
The Muste Institutes’ 2019 Social Justice Fund grants reflect the range of issues activists are tackling in creative and cost-effective ways. Here are a few of our recent grantees: In 2016 three women founded NotMore (NM), an environmental campaign group that supports frontline environmental defenders at risk of serious injury or death, and investigates the root causes of environmental conflict. NotMore illuminates environmental conflict and crime, working closely with at-risk defenders and communities in Cambodia, West Africa and Brazil. A social justice fund grant will help them work with frontline environmental defenders in Para, Brazil where they face violence, and killings. For two years, more than 730,000 students at more than 250 universities went on strike amid a series of hate speech incidents—that administrators failed to address—on the Columbia, Missouri campus. 

Dear Friends:

A few weeks ago, 16-year-old Swedish environmentalist Greta Thunberg got in an emission-free racing yacht and sailed across the Atlantic. She joined other activists at the Global Climate Strike convergence at the United Nations in late September. During her address at the U.N. Climate Action Summit, Greta adressed world leaders. “You are failing as. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. Right here, right now is where we draw the line.”

Young Greta’s journey is one of a long line of citizen calls by fearless individuals. Change social milestones marked by the actions of a few, grow into movements of many. Like stacked dominoes, they shift public consciousness. A few courageous women, standing up against abuse by powerful men, emboldened unknown thousand to say, “Me Too,” and demand justice. Community residents in Ferguson, Ohio stood strong in the face of police violence against African Americans, leading to Black Lives Matter. Native American teenagers helped halt an energy pipeline, averting devastation to their Dakota homeland. Football players, backed by their coach, went on strike amid a series of hate speech incidents—that administrators failed to address—on the Columbia, Missouri campus.

Recall the summer of 1969. Beyond well-known social justice luminaries, local mavericks left an indelible mark on our society. Politically-charged women took over the underground newspaper The Rut, transforming it into one of the first second-wave feminist newspapers.
On the Set of “Skin”
A few scenes in the recently-released feature film “Skin,” written and directed by Guy Nattiv, were filmed in the Muste Office. The movie is inspired by the true story of Byron Widner who escaped from the Vinlanders Social Club, a white supremacist group and over a two-year period removed his white power tattoos—many covered his face and neck. Assisting in Bryon’s departure from the group is real-life activist Daryle Lamont Jenkins (played by Mike Colter of “Luke Cage”) of One People’s Project (onepeoplesproject.com). In 2019, Nattiv won his first Oscar for a short documentary by the same name.

Welcome New Board Members
The Muste Institute is pleased to welcome three new members to its board of directors:

King Downing is an attorney and founder of the Human Rights-Racial Justice Center, advocating and organizing on criminal and economic injustice, including police practices, racial profiling and mass incarceration. Most recently he ran the Mass Defense program of the National Lawyers Guild. He also directed the Healing Justice Program of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and is the former national coordinator of the ACLU’s Campaign Against Racial Profiling. King is a contributor to the following books: Twelve Angry Men, (New Press) and Torture in the U.S., 2nd Edition, (AFSC).

Johanna Fernandez teaches 20th Century U.S. history, the history of social movements, the political economy of American cities, and African-American history at Baruch College. Founder of the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, her book The Young Lords: A Radical History, Patrons at the Stonewall Inn resisted against a police raid, resulting in a series of riots that lead to the gay liberation movement and today’s fight for LGBTQ rights in the United States. These examples, and many more, are a testament to how acts of conscience resonate for decades. They are a renewed call to action when property interests prevail over human needs. The Muste Institute believes, and invests in, the power of the people. In tumultuous political times, no one knows what will ignite major social upheaval. The Muste Institute has always put its money on the groups and individuals who Stoke the fires of change in their own communities, each one a beacon for other activists.

Mitty Owens has a background in developing community land trusts and other models of affordable housing, followed by work in micro-lending and credit unions. His work has included the Center for Community Self-Help, the Ford Foundation and the Office of Financial Empowerment under NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Mitty has also run his own consulting firm offering strategic planning and organization development to nonprofits. He has served on several economic and social justice boards, including Yale University’s Dwight Hall Center for Public Service and Social Justice, Global Exchange.

Social Justice Fund
The Muste Institute in Liberia is working to improve deplorable health conditions of detainees in Liberian prisons. They lack adequate food, essential medical supplies, pure drinking water, beds and ventilation such that detainees become chronically ill with pneumonia, scabies and TB. Their Promoting the Rights of Women in Detention Project will address violations against, and improve the rights of, female prisoners through monitoring and awareness raising. It will also strive to improve high rates of pretrial detention cases by advocating for speedy trials and case processing support and documentation.

The AfricRede project aims to advocate and lobby against the military sexual harassment and rape of women in Zimbabwe. It is a direct response to the atrocities that occurred during demonstrations fueled by inflation and fuel price increase, and from military killings of ordinary citizens during the August 2018 presidential elections. Whenever Zimbabweans protest social injustices, military forces retaliate violently. The project will advocate for peace and to push for legal action towards perpetrators of human rights violations.

2018 Financials: What You Helped Support
A.J. MUSTE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, INC.
Revenue & Expenses as of 06/30/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>84%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
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<td>Rental and other income</td>
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<tr>
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<table>
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<tbody>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Other program services</td>
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<td>Rental and other income</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>3%</td>
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REVENUE                        | EXPENSE

SPECIAL JUSTICE FUND: 83 grants ($55,900) in the U.S. and beyond for organizing, mobilizing, and educating in favor of immigrant rights, racial justice, worker empowerment, health care access, educational rights, nonviolent movement building, transnational solidarity, land and housing rights, and justice for Palestine; and in opposition to war and militarism, criminalization and mass incarceration, the death penalty, nuclear weapons, and economic injustice.

SHARED SPACE SOLIDARITY GRANTS: $73,500 to tenant groups in the Muste shared space for undocumented youth organizing, media justice, anti-war and anti-militarism education, labor solidarity, tenant advocacy, and related work.

SPONSORED AND ENDOWMENT GRANTS: $198,095 in support for several projects in the U.S. and beyond promoting feminism, self determination, human rights, international justice, and nonviolent resolution of conflicts, opposing war, militarism, imperialism, occupation, and displacement; and educating about climate change, nuclear power, and the environment.

A.J. Muste Memorial Institute
168 Canal Street, 6th Floor • New York, NY 10013
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www.ajmuste.org

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Nina Storch, Treasurer
Johanna Fernandez
Ynestra King
Matt Mayer
Peter Muste
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Mitty Owens
Joyce Storch, Treasurer
Johanna Fernandez
Ynestra King
Matt Mayer
Carol Zeff
Vice Chair
Peter Muste
Eric Bachman, Program Associate, NNF

Social Justice Fund
AGNOTED: One People’s Project
Muste grant, will attend the 4th annual Peace Action Conference in New York State.

Dear Friends
continued from page 1
in the United States, educating America on the difference between gender and sex. The Young Lords Party was born to Puerto Rican youth in East Harlem, ushering in years of street activism that transformed how youth in East Harlem, ushering in years of street activism that transformed how health care is delivered in the City among others. Look for our board member Johanna Fernandez’s forthcoming book The Young Lords: A Radical History. Patrons at the
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Social Justice Fund

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2019 Grants: Social Justice Fund

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When activist groups traveling from around the country to the nation’s capital need support from kindred spirits, they can call on the Mobile Screen Printing Project of the D.C.-based group, The Sanctuaries, a newly-formed multi-cultural arts community. The Sanctuaries shares its expertise in training artists to work alongside activists to build power and shift culture, making demonstrations and actions more effective.

The Sanctuaries are a group of activists whose doing the dirty work of trying to change the world. They are a group of activists who are not afraid to get their hands dirty, and they are not afraid to take risks. They are a group of activists who are not afraid to speak their minds, and they are not afraid to stand up for what they believe in.

Sane Energy Project is committed to replacing fracked gas infrastructure with community-led, sustainable energy. To that end, we are funding its Direct Action Tour: 6 trainings in New York State in nonviolent grassroots activism and community activism against fracking.

A new generation of student leaders is learning to help shape foreign policy to prioritize human needs over military solutions.

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Please make checks or money orders payable to AJ Muste Memorial Institute.

Deadline to Submit Applications: March 1

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