



Rising Activists

November 2022

Liberty Hill is committed to supporting the work of Rising Activist organizations and emerging leaders across L.A. County.

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Rising Activists

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We have created the following docket highlighting our Rising Activists, emerging organizations who represent underrepresented communities with limited existing nonprofit infrastructure. Investments in these groups are particularly critical as low-income people of color continue to be displaced from central areas of the County to neighborhoods where fewer institutions exist to advocate for historically oppressed communities. We believe these recommendations will enable you to make an effective impact on the social justice landscape by focusing on Los Angeles County as an epicenter for social change locally and nationally.

Please note that Liberty Hill is not able to recommend partisan organizations. All organizations are 501c3 unless otherwise noted; donor-advised fund holders are able to make gifts only through your DAF to 501c3, but 501c4 organizations are also listed here for context and reference.

As your partner in philanthropy, we believe in your power and potential to make lasting change in Los Angeles and beyond. Liberty Hill offers a variety of services to maximize your philanthropic goals, while providing in-house expertise on the landscape of social change nonprofits and strategic grantmaking practices. The Liberty Hill Foundation supports our donor-advised fund (DAF) clients through philanthropic advising and research, and recommends organizations rooted in communities that have been historically overlooked by traditional philanthropy.

As the leader in progressive philanthropy, Liberty Hill brings 40-plus years of social change expertise to the table to advise you on your giving decisions and ensure that your generous gifts are making the greatest impact possible. In addition to docket research, your DAF team can provide tools and opportunities to learn with peers through online discussions, strategic philanthropy workshops, and giving circles, such as the XX Fund for gender justice and equality, or the BLACC Fund for supporting emerging organizations in Black communities. Liberty Hill takes the guesswork out of giving, helping you make smart philanthropic decisions that will make the greatest impact.

If you are interested in learning more or opening a DAF with Liberty Hill, you can read more on our website [here](#) or contact advancement@libertyhill.org.

API Equality-LA (f/s Community Partners)



API Equality-LA changes institutional/government policies or practices that impact the mental health care of the API LGBTQ+ community with a focus on fostering resources and care without surveillance and policing. Founded in 2005, API Equality-LA is an LGBTQ rights and racial justice organization that primarily focuses on grassroots organizing and power building to affect change. Although their efforts are generally based in LA County, their base has expanded outward throughout the pandemic due to virtual programming. Their social change work is primarily done through organizing, policy advocacy, and public education. API Equality-LA have been focused on integrating members in a mental health and wellness campaign called Transforming Community Care (TCC), cultivating relationships with other API LGBTQ+ organizations and community members by joining the Behavioral Health Equity Collaborative (BHEC), and advocating for the LA County Department of Mental Health to address service gaps for APIs and intersectional cultural competency. Through TCC, they created a digital dashboard to process recent community events/incidents, held multiple support spaces and social events, created a texting pen pal program called Budding Connections, grew their base by about 100 people, and incorporated quarterly week-long breaks for staff. BHEC, folded under their TCC campaign, is a longer 2-year initiative to develop a statewide policy to improve mental health access to BIPOC communities.

California Native Vote Project (f/s Community Partners)



California Native Vote Project advances organizing, civic engagement and advocacy, and youth education to improve the health of Native American communities in California. California Native Vote Project (CNVP) started doing voter engagement work for the 2016 election to reach disenfranchised, Native, and indigenous voters in California, and have grown since that time to develop a youth organizing presence throughout LA County to build political power for Native peoples. The LA region has one of the largest urban Native populations in the country, and yet is often under-resourced by municipal, state, and federal governments, as well as the philanthropic sector. In addition to direct outreach to tribal communities, CNVP also leverages partnerships with California Indian Tribes and Native-led nonprofits throughout California and the US, and is also a part of several statewide multi-racial, multi-issue tables, including Youth Organize California, Power California and California Calls. They partner with the California Consortium on Urban Indian Health on the Native power building and health indicators report and are seeking to develop more partnerships with Tribal partners on narrative change campaign on Native health needs through the California Indian Manpower Consortium.

Chinatown Community for Equitable Development

(f/s Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California)



Chinatown Community for Equitable Development (CCED) builds grassroots power with low-income and immigrant communities through organizing, education, and mutual help. CCED is an all-volunteer organization working with Asian and Latinx immigrant residents and small business owners, founded in March 2012 to fight the opening of a Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market in Los Angeles Chinatown. CCED drives

institutional change and ensures all Chinatown residents have housing security with a focus on eviction defense, rent relief/cancellation, and the advocacy for affordable housing. Additionally, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, CCED is currently engaged in mutual aid work to transport produce, meals, and essential household supplies to low-income residents. While centering systemic violence that Chinatown is facing as a community of poor and working class POC, CCED shines a light on Chinatown community members as organized, powerful, and vocal in demanding the Chinatown they want to live in.

Community Power Collective (f/s Right to the City Alliance, Inc.)



Community Power Collective continues to build on past success in tenant rights, equitable development, community control of land and housing, and economic opportunities for street vendors. They organize around four primary work areas: Propagating Cultural Power to provoke critical analysis with and of their community's cultural convening practices as sites for the facilitation of power and cooperation; Development from the Roots to organize tenants, transit riders, mariachis, and small businesses, impacted by land use policies and development in their communities, to ensure they have a voice in shaping their built environment; Tierras Comunitarias/Community Lands takes lessons learned from civil rights leaders in the South of the U.S., freedom fighters from all over the world, and mothers in the LA community to develop a community land trust and cooperative practices as a form of thriving; and Street Vendor Justice to organize street vendors across the City and County of Los Angeles to build power to win their right to vend without criminalization.

Filipino Migrant Center



Filipino Migrant Center (FMC) organizes low-income Filipino workers, especially those in healthcare, food service, and grocery stores. They will work for an empowered Filipino community actively engaged in the movement for local and global justice. FMC aims to educate, organize, and mobilize the low-income and working-class families of the Filipino community in Southern California and address the issues and concerns that they face in their daily lives. Since 2021, one of the key campaigns they have been working on is the passage of SB 321 to ensure domestic workers are given the same Cal-OSHA rights and protections as other workers in California since domestic workers are currently excluded from these laws. A large part of their base is comprised of caregivers, which is a common occupation for Filipinos especially those who are undocumented. Furthermore, FMC is working with a Filipino researcher at UCLA to conduct a community needs assessment specifically for low-income Filipinos to show the need for organizing and advocacy within the Filipino community.

Gender Justice LA (f/s Community Partners)



Gender Justice LA works for health justice through community building, cultural organizing, education, policy change, and community-led research. Gender Justice LA is a grassroots social justice organization led by and for gender non-conforming, two-spirit people. GJLA uses community organizing and leadership development to make concrete changes in the lives of all trans people, especially low-income trans

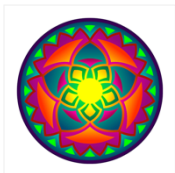
people of color. They seek to build community power to fight for racial, social, and economic justice. GJLA joined Trans Latin@ Coalition as the co-leads/ co-sponsors of AB 2218 - The Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund, a bill that is leading the efforts to invest in trans lives across the state of California. They utilize the power of the California TGI Policy Alliance (CPTA) to take a coalition approach to advance TGI Policy change. AB2218 was just passed and funding of \$15 million is the process of being requested for the initiative.

Gente Organizada



Gente Organizada builds intergenerational power and wellness for low-income and working-class families of color in Pomona with a focus on youth criminalization, public safety, mental health, and education equity. Established in 2014, Gente Organizada (Gente) is a Latino-led social justice nonprofit organization with a mission to build intergenerational power and wellness for low-income and working-class families of color in Pomona. They provide the tools, resources, and other means of support for youth and parents to identify the significant issues in their community and execute campaigns aimed at changing the underlying policies, practices, regulations, and laws that create and/or maintain those community issues. Through Gente's main social action groups — the youth-led Pomona Students Union (PSU) and the parent-led Padres Unidos de Pomona — community members initiate, develop, and execute organizing campaigns that seek to address systemic barriers related to race, economic status, immigration status, sexual orientation and identity, gender and gender identity, and more. For instance, Gente joined the ACLU of Southern California in August 2020 in filing a lawsuit charging the PPD of unlawfully using public funds and employee time to adopt policies and training designed by police lobbying groups and conflict with a new state law.

Indigenous Pride Los Angeles (f/s SSG, Inc/APAIT)



Indigenous Pride Los Angeles (IPLA) - was founded on the belief that centering the voices and leadership of indigenous peoples is critical in shifting policies and practices locally on Tongva Land (Los Angeles), across the state of California and throughout turtle island. IPLA is a newer organization that grew out of Gender Justice LA, a long-standing local leader on trans rights, but is growing rapidly which speaks to the need and desire for IPLA to exist and be at the forefront to build solidarity between Indigenous Two-Spirit (2S), LGBTQIA+ people in LA, and movement work at large. Starting with an Indigenous Pride event, IPLA is expanding into policy work to develop practices rooted in Indigenous ways. Their current focus is creating a program and campaign that advocates for cultural humility in mental health practices, ensuring everyone has access to resources that culturally inclusive. Culturally affirming services are often few and geographically very far apart, limiting their accessibility. IPLA has partnered with Gender Justice LA to bring in a political framing and leadership development component to their work. IPLA aims to increase representation in powerful spaces, but they are not a traditional organizing or advocacy group. According to the Native American Indian Commission (NAIC), the City of Los Angeles holds the second largest percentage of Native Americans in the United States, totaling around 54,236 people and Los Angeles County is home to more Native Americans/ Alaska Natives than any other county in the United States, (140,764 people).

Long Beach Residents Empowered (f/s Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs)



Long Beach Residents Empowered (LiBRE) shapes policies for tenant protections for low income and BIPOC tenants by eliminating substantial rehabilitation as a basis of eviction, advocating for a local rental cap, supporting right to counsel, encouraging cooperative home ownership, and organizing for affordable housing. LiBRE has won significant policy change in Long beach despite their leadership transition, thanks in part of their strong relationships with Long Beach City Council staff and their participation in local coalitions. Their recent wins include: Local Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance, Temporary Eviction Protections due to COVID-19. LiBRE's 2022 priorities included advocating for local cooperative home ownership models, finding permanent funding sources for affordable housing, and continuing to engage in Stay Housed LA.

Los Angeles Center for Community Law and Action



Los Angeles Center for Community Law and Action (LACCLA) combats exploitative and discriminatory economic practices and prevents the displacement of low-income people from their neighborhoods. They address mass displacement with the expiration of eviction moratoria across the county. LACCLA has been involved in three primary campaigns in 2021: fighting for temporary eviction protections in LA City and LA County, fighting for a Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (TAHO), and Reclaiming Our Homes. Each campaign has been successful. Healthy LA, the coalition fighting for temporary eviction protections in LA County and LA City, won emergency protections during the COVID-19 emergency. Reclaiming Our Homes successfully negotiated the transfer of empty homes to the El Sereno Community Land Trust. LACCLA is also implementing a new type of community eviction defense, which builds collective power by centering member coaches' lived expertise in eviction defense and provides a framework for skill sharing, leadership development, and social and emotional support within the LACCLA membership.

Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (f/s National Day Laborer Organizing Network)



Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP!) outreaches to Pasadenans on the POP! priority issues: education reform, police practices, workers' rights, housing, and immigrant rights, pivoting as need arises. POP! emerged from a successful 2015-2016 minimum wage campaign that, for the first time, brought together community, faith-based, labor and political groups representing the cross section of racial and ethnic groups in the city. Progressive coalitions have been rare in Pasadena, which has a relatively conservative City Council and a tradition of not attending to issues of social justice. POP!'s long term goal is to reverse this trend, beginning with strategic organizing campaigns and leadership development from communities not now represented in the City. POP! is focused on working with historically marginalized people in Pasadena. In collaboration with grassroots leaders and partner organizations, POP! aims to empower the people of Pasadena who are unrepresented in positions of power, specifically Pasadenans within the Northwest area. The Northwest area of Pasadena is dense with Black, Latinx working class families, and undocumented residents and presents a valuable

opportunity for organizing. POP! utilizes an inside outside strategy in its focus areas of education, police reform, workers' rights, immigrant rights, and housing.

Rideshare Drivers United (f/s New York Taxi Drivers Alliance Inc.)



Rideshare Drivers United pushes lawmakers to create laws to protect rights of app-based workers, and build a new model for organizing in the "gig" economy. Rideshare Drivers United has been organizing drivers and riders of app-based transportation services since 2017, when they reacted to changes in fare rates by tech companies which dropped driver rates by over 50%. They have been doing significant organizing work locally, nationally, and occasionally internationally primarily through their volunteer base. They are targeting a niche and emerging labor market of primarily low-income individuals of color who have turned to app-based driving as a necessary source of income. When tech companies disrupted the traditional transportation based economic market by introducing "gig-economy" based driving, they structured their business in ways that have bypassed traditional driver unions and skirted labor rights. They have spent the last few years fighting a goliath battle against tech-based transportation companies such as Uber and Lyft for basic recognition of labor rights and reclassification as full-time or part-time employees rather than independent contractors. They played a significant role in advocating for the passage of AB5 in 2019 and in advocating against Prop 22 in 2020.

Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples

(f/s Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management)



Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous People (SPI) is an Indigenous-led organization located in the ancestral homelands of the Tongva People in Los Angeles. Originally founded in 2012, SPI works with Indigenous-identifying communities at a local, regional, and global level in order to advance environmental, social, and cultural justice and build the capacity of Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples to protect sacred lands and waters. SPI is a key leader and active member in various regional and local efforts centered around climate and environmental justice. As an organization, SPI applies Indigenous knowledge and worldviews to environmental justice policy and advocacy work, and runs several programs to build capacity of indigenous leaders to protect their sacred lands, waters, and cultures. Throughout 2021, SPI focused on building the capacity of Native Nations with ancestral homelands in urban areas to develop climate resiliency and adaptation plans and ensuring that Indigenous priorities, including Indigenous-led land return and restoration, are a part of local and state conversations around Just Transition. Most recently, SPI launched a three-year Indigenous Land Use Planning and Rematriation Project, which seeks to directly empower tribal governments and community leaders to identify and advance community-driven land and water planning goals. Rematriation is a concept that Indigenous women-led organizations use to talk about the practice of restoring a people to their rightful place in sacred relationship with their ancestral land.

SALVA



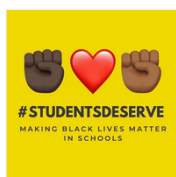
SALVA organizes and builds partnerships to bring attention to the needs of Latino, mixed status families, and undocumented individuals in the Palmdale area. SALVA was founded out of a need to provide additional support services to the primarily Latinx communities in the Antelope Valley. They have a special focus and emphasis on serving the Latinx and immigrant population in the Palmdale/Lancaster region of Los Angeles County. Much of their work includes direct service work which serves to empower and resource their target population of primarily Latinx and Spanish speaking constituents. They offer several direct services including DACA, Deportation Defense and “Know Your Rights” workshops. They also offer literacy and citizenship classes. Their primary organizing targets are to continue to elevate a serious knowledge and outreach gap in the Antelope Valley around COVID-19 resources for the monolingual Spanish speaking community and to address inequity in access to social services in the region.

Southeast Asian Community Alliance



Southeast Asian Community Alliance (SEACA), launched in 2002, was founded on the principle of inclusion, and from the beginning, has been guided by a belief that individuals can improve and build power in their own communities. The organization was started due to a lack of resources targeting the needs of Southeast Asians. Now, SEACA is on the frontlines of gentrification, displacement, and public health crises in Chinatown and DTLA. Since the pandemic began, they have stretched as an organization to provide both services and organizing to their community. SEACA leads the Central City United coalition that created the People’s Plan for Downtown LA. The plan aims to reverse decades of racist planning practices that left DTLA as a containment zone for poor Asian immigrants and unhoused residents, who now risk displacement as the City remakes downtown into a “world-class city.” SEACA has been instrumental in providing public health information and services to low-income residents in Chinatown. When the pandemic began, SEACA saw that the County response did not include translated materials or outreach plans to reach low-income elders with tech barriers in their community. SEACA set up bi-weekly distributions of produce, hot meals, PPE, and public health information in 4 languages.

Students Deserve (f/s Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs)



Students Deserve pushes for a Police-Free LAUSD and oversees the implementation of the Black Student Achievement Plan. Students Deserve is working towards Making Black Lives Matter in Schools through having schools divest from criminalization and policing. They want schools to invest in their students as Black, Muslim, undocumented, indigenous, and queer youth in poor and working-class communities of color. At the start of June 2020, Students Deserve and Black Lives Matter LA took the lead in initiating a coalition of over 50 organizations to demand an immediate Defunding of LA School Police. Through massive pressure driven by Black students in Students Deserve, they secured a historic victory on June 30, 2020: Students Deserve pushed LAUSD to divest 25 million dollars from the LA School Police Department and pledge to reinvest that money into support services for

Black students. On Feb. 16th, 2021, and after months of organizing led by Black students, the School Board voted to direct the \$25 million cut from the Los Angeles School Police budget and an additional \$11 million into a Black Student Achievement Plan.

The Community Action League



The Community Action League (TCAL) improves the communications of criminal justice reforms and advances a shared narrative around transforming the criminal justice system in the Antelope Valley. TCAL aims to improve the communications of criminal justice reforms and advance a shared narrative around transforming the criminal justice system in the Antelope Valley. TCAL believes that civilian oversight is necessary to improve police/community relationships in the AV, where there has been a history of excessive force used by the Sheriff's Department. TCAL has a program called Jump Start to Success that is geared towards 14 to 26 year olds teaching them about self-empowerment, anger management, relationship building, goal setting, career development, business, and wealth building. Currently, TCAL is in negotiations to put this program in high schools where it will serve as a way for students to be let back into school or receive credit. Under the California Black Freedom Fund, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation is supporting TCAL's Next Black Leader Project (NBL Project) which aims to build political literacy and a deep understanding of the democratic system in Black youth. The NBL Project will recruit 500 young leaders each year, providing them with foundational experiences and skills that will foster an understanding of the political process, while building networks to encourage continued engagement.

Vigilant Love (f/s Community Partners)



Vigilant Love approaches much of their organizing and campaign work with an intersectional lens to combat Islamophobia and POC communities. They bring together arts, healing, campaign advocacy in their organizing work. An example of this is their 2021 Solidarity Arts Fellowship that brought together Japanese and Muslim youth to explore how community art can be used as a tool for community transformation. They were actively engaged in their #ServicesNotSurveillance Campaign, an effort to sever ties between local police enforcement, the Department of Mental Health Services and Homeland Security. Programs such as the Department of Homeland Security's Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) program have been utilized to disproportionately target Muslim and POC communities and are implemented through strategic coordination and collaboration of local police departments, and departments of mental health with DHS.