



Liberty Hill Commitments and Grantmaking Changes

Community Recommendation	Next Steps in 2021 and Beyond
<p>Pivot Fund for Change as a “field-building“ funding pot to grow the social justice ecosystem</p>	<p>Rising Activism Focus: more intentional outreach, application, and assessment processes to be more inclusive of “Rising Activist” groups -- groups with budgets under \$500,000, that are new in the landscape or are newly building their community organizing strategies.</p> <p>Creation of aligned capacity building programs through the Wally Marks Leadership Institute that will respond to the needs of new and emerging organizations (available to grantees, but not required)</p>
<p>Consider transitioning anchor and/or medium-sized organizations out of Fund for Change</p>	<p>Budget Cap of \$3M for the Fund for Change: The Fund for Change will still be a home for CBOs focused on grassroots community organizing, if they have annual budgets under \$3M.</p> <p>Ensuring that larger (“anchor”) organizations still have partnership opportunities with Liberty Hill, intentionally build up other funding programs through the foundation’s Agenda for a Just Future and Liberty Vote! (which will not have a budget cap).</p>
<p>Center underrepresented populations: Consider intentional and focused funding criteria to fold in organizations engaged in organizing diverse populations. QT-POC, Indigenous, and Black communities require ample investment to lift their visibility and to begin changing the ways in which society values their humanity.</p>	<p>Liberty Hill will more intentionally conduct outreach in neighborhoods and cities in Los Angeles County that have previously been underfunded by the philanthropic sector (such as the San Gabriel Valley, Antelope Valley, Southeast Cities).</p> <p>Continually strive for diversity within our grantmaking. In 2019, 79% of competitive fund grantees were POC-led, 10% specifically Black-led. In 2020, 81% were POC-led, 17% Black-led and 5% Native-led.</p> <p>Liberty Hill will recruit a diverse Community Funding Board to ensure that we have advisors that have diverse expertise and experience who will keep us accountable to this commitment.</p>
<p>Explore establishing a 501(c)4 funding program: As organizing groups become more sophisticated and integrate organizing, civic and electoral engagement strategies, Liberty Hill can provide additional support to these grantees engaged in electoral engagement through tangible funding dollars.</p>	<p>In 2020 Liberty Hill reactivated our Liberty Vote! program to support the 501(c)(4) organizations aligned with the policy priorities of our long term partners in the Fund for Change. We have actively fundraised for this work and will continue to do so in order to build this program and funding stream for the long term.</p>
<p>Streamline the grant application & reporting process: Lengthy reports take grantees’ focus off the work. LHF may consider implementing phone calls to learn about campaigns and progress of work, and/or accepting reports that are submitted to other foundations.</p>	<p>In 2021 the following adjustments to our grantmaking systems to reduce burdens:</p> <p>Instead of an LOI, increasing reliance on surveys to establish alignment between CBOs and fund priorities;</p> <p>For Fund for Change and Liberty Vote, accept proposals from other funders;</p> <p>Removed written reporting requirements from general operating grants, favoring learning about work progress through meetings, conversations, convenings, and other methods that rely on relationship building as opposed to transactions.</p>
<p>Communicate & listen actively: Articulate programs and strategies more clearly. Let grantees tell their stories in their own words.</p>	<p>Inviting ongoing feedback and also sharing back our commitments and learnings to the field, especially when based on time and wisdom shared by grantees.</p> <p>Investing in a website redesign, which will include more clearly outlining grant strategies and opportunities, and lifting up grantee voices in the Liberty Hill Newsletter.</p>
<p>Be an intentional convener: Consider hosting events where donors are convened to hear directly from grantees on the political climate that is impacting their work.</p>	<p>Through the COVID crisis Liberty Hill hosted regular briefings for donors to hear from grantees how the pandemic, racial justice uprisings, and the election are impacting their work. Liberty Hill welcomes regular input on how to do this more collaboratively with community partners and grantees.</p>
<p>Create opportunities for community building & leadership development.</p>	<p>Liberty Hill will continue to grow the work of the Wally Marks Leadership Institute, providing responsive capacity building programs for grantees. In the coming year, this will include trainings on electoral organizing, and a new slate of programs specifically built for “Rising Activist” organizations.</p> <p>Additionally, Liberty Hill maintains its Commissions Training Program, working with community partners to build up grassroots leadership and representation on LA City and County’s boards and commissions.</p>