



# Electoral Power Building

March 2024

We believe the people most affected by injustice should be leading the fight for change—from the protest march to the ballot box.

**Liberty  
Hill**  
FOUNDATION

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# Electoral Engagement

## Liberty Vote!

Our work in 2019 through 2023 was a magnification of our grantmaking to match the needs of our community during a time of extreme upheaval. As we enter 2024, Liberty Hill is entering a phase of strategic planning, restructuring and a temporary streamlining of our programs as we evaluate our strengths and areas of growth in our grantmaking. As a result, we find ourselves contracting as we strengthen our infrastructure and review our past strategies. We remain committed to **Fund for Change** and **Liberty Vote!**, both of which are essential to see continued support for electoral engagement and grassroots organizing and power building that are not prioritized by others in the philanthropic field. **To maintain this commitment, Liberty Hill seeks to fundraise \$750,000 directly from individual donor-activists.**

In 2019, Liberty Hill Foundation entered a strategic planning process related to Fund For Change and Liberty Vote!, informed by listening sessions with stakeholders, resulting in a commitment to a set of changes that prioritized “radical accommodation.” Elements of this plan included a greatly reduced application process and a more intentional outreach, application, and assessment process to be more inclusive of “Rising Activist” groups that have formed within the last 10 years, with annual budgets of less than \$500,000, and fewer than three full-time staff members, recognizing that these groups build power in underrepresented communities and geographies with limited existing nonprofit infrastructure. We intended to implement these changes in 2020, but in light of the pandemic and civil unrest, we provided a second round of grants to our 2019 grantees without requiring a renewal application. In 2021, we implemented our radical accommodation strategy and, in light of the challenges many organizations were experiencing at the time, we drew down a historic 14% from our endowment to provide two-year grants, paid up front, to provide greater financial stability to our grantees with a focus on our Rising Activists. In 2023, we once again provided automatic renewals with no application required for an additional year, continuing to strengthen investments in grassroots organizing.

**Looking ahead for the calendar year of 2024, we understand the importance of consistent and early investment.** Like many of our donor-activists we want to resource community based organizations now, because we know they have been and continue to do the work to engage voters, knock on doors, and collect signatures. Below, we’ve listed our trusted partners in this work. **There is a lot of work to be done between now and the November elections. By giving early and often, we ensure that trusted partners on the ground can commit staff for voter registration, poll work, and crucial voter education in an age of disinformation.**

## LA Forward Institute est. 2016

**Issue Areas:** Housing Justice, Electoral Engagement, Racial Justice, Immigrant Rights, Voter's Rights

LA Forward envisions the Los Angeles Region as a vibrant, multiracial social democracy, where Angelenos have the knowledge to participate enthusiastically in local democracy, the skills to build civic relationships within and across neighborhoods, and the power to ensure a political system prioritizes people's common needs above special interests. Most recently, their community-based advocacy and organizing work focused on the need for unarmed crisis response services as an alternative to armed officer dispatch. Following the lead of community members, LA Forward advocated for a revised budget for the City of Los Angeles that invested \$16 million to support unarmed crisis response services for 2023-2024. Not only does this work move toward systemic change, it also supports residents to build civic engagement skills that are vital to any issue, such as engaging with elected officials, writing and giving public comment, and educating their neighbors about unarmed crisis responses as alternatives to policing.

In the past year, LA Forward hosted their San Gabriel Valley (SGV) Housing Justice Academy, a six-month cohort experience that convened SGV residents for monthly full-day workshops that supported them to share experiences of housing injustice, build language around affordable housing and land-use policy, and develop skills in advocacy and organizing, all in an effort to support a cohort of agents of change in cities across the San Gabriel Valley, a region in the Los Angeles County that has been historically disinvested. Through the SGV Housing Academy, LA Forward seeks to ensure the passage of key relationships and knowledge across generations, while also deepening a bench of BIPOC housing justice advocates in areas of LA County that are densely populated by communities of color.

LA Forward Institute continues to advance on equity-centered land use, affordable housing, and tenant protections. They have shaped municipal, county and statewide housing policy to maximize new deeply affordable units and minimize displacement through key coalitions such as Alliance for Community Transit – Los Angeles (ACT-LA) and Our Future LA (OFLA), where LA Forward serves on the steering committees. OFLA is gearing up to collect hundreds of thousands of signatures across Los Angeles County to qualify the LA County Affordable Housing, Homelessness Solutions, and Prevention Now ballot measure, which is LA County's first-ever citizen-led ballot initiative that aims to create a sustainable funding mechanism for LA County's comprehensive homelessness response system.

### **LA Voice est. 2014**

**Issue Areas:** Economic Justice, Racial Justice, Housing Justice, Immigrant Rights, Electoral Engagement

Founded in 2004, LA Voice is a multi-racial, multi-faith organization with a mission to transform Los Angeles into a county that reflects the human dignity of all communities, with racial and economic equity and abundant life for all. LA Voice has 70 member congregations across Los Angeles County, through which they reach 50,000 families and engage over 10,000 people in action and education each year. In addition to this, LA Voice holds strategic power relationships with U.S. Congressional representatives, mayors and city councils of major cities within the county to facilitate a progressive racial equity agenda in the region.

Through their Power Campaign last year, LA Voice leaders identified top issues, including affordable housing, homelessness, and financial stability. Together with the PICO California Network, they created the Home is Sacred Campaign and championed three key bills: SB 567 (Homelessness Prevention Act), SB 4 (Affordable Housing on Faith Lands Act), and AB 1418, all of which were passed in the past year. These bills strengthened no-fault eviction protections, enabled faith communities to build affordable housing on their lands, and protected formerly incarcerated individuals from discrimination. As part of the campaign, over 100 LA Voice leaders brought their power to Sacramento and met with 25 legislators to educate them and ask for their support for a fully housed future. LA Voice also has Faith in Housing program in which LA Voice staff and partners identify, and lead interested congregations through the discernment process; connect them to developers; organize to remove zoning barriers; and provide guidance on the way to revitalize communities and build affordable housing for neighbors. Looking to 2024, LA Voice will continue their work with the Home is Sacred campaign, as well as commit their support for a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) for Los Angeles County.

### **Black Women for Wellness est. 1997**

**Issue Areas:** Racial Justice, Reproductive Justice, Environmental Justice

\*Note that there is Black Women for Wellness a 501c3 organization and BWW Action Project, a 501c4 organization

Black Women For Wellness (BWW) operates from a Reproductive Justice framework, while operating in the intersection of Maternal Infant Health, Environmental Justice, Food Justice, Wellness and Civic Engagement. BWW is committed to the health and well-being of Black

women and girls through health education, empowerment, and advocacy--organizing innovative and relevant programs for reproductive justice, environmental justice, access to quality prenatal, maternal, and child health care, voter mobilization, and civic engagement. BWW issued the Birthing People's Bill of Rights to support pregnant people and parents going through maternity during COVID. During the 2020 Census, in one of California's largest Black Census outreach campaigns, BWW and BWW Action Project sent over 100,000 text messages to Black women to complete the census. BWW also published a nonpartisan Vote (Her) Guide focused on Black women's issues including information about judges, ballot measures, and propositions.

In 2019, BWW and BWW Action Project co-wrote the bill and built a coalition of over 100 organizations to help pass the California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act (SB 464) with the legislature's unanimous support. The first of its kind in the nation, the law aims to improve Black maternal health by requiring that all perinatal providers go through implicit bias training; improving data collection standards; mandating the publication of maternal morbidity data; and requiring hospitals to tell patients how to file discrimination complaints. In August 2021, the Department of Justice (DOJ) initiated an investigation to determine compliance with the law. At that time, fewer than 17% of responding providers had even begun training their employees and not a single employee had been fully trained. By the time DOJ's investigation and outreach efforts concluded 10 months later, the training completion rate had shot up to more than 81%. These details are all captured in a report by BWW and Attorney General Rob Bonta's office released in October 2023 as the "[Report on Healthcare Facilities and the California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act.](#)"

### **Gente Organizada est. 2010**

**Issue Areas:** Youth Justice, Racial Justice, Economic Justice, Electoral Engagement

Gente Organizada (Gente) is a community-led social action non-profit organization based in Pomona, CA whose mission is to organize to build intergenerational power and wellness for youth and immigrant families in Pomona. Using an asset-based approach to community organizing, Gente Organizada works to partner with communities comprised of historically underrepresented, immigrant populations understand their rights and the power of community action. Gente has three main components of their work: empowering the youth of Pomona through the Pomona Students Union (PSU), organizing parents through Padres Unidos de Pomona, and building coalitions through collaboration with their partners and social action groups to promote a community-led movement for change. In 2022, the queer youth in PSU established a Here and Queer (HQ) social action group to create an intentional space that centers the experiences of LGBTQIA+ BIPOC youth. Gente's newest social action group is Pomona NextGen (PNG), which

offers middle school-aged students (10-14) a safe learning space where they can explore issues of culture, identity, and well-being.

In early 2022, Gente finally fulfilled a longstanding dream with the purchase of a converted warehouse in the heart of Pomona's working-class neighborhoods. The Gente Youth Center is a space where youth can meet with peers, plan organizing campaigns, learn new skills, receive mentorship and other resources. The youth also play active roles in building out the space, as the center features rooms for meetings, as well as a media room with a booth for recording podcasts, and a room curated specifically for their Here & Queer social action group. The center also has a washer/dryer, shower, and functional kitchen that can be utilized by unhoused youth.

Gente Organizada is endorsing the Pomona Kids First (PKF) Ballot Initiative, which qualified for the November 2024 ballot with enough signatures due to the organizing efforts of the youth-led PKF steering committee. The campaign engaged with over 25,000 individuals and collected over 18,000 signatures in total, of which 12,700 were validated as Pomona voters. The PKF Initiative seeks to secure 10% of the City of Pomona's unrestricted general purpose revenues to fund childcare, after-school programs, housing support, mental health support, arts and technology programs, and domestic violence prevention programs that prioritize children from birth to age 12; youth ages 13 to 17; and disconnected and/or transitional-aged youth ages 18 to 24 who are most impacted by harm, inequity and lack of access to support and services.

### Labor Community Strategy Center est. 1989

**Issue Areas:** Racial Justice, Workers' Rights, Economic Justice, Electoral Engagement

The Strategy Center is a Think Tank/Act Tank for regional, national and international movement building, founded in 1989 and based in the 10 million-person world city of Los Angeles. The Center's campaigns, projects, and publications are rooted in working class communities of color and address the totality of urban life with a particular focus on civil rights, environmental justice, public health, global warming, and the criminal legal system. They build consciousness, leadership, and organization among those who face discrimination and societal attack—people of color, women, immigrants, workers, LGBT people, youth, all of whom comprise their membership. The Strategy Center works city-wide with a focus on South L.A./South Central but also East Los Angeles/Boyle Heights. Their work had been set back by COVID 19 restrictions and realities, but since then have slowly been opening up their Strategy and Soul Center, a complex of 3 contiguous storefronts at the corner of King and Crenshaw, in the evenings and weekends so local high school students can attend political education programs and Saturday Block parties, allowing them be in a multi-generational space. The Center has a theater that highlights

“Political Films for Movement Organizer” screenings, at their Strategy and Soul bookstore, where they are launching their South LA Power-Up E-Bike Lending Library Program in early 2024.

The Center also organizes a Call Hub to funnel targeted calls into the offices of elected officials and a project with New Mode that gets people to send letters to elected officials from their own email address. Their campaign for Urban Reconstruction is working on fighting institutional racism and police occupation in both the Los Angeles Unified School District and Metropolitan Transportation Agency. Their participation in the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office’s heat focus groups also provided insight into the disproportionate impacts of climate change and extreme heat on bus riders in the city. It will be included in the final publications of Year 2 of the Climate Equity LA Series. They hold an international vision to build a Black, Latinx, Third World Alliance to fight for racial justice and to challenge the U.S. White Settler State. With this campaign, they are demanding a First Class Bus System for 3rd World People, Free Public Transportation, No Cars in LA, 24/7 Service, Conductors Not Police on Metro, and stop all attacks on Black Passengers.

### Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Institute est 2010

**Issue Areas:** Racial Justice, Housing Justice, Economic Justice, Electoral Engagement

The mission of the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Institute is to improve the lives of California’s traditionally underserved residents, including communities of color, low-income and working families, and the undocumented population, by carrying out work that fosters deep, indigenous leadership development, policy creation, robust civic participation, and broad community empowerment. ACCE Institute utilizes a range of grassroots engagement strategies to involve residents, tenants, and low-wage workers that are directly affected by large-scale injustice, as well as providing them with the analysis and skills to allow them to lead public campaigns and engage others. Some of these strategies include “on the ground” grassroots organizing that engages large numbers of residents in strategic campaigns to win policy change and improved services, putting low-income residents and residents of color in key leadership positions around campaign planning, and connecting active residents to their leadership development programs that include ACCE’s Racial and Economic Justice analysis, as well as their political analysis and overarching campaign frame. Most of ACCE Institute’s geographic focus is based on core neighborhoods within South LA, Watts, Central Los Angeles, the east San Fernando Valley, and emerging areas in Southeast LA County.

Over the course of 2022, ACCE had several wins in the various campaigns to protect tenants' rights, public education, and eviction defense. ACCE held several training programs for both members and organizers, with over 200 ACCE members and 20 organizers participating in them. These training included skills building, issue trainings on racial capitalism and social housing, and trainings on the electoral landscape in preparation for the June Primary and November General elections. ACCE Institute's flagship political program, Reclaim Our Economy, took place from March 2022 to August 2022 and garnered the participation of over 100 ACCE members and key ACCE allies. Reclaim Our Economy is a series of online workshops and in-person meetings that foster discussions of key elements of racial capitalism and the current state of the rigged economy, as well as the specific impacts on the working class, women, youth, and all those who are oppressed by this economic system. ACCE also took part of launching and creating the Tenant Power Toolkit, in partnership with The Debt Collective, LATU, The Anti-Eviction Mapping Project, and UCLA Luskin Institute. The toolkit allows tenants anywhere in California to file a legal response to an eviction notice in English or Spanish. Additionally, ACCE's legal team hosted over 80 know your rights tenant clinics, serving over a thousand tenants, and launched TenantProtections.org's Rent Calculator with their allies at Tech Equity. The Rent Calculator helps tenants navigate their rights by understanding their eligibility for statewide rent caps and local rent control laws, determine if their increases meet or exceed legal limits, and empower tenants and neighbors by helping them know their rights in unfair rent increases and unjust evictions, and connecting them with resources. Currently, ACCE is focused on county accountability in the enforcement of the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (TAHO).

### **Californians for Justice est 1996**

**Issue Areas:** Electoral Engagement, Racial Justice, Economic Justice

Californians for Justice (CFJ) was founded in 1996, with a focus on promoting civic engagement and leadership development in diverse communities across California. Today, CFJ is a statewide grassroots organization working for racial justice by building the power of youth, communities of color, immigrants, low-income families, and LGBTQ communities. Led by students, CFJ organizes to advance educational justice and improve social, economic, and political conditions. CFJ believes that empowering students to advocate for what they need on their own campuses is the optimal way to sustain transformative change in the education system, and creates civically engaged young people who will carry civic participation into adulthood and other community transformation efforts. Each year, CFJ engages 250 youth in leadership development and advocacy, with a focus on low-income youth, youth of color, LGBTQ youth, foster youth, and immigrant youth; connect with 4,000 youth and community members who take action to improve their community; and engage with 9,000 youth voters of color.

In the past two years, CFJ focused on reaching and mobilizing young voters for Election Day 2022. CFJ hosted a Statewide Leadership Retreat in Spring 2022, where over 30 youth across the state participated in leadership development, power building, and civic education. In partnership with Power California, CFJ reached more than 3,200 young voters aged 18-34 across the state during the rest of the election season. Oakland youth secured Measure H, a school bond measure funding college and career pathways for Oakland Unified high school students. CFJ noted that the youngest voters (18-21) are voting earlier and in higher numbers the last election season than in 2018's general elections. For 2023, CFJ is preparing for 2024 election season by continuing to build power among Black and Brown youth and families. In light of Gavin Newsom's 2022-2023 State Budget Revision, which allocated more funding than ever for schools with a 13% increase in LCFF funding and \$35 billion more than last year, as well as an additional \$1.1 billion investment into the California Community School Partnership Program, CFJ is working to direct this funding to support community organizations and districts to learn and put into practice effective and innovative models of community engagement, especially ones that center Black and brown students, along with aligning with community school efforts.

### **Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Leadership (CHIRLA) est 1986**

**Issue Areas:** Racial Justice, Immigrant Rights, Economic Justice, Electoral Engagement

The Californians for Humane Immigrant Rights Leadership (CHIRLA) was founded in 1986 to advance the human and civil rights of immigrants and refugees. CHIRLA's mission is to achieve a just society fully inclusive of immigrants. CHIRLA's electoral work uses an integrated voter engagement model through their Immigrant Political Power Project (IPPP) to activate the political power of immigrants in Los Angeles County and increase voter turnout by mobilizing our base, particularly Latinx, women, youth, and New American voters. Through the CHIRLA's call center, direct voter outreach, and media campaigns, the IPPP provides bilingual (Spanish/English) education to the immigrant community about how to register to vote as well as resources about candidates and ballot measures they can consult. These voter education campaigns are led by members from their base who receive training in leadership development and outreach strategies to engage their local communities.

CHIRLA's short-term goal is to equip low-propensity voters who face potential disenfranchisement and barriers with the tools and resources they need to participate in upcoming elections. For the long term, they are building a culture of voting and grassroots organizing among Latinx and immigrant voters to make their voices heard in every election and ensure the needs of their families and communities are represented. They utilize a train the trainer model to engage members to lead phone banking and outreach campaigns. Their website lists their membership as reaching 24,456

individuals. During the 2020 election cycle they reached 47,874 contacts and identified 37,479 voters who committed to voting. In coalition with other partners, they have focused a great deal of their efforts on capitalizing on CHIRLA's history of immigration reform advocacy and mobilizing to championing the "Yes to Immigrant Forward" campaign. The campaign aims to provide undocumented immigrants a legal pathway to citizenship, protections from deportation and detention as well as family separation.

During the 2021 election cycle, CHIRLA launched the "Defend My California" campaign to combat Governor Gavin Newsom's recall. They provided resources in both English and Spanish, encouraging voters to vote 'no' on the recall and elevated Governor Newsom's work to protect immigrant and undocumented populations in California. Their voter education program consists of several components: (1) phone banking through their call center, (2) direct voter contacts and person-to-person outreach in local neighborhoods, (3) a communications and marketing strategy through TV, radio, and print media, and (4) digital campaigns through social media. CHIRLA Action Fund has also done a great deal of outreach and messaging around vaccine access for both COVID 19 and Monkeypox in both English and Spanish. They are capitalizing on their voter engagement outreach efforts to also elevate public health information for vulnerable populations.

### **Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) est 1978**

**Issue Areas:** Environmental Justice, Electoral Engagement

Founded in 1978, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) is one of the preeminent environmental justice organizations in the nation. CBE's mission is to build people's power in California's communities of color and low-income communities to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy and sustainable communities and environments. CBE provides residents in heavily polluted urban communities in California with organizational skills, leadership training and legal, scientific and technical assistance, so that they can successfully confront threats to their health and well-being. The wider CBE umbrella, based in both the Bay Area and LA, is taking on new state legislative pushes and canvassing across multiple issue areas. With the milestone victory of the STAND LA in passing the ordinance to phase out oil and gas well in the City of Los Angeles in January 2021, as well as the establishment of oil setbacks at a state level, oil companies have organized a counter push to undo the work of frontline communities and organizers. The referendum received enough petition signatures for a revote of SB 1137, the state bill that creates a 3,200 foot buffer zones from oil drilling operations. CBE is taking a leadership position in partnership with allies across the state to defeat the oil industry ballot initiative; tandem to the revote referendum AM Issac Bryan also drafted AB 421 that would reform the referendum process by establishing a new government oversight of signature collection, requiring greater transparency on who is funding these

referendum campaigns, and mandating at least 10% of signatures must be obtained by unpaid volunteers. CBE and STAND LA's organization members are sponsors of the bill.

Communities for a Better Environment Action (CBE Action), which houses CBE's 501(c)(4) work, organizes voters across the state to build relationships with decision-makers who represent their interests at every level of governance. CBE Action is committed to ensuring that each person is empowered through political education, leadership and organizing activities in support of social and environmental justice local and statewide policy. CBE Action provides frontline communities with the tools, skills, and resources to take charge of their own environmental health and push for electoral and statewide policies to put the brakes on climate change. Through building a future that prioritizes environmental sustainability, CBE Action believes it must include building the political power of California's frontline communities and championing decision-makers sharing in the same values and core principles of environmental justice. CBE Action is rooted in the 4 communities where they organize local residents: Richmond, East Oakland, Wilmington (Los Angeles) and Huntington Park. In response to the widespread misinformation campaign that oil companies have undertaken as part of the referendum petition process, CBE is planning electoral canvassing and general outreach of over 2,000 homes over the next year. In addition to door knocking and canvassing, CBE is also developing presentations, training and materials to counter the misinformation campaign of the oil industry. Organizers have found several industry-backed petitioners at local stores and groceries misrepresenting the referendum as a revote to add more protections for communities, and mailers, like one copied below, were sent to homes across California to further spread misinformation on the referendum.

### **Community Coalition est 1990**

**Issue Areas:** Electoral Engagement, Economic Justice, Racial Justice

Community Coalition centers the voices and leadership of people of color as they collectively work to upend systemic racism. CoCo formed 30 years ago during the height of the cocaine epidemic of the late 1980s and early 1990s and is rooted in their deep commitment to racial justice. Founded intentionally as a Black/Brown organization, Community Coalition understands the power that lies in bringing people together and serving as part of a larger movement. As a grassroots organizing institution, CoCo considers itself as accountable to the residents of South Los Angeles — one of the most impacted and under-resourced areas in the state and in the region — to galvanize their power to assert their leadership and to create the policies that will ensure stability, safety and liberation. It is because of this commitment that the South Los Angeles community has been a leader in groundbreaking campaigns to transform schools, reimagine and build a healthy environment, shape policy on kinship care and rebuild the social safety net to keep families together, cultivate homegrown leadership, build electoral power, and establish a permanent institution for social change.

CoCo's 501(c)(4) work is housed under the Community Coalition Action Fund (CoCo Action Fund), established in 2014 with a mission to encourage South Los Angeles' residents to build power through electoral participation. Voting realigns the power dynamic, the relationship of power, between low-income people of color and the governing officials and bodies that the people elect. CoCo seeks to educate and build the electoral participation and leadership of South Los Angeles' residents in order to anchor policy makers, elected officials, and government institutions in progressive, equity-oriented policy and resource allocation so that conditions that foster violence, substance abuse, and poverty are effectively addressed. From 2014 – 2017, the organization ran and tested 1-2 small civic engagement programs annually focused on local ballot initiatives. In 2018, a team of 5 temporary workers was hired to collect signatures in support of Schools and Communities First, which eventually appeared on the ballot in November 2020 as Proposition 15.

In 2021, voters contacted in the 2020 election cycle by the CoCo Action Fund were engaged by Community Coalition around two services/resources connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. First, Community Coalition reached out to individuals to secure their participation in the COVID-19 Communities of Color Assessment (Assessment) targeting LA County residents in highest-need communities. The purpose of the Assessment is to help inform federal legislative priorities and local campaigns in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. With findings from the survey, Community Coalition will leverage community insights to launch campaigns that help inform policy and budget priorities for the City and County during FY 2021-22 and beyond. Secondly, Community Coalition organizers reached out to 2020 voter contacts to offer access to COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible community members. Community Coalition facilitated a vaccination clinic at Jesse Owens Park in South Los Angeles with Charles Drew University, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. During an intense four-week effort in February and March, more than 4,500 South LA residents received the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These two opportunities have offered vital support to local residents and also strengthened their connection to Community Coalition. In 2022, CoCo Action Fund released their Voter Guide for 2022 Election Cycle, providing both English and Spanish version, endorsing key candidates in the LA election, including now Mayor Karen Bass, as well as supporting Measure ULA.

### **People for Westside Renewal (POWER) est 1999**

**Issue Areas:** Electoral Engagement, Economic Justice, Housing Justice

People Organized for Westside Renewal (POWER) is a membership-based community organizing group. POWER employs a community organizing strategy based on relationship building and direct action to create meaningful change in the neighborhoods where their members work. They organize locally, working on issues that matter to local communities, such as affordable housing, community

safety, and quality education. POWER then connects these issues to those of their national network, National People's Action (NPA), and are part of a national movement focused on building an economy that works for everybody, challenging corporate power, and winning increasingly more inclusive and democratic government policies. POWER is a key partner in implementing eviction defense through Stay Housed LA and focuses on low-income tenants in West LA. Ground Game LA was created in 2018 as the 501(c)(4) arm of POWER, to increase voter turnout in west Los Angeles and provide grassroots support to progressive candidates, with particular focus on organizing the unhoused community, ending police violence and fighting for environmental justice.

Ground Game engages in direct action, door knocking and canvassing focused on CD-13 and West LA with the goal of educating voter and increasing voter turnout. Ground Game additionally focuses on changing the public narrative about voter engagement and the issues that matter most to voters. Between its founding in 2018 and 2022, voter turnout in West Los Angeles has increased by almost 15% despite an overall dip in voter turnout throughout the county. The organization's ability to help community leaders run campaigns, such as defending mixed-status families in public and subsidized housing, work with coalition partners to advance regional issues such as the tenant anti-harassment coalition, and to support allies' campaigns like supporting SB 321 to win Health and Safety for California's domestic workers —helped build the credibility to engage voters during electoral cycles. At the statewide level, Ground Game will prioritize investing in campaigns focused on statewide proposals to create social housing programs, and specifically those programs to create building authorities in the state and/or Southern California. They are engaging with the Re-Imagine LA campaign and allies at Housing Now to figure out exactly what role they will be playing in those coalitions. Locally they will continue to work with the Services Not Sweeps coalition to coordinate directly organizing with unhoused leaders, with the LA Tenants Union to coordinate organizing individual tenant associations, and with the Healthy LA / Right to Counsel networks of organizations on LA City and County policies.

### **InnerCity Struggle est 1994**

**Issue Areas:** Youth Justice, Racial Justice, Housing Justice, Electoral Engagement, Immigrant Rights

Inner City Struggle (ICS) is a 28-year-old organization created in 1994 as a response to the narrative that blamed immigrants and youth for the rise in drugs and gangs. The time experienced severed public-school funding and the rise of the criminalization of youth and immigrants in East Los Angeles. They have since become a multi-issue organization to build stronger schools, grow civic engagement, and prevent housing displacement for a stronger and more powerful Eastside of Los Angeles. Inner City Struggle is a strong partner and grantee of Liberty Hill, involved in Stay Housed LA, Liberty Vote, Ready to Rise, and the Brothers Sons Selves Coalition. In addition to the

Liberty Hill specific grants, InnerCity Struggle has received funding through the California Funders for Boys and Men of Color (CFBMoC) and Ready to Rise to support their youth development programmatic and policy work. ICS and its constituents envision the Eastside of Los Angeles as becoming a thriving, multigenerational, and civically engaged Latinx community that ensures racial justice, a quality education, an equitable economy, and a healthy built environment for residents most impacted by systemic injustices in the next 25 years. InnerCity Struggle's current mission is igniting a transformational and intergenerational movement by building community power to advance justice, life opportunities, and dignity in the Eastside of Los Angeles. A key tactic to reach the strategic vision of ICS will be investing in the integrated voter engagement approach to sustain contact with the organization's Eastside voter base and activate them into campaign work.

As electoral organizers, InnerCity Struggle has built a robust universe of 31,990 Eastside of Los Angeles voters that currently reside in the area's six zip codes. They have built this voter base with committed volunteers and paid staff, totaling a united force of 2,890 people. This force has leveraged election cycles as opportunities to advance the organization's power and influence and to secure progressive policy changes. The electoral outreach, education and mobilization efforts developed and strengthened over the last decade have increased the organization's reach and visibility. Key campaign allies include the Equity Alliance for LA' Kids, the Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition plus SEIU 99 and SEIU 2015. They also continue to pursue strengthened LA County tenant protections as policies put into place during the pandemic start to lift in allyship with Healthy LA and Stay Housed LA.

### **Khmer Girls in Action est 1997**

**Issue Areas:** Youth Justice, Racial Justice, Electoral Engagement, Immigrant Rights, Gender Justice

Originally founded in 1997 as a Cambodian young women's reproductive health and empowerment project, the scope of Khmer Girls in Action's (KGA) work has since grown through conversation and strategic planning by youth members and adult allies. Their mission today is to build a progressive and sustainable Long Beach community that works for gender, racial and economic justice led by Southeast Asian women and girls. KGA now actively pursues its mission by training Southeast Asian youth to lead and organize change for themselves, their families, and community. Their vision is to build a safe and healthy Long Beach community that works for an equal and just world for all.

KGA's major accomplishments and strength include their long-standing history in youth organizing, community engagement, and partnerships with other organizations. For over 24 years, KGA has provided youth services for Southeast Asian youth and youth of color across the gender spectrum. They have also provided community education to build a more civically engaged Long Beach community, including voter education and registration. KGA has anchored the Long Beach 'Invest In Youth Coalition' for the last decade and most recently helped to establish a designated youth fund in the City of Long Beach with their

partners. KGA and its youth have also previously led the ‘Every Student Matters Campaign’ to institute Restorative Justice within Long Beach Unified School District and led the work to disrupt the School-to-Prison-to-Deportation pipeline as it relates to Southeast Asians. KGA has continued to work in solidarity and push for racial justice and criminal justice reforms for young boys/boys and men of color through their involvement with the Brothers, Sons, and Selves Coalition (BSS). BSS’s recent victories have included winning an unanimous vote by the Long Beach City Council to pass the city’s first Youth and Emerging Adults Strategic Plan and establishing the city’s first Youth Fund and the new Office of Youth Development. This fall they are moving into an implementation phase, providing oversight.

### **A La Defensa (f/s Tides Foundation)**

**Issue Areas:** Racial Justice, Electoral Engagement, Immigrant Rights, Gender Justice

La Defensa’s values are rooted in building a broad anti-racist, feminist, and anti-capitalist movement led by the people most impacted by criminalization, economic injustice, and other forms of state control in LA County. They hold an abolitionist approach and believe in the importance of investment in community power that thrives on promoting health, wellness, love of community, transformative justice, and community accountability. La Defensa is leading the movement to decarcerate the largest jail population in the United States—the LA County jail system. They work towards reducing the power and scope of the judiciary, law enforcement, and legal injustice system, while also fighting for fair and transparent pretrial processes, for state and local budgets that reflect community values, and for life-affirming alternatives to incarceration. All of La Defensa’s work is informed by Latinx, Black, Indigenous, AAPI, Queer, Immigrant, Undocumented, and Working-class communities.

During the 2020 election season, La Defensa primarily organized around efforts to approve Measure J. They also contributed to a Policy Implementation space throughout the campaign season to engage community stakeholders in the implantation of Measure J. Since then, these efforts culminated into the implementation work of the Re-Imagine LA Coalition. La Defensa is currently deeply engaged in the coalition work of Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB), JusticeLA (JLA) and Reimagine LA. In particular, there is much focus on the Care First, Jails Last, and Care First Community Investment (CFCI). In 2022, with La Defensa’s Megan Castillo was the Reimagine LA Coalition Coordinator, they moved \$300M in funding out of systems of harm and into systems of care through CFCI. They also fought for the Care First Model for the budget and participatory budgeting in LA County. LA Defensa are unique in their focus on creating transparency within the Los Angeles County judiciary.

In the past year, LA Defensa co-organized Care First Community Investment Town Halls and collaborated with LA Forward on their upcoming LA County Judicial Leadership Academy in summer 2023. They also launched the Rate My Judge tool in 2021, which gives LA County voters

the opportunity to learn more about the judges who sit on LA Superior Court. In 2022, La Defensa’s Judicial Accountability lead RMJ canvasses in order to grow the platform and increased their users by 93% through outreach. La Defensa also launched and engaged voters with the “Cafecito” program for the 2020 election cycle, that emphasizes the importance of educating loved ones about voting and political decision-making. The model aimed to encourage younger generations of Angelenos to have ongoing, engaging conversations with their elders and peers in a way that reflects a common tradition with Latinx families: having conversations over coffee. In conjunction with the increased voter participation through the Cafecito model, La Defensa recruited newly-mobilized community members into their coalition work. The model thus creates a pathway from local communities and neighborhoods to directly participate in advocacy work.

### **Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) est 1993**

**Issue Areas:** Economic Justice, Electoral Engagement, Worker’s Rights

The Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) is an organizing and advocacy institution committed to economic, environmental, and racial justice. LAANE’s vision is to help build a new economy rooted in good jobs, thriving communities, and a healthy environment for all. They fight for change through community organizing, building community and labor coalitions, research, communications, and policy work. LAANE’s programming includes their Power Analysis Workshops—which their members tailor to issues that help allies educate the community, flagship Leadership Training program, and the annual People’s State of the City event that highlights issues important to the community. These programs help to prepare grassroots leaders for electoral work and building power. Since 2012, LAANE has led a civic engagement project known as Long Beach Rising! in the City of Long Beach that aims to build power for underserved residents and workers through training a cadre of grassroots leaders, building support among low-income residents of color, and engaging in campaigns—like the successful fight to pass a ballot measure that protects hotel housekeepers—that address the needs of the disenfranchised majority. In recent years, LAANE decided that more power could be built with a dues-paying membership organization and obtained 501(c)(4) status in order to be more active in the electoral arena.

Long Beach Rising! utilizes an integrated voter engagement model in its work building power for systemically disadvantaged communities in the City of Long Beach. They used this strategy in their engagement in the Proposition 15 campaign in November 2020, demonstrating how successful it could be as the proposition, which lost statewide, won in Long Beach thanks to the work of Long Beach Rising’s volunteers led by residents and workers who had been trained through the LBR leadership development program. LAANE built this success on the foundation of their last electoral

campaign, which started with hotel workers sharing their stories of abuse on the job. Together with allies, LAANE built an issue campaign out of their struggle which eventually led them to the ballot box after the LB City Council voted the measure down. Measure WW engaged past Long Beach Rising! alumni and community members to achieve a 64% of the vote victory. The new law brought greater protection for hotel workers from sexual harassment and excessive workloads.

### **Pilipino Workers Center est 1997**

**Issue Areas:** Racial Justice, Economic Justice, Immigrant Rights, Electoral Engagement, Worker's Rights

Founded in 1997, Pilipino Workers Center (PWC) organizes the low-wage Pilipino community in Southern California to demand better living and working conditions. Their goals and campaigns aim to uniquely impact the Pilipino American community internally as well as uplift the values, issues and visibility of the Pilipino American community with policy makers and others who are investing in aligned issues and campaigns. Although this primarily revolves around working on labor issues in the domestic worker industry, their scope of work expands beyond that. In general, they currently have a robust set of programs to support their community in the following ways: direct service, organizing, electoral campaigns, and policy advocacy. In terms of direct service, they continue to offer legal services for immigrant workers, worker training for home care aides, and free tax preparation. They are also part of a "Team and Changes" program with the CA Public Utilities Commission which aims to aid consumers with concerns or issues related to the phone and utility bills. They also notably have been helping operate a homecare cooperative for immigrant workers, called Courage Co-op.

Their organizing and education work spans just as widely. Last year, they developed the "Filipino Voter Empowerment Project", a program that focused on redistricting efforts particularly pertaining to the Filipino community and Historic Filipinotown neighborhood. Their goals were to better identify Filipino Americans living in CA, survey Filipino-Americans about civic involvement and voting behavior and get the Filipino-American community active. They notably also just launched a "Stop AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) Hate" campaign last month to help address the growing number of hate incidents towards Asians during the pandemic. Here, they use cultural events, healing workshops, bystander intervention trainings and educational programs to build solidarity and find ways to protect AAPI communities. Lastly, they have of course been a grantee under the Public Health Council contract with LA County Dept of Public Health (DPH), where they perform outreach to workers in the food manufacturing industry. Under this program, they have thus far had about 2,000 interactions with workers or employers, a total of 335 site visits, and have established 25 PHCs – the most among any CWOs in the program.

In 2020 PWC advocated to create a pathway to citizenship for immigrant care workers and increase wages within the care worker industry. They also pushed for SB321, a CA bill that would end over 80 years of exclusive policies that denied domestic workers the protection of the state's occupational health and safety laws. They have even increased their visibility in supporting progressive candidates that have decision making power over their priority issues, particularly in certain Senate or Congressional races as well as in opposing the recall of Governor Newsom. To advocate for improved voter access, they additionally partnered with the UCLA Law School to identify where there are districts around the country that were not providing adequate language access to AAPI communities in their elections. Their intent was to use both legal strategies and public campaigns to fight for this access. Over the last year or so, a key area of growth for PWC has been to build from their advocacy and base building work to design and expand their newer 501(c)(4) program called Pilipino Action Network. Through this integrated voter program, they aimed to create ways for all community members to have an impact in elections and legislative decisions regardless of their immigration status or voting eligibility.

### **Power California est 2018**

**Issue Areas:** Youth Justice, Economic Justice, Immigrant Rights, Electoral Engagement

Power California emerged from the union of Mobilize The Immigrant Vote and YVote, two of California's most successful organizers of immigrants, refugees, and youth of color. In 2018, MIV Action Fund became PowerCA Action with the purpose of building a multi-racial, multi-ethnic voting bloc of young Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other young people of color and their families. PowerCA Action builds the political power of young people of color and their families to participate and lead systems of government at all levels and advance a progressive agenda by engaging, mobilizing, and building the leadership of young voters of color and their families. They are a statewide multi-racial civic engagement organization made up of over 20 local youth organizing groups and chapters across the state – with over 30% of our alliance located in Los Angeles County -- building power with young people of color in over 50 counties in urban, suburban and rural communities throughout the state. PowerCA Action is the only organization of its kind focused on building a voting bloc of young voters of color.

In 2019, PowerCA Action launched their long-term campaign to fight for the essential Rights to the Future every young person should have: 1) Right to clean air, water, and existence on this planet; 2) Right to be free and live with dignity and without discrimination; 3) Right to have most basic needs met within all communities; 4) Right to determine the future of the country's democracy and economy. The center of their policies and campaigns will be to fight for a people's

democracy -- a government that puts people over corporations, that meets their essential human needs, and that recognizes young people as central to the collective future. Their “Fight For Our Future” campaign builds the power of young voters of color, who are shifting the electorate in California, to shape California’s future. PowerCA Action engaged thousands of young people in youth organized virtual town halls and civic events like the Youth Power Assembly, Fund our Futures Town Hall, Fight for our Future Kickoff, and Fight for our Future Teach-in; talked with hundreds and thousands of voters across the state about key issues that impact young people at stake on the 2020 November ballot; amplified their media coverage and created youth-centered digital content reaching over a million young people across our digital platforms. PowerCA Action mailed and emailed 175,000+ voter guides to young voters across California reaching 95,000+ voters in Los Angeles County. In 2020, they engaged over 330,000 young voters through PowerCA Action digital ads and social media platforms, trained 75+ young people of color as spokespeople, published over 15 op-eds, and had media coverage in all major outlets.

### **Strategic Concepts in Organizing & Policy Education Action for Grassroots Empowerment and Neighborhood Development Alternatives (SCOPE AGENDA) est 1993**

**Issue Areas:** Environmental Justice, Economic Justice, Electoral Engagement

Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education Action for Grassroots Empowerment and Neighborhood Development Alternatives (SCOPE AGENDA) builds grassroots power to create social and economic justice for low-income, immigrant, woman, femme, Black, and brown communities in Los Angeles. To do this, SCOPE organizes communities, develops leaders, collaborates through strategic alliances, builds capacity through training programs, and educates South L.A.’s residents to have an active role in shaping policies that affect the quality of life in our region. The SCOPE AGENDA Action Fund was born out of SCOPE’s mission. As the political arm of SCOPE, the SCOPE AGENDA Action Fund leverages SCOPE’s civic engagement model to build power at the ballot box and win progressive policies that transform the health, economic, and environmental systems that disproportionately impact communities on the frontlines, those bearing the brunt of the effects of climate change, and the extractive economy. South LA’s landscape has been shaped by a history of systemic racism, which has resulted in decades of chronic disinvestment, economic exclusion, structural unemployment, environmental racism, and criminalization. As their campaigns are grounded in the problems and conditions faced by their community, SCOPE AGENDA Action Fund seeks to advance an integrated racial, economic, and environmental justice agenda that shifts this reality into one where low-income Black and Latinx families have the power to shape and realize their vision for a healthy and resilient community.

SCOPE's campaigns and models are grounded in the problems and conditions faced by their membership base, as well as the potential and willingness to enact change. Their project seeks to address one of the root causes for climate and environmental injustice: systemic exclusion from decision-making processes. In Los Angeles and across the state, elected officials are making commitments to invest in a Green New Deal and address the climate emergency at hand through various policy proposals, public investments, and programs. These solutions must center on the voices and needs of environmental justice communities. As a trusted South LA institution, SCOPE works to amplify the voices of environmental justice communities by conducting targeted outreach to Black and Latinx South LA residents, equipping residents with the information and practice to engage in decision-making processes, providing training and leadership development opportunities, and facilitating the development of community-led priorities and solutions. Specifically, SCOPE Action Fund will seek to win the political willingness to invest in an equitable, just transition plan centered on community engagement and priorities. To achieve this larger policy agenda, they seek to win short-term changes focused on leveraging funding that prioritizes community-based plans for the reduction of greenhouse gas; air quality/reduction of stationary sources of pollution; increased access to safe clean water; building electrification, utility debt relief; and the phase out of urban oil drilling sites. SCOPE AGENDA Action Fund supplements these efforts through integrated voter engagement, elevating the potential for advocacy efforts to expand into lobbying on behalf of community backed solutions in the near future.