50 BY 30: FOR TRANS LIVES & QUEER LIBERATION

BACKGROUND

In the past several years, LGBTQ communities have been in the crosshairs of a coordinated and vicious strategy to strip away our rights. In the United States, these attacks on bodily autonomy have taken the shape of ballot measures, executive orders and state legislation seeking to criminalize queer and, especially, trans existence.

The impact of these attacks is vast and far reaching, with Black and Brown people, immigrants, and not only rural, but global LGBTQ communities left most vulnerable. **In this context, Funders for LGBTQ Issues' Annual Resource Tracking Reports has identified a staggering $80 million drop from 2022-2024 while our communities continue to face increased attack.** Similarly, funding awarded for transgender, gender nonconforming, and nonbinary (TGNCNBi) communities decreased by 9% from $36.4 million in 2023 to $33.3 million in 2024. This continues the downward trend in funding for these communities following the all-time high of $48.2 million in 2022.

CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

Queer philanthropy is in a time of existential reimagining. With the upcoming closures of some funding leaders, along with the portfolio shifts and strategy refreshes of several other key funders in the LGBTQ philanthropy sector, a philanthropic leadership vacuum is widening.

Movement groups with the fewest resources are practicing courage, utilizing creative methods to reach our communities, and making values-forward assessments about risk tolerance, visibility, and commitment to queer liberation and trans futures.

Philanthropy as a sector is more resourced, protected by positional power, and able to fight back - with teeth. We invite donors and funders, whether you have historically invested in queer communities or not, to join us in creating a new bench of leadership. Together, we will build out a resource base that will operate as a brave space to advance rights for queer and trans communities, protect bodily autonomy, and preserve democracy.

LGBTQ communities deserve:

- New philanthropic entities ready to move forward in their leadership
- Bold strategies funding frontline communities
- Deep and wide investments in movement infrastructure to strengthen durable, power-building networks
- Rapid response funding for emergency aid, service delivery, crisis response, legal defense, and other frontline needs

In response, Funders for LGBTQ Issues is launching a campaign to move $50 million new philanthropic dollars to LGBTQ communities and movements by the year 2030, prioritizing investment in trans and nonbinary communities. We recognize that centering the leadership of trans people is fundamental to any LGBTQ liberation framework. Our movements were born from trans leaders of color fighting for liberation - and to this day, attacks on trans people often serve as a testing ground for broader rollbacks of rights that protect all LGBTQ people, people of color, immigrants, disabled people, and expansive frontline communities.

50 by 30: For Trans Lives & Queer Liberation encourages funders to prioritize trans and nonbinary communities in their grantmaking to both support the brilliance of trans movement leaders while lifting up broader LGBTQ communities and moving us toward true bodily autonomy and collective liberation. We invite you to include the Trans Futures Funding Campaign in your grantmaking strategy to support an ecosystem of trans-led and trans-focused grantmaking, to fund on-the-ground trans-led and trans-serving organizations, and to make yourself more accessible to trans and GNC groups seeking funding.

We envision the 50 by 30 campaign as a vehicle to both tactically recoup funding losses to the field over the last few years, as well as to build movement funding infrastructure via a new resource base of intersectional funders invested in LGBTQ movement work.

CALL TO ACTION

The call to action and engagement opportunities in the **50 by 30: For Trans Lives & Queer Liberation** campaign are grouped into three categories:

- **Fund**: increase giving to LGBTQ communities – specifically queer and trans organizations, encourage investing on a state and regional level, and fund frontline communities.
- **Trust:** practice trust and lead boldly by offering unrestricted, multi-year, low-barrier grants. Trust Funders for LGBTQ Issues with data to help produce the annual Resource Tracking Report, which documents LGBTQ grantmaking in the U.S. and helps make compelling cases for increased support across our sector.
- **Amplify:** share the 50 by 30: For Trans Lives & Queer Liberation messaging, organize in local communities, support rapid response funding for emergency aid, service delivery, crisis response, legal defense, and other frontline needs.

CAMPAIGN STRATEGY & TACTICS

Our goal is to organize philanthropy to move $50 million in new dollars to the field by 2030. We will do this through four strategies:

LEARNING & CASE MAKING	Through research, virtual briefings, conversations, affinity spaces, trainings, and in-person gatherings, our learning strategy aims to support our network in engaging more deeply with our emerging LGBTQ research, sharpening intersectional grantmaking strategies, and better understanding how philanthropy can respond to our interconnected movements and challenges.
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & BASE BUILDING	A core component of our base building strategy is building the leadership of queer and trans grantmakers, whose expertise in the field and lived experience lays the groundwork for philanthropic strategies that center LGBTQ communities. Funders for LGBTQ Issues offers two distinct cohort programs that strengthen queer, trans and gender-nonconforming (TGNCNbi) philanthropic leadership and build infrastructure for internal organizing within their institutions.
ORGANIZING & COMMUNITY BUILDING	In addition to these "wide door" strategies, we have also built out a variety of organizing and community building containers for funders to deepen their relationships, learnings, and practice. Employing a support & action framework, these spaces offer supports that provide the relational foundation, infrastructure, and resources needed to sustain people, alongside tools for action that translate shared values and strategies into tactical, measurable steps for change. Together, they balance internal community care with external impact.
FUNDING STRATEGIES & PARTNERSHIPS	For funding partners ready to sign on the 50 by 30 campaign, we offer several vetted avenues for moving philanthropic dollars to the field. This includes The Trans Futures Funding Campaign (TFFC) and Out in the South (OTS) Fund.

Contact Us

If you and/or your institution would like to explore making a commitment to the campaign, hosting a stop on the Membership Tour, and/or sponsoring an issue brief, please contact us at campaign@lgbtfunders.org.