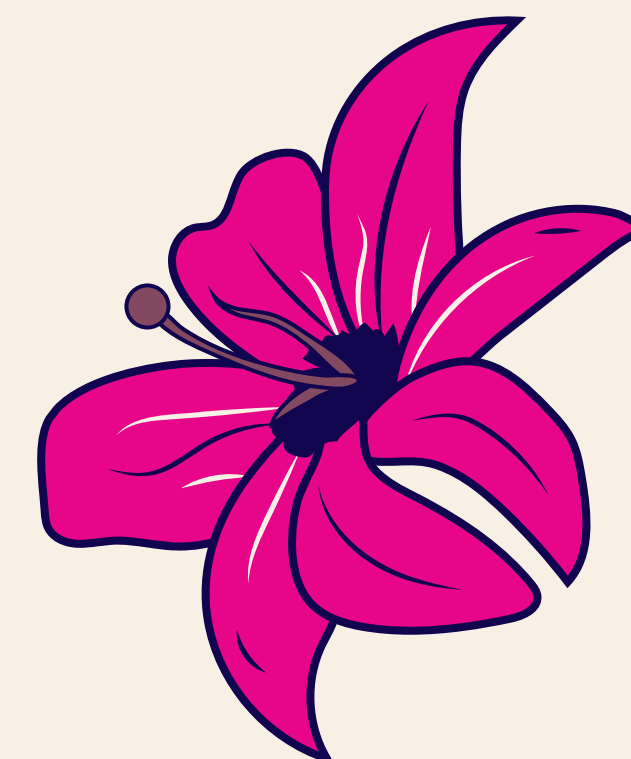




Joy is Our Name

2023 Annual Review

LGBTFund.org



Dear Friends and Allies,

I write this letter reflecting on a year singular in its grief and remarkable in its organizing and solidarity. In 2023 we witnessed genocide, migrant displacement, and the continuation of a global campaign seeking to eradicate bodily autonomy. Our movements have been warning about this moment for decades.

And yet, in spite of countless horrors, we continue to witness an abundance of hope and power. Movement groups across the nation continue to rise up, organizing to defeat the vast majority of anti-LGBTQ bills brought forth in state legislatures, hosting massive state and local advocacy days, creating art, and practicing expansive strategies grounded not in resistance, but in one undeniable reality: **WE ALL DESERVE TO BE FREE.**

Our work at Funders for LGBTQ Issues has been to hold hope in this moment— not as some passive, mild emotion, but rather as a call to action. Poet Yusef Komunyakaa writes use your head for a drum. This line is a mandate, meaning that our work as storytellers and philanthropic organizers is to hold and share the drumbeat of our movements. This past year's work, as shared below, tells that story.

Our network honored that mandate last year, and our member base grew to the largest it has ever been in our 42-year history. This moment demands our work— and we have answered that call with abundance and vision. In 2023, we hosted our first in-person Funding Forward since 2019, organized funders to increase low-barrier giving to LGBTQ organizations, particularly those led by TGNC communities, intentionally created spaces for members to come together and strategize, and continued to track the strength and power of LGBTQ philanthropy. Whether hosting our first-ever podcast, Justice Ain't Cheap, or convening a series of funder briefings about how movements are organizing in response to anti-LGBTQ attacks, we are proud to be a hub for visionary organizing and action.

As shared in our new Strategic Plan, Funders for LGBTQ Issues will continue to deepen our commitment to philanthropic organizing and movement accountability. As our new mission statement says, Funders for LGBTQ Issues educates and organizes funders and supports power-building to create an abundance of resources for the justice and liberation of all queer communities. We are grateful to our members and allies for joining us in this work. It is an honor, a responsibility, and a mandate.

As Ross Gay says in one of my favorite poems, sorrow is not my name— and our movement shows us this every day. Queer and trans movements have forever been grounded in joy, this deep knowing that our lives are beautiful, precious, and joyful. I've just come back from our first-ever Q Summit in Houston, a strategic organizing hub of LGBTQ philanthropic leaders from Out in the South, Grantmakers United for Trans Communities, and the Trans Futures Funding Campaign, and the joy and brilliance in those rooms could have lit up the world. We have everything we need to win.

Thank you for believing in our work.

In Solidarity,

Saida



Saida Agostini-Bostic
Funders for LGBTQ Issues
President
(She/her)

January



Welcomed Stephen Switzer as our new Director of Finance and Administration and Ashe Helm-Hernández as our inaugural Senior Fellow of Philanthropic Organizing.

February



Hosted a philanthropic reception at Creating Change and facilitated a workshop, Demystifying Foundation Funding, to help LGBTQ nonprofits better understand the funding landscape.

March



WE WILL ONLY
**MOVE
FORWARD
TOGETHER:**

An Open Call to Philanthropy

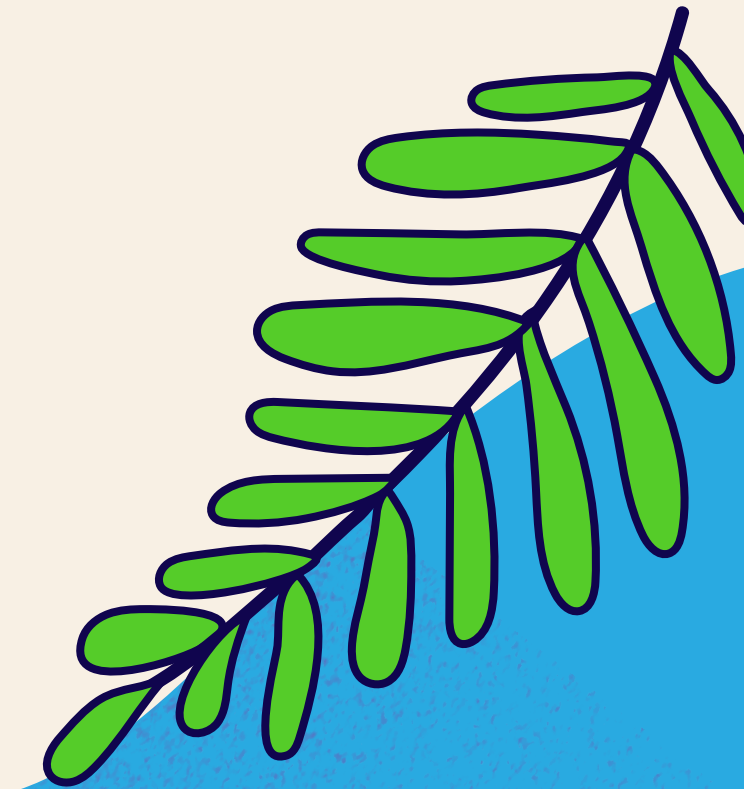
**Calls on philanthropy to
rapidly & creatively
resource TGNC
movement building
in light of ongoing
legislative attacks.**



Released Our Open Call to Philanthropy:

We Will Only Move Forward Together. This open letter, signed by over 70 philanthropic institutions and PSOs, calls on philanthropy to rapidly and creatively resource TGNC movement building in light of ongoing legislative attacks.

Held the first in a series of funder briefings on funding TGNC movement building, this one focused on national strategy, **We Will Only Move Forward Together: A Funder Briefing on National TGNC Movement Building.**





Cynthia
Renfro



Paulina Helm
Hernandez

Welcomed Cynthia Renfro as our new board chair, marking the first time **FLGBTQI** has been led by two Black queer women. Paulina Helm Hernandez was elected Vice Chair, Karen Appelbaum, Treasurer, and Jonathan Jayes Green, Secretary. Glo Ross (Arcus Foundation), and Lane Harwell (Ford Foundation) also joined the board.



Welcomed Amara Reese-Hansell as our new Membership Engagement Officer.



Partnered with **ABFE** to host a plenary at the 2023 Harambee Conference. North Carolina's Own Black Queer and Trans Brilliance featured a powerful panel of Black LGBTQ organizers discussing North Carolina rooted movement work.

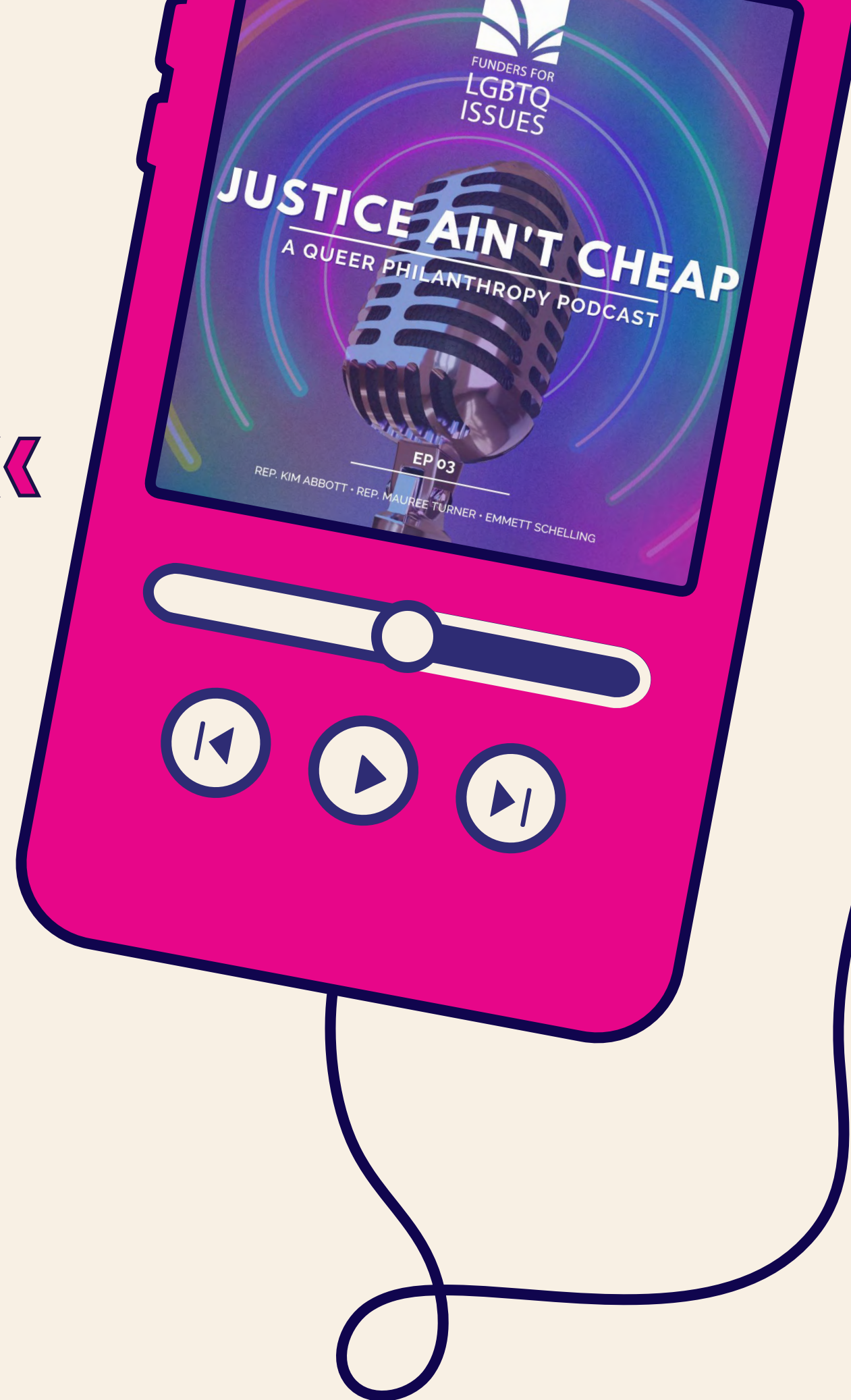


Hosted our first-ever funder reception at Harambee.

April



May



Launched Our New Podcast *Justice Ain't Cheap*

to our members. The premiere episode, **A Billion Dollar Problem**, features Funders board members Ana Conner (**Third Wave**), and Paulina Helm Hernández (**Foundation for a Just Society**) discussing the role philanthropy has to play in resourcing social justice movements.



Ana Conner
Third Wave



Paulina Helm Hernández
Foundation for a Just Society

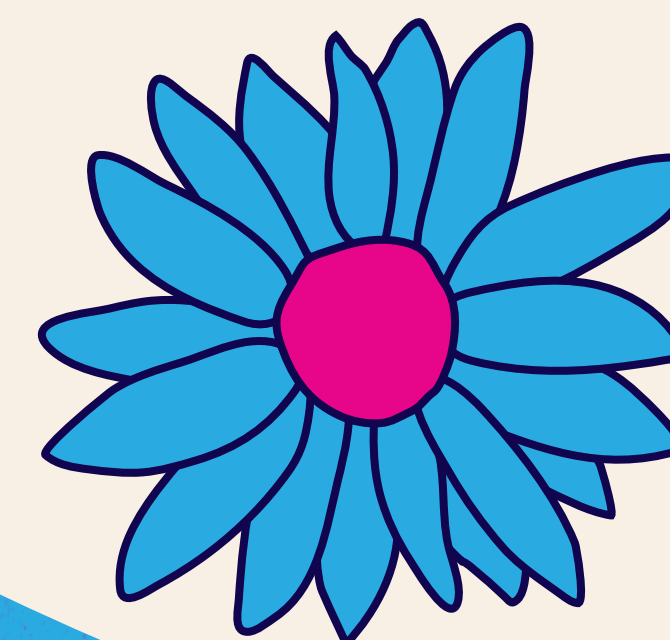


Organized our first virtual TGNC Healing Space, facilitated by **Matrice Moore**.

June



Released the 2021
Tracking Report:



LGBTQ Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations, finding that despite foundation funding reaching a new record of 251 million, funding for Black LGBTQ+ communities, TGNC communities, and Southeastern communities continues to lag far behind need.

Hosted an official launch event for the tracking report, **State of LGBTQ+ Philanthropy**, in New York City, with a live streamed panel featuring **Gabriel Foster** (Trans Justice Funding Project), **Nicky McIntyre** (Foundation for a Just Society), and **Joy Chia** (Astraea Foundation).

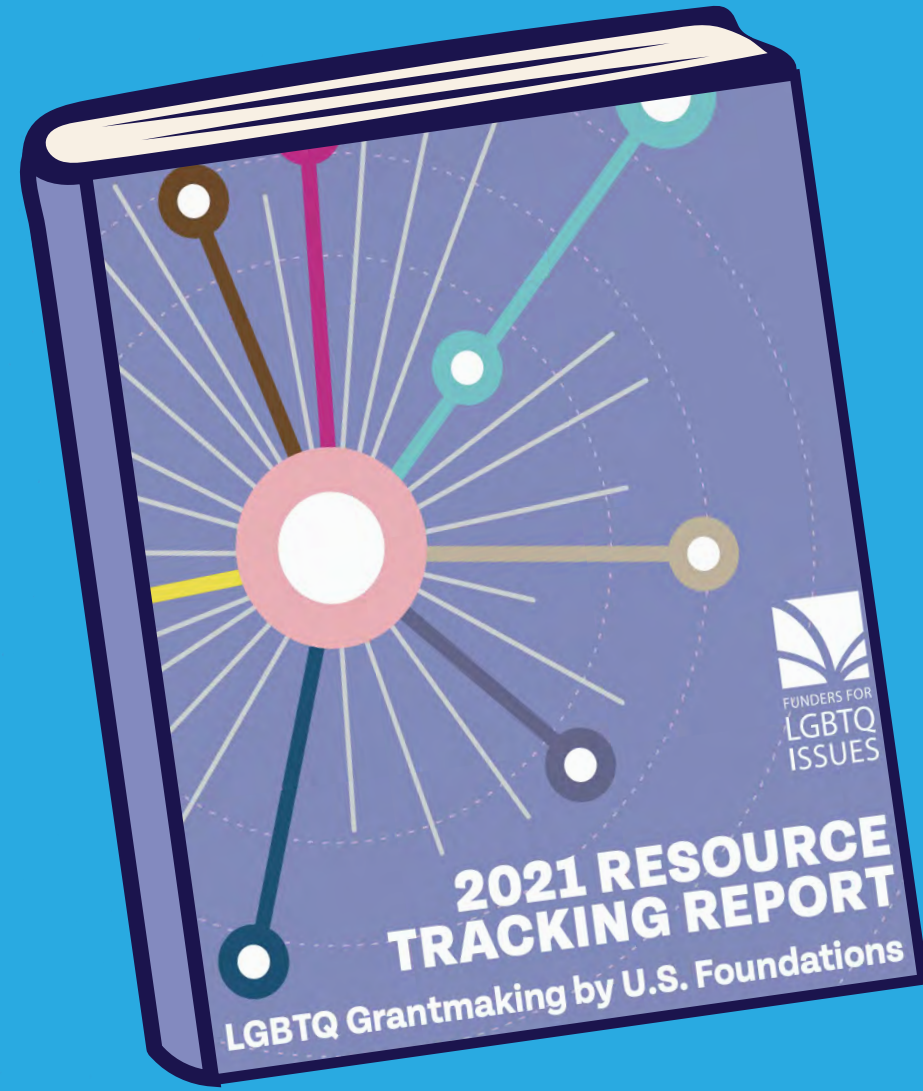
Held the workshop **Intentional LGBTQ+ Funding** at **Council on Foundation's Leading Locally Conference**.

Welcomed **Luna Moreta Avila** as our new **Grantmakers United for Trans Communities Project Director**.

Presented the workshop, **If They Come for You in the Morning, They Will be Coming for Us at Night**, with **Transgender Law Center** at the **Donors of Color Network Convening**.

Coauthored the op-ed, **The Onslaught of Anti-Trans Legislation Demands a Crisis Response From Philanthropy** with **Women's Funding Network**.

Held the second in a series of funder briefings on funding TGNC movement building, this one focused on state and local strategy, in partnership with **Grantmakers for Southern Progress**.



July



LOG IN



Moderated a panel on LGBTQ philanthropy at Equality Federation's annual convening, featuring Alli Jernow (Arcus Foundation), Dylan Hoos (Johnson Family Foundation), and Eugenio Smith (Movement Voter Project)



Had our 2021 tracking report findings featured in the Inside Philanthropy profile, Funders for LGBTQ Issues' Latest Tracking Report: Some Good News, More Not So Good.

August



Imara Jones
TransLash

Episode
Two



Kierra Johnson
National LGBTQ
Taskforce

Released Episode Two of our podcast Justice Ain't Cheap to our members. The episode features Trishala Deb (Center for Gender + Reproductive Equity); Kierra Johnson (National LGBTQ Taskforce); and Imara Jones (TransLash) discussing the intersections of the attacks on reproductive rights and the LGBTQ community. The episode was cosponsored by Funders for Reproductive Equity, and Women's Funding Network.



Alexander L. Lee and Ashe Helm-Hernández speak with Inside Philanthropy about their philanthropic organizing work for the article, These Two Philanthropic Initiatives Save Trans Lives Now and Build Support for the Future.

September



Hosted **A New World is Coming: Black TGNC Artists and Writers Speak on Cultural Organizing**, the third in a series of funder briefings on funding TGNC movement building, this one focused on cultural organizing, in partnership with **Grantmakers in the Arts** and **ABFE**.



Held two in-person regionally focused funder briefings. The first, presented in partnership with **Horizons Foundation**, focused on the state of LGBTQ philanthropy in California. The second, presented in partnership with **Chicago Community Trust**, welcomed Chicago funders to learn more about LGBTQ funding opportunities and gaps in the Midwest ahead of our locally held **Funding Forward** conference.

October



Hosted a pre-session, plenary, and two concurrent workshop sessions during the 2023 CHANGE Unity Summit. We:

- Partnered with **Women's Funding Network** to host a pre-convening for feminist funders exploring how to center TGNC communities in their grantmaking. The event featured two panel discussions and breakout sessions.
- Organized **Building the World We Deserve: Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Organizers Speak on Movement Work in a Time of Crisis**-a mainstage plenary featuring Southern California-based TGNC activists, moderated by board member **Aldita Gallardo**.
- Facilitated a concurrent workshop session on best practices for funding TGNC communities.
- Facilitated a concurrent workshop session on accessible grantmaking practices for funders seeking to prioritize LGBTQ communities.

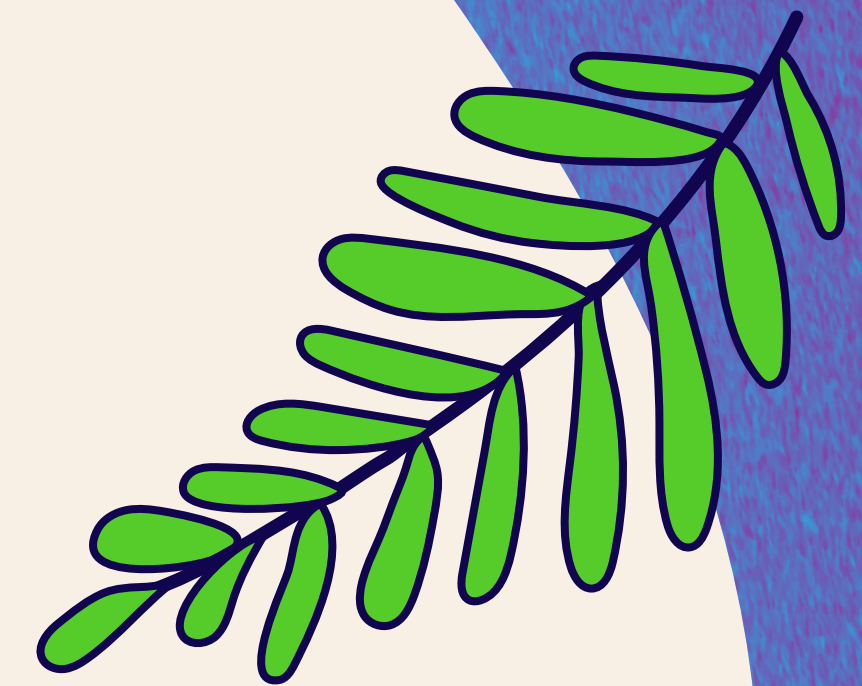


November



Held our first in-person **Funding Forward** conference since 2019. The event was our largest ever convening with over 300 attendees from national and regional funders alike coming together to learn about funding gaps and opportunities for LGBTQ movement organizing. Among the many highlights of the event were:

- A morning of preconvenings that gathered past and present **GUTC fellows** and the steering committees of Funders' **Out in the South** program and of the **Trans Futures Funding Campaign** (co-coordinated by Funders).
- The first meeting of an LGBTQ and Democracy & Civic Engagement funder organizing space.
- The first ever Q cabaret, a conference cabaret show, featuring local LGBTQ performers.
- Sponsorships from eighteen incredible regional and national foundations.
- The in-person launch of our new **three year strategy**.
- 20 member-designed and -hosted concurrent sessions.
- Four dynamic plenaries.



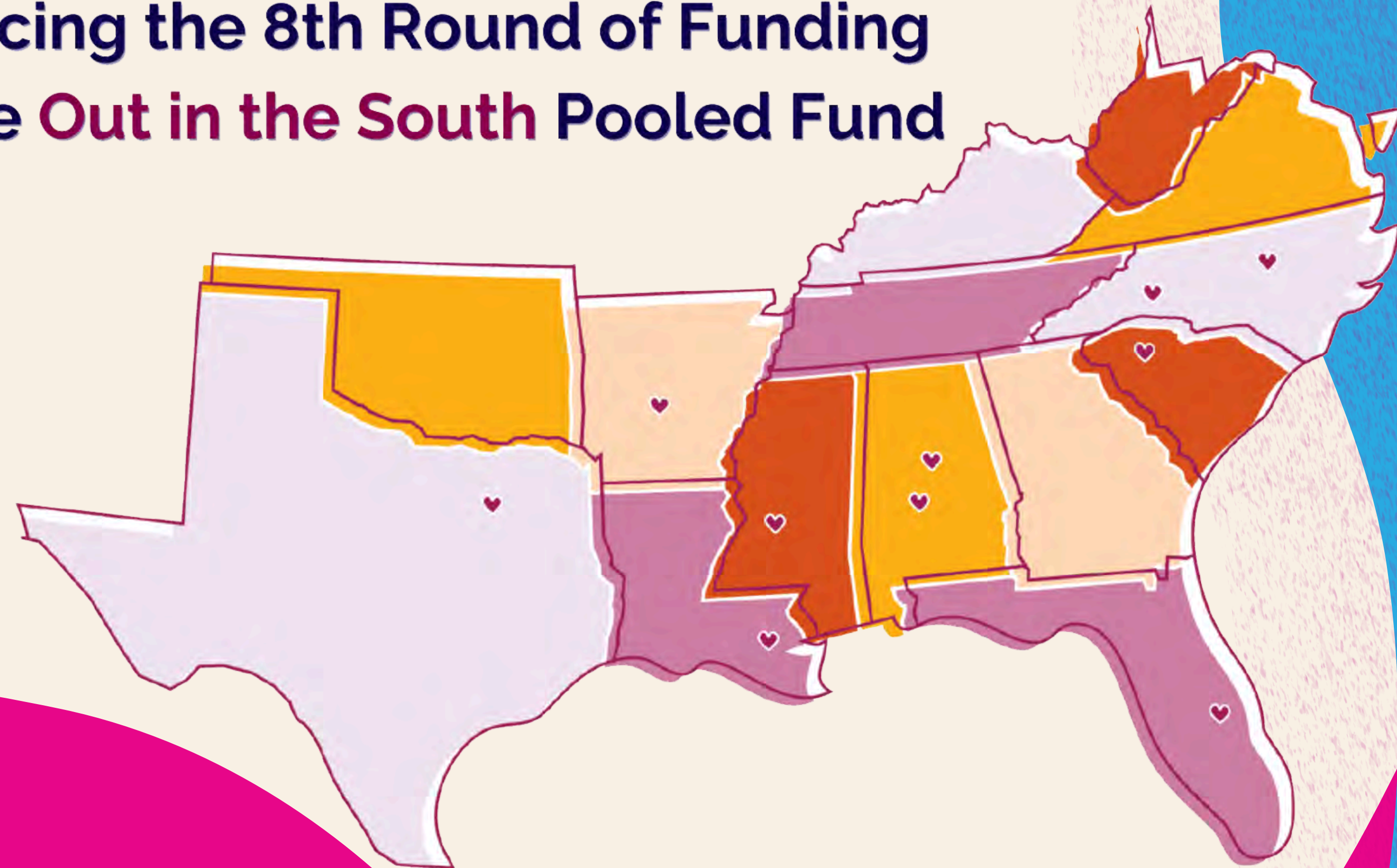


Released episode three of our podcast Justice Ain't Cheap to our members. **We Should All Be Organizers** features Emmett Schelling (**Transgender Education Network of Texas**) and House Representatives Kim Abbott and Mauree Turner discussing the impact of the far right's legislative assault on their work. This episode was cosponsored by **Funders' Committee for Civic Participation** and **National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy**.



Awarded our **eighth round** of Out in the South Fund grants distributing \$500,000 to 12 locally driven funds to build and invest in Southern LGBTQ movement infrastructure.

Announcing the 8th Round of Funding from the **Out in the South** Pooled Fund



Staff List

Saida Agostini-Bostic
President
she/her

Cleopatra Jach Acquaye
Director of Programs
sir/her

April Bethea
Director of External Affairs
she/her

Luna Moreta Avila
GUTC Project Director
she/her

Ashe Helm-Hernández
Project Director of Philanthropic
Organizing
they/them

Shaena Johnson
Out in the South Project Director
she/her

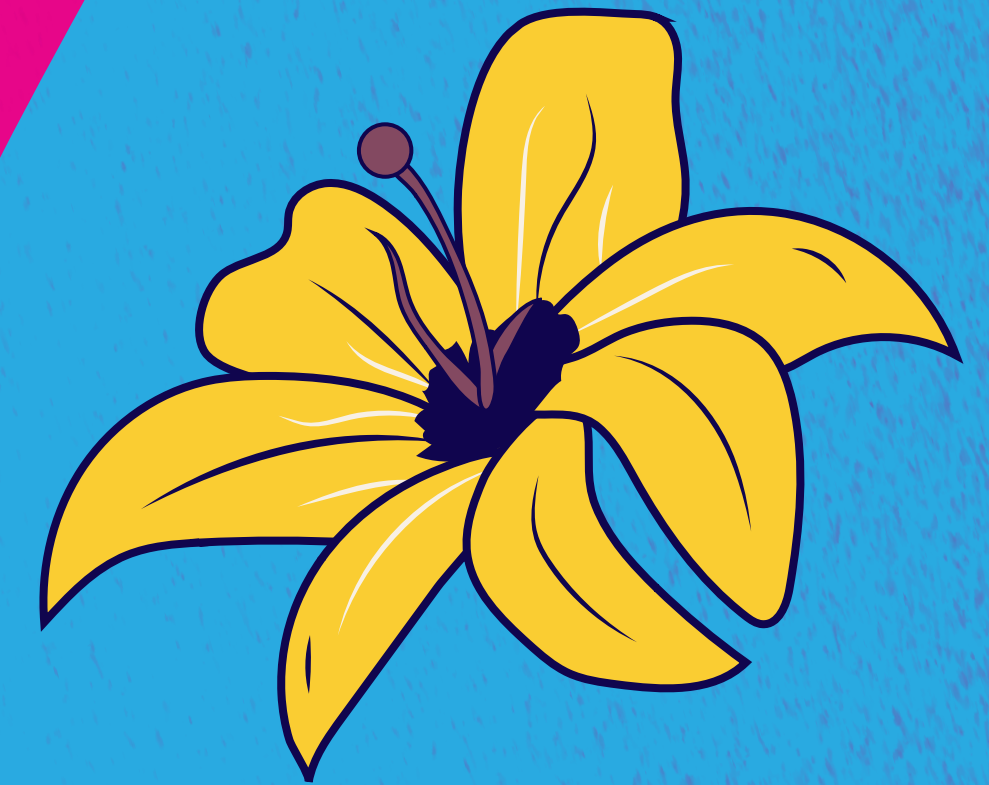
Alyssa Lawther
Senior Research Officer
they/them

Alexander Lee
Deputy Director
he/him

Sammy Luffy
Director of Research
she/her

Amara Reese-Hansell
Membership Engagement Officer
she/her

Stephen Switzer
Director of Finance and Administration
he/him





Board of Directors

Cynthia Renfro,
Chair
Consultant
she/her

Paulina Helm-Hernandez,
Vice Chair
Foundation for a Just Society
she/her

Jonathan Jayes-Green,
Secretary
Philanthropic Consultant
they/them

Karen Appelbaum,
Treasurer
Northwest Area Foundation
she/her

Katie Carter
Pride Foundation
she/her

Namita Chad
Nebula Fund
they/them

Ana Conner
Philanthropic Consultant
they/he/she

Lane Harwell
Ford Foundation
they/her

Cathy Kapua
Trans Justice Funding Project
she/her

Kelli King-Jackson
Philanthropic Consultant
she/her

Maria Miranda
Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation
they/them

Bré Rivera
Groundswell/Black Trans Fund
she/her

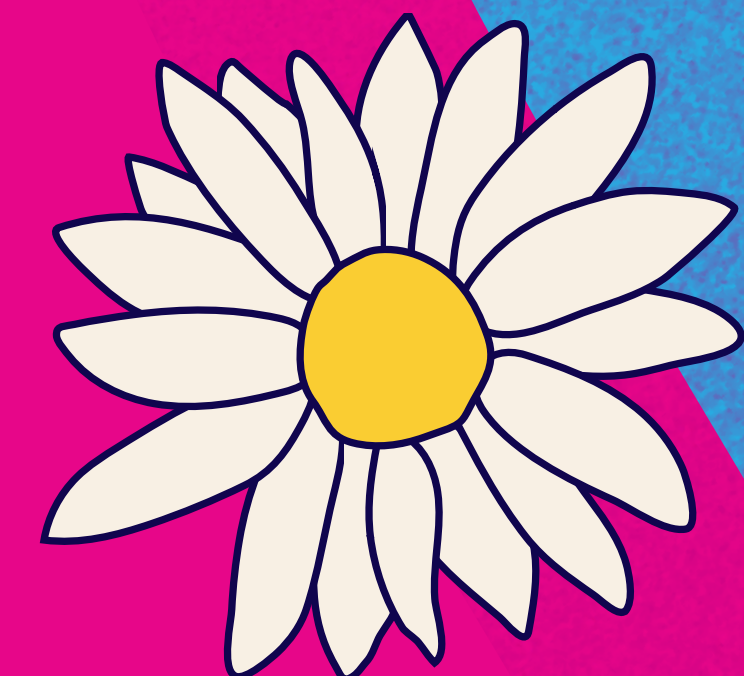
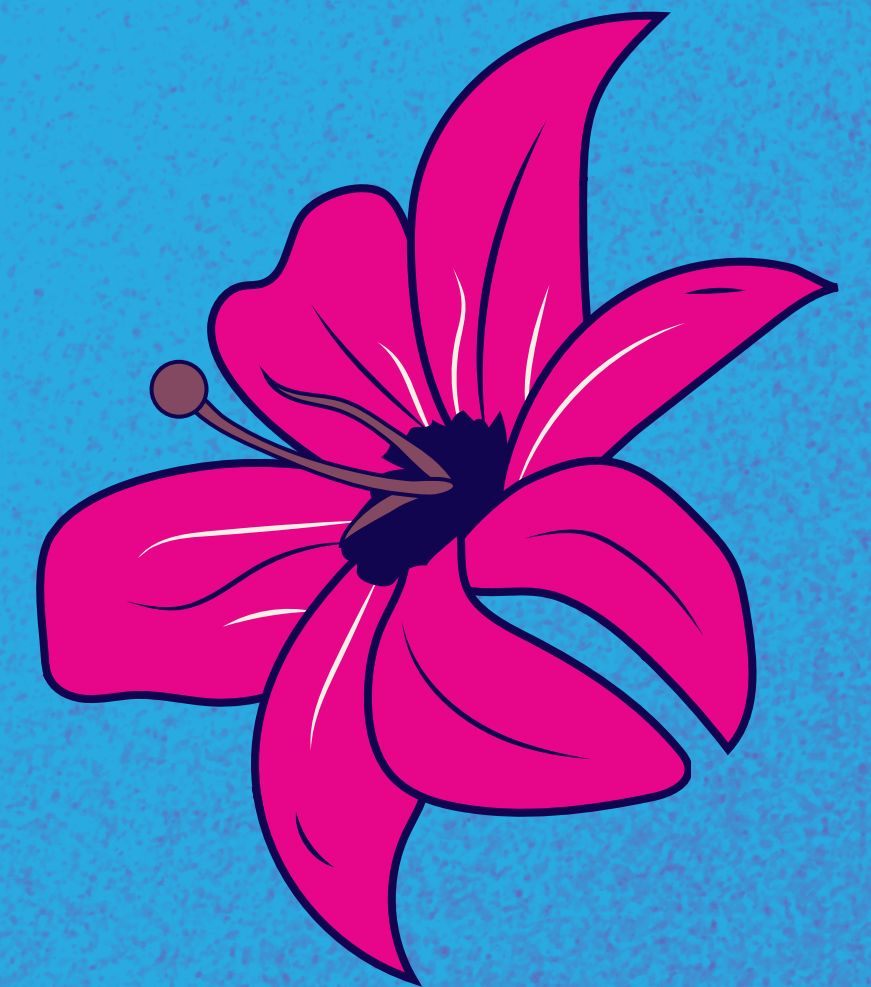
Trishala Deb
Collaborative for Gender + Reproductive
Equity
she/her

Glo Ross
Arcus Foundation
any pronoun

Bill Smith
May & Stanley Smith
Charitable Trust
he/him

Eugenio Smith
Movement Voter Project
they/them

Judy Yu
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
she/her





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