

MJF Grantees Build Bridges To Reclaim Our Media

The Media Justice Fund (MJF) which was created to bridge the gap between social justice organizers and those who struggle for a more democratic media, has just completed its first round of Community Media Collaboration grants. Each funded project establishes a strong connection between grassroots community organizers and media activists, joining forces to change the structures of media. To forge these connections, project organizers had to overcome differences in voice and language within the two communities, as well as differences in what each saw as primary media-related problems and their likely solutions.

The Community Media Collaboration grantees are: **Media Alliance, Media College of the University of the Poor, MediaTank, Native Media Resource Center, Prometheus Radio Project, and Youth Media Council.**

Please see our website at www.fex.org for complete MJF grants lists and more information on MJF grants □

By Anthony Riddle

They Count On You

As we bring our docket fundraising to a close, we thank all of you who have put your eyes to our docket and your support to the 34 organizations it highlights.

It is also at this time that we have to take a hard look at what's happening funding-wise, particularly with respect to docket groups that, this year, are seeing an overall lesser level of grant monies. During a rough year, all but one of our docket organizations have received some level of support, but half of the organizations have received \$3,000 or less in total grant awards. As we come to the close of our docket fundraising cycle, our grants total \$104,500 for just 34 groups; compared to a total of \$291,000 granted to 44 groups in 2002-03.

We are thinking, strategizing and working long and hard to figure out what FEX can do for the groups on the current docket. We are questioning the viability of the docket as a tool for funding in the coming years.

In this docket's "eleventh hour" we are focusing on our commitment to the current docket groups that applied for support back in March of 2003! We continue to "put it out

there" in hopes of garnering last minute support for these groups. At the same time, we are examining the interests of our donors, both past and present, to determine how best to support our traditional grantees while moving forward into the new issues of the day. Traditional FEX grantees, like the Rural Development Leadership Network (RDLN) which has enjoyed a long history of DA funding, has received no monies whatsoever this year. CITA, another long-time FEX grantee, has received only \$2,000 to date. Both of these groups organize workers in rural areas, a traditional priority for FEX donors. In daunting times when old ills continue to surface and new issues are vying for top priority, we want to find ways to support all of the groups, both traditional and new, that look to us to keep their doors open.

Thank you again to all of you. Please contact us immediately if you wish to support the 2003-04 Grantmaking Docket groups – or the Social Justice Fund, which moves money to docket groups needing a "boost" in funding. And contact us too, with your ideas for future funding mechanisms that may help us balance support to traditional groups and new and emerging ones. At the end of the day, we hope for a bump in the bucks to all these organizations □

By Jerry Snee

Activist Advised Funds: Leadership in Grantmaking

Activist Advised grantmaking is a Funding Exchange tradition, but there is nothing old-fashioned in the practices of our activist funds which maintain leadership as progressive grantmakers in their communities. Examples of this year's grants include the award-winning film *Estillio Hip-Hop*, which documents the progressive hip-hop movements of Latin America and the Caribbean. The film was funded by the Robeson Fund for distribution in prisons, beauty parlors, barbershops and pool halls. The OUT and Saguaro funds joined forces this year to create The Alexander John Goodrum Memorial Grant, named for the OUT fund panel member who died on September 28th of 2002. The grant was awarded to the Transgender Law Center which advances the rights and safety of transgender communities through organizing and legal action. This fall, the activists come to the table once again to make grants. We have received more than 300 proposals, many from first-time applicants. Overall, they reflect a significant emphasis on movement-building across communities. Please support the amazing work of these funds as they continue to promote new and exciting organizing across the country □

By Charlene Allen

You've Helped

Make an online gift to the Funding Exchange here: http://www.fex.org/2.2_makeagiftindex

Grant Pro So C



U n c d reached b groups th literature, an

developing our gra

extensive research into org are working in this arena. I field, we narrowed down tl approximately 50 organiza constituency's day-to-day 1 disillusioned by and disenf majority of these 50 organi track record of improving l communities. A significant Exchange grantees with a l communities, women, immr populations. (The full list c Funding Exchange donors.

While foundations have gi conduct voter registration c targeted are still struggling The **Mobilize the Vote Fu** work of these groups—filli registration and actual voti and Funding Exchange dor shape of the electoral activ small committee of staff ar already come in, so consid today. We are trying to rais we can make grants and pu across the country. Every c

Please contact program offi trinh.duong@fex.org or tel like additional information

Get a copy of our

Dear friends:

I am sad to announce that Marcia Gallo will be leaving the Funding Exchange as of June 30. As we know, Marcia has been diligently working on her PhD in history from the CUNY Graduate Center and this spring she will meet all of the necessary criteria and will become Dr Gallo!!! Marci is ready to move on and to put her new PhD to use.



Marcia has been at FEX for 8 and one half years. She was originally hired as the “Donor Programs Officer” and worked with Michael Rogers to grow and nurture our major donor base. It soon became evident that development needed its own department and so Marcia was promoted to Director of Development and Donor Programs. Marci helped build the department as we know it from the ground up.

We often talk about relationship building as being a cornerstone of organizing. Marci set the model for donor relations. She has often gone far out of her way to engage and to build genuine relationships with all donors. That relationship building has made a huge difference and it comes from a very real place in her. Marci is incredibly well read and well connected and she has been superb at being able to represent activist ideology and interests to the donors as she fundraises.

During Marci’s tenure, the department grew as did the number of dollars raised. The number of active Donor Advised funds nearly doubled in the past years and; in addition to the general support monies that she raised each year, Marci oversaw the fundraising for Robin Hood Was Right, the Peace and Racial Justice Fund, the Grantmaking Dockets and the Emergency Fund to name a few. Together that’s millions of dollars that went directly to support social justice efforts.

Marci was the key FEX staff person on the FEX/NNG donor tour to South Africa and oversaw the fundraising and the grantmaking from the South Africa Fund.

Marci was the vision and the energy behind the successful OUT Fund event in September 2000 which was the inspiration for the following Fall FEX events celebrating Robeson and Saguaro.

Marci developed a whole set of publications for FEX. The FEX brochure, the Estate Planning materials; the Annual (well, ok...biennial) Reports are quality publications that have helped develop strong donor relationships.

and...always in fashion....Marci really spruced up the FEX look. Our publications and reports have become as wonderful to look at as they are to read.

and I know that we will all miss the laughter and the raucous humor and the passion for justice and equality.

Marcia will be leaving full time employment on April 30, and will continue to work on the 25th Anniversary Event and related publicity on a part time basis until the end of June as she turns her dissertation into a book.

I know you join me in wishing Marcia all the best.

Ellen

Best Wishes to Adam



It is with great sadness that I inform you that Adam Szlachetka left his position as Office Manager at the Funding Exchange. Adam’s last day was Tuesday, April 27.

Adam moved to become the Director of Constituent Services for New York State Assembly Member, Jonathan L. Bing, one of the new, young rising stars in NY State politics . If you’ve ever had a chance to talk politics with Adam or have wondered why he used vacation time to attend out of state political protests, you understand why this opportunity, one that fell into his lap, is also on for which he is perfectly suited and should not walk away from.

It was a pleasure working with him and I look forward to hearing great things about him in the future.

Fred

George Pillsbury is one you know George, that man founder of the Fundir George strived to find a better political movements. His past better place for all of its citizens to move beyond the traditional creating powerful, progressive has to be admired. But it does continues to make waves and many of us in powerful direction

I recently interviewed George Minutes into our rapid-fire conversation surprised at how many times came up. This year’s critical junct has George (our George) on everyone progressives really focus on the jumping from one point to another “The primary institutions of power and government, we have to take that power!”

While so many progressives speak about taking power, George is “Progressives ambivalence to our movement.” he says, “progress government on a local level a

Happy Birthday

We are coming up on Funding Exchange’s 25th anniversary know, we will be launching the year with a big party in San Francisco in June. In addition launch, we are planning two parties during the year.

We are celebrating a network foundations and the national who together give away over million each year to support justice organizing around the

We are celebrating the impact FEX has made on philanthropy the country. Many of you may