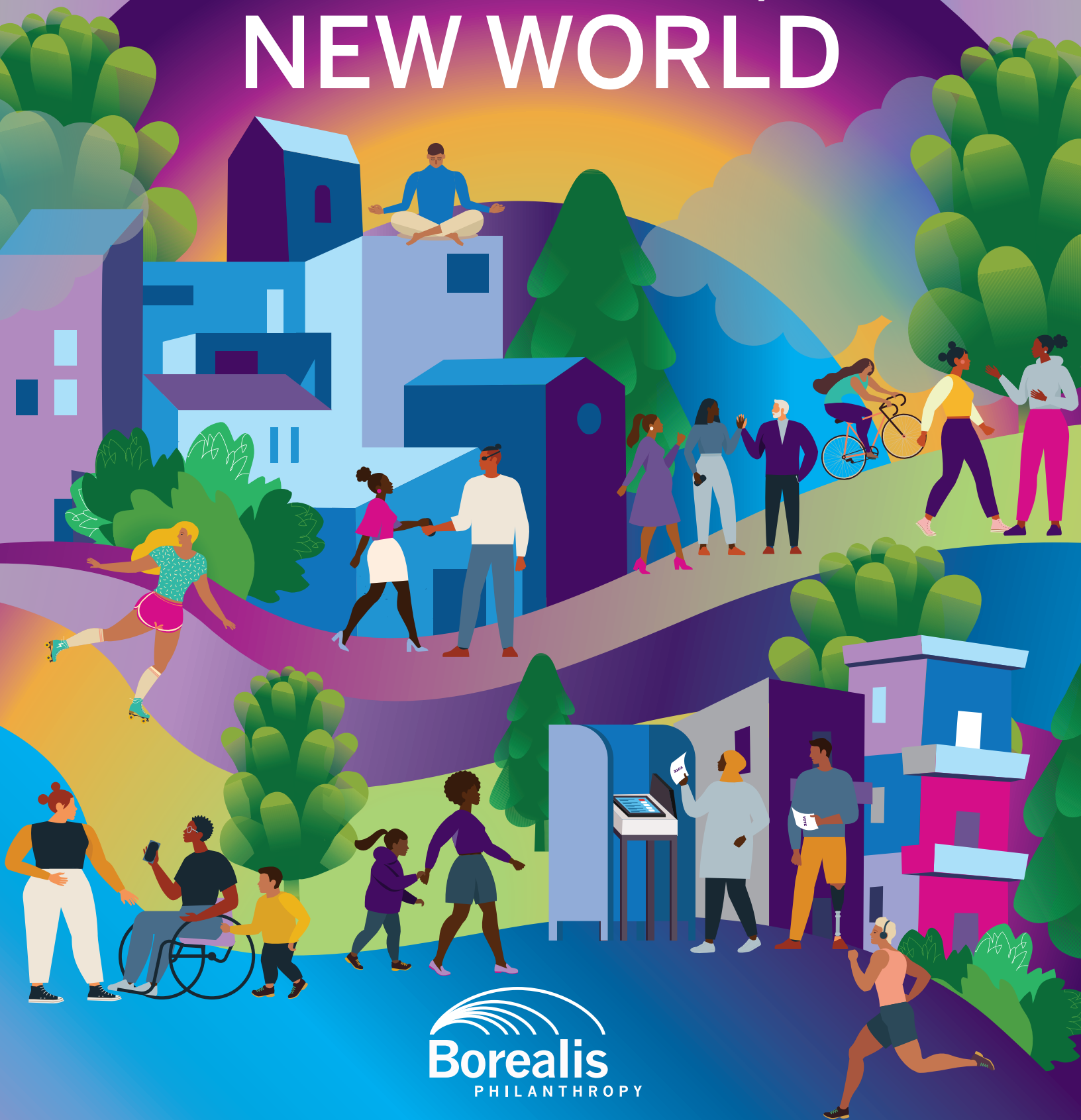


# A WHOLE, NEW WORLD



## 2024 Annual Report

# A WHOLE, NEW WORLD

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From Our President.....	3
Our Impact in 2024.....	6
Grantee Partners in Action.....	8
Borealis Funds in Review .....	10
Black-Led Movement Fund.....	11
Communities Transforming Policing Fund .....	12
Disability Inclusion Fund.....	13
Emerging LGBTQ Leaders of Color Fund.....	14
Fund for Trans Generations .....	15
Racial Equity to Accelerate Change Fund.....	16
Racial Equity in Journalism Fund .....	17
Racial Equity in Philanthropy Fund .....	18
Spark Justice Fund.....	19
This Moment is Urgent. It's Time to Act. Together.....	20
Resources.....	21



# LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## DEAR COMMUNITY,

2025 finds Borealis Philanthropy celebrating ten years providing critical resources to grassroots movements and organizations working for **necessary, enduring, transformative change.**

It's hard to believe how much we've witnessed—and, accordingly, moved to accomplish in community—over this time. We have proudly resourced countless grassroots groups protecting the rights of our queer and trans, disabled, migrant, and BIPOC siblings, all while braving serious attacks from the right.



Through all of this—responding to movement needs as well as the demands of accountable funder partnerships—Borealis has grown from a single fund to nine distinct but collaborative funds. And the evolution continues, as we deepen clarity and collaboration, and reimagine the possibilities of our programmatic work, and cross-movement initiatives, supporting grassroots organizers to both build and defend a **whole, new world.** This continued transformation is **one of our greatest forms of accountability.**

## Building for the Future

As an organization, we've strengthened our muscles around participatory grantmaking. We've provided invaluable resources to funders inviting them to consider more expansive grantmaking models and evaluation paradigms. We've convened grassroots brilliance and donor organizers to align, co-create, and vision. And most importantly—**since our inception we've moved over \$200 million to communities on the frontlines of movements for love, equity, and ultimately, liberation and justice for all.**

These are no small feats. **At Borealis Philanthropy, we wear every accomplishment we've achieved through partnership with our donors and grantees as badges of honor because we know the sweat, hustle, and radical dedication this work requires—particularly given the roadblocks our movement partners face daily.**

For the past couple of years, we have witnessed:

- Significant decreases in giving to grassroots organizations, particularly those who boldly call out white supremacy and organize on issues across race, gender, sexuality and disability;
- Growing and calculated attacks from extremists against our partners - and even against us—for remaining steadfast to our values, and funding the work of justice and mutual care; and
- Very real and existential threats to our democracy, and the safety, well-being, and sheer existence of our communities.

And today, it's an understatement to say the way our lives have shifted since the 2024 election has shaken many of us, terrorized our most vulnerable populations, and even given some of our funder partners pause.

**Still, we remain—as we have for the last decade—committed to building a whole new world filled with justice and belonging for all. And as we move forward, we're clarifying our vision through intentional, amplified accompliceship.**

**Will you co-create with us by contributing your vision to Borealis' 2025 State of the Sector Survey?**

## 2025 State of the Sector Share

### Here's what we know is possible:

A world where everyone's needs are met; where **wealth is distributed equitably among those most in need**; a world where people have **autonomy over their bodies**; where we may teach our children the truth of the past; where **queer and trans kids may grow to become healthy, proud adults**; where **accessibility and inclusion is prioritized for all**; where **police terror is replaced by community safety and belonging**. In this world, we all experience sovereignty over ourselves, communities, and lands. We feel held with care by our neighbors and by the systems that we've co-created to serve us. **Joy is abundant, and rest is no longer a luxury reserved for those with greater positional power.** This world will be for the organizers and the

**“The dream is real,  
my friends.  
The failure to  
make it work  
is the unreality.”**

— TONI CADE BAMBARA



community leaders, the parents and children, the aunts and uncles. **It will be for us all.**

## Resourcing a Whole, New World

The world we want is possible; and every day, our grantee partners are working to make it a reality. We are deeply proud and humbled to support their efforts and visions. But we, nor they, can do it alone. **To ensure the safety and prosperity of our communities—and to support today’s leaders navigating the uncertainty and antagonism of this moment—philanthropy must show up.**

Organizers want philanthropy in formation.

And we need our entire sector’s input to guide us toward greater coordination.

**What would happen if philanthropy moved in lock step from this moment forward?** Could we keep community safety alive? Fuel rapid mass mobilizations? Stabilize the infrastructure of our democracy? We can only know through **creating more together.**

The thing about building something we’ve never seen before is that it requires time, experimentation, and faith. And it requires, simply: more—of everything. We need bigger, more strengthened partnerships. We need longer term funding—decades at a time. We need to come together, become curious about what we don’t know, and open ourselves to new ideas and possibilities.

And it is this commitment to curiosity and community that will ultimately enable us to fund the **audacious dreams and radical collective imaginings** capable of expanding our very notions of **freedom, resilience, power, safety, and belonging.**

And so this year—our tenth in existence—we invite you to join us not only in looking back at all we’ve accomplished, but also in visioning for the decade ahead. If we act together, a new world is possible.

Onward,

*Annoretta Morris*

PRESIDENT, BOREALIS PHILANTHROPY

**May we choose it.**

# OUR IMPACT IN 2024

\*\*Unaudited numbers.  
The numbers reported only include grants awarded in 2024 to be dispersed over 2024 and beyond.



**\$37.2M**

TOTAL GRANTMAKING\*

\*Does not include grantee benefits



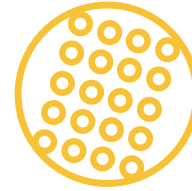
**\$2.9M**

IN RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS



**79%**

UNRESTRICTED GRANTS



**444**

GRANTEE PARTNERS



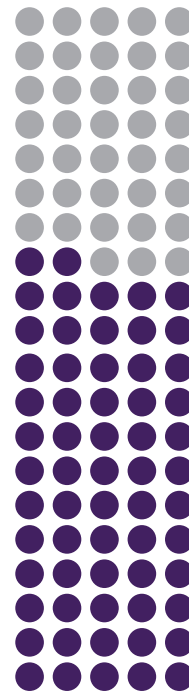
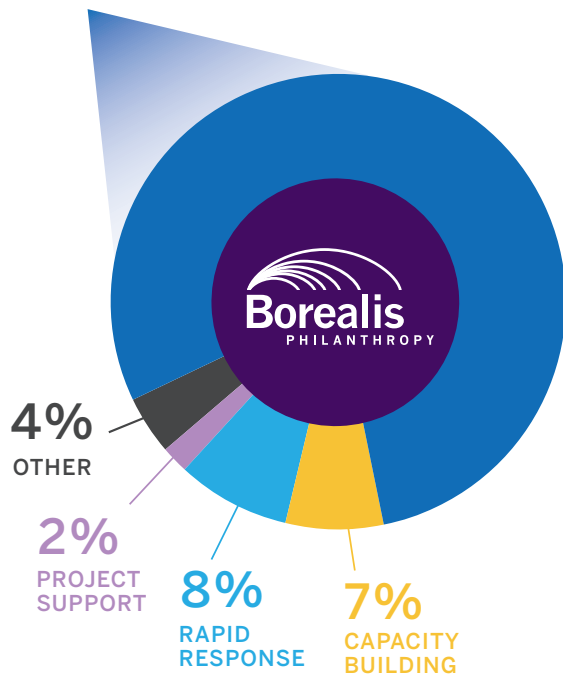
**552**

GRANTS

## Our Grants Were Flexible

**79%**

UNRESTRICTED



**62%**

OF GRANTEE BUDGETS WERE UNDER \$1 MILLION

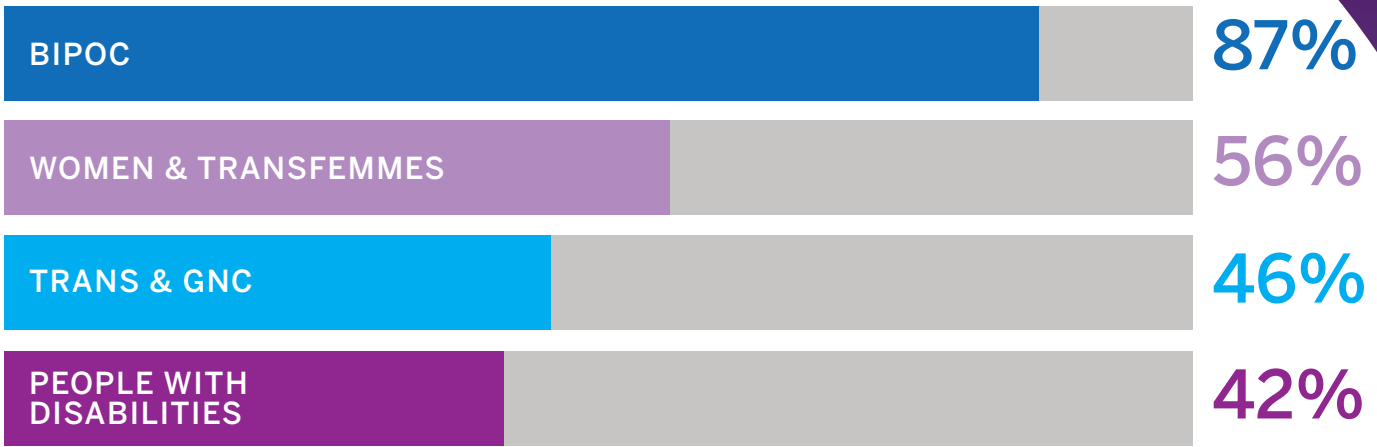


**77%**

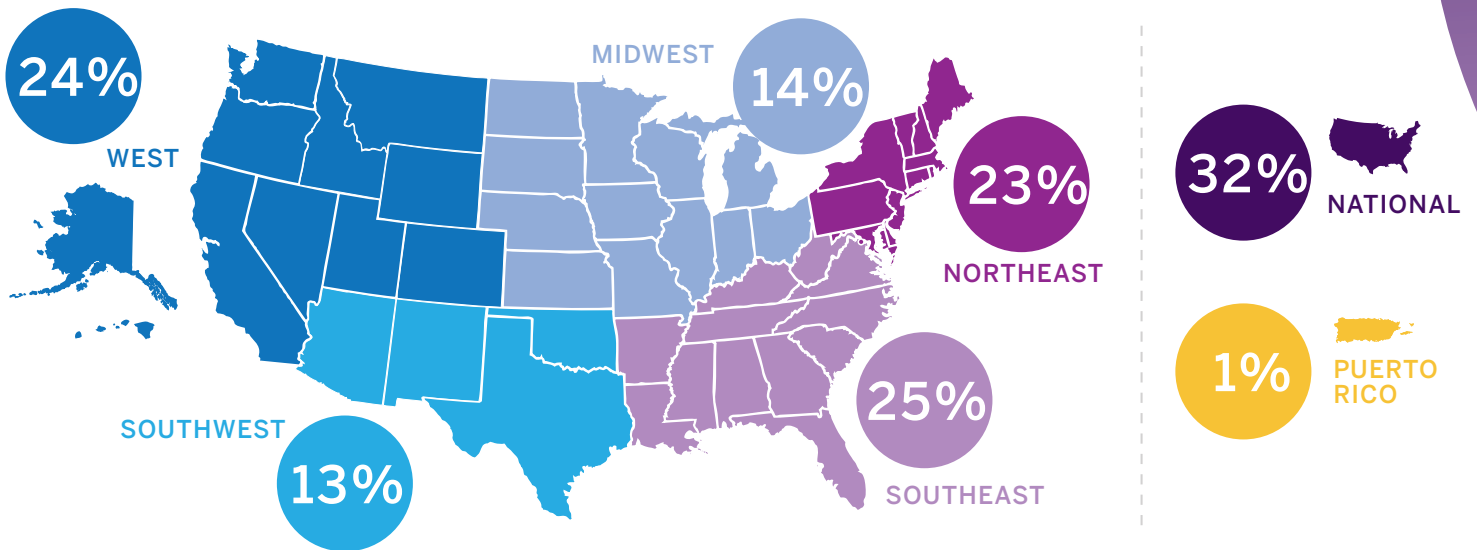
OF GRANTEE PARTNERS FOCUSED ON ORGANIZING AND ADVOCACY

# Grantee Leadership

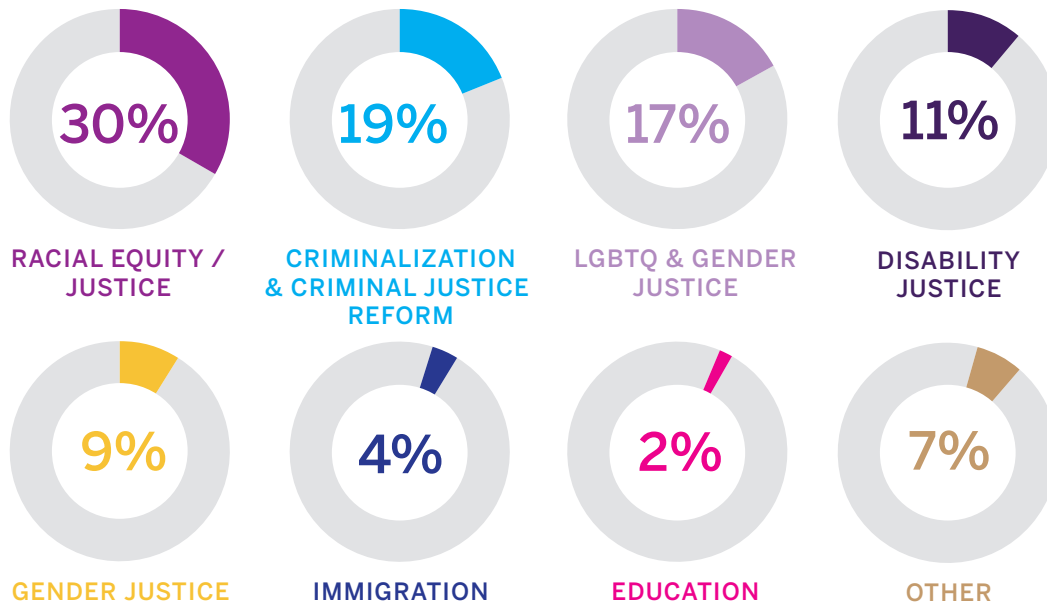
Self-reported data from grantee partners



## We Supported Grassroots Groups in Every Region



## Grantee Partner Issue Areas



# GRANTEE PARTNERS IN ACTION

In addition to organizing on the streets and within their communities, our grantee partners have been incredibly active on social media showcasing their efforts toward our collective liberation. Here, we share some social highlights from one of each of our fund's grantee partners, which represent the transformative work we support.



**Black-Led Movement Fund (BLMF)** grantee partner Project South is organizing and supporting communities working on frontlines across the U.S. South. [LEARN MORE](#)

**Communities Transforming Policing Fund (CTPF)** grantee partner Healthy and Free Tennessee is growing a movement for repro justice, pushing back against and building new systems that meet the needs of communities in TN. [LEARN MORE](#)



**Disability Inclusion Fund (DIF)** grantee partner Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund is advancing the civil and human rights of people with disabilities through legal advocacy, training, education, and public policy and legislative development. [LEARN MORE](#)

**Emerging LGBTQ Leaders of Color (ELLC) Fund** grantee partner Bold Futures leads policy change, research, place-based organizing, and culture shift by and for women and people of color in New Mexico. [LEARN MORE](#)





**Fund for Trans Generations (FTG)** grantee partner Trans formative Schools is a team of trans and queer teachers working with our students to co-construct a school centering trans joy and social justice. [LEARN MORE](#)



Relational Tending  
for the Movement  
Ecosystem

eeortcoop

**Racial Equity to Accelerate Change (REACH) Fund** grantee partner Anti-Oppression Resource & Training Alliance is a team of facilitators, coaches and consultants strengthening our movements for justice. [LEARN MORE](#)



**Racial Equity in Journalism (REJ) Fund** grantee partner Migrant Roots Media is a multilingual, multimedia platform that seeks to unearth the root causes of planetary migration. [LEARN MORE](#)



**Racial Equity in Philanthropy (REP) Fund** grantee partner Asian Americans / Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy expands and mobilizes resources for Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander communities to build a more just and equitable society. [LEARN MORE](#)

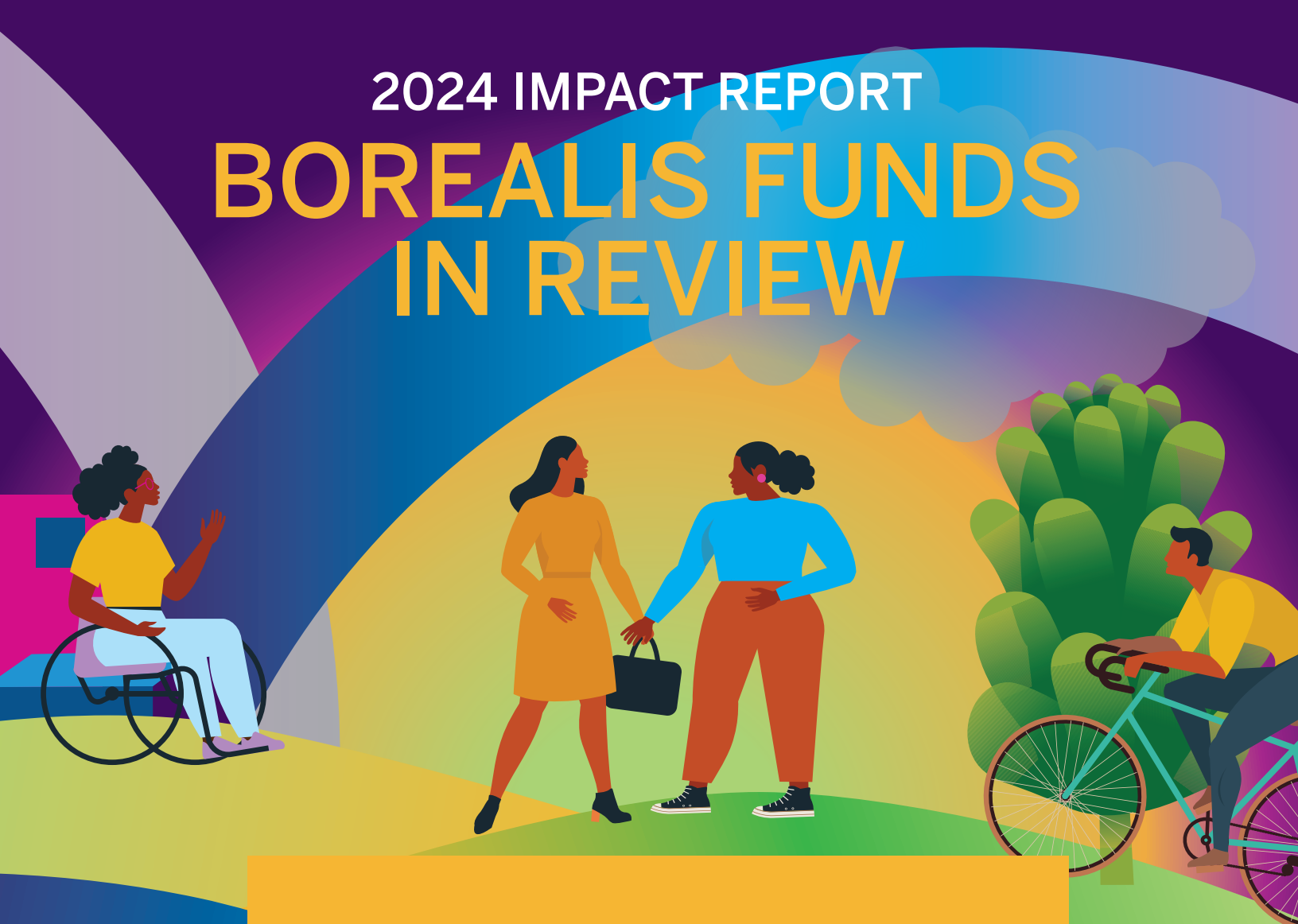


**Spark Justice Fund (SJF)** grantee partner Free Alas trains educators to connect undocumented students with legal representation and advocates for students to remain in schools instead of being in jail during the pre-trial period. [LEARN MORE](#)




# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

# BOREALIS FUNDS IN REVIEW



**BOREALIS PHILANTHROPY** is a philanthropic intermediary working to advance the impact of our movements across the country. We focus on a range of social justice issues, including Black-led movement work, disability inclusion and justice, uplifting the dignity and respect of queer and trans communities, and invest in leaders, organizations, and movements using diverse and innovative strategies to pursue transformational change.



# Black-Led Movement Fund

The Black-Led Movement Fund (BLMF) supports the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) and other politically aligned organizations to better shape policy agendas for Black communities, create alternatives to institutions that have been harmful to Black people, and build local Black community power.

## 2024 FUND HIGHLIGHTS

**\$7.46M** distributed in general operating support

**\$839K** in rapid response grants

**121** grantee partners

### RESOURCE

[Black Disabled Liberation: A Case for Funding](#)  
[Cross-Movement Power](#)



BLMF GRANTEE PARTNER  
**Comfrey Films**

In 2024, the BLMF had one of its biggest years in grantmaking yet. In the midst of a funding cliff, with Black-led grassroots organizations impacted by the [philanthropic sector shifting strategy and dollars](#) away from racial justice work, the **BLMF remained steadfast and resolute on its priority to support Black wisdom and solutions.**

**The Fund moved nearly \$7.46 million in general operating and rapid response grants to 121 Black-led grantee partners.** BLMF grantees are organizing across a range of intersectional areas—food systems, arts and culture, prison industrial complex abolition, sex worker decriminalization, workers’ rights, electoral, environmental, disability, and gender justice work, and so much more.

For the second year in a row, the Fund’s grantmaking cycle was guided by the wisdom and leadership of a participatory grantmaking committee comprised of Black artists, organizers, educators, and advocates from across the country. The BLMF also prioritized intersectional and anti-ableist grantmaking, and worked in partnership with the Disability Inclusion Fund to launch the Black Disabled Liberation Project, a \$1 million co-funding initiative to resource at the overlapping gap and intersections of disability and Blackness.

## 2024 GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

[Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees](#) celebrated the fruits of their labor when Temporary Protective Status (TPS) was Re-Designated for Haiti on June 28, 2024. TPS will support the 190,000 Haitians that already had the status allowing them to extend, but it protects another estimated 300,000 Haitian asylum seekers from deportation. The [Yellowhammer Fund](#) is now one of the only frontline groups holding down the front lines of abortion access and health care in Alabama, where it is now illegal to have an abortion. And [Comfrey Films](#) began work on “Under False Colors,” a film by Director In Residence, Mickaela Bradford that employed more than 40 Black TGNCI community members as creators, staff and contractors.





## Communities Transforming Policing Fund

The **Communities Transforming Policing Fund (CTPF)** supports small and emerging grassroots organizing groups led by people most impacted by policing to create collective narrative and energy to shift power and resources from police to communities and create safety for all.

## 2024 FUND HIGHLIGHTS

**\$5.16M** distributed in general operating support

**\$519K** in rapid response grants

**\$300K** for healing justice and holistic security through the Movement Protection Fund

**61** grantee partners

### RESOURCE

[Warning Signs for Philanthropy: The Authoritarian Crackdown on Social Movements](#)



CTPF GRANTEE PARTNER  
**Alliance for Educational Justice**

Last year, the CTPF furthered this commitment by **moving nearly \$5.16 million in general operating grants and rapid response grants to 61 groups** working to end criminalization, increase police accountability, reimagine transformative public safety strategies, and build healthy, healed communities. For a third consecutive year, the CTPF leaned on the leadership of its participatory grantmaking committee members—11 advocates, organizers, and storytellers representing BIPOC, disabled, and LGBTQ+ communities that have been impacted by policing and the criminal justice system.

In August, the CTPF team joined hundreds of activists, community members, and family members in Ferguson, MO **to commemorate the life and legacy of Michael Brown Jr.**, on the 10-year anniversary of his death. Shortly thereafter the team hosted Healing Towards the Future, a conversation on the promise, pain, and healing associated with collective organizing to end state violence. The Fund also continued its collaborative work with the Black-Led Movement Fund to redefine philanthropic impact and evaluation processes through the **Movement-Defined Learning Project**. The **CTPF also continues to push back against the criminalization and political prosecution** of protesters and movement groups through supporting the long-term legal defense of organizers and fortifying movement groups against safety and security threats.

## 2024 GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Due to the advocacy of the **Southern Movement Committee**, an **Office of Youth Safety was established in the city of Nashville**. This office will focus on teaching conflict resolution skills and restorative justice practices to the youth of Nashville. In June, CTPF grantee partner **Fund for Empowerment's** lawsuit against the Phoenix Police Department was vindicated when the U.S. Department of Justice **released a report on how the Phoenix Police Department violated the rights of unhoused people**. The report marks the first time a civil rights investigation into police practices found that the civil and constitutional rights of homeless people were violated.



The Disability Inclusion Fund (DIF) supports U.S. groups led by people with disabilities to achieve disability justice, inclusion, and rights. Its principles and practices are drawn from disabled-led movements to build power and a society that is free of ableism and other discriminatory barriers.

## 2024 FUND HIGHLIGHTS

**\$5.25M** distributed in general operating support

**\$142K** in rapid response grants

**75** grantee partners

### RESOURCES

[Black Disabled Liberation: A Case for Funding Cross-Movement Power](#)

[On Work, and Cross-Movement Organizing: A Conversation with Nikki Brown-Booker and Yolanda Vargas](#)



DIF GRANTEE PARTNER  
**New Disabled South**

**Last year, the DIF announced DIF awarded \$5.25 million in grants to 75 disabled-led organizations and visionaries who are advancing disability justice, rights, and innovative technologies to build joyful futures free of ableism.** The DIF continued support for returning grantees and welcomed 15 new organizations, focused in the areas of climate justice, media and storytelling, and economic empowerment, reflecting the DIF's commitment to long-term power building and nurturing emerging leaders. **2024's awards also included \$700,000 to nine organizations through the DIF x Tech Fund**, a partnership with the Ford Foundation and MacArthur Foundation to bring about transformational change at the intersections of disability rights, justice, and technology.

The DIF also continues to prioritize intersectional giving through the [Black Disabled Project](#), a \$1 million co-funding initiative with the Black-Led Movement Fund. The Fund also prioritized bringing all of its grantees together in the first ever Disability Inclusion Fund Grantee Convening in May in Chicago.

## 2024 GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

[Generation Patient's advocacy efforts](#), in partnership with Senators Dick Durbin and Mike Braun resulted in the introduction of the Protecting Patients from Deceptive Drug Ads Online Act. This bipartisan bill will target deceptive or misleading health communications by social media influencers, healthcare providers, and telehealth companies. [Lachi of Recording Artists and Music Professionals with Disabilities](#) (RAMPD) was named one of USA Today's 2024 Women of the Year for her talent and pushing the music industry to open doors for disabled musicians. And [Detroit Disability Power](#) assembled a comprehensive guide to accessible voting to equip organizers in all states to mobilize and ensure disability inclusion in the electoral process.



## Emerging LGBTQ Leaders of Color Fund

The Emerging LGBTQ Leaders of Color (ELLC) Fund supports the bridging role that young LGBTQ leaders play to support movements in becoming more connected, inclusive, and thus more powerful. The Fund invests in organizations and movement leaders who understand that issues like community safety, reproductive justice, immigrant rights, and others do not exist in isolation from each other, and who carry out organizing that addresses how injustice intersects.

## 2024 FUND HIGHLIGHTS

**\$2.73M** distributed in general operating support

**\$371K** in rapid response grants

**49** grantee partners

### RESOURCE

[Rapid Response, Lasting Impact: Why Philanthropy Must Act Now](#)



ELLC GRANTEE PARTNER  
**Lavender Phoenix**

**In 2024, the ELLC Fund awarded \$2.73 million in grants to 49 leaders and organizations developing innovative and transformative approaches to organizing for queer and trans liberation, racial justice and bodily sovereignty, and other vital freedoms.** ELLC Fund grantee partners are working toward the creation of comprehensive guidance for healthcare practitioners and funders on expanding abortion access across sanctuary states, year-long organizing efforts to support the Stop Cop City movement, the creation of policy and advocacy training offerings to expand the reach of LGBTQ movement-led initiatives in advance of the upcoming election cycle, and more.

With the onslaught and continued rise of anti-trans legislation, the ELLC Fund prioritized investment in its Young Trans Women of Color (YTWOC) leadership programming, which aims to mobilize resources to support trans women of color organizing across issues and movements. In 2024 the Fund **welcomed 16 YTWOC leaders**, its largest cohort to date. With the need to respond to multiple crises, the Fund also had its largest rapid response grantmaking funding to date, **moving \$371,000 in response to escalating needs including Hurricane Helene**, the rollback of reproductive justice access, and civic engagement organizing in anticipation of the 2024 election season.

## 2024 GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, ELLC grantees organized around multiple issue areas including criminal justice, migrant justice, and trans justice. [Gender Justice LA](#) launched the TGI Safety & Security Initiative, which will provide support to trans leaders in their activism. In Wisconsin, [Freedom, Inc.](#) grantee organized to stop the \$50 million construction of a Cop City in Finchburg, WI. And Georgia based grantee, [SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW](#), launched multiple campaigns, including Fertility Justice Now and Expand Sex Education in Georgia.

# Fund for Trans Generations



The Fund for Trans Generations (FTG) invests in trans-led organizing to support a future where transgender, gender non-conforming, and nonbinary people live with freedom, safety, and self-determination.

## 2024 FUND HIGHLIGHTS

**\$2.94M** distributed in general operating support

**\$497K** in rapid response grants

**109** grantee partners

### RESOURCE

[At the Nexus of Justice: How BIPOC Trans Movements are Securing Trans Futures, Healing Trans Communities, and Advancing Liberation for All](#)



FTG GRANTEE PARTNER  
**Youth Empowerment Performance Project**

In 2024, the Fund for Trans Generations awarded \$2.94 million in flexible, general operating and rapid response support to 109 trans-led organizations, fueling their transformative work that is paving the way for a more inclusive and beautiful future for us all. FTG grantees are BIPOC trans organizers and directly impacted individuals at the forefront of responding to emergent crises, building power, and uplifting one another every step of the way. Because BIPOC trans communities have never been able to rely on the State to meet their needs, these organizations are helping to build vibrant, resilient, and transformative networks of care, even under harsh and hostile conditions.

FTG continued to build the capacity of grantee partners through one-on-one coaching and monthly group coaching sessions. The Fund also prioritized up-and-coming Black trans women leaders with the [Flower Crown Project](#), an initiative to nurture the wisdom and leadership of Black trans femmes; curate a sacred and healing space for these leaders to exist in fellowship; and bolster and align Black trans femme strategies for our collective liberation.

## 2024 GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

[Ariana's Center](#) has become a lifeline for communities in South Florida and Puerto Rico by offering comprehensive programs including general healthcare services, gender affirming care, emergency housing, supplemental financial support, HIV testing, and more. [Mirror Memoirs held a powerful Storyteller Summit](#) bringing together a group of BIPOC survivors of sexual violence for a transformative gathering rooted in connection, healing and reclamation. And [Intransitive](#), delivered expansive and life-affirming resources to trans and queers folks across Arkansas, by hosting free health and wellness events, providing youth with school supplies, and partnering with a local food rescue program to deliver fresh groceries.

# Racial Equity to Accelerate Change Fund



The Racial Equity to Accelerate Change (REACH) Fund invests in capacity builders, organizational strategists, field builders, and other variations of racial equity practitioners whose work supports the movement ecosystem to practice inclusive governance, transcend the limits of the existing nonprofit model, and arrive at more equitable outcomes for all.

## 2024 FUND HIGHLIGHTS

**\$1.915M** distributed in general operating support

**20** grantee partners

### RESOURCE

[Meeting the Moment, Keeping the Momentum: Stories of Racial Equity and Liberatory Practices from the Field](#)



REACH GRANTEE PARTNER  
**Humboldt Area Foundation**

**The Racial Equity to Accelerate Change Fund deepened its commitment to practitioner-led organizing—an essential part of the racial justice ecosystem, moving \$1.915 million to 20 grantee partners.** REACH supports those whom communities trust at critical junctures such as the one we are living in. This includes the capacity builders, healers, strategists, political educators, field builders, cultural workers, peacemakers, and more. The folks tend to our movements, weave our futures together, and accelerate change. REACH honors these guides who help all our communities and movements unlearn, build, and move forward together.

REACH supports those whom communities trust at critical junctures such as the one we are living in. This includes the capacity builders, healers, strategists, political educators, field builders, cultural workers, peacemakers, and more. The folks tend to our movements, weave our futures together, and accelerate change. REACH honors these guides who help all our communities and movements unlearn, build, and move forward together.

In 2024, REACH prioritized strengthening community-driven learning and collaboration by relaunching a Community of Practice. This is a space for grantee partners to exchange wisdom, and build trust and support through honest dialogue, collaboration, and embodied practices that deepen their engagement with their collective work. The Fund also expanded its support to the Deep Equity Practitioners Network, helping them organize a pivotal pre-convening and strategy session at the national Facing Race conference.

## 2024 GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

In response to increasing scrutiny and pressure on Black-led organizations, [CompassPoint](#) launched a peer learning community for BIPOC fundraisers, helping them shift into roles as resource mobilizers. [Change Elemental](#) made significant strides in developing its LANDS framework, which focuses on liberation and sovereignty. This innovative approach moves beyond traditional racial equity models to emphasize the importance of land rematriation, reparations, and deep equity. As libraries are increasingly on the frontlines of defending democracy, and resisting growing efforts to disrupt LGBTQ+ programming, [Western States Center](#)'s new toolkit provided librarians, administrators and communities the tools needed to effectively push back against these attacks.





## Racial Equity in Journalism Fund

The Racial Equity in Journalism (REJ) Fund invests in news organizations led by and for people of color. The Fund bolsters a strong, diverse, and independent local media sector that increases civic engagement for communities of color by reaching them with vital, relevant information.

### 2024 FUND HIGHLIGHTS

**\$3.99M** distributed in general operating support

**\$50K** in rapid response grants

**41** grantee partners

#### RESOURCE

[Infinite Patterns:](#)  
[A Kaleidoscope Podcast](#)



BLMF GRANTEE PARTNER  
**The Atlanta Voice**

**In 2024, the Racial Equity in Journalism Fund awarded \$4.27 million in grants to 57 news organizations serving communities of color across the country.**

This grantmaking aims to ensure Black, Indigenous, Latine, and SWANA people have the news and information they need to navigate today's geographies and social systems. These organizations exist as creative, innovative alternatives to a mainstream status quo that, for too long, has muted, distorted, and ignored the stories, information needs, and economic needs of Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

Last year, REJ convened forty-one people from media organizations, social movement organizations, and philanthropic institutions in Austin, Texas. Additionally, the Fund is developing two new fellowships, each with a unique focus. The first, in partnership with ZEAL Co-Op, i aims to fill the void in media policy advocacy, focusing on BIPOC communities. The second is centered on revenue sustainability. Both fellowships are designed to address crucial gaps in the media landscape and support long-term financial resilience for organizations.

### 2024 GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

[Centro Periodismo Investigativo \(CPI\)](#) expanded their team with an audience manager and social media manager, strengthened their Climate Crisis Unit, and hosted Caribe Fest 2024, drawing over 450 participants. [JMPro Community Media House](#) developed bilingual magazines and videos celebrating Latino, Black, and Afro-Latino cultures, reaching 1,600 community members about vaccine options. [Kansas City Defender](#) introduced fellowships for specific topics like breaking news and elections and their recent event, Beyond Black Writers Social, engaged 60 young people in discussions on writing as a liberatory tool.



## Racial Equity in Philanthropy Fund

The Racial Equity in Philanthropy Fund (REP) invests in philanthropy-serving organizations to inform, educate, and equip funders to integrate racial equity policies and practices into their grantmaking and programs.

### 2024 FUND HIGHLIGHTS

**\$6.1M** distributed in general operating support

**25** grantee partners

#### RESOURCE

[Borealis Philanthropy's Racial Equity in Philanthropy Fund Announces \\$6 Million in Sunset Grants](#)



REP GRANTEE PARTNER  
Equity in the Center

## A Fund Farewell: Racial Equity in Philanthropy Fund

**In 2025, Borealis will formally sunset our Racial Equity in Philanthropy Fund (REP)—created and buoyed by the Ford and W.K. Kellogg Foundations—which has invested in philanthropy-serving organizations (PSOs) to inform, educate, and equip funders to integrate racial equity policies and practices into their grantmaking programs since 2018.**

While we still believe that this is incredibly vital work, we also believe that it is no longer Borealis' to hold. Given the level of political retrenchment since the global uprisings of 2020, the volatility of today's sociopolitical landscape, and the impact of both on philanthropic giving, REP Fund grantee partners no longer need—nor can they afford—for Borealis to stand in or unintentionally widen the gap. In closing this portfolio, we're calling for a new level of commitment and investment to meet this critical moment—one that includes long-term and direct funding necessary for Borealis and sector PSOs to scale and, with greater independence, further shift the funding landscape towards support of transformational racial justice movements.

We are grateful to have partnered with the Ford Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, the Raikes Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Conrad Hilton Foundation over the past several years. In 2025, its final year, the Fund will release a series of learning materials to guide and inspire philanthropic entities to move into deeper alignment with their stated visions and intentions, and ensure continued funding for vital philanthropic infrastructure in their funding strategies.



The Spark Justice Fund (SJF) supports efforts to end the correctional control of people of color and the harms inflicted by the criminal legal system on families and communities in the United States.

## 2024 FUND HIGHLIGHTS

**\$1.68M** distributed in general operating support

**\$641K** in rapid response grants

**55** grantee partners

### RESOURCE

[The BlackPrint Fellowship: A Bold Investment in Black Leaders, Wellness, and Sustainability](#)



SPARK GRANTEE PARTNER  
**Decarcerate KC**

In 2024, the Spark Justice Fund awarded **\$1.68 million to 55 grantee partners. Spark grantee partners are organizations led by folks who are BIPOC, disabled, queer, trans gender-nonconforming, and/or directly impacted by the criminal legal system.** Recognizing the heightened challenges for all community organizers in an election year, the Fund also launched a Safety and Security Rapid Response Fund to bolster the efforts of organizations that are prioritizing the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to safeguard themselves and their people from harm and to effectively navigate crises. Through this rapid response fund, it awarded \$410,000 to bolster the efforts of 36 organizations to safeguard their organization and their people from harm and to effectively navigate escalating crises.

The Fund launched a [Collective Care Program](#) to equip directly impacted organizers and leaders with the tools, knowledge, practices and resources to center healing and wellness. Healthy and supported leaders create healthy and supportive organizations, and in turn healthier communities and movements. It also spent the year preparing for the 2025 launch of the [BlackPrint Fellowship](#), a radical, unapologetic commitment to valuing directly impacted Black leaders through wellness, community, and self-determined resources.

## 2024 GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

[RestoreHER](#) advocated for and successfully passed the Women's CARE (Childbirth Alternatives Resources & Education) Act in Colorado. This bill will end prison births by creating a rebuttable presumption against the detention and incarceration of pregnant women. [Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants](#) played a pivotal role in passing the Fair Chance Hiring (FCH) Ordinance in Baton Rouge, providing formerly incarcerated individuals with a fair opportunity for employment, significantly aiding their reintegration into society. [Surveillance Technology Oversight Project](#) (S.T.O.P.) won \$17.5 million for New Yorkers who were harmed by the NYPD's practice of requiring people to remove yarmulkes, hijabs, turbans, and other head coverings for mugshots.

# THIS MOMENT IS URGENT. IT'S TIME TO ACT. TOGETHER.

For years, we've been warning the philanthropic community of the threats facing our movements if we did not act swiftly and collectively. Well, now some of our worst fears have manifested, and everyday we are witnessing the intentional destruction of so many of the rights that our ancestors have fought and died for. With conservative power gains at the state and federal levels, we are witnessing a coordinated attack on so many of the communities that we cherish, and with almost no defenses to protect us.

But we know better than to rely solely on the state for protection. In times of crisis, we turn to one another for help and support. We turn to community.

Even in the face of such devastating attacks on Black, Indigenous and Communities of Color, LGBTQ+ folks, disabled and undocumented folks, we still have each other. Organizers are working diligently to create new strategies that respond to the times and bring more folks into our movements. We know that together we can survive this. But we need your support.

As Borealis celebrates 10 years of service to our movements, our aim is to resource, live and witness change that truly transforms our communities. We believe this is possible.

At Borealis Philanthropy, we envision a whole, new world; one in which we share responsibility for one another; in which our political, social, civil, and economic systems and institutions are representative of and responsive to communities; and in which we all have access to opportunity, autonomy, and joy. And we know we can only achieve this together.

**We have done too much work to stop now.** We will withstand this conservative backlash as a coordinated funding community. And we must plan and act proactively to get to the other side—building on the groundwork we've laid over the last decade, and creating the sustainable, healthful, beloved communities that our people deserve.

IN SOLIDARITY,  
BOREALIS PHILANTHROPY

# RESOURCES

Throughout 2024, Borealis' collaborative funds gathered invaluable lessons from our many grantee partners, offered thoughtful reflections through a variety of donor-learning sessions, and shared personal insights from working to support emergent movements. We are thankful to our community of grantee partners and Borealis team members for putting together offerings for our field, and invite you to explore and share these learnings with your communities.

- [Showing up, With Care and Accountability](#) – BOREALIS
- [The True Cost of Supporting Social Justice Collaborative Funds](#) – BOREALIS
- [Seeding a New World: Funding Grassroots Organizing to Secure a Radically Inclusive Democracy](#) – BOREALIS
- [Warning Signs for Philanthropy: The Authoritarian Crackdown on Social Movements](#) – CTPF
- [Ida's Legacy: How BIPOC journalists and publishers became the authority on truth and democracy](#) – REJ
- [Celebrating the Visionary Leaders of Our Young Trans Women of Color Grantmaking Program](#) – ELLC
- [Borealis Philanthropy Launches the Black Disabled Liberation Project](#) – BLMF & DIF
- [At the Nexus of Justice: How BIPOC Trans Movements are Securing Trans Futures, Healing Trans Communities, and Advancing Liberation for All](#) – FTG
- [Infinite Patterns: A Kaleidoscope Podcast](#) – REACH
- [The BlackPrint Fellowship: A Bold Investment in Black Leaders, Wellness, and Sustainability](#) – SJF
- [As Lies About Immigrants Flourish, Nonprofit Ethnic Newsrooms Need Support](#) – REJ

Visit [borealisphilanthropy.org](https://borealisphilanthropy.org) to learn more.



[BOREALISPHILANTHROPY.ORG](https://www.borealisphilanthropy.org)

 @BOREALISPHILANTHROPY

 @BOREALISPHILANTHROPY