



**Moving Forward. Together.**

# CHINOOK FUND

WINDS OF CHANGE



Dear Friends,

The Chinook Fund is a vital engine of grassroots change in Colorado. It is an exciting and vibrant place, where a unique partnership of activists and donors helps fuel community organizations fighting for social, racial, economic, and environmental justice across the state. This past year, we accomplished more than ever! Thanks to all of you in our donor community – over 200 of you gave at every level. Not only did you help us weather the challenges of a continued economic recession, you allowed us to distribute \$100,000 to 18 groups making critical social change. This collective commitment to Chinook's vision has allowed each one of us to have a much more powerful and strategic impact than if we were acting alone.

**More innovative coaching:** Chinook Fund launched a new program where 8 activists from grantee organizations were invited to exchange ideas, share values, and build skills around leadership. One of the most powerful aspects of this "Social Justice Leadership Learning Community" has been the opportunity for participants to build deeper relationships and learn from each other's rich experiences working for social justice in diverse communities. Through a peer coaching model, the program has also provided structure for participants to help each other work through challenges and stay accountable to their leadership goals.

**More community education:** Last spring, Chinook Fund gathered 60 volunteers, grantees, and donors for a candid conversation about the impact of classism on our work. Two days of interactive exercises, popular education, and critical dialogue provided a framework for our efforts to build stronger cross-class alliances. Chinook has long understood the value of bringing activist donors and grassroots organizers into the same room to do authentic, personally transformative work. The result is a deeper engagement and heightened commitment to advancing social justice together.

**More social justice philanthropy:** Chinook Fund continues to build a network of investors and funders who are committed to leveraging resources for change. We have helped individual donors turn their passions into action, while encouraging institutional funders to be more bold in transforming a traditional charity paradigm. This past year, we offered tools, curriculum, and training for institutions such as the Colorado Funders for Inclusiveness and Equity and the Denver Foundation to better address the causes and consequences of growing inequalities. Chinook is committed to creating a stronger space for social justice philanthropy within Colorado – ultimately leading to a much greater mobilization of resources for the communities and causes we fund.

As we welcome the New Year, Chinook Fund is thrilled to be approaching our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary milestone! Even as we celebrate, we are taking the time to ensure Chinook remains visionary and strategic in the future. We are in the midst of collecting valuable feedback from our current and former grantees in order to evaluate the impact of our grantmaking program and set its direction for the years ahead. We hope to share initial results and findings at our *Winds of Change: celebrating 25 years of grantmaking* party on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012!

Please know how deeply your involvement matters. Every dollar, hour, and idea invested into Chinook Fund has been critical to our success. So we hope you will join us in person this year to volunteer with us, share your thoughts, attend our *Winds of Change* party, and build deeper relationships with the incredible activists who work on the ground every day, using head and heart to help us imagine a better Colorado and world for all.

In Gratitude,

*Nora Bashir* *Neha Mahajan* *Katie Thiede*

Nora Bashir                      Neha Mahajan                      Katie Thiede  
Co-Executive Director    Co-Executive Director    Co-Executive Director

Participants of the  
Social Justice Leadership Learning Community

From Top to Bottom:

Daniel Escalante, Lisa Raville, Erin Bennett, Yorda Tekle, Crystal Middlestadt, Dara Burwell,  
Ken Stern (facilitator), Neha Mahajan (not pictured), Mark Strong (not pictured)







## GRANTMAKING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**Chinook believes that social change results from powerful collective action by groups directly impacted by the issues they are fighting.** Our grantees are led by people of color, LGBTQ people, immigrants, low-income people, youth, people with disabilities, and other communities that have faced oppression.

### Startup Grants

Chinook provides seed grants of up to \$4,000 to groups less than 4 years old who demonstrate potential for creating effective social change. Many start-up grants go to groups who present new communities, new issues, and new methods of social justice work, that are often considered too new, risky, or radical by other funders.

**COLORADO JUVENILE DEFENDER COALITION, DENVER (\$3,800)**

**Works with affected communities to exert pressure, build leaders, and produce substantial reform if not ablation of the direct file statute, which subjects youth to adult sentencing of Colorado.**

**EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY CENTER, GREELEY (\$3,800)**

**Works with the East African refugees to improve the quality of life that lead to self-sufficiency and self-reliance.**

**HARM REDUCTION ACTION CENTER, DENVER (\$3,500)**

**Educates, empowers, advocates for the health & dignity of metro-Denver's drug injection users.**

**LET US RISE, DENVER (\$3,800)**

**Seeks to catalyze people to create systems and cultures rooted in love, personal responsibility, and democratic participation.**

**SOUTHERN COLORADO EQUITY ALLIANCE, PUEBLO (\$2,500)**

**Out Front organizes and supports the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth in Pueblo.**

**VOCES UNIDAS FOR JUSTICE, COLORADO SPRINGS (\$4,000)**

**Provide an environment for Latin@s to embrace the richness of their identities while building empowerment and leadership.**

**WEST DENVER COPWATCH, DENVER (\$500)**

**Strive to make police accountable for their actions by documenting police brutality and working with communities on their rights.**

### Established Grants

Chinook gives grants of up to \$10,000 to groups with a demonstrated ability to do effective social change work. Many of these organizations count on Chinook's general operating money to support the more radical, long-term, and sometimes confrontational work to create systemic change that is often restricted by other funding.

**ALAMOSA RIVERKEEPERS, CAPULIN (\$8,000)**

**Dedicated to restoring a polluted superfund site into a clean, functional river system which meet the needs of the community.**

**Café Cultura (\$8,000)**

**Group of spoken word, poetry, visual and performance artists dedicated to recreating unity and healing among indigenous people.**

**COLORADO ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAM, STATEWIDE (\$9,500)**

**Fights to end all violence against lesbian, gays, bisexual, transgender and queer communities throughout Colorado.**

**COMPAÑEROS, DURANGO (\$9,500)**

**Organizes and advocates for immigrant and Latino rights in southwest Colorado.**

**GREENLEAF, DENVER (\$5,800)**

**Engages and develops leaderships skills in youth in urban agriculture in neighborhoods that do not have access to fresh fruits and vegetables.**

**COLORADO JOBS WITH JUSTICE, DENVER (\$5,000)**

**Coalition of labor, community, faith, and student groups to advance the rights of all working people for positive social change.**

**HISPANIC AFFAIRS PROJECT, MONTROSE (\$8,000)**

**Provides attention to the needs and social development of Hispanic immigrant communities in Western Colorado.**

**PRAX(US), DENVER (\$5,800)**

**Seeks to end human trafficking by engaging youth through extensive street outreach program that uses harm reduction lens.**

**RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE, AURORA (\$9,500)**

**Organizes the voice of immigrants to the policy arena by bringing awareness to the link between immigration policy and law enforcement.**

**TWO SPIRIT SOCIETY, DENVER (\$5,000)**

**Strives to reclaim the traditional role of two spirit persons by preserving history and traditions.**



## In the SPOTLIGHT

### Board of Directors 2010-2011

Jordan Garcia (Chair)  
Lynne Sprague (Secretary)  
DeQuan Mack (Treasurer)  
Heather Arnold-Reinicker  
Mu Son Chi  
Davian Gagne  
Carly Hare  
Jesse King  
Sonya Garcia Ulibarri  
Carlos Valverde  
Kenia Morales Zamora

### Volunteers 2010-2011

Ellen Anderman  
Arif Arshad  
Rachel Balkcom  
Michal Berdnarski  
Dara Burwell  
Leah Bry  
Cindy Chang  
Karen Collier  
Eleanor Dewey  
Mackenzie Liman  
Lucy Loomis  
Kate Lyda  
Miriam Madrid  
Sarah Nickels  
Candace Redshirt  
Ken Stern  
Eddie Soto  
Jesse Walker  
Martha Vail  
Art Way  
Helen Wolcott  
Lisa Xiong

### Staff 2010-2011

Nora Bashir  
Co-Director of Communications  
and Development  
  
Neha Mahajan  
Co-Director of Programs and  
Education  
  
Katie Kranz Thiede  
Co-Director of Resource  
Development

Over the last 4 years, **Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP)** has built voice, power, and leadership for Latino and immigrant communities throughout Colorado's western slope. With members in cities such as Gunnison, Telluride, Montrose, and Grand Junction, and in communities as small as Hodgekiss, Ridgeway, Delta, Clifton, and Parachute – HAP is the only organization in the region led entirely by first generation immigrants. According to Ricardo Perez, immigrant activist from El Salvador and Executive Director of HAP, "There are close to 300 nonprofits in Montrose, but besides us, not a single one focuses on immigrants or social justice. Most local organizations receive state/federal funding to provide direct services. There is no one else to provide support for leadership development, civic participation, and social change against unjust policies, institutions, and systems." **This is why Chinook Fund's activist-led grantmaking committee felt it was critical to provide a start-up grant for HAP's work.**

HAP's members are men, women, and youth who hold down the agricultural, construction, and service industries – migrant farm workers, home builders, sheepherders, cooks and cleaners in resort mountain towns. Although nearly twenty percent of the western slope's population is made of up immigrants, they remain in the shadows of the majority society. Challenges including poverty, employer discrimination/exploitation, limited access to education and social services, and the constant fear of detention and deportation have deeply undermined the stability and security of immigrant families. Additionally, immigration has been a contentious issue in the very conservative region, where dominant discourse demands that "you are either with us, or against us." **However, the danger of speaking out has never stopped HAP from doing powerful base building, leadership development, and community organizing to make change.**

In the last couple years, HAP has conducted Know Your Rights trainings for hundreds of immigrants in the region, while developing "train the trainers" curriculum to allow members to become educators and advocates in their local towns. The organization has helped workers defend against employer abuses, advocated for the rights of farmworkers, and shed light on terrible conditions within Colorado's powerful sheepherder industry. HAP has organized for local, statewide, and national legislation, including comprehensive immigration reform and tuition equity for immigrant students – energizing a new wave of voting and civic engagement in Spanish-speaking communities. They have also challenged the practices of local law enforcement while creating a network of support for families confronting deportation of a loved one. Through all of this work, HAP has been absolutely committed to developing the leadership of its immigrant members. Perez describes the personal transformation of one of HAP's board members, a fieldworker from a poor village in Veracruz, Mexico: "Enrique could never pursue his dream of education because he had to support his family back home. But his experience with HAP gave him a new confidence that he could be a leader and do something for his community. He told us many times that the opportunity to participate in HAP made him feel confident and equal to anyone – regardless of their education or status. Enrique became an incredibly active member, challenging legislators on immigration policy, and becoming one of the strongest fundraisers in the organization." **HAP's leadership development work exemplifies one of Chinook Fund's core principles: to challenge power and achieve effective social change, work must be led by the communities most affected by the injustice or issue they are fighting.**

Since providing a start-up grant, Chinook Fund has continued to provide general operating dollars to support the growth and sustainability of Hispanic Affairs Project. We are inspired by the courage of their actions and proud to play a part in the incredible movement they are building.

# AUDITED FINANCIALS

## Year Ended June 30, 2011

### Balance Sheet June 30, 2011

#### Current ASSETS

	2010	2011
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 462,249	\$ 290,745
Contributions Receivable	490	5,565
Notes Receivable	1,457	1,436
Total Current Assets	464,196	297,746
Restricted Investments	803,153	865,736
(Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	912	569
Total Assets	1,268,261	1,164,051

#### LIABILITIES

Accrued Liabilities	13,799	5,595
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	331,310	287,181
Temporarily Restricted	124,460	72,583
Permanently Restricted	798,692	798,692
Total Net Assets	1,254,462	1,158,456

#### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$ 1,268,261	\$ 1,164,051
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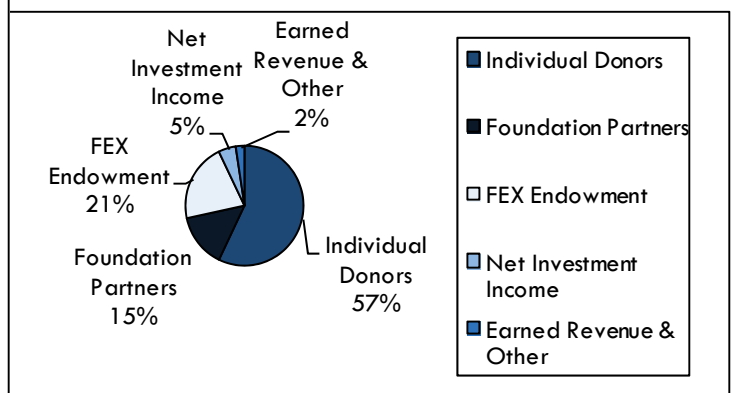
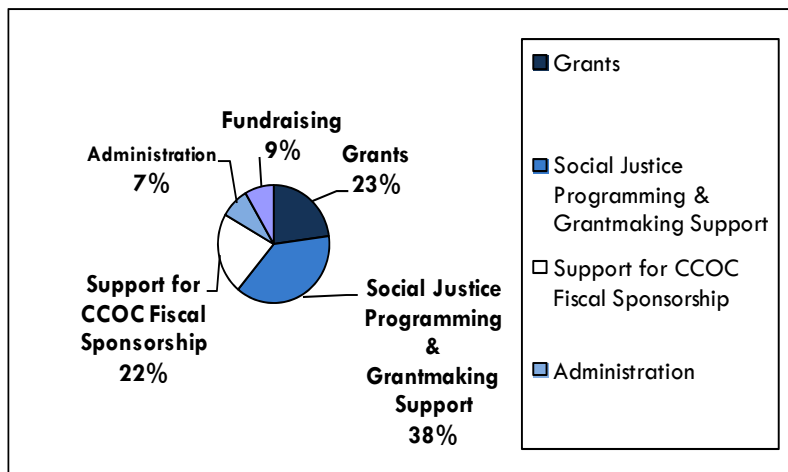
### Operating Summary

#### REVENUE

	2010	2011
Contributions	\$ 104,816	\$ 133,138
Foundation Grants	148,500	32,605
FEX Endowment	51,368	47,812
Net Investment Income	83,600	10,519
Other	11,570	5,277
Total Revenue	399,854	341,934

#### EXPENSES

Grants	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Social Justice Programming	\$ 181,461	\$ 167,300
Support for CCOC Fiscal Sponsorship	0	97,419
Administration	21,715	36,268
Fundraising	23,135	36,953
Total Expenses	326,311	437,940
NET INCOME	73,543	(96,006)



# CHINOOK FUND DONORS

Every year, Chinook Fund must raise all of its operating budget. We are a nonprofit community foundation in every sense of the word — your support drives our funding for groups working for racial, social, and economic justice in Colorado.

**Thank you to all of our incredibly generous donors. You are the ones who make it all happen, year after year.**

Anonymous (7)	Robin Burnett
Asad Abdi	Dara Burwell
Kris Abrams	Rudolph Bustamante
John Aleinikoff	Cynthia Carlisle and Baine Kerr
Chris Allan and Alison Picher	Linda Campbell
Christine Allison	Juliet Carpenter
Ellen Anderman and James Donaldson	Cindy Chang
Sue Anderson	Mu Son Chi
Brad Armstrong and Julie Dolin	Tom and Ann Christensen
Karen and Mark Arnold	Riley Cockrell
Heather and Brian Arnold-Renicker	Karen Collier
Ruthie and Jim Ashe	Susan Cone
Karen Ashmore and Scott Ross	Ara Cruz
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Rachel Balkcom	Denver Foundation
Nora Bashir and Arif Arshad	Eleanor Dewey
Stephanie Bell	Winston Dines
Terry and Catherine Benjamin	Seth Donovan
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Leah Bry	Jordan Garcia

Julie Garbus	Kate and Richard Lyda	Maurine Ruddy
Lorena Garcia	Kavita and Roop Mahajan	Manny and Joanne Salzman
Sonya Garcia-Ulibarri	Neha Mahajan	Jason Salzman and Anne Button
Gay & Lesbian Fund of Colorado	Shreya Mahajan	Yvonne Sondoal
Ken and Karen Gerdes	Parag Mahajan	Francesca Santistevan
Matt Gettleman	Brinda Maira	Jenny Santos
Margery Goldman	Katayoon Majd	Jean Saul
Julie and Richard Goldstein	Adrian Manriquez	Jim and Prudence Scarritt
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Saira Hamidi	Duncan Metcalfe	Lynn Sonfield
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Lucy Loomis	Monica Rosenbluth	Noel and Jeffrey Yegian
Sandhya Luther	Richard Roth	Carle Zimmerman and Rita Derjue
	David Ruchman	



# CHINOOK FUND

WINDS OF CHANGE

**Chinook Fund supports community organizations working on issues of social and economic justice in the state of Colorado. A community foundation, Chinook Fund pools the resources of individuals, foundations and businesses, building a broad base of support for grassroots organizations for social change.**

**Chinook Fund is a member of the Funding Exchange, a national network of locally-based community foundations, committed to supporting grassroots groups that address critical issues in their regions. For more information, go to [www.fex.org](http://www.fex.org)**

## Contact Information

**3280 Downing Street, Suite B, Denver, CO 80205**

**Telephone: 303.455.6905 Fax: 303.477.1617**

## INVEST IN CHANGE

not charity

**Giving to Chinook Fund is a powerful way to put your money where your values are. People give to Chinook for many reasons. Some donate because they know Chinook supports a wide range of issues. Others are motivated by desire to build a stronger movement for social justice. And some give to Chinook because they believe in the radical idea of activists having greater control over financial resources.**

**At Chinook Fund, every gift really does matter. When people make a gift that is meaningful to them, they join a powerful movement for justice in Colorado. Chinook pools these gifts to create a stable source of funding for community-based groups throughout the state.**

**You can put your money to work right away by donating online at [chinookfund.org](http://chinookfund.org).**

**You can mail a check to the Chinook Fund.**

**You can keep your commitment going by becoming a monthly sustainer.**

**You can invest in change by liberating appreciated stocks, bonds, real property or life insurance.**

**You can volunteer your time and resources to our activist-led grantmaking committee.**

**You can celebrate friends, family and heroes with a tribute gift.**

**You can invite your friends and family by throwing a party to benefit the Chinook Fund.**

**You can support our upcoming 25th anniversary event by becoming a sponsor.**

**You can remember a legacy of social justice through a memorial gift.**

**You can establish your own legacy by planning now to leave a bequest.**