daughter Sophia Sinopoulos-Lloyd will continue the family's commitment to funding social justice by taking over their donor advised fund. Our sincere condolences go out to her family.

PRESIDENTS CORNER



Dear Friends,

We have entered a new season of renewal, a time of year when we embrace our traditions, our families and communities, because we know the seeds we sow will grow roots and thrive.

The changes we are seeing within our communities, and across our nation, is not unfamiliar. We see what is happening all around us, the mass deportations, the firing of public servants, and the list goes on. Although this is hurting the most vulnerable people in our communities, it also brings greater understanding of the need to unite to protect our families, and friends under the banner of peace and justice. I am energized by the new ideas and energy at Peace Development Fund with our new executive director, Allistair Mallillin, our board, and staff.

Front-line communities have been here before. We know that we can't rely on the government. This is a hard reality that many of my friends with privilege are confronting for the first time. Instead of hand-wringing, I say organize! Much of what we are seeing is the disconnect between communities and large institutions — be they government, large non-profits, political parties, or large funders. Many are out of touch with the communities they serve. The organizers that we support and incubate are the antidote to this moment.

PDF is working to increase our resources to front-line communities, to better align our rapid response fund to this moment, and be bold in helping to build resilience in our partner organizations. These shifts will prepare the ground for the seeds that are being planted. We appreciate all of you who water the seeds and are willing to step up in these critical moments.

I am proud of our four-decade legacy of funding the organizations that others would not. We will not shrink away from our roots during this time. We are excited about what's to come for PDF and Allistair's leadership that will allow us to step up in new ways. The road ahead is hard but we are determined to continue to fight for peace and justice for all.

In solidarity,

Teresa Juarez
Board President

IN THE FIELD

NEW FISCALLY SPONSORED PROJECTS (SINCE FALL 2024)

- ACT for Women and Girls, Visalia, CA
- Anti-Racism Community Organizers (ARCO), Springfield, MA
- Casa-al-Fatiha, Chicago, IL
- Kentucky Wildflower Collective, Louisville, KY
- Engage Deerfield, Deerfield, MA
- Project Enduring Peace, San Diego, CA
- The Vow Hiroshima, New York, NY
- Torch Song Revival Collective, Northampton, MA

DE COLORES RAPID RESPONSE FUND GRANTEES (SINCE FALL 2024)

- Movement for Justice in El Barrio, New York, NY
- Nuevos Vecinos, San Antonio, TX
- Youth Climate Finance Alliance, West Hollywood, WA



Funding Land Back

Our newly established **Land Justice Fund** furthers our work supporting Indigenous land back, land restoration, and cultural reconnection. This fund, born from our decades of work supporting Indigenous sovereignty and ecological justice, honors the legacy of Paul Haible, PDF's former Executive Director.

For years, PDF has stood as a partner with Indigenous-led organizations. In FY'24 alone, we directed \$230,250 in general operating support to 20 native groups – representing over a quarter of our total grantmaking that year. Building on the success of a pilot project through the William Allen Fund, we are ready to take that support to the next level.

The Land Justice Fund addresses a critical gap in the #LandBack movement, a national effort to return ancestral lands to Indigenous stewardship. One of our staff leading the project is Lakota Holder, who was a part of our Land Justice pilot project. She shared that, “we have seen that many small, native-led projects are not getting the attention and resources they need to continue or to begin their land back work. That’s why we are funding not just land acquisition, we’re investing in the vital work that comes before and after. This includes the planning, the capacity building, the technical assistance, and cultural competency.”

This holistic approach recognizes that successful land rematriation requires more than just acquiring land. It demands the capacity to steward it sustainably, culturally, and for future generations.

“We are helping communities to steward their land for generations to come,” emphasized Lakota. “For example, our previous support [through the William Allen Fund] helped Chickaloon Village Traditional Council explore and develop wind and solar projects on their land. Our initial investment helped them leverage over \$7 million in additional funding. This is the kind of impact PDF strives for.”

Funding determinations will be made by our Indigenous-led grantmaking committee.

We aim to grant out up to \$500,000 every year. We invite you to support this new fund and honor Paul’s legacy. Find out more or donate at www.peacedevelopmentfund.org. ♦



LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY OF PEACE AND JUSTICE

Last year we launched our Legacy Society to recognize our supporters who have included PDF in their planned giving. These donors ensure that PDF can continue to provide resources to front-line communities and social justice organizers today and for years to come.

“I love PDF’s work but can’t donate at the level I would like right now. I have included PDF in my will so that I can support justice for years to come.”—
Anonymous Legacy Member

Become a member of PDF’s Legacy Society today by making a gift through your estate plan. It is super easy through our partnership with Free Will, a service that allows you to create or update your will for free. Your gift will have a lasting impact on creating a more just world. Join by contacting Lora Wondolowski at lora@peacefund.org or scanning the code.



Gathering Community to Celebrate Organizers

On January 30th, PDF hosted our first-ever Grassroots Gala. With the dynamic duo of Monte Belmonte and Kaliis Smith from The Fabulous 413 (radio show) as our MCs, the evening was filled with laughter, celebration, and a shared commitment to social justice. In the midst of the turmoil after the inauguration in January, we were uplifted to be joined by nearly 100 guests to honor incredible individuals and organizations making a difference in our communities, and to officially launch PDF's new Land Justice Fund.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the inaugural Truth Awards. PDF's Truth Awards honor the individuals and organizations that are tenacious community and movement builders extending Sojourner Truth's legacy to current intersectional fights for social justice.

Paul Haible, PDF's former Executive Director, received the Legacy Award for his decades of dedication to peace and justice, including his pivotal role in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples. **Springfield No One Leaves**, a grassroots organization fighting for housing justice in Springfield, MA, was honored with the Organization of the Year Award. The Organizer of the Year Award went to **Aramis Sundiata**, a powerful advocate for community empowerment and transformative criminal and racial justice work with the People's Justice Project in Ohio.

The evening also featured a local drag performer and a lively round of drag bingo, adding to the celebratory atmosphere. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us for this special occasion, and we look forward to making the Grassroots Gala an annual tradition that brings our community together to celebrate the power of collective action. ♦

Thank you to our sponsors: Access Strategies Fund, Beve-ridge Family Foundation, Cypress Fund, Dean's Beans Organic Coffee, Greenfield Savings Bank, Krupp Family Foundation, and PeoplesBank.



Paul Haible, former Executive Director, Allistair Mallillin, Executive Director, Yi Chun Tricia Lin, Board Member, and Ray Santiago, former PDF staff



Aramis Sundiata, People's Justice Project of Ohio with Allistair



Rose Webster-Smith, Springfield No One Leaves, and Lisa Owens, Hyams Foundation



PUT YOUR FUNDS TO WORK

Donor-advised funds have become a popular way for people to fund the things they care about while receiving an immediate tax deduction. Did you know that PDF has offered DAFs since 1987 and was recognized by Forbes Magazine? We make it easy for you to support the movement while we do all the paperwork! We offer 40+ years of grant making experience and knowledge of hundreds of grassroots partners around the globe. Find out more about how PDF can help your charitable gifts go further.

"I chose PDF because they align with my values and have great grantmaking programs that are participatory," shared DAF holder Izzy Snyder.

For more information, contact Lora at 413-256-8306 or lora@peacefund.org, or scanning the code.



April 23 and 24.....PDF Looking Ahead Breakfasts, Amherst, MA
 April 25.....Drag Bingo, Greenfield, MA
 MayCommunity Organizing Grants Released

For more information,
 scan this QR code to visit
 the events page
 on our website



PEACE
 DEVELOPMENT
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PO Box 1280, Amherst, MA 01004-1280

The Peace Development Fund works to build the capacity of community-based organizations through grants, training, and other resources as partners in the human rights and social justice movements. As a public foundation, we nourish, foster, and encourage diverse, self-sustaining, and economically viable communities that are essential to building a peaceful, just, and equitable world.

Peace through Justice

WHERE ARE
 THEY NOW?

Occupy Our Homes Atlanta

In 2015 PDF supported **Occupy Our Homes Atlanta (OOHA)** with a \$5,000 grant for their housing justice initiatives. OOHA grew out of the Occupy Movement that garnered international press when activists occupied Zuccotti Park near Wall Street in the fall of 2011 to call attention to economic inequality. OOHA is a member-led force, dedicated to building power in Metro Atlanta neighborhoods heavily impacted by the housing crisis. They've consistently mobilized communities around critical issues like foreclosures, evictions, and tenant rights, emphasizing leadership development and non-violent direct action.



“Housing injustice takes many forms, but is often the result of unequal and unjust ordinances, development, legislation and financial policies that only look to profits of the one percent instead of the needs of the 99 percent,” stated OOHA Coordinator, Jackie Rodriguez (2015).

Their investigation into Blackstone’s (Wall Street Investor Group) large-scale acquisition of Atlanta homes revealed the devastating effects of corporate landlords on local communities. The report they published about this research in 2014 entitled, “Blackstone: Atlanta’s Newest Landlord”, not only highlighted the destabilization of families but also sparked similar research efforts

in other cities, showcasing the power of community-driven data.

OOHA’s successes included reducing loan amounts and fines by over \$5 million, and preventing evictions, showcasing their effectiveness in direct action. They led marches, negotiated settlements, and defended small businesses, achieving an impressive 80% success rate in their cases.

Ten years later, OOHA is now the Housing Justice League (HJL) and their influence is undeniable. They have grown in size and influence, becoming a vital force in Atlanta’s political landscape, driving conversations

and policies that prioritize human needs over corporate profits. Their commitment to resident-led initiatives is exemplified by the Peoplestown Listening Project. This ongoing project, led by Peoplestown, drew upon extensive interviews and data collection to identify the most pressing housing issues within their community. By prioritizing lived experiences, HJL ensured that subsequent campaigns were directly responsive to the needs of those most affected. The project created targeted advocacy while fostering a deeper sense of community ownership and empowerment. HJL’s journey demonstrates the crucial role of seed funding in nurturing grassroots organizations. From challenging powerful interests to shaping city policy, their growth underscores the exponential impact of strategic support. ♦