



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Community Education

In the first half of 2023, CAGJ hosted virtual **Monthly Organizing Meetings** to bring our community together for campaign updates, and we continue to offer our **Monthly E-newsletter** to thousands of members and supporters. We were also excited to transition back to in-person gatherings, while being thoughtful about Covid.

Art & Activism Series

After the long Covid-imposed break, we organized our Art & Activism series to collectively create art in person and have fun while contributing to our movements. The program included monthly presentations from artists engaged in social justice, and two hands-on workshops, creating art for CAGJ's work in solidarity with farmworkers as well as with Tribes opposed to GMO salmon.

David Solnit, anti-war and climate activist, gave the first talk about his organizing supporting Florida's Farmworker organization, Coalition of Immokalee Workers, who integrate art in the form of popular street theater, huge paper mâché puppets and traditional signage to create impactful actions. We also were honored to host **Beverly Naidus**, an eco-artist and writer, and **Patricia Mazuela**, a member of the Latin American musical group Sin Fronteras, who has often played at CAGJ's events.

In April CAGJ organizer **Lisa Colligan** taught us a **fun block-printing technique**, and we painted a banner for the annual **May Day Farmworker Marches**. Everyone decorated the banner with their block prints, and it came out so beautifully! We were proud to carry it in the march a few days later.

In May, David Solnit and his partner **Julie Searle** drove up to Seattle from their home in the Bay Area to teach us poetry and screen-printing techniques including paper-cuts. First Julie guided us in a wonderful poetry-writing session about salmon's role in our ecosystem, then we created a school of cardboard salmon to be used in future actions, and transcribed our poetry onto the salmon.

We also learned to use a **photo-emulsion screenprinting technique**, to make **beautiful salmon prints**. The design was created by **Morgan Brown** for CAGJ's 2022 Zine, *Our Food, Our Right: Recipes for a New Normal*. Morgan arrived at a magical moment in the workshop, right when we were about to start screen-printing their design! Morgan Brown is a queer Indigenous Tsimshian Ukrainian mother and First Foods advocate and educator.

In September, **Block Corporate Salmon** brought the salmon props we screenprinted to Farm Aid in Indiana. We were able to talk to hundreds of people about why Northwest Tribes are so opposed to GMO salmon, and the problems with Indiana's own salmon factory. Visitors stood in a long line waiting for the chance to make silk-screenprints of Morgan's design!

Embracing LOVE in the Food System!

Reimagining our Food System through the Lens of Food Sovereignty

In 2024 CAGJ is partnering with Megumi Sugihara to launch a new 8 week community education program, "Embracing LOVE in the Food System: Reimagining our Food System through the Lens of Food Sovereignty." A longtime CAGJ volunteer, Megumi is organizing the program through her new organization, [Everyone's Food Sovereignty Alliance](#). The workshops are taking place in Olympia this Spring; CAGJ hopes to co-host it later this year in Seattle. Carefully curated reading and video materials are introduced weekly for self-paced learning, with skill-building workshops offered in person each week-end, building on that week's theme. The workshops topics include: connection with Mother Earth, creative seasonal eating, foraging, food preservation, and community engagement skills.



Campaigns

Indigenous Food Sovereignty

In 2023 CAGJ partnered with **Block Corporate Salmon** (BCS) to create art for the campaign during our Art & Activism series. GE salmon was the first genetically engineered (GE) animal to be approved for human consumption by the FDA in 2015. Currently, AquaBounty Technologies is growing GE salmon in two land-based facilities. The product is being distributed for certain in Canada and may be circulating in the U.S. food market.



In September we had the opportunity to protest outside AquaBounty's principal facility when we went to Farm Aid in Indiana. We met with whistleblower and former AquaBounty employee Braydon Humphrey, whose findings provided the foundation for the 2022 BCS report "[AquaBounty Exposed](#)". Despite evidence that AquaBounty's production of GE salmon is unlawful and creates unsafe working conditions, AquaBounty is rushing permits to build a new facility in Ohio.

After holding a press conference, Farm Aid hosted a salmon bake, featuring fish harvested from the Columbia River by Randy Settler, a Yakama Tribal fisherman. Carl Wassilie (Yup'ik), BCS organizer, stated that we need to "share a deeper appreciation of where our food comes from in a cultural and spiritual context. This is in stark contrast to AquaBounty's frankenfish, questionably labeled as salmon".

On the day of the Farm Aid concert, we hosted a bustling exhibit at the Homegrown Village. Dozens of visitors lined up to make their own screen-print of our "Protect Wild Salmon" design, created for CAGJ's most recent Zine by indigenous artist Morgan Brown (Tsimshian/Ukrainian), and the exhibit was decorated with salmon art created at our workshop!

Follow Block Corporate Salmon @blockcorporatesalmon!

Sign our petitions to boycott GE salmon: chefs (bit.ly/86frankenfish) individuals (bit.ly/boycottGMOsalmon)

Thank you!



Below: FUJ organizer Edgar Franks speaks out during the May Day march about injustices faced by roofers, who sought support from Familias Unidas. The workers later founded a cooperative!



Farmworker Justice

CAGJ was proud to carry our beautiful new Farmworker Justice banner in the annual May Day Farmworker March in Skagit Valley, hosted by our longtime partners **Community to Community and Farmworker union Familias Unidas por la Justicia**. In January, Heather was invited to act as a judge during the 13th annual Farmworker Tribunal. At the Tribunal, farmworkers told their own stories and appealed to lawmakers to support their legislative priorities. Health, self-determination and representation are the three pillars of the farmworker community's demands.

During the 2024 legislative session, farmworkers were fighting to protect the groundbreaking overtime law passed last year, which growers threatened to overturn. They also achieved a major victory when their bill was signed into law directing the state to track the impacts of the H-2A program on working conditions and wages in WA state. This victory is not only important for farmworkers in WA, but serves as model legislation and inspiration for farmworkers across the country as they continue to advocate for their self-determination, job stability, and fair wages.

Follow C2C (@foodjusticec2c) and FUJ (@fujwashington)!

Food Worker Justice

CAGJ has long partnered with **UFCW 3000** to fight for justice for food chain workers. We have been heartened to see grocery store workers' efforts paying off, as they have battled the proposed mega-merger of Kroger and Albertsons. In January, Heather Day co-authored an editorial in Real Change with a UFCW 3000 member about how the merger would increase grocery monopolies across the US, leading to higher prices for customers, layoffs for employees, and the loss of markets for farmers and suppliers. In February, the Federal Trade Commission rejected the merger, filing a lawsuit to stop it along with nine states' Attorneys General (WA's AG filed a separate lawsuit in January). In March, WA's Governor signed a bill into law intended to protect grocery store workers and communities from the negative impacts of corporate megamergers in the grocery industry. The FTC trial is set to begin in August, unless the companies withdraw the proposal.

Follow the campaign at the **Stop the Merger** website (nogrocerymerger.com)!



AGRA Watch

CAGJ's AGRA Watch campaign challenges the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's questionable agricultural programs in Africa, including its Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). We've seen significant accomplishments in recent years, including a successful campaign to de-fund the corporate-led AGRA initiative to industrialize African agriculture.

In 2023, our short film series, ***Rich Appetites: How Big Philanthropy is Shaping the Future of Food in Africa***, co-produced with Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), was screened at Town Hall in Seattle as part of a panel featuring AFSA Communications Officer Kirubel Tadele and Derrick McDonald of Black Star Farmers. The films were accepted to multiple film festivals, including the Activists Without Borders Film Festival, Awareness Film Festival, International Social Change Film Festival, International Social Change Film Festival, Whistleblower Summit and Film Festival, and AAG Shorts (an annual short film series hosted by the American Association of Geographers). **We're especially excited that some of our African partners have used the films in their policy advocacy work**, including showing two of the films to Zambian parliamentarians debating AGRA's new partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture.

In July CAGJ joined the Peoples' Summit hosted by PNW POP (People Over Profit) Coalition to bring attention to the Seattle meeting of APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation). We gave a well-attended workshop, "**We Say NO to Zillionaires! How Big Philanthropy is Shaping the Future of Food**", which included a screening of *Seeds*, (from our *Rich Appetites* film series), and a lively discussion.



Check out the Companion Guides to the *Rich Appetites* films, available for free download: www.richappetitesfilm.com



CAGJ members celebrating with panelists after screening of our Rich Appetites films in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

In August, Bill Aal and Heather attended the **Pan-African Seed Conference in Tanzania**, hosted by AFSA, where they screened the *Rich Appetites* films and gave a keynote address on Gates Foundation and Microsoft investments in digital agriculture. Their travel to the conference was supported by a travel grant from MediaJustice. Additionally, AGRA Watch member Matt Canfield organized screenings of the *Rich Appetites* series with PELUM in Kenya, while they're conducting research on digital agriculture. Through these screenings, the films have reached African audiences, including farmer groups who are often confronted with the Gates Foundation and AGRA as the only, or dominant sources of funding.



In December, AGRA Watch organized a very **well-attended event at Town Hall Seattle featuring investigative journalist Tim Schwab**, author of *The Bill Gates Problem: Reckoning with the Myth of the Good Billionaire*. Tim shared his findings and analysis in conversation with Professor Steve Gloyd, Jesse Hagopian, and AGRA Watch member Ashley Fent, local critics of the Gates Foundation's influence in health, education, and agriculture. Our posts of clips from the events have performed extremely well on TikTok and Instagram, indicating a large amount of interest and engagement in the topic. You may view the the event recording on CAGJ's YouTube account.

Additionally, AGRA Watch published a research report by intern Emma Pascal, which investigates the connections between Microsoft, AGRA, and the Gates Foundation around the promotion of digital agriculture in Africa: ***Corporate-Led Climate Adaptation: How the Gates Foundation, Microsoft, and AGRA are enabling the digital capture of African Food Systems.***

The British documentary series *The Billionaires who Made our World* recently released a new episode focusing on Bill Gates. The episode features **interviews with AGRA Watch Researcher Ashley Fent and our partner Leonida Odongo of Haki Nawiri Afrika!**

Strengthening our Food Sovereignty Movement

Movement Building

Movement-building is central to CAGJ's strategy, complementing our work to shift narratives. We continued to participate in multiple alliances in 2023, including National Family Farm Coalition, US Food Sovereignty Alliance and Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa.



Above: National Family Farm Coalition staff having fun at their Farm Aid booth.

Challenging Corporate-led Agriculture

Since 2021, AGRA Watch has hosted monthly organizing meetings to strategize with US, European and African allies on how to disrupt financial flows to industrial agriculture on the continent, with a focus on the Gates Foundation and the African Development Bank. We're developing new areas for collaborative research and campaigns in 2024.

An increasing area of concern is the need to challenge digital agriculture. AGRA Watch member Matt Canfield is collaborating closely with several African partners on a research project about digital agriculture projects in Kenya.

CAGJ Director Heather Day and AGRA Watch member Ashley Fent attended a meeting of the **North America Digital Agriculture Working Group** (NADAWG) in March 2024 at Paicines Ranch in California. NADAWG is a coalition of civil society activists, researchers, food system workers, and funders exploring alternative agricultural futures, which began in late 2021 to develop a space for close collaboration among North American allies tackling corporate-led farm technology and uplifting worker-centric technology.



Building Alternative Futures

While our movements fight industrial farming and fishing, we also dedicate ourselves to building alternative futures.

Thanks to generous funding from **National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC)**, Heather and CAGJ organizer Noël Lum traveled to Indiana for Farm Aid in September! Since 1985, Farm Aid has been held annually as a benefit concert to financially support family farms across the country. Over the long weekend, CAGJ strengthened relationships amongst our delegation of over 40 farmers, fishers, and food advocates affiliated with NFFC and **North American Marine Alliance (NAMA)**, including several members of **Block Corporate Salmon** from the Northwest (read more about it in the Campaigns section).

Every year CAGJ helps to organize the **Food Sovereignty Prize**, as a member of **US Food Sovereignty Alliance**. For fifteen years, the prize has been given annually to one domestic and one international organization advancing food sovereignty. It stands in contrast to the corporate-funded World Food Prize, which perpetuates the myth that society can produce its way out of hunger and the climate crisis with biotechnology and synthetic inputs.

US Food Sovereignty Alliance awarded the 2023 Food Sovereignty Prize to the **Black Dirt Farm Collective** in Maryland and **Mouvman Peyizan Papay (MPP)** in Haiti. The award was particularly meaningful for MPP at this time, as it celebrated its 50th anniversary amid ongoing political strife, economic depression, and violence in Haiti.

Right: Sara Lavenhar at SLEE 2023



Thanks to CAGJ's Organizers!

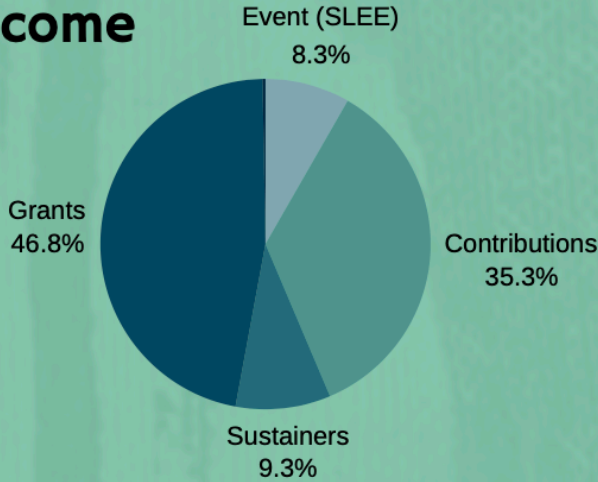
We were sorry to see **Deb Orieta** go in the Spring, as our comms and Rise-Up School coordinator; fortunately they stayed involved as a Steering Committee member! We were very fortunate to welcome back **Noël Lum** in 2023, as a staff organizer. She and **Lisa Colligan** co-coordinated our 2023 SLEE Dinner. Lisa also coordinated CAGJ's Art & Activism series. **Ashley Fent** now works for HEAL Food Alliance, but continues to support as our AGRA Watch Research Coordinator, and as the producer of the Rich Appetites films. Thanks to the efforts of **Theo Calhoun**, we got the films into several festivals! **Sara Lavenhar** holds it all together, wearing many hats as CAGJ's operations goddess, and essential support to CAGJ's Executive Director, **Heather Day**.



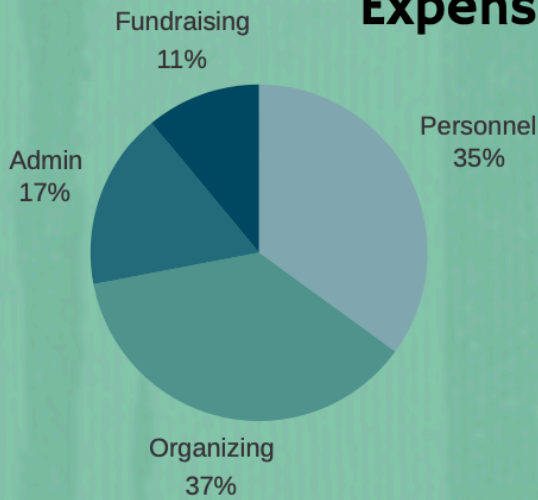
From top left, clockwise: Lisa Colligan, Heather Day, Deb Orieta, Noël Lum with her daughter Cleome



Income



Expenses



Income

Fundraising Event	\$17,229
Contributions	\$73,181
Sustainers	\$19,236
Grants	\$97,000
Merchandise	\$588
Total Income:	\$207,234

Expenses

Personnel	\$71,880
Organizing	\$75,859
Admin	\$34,561
Fundraising	\$21,758
Total Expenses:	\$204,058

Beginning Balance: \$46,898
Ending Balance: \$50,074



Thank you to everyone who makes CAGJ's organizing for a better world possible!

MEMBERS

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Northwest Harvest
PCC Community Markets
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UAW Local 4121
UFCW Local 3000

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Media Justice Foundation
Panta Rhea Foundation
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Family Foundation
Stansbury Family Foundation
Swift Foundation
UFCW Local 3000

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Get involved and stay connected in 2024!

When you become a Member of CAGJ, you sign on to being part of our community in the fight for Food Sovereignty. Membership helps us to identify who makes up our base, whether they be donors, volunteers and/or supporters. The direction of our organization is shaped by and held accountable to our Members.

CAGJ is run by our volunteer members and there are many ways to plug in!

- Volunteer for events, projects, or at our Beacon Hill office
- Become a Member by making a one-time donation or just complete our online form!
- Stay connected: Sign up for CAGJ's monthly email newsletter and project listservs
- Follow CAGJ and AGRA Watch on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter
- Join our NEW Book Club, meeting 2nd Monday/month



Save the Date—SLEE 2024!

Community Alliance for Global Justice Celebrates 18th Annual SLEE! Strengthening Local Economies Everywhere!

**Save the date for our SLEE Picnic!
Saturday August 17th, 5-8PM**

More info & Tickets available soon

Community Alliance for Global Justice

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