Together for Justice: Standing with Communities to Advance Racial Equity
Working with frontline community leaders, funder colleagues, and cross-sector collaboratives, the Weingart Foundation focused on addressing structural racism throughout Southern California in F.Y. 2022. We engaged in proactive grantmaking and impact investing to partner with the organizations and coalitions led by and working with Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities that are the most impacted by injustice investing deeply in their infrastructure and collective capacity.

This annual report includes a recap of our impact and spotlights some of the amazing community partners advancing justice with communities of color across the region. The Foundation made over $38M in racial equity grants to 226 partners in the field. We provided $4.75M in program related investments offering below-market, flexible financing in alignment with our focus on advancing racial justice. Our work was bolstered by our Board's decision to increase the Foundation's grant payout by $16 million in response to the pandemic and its impact on the communities we serve. We're also proud to welcome 76 nonprofit partners we funded for the first-time last year, reflecting our commitment to proactively learn about and support BIPOC led and serving organizations. More than half of our F.Y. 2022 partners are led by leaders whose lived experience reflects the communities they serve.

Our approach is guided by the Foundation's current strategic framework which outlines three main drivers in our racial justice ecosystem:

1. **Strong & healthy individuals & communities**

2. **Civic, cultural, economic, & political power of those most harmed by inequities**

3. **Innovative & transformative systems.**

In addition to our grantmaking and impact investing, we invested in the pipeline of BIPOC leaders through our [John W. Mack Fellows](#) program, which engaged a second cohort of 14 movement leaders. Our three-year [Youth Organizing Capacity Building Initiative](#) came to a close this fiscal year, and we look forward to sharing learnings and next steps in the coming months. This annual report showcases several
projects centered on youth leadership and next generation leaders, reflecting the exciting work led by young people across our region.

The Foundation continued to focus additional resources on our areas of special interest: Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Housing Justice, Strengthening Nonprofit Effectiveness, and the geographic regions of South Los Angeles and Southeast Los Angeles County. As part of the cross-sector Committee for Greater L.A. we advanced equity strategies around homelessness, anti-Black racism, digital equity and nonprofit capacity.

We remained nimble in our grantmaking to respond to emerging needs. We’re proud of our response in support of Afghan refugees, where we provided $300,000 in rapid response grants to community partners providing culturally and linguistically appropriate assistance to families newly arrived after the historic U.S. military withdrawal. The Foundation also moved quickly to support Stay Housed L.A., providing renters with critical resources during the pandemic.

This year, we also welcomed three new board members with powerful lived experiences and a deep understanding of the communities we serve: Katie Nguyen Kalvoda, founder and C.E.O. of G3 Ventures; Michael Tubbs, founder of EPIC and Mayors for a Guaranteed Income and former Mayor of Stockton; and Jacqueline Waggoner, President, Solutions Division, Enterprise Community Partners, to the Board of Directors.

Our equity commitment also encompasses our own policies and practices. In F.Y. 2022, we embarked on a “truth and reconciliation” journey to look intentionally and comprehensively at how to further align ourselves with our racial equity mission from the inside out. Our goal is that our racial justice mandate fully informs our organization, how we make meaning of our history, our relationship with the community, and our long-term funding priorities. This internal work will inform the Foundation’s planning and approach in F.Y. 2023 and beyond.

The work of racial justice calls on us to confront uncomfortable truths to pave a new way forward. It is especially important that we heed this call and remain resolute in our mission of racial justice at a time when there are forces intent on upholding white supremacy and rolling back the gains made by previous generations of movement leaders. We’ve witnessed how protected rights can be dismantled and the disparate impact this has on communities of color. We’ve also witnessed how our partners work each and every day to lift up the voices of marginalized communities to push back against racism, injustice, and white supremacy.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to learning from, partnering with, and growing people power and movements, to strengthening the infrastructure of the racial justice sector, and to prioritizing communities most impacted by systemic racism. We look forward to working with our partners to build a more equitable future.

Sincerely,

AILEEN ADAMS
Weingart Foundation Board Chair

MIGUEL A. SANTANA
Weingart Foundation President and C.E.O.
The Weingart Foundation supports nonprofit organizations working on a range of issues that advance racial justice across our five-county service area of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties.

The majority of our giving is in the form of multi-year unrestricted funding and other targeted support essential for organizations, coalitions, and networks to effectively meet immediate needs, address long-standing inequities, and advance their organizational and collective goals.
Our partners are on the front lines providing essential services and waging campaigns that address racial inequities and build community power in historically underserved communities.

We also invest additional resources in our Areas of Special Interest, where we implement proactive and collaborative strategies that build towards racial justice. Our issue-based Areas of Special Interest are: Housing Justice, Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Integration, and Strengthening Nonprofit Effectiveness. Our geographically based Areas of Special Interest are the historically under-resourced communities of South Los Angeles and Southeast Los Angeles (SELA).
We cannot achieve racial justice without supporting the well-being of people and communities. We invest in strong and healthy individuals and communities by supporting programs and partners that increase access to essential services; cultivate leadership in BIPOC communities; support collective healing, care and safety; and ensure financial security and resources.

**Partner Spotlight**

**ProjectQ**

As a form of social justice, ProjectQ provides free gender-affirming haircuts and self-empowering workshops to L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.+ youth experiencing homelessness in the Los Angeles region. ProjectQ helps L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.+ youth navigate a world that perpetually tries to diminish them. Their work sits at the intersection of systemic issues such as housing justice, racial justice, food justice, youth leadership, and L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.+ rights.

Founder and Executive Director Madin Lopez (they/them), who is nonbinary and a former foster youth, was guided by their lived experience to make it their mission to help L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.+ youth. They founded ProjectQ in 2012 originally providing free haircuts from a vintage airstream to now operating the ProjectQ Salon and Community Center.

**Willowbrook Inclusion Network**

The Willowbrook Inclusion Network (W.I.N.) is a Black-led, for-purpose social enterprise dedicated to community planning, civic engagement, workforce development and economic growth in Willowbrook, an unincorporated community in South Los Angeles. The W.I.N. has played a leadership role in several coalitions to exchange ideas and establish workable strategies for sustainable transportation equity.

The W.I.N. was founded by a Willowbrook native, Reginal Johnson, to invest in this historically disinvested and marginalized South L.A. community through community organizing and unifying diverse stakeholders. As a result, the community has seen over $1 billion in investments ranging from transportation upgrades to open green space development, uplifting marginalized B.I.P.O.C. communities.
We believe that transformative change comes when everyday people join together to address the root causes of their conditions. That’s why we support efforts to build civic, cultural, economic, and political power in communities most impacted by racial injustice. This is where the frontline work of grassroots organizing, base building and leadership development happens.

Orange County Civic Engagement Table

The Orange County Civic Engagement Table (OCCET) focuses on bold, year-round organizing and voter engagement of the county’s low-income, Latinx and Asian American communities. OCCET aims to shift policy, culture, and community empowerment to permanently strengthen people’s lives, health, and well-being. Eight partner organizations anchor OCCET working across intersectional issues to serve Orange County’s emerging majority communities.

Youth Organizing Capacity Building Initiative

The three-year Youth Organizing Capacity Building Initiative is a collaboration with Annenberg Foundation, the California Community Foundation, the Liberty Hill Foundation, The California Endowment and the Weingart Foundation to strengthen youth organizing across the region. We provided over $4.1 million in grants to 26 nonprofit partners, which also engaged in a Peer Learning Community to share knowledge and skills. The initiative came to a close this past year, and we look forward to sharing learnings and next steps.
**Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project**

*Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project* (MICOP) is an anchor organization in Ventura County, providing leadership development, community organizing, advocacy and services for the more than 20,000 indigenous immigrants largely concentrated in the agricultural and service sectors in the Oxnard plain. MICOP develops the leadership skills of indigenous Mexican youth to promote cultural pride, encourage academic achievement, and engage in greater MICOP causes.

**Youth Organizing Partner Spotlight**

*Communities for a Better Environment* (C.B.E.) builds people’s power to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy, and sustainable communities and environments. C.B.E. empowers youth in Southeast Los Angeles—a community with a history of facing environmental racism—to organize around environment and social justice issues.
Innovative & transformative systems.

We must transform our systems—systems that were built to exclude—into ones that serve and uplift communities. For us, this work overlaps with our support for power builders, and includes advocating for bold philanthropy, working in public/private partnership, and engaging in policy advocacy. We also support efforts that build cross-cultural solidarity and advance narrative change to replace racist and broken structures with just and inclusive systems where all members of a community can thrive.

Partner Spotlight

The Committee for Greater L.A.
The Committee for Greater L.A. (C.G.L.A.) is a cross-sectoral group of Angelenos committed to advancing sweeping systems change to ensure vulnerable and marginalized communities thrive. It is chaired by Miguel A. Santana, President and C.E.O. of the Weingart Foundation and includes many of our funder and nonprofit partners, as well as business leaders. Since spring of 2020, the Committee has engaged civic and community leaders in serious discussions about solutions to systemic challenges forming Action Teams to tackle priorities identified in their landmark report, "No Going Back: Together for an Equitable and Inclusive Los Angeles." Working with top research institutions, subject matter experts, community partners, and people with lived experience, the Committee has released reports that include policy recommendations addressing homelessness, anti-Black racism, digital equity, and nonprofit capacity building, elevating these solutions with the media and decision-makers. The Committee has also invested in public art through its Arts4Change initiative centered on the role that art can play in mental health and healing. The Committee will continue to advance systems change as it builds on this work to create a more equitable Los Angeles.

Partner Spotlight

Bold Vision

Bold Vision is a multi-sector long-term initiative focused on policy and systems change aimed at fundamentally and positively improving the lives of a generation of children and youth of color in Los Angeles by 2028 and beyond. Catalyst California (formerly Advancement Project) serves as the lead convener and facilitated a year-long community engagement process including youth voices, gathering input to shape outcomes around education; housing and the built environment; youth power and democracy; and youth impacted by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. A community council of 13 people-of-color-led youth-serving organizations developed an equity roadmap for advocates and systems leaders to implement over the next 10+ years.
In addition to grants, impact investing is a powerful tool we increasingly utilize to support communities. The Foundation’s Program Related Investment (P.R.I.) Fund provides below-market, flexible loans in alignment with our focus on advancing racial justice. Our investments can be for working capital, bridge loans, acquisition, predevelopment financing, and equity. The Foundation also selectively considers loan guarantees. The goals of the P.R.I. Fund are to:

1. Increase access to vital services for communities facing the greatest need and pursuing systemic solutions to inequity;

2. Improve access to quality education, health care, employment, food, and immigration services;

3. Eliminate systemic barriers to capital for BIPOC and women-owned/led small businesses and nonprofit organizations; and

4. Direct more capital to under-resourced communities in the Foundation’s targeted regions.
In addition to our P.R.I. program, the Foundation continues our journey towards 100% mission-alignment in our investments. We aspire to align our entire portfolio with our core values of diversity and equity, fair and equitable workplace practices, and good corporate stewardship and transparency. We actively seek mission-related investments (M.R.I.s) that advance greater economic access, quality employment, financial inclusion, education and opportunity for underserved communities, particularly in Southern California. We also look for investments that promote diversity within asset managers, entrepreneurs and communities, with the aim of increasing inclusion within the investment industry; as well as enterprises providing products and services that are aligned with the Foundation’s values.

Step Up on Second Street

**Step Up on Second Street** (Step Up) delivers comprehensive services for people experiencing chronic homelessness and serious mental health conditions through permanent supportive housing, workforce development, and member-driven services. Step Up is converting motels into permanent supportive housing, partnering with Shangri-La Industries, local cities, and the state’s Homekey program, in an effort to sustain and rapidly expand housing for people experiencing homelessness. We made a P.R.I. loan of $1.5M over two years to provide working capital so that Step Up can continue scaling its motel conversion model. This public/private partnership is a promising model for a more efficient and cost-effective solution for creating permanent supportive housing for vulnerable homeless populations in Southern California.

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Base10 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (H.B.C.U.) Advancement Initiative

**Base10** is a Black-led venture capital firm with a purpose-driven fund investing in technology companies that are prioritizing diversity and inclusion within their workforce. Through the firm’s H.B.C.U. Advancement Initiative, 50% of profits earned by Base10 are donated to Historically Black Colleges and Universities to grow their endowments with the goal of creating financial aid for 100,000 students. The initiative addresses the opportunity for diversity in technology companies by recruiting and placing H.B.C.U. students in the companies in which the fund invests.
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