



GRANTS & NEWS

520 EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE 1800 | NEW YORK, NY 10018-4170

WWW.NORTHSTARFUND.ORG | @NORTHSTARFUND | SPRING/SUMMER 2019

SHIFTING POWER

I'm writing this letter in the waning days of the 2019 Albany legislative session. Rent regulation, drivers' licenses for immigrants, marijuana legalization and many other critical reforms are still not yet decided—though they will be by the time this docket hits your mailbox. My nerves are high, but my commitment to what North Star Fund stands for has never been stronger. Whatever happens in Albany or City Hall, before our local Community Boards or in town hall meetings in the Hudson Valley, North Star Fund's work continues and forms the backbone of these historic struggles.



DAN BIGELOW

It's an honor to support the New York grassroots organizing profiled in these pages. Our Community Funding Committee members spent many hours this spring traversing the five boroughs and meeting with local activists building power by mobilizing New Yorkers around a different future. We're supporting emerging groups like Centro Corona and House Lives Matter, while also steadfast in our commitment to organizations that have grown through the years with us, like Communities United for Police Reform and Teachers Unite.

Your support of North Star Fund goes straight into the grants awarded by our Community Funding Committee. Your gift shifts power to communities most impacted by injustice to support work creating lasting and real solutions—not political band-aids. Please be sure to follow North Star Fund's social media for our real-time reports from the field, as many of the organizers highlighted here are doing great work year-round to hold our government and corporations accountable.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Ching,
Executive Director

CONTENTS

#40YEARSBOLD	2
We're Changing Philanthropy	3
Seeding Power Fellowship	3
Grassroots Action Grants	4
Catalyst Grants	6
Innovative Action Grants	7
Giving Project Grants	8
Events Round Up	10
Who's Who	11



NEHA GAUTAM

COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR POLICE REFORM

NORTH STAR FUND IS #40YEARSBOLD



Over the last forty years, thousands of New Yorkers who are part of the North Star Fund community have collaborated to make grants totaling over \$57 million to over 2,000 community organizations. We've supported organizing for justice on too many issues to count: from disability justice and anti-gentrification work to LGBTQ organizing, police accountability and worker organizing in every sector.

Our 40th Anniversary has opened up a new chapter in our story, and brought us to several levels of reflection. It offers the chance to appreciate the hard work of the generations of activists who have built our community over the decades. It gives us pause to reflect on the impact of this community on New York over the last forty years. And through our strategic planning process, we are taking time to recommit to our values and set a course for the years ahead.

Visit our website, especially northstarfund.org/40YearsBold to learn more about our forty years of funding social justice organizing in New York City and the Hudson Valley, meet some of the leaders who have been part of this community, and get a look at our past accomplishments as a movement resource.

- 1 See who has served on the North Star Fund board and community funding committees
- 2 Meet North Star Fund's 40 for 40
- 3 Check out highlights from our past



JUNE MAKELA
1



2



GEORGE COHEN
3



WE'RE CHANGING PHILANTHROPY

For four decades, North Star Fund has been challenging philanthropy to be more inclusive, equitable and bold. Thank you to all our partners and allies who are deep in this work with us! Here are some of our most recent partnerships in action.

Earlier this year, Amalgamated Bank launched their **“Hate is Not Charitable” campaign to keep donor-advised funds from funding known hate groups**. We were one of the first foundations to commit to the campaign. Learn more at amalgamated-foundation.org/hate-is-not-charitable.

We're one of the inaugural signers of the **GUTC Pledge (Grantmakers United for Trans Communities) to organize funders to take concrete steps for inclusion and strategic funding of trans communities**.

This pledge includes commitments to training and professional development, as well as increased grantmaking. You can learn more about it at lgbtfunders.org.

We're one of the founding members of the Ford Foundation President's Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy. The council is made up of foundation leaders who are committed to **disability inclusion as part of improving diversity, equity, and inclusion within philanthropy**. Learn more at disabilityinclusion.net.

We were part of the Engage NY steering committee that organized a **funders tour of the Hudson Valley this spring**. Over thirty foundation staff and leaders met with our grantees and members of our Hudson Valley Community Funding Committee to learn about the specific challenges that are inspiring people to organize for justice in the Hudson Valley.

We've also participated in a number of funder spaces to share our decades of experience with grantmaking that's led by people directed connected to grassroots organizing. If you want to learn more about our work to change philanthropy, or have ideas about how philanthropy can be accountable and serve as a resource for social justice movements, reach out to us! ▶



ANGREEN SALEEM

COMMUNITY FOOD FUNDERS LAUNCHES SEEDING POWER FELLOWSHIP

Community Food Funders (CFF) is a philanthropy organizing project that supports the growth of an equitable, ecologically sound and sustainable food system in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. This spring CFF launched the **Seeding Power Fellowship, an innovative eighteen-month, cohort-based food justice fellowship program modeled after our long-running Movement Leadership Program**.

From labor organizers to food vendors, both urban and rural farmers as well as advocates on food policy, the fellows bring together many different approaches to food justice. They met this spring at Stony Point Center for the first of their five leadership retreats. Learn more about them, and about the work of CFF at communityfoodfunders.org. ▶



WALTER HERGT

COMMUNITY FOOD FUNDERS

SPRING/SUMMER 2019 NEW YORK CITY GRANTS



ROCKAWAY YOUTH TASK FORCE

ROCKAWAY YOUTH TASK FORCE

GRASSROOTS ACTION GRANTS

Grassroots Action grants of \$10,000 or \$15,000 represent our biggest investment in people-powered transformation. These organizations need consistent and reliable funding to succeed, so we often provide these grants for years as grantees take on the long, difficult struggles for justice.

Additionally, these grants reflect our commitment to sustain existing New York City organizations led by an active and growing membership base. Together they are building the energy and skills of tens of thousands of New Yorkers directly impacted by oppressive policies.

These organizations have a track record of visible impact to advance systemic change—whether by holding local government and policy leaders accountable or transforming cultural norms.

CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities

\$10,000

A homegrown powerhouse of working-class Asian

immigrants, bridging tenants in Manhattan Chinatown’s rent-stabilized apartments and Queensbridge public housing to confront New York State’s broken rent laws and to advance inclusive economic development.

Chinese Staff and Workers’ Association

\$10,000

A long-running workers’ center organizing

Chinatown workers across trades—from bicycle delivery drivers to home health care workers—for fair wages and better working conditions.

Communities United for Police Reform (CPR)

\$10,000

A powerful coalition bringing together dozens of grassroots communities along with police and research experts to end discriminatory and abusive policing practices in New York City while advancing alternatives to policing for public safety.

Crown Heights Tenant Union / Urban Homesteading Assistance Board

\$10,000

A 900-household strong project of the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, fighting to preserve rent-regulated housing and prevent displacement.

Families United for Racial and Economic Equality (FUREE)

\$10,000

A powerful, long-running organization of NYCHA tenants in Gowanus, Brooklyn, united to fight for capital improvements in public housing that improve resiliency and sustainability in the face of climate change.

Flatbush Tenant Coalition

\$10,000

A member-led group of more than seventy tenant



NEHA GAUTAM

FAMILIES UNITED FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY

associations organizing over 20,000 Brooklyn rent-stabilized tenants—mostly immigrant women from the West Indies—for rent freezes and housing court reform.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

\$10,000

A housing justice organization based in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, organizing for permanently affordable housing and against displacement and gentrification of this long-standing immigrant community.

Parent Action Committee

\$10,000

A Bronx-based, multilingual community of parents dedicated to improving the quality of education by improving school safety and the learning experience for all children, beginning in District 9 and extending throughout the city.

Rockaway Youth Task Force

\$10,000

A Black and Brown youth-led organization in the Rockaways fighting for food justice and an end to discriminatory policing and punitive school discipline policies.

Street Vendor Project

\$10,000

A vibrant network of entrepreneurs, many of whom are immigrants, veterans, or women

of color, organizing against police harassment while advocating for reasonable permits and legal vending spaces.

Teachers Unite

\$10,000

A city-wide network of New York City public school educators organizing in every borough to resist the segregation and criminalization of Black and Latinx youth and to transform school climates by promoting peace, healing and restorative justice practices.

Tenants & Neighbors

\$10,000

A statewide organization of low- and moderate-income tenants building and wielding their power to preserve affordable housing and strengthen tenants' rights in New York.

Urban Youth Collaborative

\$10,000

A powerful coalition of youth-led organizing groups demanding high-quality education for all students by replacing punitive policies and approaches with restorative justice and deeper investment in students success.

Worker's Justice Project

\$10,000

A Brooklyn-based worker center developing the leadership of Latinx day laborers and domestic workers through worker-led campaigns for better conditions and wages. ▶

NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY FUNDING COMMITTEE

For forty years, North Star Fund has taken an approach to grantmaking that is rare in our field. We draw directly from the leadership of local grassroots organizations to find the decision-makers for our grants.

This group of leaders—diverse in geography, race, culture, age and organizing approach—give us a unique and comprehensive view of the engines of grassroots change in New York.

They contribute dozens of hours each cycle to ensure that we maintain a fair and competitive process that identifies the best grassroots organizing in our city and state. These are the volunteers who make up our Community Funding Committee:

SPRING/SUMMER 2019 MEMBERS

Alejandra Ruiz	Leah Obias
Anthonine Pierre	Ligia Guallpa
Cathy Dang	Rob Robinson
Jawanza Williams	Shatia Strother
Kesi Foster, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Susanna Blankley, <i>Co-Chair</i>
Krystal Portalatin	

Special thank you to Jamie Tyberg, Michael Velarde and Caracol Language Cooperative for participation in site visits.

NYC PROGRAM STAFF

Catherine Eusebio
Program Officer

cori schmanke parrish
Deputy Director

Leyana Dessauer
Administrative Assistant

For questions about our New York City grantmaking programs, please get in touch with Catherine Eusebio: catherine@northstarfund.org



NEHA GAUTAM

WORKER'S JUSTICE PROJECT



wellness, quality of life, rights, and resiliency of the house ball community in New York City and across the U.S.

New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement

\$10,000 A network of currently and formerly incarcerated people, their families and advocates shining a light on the torturous reality of solitary confinement so that New York State will ban its use.

Parole Preparation Project

\$10,000 A group of volunteer advocates focused on challenging the composition of the NYS Board of Parole, and helping people who are incarcerated with life sentences apply for parole. ▽

CATALYST

Catalyst grants fund start-up organizations that expand and deepen New York City’s movements for justice. These grants support new leaders and, in some cases, new approaches. In many cases, we are the first funder of a group, and other funders look to us to help identify new grassroots innovators that can make the best use of grant dollars. These grants are \$5,000 or \$10,000.

Alliance of Families for Justice

\$10,000 A statewide effort elevating the leadership of families with incarcerated loved ones to end mass incarceration and end the abuses of human rights behind bars.

Black Youth Project 100 Education Fund

\$10,000 A national organization of 18- to 35-year-olds Black leaders training each other in direct action and other tools of grassroots organizing to stop the over-policing and abuse of Black bodies, focusing on public housing in NYC.

Centro Corona

NEW \$10,000 An emerging, intergenerational community center in Corona, Queens, that was a key player in the fight against Amazon’s HQ2, fostering the creativity and leadership of working-class immigrants to develop a self-determined, collectively-imagined future.

CUNY Rising Alliance

NEW \$10,000 A unique blend of union, community, and student groups campaigning to increase state investment in education to make possible a free and high-quality education, regardless of race or income.

House Lives Matter

NEW \$10,000 A nascent network of LGBTQ youth and adults of color focused on promoting

SPECIAL INITIATIVE

Additionally, all of our *returning* Catalyst grantees received \$10,000 grants through a one-time, special initiative.

- Alliance of Families for Justice**
- Black Youth Project 100**
- New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement**
- Parole Preparation Project**





GLOBAL ACTION PROJECT

INNOVATIVE ACTIVISM

North Star Fund has enthusiastically supported organizing to build mass movements since our inception. We also believe that a strong ecosystem of community organizing requires creative approaches and robust support systems. Our Innovative Activism grants are \$10,000 awards to support arts and activism, capacity building for organizing, and alternatives to unjust capitalist institutions.

The Black Feminist Project

\$10,000 A Black-led food justice project based in the Bronx that engages residents in active conversations about food systems, farming, and nutrition using a food truck and an urban farm.

Center for Third World Organizing

\$10,000 A long-running, national training hub that teaches Black and Brown New Yorkers the skills of organizing including outreach, fundraising, and political strategy to strengthen local movements for justice and resistance.

Global Action Project

\$10,000 A media and communications trainer for youth-led

community organizing, cultivating young New Yorkers to produce high-impact media that reach broad audiences and advance social justice campaigns.

Hattie Carthan Community Food Projects

\$10,000 A community organization in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, creating green jobs for Black youth while expanding fresh food access and providing intergenerational training about food justice and healing.

Rise

\$10,000 A training and leadership development resource hub that amplifies the expertise and recommendations of low-income Black and Brown parents affected by the child welfare system to challenge the

Administration for Child Services' punitive approach to families.

Sure We Can

\$10,000 A welcoming redemption center for New Yorkers who rely on discarded recyclables as their primary source of income, working to ensure fair prices for canners and to promote a culture of environmental stewardship in North Brooklyn.

Theatre of the Oppressed NYC

\$10,000 An innovative arts organization that engages vulnerable New Yorkers to craft short plays where community members literally insert themselves onstage to design solutions to the problems caused by injustice.

Truthworker Theater Company

\$10,000 A hip-hop theatre company of high school- and college-aged youth in Brooklyn that produces original, multi-disciplinary art about mass incarceration and gender-based violence.

Women's Organizing Network

\$10,000 A collective of powerful women organizers supporting each other to transform New York City's social justice organizations by elevating women's leadership and strengthening the gender lens in their campaign development.

Worker-Owned Rockaway Cooperatives (WORCs)

\$10,000 A community-based cooperative council and business incubator creating stable jobs and long term wealth-building opportunities for low-income and immigrant residents in the Far Rockaways, Queens. ▀

2018—2019 PEOPLE POWER GIVING PROJECT



WALTER HERGT

RELEASE AGING PEOPLE IN PRISON

Damayan Migrant Workers Association

A Filipina-led organization educating and engaging domestic workers and survivors of human trafficking to take on employers and systems that perpetuate their exploitation.

Families for Freedom

A unique organizing support center working to build a critical mass of immigration justice leaders who have been drawn into the detention and deportation system because of racialized policing.

Families United for Racial and Economic Equality (FUREE)

A powerful coalition of low-income renters and NYCHA tenants united to fight the gentrification of downtown Brooklyn and to preserve federal housing funds.

Flushing Workers Center

The center addresses workplace exploitation among low-wage, undocumented Chinese, Latinx, and Korean immigrants in Queens working in the car service, nail salon, and restaurant industries.

Jahajee Sisters A women-led organization in Richmond Hill, Queens, activating Indo-Caribbean leaders to challenge gender-based violence within their local religious congregations and heal generational trauma.

Justice Committee

A powerful force of families who have lost loved ones to police violence winning changes to NYPD policies and holding police accountable in the courts and the streets.

LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent

A network of clergy and lay people working to make Black religious institutions more welcoming of LGBTQ members with

GIVING PROJECT GRANTS

At North Star Fund, we believe in our collective power to transform New York by supporting grassroots organizing led by communities most impacted by injustice. Our 2018—2019 **People Power Giving Project** brought together over twenty New Yorkers from a wide range of backgrounds to share stories and develop a common analysis of how systemic oppression impacts our lives and intentions. From there, the members learned about fundraising and grantmaking through a collective power lens.

Through this collaborative process, Giving Project members raised **over \$240,000** in just under three months from over 300 friends, family and neighbors! They reviewed applications from twenty-seven groups, led site visits and met community leaders working on some of the toughest challenges facing our city.

In February, 2019, the **Giving Project made twenty awards to groups working across New York City** on issues affecting all of us, as well as a gift to North Star Fund so we can continue building Giving Projects for future participants.

Here's the community organizing that was supported by the People Power Giving Project grants. These groups are on the frontlines of building a broader vision and movement for social justice in New York City. This year's Giving Project supported grassroots groups with small budgets, providing extra support to organizations who are often overlooked by larger foundations, but have deep connections in their communities.

Black Trans Media

A community of trans and gender non-conforming Black media makers creating narratives that challenge racism and transphobia.

Crown Heights Tenant Union

A 900-household strong project of the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, fighting to preserve rent-regulated housing and prevent local displacement.

special attention to LGBTQ youth who've had negative experiences in religious communities.

Laundry Workers Center

A member-led organizing powerhouse that organizes workers in restaurants, laundromats, and warehouses to fight for fair working conditions, with the support of their community allies.

MASA A hybrid service/organizing model that brings together Mexican immigrant youth and families in the South Bronx to end bullying, discrimination and violence toward immigrant students in District 7 schools.

Movimiento por Justicia del Barrio / Movement for Justice in El Barrio

A Latina-led movement of El Barrio residents advocating for dignified housing conditions, an end to landlord harassment and fair and just immigration policies that don't separate parents from their children.

New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement A network of currently and formerly incarcerated people, their families and advocates shining a light on the torturous reality of solitary confinement so that New York State will ban its use.

New York State Youth Leadership Council (NYSYLC) An immigrant youth-led organization in New York in pursuit of increasing access to higher education, gender justice and immigrant rights through organizing, advocacy and community building.

Parent Action Committee / New Settlement Apartments Immigrant mothers and grandmothers in the South Bronx elevating parents' voices and

perspectives to advance culturally responsive education and other strategies to decrease inequities in NYC public schools.

Project Hajra An immigrant women-led group organizing to create community safety and freedom from family violence in Queens through mutual aid, safety planning, and the development of a worker cooperative.

Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) Current and former prisoners working to end mass incarceration and promote racial justice by reforming the punitive NYS Board of Parole and securing the release of elders from prison.

Rockaway Youth Task Force A youth-founded and youth-led organization in the Rockaways

developing politically-conscious youth leadership to fight for food justice, and an end to discriminatory policing and punitive school discipline policies.

Urban Youth Collaborative A powerful coalition of youth-led organizing groups working to end the school-to-prison pipeline by winning funding for restorative justice practices in schools and creating Student Success Centers that give youth a path to college.

Voces Ciudadanas A parent-led organization in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, fighting school overcrowding and reducing the barriers for involvement for Latinx and Chinese parents who want to be part of their children's education. ▀



DANIELLE PEARCE

WANT TO JOIN THE GIVING PROJECT IN FALL 2019?

To learn more about joining a future North Star Fund Giving Project, reach out to Helen Stillman, Donor Program Director, at helen@northstarfund.org or 212.620.9110.

North Star Fund | 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1800 | New York, NY 10018
www.northstarfund.org

EVENTS ROUNDUP

NEW YEAR'S REVOLUTIONS GIVING PLAN WORKSHOP

Long-time North Star Fund leaders Helen Stillman and Kofo Anifalaje covered a lot of ground about giving plans for social-justice minded people in a January 2019 evening workshop at the Betty Kapetanakis Conference Room.

They discussed not only the basics of what a giving plan is and why it's good to have one, but also dove deeply into the work of starting to draft a personal giving plan that reflects anti-racist values using a detailed workbook.

Interested in starting or revising your own Giving Plan? We've got a couple tips to get you started at northstarfund.org/giving-revolutions-2019



BUILDING EQUITABLE ECONOMIES EVENT

Our Equitable Economy roundtable was a powerful evening of conversation anchored by our guest speakers: Deborah Frieze (Boston Impact Initiative), Deyanira Del Río (New Economy Project) and Sasha Wijeyeratne (CAA AV).

They talked about current strategies and campaigns that go to the heart of building alternative institutions that build the wealth and power of people and not corporations. As Sasha Wijeyeratne of CAA AV said, "Organizing has to be at the center of this work. Economic development as it happens now doesn't work for us."

From community-funded investment programs to public banking and land trusts, North Star Fund believes in building community around challenging conversations about money and justice. Learn more about this and future programs on our website.



GIVING PROJECT CELEBRATION

Do we know how to party? Our Giving Project participants met and mingled with grantees, Giving Project donors, and North Star Fund board and staff to celebrate \$200,000 in grants to support grassroots organizing in New York City. We packed the Betty Kapetanakis Conference Room and celebrated the contributions of so many people (over 300 donors) who took action to support local movements for justice.

SWEET JUSTICE BK AND SWEET JUSTICE III

Our Sweet Justice gatherings allow us to introduce new people to our North Star Fund activist community in a more intimate setting, while we relax and enjoy delicious desserts. Sweet Justice BK was at Butter & Scotch, and guests learned the identities of our 2019 Gala honorees before they were publicly announced! Our Sweet Justice III event, hosted by long-term partner Lady M, was a chance to meet and mingle with North Star Fund's 40 for 40—leaders who exemplify the work of building and resourcing movements.

Want to find a chill way to mingle with activists and leaders in philanthropy? Join us for a future Sweet Justice event!



DANIELLE PEARCE

**GET INVITED TO OUR EVENTS BY
SIGNING UP AT [NORTHSTARFUND.ORG!](https://NORTHSTARFUND.ORG)**



NEHA GAUTAM



DANIELLE PEARCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alvarez Symonette
Amber Guild
Asa Johnson
Candis Tolliver
Christine Parker
David Ryan Alexander
Gonzalo Mercado
Holly Fetter
Jennifer Ching, *Executive Director*
Jennifer Flynn Walker
Kesi Foster
Lisa Steglich
Lloyd Martinez
Maggie Williams
Marjorie Fine, *Chair*
Mark Reed
Michael Waterman, *Secretary*
Natasha Pallan, *Treasurer*
Nisha Atre
Pierre Hauser, *Vice-Chair*
Susanna Blankley

STAFF

Adam Liebowitz,
Community Food Funders Director
Angbeen Saleem,
Digital Communications Coordinator
Catherine Eusebio,
NYC Program Officer
cori schmanke parrish,
Deputy Director
Elz Cuya Jones,
Deputy Director
Helen Stillman,
Donor Program Director
Jennifer Ching,
Executive Director
Jodi Sh. Doff,
Operations Manager
Kathleen Pequeño,
Communications Director
Kofo Anifalaje,
Development Director
Leyana Dessauer,
Administrative Assistant
Maya Reyes,
Development Coordinator
Mayra Hidalgo Salazar,
Hudson Valley Program Director
Seun A. Owolabi,
Development Manager

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY FUNDING COMMITTEE

Callie Jayne
Diana Sánchez
Emma Kreyche
Gloria Martínez
Guisela Marroquín
Jalal Sabur
Rae Leiner
Sandra Oxford

LET US BREATHE FUND COMMITTEE

Darian X
Ejeris Dixon
Janis Rosheuvél



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
NEW YORK, NY
PERMIT #03096

520 EIGHTH AVENUE
SUITE 1800
NEW YORK, NY 10018-4170

T 212-620-9110
F 212-620-8178

NORTHSTARFUND.ORG

THANKS FOR A GREAT 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY GALA!



DAN BIGELOW

What a night! Our 40th Anniversary North Star Fund Community Gala brought together over 650 New Yorkers to celebrate the power of grassroots movements.

Thanks to all our honorees, and to all the guests who joined us: whether you hosted tables, bought ads in the E-Journal, brought fun to the photobooth or your moves to the dance floor!

2019 Frederick Douglass Honorees:
Columbia County Sanctuary Movement
Release Aging People in Prison



GERARD GASKIN



DAN BIGELOW

2019 North Star Honorees:
Barbara Winslow
Linda Sarsour
Maurice Mitchell



GERARD GASKIN