OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon
Report to Our Investors
2017

Building Power for Environmental Justice
and Civil Rights in our Communities
Organizing is an art and a science. It takes imagination, creativity, heart, skills, lots of patience, and lots of love to be in the business of building power for our community. At OPAL, I am blessed to be part of some of the most amazing organizing I’ve ever seen. We continue to stretch and push the boundaries of where our imaginations can take us and we are building a solid foundation that will get us there. As I reflect on my 2nd year at OPAL, I am proud of the strategic growth, the principled victories, and our values-centered approach to organizing. We are on the map ya’ll!

Our tenacity moved real victories from the state - $111 million in investment for mass transportation, a low-income fare, and decriminalizing victimless fare evasions. Locally, we expanded YouthPass to David Douglas and Parkrose High School for the first time, to address the inequity facing East Portland residents. We pushed for meaningful tenant protection from a reluctant state legislature, and when we win (and we will win) we won’t stop! We continue to be rigorous in our political and popular education. Training and supporting leaders in our movement will continue to be an ongoing, core commitment.

In April 2017, we organized the largest mobilization in OPAL’s history! 3,500 marchers followed the leadership of frontline communities at the Portland People’s Climate March! And we held Oregon’s first Just Transition Assembly with over 250 people of color and allies from across the state, who seeded ideas for a pathway to a statewide solidarity economy.

We faced adversity and horror as well. We held our community close and with courage as we dealt with violent attacks from white supremacists and an increasingly militarized city. Love led the way as we supported our own members facing no-cause evictions and insecurity at home. We will continue to lead with love as we face together the challenges ahead.

Our resilience proved to be a light for our communities throughout 2017. At the end of the day, we are all we’ve got. I’m humbled to have so many amazing people as part of our movement. We are just getting started.

In unity,

Huy Ong, Executive Director
Board and Staff

Khan Pham, Chair
Chris Winter, Vice Chair
Nakisha Nathan, Secretary
Adam Briggs, Treasurer
David Bouchard, BRU Research & Advisory Chair
Nic Phillips, Transit Equity Advisory Committee Representative
Keith Scholz, BRU Action Planning Team Chair
Dr. Aaron Golub
Irene Schwoefferman
Tana Atchley

Huy Ong
Executive Director
Vivian Satterfield
Deputy Director
Orlando Lopez Bautista
BRU Organizer
Adrian Cato
Youth Organizer
Maria Hernandez Segoviano
Advocacy Coordinator
Shawn Fleek
Community Engagement Coordinator
Julie Reardon
Operations Associate
Bus Riders Unite (BRU) is Portland’s transit-riders union, and OPAL’s base of transit-dependent people, led by low-income people and people of color. The member-elected leaders of Bus Riders Unite serve on OPAL’s Board of Directors. More than 100 individuals trained and advocated with BRU in 2017.

BRU works to improve access and affordability to transit dependent folks in Portland. When we organize by getting on the bus and talking to transit riders, we hear loud and clear the need to make public transportation affordable for our community. BRU fought to win the same discount offered to Honored Citizens for Low-income riders—the Low Income Fare Equity (LIFE) campaign. We lobbied to ensure that transit dollars in the state transportation package would fund the program. In 2017, we declared victory for LIFE, and won hundreds of millions in new statewide transit investments!

Last year we were proud to have an amazing cohort complete our Organizers In Training program. We were so excited to have had Tristan, Julie, Marisol, and Alex join our summer intensive, strengthening the base of BRU and developing new organizing skills.

Safety is a big issue transit riders bring up on the buses. In the aftermath of the MAX tragedy, we held three What is Safety? forums to provide a space for our community to discuss safety priorities. We have since launched a campaign to bring back the Rider Advocate program that centers rider and driver safety without armed security personnel.

OPAL is “...a once scrappy activist group that is now a bona fide transportation power player.”

OregonBusiness.com, May 3, 2018
Beginning in 2018, TriMet riders who earn less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Line can receive a 72% discount on a monthly bus pass. Each enrolled rider saves $864 per year.

#OPALwins
People Power

OPAL activates new leaders to impact decision-making and win the priorities that our communities identify. All our work is centered on the leadership of the people at the frontlines, facing the impact of policy making.

The Youth Environmental Justice Alliance (YEJA) is OPAL’s youth base. YEJA members are low income youth and youth of color who attend David Douglas, Parkrose, Roosevelt, and Franklin High Schools. For years, the City of Portland has inequitably funded student transit access, denying East Portland students the same access as central Portland students. After years of campaigning, YEJA won the expansion of YouthPass into Parkrose High School and David Douglas High School, and assisted in the implementation of the program at both schools. We continue to fight for a fully-funded, permanent YouthPass for All!

2017 YEJA accomplishments include:

- Winning distribution of free monthly transit passes and tickets to over 1,300 youth in East Portland School Districts for the first time!
- Developing more than 60 young leaders through YEJA and the YEJA summer training program Serve the People.
- Receiving the Street Trust’s Alice Award in recognition of the youth leadership that achieved the YouthPass victory.
- Celebrating Transit Equity Day at David Douglas High School, with community partners Safe Routes to School, Oregon Walks, Community Cycling Center, and Multnomah Youth Commission.
- Partnering with Oregon Walks and the Community Cycling Center to expand YEJA into tri-modal transportation advocacy. More than 20 youth earned free bicycles from the partnership!

Political education is at the heart of how we build people power. 2017 saw our first POC Organizing Institute, a two-day intensive training offered to 35 local organizers, mostly people of color. This investment in training local organizers will be an ongoing feature of how we develop movement leaders for the long-haul.

Background: YEJA’s Tommy D performs at East Side Stories, an East Portland youth photography and arts exhibit.
YEJA [yay-zhuh]

(noun)
1. a youth leadership and organizing program that builds power with high school students for social and environmental justice

YEJA receives the Street Trust Alice Award for YouthPass advocacy.
Healthy communities are ones where shared prosperity creates stable and safe living, and where every resident has the opportunity to grow and thrive. OPAL’s investment without displacement strategies are a key pillar of the protecting our communities from the negative impacts of development.

In February 2017, Inclusionary Zoning became the law of the land in Portland. Already, we are seeing new housing developments include mandatory affordable housing. Developers are organized in resistance to the policy, but we anticipated their dirty tricks and are committed to defending our inclusive housing policy win.

Local and regional investments can help raise incomes, stabilize communities through affordable housing and transit access, mitigate potential environmental impact, and ensure transparency and accountability to the public. We demand systems change that empowers communities to redefine growth and to ensure benefits reach all communities regardless of race or income. We demand our city and region use public investments to ensure we have meaningful input from the communities impacted when investment such as light rail or large-scale redevelopment is introduced. Governments can and should ensure growth and development produces family-sustaining jobs, increased investments in the most disenfranchised neighborhoods, and more opportunities for women and people of color to lead in our economy.

Tenant protections stalled in the 2017 Oregon Senate thanks to corrupt politicians. We will always push for housing justice, as we did through testimony, advocacy, and direct actions. OPAL is a proud member of national, statewide, regional and local coalitions to address displacement and win affordable housing investments and policy to protect low-income renters. We build and champion community campaigns and partnerships with our public leaders to advance our vision of housing affordability and choice in the city and across the region.

“Senator Rod Monroe” meets a young constituent at risk of displacement during a direct action video recording in Salem.
After a six year legislative campaign, OPAL led a statewide coalition to win Inclusionary Zoning for Oregon cities.

In 2017, Portland joined hundreds of jurisdictions nationwide to require new affordable units in large construction projects.

#OPALwins
Climate Justice

Clean air, water, and soil in communities resilient to climate change is a human right! OPAL continues to support investments and legislation to reduce emissions of air toxics and promote better air quality for all Oregonians. OPAL is a part of the advisory committee for Cleaner Air Oregon, a rulemaking process convened by the Governor. The context has changed given new rulemaking in place after passage of SB 1541. While we didn’t get everything we wanted, we forced Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality to update the public record through watchdogging their public meetings, and we achieved health-based air standards and environmental justice principles as a part of the reform.

Climate change is destroying our ecosystem, and our economic system is to blame. A transition in this economy is inevitable if we are to survive, but justice is not. OPAL is bringing together the movement leaders who organize highly-impacted people to define what a Just Transition looks like in Oregon. The Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA) launched publicly at the 2017 Portland People’s Climate Movement (PCM) March. **OPAL and our partner organizations brought together more than 3,500 people to march for a climate justice.** Then in September, we held the Oregon Just Transition Assembly, a four day retreat for more than 250 frontline community members to define injustices and envision the real solutions to build a new system.

Together, we will build power that will move us away from the extractive economy. Our current system exploits our resources and labor to accumulate wealth and power for a few. **We believe in a regenerative economy, centering frontline communities in decision making processes.** Our vision is rooted in our caring and sacredness, with deep democracy guiding our resources and work, honoring seven generations back and seven generations forward.
Youth, people of color, elders, and people with disabilities led the PCM.

Oregon Just Transition Assembly highlights included strategy sessions and a cultural arts event.

The Just Transition Framework from Movement Generation.
Organizing Money

Power means organized people and organized money. A core function of OPAL, the nonprofit, is gathering and responsibly-managing resources to aid community participation. Thanks to robust community support, we are able to provide our members compensation for their time, transportation, child care, translation, food at our meetings, and countless other supports. We are proud to provide our staff a living wage, competitive medical benefits, and professional development opportunities. We push our donors and funders to support nonprofit causes with unrestricted, flexible funds that keep us nimble in an unpredictable political environment. We are excited to grow our operating reserves, ensuring long-term stability as we plan for the decades ahead.

2017 Revenues

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Investments</td>
<td>$64,223.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>35,500.00</td>
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<td>Earned Revenue</td>
<td>55,591.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$669,022.74</strong></td>
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2017 Expenses

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Personnel</td>
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<td>Professional Services</td>
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<td>Member Cash Stipends</td>
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<td>Food, Childcare, Meetings</td>
<td>16,785.74</td>
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<td>Occupancy &amp; Utilities</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>Fees, Insurance &amp; Taxes</td>
<td>6,540.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Grants &amp; Contributions</td>
<td>24,181.50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$524,958.18</strong></td>
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PAL’S IMPACT IN 2017

100+ Bus Riders Unite! members engaged
60+ Youth engaged through Youth Environmental Justice Alliance
4,000+ Frontline individuals and allies engaged through Oregon Just Transition Alliance

and they came together to organize...

$12,000,000 annually in the Low Income Fare Equity Campaign Victory

$1,000,000 YouthPass to the Future Victory

$111,000,000 annually in the State Mass Transit Investment Victory

From Class A to Class C Reduced ‘Interfering with Public Transit’ Misdemeanor Charge
No more $275 tickets Decriminalization of Fare Evasion

Changed the public record of DEQ meetings through watchdogging Department of Environmental Quality Victory

20% of units in new buildings with 20+ units must be affordable Portland Inclusionary Zoning Victory
Our Investors

11th Hour Fund
American Heart Association
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Bullitt Foundation
Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Collins Foundation
Doll Family Foundation
East Portland Action Plan
East Portland Neighborhood Office
Kaiser Permanente Community Fund
Kresge Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
MRG Foundation
Office of Neighborhood Involvement
Oregon Community Foundation
Social Justice Fund
Spirit Mountain Community Fund

Anonymous (14)
Clay Adkerson
Laura Alexander
Kathleen Alexander
Jeff Allen
Douglas Allen
Mandy Allen
Kris Alman
Katja Altpeter
Katharina Altpeter-Jones
Amilcar Alvarez
Jennifer Ambrose
Barry Amundson
Susan Anderson
Michael Anderson
Ben and Michael Anderson-Nathe
Lisa Arkin
Izzy Armenta
Tom Armstrong
Joslyn Baker
Sam Baraso
Sarah Barr
Dan Bauer
Courtney Beckel
David Becker
Katie Behel
Julie Bevan
Janelle Bickford
Bill Bigelow
Ralph Bloemers
Deva Bluemoon
Amit Bohara
Barbara Bolles
Amanda Bolman
Marcelo Bonta
Tabitha Boschetti
Wingfield Bouchard
David Bouchard
William Boyd
Megan Bradley
Glo Bremer
Johanna Brenner
Betsy Bridge
Allison Brinkhorst
Tim Brooks
Richard Brown
Jay Brown
Aaron Brown
Bruce Brown
Robert Brown
Steven Bruckner
Emma Brudnen
Adam Brunelle
Megan Buchanan
Carolyn Buhl
Michael Buonocore
Domoyo Burk
Rex Burholder
Barbara Byrd
Nicholas Caleb
Joseph Callahan
Joann Calve
Kelly Campbell
Caitlin Campbell
Shana Canote
Anna Carey
Bradley Carter Stewart
Alicia Cato
Arturo Ceballos
Isavelle Cetas
Elizabeth Chandrashekhar
Ashok Chandwany
Corrina Chase
David Chartfield
Molly Chidsey
Francine Chinitz
Bianca Chinn
Linda Christensen
Shannon Cogan
Tori Cole
Bob Collin
Meagan Cooney
Kate Coulton
Morgan Cowling
Charman Creagle
Taylor Crevala
Michele Crim
Glenn Crosse
Sarah Crumb
Breesa Culver
Monica Cuneo
Sky Cunningham
Ryan Curren
Cheryl Curry
Marcia Danab
Megan Danish
Aubrey Daquiza
Mark Darienzo
Jake Davis
Tony DeFalco
Ana del Rocio
Anna Del Savio
Grayson Dempsey
Robin Denburg
Jessica Dennison
Bettie Denny
Michelle DeShazer
Audrey Desler
Andrew Devitis
Grace Diehl
Troy Dockins
Beth Buckley
Barbara Dudley
Angus Duncan
Ben Duncan
Ryan Dunk
Elizabeth Durant
Andrea Durbin
Mary Edmeades
Jan Elfers
Ash Elverfeld
Rose Englet
Rey España
Maura Fahey
Megan Fairbank
Sarah Farahat
LeeAnne Ferguson
Mary Fifield
Shawn Fleek
Stephanie Fong
Laura Ford
Barbara Ford
Jared Franz
Natalie Fraver
Elaine Friedman
Tyler Frisbee
Ada Fuentes
Angeline Fugere
Angie Fugere
Jill Fuglister
Kelly Fuller
Caitlin Galimidi
Alexandra Garcia
Diane Garcia
Jenna Garmon
Jana Gastellum
Jonathan Gates
Jude Gerace
Chris Gilmer
Aaron Golub
Gerard Gonzales
Jackie Gordon
Debbie Gordon
Kim Gordon-Cumbo
Ruby Grad
Michael Graham
Janna Green
Kirstin Greene
Kasandra Griffin
Mara Gross
Hazel Gross
Heidi Genuin
Karen Guillen-Chapman
Kathleen Guillotz
Nate Guiley
Beatriz Gutierrez
Christine Hagerbaumer
Brendon Haggerty
Eldon Haines
Bosse Haley
Corinne Handelman
Aller Hansen-Karr
Sarah Hardin
Jonathan Harker
Ellie Harmon
William Harris
Luke Harris
Pastor Robyn Hartwig
Julie Hastings
Sarah Hatcher
Beth Hatfield
William Hathaway
Marna Hauk
Dawn Hayami
Glenna Hayes
Karen Healey
Holly Hein
Desiree Hellegers
William Henderson
Morton Henig
Gabriella Henrie
Allison Hennesey
Katie Hentges
Maria Hernandez
Iván Hernández
Tara Hershberger
Joshua Hetrick
Beth Hirschlhef
David Hockman-Wert
Marjorie Hogan
Joel Holland
Elise Holland
Denise Holmes
Joan Horton
Sheryl Horwitz
Jynx Housta
Serena Howell
Robert Hunte
Yasmin Ibara
Soren Impey
Kelly Iverson
Sara Jaffe
Kate Jenoff-Herr
Jeri Jimenez
Jan Johnson
Kjerstin Johnson
This year was made possible by more than 500 individual community members, dozens of foundations, our key allies in government, and our partners in the business community.

You are invited to ensure our movement continues to win.

Invest in our power at opalpdx.org/invest