

change
not.
charity



CHINOOK FUND 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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Letter from the Executive Director

Coming of age amidst the civil rights, women's and anti-war movements, the founders of Chinook Fund had financial resources beyond their personal needs and a vision to put their resources to work supporting grassroots-led social change in Colorado.

Almost 30 years later, activism looks different, but inequality in Colorado is no less a challenge. At a time when so many Coloradans lack affordable housing, quality education, safe neighborhoods and decent jobs, new leaders are taking financial risks, engaging in deep conversations about wealth and privilege and building bridges with grassroots activists. These leaders refuse to allow inequality to be the marker of this generation and are investing in action that will prevent low-income communities from being shunted to the margins.

Honestly talking about money, class and privilege continues to be taboo, which further divides our communities and stands in the way of our shared responsibilities for the common good. Chinook Fund invites people to overcome these taboos and reflect on difficult questions.

How do you build and sustain social movements across class and privilege, when people directly affected by injustice rarely find themselves in the same room with people of wealth? How do immigrants and communities of color, who continue to bear the brunt of injustice in our schools and our criminal justice system, have the opportunity to engage as equals with people who have access to power? How do young and first-time donors learn from the legacy of the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s, while embarking on activism and building a philanthropic model tailored to today?

Asking and answering questions like these is not easy. These conversations are challenging, and can leave even the heartiest emerging donors feeling isolated by peers or family. But this work is the essential building block of moving resources to build a stronger grassroots-led movement that can shift power in Colorado, across the country, and around the world.

In January 2016, Chinook Fund launched its first Giving Project, creating a new kind of space for these conversations. Adapted in partnership with Social Justice Fund Northwest, the Giving Project offers individuals, regardless of race or class, an opportunity to get hands-on experience with philanthropic giving, social justice grantmaking, and collective fundraising to grant money to organizations that build people-power statewide.

As one current Giving Project member shares, "When I signed up to participate in the Giving Project, I did it as a way to learn about and get/stay connected with the organizations that are in the trenches doing the hard work to right systematic wrongs and address root causes of inequality and injustice. I had no idea that the actual process of participating itself would be so transformative, inspiring, empowering and educational for me, and I certainly didn't expect to feel so deeply connected to our incredible cross-race, cross-class cohort. It's like the Giving Project gave me something I didn't even realize I was missing, and I am most grateful for the gift, as well as the opportunity to decide along with my colleagues how our collective resources can best support the social justice organizations in the Chinook Fund network."

Chinook Fund breaks from the usual paradigm in philanthropy. Across diverse identities, we engage in critical conversations on the subjects of power, privilege, oppression and equity; then we put our shared values to work by raising and democratically distributing resources to the grassroots organizations addressing the root causes of inequity and creating positive social change.



Nora Bashir

Nora Bashir
Executive Director

About Chinook Fund

Mission:

Chinook Fund supports grassroots organizations working on issues of social and economic justice; by pooling our collective resources, we seed groups making a positive, systemic impact to improve the quality of life for all Coloradoans.

History:

Chinook Fund was established in 1987 by thoughtful donors who built the organization around a grantmaking model that places funding decisions in the hands of community members. Close to 30 years, Chinook Fund has relied on this model of community-led grantmaking to provide financial support and organizational assistance to grassroots groups working toward social change. We prioritize community organizing as the core strategy to engage and empower these organizations to advance equity and overcome injustice.

Chinook Fund has directed more than 2.85 million to organizations representing communities historically excluded from resources and power.

Chinook Fund's work is:

- **People-based:** Our work is rooted in our communities and in developing leaders
- **People-owned:** Our community volunteers drive our strategies and decision-making. Our grantmaking model leads with the trust that the communities most affected by inequity hold the wisdom and power to make transformative change.
- **Power-shared:** We cultivate the individual and collective power of community as part of our role as a movement building foundation.

Our Strategic Priorities

- **Community-Led Grantmaking:** Chinook Fund places community leaders at the center of our grantmaking process because experience reveals that collective impact requires collective learning and mutual investment.
- **Donor Education and Engagement:** As a philanthropic leader, Chinook Fund is transforming donors into philanthropists by providing opportunities for donors to learn and act together as they explore the relationship between power and privilege in their lives and in society.
- **Philanthropic Organizing:** Chinook Fund transforms the community by aligning philanthropic allies, both institutional and individual, to collaborate for impact.

Our Grants:

Start-up: awarded to groups that are less than 4 years old. Groups must demonstrate a vision and plan for meeting Chinook Fund criteria, but do not need a proven track record of success. Groups can apply multiple times in this category, as long as they are less than 4 years old. The maximum grant award is \$4,000.

Established: are available to any group, but the competition for grants is tougher, as it includes organizations that have been working successfully on social justice issues for a number of years. The maximum grant award is \$10,000.

Meet the Team

STAFF



Nora Bashir
Executive Director



Jessica Nelson
Administrative Manager



Deme Yuan
Giving Project Director

BOARD

Ananas Mustafa

Brenda Sears

Courtney Banayad

Reverend Dawn Riley Duval

Debbie Zucker

DeQuan Mack

Ken Stern

Mac Liman

Nancy Hernandez

Trish Franklin

VOLUNTEERS

Jamil Elfhadi – NPIP Summer Intern

Veronica Fernandez-Diaz – PIFP Summer Intern

Mohammed Aljanahi – Summer Graphic Design Intern

Jennifer Lee – Graphic Design Intern

Megan Quinn – Communications Intern

Our Grantmaking Committee

The Grantmaking Committee has always been at the heart of Chinook Fund. This group of individuals worked together to conduct our grantmaking process in the most ethical, respectful way possible.

The Giving Project was born from the tremendous work, learning, and stretching of Chinook Fund's Grantmaking Committee tradition. All of the community lessons, deepening of analysis and widening of perspective that the Grantmaking Committee achieved over the past 29 years built a beautiful, trustworthy and effective process that we replicate and build upon with returning and new community members in through the Giving Project model. And now with the Giving Project, we are growing the grant money pool to match the momentum of grant applicants doing the root cause, upstream, risky, controversial, frontlines-led work that we desperately need in Colorado. The Giving Project leverages the ability of our whole community to fund our movements now and long into the future.



“At the Grantmaking Committee, we honor consensus-based decision-making. We recognize that it is much harder to come to an agreement about who to fund than simply voting majority rules. It makes us responsible for participating and for paying attention to more than just the application materials in front of us.”

Board Member Nancy Hernandez

Fall 2015 Grantmaking Committee Members:

Ananas Mustafa, Co-Chair

Ricardo Perez

Candace Johnson

Zawdie Ekundayo

Basim Mahmood, Co-Chair

Angela Sedillos

Faatma Norouzizadeh

Fred Jaben

Bridget Kaminetsky

Jessica Sewell

Candace Redshirt

Introduction to the Giving Project



Spring 2016 Inaugural Giving Project Cohort Members:

Amber Wilson	Helen Wolcott
Brandon Peterson	Jenn Knipper
Ceema Samimi	Justin Garoutte
Cher Crichlow	Mandy Jesser
Debra Brown	Mekayla Beaver
Donovan Cordova	Nancy Niero
Erin Atwell	Sierra Fleenor
Gianina Horton	Stephanie Grover
Ginnie Logan	Theo Ansbacher-Hunt

In January of 2016, Chinook Fund launched its first Giving Project program with a cohort of 18 cross-class, multiracial community members. These volunteers will work collectively over the course of six months to develop a shared political analysis, to raise money from their friends and family, and to make these through a democratic and participatory process. In line with Chinook Fund's mission, the Giving Project amplifies the power of community to advance equity and justice.

What were the impacts of the Spring 2016 Giving Project?

- Raised over 200% of our goal - \$104,000 compared to \$50,000 in previous cycles.
- Awarded grants to 17 social justice organizations at significantly higher amounts than in the previous 5 years.
- Trained 18 donor activists.
- Engaged over 125 new donors.
- Raised awareness with many more individuals who now know about Chinook Fund, our grantees, and ways to combat injustice in their own communities.

Our nimble, innovative approach is based on current conditions, trusting relationships, and our deep understanding of Colorado's social movements. We invest in social change by supporting a diverse ecosystem of organizations that are tackling today's most intractable issues and stand ready for tomorrow's movements. The Giving Project multiplies the power of individual philanthropy by joining diverse individuals across class, race, sexuality, and other identities to pool their dollars and collectively select the most effective grantees that meet our funding criteria. By pooling together resources, the Giving project creates a greater impact in the communities we seek to support.

Our Grantees

Fall 2015

Start-Up Organizations:

The Institute for Media & Education Justice (IMEJ) – \$1000
Community Resources for Action, Volunteerism, & Education (CRAVE) – \$1000
Conejos County Clean Water – \$5600
Creative Strategies for Change – \$2000
Young Aspiring Americans for Social and Political Activism (YAAPSA) – \$1500
Casa Milagro Youth Solutions – \$1000

Established Organizations:

Interfaith Alliance of Colorado – \$3500
Northern Colorado Dreamers United – \$5600
Latino Task Force of Boulder County – \$3500
Al Frente de Lucha – \$3500
Global Refugee Center – \$3500
Companeros – \$5600
Rights for All People – \$5600
Centro Humanitario para los Trabajadores – \$5600

Spring 2016

Start-Up Organizations:

4 Corners Rainbow Youth Center – \$3750
Above Waters Project – \$3000
Auraria Casa Mayan Heritage (ACMH) – \$3000
Big Hair, Bigger Dreams – \$3750
INSPIRE – \$3000
Montbello Organizing Committee (MOC) – \$3000
Move Mountains Projects – \$3750
Theatre Esprit Asia (TEA) – \$3750

Established Organizations:

Café Cultura – \$9300**
Colorado Jobs with Justice (COJWJ) – \$6900
Denver Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) – \$9300*
GreenLeaf – \$9300*
Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP) – \$9300**
Motus Theater: One Action – \$5000 (Project Support)
Project VOYCE – \$9300
Second Chance Center, Inc – \$9300**
Survivors Organizing for Liberation (SOL) – \$9300**

*Multi-Year Grantee - First Year of Grant

**Multi-Year Grantee - Second Year of Grant

Multi-Year Grantee Spotlight

Café Cultura

Café Cultura was seeded by Chinook Fund in 2008 and has grown and flourished over the past seven years into a sacred community gathering space for creative expression. Drawing inspiration from movements connecting Indigenous people throughout the Americas, Café Cultura uses the arts to unify Chicana/o, Mexicana/o, Latina/o, and Native Americans. Each month they host an open mic night in Metro Denver, the only open mic space that focuses on youth and family participation. The performances they give are powerful, reclaiming oral and written traditions and empowering youth to find their voice and become true leaders in their communities. Café Cultura hosts intensive youth spoken word and poetry workshops, a series known as Xpress Yourself, throughout the state. These workshops tout a culturally relevant framework that support Language Arts Curricula for fourth through twelfth grades with the intent to encourage Chicana/o, Native, and underserved youth to use spoken word to give voice to their experiences. To learn more visit their website: www.cafecultura.org



Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP)

HAP is an organization serving the immigrant population in six communities in Western Colorado. HAP envisions Western Colorado communities where cultural diversity is valued and immigrants have opportunities to contribute as integral members through active civic participation. They believe that society and its institutions should be based on the principles of equality and solidarity so as to respect the dignity and human rights of every human being.

HAP celebrated the one-year anniversary of their Immigrant Assistance Program, being the only agency with such accreditation in Western Colorado, they are able to provide crucial services to families in rural areas of the state. HAP also works closely with seasonal workers, canvassing and working alongside the immigrant and migrant sheep herder groups to push for state and federal legislation that mandates employers to pay living wages in the response to sheep ranchers conspiring to drop wages to criminally low levels. As a nonprofit serving a rural population of the state, HAP provides many services for their constituency including providing crucial support for families affected by the deportation process, providing opportunities for Hispanic leadership development, and collaborating with movement building organizations across the state that combat human trafficking. To learn more visit their website: www.hapgj.org



In 2012, Chinook Fund incorporated grantee feedback into our funding guidelines and created a 'Multi-Year' grant opportunity. Established grantees who have been funded by Chinook at least twice during the last 5 years, and who receive the highest level of funding in the current cycle are automatically awarded a Multi-Year grant.

This year, we have four multi-year grantees, Café Cultura, Hispanic Affairs Project, Second Chance Center, Inc., and Survivors Organizing for Liberation, two of which are highlighted above.

Audited Financials

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 70,654	\$ 120,455
Contributions receivable	<u>2,000</u>	
Total Current Assets	<u>72,654</u>	<u>120,455</u>
Restricted investments	<u>1,340,898</u>	<u>1,504,109</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,413,552</u>	<u>\$ 1,624,564</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accrued liabilities	<u>\$ 10,162</u>	<u>\$ 8,512</u>
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	(18,845)	111,943
Temporarily restricted	2,000	83,874
Permanently restricted	<u>1,420,235</u>	<u>1,420,235</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>1,403,390</u>	<u>1,616,052</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,413,552</u>	<u>\$ 1,624,564</u>

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	2016 Total
Support And Revenue:				
Contributions	\$ 71,166	\$ 2,000	\$	\$ 73,166
Foundation grants	38,116			38,116
FEX endowment	21,348			21,348
Special event revenue	105,596			105,596
Net investment income	(15,223)	(83,874)		(99,097)
Other	12,554			12,554
Net assets released from restrictions-				
Satisfaction of program restrictions				
Total Support And Revenue	<u>233,557</u>	<u>(81,874)</u>		<u>151,683</u>
Expenses:				
Program Services -				
Support for social justice	<u>258,230</u>			<u>258,230</u>
Total Program Services	<u>258,230</u>			<u>258,230</u>
Supporting Services -				
General administration	83,199			83,199
Fundraising	22,916			22,916
Total Supporting Services	<u>106,115</u>			<u>106,115</u>
Total Expenses	<u>364,345</u>			<u>364,345</u>
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	(130,788)	(81,874)		(212,662)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>111,943</u>	<u>83,874</u>	<u>1,420,235</u>	<u>1,616,052</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ (18,845)</u>	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,420,235</u>	<u>\$ 1,403,390</u>



We are pleased to announce our decision in February of 2016 to hire Cornerstone Capital Inc. as the institutional investment consultant for our investment portfolio. The engagement covers a full suite of consulting activities relating to Chinook Fund's financial and investment objectives whereby Cornerstone Capital Investment Management will provide a comprehensive review of the investment policy planning efforts and strategy, manager due diligence and selection, and consolidated portfolio reporting. Additionally, Cornerstone will leverage its world-class research organization to guide Chinook Fund through engagement efforts with companies where the endowment is a shareholder. The change in stewardship of the endowment is the culmination of a thoughtful search conducted by our team of Finance & Investment committee volunteers in which we evaluated a wide range of service providers, from banks and brokerage firms and large consulting firms to more boutique advisory firms.

Supporters & Sponsors

D.J. Molina
Daisy Saragoussi
Dale Li
Dan Recht & Elaine Selsberg
Daniel Giesecking
Danielle Owens
David E. Henninger
David Kolko & Janet Bacon
David Silver & Darlene Lorrain
Debbie Zucker
Debra Brown
Decker Swann
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Jason Polk
Jason Salzman & Anne Button

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Amanda Bickel
Amanda Knipper
Amy Reddy
Andrew Romero
Angela Schreffler
Angelica O'Toole-Fehlmann
Angelle Foucher
Ann Lederer
Anna Jo Haynes
AnnaRae Martinez
Anne Byrne
Anonymous (35)
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Ara Cruz
Art Davidson & Patty Emmons
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Austin Jorgensen
Austin Pachar
Bailey Connor
Barry Burch
Barry Logan
Barry Rosenberg
Basim Mahmood
Benjamin Foley
Beth Bean
Betsy Crane & Bill Mushkin
Betty Wang
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Justin Henceroth
Karen Raforth
Kate & Richard Lyda
Kate Garvin
Katherine Grubb
Kathleen Ferrick
Kathleen Nalty
Kathryn Bridge
Kathryn Roy
Kathy Leonard
Katie Lacz
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Lavinia Young
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Stacy Stevens
Stephanie Grover
Stephanie Rubin
Stephen Polk
Stern & Curray LLC
Sue Ellen Klein
Sue Weinstein
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Wes & Linda Brown
Whole Foods Capitol Hill
William Rosenheimer
Yolanda Beggay
Zachariah Falconer-Stout
Zachary Booz
Zahida Aslami
Zawdie Ekundayo

Feeling Inspired by this year's work?

We invite you to:

Learn: Visit Chinookfund.org to learn about the most innovative and effective grassroots organizations and activism in Colorado

Connect: Join our upcoming Giving Project or fundraising event. Meet other progressive people committed to equality, economic justice, and peace.

Act: Give Generously. Make a meaningful gift to ensure all communities have a voice and the power to create a better life.

Share: Like us on twitter and facebook!

 @chinookfund

 facebook.com/chinookfund

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