



The Overbrook Foundation

2015 Annual Report on Grants

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The Overbrook Foundation is a progressive family foundation that supports organizations advancing human rights and conserving the natural environment.

February 2016

The Annual Report on Grants provides Directors with a concise summary of all grants awarded in 2015 and offers a preview of program direction for the upcoming year. In 2015, Directors and Staff devoted much time and attention to completion of the Foundation's most recent Strategic Plan. A quick review of 2015 program highlights below is followed by a discussion of both the major outcomes and elements of the Plan.

2015 Program

In 2015, The Overbrook Foundation's Environment and Human Rights Programs Awarded 102 Grants totaling \$4,551,000. Of those awards, 48 were grants awarded in the Environment Program, for a total of \$2,120,000, while 54 grants, totaling \$2,431,000 were awarded in the Human Rights Program.

In the Environment Program approximately 67% of all grant dollars awarded were directed at Latin American Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Consumption and Production. Movement Building, a newer initiative of the Environment Program with close ties to the Human Rights Program, received approximately 26% of all Environment dollars awarded.

Dollars awarded for Human Rights Program grantmaking were divided among seven separate initiatives: U.S. Human Rights Movement, U.S. Marriage Equality/LGBT Rights, U.S. Reproductive Justice, Media, Money in Politics, International Gender Rights and International Human Rights Defenders. U. S. Reproductive Justice, the U.S. Human Rights Movement, International Human Rights Defenders and Money in Politics received roughly equal (approximately 20% each) support in 2015. Support for achieving Marriage Equality in the U.S. ended in 2015 as the Supreme Court ruled in Obergefell v Hodges that the Fourteenth Amendment requires a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex and to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state.

Strategic Plan

Foundation's Directors approved the major elements of the Foundation's most recent [strategic plan](#) at their November 3, 2015 Board meeting. The planning process played out over more than 18 months with considerable attention first paid to lessons learned and changes that have occurred to the political, social and economic landscape in which the Foundation's grantees work. During much of 2015, Directors and Staff worked together to set a course for the Foundation over the next several years. To complete the plan by the end of 2015, in addition to its regular Board meetings, Directors organized two mini-retreats and many smaller meetings of the "extended executive committee" consisting of five Directors who provided regular input and feedback to Staff as the plan evolved.

Program Elements of the Strategic Plan

Environment – Assess and adjust program initiatives to meet gaps in environment funding; utilize Overbrook's funding and influence to conserve the environment and counter climate change; and, consider climate, collaboration and interdependence when reviewing organizations and projects for potential funding.

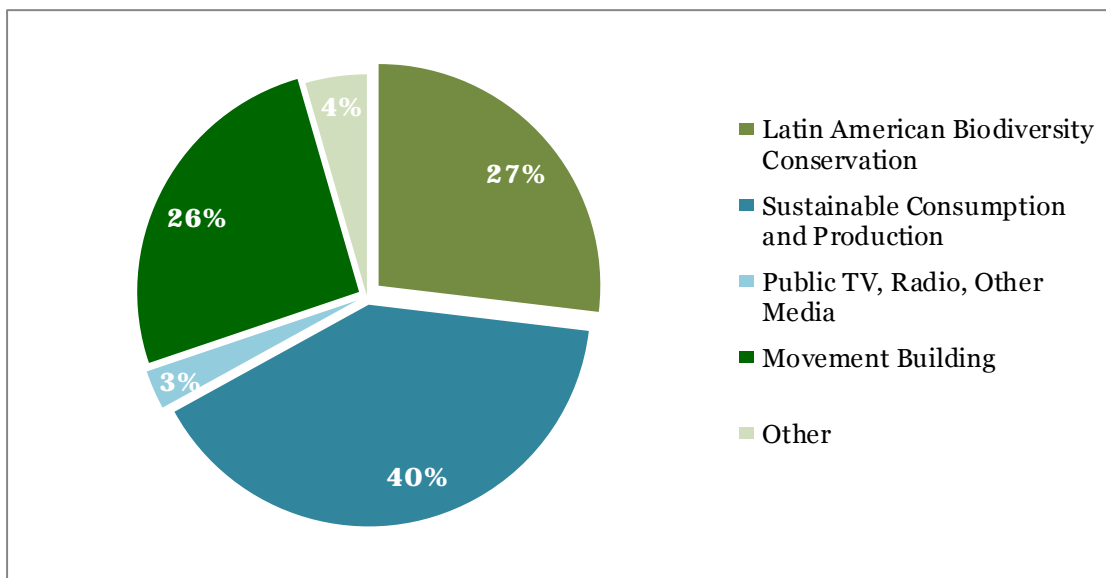
Initiatives will include a focus on: Biodiversity Conservation, Corporate Practices, Consumer Behavior, Movement Building and potentially Food and the Environment. Each of these initiatives requires further development and the Foundation anticipates publishing a fuller description of its planned work in the near future. Of note, the work of the BEA for Impact Initiative will remain central to efforts to strengthen movements within and across the social and climate justice and environment landscape. The Movement Building initiative is also receiving additional resources redirected from Human Rights because of its importance to human rights work. Food and the Environment, as an Environment Program initiative, will require additional exploration before Board confirmation of its inclusion in the Environment Program.

Human Rights – Assess and adapt program initiatives to meet gaps in human rights funding and to effectively utilize Overbrook's funding and influence to advance human rights. Deepen emphasis on advancing racial, ethnic and gender equity in all initiatives.

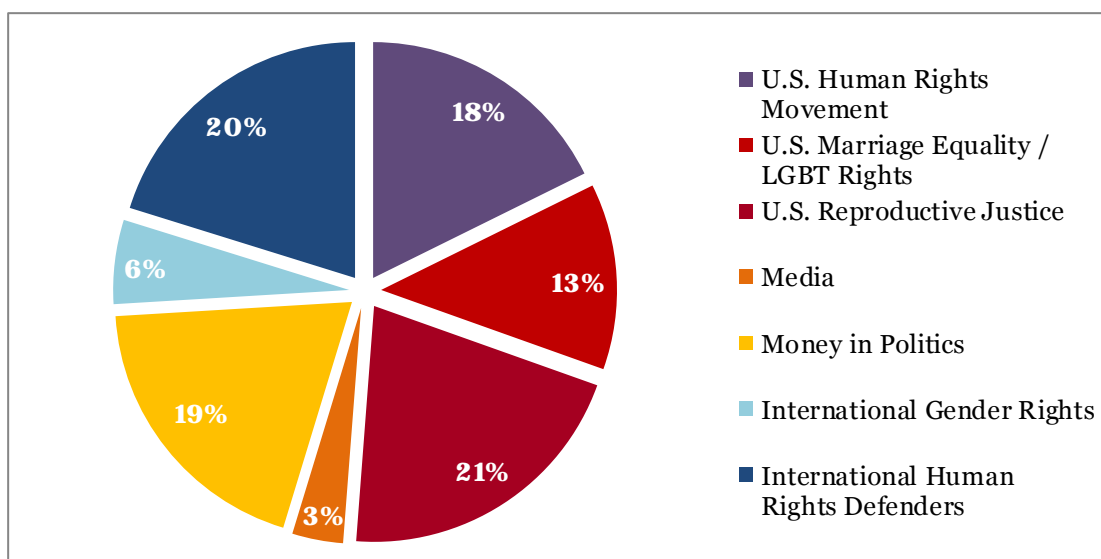
Initiatives will include a continued focus on: Gender Rights and Justice, Money in Politics and Defending Human Rights Defenders in Mesoamerica. A new initiative on Mass Criminalization would support organizations using human rights values and organizing principles in the reform of the U.S. systems of mass criminalization. (This initiative is in early development and will be presented to the Board for consideration in late 2016.)



Environment Grants Awarded 2015



Human Rights Grants Awarded 2015



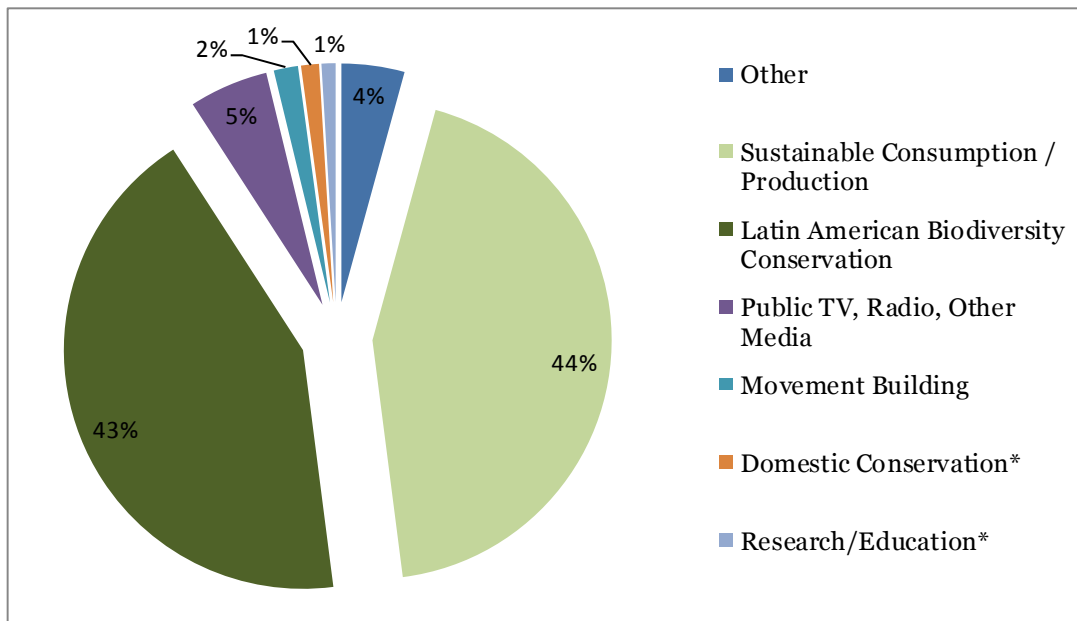
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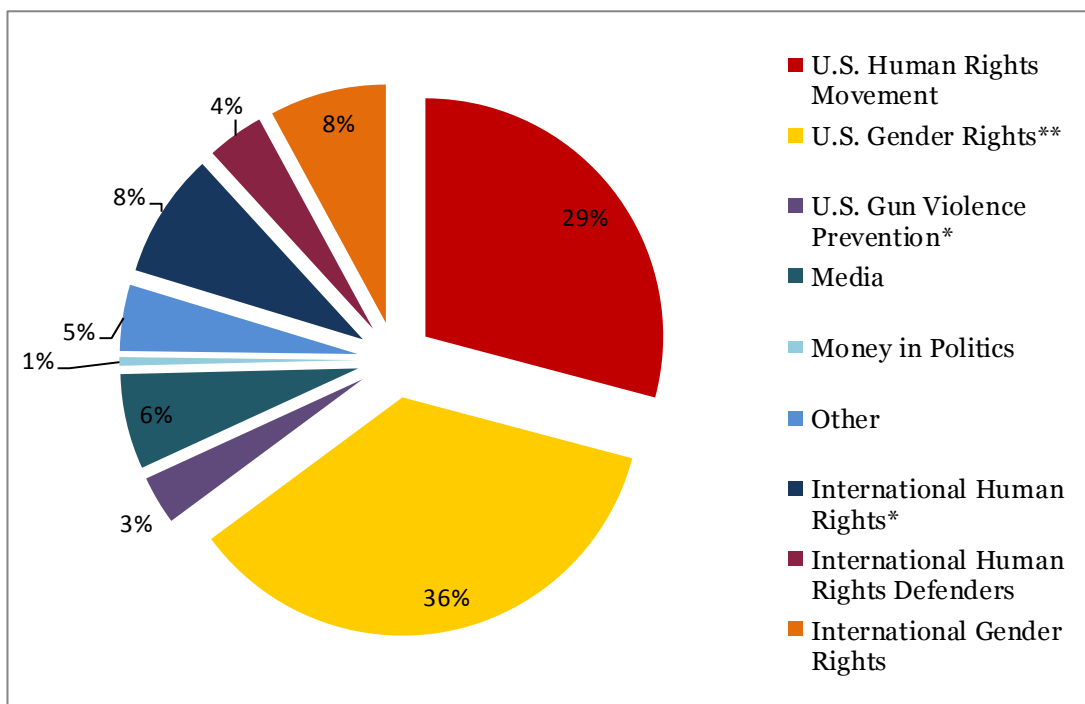
There were 48 grants awarded in the Environment Program, for a total of \$2,120,000.

There were 54 grants awarded in the Human Rights Program, for a total of \$2,431,000.

Environment Grants Awarded: 2000-2015



Human Rights Grants Awarded: 2000-2015



Between 2000 and 2015, The Overbrook Foundation's Environment and Human Rights Programs Awarded Approximately \$70,364,613 in Grants.

* Categories are currently Inactive

** U.S. Gender Rights includes: Marriage Equality/LGBT Rights, Reproductive Justice, and HIV/AIDS

The Human Rights Program: Grants Awarded in 2015



In 2015, the Foundation's Human Rights Program supported organizations committed to strengthening and growing a movement and culture for human rights in the United States. Building on its long history of promoting gender rights in the U.S., the domestic program focused on funding organizations advancing a movement for reproductive justice and those promoting marriage equality for same-sex couples. It was a historic year for LGBT rights with the United States Supreme Court ruling in favor of marriage equality as the law of the land. However, there remains much more work to complete before full rights for the LGBT community are achieved. The Foundation also awarded grants to organizations challenging the corrosive influence of money on the political landscape that has made government less responsive to the people it is intended to serve and to the agendas of many of the Foundation's grantees. Media reform efforts and non-profit media continued to receive Foundation support, particularly those that related to the Foundation's money in politics focus. Internationally, the Foundation's Human Rights Program funded organizations that defend human rights defenders and promote gender rights in Latin America.

<u>Domestic Human Rights</u>	<u>Gender Rights</u>	<u>Forward Together</u>
<u>US Human Rights Movement</u>	<i>Marriage Equality/LGBT Rights</i>	<i>General Operating Support</i>
<u>American Civil Liberties Union Foundation</u>	<u>American Civil Liberties Union Foundation</u>	\$35,000
<i>ACLU Human Rights Program</i>	<i>Religious Refusals Communication Hub</i>	<u>Forward Together</u>
\$60,000	\$50,000	<i>Future Forward</i>
<u>Innocence Project</u>	<u>Freedom to Marry</u>	\$20,000
<i>General Operating Support: Uniting Science and Law on Behalf of Justice</i>	<i>General Operating Support</i>	<u>Funders Network</u>
\$40,000	\$50,000	<i>Rockwood Fellowship</i>
<u>National Economic & Social Rights Initiative</u>	<u>Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund</u>	\$20,000
<i>General Operating Support</i>	<i>Marriage Equality Project</i>	<u>Groundswell Fund</u>
\$50,000	\$60,000	<i>General Operating Support</i>
<u>NEO Philanthropy</u>	<u>NEO Philanthropy</u>	\$75,000
<i>The Sunrise Initiative</i>	<i>Religious Liberty and Equality Project</i>	<u>National Advocates for Pregnant Women</u>
\$150,000	\$25,000	<i>General Operating Support</i>
<u>New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation</u>	<u>Proteus Fund</u>	\$50,000
<i>General Operating Support</i>	<i>Civil Marriage Collaborative</i>	<u>National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (Tides Center—Fiscal Sponsor)</u>
\$35,000	\$125,000	<i>General Operating Support</i>
<u>Solitary Watch (Community Futures Collective—Fiscal Sponsor)</u>	Total Amount in Active Grants for Marriage Equality/LGBT Rights:	\$30,000
<i>General Operating Support</i>	\$310,000	<u>The University of Oklahoma Women's and Gender Studies Program Center for Social Justice</u>
\$25,000	<i>Reproductive Justice</i>	<i>Take Root: Red State Perspectives on Reproductive Justice</i>
<u>Urban Justice Center</u>	<u>Advocates for Youth</u>	\$10,000
<i>General Operating Support for Human Rights Project</i>	<i>Promoting the Reproductive Justice Perspective through Youth Mobilization and Engagement</i>	<u>Third Wave Fund (Proteus Fund—Fiscal Sponsor)</u>
\$30,000	\$40,000	<i>General Operating Support</i>
<u>US Human Rights Network</u>	<u>Center for Reproductive Rights</u>	\$40,000
<i>General Operating Support</i>	<i>General Operating Support</i>	<u>URGE</u>
\$40,000	\$40,000	<i>General Operating Support</i>
Total Amount in Active Grants for US Human Rights Movement: \$430,000	<u>Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program/Hampshire College</u>	\$35,000
	<i>General Operating Support</i>	<u>Western States Center</u>
	\$30,000	<i>General Operating Support</i>
	<u>CoreAlign (New Venture Fund—Fiscal Sponsor)</u>	\$40,000
	<i>General Operating Support</i>	Total Amount in Active Grants for Reproductive Justice: \$505,000
	\$40,000	



The Human Rights Program: Grants Awarded in 2015

Media

The New Press

For Books Related to Money in Politics

\$35,000

WNYC

On the Media

\$50,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for

Media: \$85,000

Money in Politics

Brennan Center for Justice of NYU School of Law

General Operating Support

\$100,000

Demos: A Network for Ideas & Action

Movement Building with the New American Demos: To Get Big Money Out of Politics and Enshrine the Freedom to Vote

\$75,000

Free Speech For People

General Operating Support

\$50,000

Not An Alternative, Inc.

The Natural History Museum

\$20,000

Proteus Fund, Inc.

Piper Fund's Collaborative Communications Initiative

\$75,000

Public Citizen Foundation, Inc.

Making Corporations Accountable & Transparent in Campaign Spending

\$50,000

Represent.Us Education Fund (Formerly United Republic Education Fund)

General Operating Support

\$75,000

Restaurant Opportunities Centers United

It's Our Time Cohort: Multi-sectoral Movement-Building

\$25,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for

Money in Politics : \$470,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for Domestic Human Rights Program: \$1,800,000

International Human Rights

Human Rights Defenders

American Jewish World Service (AJWS)

Promoting Human Rights for Marginalized People in Mesoamerica, with a Special Focus on Human Rights Defenders

\$50,000

Center for Justice and International Law

General Operating Support

\$40,000

Committee to Protect Journalists

General Operating Support— Press Freedom in the Americas

\$25,000

Environmental Defender Law Center

General Operating Support

\$50,000

Front Line—International (The American Ireland Fund—Fiscal Sponsor)

2014 Pledge—Protection of Latin American Human Rights Defenders

\$50,000

Front Line—International (The American Ireland Fund—Fiscal Sponsor)

Protection of Latin American Human Rights Defenders

\$50,000

Indian Law Resource Center

Protecting Maya Q'eqchi' Lands and Resources in Guatemala

\$35,000

Just Associates, Inc.

Mesoamerican Women Human Rights Defenders Initiative

\$40,000

Peace Brigades International - USA

Providing Protective Accompaniment Support to Human Rights Defenders in Latin America

\$40,000

Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

General Operating Support

\$40,000

WITNESS

General Operating Support—Latin America

\$71,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for International Human Rights Defenders: \$491,000

Gender Rights

Disability Rights International

Women's Rights Advocacy Initiative in Mexico and Guatemala

\$50,000

International Planned Parenthood Federation

General Operating Support

\$40,000

OutRight Action International (Formerly IGLHRC)

General Operating Support

\$30,000

Women's Link Worldwide

General Operating Support

\$20,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for International Reproductive Rights: \$140,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for International Human Rights Program: \$631,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for the Human Rights Program: \$2,431,000

The Environment Program: Grants Awarded in 2015



The Foundation's Environment Program focuses on biodiversity conservation in Latin America and sustainable production and consumption in the United States. In Latin America, its geographic focus includes Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and, in certain circumstances, the nations of Central America. The Environment Program seeks out efforts that support innovative ideas in sustainability, particularly around the production and consumption of materials. Criteria applied to potential projects include: potential impact, level of innovation, the opportunity represented in funded group/leadership to accomplish the work proposed.

Latin American Biodiversity Conservation

Amazon Watch

Sacred Headwaters Campaign
\$50,000

EARTHWORKS

Protecting Ecosystems & Communities from Dirty Mining
\$35,000

Environmental Investigation Agency

General Operating Support
\$55,000

Fundacion Cordillera Tropical

Threat detection & habitat conservation in Ecuador's Sangay National Park
\$35,000

Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda, I.A.P

Strategies to Conserve the Bio-Capacity of the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, Mexico
\$25,000

Mongabay Org Corp

Mongabay: Latin America
\$75,000

Nature and Culture International

Expanding Ecuador's Ecosystem Service Payment Program within Ecuador & to Neighboring Countries
\$40,000

Pronatura Noroeste A.C.

Installation of a nature center for the Cabo Pulmo National Park Region, Baja California Sur, México: equipment and displays
\$50,000

Rainforest Action Network

General Operating Support
\$40,000

Root Capital

General Operating Support for activities in Ecuador, Mexico, & Nicaragua
\$55,000

Sustainable Agriculture Network

General Operating Support
\$60,000

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Addressing Wildlife Trafficking at Multiple Scales: Ecuador and the Latin America Region
\$50,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for Latin America Biodiversity Conservation: \$570,000

Public TV, Radio, Other Media

Grist.org

General Operating Support
\$40,000

Island Press

General Operating Support
\$20,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for Public TV, Radio, Other Media: \$60,000

Movement Building

Building Equity & Alignment Initiative (NEO Philanthropy—Fiscal Sponsor)

General Operating Support
\$210,000

Catskill Mountainkeeper Inc.

Extreme Energy Extraction Collaboration Summit
\$25,000

Center for Story-Based Strategy

General Operating Support
\$30,000

Climate Justice Alliance

(Movement Strategy Center—Fiscal Sponsor)

General Operating Support
\$50,000

Coming Clean, Inc.

Campaign for Healthier Solutions
\$25,000

EDGE Funders Alliance

Just Transition Collaborative
\$25,000

Grassroots Global Justice Alliance

Support of bringing grassroots representatives from smaller U.S. environmental groups as a part of the It Takes Roots to Weather the Storm delegation to Paris COP21
\$50,000

Grassroots Global Justice Alliance

General Operating Support
\$50,000

Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy (Project South—Fiscal Sponsor)

General Operating Support
\$20,000

UPROSE

General Operating Support
\$30,000

The Wildfire Project (Movement Strategy Center—Fiscal Sponsor)

General Operating Support
\$30,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for Movement Building: \$545,000

Other

Not An Alternative, Inc.

The Natural History Museum
\$20,000

Project Drawdown

General Operating Support
\$75,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for Other: \$95,000



The Environment Program: Grants Awarded in 2015

Sustainable Consumption and Production

350.org

General Operating Support
\$40,000

ALIGN

Transform Don't Trash Project
\$30,000

Alliance for Climate Education (ACE)

General Operating Support
\$65,000

American Sustainable Business Institute

Building a Business Movement for Sustainable Development, Climate Action, Clean Energy, Safer Chemicals, and Clean Water
\$25,000

As You Sow

Consumer Packaging and E-waste
\$35,000

Corporate Accountability International

Real Food Media Project
\$25,000

Dogwood Alliance

The Paper Campaign
\$20,000

Environmental Paper Network (Social & Environmental Entrepreneurs—Fiscal Sponsor)

General Operating Support
\$25,000

Food Tank

General Operating Support
\$20,000

ForestEthics

General Operating Support
\$50,000

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)

General Operating Support for GAIA's U.S. & Canada Program, \$15,000 is to directly support the organizing efforts of Ananda Lee Tan
\$50,000

Groundswell

General Operating Support
\$40,000

Health Care Without Harm

General Operating Support
\$50,000

In Our Backyards (ioby.org)

General Operating Support
\$50,000

Move NY (NEO Philanthropy—Fiscal Sponsor)

General Operating Support
\$20,000

Natural Resources Defense Council

Addressing Climate Change, Community Engagement, and National Solid Waste
\$65,000

New Venture Fund

Food Waste Reduction Project
\$50,000

New York Harbor Foundation

Billion Oyster Project
\$35,000

The Story of Stuff

General Operating Support (\$40,000) & Catalog Choice (\$25,000)
\$65,000

U.S. Green Building - New York Chapter

General Operating Support
\$40,000

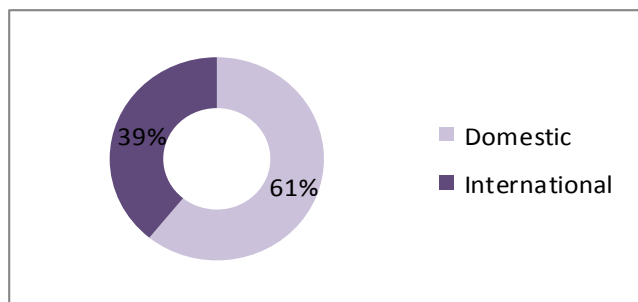
Western New York Environmental Alliance

General Operating Support
\$50,000

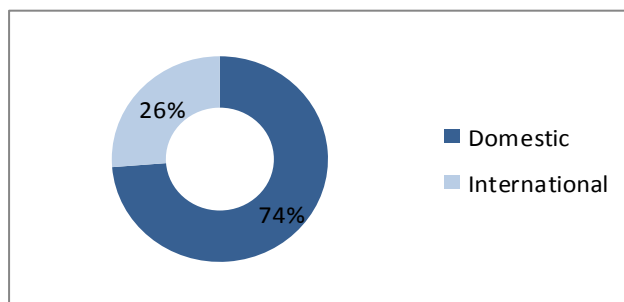
Total Amount in Active Grants for Sustainable Consumption and Production: \$850,000

Total Amount in Active Grants for the Environment Program: \$2,120,000

Environment Program



Human Rights Program





Equity + Alignment = Impact: A BEA-Initiative Update

(BEA4Impact = Building Equity and Alignment for Impact)

The ability of grassroots base-building organizations and big green groups to effectively collaborate to advance common goals has been a persistent obstacle within the environmental movement. In summer 2013, grassroots groups, large, national green groups, and philanthropy launched a collaborative initiative, Building Equity and Alignment for Impact, to address this challenge, convening around a simple hypothesis—that to increase the collective impact of the environmental movement, we need to increase alignment and equity within the movement overall. In other words, grassroots organizations must be able to expand and contribute their base-building capacity in a meaningful way (equity) and various parts of the movement must be working with a common strategy and purpose (alignment).

Since launching, BEA for Impact has grown and developed its multi-sector group of grassroots, green group and funder representatives, continuing to offer opportunities for diverse participants from across the movement to build together toward the initiative's long-term goals:

- Breaking down historic barriers between big green, grassroots and funding sectors, building authentic relationships toward greater alignment and solidarity;
- Supporting the culture within philanthropy toward a base-building, bottom-up, collaborative approach, and away from a top-down, funder-driven approach;
- Expanding the pool of resources available to the environment and overlapping progressive issues, and shifting that growing pool of available resources to more equitably service the grassroots organizing sector.

2015 was the BEA initiative's most active year to date. Because of BEA's commitment to grassroots, consensus-based leadership and adherence to the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing, the process through which BEA established its governance structure and strategic plan sometimes felt slow. However, the roots planted throughout the first two years of the initiative paid off tenfold in the third. Since January 2015, BEA has planned and held its first Forum alignment process, proposed and received a significant research grant, developed a detailed proposal for an unprecedented grassroots-administered "BEA for Impact Fund," and developed a new application process to open up our doors and ensure it's even easier and more transparent for leaders from all sectors of the movement to join us.

More specifically:

BEA for Impact Forum alignment process: During BEA's strategic plan development, completed in February 2015, the group agreed a "BEA Forum" process was necessary to serve as neutral space in the movement through which different sectors could untangle conflicts, preempt anticipated problems, or build upon existing agreements—all in the service of building together for greater impact across the environment, climate and social justice movements. The first Forum was planned around the Clean Power Plan (CPP). In October 2015 grassroots, green



and funder representatives of BEA gathered to share their perspectives on the CPP, figure out where they agreed and disagreed, and strategize ways to work together to ensure the CPP is as effective as possible for all. At the time of this writing, a second CPP Forum is being planned, with all expenses covered by “green group” partners NRDC and Earthjustice.

BEA for Impact Research Task Force: In the last quarter of 2015, BEA’s Research Task Force received a grant from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to fulfill its data collection around the philanthropic interface with the grassroots sector, including metrics development and research-based case studies of grassroots-led collaborative successes.

BEA for Impact Fund: Throughout 2015, BEA has been researching and developing a potential grassroots fund, designed to help large foundations that can only give large grants an avenue to support smaller grassroots groups, and invest directly in the sector. The BEA Fund’s development is based on multiple interviews with foundation directors and program officers across the field, and once complete will serve as a clear “stream” through which resources will more easily flow to the grassroots.

As for more general BEA development, in the last quarter of 2015 BEA has developed an application process that will allow many more groups in all sectors to join the process as “participants.” BEA is also turning over some of its leadership positions as it did at the end of 2014, remaining true to its initial commitments of fluid governance, transparency and development of new leaders across the field. BEA’s Weaver meeting at the end of January 2016, imminent at the time of this writing, will include non-Weaver guests who will have the opportunity to be eased into leadership posts if they wish, to avoid difficulty in the transitions to come.

BEA for Impact’s participant group has grown a lot since the summer of 2013, and now is primed to grow beyond its 60-plus organizational representatives. BEA remains majority people of color and grassroots-led. The initiative continues to support all grassroots participants with travel and work honoraria, to ensure equal participation—and that no one’s voice is excluded due to lack of capacity. BEA’s agreements and in-person gatherings continue to generate positive examples of equitable partnership-building across sectors, and each in-person meeting results in more common ground, more relationship building on both personal and organizational levels, and more impact for the movement as a whole. In addition to Overbrook’s support, BEA has gained four new funders (including one new “green group” supporter), and is starting to be recognized not just for its groundbreaking philosophy and governance structure, but also for its concrete and critical work in the movement.

The Overbrook Foundation is modeling this shift. Starting in 2015, the Foundation began supporting new organizations under the “Movement Building” umbrella.

Building Equity and Alignment for Impact is the first serious effort, possibly ever, to really take on the funding disparity and historic barriers that exist between the green groups and the environmental grassroots organizing sector. Success on both fronts can help us all achieve even more victories in the years to come.