

# 2021

SUPPORTING AND FUNDING  
**CLIMATE RESILIENCE +**  
**CLIMATE JUSTICE** WORK  
IN THE U.S. AND CARIBBEAN

# ANNUAL REPORT





## DEAR SUPPORTERS,

In 2021, as we approached our decade-long commitment to this work, we took time to pause, reflect and strategize. Given that BIPOC communities and island nations are facing countless injustices, including the effects of climate change, we asked ourselves - what do we want the world to look like in the years to come? We questioned - what adjustments can we make to spearhead the change we need to see in the world?

In response, we focused the scope of our work and committed to an ambitious growth trajectory around three core pillars: Climate Resilience, Climate Justice, and our Legacy projects. CLF's Climate Resilience Initiative is exponentially accelerating its goal of the Caribbean becoming a climate resilient zone. This summer, we will be celebrating the completion of several key projects including schools and reproductive health clinics across the Dominican Republic, Belize, Barbados & Dominica. These projects ensure that women, children and communities have safe and continuous access to the services and spaces they rely on in a region disproportionately hit with natural disasters.

With our Climate Justice work, we build partnerships with community-based organizations, acknowledging their deep understanding of what is necessary to achieve justice in their own communities. We work collaboratively with movement leaders, organizations that monitor environmental hazards, Indigenous communities and tribal governments developing mechanisms to protect sacred sites, land, water, air, natural resources and entities fighting for policy change and climate reparations.

And through our Legacy work, we continue, as always, to support the island of Barbados. Since its inception, CLF has supported the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, funded school projects, youth development initiatives and scholarships. And in response to COVID-19, CLF donated tablets for Bajan students as well as ventilators and PPE.

Our 10-year anniversary will mark a decade of working with organizations, partners and communities who pull up to deliver true local impact. We thank every ally and partner that has supported us and helped make our work possible. We are forever grateful to the communities we've had the privilege to work alongside. We hope we can continue to work together for many years to come to create a more just world for all.

In solidarity,



Robyn "Rihanna" Fenty  
FOUNDER



Justine Lucas  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ASHLEY LASHLEY AND MARIA MARSHALL  
CLF CLIMATE JUSTICE PARTNER, THE HEY CAMPAIGN  
PHOTO: JAKE DYSON

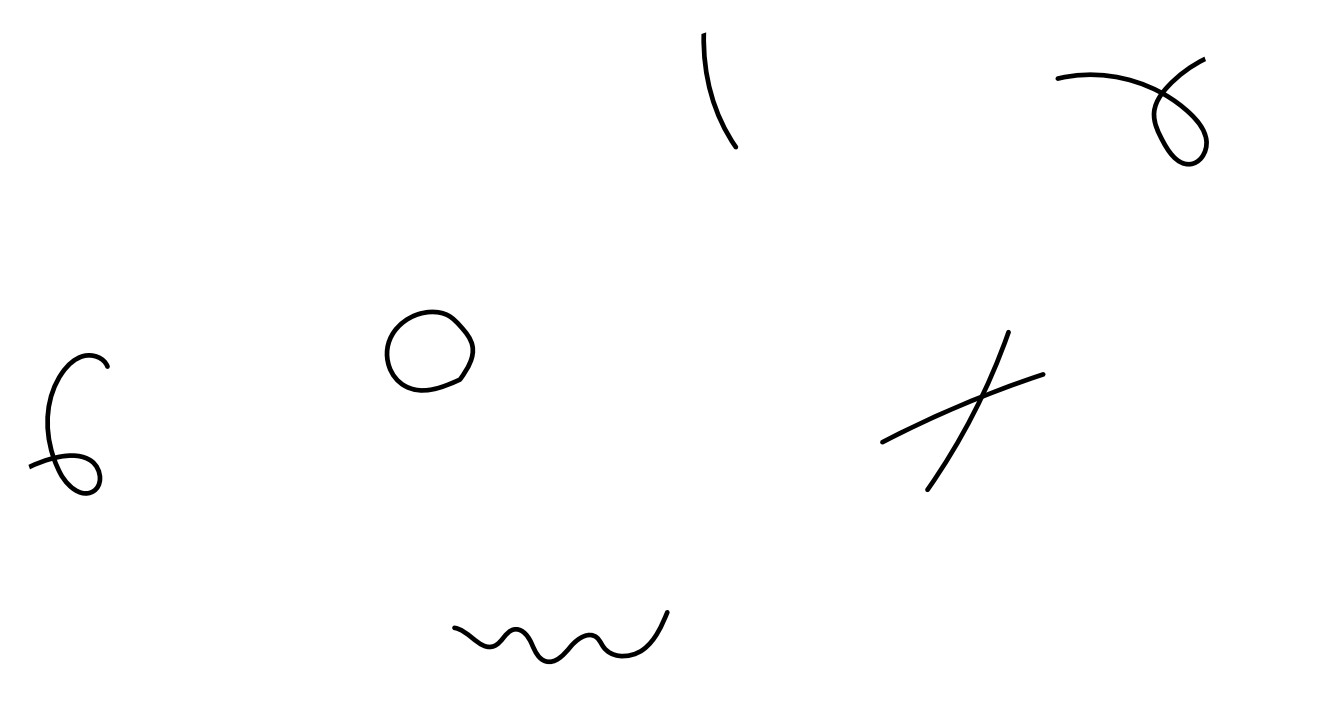


SINCE  
2012

\$80+  
MILLION IN GRANTS  
LEVERAGED

7 CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

NEARLY  
50 STATES IN THE U.S.



83  
ACTIVE PROGRAM PARTNERS

\$7.5 MILLION  
IN GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

7 CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

BARBADOS
BELIZE
DOMINICA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
HAITI
JAMAICA
TRINIDAD

5 STATES IN THE U.S.

CALIFORNIA
HAWAII
MARYLAND
NEW YORK
TEXAS



IMPACT IN  
1202

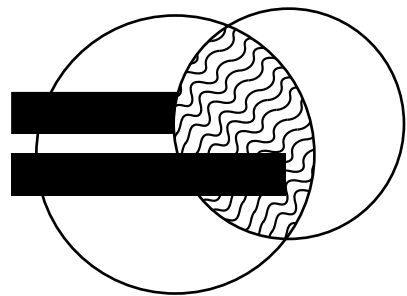
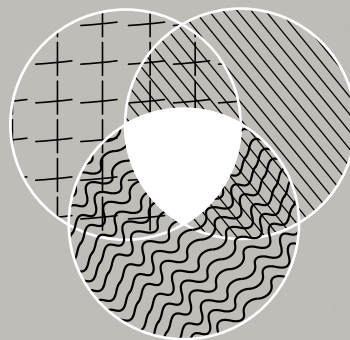




# WE HEARD

## GRANTMAKING ROOTED IN INTERSECTIONALITY

Intersectionality is the idea that when it comes to thinking about how inequalities persist, categories like gender, race, and class are best understood as overlapping rather than isolated.



Our grantmaking aims to tackle multiple social inequalities whenever possible.

Our climate resilience and climate justice grants are simultaneously addressing access to health, education, preparedness and more.

01 CLIMATE  
RESILIENCE

02 CLIMATE  
JUSTICE

03 LEGACY  
PROJECTS

We took what we've learned through our work and from the incredible partners who've accompanied us thus far, and used it to shape the values that guide us - justice, inclusivity and trust.

And, the principles of supporting community-based organizations led by and supporting BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and women.

# WE ACTED



# 01 CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Our Climate Resilience Initiative (CRI) is focused on investing philanthropic dollars into emergency preparedness and climate adaptation in the areas of health, shelter and communications across the Caribbean.

## WHY CLIMATE RESILIENCE?

<sup>1</sup> MGH Institute of Health Professions, Statistics on Climate Change

91%

OF ALL DEATHS FROM CLIMATE HAZARDS OCCURRED IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES <sup>1</sup>

11% TO

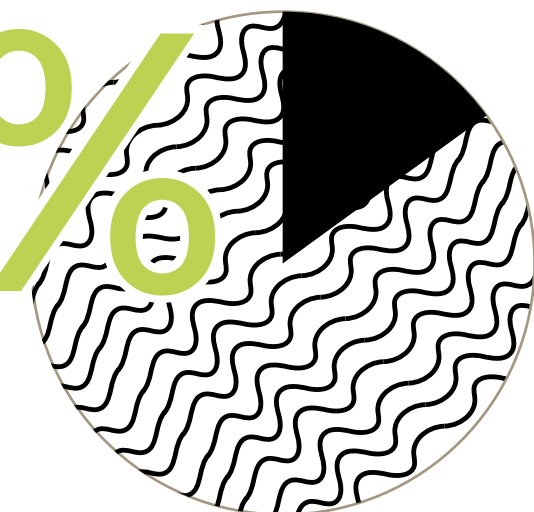
20%

ESTIMATED LABOR PRODUCTIVITY LOSSES IN THE CARIBBEAN BY 2080 <sup>1</sup>

ONLY

15%

OF COUNTRIES HAVE DEVELOPED CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLANS <sup>1</sup>



## HOW WE MAKE IT HAPPEN

By investing in preparedness and working with on-the-ground partners, we are enabling more communities to better withstand natural disasters before they hit. Our projects provide clear models of what resiliency looks like that can be replicated across the region and beyond, furthering CLF's mission to help the Caribbean become the world's first climate-resilient zone.

WHILE CRI IS FOCUSED ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE, we will engage in emergency response to natural disasters in the U.S. and Caribbean if there is an acute need.

In August 2021, after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, we determined there was a need for support to be given to Haitian-led organizations that were responding, but also were engaged in long-term work within the CRI Pillars and affected communities.



# FORTIFYING

# HEALTH CLINICS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Fòs Feminista (formerly IPPFWHR), in partnership with Engineers Without Borders USA and CLF, embarked on a pilot project to support sexual and reproductive health clinics in the Dominican Republic. This project strengthens the provision of life-saving health care and community support in the wake of disasters. The critical infrastructure upgrades at the Profamilia clinic included construction of disability access, structural upgrades and the installation of a solar PV system. The project also developed and tested emergency response plans and workforce capacity building to guarantee continuity of services during emergencies. The ongoing second phase will help increase resiliency through the expansion of telemedicine and strengthening the capacity of Profamilia volunteers to take part in emergency responses.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Construction of disability access
- Structural upgrades
- Solar energy system
- Developed & tested emergency response plans
- Workforce capacity building



CLÍNICA PROFAMILIA SABANA PERDIDA IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
CLF CLIMATE RESILIENCE PARTNER  
PHOTO: JAKE DYSON





# FOSTERING

# EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

In Dominica and Barbados, in partnership with Internews, CLF funded and supported Information Saves Lives. The project assessed the role of local information ecosystems in building the resiliency and preparedness of marginalized communities, while combating misinformation about COVID-19 and climatic threats. Through an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) assessment, Information Ecosystem Analysis (IEA) and rumor & misinformation tracking, recommendations were made to key stakeholders for the improvement of information ecosystems. The project also trained and up-skilled journalists around the region, and engaged media stakeholders in a series of emergency, and health information training webinars.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Recommendations to improve information ecosystems
- Engaged media stakeholders
- Trained & up-skilled 75 journalists
- 7 grants to local journalists in Barbados and Dominica



ROSALIND GITTENS, PRINCIPAL  
WESTBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL IN BARBADOS  
CLF CLIMATE RESILIENCE PARTNER



# RENEWABLE

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

CLF has amplified our CRI's infrastructure project in Dominica at the Morne Prosper and Paix Bouche schools by building on the work done after Hurricane Maria, where the schools were rebuilt and hardened to withstand category five hurricanes. CLF, in partnership with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), are now undergoing upgrades which include renewable energy sources through the installation of solar PV panels. These solar PV systems include battery storage at both schools which will have the capability to operate both as a grid-connected and off-grid systems. The installation of these systems will allow these shelters to be operational in the event of power loss during a disaster event and assist with decreasing operational costs.

# ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

## FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN DOMINICA

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Rebuilt schools to withstand category 5 hurricanes
- Grid-connected and off-grid systems
- Renewable energy upgrades
- Decreased operating costs



# 02 CLIMATE JUSTICE

Our climate justice pillar funds and supports climate justice organizations and movements in the U.S. and Caribbean.

## WHY CLIMATE JUSTICE?

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

<sup>2</sup> OCHA: Natural Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean (2000 - 2019)

<sup>3</sup> Climate Donors of Color


**3.6 BILLION**  
PEOPLE ARE  
VULNERABLE TO  
CLIMATE CHANGE <sup>1</sup>

THE CARIBBEAN IS THE

**2<sup>ND</sup>**  
MOST DISASTER-PRONE  
REGION IN THE WORLD <sup>2</sup>

ONLY

**1.3%**  
OF PHILANTHROPIES ARE  
GIVING U.S. CLIMATE DOLLARS  
TO BIPOC-LED CLIMATE  
CHANGE GROUPS <sup>3</sup>



## HOW WE MAKE IT HAPPEN

In 2021, CLF established the Climate Justice pillar - a fund supporting the collective rights of people, organizations, and movements in the U.S. and Caribbean to advance communities that are regenerative, sustainable, and in harmony with the earth to reduce further climate changes.

CLF's climate justice grants help support organizations as they reimagine and implement short and long-term solutions to climate impacts in a way that integrates cultural resources into decision-making and advances environmental and racial justice.



# EQUITABLE

## THE PARTNERSHIP

Black Visions is a Minnesota-based Black-led, Queer and Trans centering organization whose mission is to organize powerful, connected Black communities and dismantle systems of violence. CLF's partnership with Black Visions began in 2020, a pivotal year for the organization as they redistributed over \$9.1 million in grants to over 121 Black-led organizations in Minnesota. Their Environmental Justice work includes a BIPOC Environmental Justice roundtable that works at the intersection of racial, economic and environmental justice.

# GRANT REDISTRIBUTION

WITH BLACK VISIONS

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Over \$9.1 million in grants to over 121 Black-led organizations in Minnesota
- \$1.1 million to individuals for mutual and legal aid



GEORGE FLOYD'S KILLING GALVANIZED A NATION. BUT SMALL GROUPS LIKE THE QUEER-LED COLLECTIVE BLACK VISIONS ARE CHANNELING THAT ENERGY INTO A MOVEMENT FOR POLITICAL CHANGE.

JENNA WORTHAM  
THE NEW YORK TIMES



PHOTO: BLACK VISIONS COLLECTIVE



# BUILDING

## THE PARTNERSHIP

CLF's partnership with Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) is aimed at building organizational capacity that nourishes and amplifies the visionary impact of their mission. Through CLF's partnership, M4BL hired additional staff and resources necessary to make strides in several new initiatives, including the Red, Black and Green New Deal, a multifaceted campaign designed to catalyze Black Communities and advance policy that creates federal investment in Black communities to address the climate crisis and past environmental harms.

# ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

WITH MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Additional staff hired & resources developed
- Advanced new initiatives, like Red, Black & Green New Deal
- Multifaceted campaign to advance federal investment in Black communities



PHOTO: MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES





# CHANGING

## THE PARTNERSHIP

CLF partnered with the Center for Popular Democracy (CPD) to organize and mobilize CPD's network to win over 50 major policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels, impacting 28 million people around the country across issues such as community safety, education, climate, housing, immigration, workers' rights, health care, and more. CPD is organizing communities to address the systemic causes and immediate and long-term impacts of climate change to ensure a transition away from fossil fuels that centers the needs of our most under-resourced communities.

# MAJOR POLICIES

WITH CENTER FOR POPULAR DEMOCRACY

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 50 major policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels
- 28 million people impacted



PHOTO: CENTER FOR POPULAR DEMOCRACY



03

# LEG PROJECTS

# ACY

Since CLF's founding, the Foundation's support has grown to include various projects focused on education and youth development, as well as several climate resilience initiatives.

“

ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL NATION, BUT AN EVEN PROUDER PEOPLE, WE THEREFORE PRESENT TO YOU, THE DESIGNEE, FOR NATIONAL HERO OF BARBADOS, AMBASSADOR ROBYN RIHANNA FENTY. MAY YOU CONTINUE TO SHINE LIKE A DIAMOND AND CONTINUE TO BRING HONOR TO YOUR NATION BY YOUR WORDS, BY YOUR ACTIONS, AND TO DO CREDIT WHEREVER YOU SHALL GO.

**MIA MOTTLEY**  
PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS

”

## LEGACY CURRENTLY SUPPORTS

# 3K+ STUDENTS

### 2012 INAUGURAL PROJECT

The founding of the Clara Braithwaite Center for Oncology and Nuclear Medicine at Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) took place in Barbados. The Center was established with a \$1.75M investment in QEH's first modern radiotherapy machine - the Equinox External Beam Therapy System as well as additional radiotherapy equipment. In 2021, CLF continued to support QEH on the sustainability of the Center as well as initiatives in the areas of climate resilience and pediatrics.

### AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY & PLENIPOTENTIARY FOR BARBADOS

In November 2021, Rihanna was named Barbados' 11th national hero on the same day the country became the world's newest republic.

The National Hero Award is an honor that is given to individuals whose contributions have altered the course of the history of Barbados.



# SUPPORT

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Since CLF's founding, the foundation's support has grown to include supporting local schools and nonprofits, a scholarship program for secondary school graduates and various climate resilience initiatives.

In 2021, CLF continued to support Westbury Primary School through an investment in infrastructure improvements to upgrade the school to a Category 1 shelter. The collaboration builds on a variety of projects including the refurbishment of the library and sourcing technology for research use.

Last year, CLF also continued support for Operation Triple Threat (OTT) an intensive performing arts program designed for students between the ages of 4 and 21 where students learn to sing, dance and act as well as receive academic support.

# FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS & NONPROFITS

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

CLF selects projects in direct collaboration with the school principals and nonprofit leadership and has given 20 grants under this program for projects such as:

- Refurbishment of school libraries
- Creation of creative arts and music centers
- Installation of greenhouses





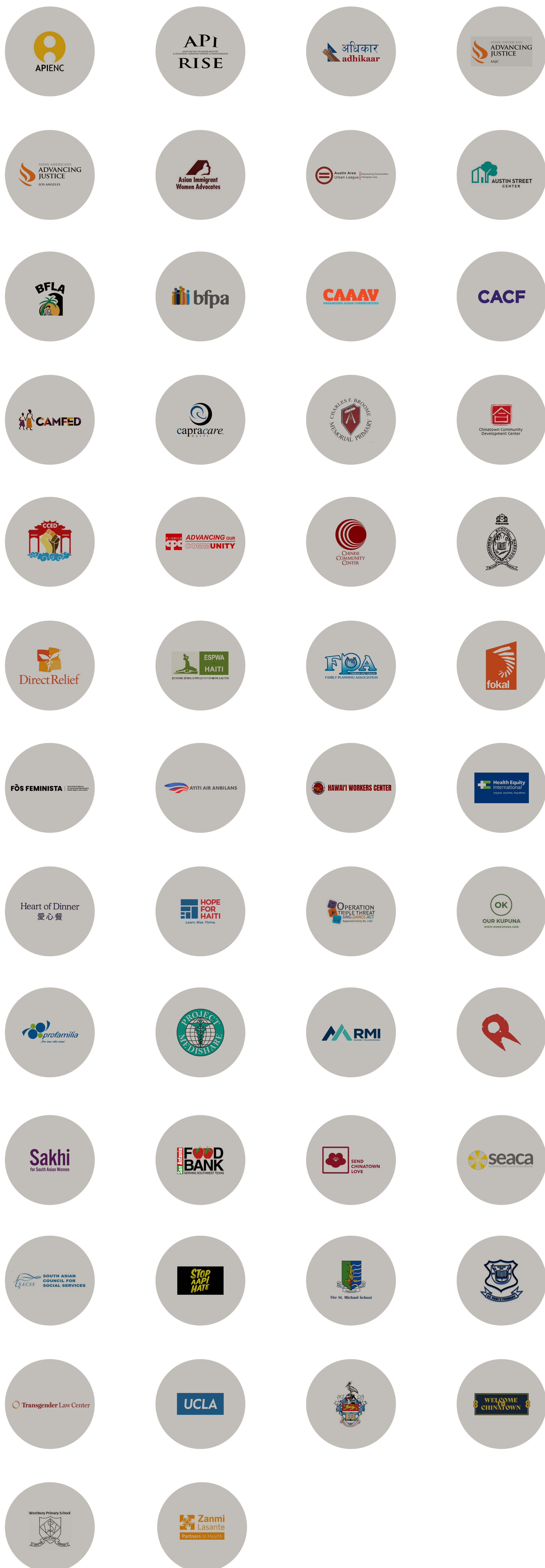
# FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE MEANS FIGHTING FOR JOY

In 2021, we continued our pursuit of shifting inaction to action, inequity to equity, and injustice to justice.

In 2022, our 10-year anniversary will mark a decade of working with our program partners - the organizations and institutions that deliver true local impact. We remain committed to working shoulder-to-shoulder with and have tremendous gratitude for the work they do every day.

## OUR THANKS

# PROGRAM PARTNERS



## DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Donald Ressler  
The ELMA Caribbean Foundation  
Fenty Beauty  
Fenty Skin  
Open Society Foundations  
Panta Rhea Foundation  
Rockefeller Foundation  
Savage X Fenty  
Stadler Family Charitable Foundation (Christopher & Loretta Stadler)  
#StartSmall