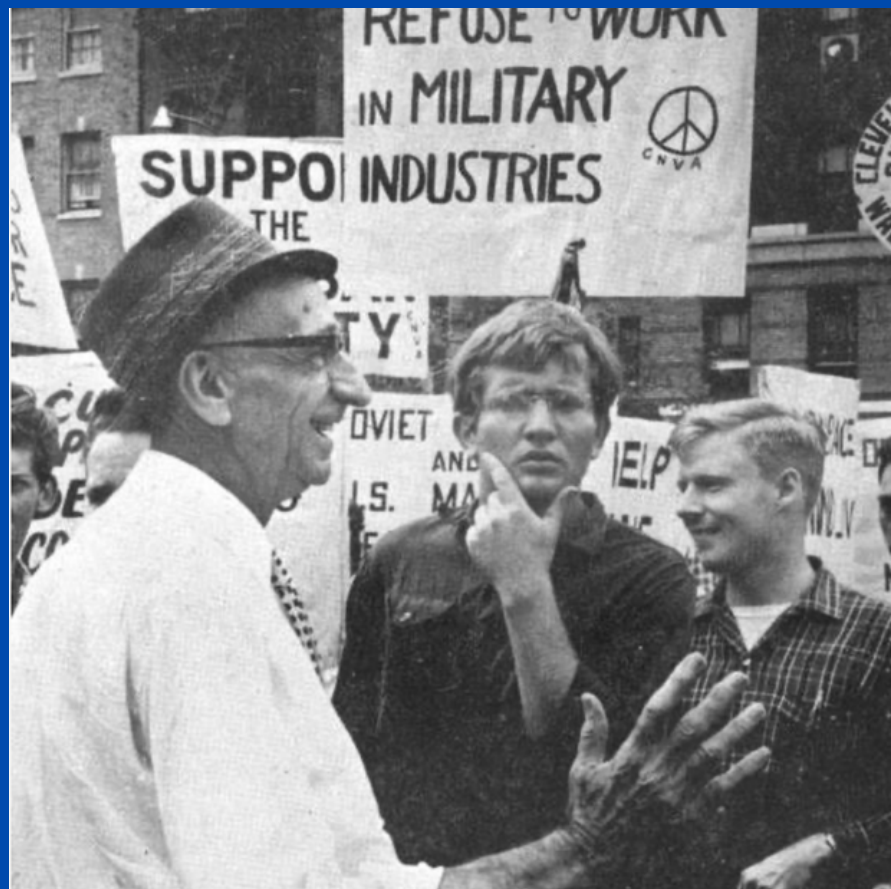


AJ MUSTE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



AJMUSTE.ORG

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DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

I hope this finds you in good health and high spirits. As you read this, our annual report for the year 2023, I'm honored to share our progress over the past 18 months.

We have doubled-down in our commitment to support grassroots activism in an ever-challenging landscape for social justice advocacy. The world events of 2023—from the aftermath of a Capitol insurrection to genocidal blood baths in Gaza and Ukraine—brought unprecedented challenges, both globally and domestically, that spurred a responsive flurry on activism in the streets.

As you'll see from the groups that we funded, this responsiveness took many forms, from anti-militarism initiatives to social, racial, and economic endeavors. Domestic developments, including a rash of anti-protest legislation, created a more hostile climate for activism. In the highlights section, you'll read how we strengthened our dedication to amplify the voices of grassroots activists working to achieve a more just and equitable society. An increase in grant amounts, an option for multi-year funding, and adding unrestricted funding are some of the changes we've implemented.

World and domestic injustices make our mission—to support grassroots nonviolent radical activism for the liberation of all—even more critical. We stand at the ready, behind the scenes, in solidarity with activists to support their continued and crucial work, as safely as possible. None of this would have been possible without your unwavering support.

Your contributions, both financial and moral, are the backbone of our efforts. Your belief in our mission fuels our determination to navigate challenging times and continue the legacy of AJ Muste.

As we move forward into 2024—our 50th anniversary!--we look forward to another year of progress and meaningful change.



HEIDI BOGHOSIAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, the organization revamped its grantmaking programs to accommodate the needs of small-staffed and all-volunteer-run organizations and associations by:

- Raising its maximum grant limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000
- Welcoming applications seeking general operating support in addition to its longstanding practice of funding project support
- Consider multi-year funding

Muste board and staff completed a 3-year strategic plan, working with management strategist Joseph Barretto. We have a new mission statement: we support grassroots nonviolent radical activism for the liberation of all.

As part of that plan, we **created a new full-time staff position,** Communications and Development Associate, and hired **Michelle Zappone** to fill that role. She's excited to build community relations and establish connections with hubs of youth activism.

Welcomed new board member Yuko Tonohira. Yuko is an organizer and illustrator, and has been a member of Sloths Against Nuclear State, Asian American Oral History Collective among others. She has organized educational events and created visual materials linking to anti-colonialism and anti-militarism struggles.

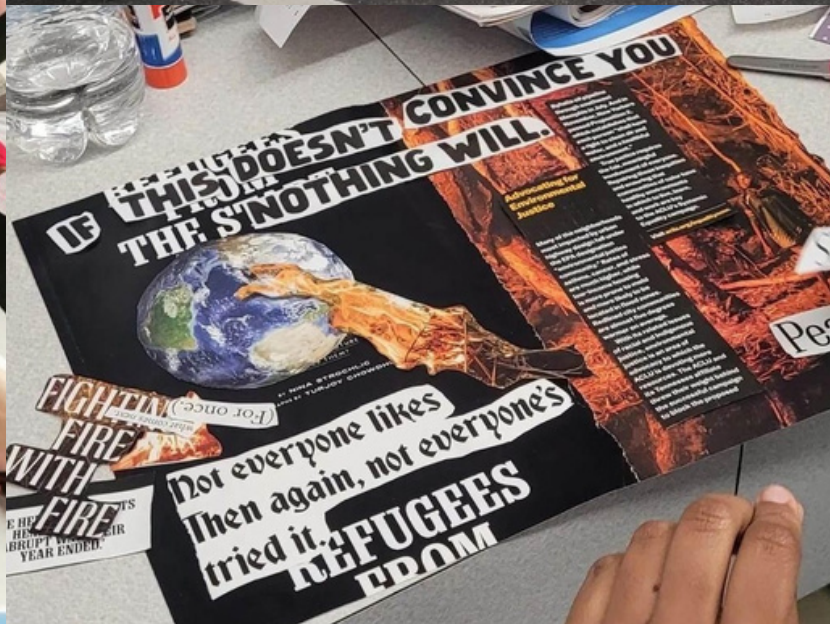
Ivan Morales, formerly with the NYS Youth Leadership Coalition, a longtime tenant with the Muste Institute, also **joined our board** and serves as treasurer. Ivan Chief Financial and Operating Officer of the Clara Lionel Foundation.

AKRON, OHIO



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Grants funded in late 2022 and year 2023.





IMPACT

LATE 2022 & YEAR 2023 GRANTEES

Hawai'i Peace and Justice will use the grant to develop a program that is building a grassroots campaign with the communities directly harmed by the military presence and who have been denied access to their ancestral lands, to demand the State refuse to renew the army leases that are over in 2029.

Back from the Brink, will use the grant to organize a national campaign to mobilize the public and build the political will needed to prevent nuclear war and fundamentally change nuclear weapons policy in the US.

Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, **Community Alliance of Lane County's** program "Reimagining National Security" engages people, including youth in making connections between climate catastrophe, racism and militarism.

This grant will help **Women for Weapons Trade Transparency** focus on UTIMCO Divest, which mobilizes students faculty and staff and alumni of the University of Texas and Texas A&M Systems to lobby the University of Texas and Texas A&M Investment Management Company to divest from its at least \$63 million worth of holdings in weapons manufacturing companies.

The Movement Training Network will utilize the grant for SASS (Special Assets Safety and Security) to work to implement a series of training sessions designed specifically for the LGBTQIA2S+ community for the purpose of self-defense, street medicine and healthy dialogue.

LATE 2022 & 2023 GRANTEES (CONT)

Historians for Peace and Democracy (HPAD) is working with the Zinn Education Project to oppose the right wing's lies and distortions about what is and what is not being taught in schools. The grant will be used to fund this Historians on Call network that will identify when and where the historians can support local efforts.

This grant was used to support **Climate Defiance's** nonviolent direct action at the UN General Assembly meeting in NYC which organized a massive turnout to highlight President Biden's fossil fuel hypocrisy in front of world leaders.

A grant to **Beyond These Walls** created several leadership development programs for transgender women who are currently incarcerated.

Funding for the **International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines - US Chapter**, contributed to building a movement opposing US military aid to the Philippines, defending the rights of activists against political repression and building long-lasting international solidarity to fight for peace.

New Endeavor Texas organized county cohort training programs build connections among organizers from different backgrounds and issue spaces within the county to create long lasting change in local and state government in Texas.

By utilizing the power of fan activism, **Fandom Forward** trained thousands of fans of HBO Max's Our Flag Means Death to pressure their representatives to vote no on bills that hurt the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as support organizations that are protecting LGBTQIA+ rights.

Center on Conscience and War supported their CO Peer Support circle (Uncompromisingly Conscientious, UC) with our help which promotes the rights of conscience and support COs in navigating the process of conscientious objection in the US military.

We contributed to **Women for Genuine Security** development of their locally grounded campaign that connects conceptually and practically domestic policy and foreign policy and offers a vision of genuine security that offers a visionary and practical model for communities.

This grant will provide **JUSTUS JUNKIE** with funding for their program that teaches 4th, 5th, and 6th amendment rights to African-American teens on the Southside of Chicago. It is taught by attorneys, police torture survivors, activists, and restorative justice practitioners.

This grant will help **Stop the War Machine's** organized challenge against the Military Industrial Complex especially but not exclusively as the military industrial complex manifests itself in New Mexico.

LATE 2022 & 2023 GRANTEES (CONT)

The grant contributed to **Ban Killer Drones.org**'s organized action materials for campaigns like "Free Daniel Hale" and an annual Shut Down Creech action (drone control center) that urges an end to drone killing.

This grant allowed **One People's Project** to cover events including the Jan 6 hearings and a white supremacist conference to expose hate politics.

This grant focused on providing "call to action" materials and practical needs for **MDC Solidarity** noise demos and vigils.

This grant provided **National Women's Liberation** with vital materials to bring awareness to Florida's unlawful abortion legislation and materials to work to expand on abortion rights.

This grant focused on helping support **Cine Movil's** new film screenings to stimulate political awareness and promote local organizing.

This grant allowed **Black Belt Citizens Fighting for Health and Justice** to provide care to protect and maintain a Historical Black Cemetery from being disturbed and installing a historical plaque there.

This grant provided **Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance** access to support resources and continued advocacy to undocumented people in Rhode Island.

OVER \$90,000 GIVEN IN SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANT FUNDING



LATE 2022 & 2023 GRANTEES (CONT)

Our grant will help fund **The Black Response's** community education workshops centering marginalized community members and focusing on non-carceral safety response strategies.

This grant will provide funding for **Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education, and Research Project, Inc.'s** Stop the Raids campaign uses a labor rights analysis to train and organize 100 sex workers and allies around the decriminalization of sex work through online and in-person activist capacity building in anti-oppression work and leadership, leading up to direct action that educates the public, media and policymakers.

This grant will integrate a suite of abolitionist media production, archiving, and media-based organizing methods into the **W.E.B. Du Bois Movement School for Abolition and Reconstruction** curriculum.

This grant will help **OpenOversight** redesign their police transparency database and make hundreds of documents accessible to the public.

This grant will support **Idaho Abortion Rights'** "Fake Clinics Are Harming Our Communities Campaign" that brings awareness to the issue of harmful resources regarding reproductive health.

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LATE 2022 & 2023 GRANTEES (CONT)

The grant helped the **Socialist Party USA** support educational workshops and materials for their campaigns at the time including work around the ICWA or Indian Child Welfare Act, reproductive health, and harm reduction in communities.

This grant supported **BAMSA's (Black and Arab Migrant Solidarity Alliance)** political education/ESL initiatives for asylum seekers.

Our grant allowed **Muslim Women For** to increase pressure on local elected leaders including North Carolina NCGA Reps and Delegates in Congress to call for a permanent ceasefire in Palestine.

Our grant allowed **Colombia Freedom Collective** to raise awareness and provide support for the legal defense of political prisoners from the 2021 uprising in Colombia through public events in NYC.

IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS, OVER \$45,000 IN RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

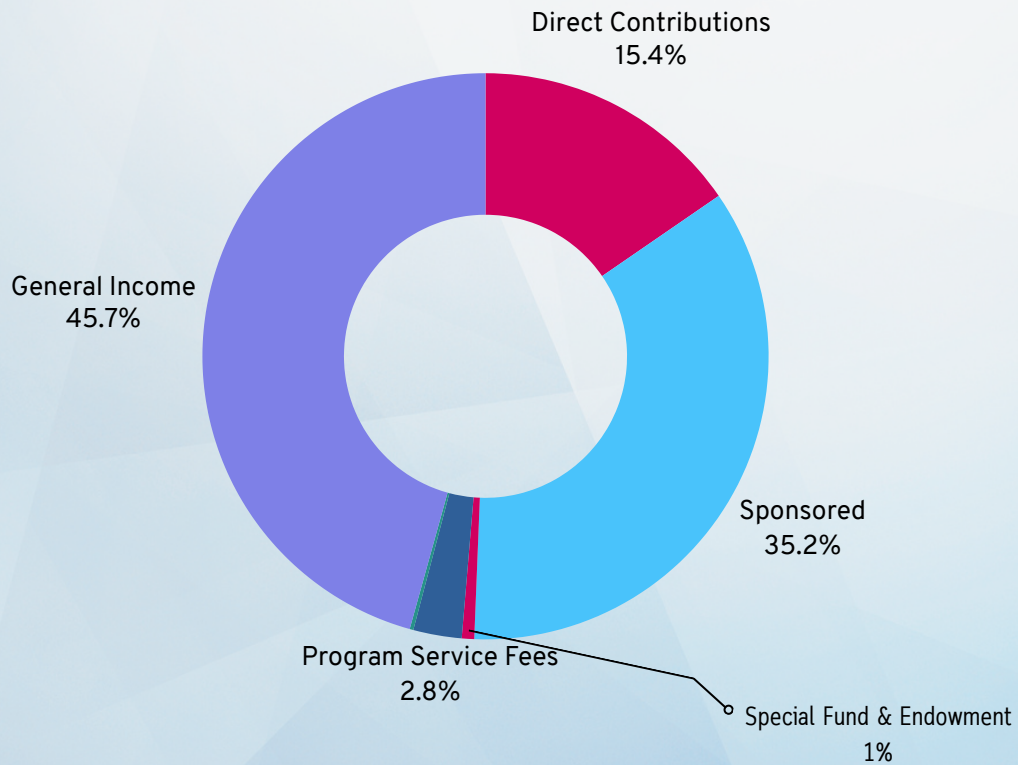
This grant helped **Indigenous Permaculture** purchase a shipping container that is vital in setting up an outdoor kitchen space that will integrate into a permaculture system and host seed saving, nutrition, cooking, and other workshops.



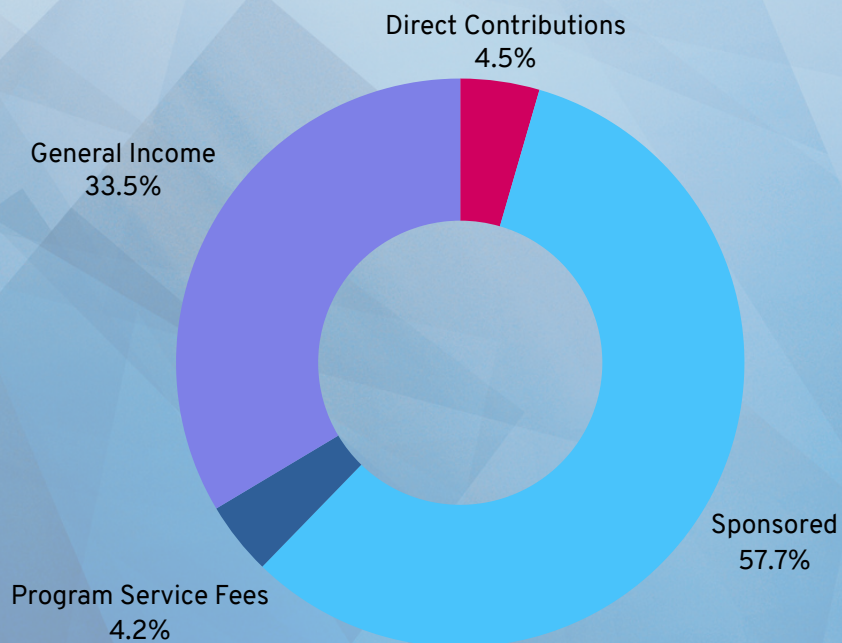
Financials

Income

FY Jan-Dec 2023



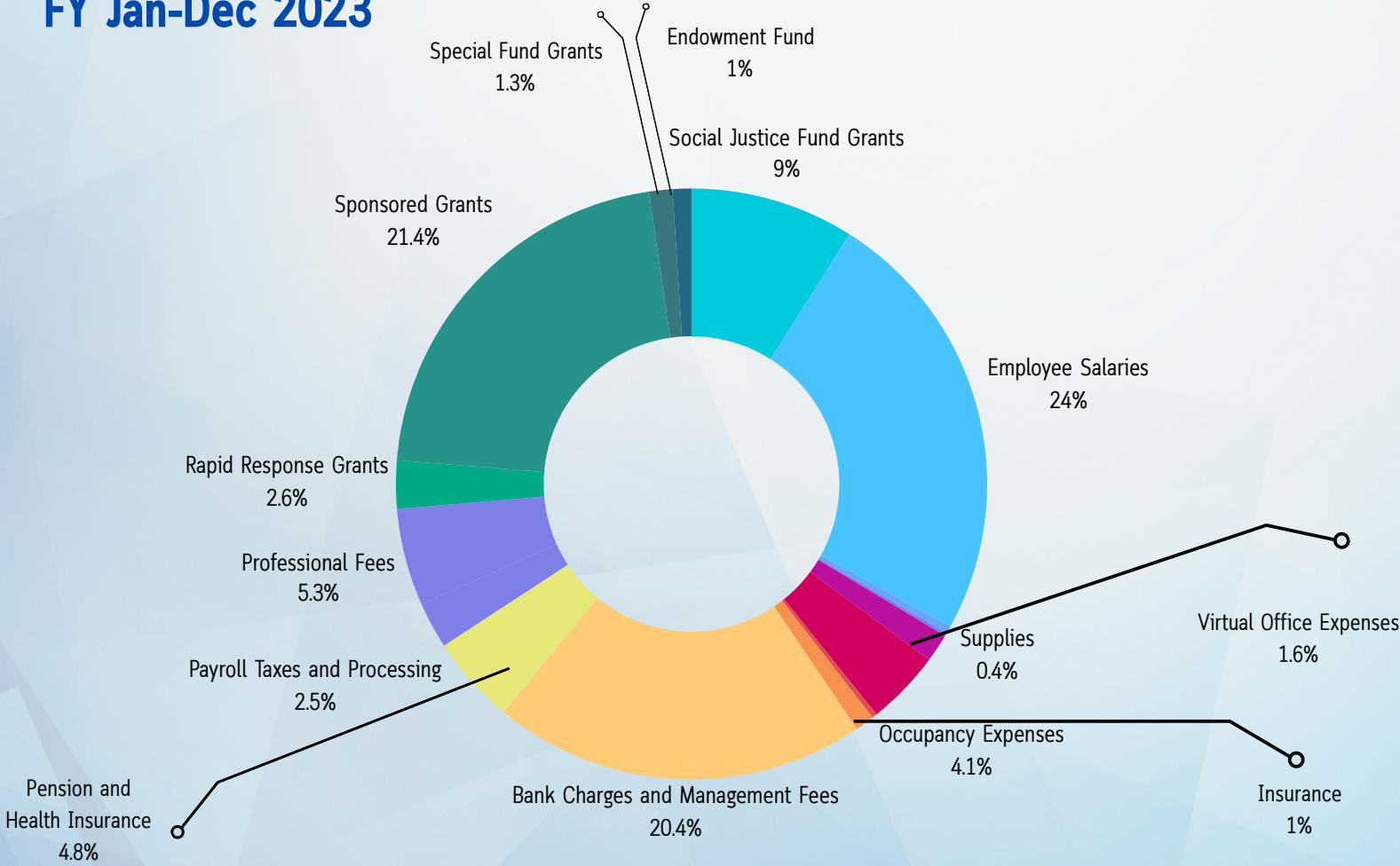
FY* Jul-Dec 2022



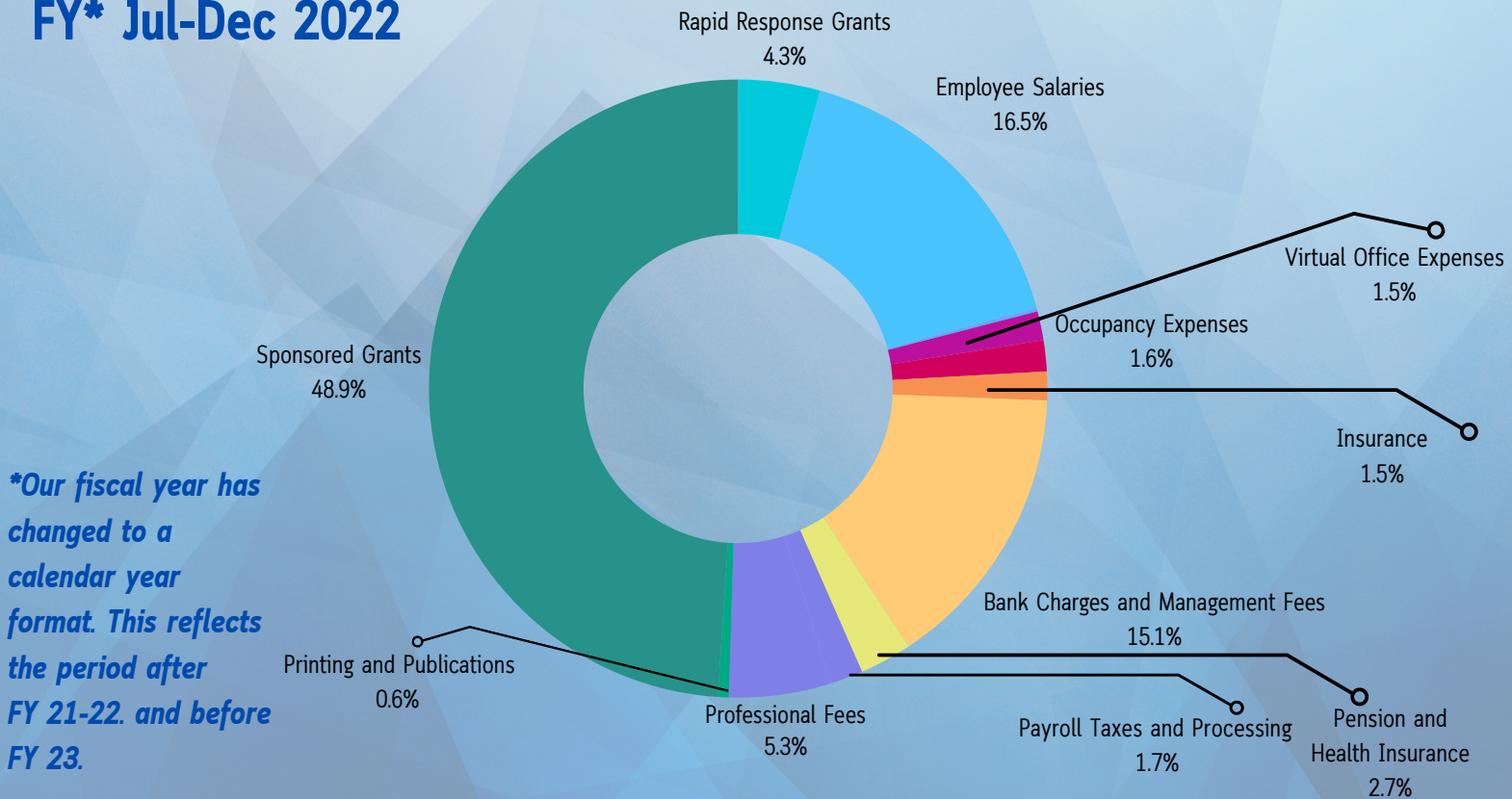
**Our fiscal year has changed to a calendar year format. This reflects the period after FY 21-22. and before FY 23.*

Expenses

FY Jan-Dec 2023



FY* Jul-Dec 2022



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A.J. MUSTE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

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