

# IMPACT REPORT 2022

CPD  
ACTION

THE CENTER FOR  
POPULAR  
DEMOCRACY





# CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



**Analilia Mejia** is a seasoned grassroots organizer focused on building political power and increasing the civic engagement of Black, Latine, and working families. Analilia previously served as the Deputy Director of the Women’s Bureau at the Department of Labor under the Biden Administration and was the National Political Director for Bernie Sanders’ 2020 presidential campaign.



**DaMareo Cooper** has been building grassroots power for over 15 years. From his time as a neighborhood organizer focused on justice reform, housing, and healthcare to leading the Ohio Organizing Collective to serving as the National Organizing Director for BlackPAC, DaMareo has made relational organizing and strategic base-building central themes of his work.

Dear Movement Community,

As 2022 began, we had just stepped into our roles as co-Executive Directors of the Center for Popular Democracy and CPD Action (CPD/A). We’ve watched, in collective horror, a conservative and radicalized court dismantle nearly 50 years of federally protected reproductive freedoms and continue to brace ourselves for the worst outcomes constitutional originalism may offer—after all, if you and yours weren’t part of the “equation” to begin with, how could your best interest ever be included in the resulting outcomes? Our communities have historically borne the brunt of bad policy decisions, but when marriage equality, contraceptive access, trans rights, and much more are back on the table, you know this isn’t “business as usual.” Not when democracy deniers appeared on countless Midterm ballots across the country; greedy corporations profited from the human suffering COVID ushered in; and mass shootings, police brutality, and environmental racism continued to devastate all of us.

Our communities deserve security, abundance, care, joy, and the freedom to thrive. As leaders of CPD/A, we know that only through collective action and organizing can we counter hundreds of years of systemic disenfranchisement and fight our way to **expanded collective power.**

*That's what we came here to do.*





It's the work our network has led since day one. Unlike many others, our primary goal is to BUILD powerful institutions across our nation capable of meeting and transforming the moment. How? By resourcing the field with talent, training, and support. Since we began our subgranting program in 2012, we have moved \$77.6M to support affiliate organizing and advocacy campaigns. Over that same period, together with our affiliates and allies, we won over 300 policy victories that brought real change to the lives of tens of millions of people. This past year alone, we won over 60 policy victories for millions of people, organized innovative historic non-violent civil disobedience actions, galvanized tens of thousands of voters leading up to the elections, worked to build a massive and growing base, and increased the capacity of our affiliates by facilitating organizing and leader trainings—and we held our power. **Today, we're honored to present our 2022 Impact Report, which shares this story of our resilience, power in unity, and all CPD/A has accomplished in deep partnership with you.**

Last year, together with our 48 affiliates across the country and in Puerto Rico, we took direct action to protect the people our "democracy" actively excludes. We showed up in the streets, courthouses, and voting booths, and we helped win the landmark Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), transformational legislation that promises to invest hundreds of billions of dollars in jobs, climate resilience, and healthcare. Our work continues this year as our network drives the critical fight to ensure the equitable implementation of the IRA wins. History has shown us that even with massive investments in our social safety net, institutional barriers can sustain inequality—but we will not allow history to repeat itself.

As we celebrate ten years of CPD/A, our network is stronger and more unified than ever. The key to winning a world in which we are all free to thrive is the power of our affiliate organizations—a movement led by Black, Latine, immigrant, disabled, and working families. Through strategic base-building, we've built a network of leaders on the frontlines of the fight for liberation. By identifying key geographies, sharing resources, standardizing best practices across the network, and training new organizers, we've grown our capacity to protect our communities today—and built structures that will help us expand our power for the critical years ahead.

We are grateful for your dedication and support. We are able to do this work only because of our unwavering base, because of our people-powered affiliates, because we are a leaderful movement, and because of champions like you—**thank you.**

In solidarity,  
Analilia & DaMareo





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# EVERY YEAR

By James Klynn, Strategic Initiatives Manager, CPD/A

**This is the year, every year.**

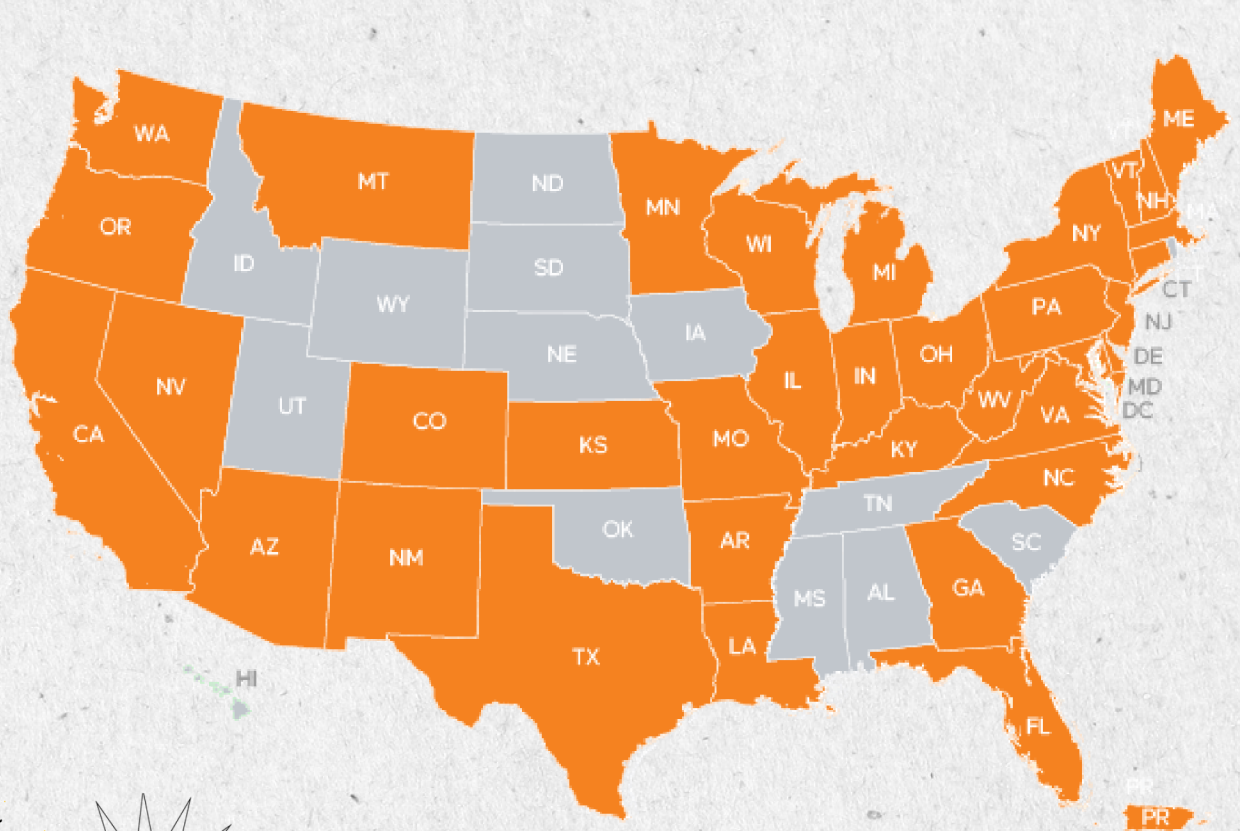
**This is the year,  
This is the year  
we go to the White House and tell them "we'll take it from here."  
our DNA is activated  
we ain't never been scared  
we were waiting for now  
we all had to be here  
let me be clear  
we came a long way  
from another star  
to reach this Planet  
so we can be closer to God  
this isn't that hard  
let's vanish the evil  
to the dark  
make a spark  
and watch  
the harmonics  
leave our hearts...  
while the melodies  
from the Sun  
create moods in waves  
that shape  
everything we've become  
the frequencies  
that were sung  
will make the next generation  
the sum  
of the love  
when you and I became one  
so when you hear  
this is the year  
that's the oath  
raise your glasses  
let's make a toast  
as we approach  
the prophecy  
we once wrote  
singing the song  
I'm hoping we believe every note**





# OUR AFFILIATES

# OUR AFFILIATES



BUILDING  
PEOPLE  
POWER





**ALASKA**

Alaskans Take a Stand /  
StandUp Alaska

**ARKANSAS**

Arkansas Community  
Organization

**ARIZONA**

Living United for Change in  
Arizona

**CALIFORNIA**

ACCE Institute (Alliance of  
Californians for Community  
Empowerment)  
Center on Policy Initiatives  
Organization United for Respect

**COLORADO**

United for a New Economy  
(UNE)

**CONNECTICUT**

Make the Road Connecticut

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

SPACeS in Action

**DELAWARE**

Delaware Alliance for Community  
Advancement

**FLORIDA**

Florida Rising

**GEORGIA**

CASA  
New Georgia Project

**ILLINOIS**

KOCO

**INDIANA**

Hoosier Action

**KANSAS**

Sunflower Community Action

**KENTUCKY**

VOCAL-KY

**LOUISIANA**

Step Up Louisiana

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Community Labor United

**MARYLAND**

CASA  
Maryland Communities United

**MAINE**

Maine People's Alliance

**MICHIGAN**

Detroit Action  
Flint Rising

**MINNESOTA**

Comunidades Organizando El  
Poder Y La Acción Latina-  
COPAL Education Fund  
TakeAction Minnesota

**MISSOURI**

Communities Creating  
Opportunity

**MONTANA**

The Montana Human Rights  
Network (MHRN)

**NORTH CAROLINA**

Action NC

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Rights & Democracy

**NEW JERSEY**

Make the Road New Jersey

**NEW MEXICO**

Organizers in the Land of  
Enchantment

**NEVADA**

Make the Road Nevada

**NEW YORK**

Churches United for Fair Housing  
(CUFFH)

Make the Road New York  
New York Communities for  
Change  
VOCAL-NY

**OHIO**

Ohio Organizing Collaborative

**OREGON**

Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del  
Noroeste

**PENNSYLVANIA**

215 People's Alliance  
CASA  
Center for Coalfield Justice  
Make the Road Pennsylvania  
One Pennsylvania

**PUERTO RICO**

Taller Salud

**TEXAS**

Texas Organizing Project  
Workers Defense Project

**VIRGINIA**

CASA  
New Virginia Majority

**VERMONT**

Rights & Democracy

**WASHINGTON**

Working Washington

**WISCONSIN**

Black Leaders Organizing for  
Communities  
Leaders Igniting Transformation  
(LIT)

**WEST VIRGINIA**

Our Future West Virginia

\*Map + list reflect our affiliate standing as of Dec. 31, 2022



# OUR PURPOSE

The Center for Popular Democracy along with our sister organization CPD Action (collectively CPD/A) work to create equity, opportunity, and an inclusive, multiracial democracy in partnership with 48 affiliates in over 200 cities and 33 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC. To build our vision of a world in which all can thrive, we center those most marginalized—Black, Latine, low-income, and immigrant communities—and work collaboratively with our affiliates and their members to challenge racial capitalism and anti-Black racism.

CPD/A increases the scale and capacity of resilient, democratic community-based organizations to build the people power needed to transform the policies, institutions, and structures that define our existence. Our affiliates are headed by the people they represent—79% are led by people of color, and 79% are led by women. Together, we work to understand the root causes of the challenges we confront, build consensus around transformative solutions, and create sustained work plans to accomplish shared goals and promote change. **Building power through a massive, aligned, and active base is the foundational strategy around which all our work is oriented.**

We are building power for our communities and winning on the issues that matter most to them. Because people do not lead single-issue lives, we drive timely and relevant campaigns to build a just economy, fight for community dignity, and expand our democracy.





# WHAT'S SUSTAINING US

A Resource List by CPD/A Staff

By sharing political education resources and cultural offerings, we aim to inspire each other and develop a shared language, common understanding, and consistent vision of the issues that matter most to our communities. Information sharing is critical to understanding one another and the systems we live in. To that end, we offer these resources to help make this movement increasingly accessible, empowering, and reflective of true popular democracy values—plus share with you what's been on our mind lately:

## 1 The RadComms Network

Alexandra-Marie Figueroa Miranda  
Digital Director, CPD/A

Kicked off by Shanelle Matthews in 2016, the RadComms Network is now a movement-wide network for communicators working across lines of race, class, identity, and issues working to achieve liberation through the dreaming and crafting of powerful transformational narrative change. As a strategic communicator in social justice, it can feel lonesome sometimes trying to figure out what the best next move is in a quickly changing and hostile digital and media field. Thanks to this network, I am now plugged in with movement communicators from all around the globe, exchanging best practices, learning together, and even figuring out ways to advocate for our work!

## 3 Care Work by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha

Maggie Corser, Director of  
Strategic Research & Policy, CPD/A

The book *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice* by the brilliant Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha has helped sharpen the disability justice analysis I bring to my research work, allowing me to think more expansively about how movement work can be joyful, sustainable, and rooted in principles of community care.

## 5 Love and Rage: The Path of Liberation Through Anger by Lama Rod Owens

Madeleine Leader, Director of  
Data Strategy & Analytics, CPD/A

Lama Rod Owens is a queer Black activist, author, and leading Buddhist teacher. Tara Brach, author of *Radical Compassion*, really said it best: "Through the lens of mindfulness and compassion-based practices, Lama Rod Owens shows us how the power of rage can be transformed into a force of healing in our fractured world." This book has been transformative for me and taught me how to harness my anger and sorrow to channel it for good. Also, it has helped me take mental power back from those who wish to harm us via a mindfulness practice. It's an ongoing practice, and some days are better than others, but I am much more able to process trauma and learn from it instead of freezing and dwelling.

## 2 The Future is Disabled: Prophecies, Love Notes, and Mourning Songs by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha

Katie Goldstein, Director of Housing  
and Healthcare Campaigns, CPD/A

Building on the work of her game changing book *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*, Piepzna-Samarasinha writes about disability justice at the end of the world, documenting the many ways disabled people kept and are keeping each other—and the rest of the world—alive during Trump, fascism and the COVID-19 pandemic. This book has informed my work at CPD/A by helping me become more deeply committed to disability justice and the multiple modes, strategies, and tactics of organizing for a more just and free world.

## 4 Climate Advocacy Lab

Abby Ang  
Research Analyst, CPD/A

As a research point for the Climate Justice team, this resource is essential for my work. It is free to join and offers online trainings, summaries of social science and data insights on climate justice, tools and peer support, and other valuable resources on how to build political power for climate wins. For me, it helps cut through the climate despair and offers hope.

## 6 The Power Broker by Robert A. Caro

Michele Kilpatrick, Co-Director of  
Advocacy & Mobilization, CPD/A

This is the biography of Robert Moses, New York City Parks Commissioner from the 1930s to around 1960—his book is a master class in understanding power. Moses defeated opponents with far more clout and money because he understood that real power is created and wielded through institutions. That was how Moses, who was a virulent racist who could barely hide his contempt for the public, single-handedly shaped the political and cultural landscape of New York for generations. The result was the destruction of Black and Puerto Rican neighborhoods, the loss of city landmarks, and a city completely remade according to one man's narrow-minded vision. Understanding Moses' story can help us understand both how to build power and how to fight it when it falls into the hands of men like him. (Protip—this book is a doorstop! Don't feel bad about skimming/skipping certain parts.)



# CPD/A BY THE NUMBERS



In 2022 the CPD/A network worked ceaselessly to mobilize communities across class, race, and geographical lines to build a powerful and sustainable movement. Through the upheaval of environmental disasters, an ongoing pandemic, economic crises, and rising authoritarianism, we made strides in transforming our country and building a democracy that works for us all.

## We trained

- 300 new organizers in field organizing trainings
- 500 members in new leader orientation
- 100 workers in Puerto Rico in a worker's rights training



## We innovated 2 historic 100-person nonviolent civil disobedience actions for reproductive justice with Planned Parenthood

17 members of Congress and 17 CPD network affiliate Executive Directors were arrested

## 575,000 canvassers made calls mobilizing over 6,000 people to take action

(sign petitions, phone bank, join a meeting, or turn out to an action)



## We mobilized

- 6,601 tenants through Renters Rising—our national renters organizing collective
- 20,000 members of our Unemployed Action group

## Leading up to the fall 2022 election we:

- Made 22,000 GOTV calls
- Secured the commitment of 1,341 voters
- Generated over 500,000 views through our digital ads targeting BIPOC 2020 first-time voters
- Contacted over 5,000 voters in Pennsylvania and Georgia to ensure they received their ballots



We also celebrated a massive victory—proof of the power grassroots movements yield in building the future we want—the landmark passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. For months, thousands of supporters of CPD/A and its affiliates showed up to demand that Congress act to address climate change and begin dismantling policies prioritizing corporate interests over people’s lives. And while this is just one step in addressing the climate crisis, the greatest threat to our world today, the IRA will bring tangible relief to millions. In 2023, we will prioritize ensuring the equitable distribution of these resources, continue to make our voices heard, and defend our democracy.



## Inflation Reduction Act

- \$369 billion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 40% by 2030 and invest in clean energy
- \$60 billion to benefit Black, Indigenous, Latine, and low-income communities through lower energy costs, higher air quality, and climate-resilient infrastructure
- Invests in millions of jobs along with incentives to offer a living wage and to employ union labor
- An extension of Affordable Care Act subsidies for three years, maintaining healthcare access for 2 million people who otherwise would have lost coverage. As the country’s largest investment in healthcare since the ACA, the IRA:
  - Gives Medicare the power to negotiate lower prescription drug prices—a long-sought goal of healthcare advocates
  - Requires drug manufacturers to pay rebates to Medicare if they increase prices from one year to the next faster than the increase in inflation
  - Caps the amount that seniors will have to pay for prescription drugs at \$2,000 a year
  - Caps the amount that seniors will have to pay for insulin at \$35 for a month’s supply
  - Provides access to additional free vaccines, including the shingles vaccine, for Medicare beneficiaries
- An estimated \$300 billion in new revenue to curb inflation by imposing a 15% minimum tax on corporations





# OUR IMPACT

CPD/A aims to win victories that advance justice and challenge structural racism, economic inequality, and corporate power through issue campaigns to change federal, state, and municipal policy and build our base.

**In 2022, CPD/A worked with our 48 affiliates and other partners to win over 60 policy victories for millions of people.** By sharing technology with affiliates, holding organizer and leader trainings, and facilitating peer learning, our basebuilding and campaigns teams increase the scale, strength, capacity, and impact of these resilient, democratic community-based organizations.

**We've highlighted a selection of the victories we delivered at the federal level and across more than a dozen states:**

## FIGHTING FOR COMMUNITY DIGNITY

### EDUCATION AND JUSTICE TRANSFORMATION

In December, we hosted the CPD/A Education and Justice Transformation 2022 National Convening in New Orleans with approximately 60 people from 15 affiliate organizations across the country. We threw down on a big action uplifting transformative safety demands for workers; heard from a panel of movement leaders in New Orleans; conducted political education; created a vision together across the network; focused on several sessions about base building, campaign strategy, and healing justice; and finished the convening building our strategic plan together across the network.





## HOUSING

CPD's Housing Campaign and affiliates from Renters Rising pushed for 19 victories at the federal level and across nine states, including new funding for housing inspectors and legal defense funds in city budgets, strengthened rent-stabilization rules and rent caps, and new eviction moratoriums. Highlights from across the CPD network include:

- Detroit Action won a "Right to Counsel" ordinance that covers attorney fees for low-income residents facing eviction, foreclosure, or other legal issues. The ordinance devotes up to \$18 million in funding over the next three years. This ordinance stands to impact tens of thousands of Detroit families.
- ACCE and their members coordinated the longest rent strike in Oakland city history. As a result, a \$3.3 million Oakland building was transferred to the Oakland Community Land Trust—a decisive victory for tenants and decommodified housing in California.



- Maine People's Alliance successfully won "\$22 million [in the state budget] to pay for short-term housing, converting properties into housing, and supplementing other short term rental assistance programs for people experiencing homelessness. The fund can also be used to support housing for people with disabilities, mental health challenges, or substance use disorder who are experiencing homelessness."
- OnePA successfully pushed for the Whole Home Repairs Act, which creates a new home repair assistance program with \$125 million in funding. This is designed to help low- or middle-income homeowners make home repair and weatherization upgrades while simultaneously investing in workforce development and green energy efficiency.





## HEALTHCARE

- The Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act was passed in December as part of the FY23 omnibus bill. This is a transformational bipartisan win after three years of advocacy led by CPD/A, our affiliates, and allies. The law increases access to buprenorphine for healthcare providers treating patients with substance use disorder and will decrease overdoses. VOCAL-NY, Rights and Democracy, Stand Up Alaska, Center for Coalfield Justice, SPACES In Action, Communities United, Hoosier Action, and Action NC all played a role in this victory.
- With the passage of the American Rescue Plan, the CPD/A network and our allies won the first federal harm reduction fund in US history. In May 2022, New York overdose prevention centers (started in November 2021 after years of work from affiliate VOCAL-NY) won a key grant from the fund worth over \$2.3 million.



## IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

- The Immigration team successfully launched the Doñas Academy last year, a leadership development and training academy focused on affiliate member leaders, which brought together 75 Doñas (or women elders) who are organizing around immigration in AZ, CT, NV, NC, NJ, NY, NM, and TX.
- Through organizing led by Make the Road New Jersey, coalition partners, and immigrant essential workers, NJ Gov. Murphy announced additional funds for New Jersey workers and families left behind from federal COVID aid. The state will provide \$53 million in cash payments to low-income taxpayers excluded from federal COVID aid or unemployment.



- CPD affiliate PCUN and allies won a landmark victory this year when Oregon passed overtime compensation for farm workers. This will impact an estimated 86,000 farmworkers next year who will now receive overtime pay, a benefit they haven't been entitled to for more than 80 years.



## PUERTO RICO

- Our Puerto Rico campaign, and partners on the ground, successfully stopped pension cuts in the latest Financial Oversight and Management Board's fiscal plan for Puerto Rico.
- Leaders directly impacted by vulture lending were joined by academic experts from Puerto Rico, Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, Argentina, Colombia, and the Congo for a virtual convening where they raised awareness of its global effects. During the discussion, experts shared the need for legislative action in places like New York State and the United Kingdom.
- We created Merecemos Más, a new campaign that organizes non-union, private-sector contract janitors/cleaners and security guards, two of the five largest occupations in the island economy, to improve standards for workers and build a powerful private sector labor movement in Puerto Rico. The campaign has assembled a list of 300 workers with 100 activists and 10 leaders.

## CLIMATE JUSTICE

The Climate Justice team and CPD affiliates, including New York Communities for Change and Step Up Louisiana, fought effectively against Senator Joe Manchin's "Dirty Deal" through direct organizing and advocacy. Manchin's proposed energy bill would have fast-tracked a set of permits for harmful oil, gas, coal, and mining projects with disastrous environmental impacts.





# BUILDING A JUST ECONOMY

## FED UP CAMPAIGN

The Fed Up campaign continued to push the Federal Reserve to improve gender, racial, and sectoral diversity among its leadership. In 2022, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston named Dr. Susan M. Collins the bank's next President. Collins is a Black woman, which makes her the only woman of color leading a Federal Reserve Bank. Fed Up also supported the confirmation of prominent African American Professors Lisa Cook and Philip Jefferson to the Board of Governors.



## WORKERS' RIGHTS AND POWER

- CPD affiliate Working Washington pushed the Seattle City Council to sign the PayUp policy into law, ending subminimum wages for gig workers on apps like DoorDash and Instacart. An estimated 40,000 gig workers are now paid at least minimum wage, after expenses, with tips on top, flexibility, and transparency protections. It's the first law of its kind—designed by and for gig workers—anywhere in the country.
- CPD affiliate Step Up Louisiana, with the support of CPD and other local and national allies, launched a Black worker-led campaign in the South targeting corporate retailers like Dollar General to build worker power and win improvements in their working conditions. After Step Up Louisiana protested Dollar General's shareholder meeting, the company subsequently raised wages in New Orleans and Jefferson Parishes in Louisiana.



- CPD’s Unemployment Insurance Cohort successfully advocated for the Unemployment Insurance Navigator Program and expanded access for communities affected by persistent inequality. The US Department of Labor announced \$18 million in competitive grants for the program. The cohort includes OnePA, MPA, R&D, NYCC, MRNJ, Working WA, NGP, SULA, MRNV, OOC, and Detroit Action. The US DOL also guided states to waive no-fault pandemic benefit overpayment claims.



- In December 2022, Los Angeles passed Fair Workweek for Retail Workers after five years of campaigning which is slated to help 70,000 workers. Berkeley, California legislators also passed one of the strongest, most comprehensive Fair Workweek ordinances of any bill in the country that same month. CPD provided a variety of support to the campaigns, including policy support, campaign planning, and early investment.

## TAXES AND CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

- Advocates successfully kept the “Bonus Depreciation” and “Corporate Interest Deduction” bills out of the December Omnibus bill. Both would have been multi-billion dollar tax giveaways to private equity companies and wealthy corporations. CPD was joined in this fight by New York Communities for Change, Churches United for Fair Housing, VOCAL NY, Make the Road New York, along with allies at People’s Action, Working Families, and more.



- After ten months of intense community pressure, CPD affiliate Make the Road New Jersey successfully pushed Amazon to withdraw its plans to build a massive air cargo hub at the Newark International Airport. This secret deal was initially fast-tracked with no community input from local residents and no guarantee of good jobs or basic environmental protections for the Black and Brown communities surrounding Newark Airport.



# EXPANDING DEMOCRACY



## VOTING RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

CPD began building a popular education series in 2022, working with affiliates and expert educators. We are telling a story of American democracy that is unfinished and centers BIPOC and female heroes, drawing strength and inspiration from their legacy and creating space to identify together as today's heroes. We launched highly participatory modules through in-person train-the-trainer sessions so affiliates could tailor content to meet their organizing needs and members' interests. CPD facilitated three training days last year: Baltimore with 215PA, CASA, and SPACES; Atlanta with NGP and CASA GA; and Minneapolis with COPAL.

## JUDICIARY REFORM

- CPD supported Ketanji Brown early on, holding two webinars with tens of thousands of participants to uplift her qualifications for SCOTUS. In 2022 Biden nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the Supreme Court. She was confirmed 53-47 by the Senate in April following a week of action led by 12 CPD affiliates from states with Senators on the confirmation committee.



- In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, we organized two large innovative civil disobedience actions in Washington DC for reproductive rights. Over 250 people participated in our first action. Two weeks later we were joined by the Congressional Women's Caucus in our second action. 17 members of Congress and 17 CPD network affiliate executive directors were arrested. Nearly every affiliate in our network played a role in organizing these powerful actions.



## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

CPD launched our first election deployment microgrants program, providing funding to seven affiliates for the deployment of staff and leaders to help get out the vote and protect voters in other states where threats to democracy were most salient. With this funding, teams of organizers and members from New York, Maryland, Washington DC, New Orleans, Arkansas, and West Virginia traveled to support affiliates in Arizona, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Georgia.



# CÁ KHÔ TO RECIPE



**Soy sauce, garlic, and brown sugar simmering in a clay pot drenched in sizzling catfish filets brings me back to my childhood, where our home was always buzzing with some combination of extended family –which was really just family.**

**The vision of all my aunties gathered in the kitchen, sitting on the floor, exchanging spices and blending ingredients with their hands.**

**The joy, the gossip, the coming together and the histories of our ancestors are called upon in this moment and passed along to their children.**

**To me.**

**— angélique nguyễn green, Chief Development Officer, CPD/A**

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb catfish filets bone and skin optional
- salt to clean the fish

## AROMATICS

- 2 tbsp oil
- 5 cloves garlic minced
- 1/2 yellow onion sliced

## SEASONING & COOKING LIQUID

- 1 tsp salt
- 1.5 tbsp fish sauce
- About 1/2 teaspoon thick soy sauce
- 1/2 c water
- 1/2 c coconut juice or replace water & coconut juice with 1 cup coconut soda
- 1 chile sliced (to taste, optional)
- freshly ground black pepper or add as a final topping when serving

## GARNISH

- 1 green onions roughly chopped
- black pepper freshly ground
- 1 red chile sliced, optional

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Rinse fish under water to clean, then salt generously. Set aside to dry.
2. Add oil to a pan and sauté garlic over medium heat until lightly browned.
3. Layer onion on top, then the fish, evenly spaced.
4. Add the seasoning & cooking liquid (& optional chiles) and turn the heat to high until boiling. Taste the sauce and adjust the seasoning.
5. Bring it to a simmer for ~20 minutes. Adjust seasoning if needed.
6. Gently flip the filets of fish over and simmer for a final ~10 minutes with the lid partially covered.
7. Stand there to watch it during the final ~10 minutes to prevent it from burning! During this time you can continually spoon the sauce over the fish.
8. Add green onion during last 2 minutes to wilt & top with sliced chiles, and some freshly ground black pepper.

Recipe originally posted at [www.hungryhuy.com/ca-kho-to-recipe-vietnamese-braised-fish/](http://www.hungryhuy.com/ca-kho-to-recipe-vietnamese-braised-fish/)





# THE LOUISE JEFFERSON INITIATIVE

The Louise Jefferson Initiative is a heat map that our newly formed Data, Tech, and Security Team developed to guide our Civic Engagement strategy. We are mapping the concentration of infrequent voters—including numbers of registered and unregistered voters, BIPOC progressive voters who are registered but never voted, people in our base who recently moved but have not re-registered, the 2020 D vs. R margin, a racial breakdown of voters in a selected geography, and more—to estimate the “flippability” of a given district or state. In 2022 we piloted the tool in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, as we worked to deepen support for our affiliates in key election states leading up to the November midterm elections. These maps will help plan long-term investments of state-based power-building organizations, enabling affiliates to chart organizing and growth plans that maximize the impact of their limited resources for the next decade.

Louise Jefferson, the first known Black women cartographer in the US, created hand-drawn maps to put racism on the map of America during the Harlem Renaissance. She created maps about lynchings, charted where significant aspects of Black culture were located in America, and contributed a map for The Green Book in which she highlighted Black accomplishments and businesses. Her work has a direct throughline to the work of the Black Panthers, who often used maps to plan their work and reimagine the places where Black people lived. This gave birth to the idea of “counter-mapping,” which refers to how groups typically excluded from political decision-making can use the state's techniques of formal mapping and make their own maps as alternatives to those used by the government. We like to think of this project as a version of this.







Democracy—which has yet to meet its promise to all people—is under attack. From the “big lie” and the January 6th insurrection to new voter restrictions and anti-Black white nationalist violence, these attacks are motivated by a desire to negate the rising political power of communities of color. To meet the moment, the CPD Action (CPDA) network is doubling down on our core purpose: Building power through a large-scale aligned, and active base. This requires that we better understand and engage our communities and significantly grow our affiliates’ capacity to organize and mobilize members in order to win more—and more impactful—victories.

- To be strategic and efficient in our work, we need to target our outreach to specific voters in specific places. With new Congressional and State Legislative lines set for the next decade, now is the time to chart a course and build capacity in the places where working-class and BIPOC voters can have the greatest impact and leverage their power to elect progressive candidates that will represent their communities’ needs.
- CPDA affiliates in battleground states are engaged in large-scale voter contact programs, prioritizing working-class communities of color and BIPOC 2018 and 2020 first-time voters (Surge Voters). The conventional wisdom of establishment political pundits was that Biden won by persuading educated, white, affluent suburban voters that he was a palatable alternative to Trump. A less frequently acknowledged but critical factor was that Biden also benefited from stronger performance among younger and more diverse voters. Galvanizing Surge Voters to become recurring voters is vital to the success of progressive candidates in 2022 and beyond.

We look forward to continuing to expand support for our affiliates as this project develops.





# INTRODUCING DONOR ORGANIZING

Kelsea Norris (she/her), Director of Donor Organizing, and Sanjana Sandhu (they/them), Donor Organizer, met in March to chat about the new exciting fundraising framework the Development team has implemented over the past year. This framework centers resourcing our work at the Center for Popular Democracy and CPD Action (CPD/A) as a critical part of our organizing. Read on!

## Sanjana:

Can you share what it means to shift our fundraising framework from individual giving to donor organizing? What makes donor organizing different from a traditional nonprofit or charity model?



**"We want everyone deeply, authentically engaged in our multiracial movement for democracy, giving what they can in any arena to help us win."**

## Kelsea:

Donor organizing is a framework for shifting away from a transactional model of fundraising to one that allows us to connect more fully with the humanity and capacity of everyone who participates in our movement. It centers giving—and fundraising—as a core political act essential to advancing a more just world and subverts the stereotypes born of racial capitalism of who a “donor” is and isn’t by valuing gifts of all sizes and lifting up the long history and traditions of Black, Latiné, Asian, and Indigenous giving. Donors are not siloed as wealthy people with wallets—anyone can be a donor. Our donor organizing program is working to dismantle the idea of donors as exclusively white and wealthy people, making it more transparent that people of all races, income levels, and identities give. In fact, research has shown that poor people and people of color tend to give away a higher percentage of their incomes than wealthy white people.<sup>1,2</sup> It’s dismissive and counter to our goals and values to discount them as donors. And on the other side, donors from the owning class are also people we need to activate as part of our organizing work to join us beyond giving in order to win long-term. We want everyone deeply, authentically engaged in our multiracial movement for democracy, giving what they can in any arena to help us win.

1 Washington Post, “Blacks Prioritize Philanthropy”, December 11, 2020. “Nearly two-thirds of Black households donate to community-based organizations and causes, to the tune of \$11 billion each year, according to a joint 2012 study from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. Black households on average give away 25 percent more of their income per year than Whites. Communities of color are giving at an increasing rate, the report found.”

2 Philanthropy News Digest, “Poor Americans Are Country’s Most Charitable Demographic”, May 31, 2009. “Recent surveys have found that not only do the poor donate more per capita than individuals in higher income brackets, but that their generosity tends to remain higher during economic downturns, McClatchy Newspapers reports.”



**Sanjana:**

How does donor organizing tie into CPD/A's larger mission to create a world in which we are all free to thrive?

**Kelsea:**

We believe donor organizing is the best and most values-aligned way of increasing flexible, independent revenue and diversifying our funding sources to ensure CPD/A's organizing is stable and sustainable for the long haul. These resources make us more accountable to our base and allies rather than to large institutions or a small group of wealthy people—and it's a core aspect of our mission to build a base of one million people, with emphasis on giving at any level as a really core way of participating in and owning our movement. It recognizes all of us as whole people who come to this movement to engage fully for a better world, to fight for each other's liberation, and it means showing up physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and also financially.

**Sanjana:**

Can you share some of our fundraising and donor organizing goals? What do we intend to accomplish or build through this program?

**Kelsea:**

At the highest level, our goal is to build authentic relationships rooted in mutual dignity and trust as a priority. To build a multi-racial, multi-class, intergenerational community dedicated to dismantling racial capitalism, rooting out white supremacy culture and anti-Blackness, and helping us achieve our vision of a world in which everyone is free to thrive. Beyond just growing our unrestricted, independent revenue, that means convening a community of donor-activists who are growing together, investing in our collective political education, and committed to the fight together for the long term. We're creating a body of donor activists who are consistently giving, taking action in other ways, and acting as ambassadors for CPD/A's work and theory of change in their communities.

**Sanjana:**

What does it mean to be a donor-activist? What role do donor-activists play in our work?

**Kelsea:**

Donor-activists are people who take action in a myriad of ways and are engaged members of the movement—and one of those primary ways is with a financial commitment to the work. Whether that's a small one-time gift, a few dollars each month, or by redistributing significant wealth, it's a critical way of showing up. It's about making an investment that's meaningful to the individual. We're attempting to break down the barrier of being either a donor or an activist and undermine this binary. Our focus is ensuring that our organizing base is a part of resourcing our work, and that people giving to CPD/A are moved into taking action beyond their gifts through protest, political education, and leadership development to build a multiracial cross-class movement big and powerful enough to win. And that work includes the more standard definition of donor organizing in which donors within our community are activated to organize their friends and family to also support our work.



# BEEN DOWN HERE BEFORE AND WE KNOW THE WAY OUT

**An essay by Vinay Krishnan, National Field Organizer, CPD/A**

Near the beginning of *Rehearsal for Living*—a collaboration between Black, feminist, abolitionist writer Robyn Maynard and Indigenous writer Leanne Betasamosake Simpson—the authors discuss how fortunate some folks are to live in fear of future apocalypses. Yes, fortunate. So much of popular discourse these days dwells on the end times. The fall of America to fascism, of societal infrastructure to climate catastrophe, of public health to spreading pandemics—always in the future tense, even when imminent.

But Maynard points out that for many folks, the world already did end. She speaks of “the unfinished catastrophes of 1492—the two genocides at the heart of the Americas, to paraphrase M. NourbeSe Philip, when a death-making commitment to extraction and dispossession took hold on a global scale.” For the Indigenous folks at the center of genocide on this continent and for Black folks trafficked and enslaved here, the end times already came. “Our respective communities have borne, already, multiple apocalypses that were inflicted on us...”

For many, then, the idea of Armageddon being a future event comes from a place of privilege, of having not already been targeted for exploitation, for annihilation. “The apocalypse is imagined, after all, in most classic Euro-Western settler tropes,” but it is “a condition that is already deeply familiar to our kin.” Maynard writes to Simpson that their task now is to “think together about what it means for us to build livable lives in the wreckage.”







I bring all this up here because this modern era is again its own apocalyptic moment. Whole worlds ended with the flooded lungs and arresting hearts of parents and siblings and children and friends and co-workers—millions of souls lost to the ages in the COVID era, which continues now with no end in sight. Amidst this crisis, our trans and queer comrades are on the frontlines of the fight against fascism—trying to survive a coordinated national attack against their right to exist. Women, non-binary folks, and trans men are being criminalized for seeking reproductive healthcare. Police continue to spread their violence, continue to murder and incarcerate and destroy Black lives. Humanity itself is being threatened by climate catastrophe. And through it all—corporations are extracting as much wealth as possible from our people, mining each crisis for profit.

Our communities need not turn to science fiction for post-apocalyptic stories. We've felt our worlds end. We've lost loved ones. We've seen our enemies come for our people. The daily task is not a matter of warnings or prognostications, then. It's a matter of wreckage, of wounds, of bones, of bodies buried, burned, and borne. Of final photographs and broken traditions and old rooms you can't stand in the same way ever again. The remnants of something.

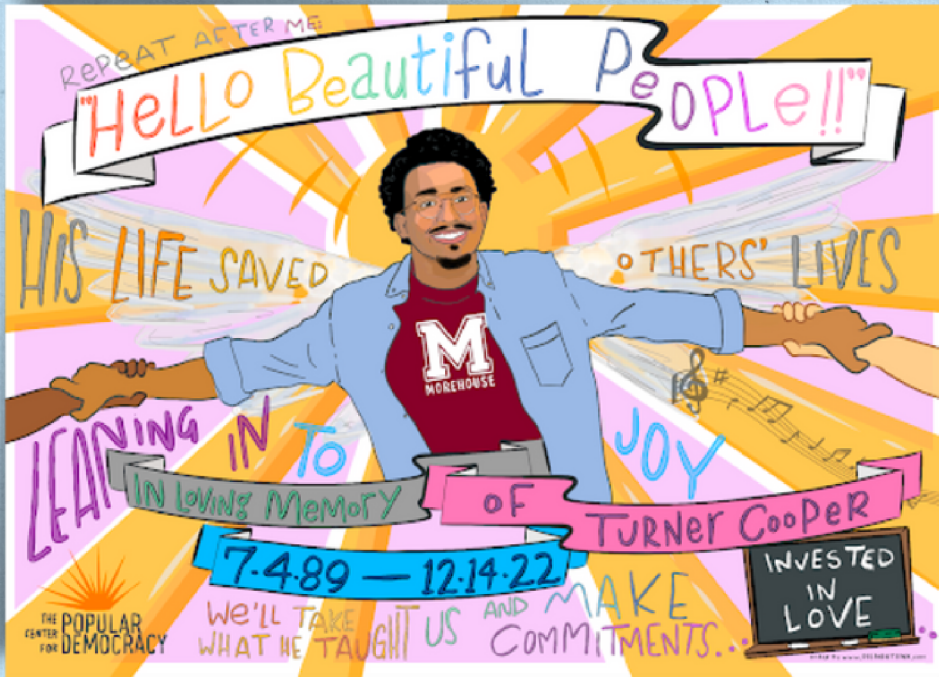
This is what's at stake. For all of us at this organization. And we know that because we've been out here fighting this evil for decades, for generations. And we know that just as our ancestors fought through apocalypses, it's our turn now to guide our people through the great challenges of our time. Unchecked capitalism, rising fascism, the sort of institutional racism and ableism and misogyny that has fueled our enemies forever—it's all here now in front of us at the same time, threatening to undo everything we've worked to build.

It's worth sitting and asking what we can offer to our people in this moment—and hopefully, these pages have made that clear. Expansions in healthcare and housing and security and citizenship, art and poetry and food and culture, the building and sustaining of people power throughout the country, joy and love and rage ringing through it all. We've set out here to present a snapshot of a people yearning to finally breathe free in America. We're here to do the true work of liberation.

*Join us in this fight.*



# HONORING TURNER COOPER



In December of 2022, we gained an ancestor. Turner Cooper, a beautiful bright light and our first Director of Learning and Development, transitioned, leaving us with deep reflections of gratitude, community, and grief.



Turner lived a life committed to bringing joy and laughter into this world. From opening CPD All Staff Calls with dance and cheer, to never forgetting to start all emails reminding us we were his 'Beautiful People', Turner embodied his commitment to our liberation by ensuring we dedicated space and intention to ourselves and our wellbeing. He reminded us carefully that joy is resistance.

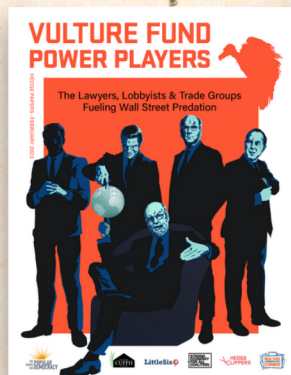
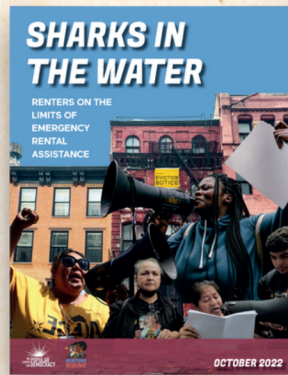
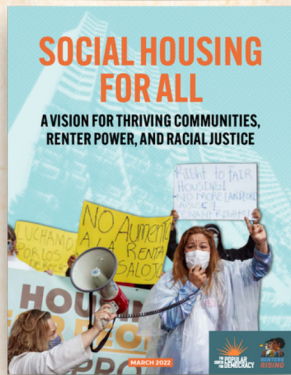
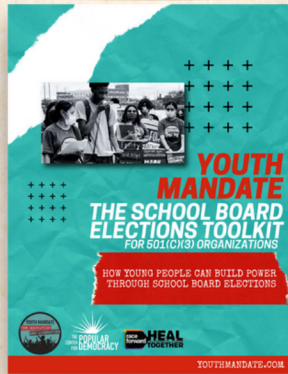
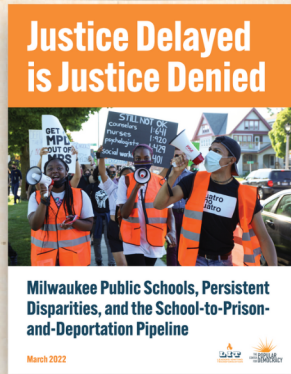
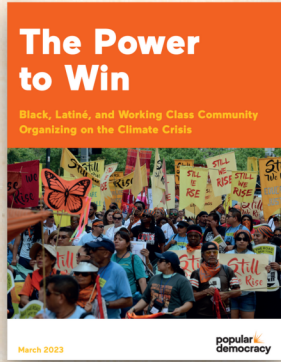
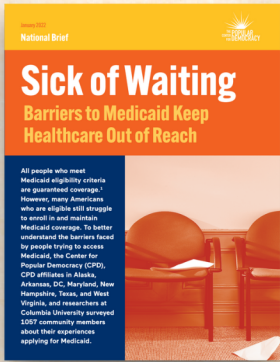
While life simply cannot carry on the same way, the gift Turner Cooper leaves us with allows us to recognize joy as something beyond what we strive for or work to achieve for generations to come, but as a choice that is rooted in the now. Turner taught us experiencing and living joy is absolutely foundational to our freedom. That joy is radical. And we are so incredibly grateful.

Every single person we meet becomes a part of us—they're never really forgotten. We are honored to be better people, inspired people, thanks to Turner Cooper. Although you might not have met 'Mr. Cooper', we're hoping his life becomes part of yours too.





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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CPD/A's Boards of Directors are composed of representatives from our key constituency groups: state affiliates, core national partner organizations, allied partners, and community members. The Boards oversee and approve CPD/A's core strategic direction; they hold us accountable to our stated annual goals and objectives; they also monitor and approve overall organizational financial stewardship and health.

<b>C3</b>	<b>Analilia Mejia</b>	Co-Executive Director, Center for Popular Democracy and CPD Action
	<b>DaMareo Cooper</b>	Co-Executive Director, Center for Popular Democracy and CPD Action
	<b>Aaron Dorfman</b>	Executive Director, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
	<b>Matt Hollamby</b>	Program Officer, The Wyss Foundation
	<b>Christina Livingston</b>	Executive Director, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment
	<b>Jose Lopez</b>	Co-Executive Director, Make the Road New York
	<b>Alicia Russell</b>	Board Member, Living United for Change in Arizona
	<b>Ramon Ramirez</b>	Former President, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste
	<b>Kirk Noden</b>	Principal, Community Building Strategies
	<b>Rafael Navar</b>	Co-Founder and Treasurer, Mijente
	<b>Brianna Brown</b>	Co-Executive Director, Texas Organizing Project
	<b>LaDon Love</b>	Executive Director, SPACeS in Action

<b>C4</b>	<b>Analilia Mejia</b>	Co-Executive Director, Center for Popular Democracy and CPD Action
	<b>DaMareo Cooper</b>	Co-Executive Director, Center for Popular Democracy and CPD Action
	<b>Christina Livingston</b>	Executive Director, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment
	<b>Reyna Lopez</b>	Executive Director, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste
	<b>Maurice Mitchell</b>	Executive Director, Working Families Party
	<b>Theo Oshiro</b>	Co-Executive Director, Make the Road New York
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	<b>Gustavo Torres</b>	Executive Director, CASA
	<b>Brianna Brown</b>	Co-Executive Director, Texas Organizing Project
	<b>Branden Snyder</b>	Executive Director, Detroit Action
	<b>Rob Solano</b>	Executive Director, Churches United for Fair Housing



# THANK YOU!



Ten years ago, CPD/A was founded with the bold dream of creating a world where we are all free to thrive. Today, we are proud to say that, with our freedom and livelihood on the line, we have consistently made bold demands for the safety and wellbeing of all people. In every win and every loss, we moved the needle towards a more just, equitable world.

Our work would not be possible without our fearless leaders, Analilia and DaMareo; without our former co-executive directors—Ana Maria Archila, Jennifer-Epps Addison, Andrew Friedman, and Brian Kettenring; and certainly not without the advocacy of our supporters and funders.

## **You keep us going.**

Thank you for your deep partnership and dedication to building a truly popular democracy.







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[www.populardemocracy.org](http://www.populardemocracy.org)