



Community Alliance for Global Justice

2017 ANNUAL REPORT





A Year in Review

BY REID MUKAI
CAGJ CO-CHAIR



2017 was a uniquely challenging year for CAGJ, and the world at large. Problematic trends of the previous year continued but there were also signs of hope. On January 20 Donald Trump took the oath of office and signed his first executive order which would weaken the Affordable Care Act. The following day he was inaugurated while millions took to the streets in protest, most notably through the worldwide Women's March. Soon after, other executive orders were signed to weaken environmental reviews, increase immigration restrictions and punish sanctuary cities.

These early decisions signalled the administration's commitment to regressive priorities. The increasing class and cultural divide has heightened animosity between left and right expressed on social media as well as through protests, counter-protests and other public forums. A particularly troubling response to rising tensions has been the growing tendency of corporate media (including social media) to suppress less mainstream voices from both the left and right.



Many public figures put their careers on the line by speaking out, such as Colin Kaepernick "taking a knee" in protest of racial injustice and numerous celebrities aligning with the #MeToo movement in the wake of a wave of sexual assault and harassment revelations. Mother nature reflected the social turbulence of 2017 (as well as the increased Big Oil/Big Ag-friendly policies) with devastating hurricanes; in Puerto Rico this brought to the fore long-standing impacts of US imperialism and colonialism, impeding recovery efforts at the cost of many lives.

Last April CAGJ was hit with devastating news when our Director Heather Day was diagnosed with breast cancer. She has since undergone chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation and by the end of the year was free of evidence of disease. Though her experience was challenging, with the support of Organizing Director Simone Adler, members, volunteers, and donors, CAGJ was able to continue our work addressing some of the most pressing issues of the day through our proudly progressive organizing, education, direct actions, and local/global analysis.



Throughout 2017 CAGJ members and leadership participated in a number of rallies organized by local allies, starting with the annual MLK March, and followed soon after by the historic Inauguration Day Women's March. In April we supported a NW Detention Center Resistance action, and marched for immigrant workers' rights on May Day.

Highlights of CAGJ's organizing in this tumultuous year include the South Africa-US Agroecology Exchange that AGRA Watch co-organized, amplified in a six-part series on the CAGJ blog. We took action against the Gates Foundation's funding of the World Food Prize at the SLEE Dinner. CAGJ's Food Justice Project co-produced our first ever short film, and hosted a Teach-Out at Mother Earth Farm in July.



As an anti-oppressive food justice organization, CAGJ's role in educating the public, building leadership, strengthening solidarity, and challenging entrenched power has never been more important. Faith in government and corporations is at an all time low for good reason, as negative global and local impacts of increasingly short-sighted and avaricious policymakers are experienced by greater numbers with greater frequency. Thus, the desire and need for real grass-roots activism is on the rise. In an end of the year statement, Heather related how cancer made her understand on a deeper level that the industrial food system is making us sick. In her own words:

"The Food Justice movement has always had health disparities and environmental racism at the center of the reason we must mobilize. But before I got sick, I did not feel as personally affected, nor did I realize that there is a breast cancer epidemic: one in eight women is diagnosed with breast cancer in the US. The focus of the pink-ribbon-movement is on a cure, while the environmental causes need more attention. So while I may have been slowed down by cancer this year, I am profoundly motivated to keep fighting for Food Sovereignty and Food Justice, because I now know, more than ever before, that our lives literally depend on our success."

We hope you continue to join us in this struggle not just to survive but to collectively thrive.



Free Trade & Hyper Nationalism under Trump

In 2017 trade policy was opened up for debate when Trump took office, however we have not moved any closer to a fair trade policy. On the one side are Wall Street and corporate “free-traders” who are roaming the halls of power promulgating the same old free-market view: trade agreements that protect and unleash big corporations will benefit us all. On the other hand, we have hyper-nationalists who claim, against all evidence, that the US has been taken advantage of in global trade agreements, and lost factories and jobs should be blamed on “them”: not US corporations, but Mexico or China, or even the EU. So, the Trump administration hits back with tariffs. Neither of these views makes sense, and they contradict reality, demonize the wrong people and point away from a fair trade model.

Marking 1999 People's Victory

On November 30th, the 18th anniversary of the day a people’s movement shut down the World Trade Organization in Seattle, CAGJ hosted a screening of the documentary, “This is What Democracy Looks Like”. The film provoked a wonderful discussion; several participants had been in the streets in ‘99, but most weren’t, and it was their first time seeing the film. The conversation inspired us to make this an annual event!

Looking forward in 2018 & 20th anniversary of WTO Shut-down!

- We will meet with our representatives, to cut through the fog and make it clear what fair trade would really be.
- We will work to strengthen the coalition of labor, environmental and food and social justice organizations advocating for a fair global trade system.
- 2019 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Seattle WTO protests! Starting this year, CAGJ will reach out to see how we can help spark creative ideas for events that both educate and provide opportunities for taking action for a more just global economy.

NAFTA Renegotiation

NAFTA is being “re-negotiated” by the Trump administration. There is no question the old, “free-trade,” corporate model that NAFTA represents needs redoing, and Trump claims his administration is disrupting that model. But what they are really doing is continuing to strengthen corporate power. For example, Big Food multinationals are trying to get in language that would prevent governments from posting warning labels on the junk food significantly responsible for the obesity epidemic. The point is to inhibit all jurisdictions from labeling, turning it into a trade violation. These negotiations have a “chilling” effect, leading to fewer regulations being proposed or adopted.

WA Threatened with Lawsuit under NAFTA

In the wake of a disastrous release of farmed Atlantic salmon due to net-pen failures, Washington recently passed a prohibition to protect local salmon populations and the cultures that depend on them.

The Canadian owners are threatening to sue WA state for restitution of their profits under NAFTA trade provisions. CAGJ is working with the WA Fair Trade Coalition to fight back against the threatened lawsuit.

Our Vision of Fair Trade

As a member of the Washington Fair Trade Coalition, CAGJ has been engaged in outlining a vision for a just trade regime, which is needed more than ever. Our focus is on provisions related to creating a just global food system, e.g. Workers, producers and agricultural families in our food chains are guaranteed dignity and economic security, including living wages, enforceable labor standards and the right to organize; Consumers know where their food comes from; Localities are able to define food and agricultural policy. We will continue to develop the vision and educate about it!

Movement Building with La Via Campesina

CAGJ is proud to be affiliated with La Via Campesina, the global campesino/small-scale farmer network, through our membership in National Family Farm Coalition. We amplified Via’s protests of the December 2017 WTO Ministerial in Buenos Aires, and connected food workers’ rights everywhere, when we leafletted at the Ballard Farmers Market with UFCW 21, to raise awareness about how New Seasons undermines workers’ rights.

Solidarity Campaigns

Local Food Producer Solidarity with Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project

- Continuing our partnership with Valerie Segrest of Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project (MFSP), we produced our first ever film with New Canoe Media, “Salmon People - The Risks of Genetically Engineered Fish for the Pacific Northwest”!
- In March over 200 participants learned about the threats of genetically engineered salmon at our Wild Salmon Cook-Out at wəłəbʔaltxʷ Intellectual House, the longhouse on UW’s campus. Story-teller Roger Fernandes opened the event, followed by Valerie, Pete Knutsen with Loki Fish Co. and Steve Mashuda with Earthjustice. The event received major news coverage!
- We pressured Senator Murray to support the Genetically Engineered Salmon Labeling Act, and issued a joint statement with MFSP stating in part, “we hope our elected officials will center indigenous perspectives in debates about these new forms of resource privatization and their effects on tribes and indigenous homelands.”



“We hope our elected officials will center indigenous perspectives in debates about these new forms of resource privatization and their effects on tribes and indigenous homelands.”

- Joint Statement with Muckleshoot Food Sovereignty Project on GE Salmon Labeling

Farmworker Solidarity with Familias Unidas por la Justicia and Community to Community

- In February CAGJ joined the March for Worker and Immigrant Rights called for by Familias Unidas por la Justicia to protest increased repression, and to demonstrate to the Skagit Valley community that workers will not be silenced or intimidated.
- We showed solidarity with immigrant workers by participating in actions at Tacoma Detention Center organized by NW Detention Center Resistance.
- After four years of struggle, in June FUJ ratified and signed their historic union contract with Sakuma Brothers Berry Farm. The two-year contract provides full collective bargaining rights, protections against unjust discipline and a base hourly rate of \$15 per hour, in addition to other benefits.
- We were thrilled that Edgar Franks, farmworker organizer with Community to Community, joined the South-Africa-US Agroecology Exchange in October.

Food Chain Worker Solidarity with UFCW 21

- In 2017, we worked with UFCW 21 to raise awareness about New Seasons Market’s expansion to Seattle in Ballard and the Central District. We supported the campaign by leafletting at the Ballard Farmers Market, signing letters to the CEO of the private equity firm that owns New Seasons, and by attending events with Oregon workers organizing to unionize.
- SLEE attendees were invited to take action through a fun photo booth, where they could take pictures with “New Seasons Makes Us Sick!” sign. We also collected postcards in support of New Seasons workers.

Right to Good Food: Got Green

- CAGJ joined a coalition led by Got Green to ensure that 50 percent of revenue from the Sugary Beverage Tax (SBT, passed in June and implemented in 2018 by City Council) will be invested in closing the food security gap for low-income households and communities of color.
- CAGJ members lobbied at City Hall, wrote letters of support to local electeds in favor of investing the SBT into the communities that are most impacted by the tax, and supported community outreach by flyering at farmers markets and door-knocking in neighborhoods with Got Green.
- We raised \$1,000 for Got Green through the annual Green-A-Thon fundraiser.

Food Justice Project



Educate for Action

- We partnered twice with Professor Shannon Tyman's Food Justice course at UW Bothell, giving workshops on the roots of our food systems, and the intersection of food and climate justice.
- We organized a Teach-Out with Mother Earth Farm to learn about their role in the local food justice movement. An 8-acre organic farm in the Puyallup Valley, Mother Earth distributes 80,000 pounds of fresh produce to food banks and meal sites each year, and works with incarcerated women through a job placement and skills-based educational program.

"I have witnessed the transformative power of CAGJ's model of learning-together. They encourage participation by blending activism, first-hand research, and personal experience."

- Shannon Tyman, Graduate Fellow at UW Bothell

Looking forward in 2018

- CAGJ is committed to fundraising for our farmworker allies in 2018, and will stand in solidarity with Maru Mora-Villapando, Coordinator of NW Detention Center Resistance, who was served with an order to be deported in early 2018, in what is clearly a politically motivated attack for her tireless organizing on behalf of undocumented immigrants.
- We will broaden awareness and increase political pressure for labeling by promoting our GE salmon film across North America, starting April 30 through a webinar co-sponsored by Center for Food Safety, Friends of the Earth and NAMA.
- We will continue to support UFCW 21 in their efforts to support New Seasons workers, and to hold Endeavor Capital accountable for creating a positive work environment for grocery workers.
- We will organize a Teach-Out at Kamayan Farm with last year's SLEE keynote, farmer Ari de Leña!
- We will continue to participate in the Got Green coalition to Close the Food Security Gap to make sure Sugary Beverage Tax revenue gets spent on community-directed food access programs, and counter the American Beverage Association campaign to turn people against the tax.

Food Sovereignty is the Solution, Not Another Green Revolution!

In 2017 we helped organize the 9th Annual Food Sovereignty Prize. As an alternative to the World Food Prize (founded by the champion of the so-called “Green Revolution” Norman Borlaug), the Food Sovereignty Prize recognizes that positive transformation of our food system comes from grassroots communities building power, not from corporate Big Ag industries focused on profit over people and the planet. CAGJ was honored to receive Honorable Mention the first year the Prize was awarded! In 2017, Honorees were Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA) and Zimbabwe Small Holder Organic Farmers’ Forum. At our October SLEE Dinner, we took action under a banner stating Food Sovereignty is the Solution, Not Another Green Revolution, calling out the Gates Foundation’s funding of industrial agriculture and the World Food Prize.



Gates Foundation Research and Publications

AGRA Watch members authored several important pieces of analysis in 2017: a position paper responding to Trump’s election situating our organizing in the current political moment; an article about the World Bank’s Enabling the Business of Agriculture program and the role of the G7 New Alliance in threatening African agriculture; and a paper on Philanthrocapitalism and the Gates Foundation. We updated our AGRA Watch brochure and created a new resource about philanthrocapitalism, including analyses of the ways the Gates Foundation has put the interests of agribusiness giants like Monsanto (as well as its own financial returns) above that of the communities it claims to be helping.

Thanks to volunteers and interns, we have gotten closer to finalizing a report on the web of industry and public relations institutions that are pushing the Gates Foundation’s agenda. We are focusing on the Gates-funded Cornell Alliance for Science because of its particular role in disseminating a pro-GMO narrative and the influence its fellows have on pressuring African policy-makers to pass laws to promote corporate biotech industry interests, including the criminalization of seed-saving.

Looking Ahead: Deepening Ties to the African Food Sovereignty Movement

We have big plans for our campaign this year! We have been asked to apply to be an Associate Member of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, one of a few organizations based outside the continent to be recognized for our solidarity and support of the African food sovereignty movement. This is a huge honor and presents an opportunity to deepen our partnerships, cultivate greater cross-pollination of ideas and exchange of publications, and build stronger food sovereignty movements internationally. We are fundraising to attend AFSA’s General Assembly this Fall, and hope to send 3-4 AGRA Watch activists whose trip will include site visits with several partners. After several months of strategic planning, including consultations with nine of our African partners, we are poised to choose joint campaigns and areas of collaboration. To build our organization, we are prioritizing leadership development and will be hosting an AGRA Watch Campaign Training in May.

"CAGJ and AGRA Watch consistently support the work of small farmers and social justice movements both locally and globally. As an intern, I've had the chance to build my leadership skills by organizing public educational events, writing blog posts, and getting connected to food sovereignty leaders around the world."

– Alex Wheeler, AGRA Watch Organizer Intern

What is Agroecology?

Agroecology is a science and practice defined in the daily lives of millions of families worldwide. It represents both a form of agricultural production and a process for organizing and building community self-determination. Its practice is critical to addressing hunger and climate change, and to increasing communities' access to basic resources such as land, water and seeds.

South Africa-US Agroecology Exchange

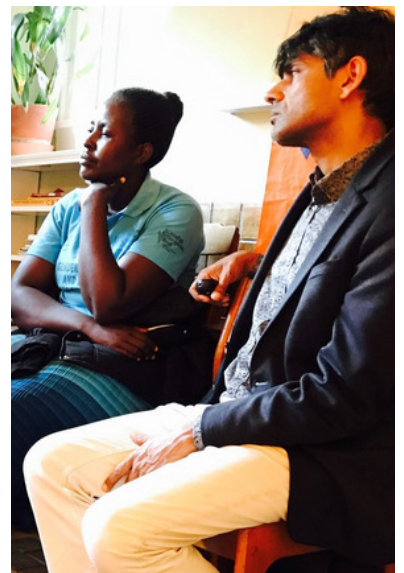
Participants of the 2014 Africa-US Food Sovereignty Strategy Summit, hosted by AGRA Watch, agreed to strengthen trans-continental relationships and the commitment to agroecology by organizing exchanges of US and African farmers and farmworkers. The first exchange took place in October 2015, when two South African food sovereignty activists traveled throughout the US over three weeks.

In 2017 we co-organized the second South Africa-US Agroecology Exchange with other members of the US Food Sovereignty Alliance! For ten days in October, a delegation of seven leaders from Latino and Mexican farmworker and African-American farmer organizations traveled to urban and rural farms in South Africa to meet other farmers, farmworkers, agroecologists, and community organizers. Two leaders in Washington's food sovereignty movement were part of the delegation: Edgar Franks with Community to Community in Bellingham, and Dean Jackson with Hilltop Urban Gardens in Tacoma. Delegates wrote eloquently about their experiences in an article series (read it on our website), and we hosted a report-back in April this year.

Community & Political Education

AGRA Watch had the opportunity to meet with two Malawian activists, Annita Chitaya and Esther Lupafya, whose Soils, Food and Healthy Communities Initiative of agroecological farmer trainings and community organizing have had stunning impacts on child malnutrition and gender equity. Part of our conversation was filmed, at the invitation of author and activist Raj Patel, who is co-producing a new documentary about their work. AGRA Watch was also invited to make presentations in two university classes, offering opportunities to support our interns' public speaking skills.

Building on years of research of philanthrocapitalism, AGRA Watch collaborated with Social Justice Fund NW to present an interactive panel in March this year. Who Profits from Philanthropy? A Community Event about "Philanthrocapitalism" and its Alternatives examined the intersections of philanthropy and capitalism, and presented alternative models of funding grassroots movements rooted in social justice and community accountability. Watch a video of the event on our website!



Strengthening the Food Sovereignty Movement

Linking Racial Justice and Food Justice

After the horrific violence carried out by white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia in August, former Food Justice Project co-chair Christina Rajan authored a powerful statement about linking our movements, including actions called for by the organizers in Charlottesville and resources for understanding the intersections of our movements.

“CAGJ’s work for food sovereignty and justice are dependent on the success of the Black Lives Matter movement and the eradication of white supremacy, anti-Semitism, and fascism from our society. The corrupt food systems that we challenge every day in our activism for healthy, ethical, and sustainable food are directly linked to the history of slavery and racism being confronted right now in Charlottesville.”

Read the full statement on our website.



“CAGJ’s ability to connect local, global, rural and urban movements is critical to expanding food, farm, economic, social and environmental justice, and is very much appreciated by their partners in the NFFC and US Food Sovereignty Alliance.”

- Lisa Griffith, Interim Executive Director,
National Family Farm Coalition

Participating in National Alliances

As a member of the National Family Farm Coalition, CAGJ is committed to participating in national gatherings whenever possible. We were pleased to send Simone and Heather to the Feb 2017 meeting in DC, which was dedicated to shaping the future of the Coalition in the wake of the death of our Executive Director, Kathy Ozer, who all agree is irreplaceable. We celebrated her legacy by enjoying delicious food together, sharing stories, and working on a long-term plan for the future of the Coalition.

In 2017 the US Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA) transitioned to a regional structure to better follow the leadership of grassroots organizations. CAGJ participated in the first convening of the Western States Region in May. We re-committed ourselves to our founding principles, and established our vision and priorities, particularly around economic cooperatives and agroecology. In March 2018 Simone and Edgar Franks of Community to Community represented the Western Region at the National Coordination meeting of the USFSA in Chicago, where Simone supported the development of a new Youth process. This Fall the National Assembly will again convene in the Northwest, this time in Bellingham!

CAGJ co-coordinated the 2017 Food Sovereignty Prize, an award given by USFSA that honors grassroots organizations challenging corporate control of the food system. In October we honored our 2017 awardees, Zimbabwe Small Holder Organic Farmers’ Forum (ZIMSOFF) and the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA). You may remember ZIMSOFF’s Coordinator Elizabeth Mpofu from when she spoke at Town Hall during the Africa-US Summit, and NAMA’s Coordinator Niaz Dorry gave the 2014 SLEE keynote!



Racial Justice Leadership Collective

In 2018, CAGJ committed to strengthen how we organize for racial justice across the organization – in our committees, campaigns, leadership, and political education. We formed a new Racial Justice Leadership Collective to create a space and process for developing leaders of CAGJ. Organizing Director Simone Adler began an intensive 4-month anti-racism training with the Catalyst Project, and the Collective is a mechanism to integrate new perspectives and tools learned through the training program into the anti-oppression principles that guide CAGJ's work.

The Racial Justice Leadership Collective meets during our monthly Food Justice Project meetings to activate participants in taking action on our solidarity campaigns through a framework of racial justice. With a mostly white base of members and supporters, the time is now to lift up racial justice in how we talk about, think about, and organize intersectionally in food movements.

Looking forward in 2018

Rise Up! CAGJ Summer School

In June, we will launch Rise Up! CAGJ Summer School, an anti-oppression leadership development program exploring food sovereignty movements situated in our local contexts. The 3-month program will delve into our campaign-related themes of African food sovereignty, Farmworker solidarity, and Northwest Native Resistance to GE Salmon through community discussions and site visits. Perspectives of people of color will be prioritized in the materials and discussions as we focus on anti-oppression and intersectional analysis. We will develop the leadership of members involved in the organizing and facilitation and hope to create a safe space to encourage newer activists to explore learning edges and rise up in leadership.

CAGJ by the numbers in 2017

10,000 Amount increase of income from SLEE 2017 compared to 2016 including annual income of 30 new Sustaining Members!

500+ People served salmon at Wild Salmon Cook-Out & SLEE

90 SLEE Volunteers

80 Monthly Sustainers

20 Interns

7 leaders traveled to South Africa on delegation coordinated for South Africa-US Agroecology Exchange we co-coordinated

2 new co-chairs of Food Justice Project

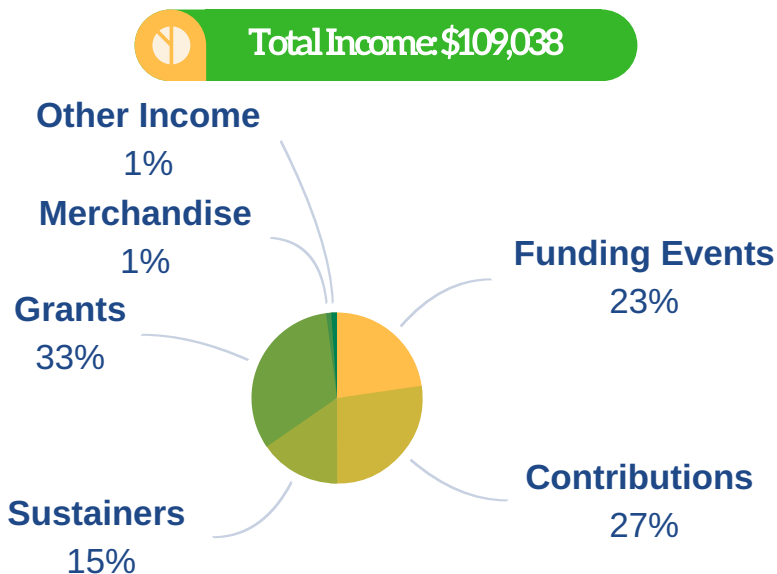
13,394 social media shares and interactions with CAGJ & AGRA Watch posts

Reaching for Sustainability!

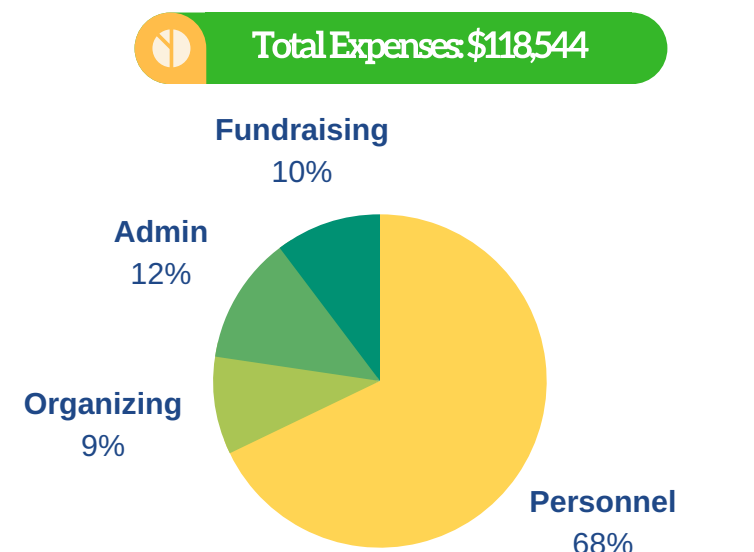
2017 was CAGJ's strongest-ever year for fundraising and sustaining our organization for the longterm! The most important fundraising success in 2017 was our annual SLEE Dinner, which sold out! There are so many people and food producers and organizations to thank for this support, but most of all we want to thank CAGJ's Members who showed up! We more than doubled the number of new and renewed Sustaining Members at SLEE compared to past years, and thanks to selling out, raised \$10,000 more than the previous year. SLEE is always about much more than just fundraising, and this year it was particularly heartening for our Director, Heather Day, who was going through chemotherapy at the time of SLEE, for breast cancer. CAGJ is a beautiful community!

We are so grateful to Swift Foundation, who renewed their support for AGRA Watch in 2017, and gave us a two-year grant for the first time, thus guaranteeing funding for Simone Adler's coordination of our campaign to challenge the Gates Foundation's support of corporate agriculture in Africa. We also received generous private donations to fund our Director's salary for three years. These gifts together with grants and sponsorships from Central Co-op, Muckleshoot Tribe Charity Fund, New Roots Organics, Stansbury Family Foundation and UFCW 21, set CAGJ on stable footing.

Financials



"CAGJ is our strongest ally in providing moral, logical and research support in our fight for food rights and justice in Eastern Africa."
-- Daniel Maingi,
Kenya Food Rights Alliance



Income

Fundraising Event	\$24,836
Contributions	\$29,827
Sustainers	\$16,825
Grants	\$35,648
Merchandise	\$887
Other Income	\$1,016
Total Income:	\$109,038

Expenses

Personnel	\$80,448
Organizing	\$11,234
Admin	\$14,677
Fundraising	\$12,185
Total Expenses:	\$118,544

Beginning Balance: \$50,788
Ending Balance: \$41,667

THANK YOU to everyone who makes CAGJ's organizing for a better world possible!

DONATING MEMBERS

Abie Flaxman & Jessi Berkelhammer
Adam Roca
Ailene Richard
Alan & Andrea Rabinowitz
Alice Woldt
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Marisa Ordonia
Marizel Yuen
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Mary Michaud & Tom Mohrmon
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Michelle Benetua
Mo! Avery
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Molly Knell
Molly Knight-Palli
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Clayton Smith
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Elizabeth Stanton
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Emma Shorr
Eric Wolff
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Gillian Locascio
Grace Steig
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Heather Elder
Hester Angus
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Alanna Bonyton, Food Justice Project
John Chapman, Treasurer
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Michael Righi, Co-Chair
Emma Shorr, AGRA Watch
Stepped down in 2017 - thank you for your leadership!
Able Flaxman
Christina Rajan

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Special Thanks to 2017 SLEE Organizers Grace Steig and Andrew Marcos!



Get Involved and Stay Connected in 2018!

CAGJ is run by our volunteer members and there are many ways to plug in! Here are just a few:

Become a Member by signing up to contribute financially and/or with volunteer hours!

Join our 6-session Summer School Jun-Aug to explore local and global food sovereignty issues and social movements.

Stay informed about upcoming opportunities by signing up for our monthly e-mail newsletter and project listservs.

Attend a Food Justice Project meeting - 3rd Tuesday/month at CAGJ office.

Come to an event or action - check out the calendar on our website.

Volunteer in the office or at an event.

Contact us to talk about specific ways you would like to contribute!



Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter!



Community Alliance for Global Justice Celebrates 12th Annual SLEE Dinner *Strengthening Local Economies Everywhere!*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2018



Happy Hour 5:30pm | Dinner 6:30 – 9pm

University Christian Church - 4731 15th Ave NE, Seattle 98105

Tickets available in July!

Keynote by Edgar Franks, Farm Worker Organizer, Community to Community
"The Legacy We Inherit: Luchando por una Vida AgroEcológica"

Edgar Franks is an organizer with Community to Community Development in Bellingham, WA. His SLEE keynote will reflect on agroecology as a way of life. Community to Community works on issues of Food Sovereignty through the lens of Farm Workers, with the goal of creating a politically conscious intersectional base that is fighting to create a local solidarity economy.

Acknowledgements

Nikki McClure "Even the crows were curious" papercut

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