Established in 2020, the Black Trans Fund is dedicated to uplifting, resourcing, and building the capacity of social justice leaders who are Black and transgender. Currently incubated at Groundswell and founded by Bré Rivera, the fund aims to address the lack of funding for Black trans communities through direct grantmaking, capacity building support, and funder organizing. This effort is rooted in the legacy of Black transgender freedom fighters and guided by liberation, love, and joy. As the first national fund in the United States led by and for Black transgender people, this is a groundbreaking endeavor.

“In 2020, I had the pleasure of launching the Black Trans Fund, a national fund that centers on Black trans joy and liberation and celebrates Black trans freedom fighters of the past, present, and future.

—Bré Rivera, Black Trans Fund Director
In direct response to transphobia and the lack of trans and gender-expansive inclusion in reproductive justice spaces, the BROWN BOI PROJECT launched in 2010. The group brings together masculine of center womyn, men, two-spirit people, transmen, and allies committed to changing the way that communities of color talk about gender. Through this work, they aim to transform movements for gender justice.

In 2022, the Brown Boi Project gathered a group of masculine-of-center queer and transgender folks to grow their networks and broaden their perspectives around queer masculinities. This retreat led to the creation of The Trans Trust Fund, a pilot program for transgender and gender-expansive youth. The fund provides direct aid to young people navigating financial struggles. Through another retreat for Black masculine-of-center people, the Brown Boi Project helped develop a capacity-building program for Black trans masculine and gender-expansive community builders in the South. Together, they are working to change the power dynamics in their relationships, families, and communities.

Through building the leadership, economic self-sufficiency, and health of LGBTQ+ people of color—and pipelining them into the social justice movement—the Brown Boi Project is transforming how communities of color think about gender.

My introduction to the Black Trans Fund was a major highlight because it felt more like a meeting of the minds and a celebration of aligned values than the nerve wracking song and dance I expected a funder meeting to be. – MATICE MOORE, BROWN BOI PROJECT
Elections in Georgia made national news several times in 2022. Understanding the importance of every vote, I AM HUMAN organized and supported transgender and gender-expansive folks to cast their votes. Created to empower LGBTQIA people, the organization focused on helping people get identification that matched their identities. This work empowered many new voters to register, some casting a ballot for the very first time.

In addition to this advocacy and organizing, I Am Human provides meals to the hungry and homeless with a focus on transgender youth and those living with HIV. They also reduce isolation through support groups, health services, and peer interaction. And their youth services division supports LGBTQ+ young people who have been abandoned by their families and need support.

I Am Human is determined to continue elevating the narratives of transgender and gender-expansive communities and combatting barriers to bodily autonomy in this post-Roe v. Wade era.

From mutual aid and youth services to ensuring transgender and gender-expansive Georgians can exercise their right to vote, I Am Human Foundation is determined to continue elevating the narratives of transgender and gender-expansive communities and combatting barriers to bodily autonomy in this post-Roe v. Wade era.

Groundswell’s model of philanthropy is different because of who we are—a foundation run by women of color and transgender people of color who come out of grassroots organizing. We know where to invest for transformative change and how best to fuel today’s most revolutionary movements for reproductive and social justice.

Groundswell Fund aims to strengthen our movements for social change by resourcing organizations that center the leadership of women of color—particularly those who are Black, Indigenous, and transgender.

The immense generosity of our community of supporters has enabled Groundswell Fund and our sibling 501(c)(4) organization, Groundswell Action Fund, to move nearly $180 million to the field. This makes Groundswell one of the largest funders of both the reproductive justice movement and women of color-led organizing in the United States.