The Liberation Fund is proud to announce $900,000 in grants for eleven organizations in its third year of grantmaking. The following grantees were curated by Groundswell staff, drawing from a list of organizations recommended for funding by Liberation Fund Advisors – fourteen prominent women of color leaders from various social justice movements. Liberation Fund grantees represent some of the most effective and powerful grassroots organizing efforts in the United States today. All grantee organizations are led by women of color and/or transgender people of color.
Liberation Fund Advisors

Ai-Jen Poo  NATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS ALLIANCE
Alicia Garza  NATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS ALLIANCE & BLACK LIVES MATTER
Angelica Salas  COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (CHIRLA)
Bamby Salcedo  THE TRANSLATIN@ COALITION
Chrissie Castro  NATIVE VOICE NETWORK
Cindy Wiesner  GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE
Denise Perry  BLACK ORGANIZING FOR LEADERSHIP AND DIGNITY
Elle Hearns  MARSHA P. JOHNSON INSTITUTE
Isa Noyola  MIJENTE
Linda Sarsour  MPOWER CHANGE
Mary Hooks  SOUThERNERS ON NEW GROUND
Miya Yoshitani  ASIAN PACIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK
Sarita Gupta  JOBS WITH JUSTICE
Saru Jayaraman  ROC UNITED
CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities

$75,000
New York, NY
www.caaav.org

Based in New York City, CAAAV is an intergenerational, grassroots organizing powerhouse that has addressed issues of poverty, gentrification, and displacement for three decades, by engaging thousands of low-income Asian immigrants and refugees in three primary programs: the Chinatown Tenants Union (CTU), the Asian Tenants Union (ATU), and the Asian Youth in Action (AYA) program. In 2018, New York State, in a bid to become the site of a new Amazon headquarters, was ready to allocate nearly $500 million dollars in capital grants to lure the company to Long Island City, Queens, right across the street from Queensbridge Houses, which is home to some 7,000 residents and the largest public housing development in the country. CAAAV realized that its members there would be displaced, and that Amazon’s arrival would push out the small businesses members rely on, further burden an already crumbling public transportation system, and hasten the privatization of additional New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) properties. In response, CAAAV launched #NeighborsBeyondAmazon, a campaign to protect the community from rent inflation and displacement. Through a fast-acting, member-led and -engaged strategy, CAAAV and its coalition partners (including DRUM, another 2019 Liberation Fund grantee) fought and won, creating so much public and elected official opposition that Amazon withdrew its offer. In 2019, CAAAV and partners also won a major legal victory when the state Supreme Court overturned approval for the proposed development of luxury apartments on the Chinatown waterfront. In 2020, CAAAV will push for passage of its Chinatown Rezoning Plan, which would prevent the construction of any luxury developments on the waterfront, and expand its organizing into adjacent neighborhoods. It will also explore the creation of a Chinatown Community Land Trust, and fight to win full funding for NYCHA. The AYA program will continue to experiment with building a formal membership program and launch a new project to support intergenerational organizing, using civic engagement strategies to build CAAAV’s base.

City Life / Vida Urbana (CL/VU)

$75,000
Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA
www.clvu.org

For the past 45 years, CL/VU has worked with tenants in east Boston’s Jamaica Plain to win community control of land and housing, and to build a movement that fights for the needs of working-class tenants of color. In 2019, CL/VU, led by Black and Latinx women leaders, continued its organizing to hold housing developers and local elected officials accountable. Along with local partner GreenRoots and Latinx immigrant leaders, CL/VU also launched an ongoing grassroots campaign to challenge a proposal to build luxury housing on the site of the former Suffolk Downs Race Track, which would drive working-class immigrant families out of East Boston.
CL/VU is also organizing along the Fairmount transit corridor, where several new commuter rail stops have opened over the last few years in working-class neighborhoods of color, placing them at greater risk of displacement. Over the past year, CL/VU has also convened a monthly Black Feminist Praxis Circle as part of its work to root the organization and its leadership more deeply in a gender analysis that centers women of color. In addition, 100 Cadre, CL/VU’s advanced social justice leadership training, plans to train 30 women of color base leaders in 2020, who will then join leadership committees. CL/VU will continue to scale up local tenant association organizing and lay the groundwork for a Statewide Tenant Movement/Anti-Displacement Network to bring back rent control. It will also coordinate tenant organizing campaigns to ensure that private landlords make Section 8 rents affordable. As a leader within Right to the City Boston/ Homes For All, CL/VU will also organize four Boston People’s Assemblies, drawing more than 200 participants from many Boston neighborhoods and base-building groups to reaffirm their vision of healthy, vibrant, affordable neighborhoods, and to lay the groundwork for a citywide People’s Plan.

**Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)**

$75,000  
**New York City, NY**  
[www.drumnyc.org](http://www.drumnyc.org)

DRUM is a multi-generational organization of 4,000+ low-income South Asian and Indo-Caribbean immigrant workers, families, and youth directly affected by racial profiling, immigration, educational inequity, and economic injustice. DRUM builds the leadership of the most marginalized members of its communities through membership-led direct-action campaigns, base building, leadership development, and services. DRUM focuses its base building in four New York City neighborhoods (Parkchester, Kensington, Western Queens, and Southern Queens), convening five membership meetings every month that engage 130 to 150 members. In 2019, DRUM mobilized members to challenge the proposed addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 census form; with its partners, DRUM submitted 3,300 signatures in protest to the U.S. Department of Commerce during the public comment period and engaged over 1,000 community members. As the anchor of the Hate Free Zones Coalition Queens, DRUM partnered with 2019 Liberation Fund grantee CAAAV and others in the successful fight against Amazon’s proposed Queens headquarters; the campaign included convening a town hall with over 500 community members, collecting petitions, canvassing, and advocating to local and state representatives. DRUM’s gender justice committee members wrote and performed a play, or natok, about gender oppression, ran a community workshop on domestic violence, and held caucus meetings. As part of its commitment to gender justice, DRUM plans to recruit 350 new members in 2020, 70 percent womxn and girls, and committee members will continue to write and perform natoks, conduct public education about domestic violence, and collect stories to be used in public workshops to combat street harassment. DRUM will also continue organizing around the census, workers’ rights, education justice, racial justice, and neighborhood defense.
Dream Defenders Education (DDE)

$75,000
Florida
www.dreamdefenders.org

DDE is a statewide organization focused on building power in Black, Latinx, immigrant, and working-class communities throughout Florida, founded in the wake of Trayvon Martin’s murder when young people from across the state organized to demand action and accountability. Over the past year, the organization has grown its active membership base from 150 members in three cities to 450 in nine cities, and plans to reach 1,000 members by the end of 2020 (with a focus on engaging and recruiting members from rural communities). DDE uses its Freedom Papers, a document outlining its vision for a world in which all people can be healthy, free, and whole, to recruit and educate new members, and center its organizing priorities and campaigns. As part of its work to build a world without prisons or police, DDE will continue its campaign against the Boca Raton-based GEO Group, the nation’s largest private operator of prisons and detention centers, and fight back against police brutality and state violence. Since July 2019, DDE has been organizing for justice for Tymar Crawford, a young Black man who was shot and killed by a police officer outside his home in Pensacola. While the officer was found to have violated the police department’s deadly force policy, he faces no criminal charges. In 2020, DDE will also work with grassroots members to develop the Freedom Package, a set of policy solutions that manifest the vision articulated in the Freedom Papers, and win support through coalition building and a storytelling project. It will also register 15,000 voters, and offer trainings and civic education for its members through its Sunday School program.

Marsha P. Johnson Institute (MPJI)

$75,000
New York City and Columbus, OH
www.marshap.org

Named after one of the leaders of the Stonewall Uprising, MPJI builds the transformative leadership of transgender people to support their own healing and build power through media advocacy, civic engagement, public policy, and arts and culture. MPJI programs help Black trans women and gender nonconforming femmes obtain the skills, and financial and programmatic resources to advocate for an end to violence against all trans people. In collaboration with the Black Futures Lab, MPJI developed its platform for safety and wellness of Black trans and gender nonconforming femme communities. The platform was shared with community members and policymakers in Washington, DC, and neighboring Prince George’s County, Maryland, where two Black trans women were killed in...
2019, and was subsequently shared with community members in Dallas, TX, and New York City. In 2020, MPJI will host regional convenings aimed at envisioning how leaders in different localities can translate the platform into a set of policy goals. Over the past year, as part of its Slay the Vote campaign, MPJI partnered with the Ball and House communities\(^1\) to do a live Ball in front of NYC City Council, launched voter turnout efforts in Chicago and Atlanta, registered 1,000 voters, and educated thousands more. MPJI also partnered with Black Women’s Blueprint and Planned Parenthood of Columbus, OH, to educate 50+ community members on the impact of abortion bans on women and trans people, linking the issue to the criminalization of Black bodies. In 2020, MPJI will build on Slay the Vote to grow the Freedom Beyond Imagination Coalition, a national coalition of regional and local Black trans organizations seeking to build alignment. MPJI will deepen its own analysis through writing and the creation of art informed by reproductive justice, housing, spirituality, healing, and collaboration, and host a convening of artists. MPJI will also continue its leadership development work and explore opportunities to deepen membership engagement via its digital member platform.

**Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA)**

**$100,000**  
San Francisco, CA  
www.mujeresunidas.net

MUA is a 30-year-old, membership-based Latina immigrant organization with a dual mission: promoting personal transformation and building community power for social and economic justice. MUA trains member leaders in seven cities, including San Francisco and Oakland, to provide mutual support; offer trainings to build economic security and leadership; and lead organizing campaigns to win immigrants’, workers’, and women’s rights. In 2019, as part of its work to ensure implementation of the state domestic workers’ bill of rights, MUA organized 10+ legislative visits to the capitol in Sacramento, mobilizing 25 members each time. Members testified before committees, sharing stories about their lives as domestic worker employees, and advocated with policy makers in multiple state departments and agencies. MUA’s campaign convinced Governor Gavin Newsom to allocate $5 million for the establishment of an Education and Outreach Program to enforce California’s pioneering Bill of Rights for Domestic Workers, which will also support other low-wage workers and exists thanks to MUA’s leadership. As part of the national Families Belong Together campaign, MUA co-led local actions demanding that banks and corporations divest from private immigrant detention centers. Ultimately, four major U.S. banks (Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Chase, and SunTrust) pledged to end all investment in the private prison industry. In 2020, MUA will continue developing leaders who speak Spanish and Mam (a Mayan language) to door knock, phone bank, organize community events, and speak to the media. MUA will also work towards passage of a statewide ballot initiative, Schools and Communities First, that would close a loophole in California’s property tax system and result in $11 billion per year in new revenues from corporations and commercial landowners to fund schools and public services, such as parks and libraries.

**Native Movement**

**$75,000**  
Fairbanks, AK  
www.nativemovement.org

Based in Fairbanks, AK, Native Movement builds grassroots power through Indigenous place-based knowledge, decolonization, and Just Transition\(^2\) frameworks. These frameworks build an understanding of the historical and current impacts of colonization and offer a regenerative vision of the future, while outlining a practical path for how to get there. Native Movement plays a key role in uplifting Indigenous leadership in the fight to protect Native land, the environment, and the safety of women and girls, while filling critical gaps in grassroots organizing capacity across the state. Native Movement hosts an annual Northern Organizers Summit, a multi-racial convening focused this year on gender justice, understood through a framework of decolonization and Indigenous feminism. In 2019, over 40 adults and 20 children engaged in deep learning and relationship building with each other at the

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\(^1\) The House and Ball community (a.k.a., the ballroom scene) is a national subculture of Black and Latinx LGBTQ youth and adults that provides a platform celebrating all forms of gender and sexual expression. The House and Ball scene provides many Black and Latinx youth and adults with a chosen kinship structure that supports the vital resources of collective impact and resiliency.

\(^2\) Just Transition is a vision-led, unifying, and place-based set of principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy. Learn more at https://climatejusticealliance.org/just-transition/.
Summit, laying the groundwork for co-conspiratorial partnerships that are vital for Native Movement’s statewide advocacy work. Native Movement also focuses on addressing gender-based violence against Indigenous women. In 2019, it began to develop a database for the numerous cold cases of missing or murdered Indigenous women; this database will support Native Movement in its advocacy for justice. It is also working with local municipalities to develop policies that prevent gender-based violence, and support Indigenous women and their families in pursuit of justice. In 2020, Native Movement will continue to support local organizers in a growing number of cities and towns across the state in the protection of vital Alaskan lands, waters, and life in areas that are threatened by extractive industries. It will continue to advance conversations around gender justice and Indigenous feminism in Northern communities, and further build out its advocacy work against gender-based violence.

**Racial Justice Action Center (RJAC)**

$75,000
Atlanta, GA
[www.rjactioncenter.org](http://www.rjactioncenter.org)

Atlanta-based RJAC builds the grassroots leadership and power of women, trans people, and low-income communities of color to fight for and win structural and social transformation in Georgia. Groundswell funding will support two of its most successful grassroots organizing projects, Solutions Not Punishment Collaborative (SNaPCo), a Black trans-and-queer-led power-building organization, and Women on the Rise (WoR), a membership-based organization of women targeted and affected by the criminal justice system, as they become independent nonprofit organizations on January 1, 2020. In 2020, also with Groundswell support, RJAC will analyze, document, and capture lessons learned and sunset its operations.

**Women on the Rise (WoR)**

A PROJECT OF THE RACIAL JUSTICE ACTION CENTER

Atlanta, GA
[www.womenontherisega.org](http://www.womenontherisega.org)

WoR educates, heals, and empowers its members and their communities to demand justice, dignity, and liberation for all. WoR’s main campaign is Communities Over Cages: Close the Jail ATL, which in May 2019 scored a huge victory when the City Council voted to close the Atlanta City Detention Center (ACDC), and established a taskforce to determine a use for the facility that would be driven by community needs. WoR’s executive director now co-chairs the city’s Reimagining ACDC Taskforce and formerly incarcerated WoR members now have seats on the taskforce. In 2020, WoR will hold the city accountable to the community-led design process and pressure for follow through on a commitment to reallocate millions of dollars previously used to operate the jail back into the communities most harmed by its operation.

**Solutions Not Punishment Collaborative (SNaPCo)**

A PROJECT OF THE RACIAL JUSTICE ACTION CENTER

Atlanta, GA
[www.snap4freedom.org](http://www.snap4freedom.org)

SNaPCo responds to and interrupts interpersonal and state-sanctioned violence against trans people, sex workers, and people living with HIV. Through its Taking Care of Our Own rapid response fund, SNaPCo provides emergency bail, housing, and other restorative needs, while the SNaP4Freedom School offers popular education workshops and healing circles, and engages in direct action. Finally, the SNaP4Freedom Sex Work Revolution campaign focuses on repealing and deprioritizing arrests for prostitution and/or solicitation in Atlanta and shifting a culture that criminalizes and provokes violence against Black trans and queer people. In 2020, SNaPCo will continue to advance the transformation in community and policy change needed to sustain Black, trans, queer, and sex worker communities, and build a local alliance of 40 social justice organizations, businesses, service providers, education, and faith-based organizations committed to protecting trans life, investing in Black trans leadership, and fighting for criminal justice reform. To support this work, it will conduct at least 15 trainings about trans justice, HIV, and sex work decriminalization, and launch a needs assessment for sex workers and others who participate in the industry in Georgia.
Southerners On New Ground (SONG)

$100,000
U.S. South
www.southernersonnewground.org

SONG is a political home for LGBTQ liberation across lines of race, class, abilities, age, culture, gender, and sexuality in the U.S. South. In 2019, as part of the Black Mama’s Bail Out campaign, SONG raised over $250,000 to bail out more than 50 women and trans and gender nonconforming people in seven cities. SONG’s #EndMoneyBail campaign calls for an end to pretrial, wealth-based detention, and demands that municipalities divest from cages, courts, and police, and invest instead in community-based solutions. In November 2018, SONG member-leaders in Nashville scored a major victory when voters there passed an initiative to institute a citywide Community Oversight Board with subpoena power over police and local criminal justice reform. SONG’s Electoral Experiments program, launched in 2018 in Nashville, Atlanta, and Birmingham, builds experience, literacy, and a base that supports the end of money bail through integrated voter engagement strategies. In 2020, SONG will launch new #EndMoneyBail campaigns in ten cities and towns across the South and invite three additional sites to launch Electoral Experiments. SONG’s Lorde’s Werq Black Leadership Development program, launched in 2018, trains Southern queer and trans Black organizers and connects them to leadership opportunities in social justice movements. Thus far, 50 organizers have engaged in the program and, in 2020, a cohort of 35 organizers will participate in the new cycle of leadership. SONG will also partner with the Center for Resilient Individuals, Families, and Communities (CRIFC), which employs abolitionist tactics that center those directly affected by mass incarceration across the South, to engage previously incarcerated mothers and caretakers in a paid leadership development cohort. These leaders will participate in the #MeltICE campaign, a collaboration with Mijente, the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, and the Transgender Law Center’s Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project aimed at ending all forms of voluntary collaboration between local police and ICE.

Transgender, Gender Variant, and Intersex Justice Project (TGIJP)

$75,000
San Francisco, CA
www.tgijp.org

TGIJP is one of the first and only legal advocacy and support organizations led by formerly incarcerated Black trans women. TGIJP’s goal is to end human rights abuses committed against transgender, gender variant, and intersex (TGI) people in California prisons, jails, detention centers, and elsewhere by decreasing the number of TGI people in prison. TGIJP programs are aimed at reducing recidivism, easing re-entry through access to housing, providing leadership opportunities in social justice movements for TGI people who have been incarcerated, and working to end the criminalization of TGI people. In 2019, Black Girls Rule, TGIJP’s annual national convening, hosted 50 trans women, femmes, and, for the first time, trans men and gender nonconforming people—double the number who attended last year, and many from groups based in the South and Midwest. The goal is to create a national agenda to address the violence facing Black trans women. In 2019, TGIJP partnered with Our Trans Native Movement.
Home San Francisco to pressure the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to increase housing subsidies for trans communities, winning an additional $1 million per year for the next three years. Partnering with shelters for homeless people in San Francisco, TGIJP plans to take charge of intake and placement of TGI people into designated beds in those facilities. Using this model, TGIJP has already won stabilization housing for trans and gender nonconforming people in a shelter in Stockton, CA. In 2020, TGIJP will open a second office, Transgenders in Florida Project (TGIFP), in Tampa, FL. TGIFP will use TGIJP’s model to help formerly incarcerated TGI people claim their newly-won right to vote and become engaged in the electoral process.

TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

$100,000

National

www.translatinacoalition.org

Founded in 2009 by trans immigrant women in cities across the country, TLC uses a hybrid model of direct service delivery, grassroots organizing, and policy advocacy to improve the quality of life of trans Latin@ immigrants. Headquartered in Los Angeles, TLC has chapters in Arizona, California, DC, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Texas, Washington, and Virginia. In 2019, TLC released its first-ever state policy agenda, focused on California and developed via a statewide survey, community forums, and policy research. TLC quickly put this policy agenda into action and worked with its allies to get two bills introduced: SB 555 (which would reduce the cost of calls, electronic communication, and commissary items in county jails) and SB 132, the Transgender Respect and Dignity Act (which would allow transgender people to be housed where they feel safest and to state their gender identity and their self-identified name and pronoun during intake). Both bills were passed in the state Senate, but stalled in the Assembly. Throughout 2019, TLC also worked on the successful campaign to #FreeAlejandra. Alejandra Barrera is a 44-year-old Salvadorian migrant seeking asylum who was the longest detained trans woman in the Cibola New Mexico ICE Detention Facility. TLC organized calls and a letter/email writing campaign to ICE, circulated a petition that received 50,000 signatures, and obtained a letter of support from 30 Congressional leaders demanding Alejandra’s release. As a result of this sustained pressure, Alejandra was released in September 2019. In 2020, TLC will develop a multi-year strategy to advance its policy agenda, while building the capacity of its base to engage in local advocacy.

To learn more about Groundswell’s Liberation Fund, please contact Cecilia Sàenz Becerra at csaenzbecerra@groundswellfund.org
ALABAMA
Southerners On New Ground (SONG)

ALASKA
Native Movement

ARIZONA
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

CALIFORNIA
Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA)
Transgender, Gender Variant, and Intersex Justice Project (TGJJP)
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

FLORIDA
Dream Defenders Education (DDE)
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

GEORGIA
Racial Justice Action Center (RJAC)
Southerners On New Ground (SONG)
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

ILLINOIS
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

LOUISIANA
Southerners On New Ground (SONG)

MARYLAND
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

MASSACHUSETTS
City Life / Vida Urbana (CL/VU)

MINNESOTA
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

NEW YORK
CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities
Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)
Marsha P. Johnson Institute (MPJI)
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

NORTH CAROLINA
Southerners On New Ground (SONG)

OHIO
Marsha P. Johnson Institute (MPJI)

SOUTH CAROLINA
Southerners On New Ground (SONG)

TENNESSEE
Southerners On New Ground (SONG)

TEXAS
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

VIRGINIA
Southerners On New Ground (SONG)
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

WASHINGTON
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

NATIONAL
TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)
Groundswell Fund strengthens U.S. movements for reproductive and social justice by resourcing intersectional grassroots organizing and centering the leadership of women of color—particularly those who are Black, Indigenous, and Transgender.

www.groundswellfund.org