At North Star Fund, we’ve proven that when grassroots movements lead, we can create groundbreaking policy changes—and change the narrative for how power is built and held. For over 40 years, we’ve supported grassroots organizing led by communities of color building power in the face of innumerable obstacles.

We’ve organized thousands of people across race and class to give in support of these movements. And, along the way, we’ve built our own community of joyful, intentional practice and action.

This year, we face one of the most important elections in our nation’s history. In 2021, we have a wide slate of transformational elections in New York. All in the context of increasing climate change, wealth inequality, militarized violence and white supremacy. We require new plans, new leaders and dramatic shifts in power.

You’ll see in these pages that we support groups who have both the vision and the people power to win. I invite you to deepen your involvement with us. Join our 2020 Giving Project next fall, join our community at this spring’s Community Gala, follow us on social and learn about how you can focus your giving towards systems change.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Ching,
Executive Director
Organizing for social justice is hard, under-resourced work. That’s why we’re always looking for ways to make our grants easier to access. One of the ways we do that is our activist-led grantmaking model, in which our decision makers—our Community Funding Committee (CFC) members—are peers that understand the challenges of organizing firsthand.

One morning this cycle brought this home for me. We went to Sunset Park for a site visit with a group of parents organizing to change their community for their children. We met in the basement of an apartment building: two Mandarin-speaking parent leaders, two Spanish-speaking parent leaders and a staff organizer. Plus interpreters, our CFC members, a chatty baby and a barking white dog.

It was a cacophony of sound as we literally broke bread together and these community leaders shared their vision for what needed to change in their local school, and how they were going to work with other parents and kids to make it happen. There was no fixed presentation, but rather a conversation. Our volunteer grantmakers were able to directly engage with these grassroots activists—something unique within philanthropy.

Accessibility takes a lot of forms in our grantmaking approach.

▶ We provide language interpretation for site visits.
▶ We visit grantees in their locations instead of having them come to our office (unless they prefer our office).
▶ We’re adamant about funding start-ups, even if they haven’t secured 501(c)(3) or fiscal sponsorship when they apply.
▶ Our grants include volunteer-run groups and organizations with small budgets.
▶ We regularly ask applicants how to streamline the process so that we still get what we need to make informed decisions, while keeping deadlines, categories and requirements clear.

In this newsletter, you will see fewer categories (even our catchy grant category names weren’t descriptive enough for people to easily understand the difference.) Our new NYC Organizing Grants category combines our previous categories called Grassroots Action Grants and Catalyst Grants.

This is our core support to organizations led by communities of color building power in the five boroughs—from start-up to seasoned. You may notice that we are now able to make larger grants than in previous years.

You’ll also see Rapid Response grants and a roundup of grantee victories from the second half of 2019 on page 10 of this newsletter.

I hope you’re as excited to learn about these groups as we are to support their visionary organizing.

Catherine Eusebio
NYC Program Officer
African Communities Together

$15,000 RENEWAL
A powerful multilingual organization of African immigrant New Yorkers fighting for language access, humanitarian immigration policies, and workers’ rights.

Audre Lorde Project

$10,000 NEW
A city-wide organizing home for LGBTQ, two-spirit, and gender nonconforming people of color who are seeking an end to community and state violence, displacement, and homelessness.

Black Trans Media

$5,000 RENEWAL START-UP
A community of trans and gender nonconforming Black media makers sharing their voices and experiences to create narratives that challenge racism and transphobia.

Brandworkers

$15,000 RENEWAL
A member-led organization, based in Queens, made up primarily of immigrant workers in the New York City local food production industry, organizing for dignified jobs and a just food system.

Carroll Gardens Association

$10,000 RENEWAL START-UP
An economic development organization, based in Southwest Brooklyn, organizing nannies and homecare workers to demand dignified working conditions, and tenants to demand affordable housing and and an end to displacement.

Coalition of Institutionalized Aged and Disabled (CIAD)

$10,000 NEW
A resident-run effort to provide adult home and nursing home residents with the information and skills to win back their autonomy, improve conditions in their homes and support their efforts to lead more independent lives.

Cooper Square Committee

$10,000 NEW
A stalwart, neighborhood-based housing organizer, working with area residents over the past 60 years to preserve and develop affordable, environmentally healthy housing and community spaces in the Cooper Square area of lower Manhattan.

East Harlem / El Barrio Community Land Trust

$10,000 RENEWAL START-UP
An innovative model of community-controlled, truly and permanently affordable housing with greenspaces as well as commercial and cultural spaces in East Harlem/El Barrio that prioritizes low-income residents.

Faith in New York

$15,000 RENEWAL
A multi-faith network of over 70 religious congregations engaging local clergy and leaders to educate and mobilize their congregants on social justice issues, including expanding affordable housing, ending mass incarceration, and increasing civic participation.
Future of Tomorrow / Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation

$10,000 RENEWAL A student-led effort pushing public schools to provide a fair, equitable and high-quality education by bringing restorative justice programs to East New York.

FIERCE

$10,000 RENEWAL A Bronx-based community of LGBTQ youth of color organizing for an end to police harassment, homelessness and bullying in schools.

Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project

$10,000 RENEWAL A Haitian organization supporting English-language learner (ELL) youth and parents to navigate the New York City public school system so that they can fully participate in and benefit from school programs.

IntegrateNYC

$10,000 RENEWAL A youth-led citywide movement uniting students to push the Department of Education to dismantle deeply embedded segregation in New York City’s public school system.

Jahajee Sisters

$15,000 RENEWAL A Queens-based organization activating Indo-Caribbean women and gender-fluid individuals to challenge gender-based violence and heal inter-generational trauma by influencing local religious congregations.

La Colmena

$15,000 RENEWAL The go-to workers’ center by and for Latinx day laborers and domestic workers in Staten Island, organizing to end wage theft and to improve occupational health.

Laundry Workers Center

$15,000 RENEWAL A citywide Latinx immigrant-led organization, improving the living and working conditions of New York City’s low-wage workforces in the retail laundromat and food service industries through community and workplace organizing.

Masa

$10,000 RENEWAL 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.

Mekong NYC

$15,000 RENEWAL A Bronx-based center for Southeast Asian immigrants and refugees organizing nail salon workers and community members for fair working conditions, accessible health care and an end to deportations.

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

$10,000 RENEWAL A community organization led primarily by Latinx immigrant women in El Barrio, advocating for dignified housing conditions and an end to immigrant detention and family separation.

NYC Coalition for Educational Justice (CEJ)

$15,000 RENEWAL A parent-led organization focused on bringing racial justice into public schools through culturally responsive education and anti-bias training for
NYC Network of Worker Cooperatives (NYC NoWC)

$10,000 NEW
A trade association for worker cooperative businesses in the NYC metropolitan region, organizing a powerful base of worker-owners to create a more friendly and sustainable policy environment for worker cooperatives.

Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP)

$15,000 RENEWAL
Currently and formerly incarcerated people working to end mass incarceration and promote racial justice by reforming the punitive New York State Board of Parole and securing the release of elders from prison.

Sylvia Rivera Law Project

$10,000 RENEWAL
An organization by and for transgender, gender nonconforming, and intersex people offering legal services, public education and policy advocacy currently running campaigns to improve conditions in shelters and prisons that directly impact their community.

Visión Futuro

$10,000 NEW START-UP
An emerging organization based in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, pushing for equity in the public school system by galvanizing immigrant parents of children with special needs.

Voces Ciudadanas

$10,000 RENEWAL
A parent-led organization in Sunset Park fighting school overcrowding and reducing the barriers to involvement facing Latinx and Chinese parents who want to be part of their children’s education.

YA-YA Network

$10,000 RENEWAL
Youth ages 15 to 19 years old and their allies building youth leadership to end militarism and punitive disciplinary policies in public schools that disproportionately affect students of color, students with disabilities and LGBTQ students.

Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice

$10,000 RENEWAL
A youth-led movement to transform their Bronx Soundview/Bruckner neighborhoods to include restorative justice in public schools, cleaner air, healthy food and the full participation of immigrant community members.

NYC COALITION FOR EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE (CEJ)

Voces Ciudadanas

$10,000 RENEWAL
A parent-led organization in Sunset Park fighting school overcrowding and reducing the barriers to involvement facing Latinx and Chinese parents who want to be part of their children’s education.

Visión Futuro

$10,000 NEW START-UP
An emerging organization based in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, pushing for equity in the public school system by galvanizing immigrant parents of children with special needs.
For over 40 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 in order to find the decision-makers for our grants. We do this to shift power within philanthropy away from entrenched institutions and towards communities who are rising up to dismantle white supremacy.

This comes with an additional benefit. Given the scale of organizing and resistance in all five boroughs, no one person can know everything. 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.

These grantmakers volunteer dozens of hours to ensure that we maintain a fair and competitive process that identifies the best grassroots organizing in our city or state.

These are the volunteer grantmakers who make up our New York City Community Funding Committees (CFC):

**FALL 2019/WINTER 2020 MEMBERS**

Alejandra Ruiz
Anthonine Pierre
Cathy Dang
Jamie Tyberg
Jose Vasquez
Kesi Foster, Co-Chair
Krystal Portalatin
Leah Obias
Liglia Gualpa
Prarthana Gurung
Rebecca Bailin
Rob Robinson
Shatia Strother
Susanna Blankley, Co-Chair

**NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY FUNDING COMMITTEE**

Led by the people most directly affected?

Developing leadership capacity?

Addressing root causes?

Creating systemic change through campaigns?

Promoting a strong vision for social justice?

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

**Special thank you to Julie Wan, Michael Velarde, Olvin Martin Caba, and Caracol Language Cooperative for participation in site visits.**
COMMUNITY FOOD FUNDERS UPDATE

Community Food Funders (CFF) is North Star Fund’s philanthropy organizing project that supports the growth of an equitable, ecologically sound and sustainable food system in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

As of early 2020, we’re more than halfway through the first cycle of the Seeding Power Fellowship. This innovative 18-month, cohort-based food justice fellowship program has brought together 12 committed leaders from across our region for a series of leadership and learning retreats. This spring the fellows are working on projects that reflect their experience of the fellowship.

This spring Community Food Funders will bring philanthropic leaders to even more events—both regional and national—focused on building a more sustainable and just food system.

Are you committed to funding movements for food production that is both just and sustainable? You can learn more about CFF at communityfoodfunders.org.

SHOWING A NEW WAY FORWARD WITHIN PHILANTHROPY

If you work in philanthropy, it may seem like you keep seeing our director Jennifer Ching at conferences and on panels. Well, it’s not just you! We’re increasingly being invited to share our experiences from decades of shifting power by empowering current and former grantees to be not just recipients but decision-makers within our organization. It’s why our leadership and our decisionmakers are unique within the field.

Jenn has presented our experience and track record in CHANGE Philanthropy’s Community Foundations Innovations Towards Social Change conference and in Exponent’s learning session about participatory grantmaking. Hundreds of philanthropic leaders have learned more about our approaches and results.

We are also a founding partner of Trust-based Philanthropy, a peer-to-peer learning and advocacy initiative to make trust-based practices the norm in philanthropy.

We continue to share our approach with funders who want to change business-as-usual in philanthropy to make it more effective and responsive to communities while dismantling white supremacy within philanthropy.

2019-2020 PEOPLE POWER GIVING PROJECT

It’s been a busy time for the third year of this innovative program where New Yorkers get to support local justice movements they care about while building fundraising and grantmaking skills.

This winter they’ve been raising money from family and friends while also reviewing proposals and meeting in person with possible grantees. For most of this year’s Giving Project members, this is the first time they have gone to meet with grassroots leaders as a possible foundation funder.

Stay tuned for their grants announcement in spring 2020!
Here are some of the events we hosted for our social justice community this fall/winter! Want to be sure you learn about upcoming events? Sign up for our email newsletter on our website or follow us on social media.

**JUST KIDDING: A NORTH STAR FUND COMEDY NIGHT DECEMBER 2019**

We hosted our first ever comedy event as part of our #40YearsBold celebration with over 300 people in attendance. We featured performances from:

- Ronny Chieng (*The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*, *Crazy Rich Asians*)
- Kerry Coddett (*The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore*, MTV’s *Joking Off*)
- Lucas Bros (*The Lucas Bros: ON DRUGS*, *22 Jump Street*)
- Dulcé Sloan (*The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*, *Ten Comics to Know* by Rolling Stone)
- Wally Baram (*Hollywood Improv*, *Big Sky Comedy Festival*, writer on *Players*)
- Jaye McBride (*Comedy Central’s This Week at the Comedy Cellar*)

As well as the comedy debut of our very own Jennifer Ching. You can see her routine online at http://bit.ly/jenn-is-funny.

**NEW YEAR’S REVOLUTIONS**

During our annual giving plan workshop we had a great time coming together to talk about how to organize our giving around the issues and communities we care about. This January’s workshop helped participants focus on strategies to address the intersections between grassroots movements and election mobilizations.
Donors, grantees, old friends and new friends celebrated the hard work and successes of organizers and activists from across the city at the Year-End Power-Up. It was a space to celebrate our community and the great work that comes out of it every year. Power-Up served as a reminder that local organizing is of tremendous importance, especially as we head into national elections in 2020 and local elections here in New York in 2021. We fund community organizing because we believe in the importance of building people power—no matter who is in office.

Close to 100 people—Giving Project members, their guests, North Star Fund staff, and organizers from across the city—came together to tackle big questions about what justice might look like for communities of color in New York City. At each of four different discussion tables, organizers and attendees engaged in dialogue around one of these questions:

- What does justice for immigrant communities look like?
- What does community safety look like?
- What does education justice look like?
- What does community self-determination look like?
RESPONDING TO EMERGING ISSUES: RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

These grants we awarded in the second half of 2019 supported organizing, activism and strategic convening in response to urgent threats or breaking opportunities, especially during critical junctures of a campaign. Rapid Response grants are intended to help organizations achieve a timely and specific outcome or impact within three to six months, usually as part of a long-term goal to achieve systems-based change.

$5,000 **The Black Feminist Project** ... for a fall 2019 convening to organize South Bronx community members in support of the repeal the federal Hyde Amendment.

$5,000 **Brandworkers** ... for their ongoing Tom Cat Bakery campaign to protect immigrant workers who were facing reinvigorated anti-worker activity from their employer.

$5,000 **Brooklyn Movement Center** ... for a creative street theater protest in conjunction with Theater of the Oppressed NYC to sustain pressure on the NYPD to hold all the officers involved in the death of Eric Garner accountable through a “People’s Trial.”

$5,000 **Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC)**... for a strategy retreat to advance the HALT Solitary Confinement Act in the 2020 legislature—a bill with widespread support but being held up by Albany politics.

$5,000 **Model Alliance**... for the timely launch of the RESPECT Program, a legally-binding agreement to protect models and other freelance creatives from employer sexual harassment and abuse.

$2,500 **New Sanctuary Coalition**... to hire a part-time Sanctuary City Coordinator in response to a spike in ICE raids. This will allow the coalition to expand the safety net of sanctuary faith institutions, businesses and mobilized citizens in New York City.

$5,000 **Right to Counsel NYC Coalition**... for the People’s Tribunal on Evictions, a public event to highlight landlords who have mistreated tenants. This event spurred the coalition’s public rollout of a list of citywide demands and direct action eviction defense network.

$5,000 **Sixth Street Community Center**... to organize the “Bury the Plan, Not the Park” march and rally to save their local park—the East River Park—from zealous development plans that would literally bury it under eight feet of dirt.

$5,000 **SustainUS**... to send a delegation of New York City youth of color to the UN Climate Summit.

GRANTEE VICTORY PREVIEW

Here’s a small dose of good news: victories in law, policy and practices that affect communities of color and low-income communities in New York.

Thanks to the hard work of all the members in the Housing Justice for All campaign, evictions continue to fall in New York City.

Groups like Northern Manhattan Is Not For Sale have been long organizing against the Inwood rezoning plan proposed by the Mayor’s office. In December, a judge struck down the plan, siding with neighbors who would be directly affected by the changes.

Also in December, the New York City Council passed a bill that will require City-funded projects to set aside at least 15% of units for homeless New Yorkers, a campaign advanced by multiple grassroots organizations including VOCAL-NY.

Thanks to the hard work of Communities United for Police Reform, Ballot Proposal #2 passed. This will expand the Civilian Complaint Review Board’s jurisdiction to include investigating and disciplinarily prosecuting police officers who lie in misconduct cases.

Local organizations including Make the Road New York, Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Families for Freedom, Immigrant Defense Project, African Communities Together and Surveillance Technology Oversight Project came together to create the New York Immigrant Freedom Fund, which aims to post bond for as many low-income immigrants in detention as possible.

Hungry for more? Check out our website or follow us on social media for more inspiring victories!
WELCOMES

Our New York City CFC welcomed new members Jamie Tyberg, Jose Vasquez, Prarthana Gurung and Rebecca Bailin in fall 2019, just in time to research and decide on the grants listed in this newsletter.

We’re also starting off 2020 welcoming three new board members: Ejeris Dixon, Rosemary Rivera and Sayu Bhojwani!

OUR NEW DONOR-ADVISED FUND ONLINE PLATFORM

We’ve launched a new donor-advised fund platform in partnership with Amalgamated Foundation to combine our financial expertise and unique, shared commitment to social change. The new website for making grants is easier than ever. Plus, an expanded pool of investment options mean that while you decide on grants, you can invest your funds in a vehicle consistent with your values.

Learn more about this at northstarfund.org/daf

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY FUNDING COMMITTEE

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

LET US BREATHE FUND COMMUNITY FUNDING COMMITTEE

Darian X
Ejeris Dixon
Janis Rosheuvel

New York City Community Funding Committee is listed on page 6.

WHO WE ARE

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