Around the world, we have seen a drastic increase in the number of extreme climate events and environmental disasters. Decades of environmental mismanagement already impact—communities everywhere, from polluted air and drinking water, to the fires burning through the Amazon Rainforest, extreme cold in the Midwest, and record-breaking heat around the world. And the latest science from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change tells us we have less than 12 years to stave off even more catastrophic impacts. As we work to slow down and eventually reverse global warming and implement a just transition away from fossil fuels, we also need to promote climate resiliency solutions that allow us to respond to and minimize the impacts communities are experiencing now.

While the climate crisis is an urgent, global issue, it does not impact all communities equally. Those who have contributed the least to this crisis are the ones to be hit first and worst; disproportionately, communities of color and low-income areas carry the burdens of extreme climate events. Therefore, communities on the frontlines must have a seat at the table as decision-makers creating a just, livable future and developing climate resiliency solutions.

American cities experienced a burst of infrastructure growth starting in the late 1800’s, and as people migrated to urban areas, roads, parking lots, and buildings were built to accommodate our rapidly evolving industrialized culture. This urban growth brought an economic boom, but these asphalt-covered cities—which are designed to shed rainfall rapidly through storm drain systems—are ill-suited to climate resilient designs, particularly when it comes to flood prevention. And, our country’s structure of historic and ongoing racism has often concentrated low-income communities of color at the epicenter of flood-prone urban heat islands. However, change is coming! Our cities hold great promise to become models of equitable climate resilience. If we can build enough community support, develop the political will, and center equity to address the needs of communities most impacted by climate change, we can, in fact, create a new vision of what is possible.

A NOTE FROM TIM & JILL

This year has been a whirlwind of deep concern about our shortening timeline to address the climate emergency, and tremendous inspiration from the grassroots, taking action to answer the threat of our lifetimes. Communities around the world are heeding the climate action call and showcasing the transformational power of integrating conservation with equity and social justice. They embody the core values the Rose Foundation stands for—fostering stewardship, building community, and demanding justice—and we salute them. This shift toward the intersectional is how we build a stronger and more just movement to protect our planet and our communities.

And, the youth shall lead us! From our New Voices Are Rising students working to address environmental injustice in Oakland, CA; to the #FridaysForFuture movement started by 16 year-old, Swedish Greta Thunberg; and the blossoming Global #ClimateStrike movement, young people who are inheriting the earth are making their voices heard and demanding a just, livable future for all! We have to embrace our humility and allow ourselves to learn from and be led by these newer generations. They exemplify the kind of fresh, creative thinking and energy we all need to tackle these urgent crises.

These values—fostering stewardship, building community, and demanding justice—ground the Rose Community for Communities and the Environment. Thank you for being a part of the Rose Community and sharing our commitment to grow people power to protect our neighborhoods and our planet. We have an exciting year of ahead of us in 2020! Together, let’s continue to support grassroots activism and build the next generation of community leaders!
WELCOME TO THE ROSE FOUNDATION!

We are excited to welcome Aviva Kardener and Sarah Quan to the Rose Foundation, and welcome back Mykela Patton!

AVIVA KARDENER is our new Communications Associate. Aviva is excited to bring her communications skills and commitment to environmental justice to her work at the Rose Foundation. Born and raised in Oakland, Aviva lived through snowy winters at Tufts University, studying the communications and policies surrounding the environmental and climate justice movements. She has applied her formal education to her work with No Coal In Oakland, fossil fuel divestment and reinvestment, and the Sunrise Movement’s #GreenNewDeal. Aviva is happy to be back in the Bay Area, contributing to the mission of the Rose Foundation and supporting its grantee organizations’ community-based, grassroots solutions.

MYKELA PATTON comes back to the Rose Foundation as the New Voices Are Rising Program Assistant. Mykela, a graduate of Oakland’s Skyline High School, is now a student at Colby College, where she is studying public policy and environmental studies. She has been an active participant in the Summer Climate Justice Academy three years in a row, serving as a New Voices summer participant and Fellow during the 2016-2017 school year, as a Pod Leader during summer 2017, and the 2018 Summer Academy Youth Co-Coordinator. She is excited to be further involved in shaping and supporting New Voices as Program Assistant.

A huge thank you goes out to SARAH QUAN, who has been providing interim support to our Grants and Development teams in recent months. Sarah comes to us with 10+ years of experience strengthening and resourcing organizations committed to building more healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities. She is proud to work with values-driven organizations advancing racial, economic, and environmental justice in the world. A devoted daughter of the Bay Area, you can find her hiking our many trails or trying to send the latest boulder problems at Berkeley Ironworks.

A FAREWELL & THANK YOU

This fall, we got out into nature to celebrate and say goodbye to Carlos Zambrano, Co-Director of the Rose Foundation’s New Voices Are Rising youth program.

Carlos has been integral to the development of New Voices over the last four years, acting as a role model and mentor for our high school students. He is now ready to move on to new endeavors, but we are thankful he will continue with New Voices as an ally and Advisory Board member.

Carlos, thank you for all that you have done for our youth and for a climate just future. We wish you well in finding what is next on your path!
A New Initiative to Grow Grassroots Power Across the Country  
(Continued from cover)

For over 25 years, the Rose Foundation has nurtured and supported community-based environmental justice initiatives and movement building through our grassroots grantmaking on the West Coast. Now, we have the opportunity to grow this critical work on a national scale!

We are excited to announce our new Grassroots Leadership Fund, in partnership with the Kresge Foundation’s Climate Resilient and Equitable Water Systems (CREWS) Initiative. Over a two-year period, the Rose Foundation will support 15 grassroots groups — with budgets smaller than $75,000 a year — nationwide, to address the climate-driven urban flooding that impacts low-income, historically marginalized communities. Rose Foundation Executive Director, Tim Little, says of this new initiative,

“We know community-driven solutions have to be a big part of the answer for climate solutions, and we are excited to launch this fund to help some of the most impacted communities in the United States address their needs and the climate change flooding they face.”

In the inaugural two years of the Grassroots Leadership Fund, the Rose Foundation will direct up to $165,000 toward growing local, grassroots power across the United States! As Program Officer Megan Mubaraki shared, “I’m looking forward to learning from grassroots leaders at a national level. The grantmaking funds I have managed over the past few years have been California-based. I am really excited to learn about what climate resiliency looks like in other parts of the US!”

Built into the Grassroots Leadership Fund is our collaborative relationship with grantees, dedicated to the long-term success of these grassroots groups and their work to ensure the development of equitable climate resilience across the country. In addition to awarding grant funds for specific projects, we will also offer a variety of training opportunities, resources, and peer-learning experiences to build each group’s capacity and to grow collective grassroots power across the country. Our goal for Grassroots Leadership Fund grantees is two-fold: to achieve programmatic success around urban climate resilience through the immediate resources we provide; and to become stronger organizationally and be in a position to thrive after the actual grant dollars have been spent.

We cannot wait to announce our first round of Grassroots Leadership Fund grantees in spring 2020!
This summer, Rose Foundation Program Officers Laura Fernandez and Megan Mubaraki visited several of our Bay Area grantees from the California Watershed Protection Fund and California Wildlands Grassroots Fund. Meeting grantees in person and seeing their projects first-hand is essential in building deeper relationships with our grantees and helping us to understand the impact of their work. As Laura commented, “It’s always a pleasure to make personal connections with projects we are funding, because it bridges what we read about in an application to the actual work happening on the ground.”

On their first site visit, Laura and Megan started in San Francisco’s Bayview neighborhood at the volunteer-run Florence Fang Asian Community Garden. Founder Ted Fang led them on a tour of the expanded garden space that serves Bayview’s predominantly Asian American and African American communities. And, they learned about the garden’s incredible partnership with the neighborhood food bank to offer healthy, affordable, fresh, and local food to the community every Saturday! After being sent off with a bowl full of green beans, they crossed the Bay Bridge to visit Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park’s ACE summer camp in Oakland’s Fruitvale neighborhood. They were excited to see all the young campers connecting with their watershed and practicing stewardship by testing the water quality of Peralta Creek!

Later in the summer, Megan and Laura visited Point Blue Conservation Science at a restoration site in the Petaluma River Watershed. This beautiful landscape is where Point Blue runs the Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) program, teaching youth about ecology, restoration, and biodiversity both in and outside of the classroom. Point Blue and their students have planted 750 plants comprised of 35 native species to create shade, prevent erosion, and develop a wildlife corridor!

The visits continued over late summer with Watsonville Wetlands Watch in Pajaro Valley. The Watsonville Slough is a rare and impaired wetland system facing a legacy of agricultural runoff pollution. Executive Director Jonathan Pilch shared the Watch’s success mobilizing 1,000 volunteer students and community members to participate in water quality monitoring and habitat restoration efforts. Together, they’ve planted 300 trees in one year!

In the summer’s final visit, San Francisco Baykeeper invited everyone in the Rose office to join them on their boat patrol. Jon and Volunteer Skipper Robert brought us aboard to see their work in action, documenting Clean Water Act violations and holding polluters accountable! Laura and Megan are proud to have spent the September 20th #ClimateStrike, patrolling the waters to protect the San Francisco Bay from polluters!

We loved visiting our grantees this summer and are looking forward to more visits in the near future!

Visit our grantees with us by following us on Facebook @RoseEnvironment and on Twitter @RoseFoundation using the hashtags #GranteeSpotlight and #FridaysFromTheField! And learn more about our grantmaking funds on our website at bit.ly/RoseGrants.
Thank you to everyone who came out on September 26th to celebrate the power of grassroots activism!

We all believe in community and the environment. And the idea of community and the environment needs no defense. But, the fact is that our communities and our environment need more defenders. That’s where you come in. Thanks for what you already do for communities and the environment… Together, we can do more. So let’s do it, together.

—Tim Little, Rose Foundation, Co-Founder & Executive Director

View our Film Fest gallery of photos on our website: rosefdn.org/2019-Film-Fest-Gallery

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 FILM FEST SPONSORS
BUILDING GRASSROOTS MOMENTUM AS WE HEAD TOWARD 2020

At the Rose Foundation, we are committed to building the power of grassroots activism — especially through our grassroots grantmaking funds, the Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund and the California Wildlands Grassroots Fund. When local groups organize and connect with each other to address issues affecting their communities and the environment, they create real and lasting change locally and support change across the state and country. Our grassroots grantees — mostly volunteer-run and operating with very small budgets — are at the forefront of creating a California that is healthy and safe for everyone. The small grants we provide go a long way for our grantee organizations, and their work can go even further with access to trainings addressing their capacity building needs. That's why our grassroots funds host a free, day-long, annual Convening of Rose Foundation grantees and partners for learning and networking. The Convening offers a unique space to connect grassroots leaders facing similar challenges and create opportunities to learn and grow collectively.

The Convening brings light to issues we struggle with. In an inspiring, supportive environment, we learn and can practice new skills to take back to our little corner of the world and make our work easier, better, & more effective.
— Carol Thompson, Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed

But our grantees aren’t the only ones learning and making connections. Grassroots activists are experts on the challenges their families, neighbors, and local environment face, and what their community needs to address these challenges. In listening to them, we become better grantmakers. As Rose Foundation Program Officer Anya Diamond shared, “At every Convening, there’s something powerful to take back to the office with us, giving us a new perspective on our work.”

Grassroots leaders from over 30 cities and towns across the state joined us at the 2019 Grassroots Grantee Convening in Davis, CA on October 29th. Our workshops could not have been more timely! This year’s theme focused on harnessing the power of the elections to move forward the issues important to our communities and the environment. Keynote Speaker Doug Linney of Flip the West helped us understand how local activists can use the momentum around the upcoming elections to engage community members in important local issues. Rose Foundation Board Member and California Association of Nonprofits’ (CalNonprofits) Nancy Berlin guided participants on all the ways that 501(c)3s can advocate for legislative policy and remain within IRS rules. Community Water Center led us in a workshop on running for public office, using real-world lessons from water board elections in the San Joaquin Valley. And we took our messaging to the next level with Resource Media, a nationally acclaimed firm specializing in social justice communications. We gained knowledge, practical skills, and focused mentorship to make our grassroots campaigns more effective!

I found it incredibly inspiring to be in a room with so many grantees doing fabulous work in the world and hearing information from experts who can enhance what we do. My friends and I were impressed!”
— Ann Lopez, Center for Farmworker Families

We are grateful for the participants’ and presenters’ investment in coming together and sharing wisdom with each other to build the grassroots base of the environmental movement! Together, we are ready to take on 2020!

Learn more about our grassroots funds on our website: bit.ly/RoseGrants
FEELING INVINCIBLE WITH THE 2019 NEW VOICES SUMMER ACADEMY

Each summer, the Rose Foundation’s New Voices Are Rising program recruits a cohort of 16 high school students from Oakland for our Summer Climate Justice Leadership Academy (Summer Academy): an intensive multi-week training program that strengthens students’ environmental justice knowledge, leadership skills, and community activism.

The Summer Academy centers on key environmental issues that impact the communities where New Voices students live, including Environmental Justice and Food Justice, Air Quality, Housing Justice, and Water Justice. Students take a deep-dive into each issue through workshops, presentations, and hands-on activities, culminating each week in a “day of action.” These actions include designing and installing an organic urban garden, rallying for breathable air at the #NoPGEBailout protest, planting trees in West Oakland, participating in our Youth Poetry Slam for Environmental Justice, meeting with Oakland City Councilmembers, joining a creek cleanup, and organizing a Community Summit.

And every Tuesday and Thursday, the students work from their “Externships” with local organizations such as The Butterfly Movement, Sierra Club, Urban Releaf, Communities for a Better Environment, Local Clean Energy Alliance, Oakland Climate Action Coalition, and the office of Oakland City Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas. This gives students the opportunity to translate the work they do with New Voices into the professional world. The program structure allows students to put what they learned into practice and further develop their leadership skills and environmental justice stewardship in a myriad of ways.

Students in our New Voices program learn their voices are powerful and that they can make real, positive impacts in their communities, even before they reach voting age. After Donnie participated in the 2019 Summer Academy, she shared:

“The things I’ve participated in this summer made me feel invincible, like I can actually make a change for my community.

She’s even considering pursuing a career in Environmental Justice!

We are so proud of our 2019 Summer Academy Graduates! And we can’t wait for next summer’s youth leaders to join our program!

NEW VOICES ARE RISING

MEET THE 2019-20 NEW VOICES FELLOWS!

We are thrilled to welcome our New Voices Are Rising Fellows for the 2019-20 academic year — Anthony, David, Emilia, and Michelle! The New Voices program offers this year-long fellowship as a next step to continue the leadership development of students who graduated from the program’s 2019 Summer Academy. Our Fellows have each chosen a specific role, and over the course of the fellowship, they will develop their own projects to build their skills and address environmental injustice in Oakland. We are excited to support their continued growth as environmental justice leaders, creating change in our city!

Anthony, Organizing Fellow

Anthony is a recent graduate of Oakland High School, and now attends Berkeley City College. Growing up in East Oakland, he understands first-hand the environmental injustices present in communities of color.

**FELLOWSHIP PROJECT:** Anthony is channeling his passion for community building and food justice through a documentary film highlighting intersecting inequalities in his community: race, class, food access, and the environment.

David, Program Development and Communications Fellow

David is a student at Oakland Emiliano Zapata Street Academy. He is a vocal advocate for youth engagement in the climate fight.

**FELLOWSHIP PROJECT:** David is most excited to learn and understand the world of fundraising and use social media for social justice and environmental change.

Emilia, East Oakland Air Quality Fellow

Emilia is a Senior at Oakland Technical High School. She is most excited to gain more experience working in environmental justice and help her community.

**FELLOWSHIP PROJECT:** Emilia will be working with local organizations to ensure that air quality data and technical reports are accessible to community members.

Michelle, Organizing Fellow

Michelle attends the Oakland Military Institute (OMI). Inspired by her experience in the New Voices program, she started OMI’s Green Club to engage her peers in environmental activism and education.

**FELLOWSHIP PROJECT:** Michelle is creating her own film fest and art gallery to call attention to the lack of youth voices in the environmental movement.

*Read more of the New Voices students’ insights and follow their work on social media!*

[NewVoicesAreRising](#)

[NewVoicesRising](#)

[newvoices_arerising](#)
The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment supports grassroots action to protect the environment, people’s rights, and community health.

CONNECT WITH US

@RoseEnvironment
@RoseFoundation
E-News: rosefdn.org/signup

DONATE AT ROSEFDN.ORG/DONATE

The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment supports grassroots action to protect the environment, people’s rights, and community health.

Rose Foundation: 26 Years of Impact

What does building community power for social & environmental justice look like?

Fiscally Sponsored Projects

40
Emerging conservation, economic equity, and grassroots advocacy projects initiated

New Voices Are Rising

160+
Students graduated through Summer Climate Justice Youth Leadership Academy

Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund

850+ Grants
Totaling
$3,400,000
Funds pooled from over 30 foundations & awarded to small groups to build the grassroots base of the environmental movement

California Wildlands Rapid Response & Grassroots Funds

Totaling 100+ Groups
$1,200,000+
Small grants to build the grassroots base of conservation & rapid response to urgent threats to wildlands in California

Totaling
$39,800,000
Our role as a bridge between philanthropy & the community is recognized by state and federal courts, who appoint Rose Foundation as a trustee of cy pres or mitigation funds.

Mitigation Funds

8%
Clean Air Infrastructure & Advocacy

38%
Community-based Watershed Stewardship & Protection

4%
Environmental Health & Toxics

27%
Consumer Financial Education, Privacy Rights, & Product Safety

23%
Other Environmental Grants

Donor Advised Funds

Totaling
$5,500,000+
Awarded to help individuals and corporations invest in social justice & environmental stewardship

Consumer Financial Education, Privacy Rights, & Product Safety

Totaling
$10,900,000
Awarded to support projects providing consumer financial education, privacy protection, & truth-in-advertising

201 4th Street, Suite 102
Oakland, CA 94607-4369

E-News: rosefdn.org/signup

DONATE AT ROSEFDN.ORG/DONATE