



Organizing to Transform the South



SOUTHERN VISION ALLIANCE

“MONKEY WRENCH”

The Southern Vision Alliance logo is a quilt square, a pattern commonly known as “monkey wrench.” In abolitionist folk tradition, quilt patterns helped guide fugitive slaves to find their way to freedom along the Underground Railroad, which ran through Appalachia to Ohio. The “shoofly” pattern symbolized a person who could help guide a fugitive slave; a “sailboat” indicated a body of water up ahead; “drunkard’s path” warned fugitives to take a zigzag route in order to evade slave catchers.

SVA adopted the monkey wrench to honor traditions of anti-racist resistance in the US South.

“Monkey wrench” has a dual meaning. The pattern signalled that fugitives should gather the tools they needed to get free. In contemporary culture, “monkey-wrenching” also means disrupt. In our case, we seek to disrupt the systems of injustice, inequality, and oppression.

CORE PROGRAMS

Youth Organizing Institute
Ignite NC

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Comité de Acción Popular – Raleigh
Community Alliance for Public Education
Education Justice Alliance – Raleigh
Greensboro Mural Project
Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia
Muslims for Social Justice
NC Queer Youth Power Coalition
NC Student Power Network (2014-2016)
QTPOCC – Charlotte
TransPride – Greensboro
The Tribe – Charlotte

FUNDS

Queer Youth Mobilization Fund
Millennial Voter Engagement Fund
SVA also offers short-term fiscal sponsorships.

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LETTER FROM THE SOUTHERN VISION ALLIANCE

In 2014, several of us who would become the leaders and staff of the Southern Vision Alliance, conducted a listening tour across North Carolina with a simple question: “what would it take to build a strong and inter-connected youth and student movement in the South?”

We wanted to hear from folks on the frontlines. In high schools, colleges, and in our communities - particularly communities of color, LGBTQ people, working class families, immigrants, rural, urban and suburban youth.

Themes emerged: young people want opportunities to collaborate, build power together, and coordinate across geographies, identities, issues, and organizations in order to transform the world. They wanted to be a part of multi-generational organizing and benefit from the wisdom of movement elders.

We identified challenges: the economic precarity of young people and working class folks, and leadership turnover. We talked about the need to hold organizational memory, to make room for experimentation and error, and the desire to make impactful contributions to the broader movement.

The Southern Vision Alliance (SVA) formed to take on these challenges, to provide support and capacity to youth, students, and directly-impacted communities so that they have support to organize in their own names.

In the formation of SVA, we have confronted these barriers by building an organization that we call a “**grassroots intermediary**,” to provide the kind of infrastructure and capacity-building support that organizers need.

As leaders in the movement, we see the structural ways that marginalized communities are barred from leadership in the kinds of fights, campaigns, and organizations that are needed to champion meaningful and lasting wins. We live in a nation of abundance, but exist in a system of manufactured scarcity. We see how forced competition between oppressed communities pits

...young people want opportunities to collaborate, build power together, and coordinate across geographies, identities, organizations, and communities in order to transform the world.

us against each other to access resources. This manufactured scarcity is part of why we stay isolated from one another and why we retreat back to our silos or familiar tactics. Manufactured scarcity is what opens door the for folks to fall prey to xenophobic and racist ideologies.

We believe deeply in the **Ella Baker model of leadership** which emphasizes the importance of group centered leadership. We are committed to building leaders that can build more leaders. We know that movements are not made possible by just one person or personality.

We believe solidarity is a verb. Our motto is **#LessEgoMoreImpact**. Our commitment is to the broader movement at all times, with every crisis, and every opportunity. While we believe in building strong organizations, we also believe in building together. Instead of competition, we are committed to cultivating collaboration.

We believe in solidarity and unity in action where we are all equally responsible for our liberation, while centering the leadership of the most directly impacted.

Above all, we believe in the power of the people in the U.S. South - young people, students,

We believe in solidarity and unity in action where we are all equally responsible for our liberation while we center the leadership of the most directly impacted.

queer people, people of color, immigrants, and those living at the intersections - to confront the past, challenge the present, and build a better future.

The threats we face in this new political period are heightened and intensified. SVA is wrestling with how we transform our fear, anxieties, and egos into collective action; into meaningful entry

points for the many people who are looking for a role to play; into a deeper commitment to building a mass movement capable of changing the world for the better. We are eager to support the crucial organizing needed to transform the South.

In this report, you will find the stories of the people that make this work possible.



July 2016 • Raleigh • Inter-generational power circle at YOI Freedom School

SVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joshua Vincent – Board Co-Chair

Jess Jude – Board Co-Chair

Peter Gilbert – Board Secretary

Elizabeth Simpson – Board Treasurer

Jillian Johnson – Term Began 2017

Raul Arce Jimenez – Term Began 2017

Montserrat Alvarez – Term: 2014-2016

SVA EXECUTIVE STAFF

Elena Everett – Executive Director

Alissa Ellis – Deputy Director

Loan Tran – Communications

Bryan Perlmutter – Development

Felicia Arriaga – Chief Financial Officer and Director of Operations

Amina Bility – Operations Fellow

SVA CORE PROGRAM STAFF

YOUTH ORGANIZING INSTITUTE

Loan Tran – Director

Babette Cromartie – Communications and Development Associate

Olufemi Shittu – Fellowship Coordinator

Santos Flores – Solutions Not Suspensions Campaign Director

Tavon Bridges – Youth Organizer

Beatrice Galdamez – Youth Organizer

Anthony Maglione – Event & Logistics Coordinator

IGNITE NC

D’atra Jackson – Co-Director

Holden Cession – Co-Director

Jasmine Wright – Charlotte Field Organizer

Mary Lyons – Western Field Organizer

Irving Allen – Greensboro Field Organizer

Olufemi Shittu – Triangle/Eastern Organizer

OUR MOVEMENT GLOSSARY



DIRECTLY-IMPACTED COMMUNITIES are communities of shared geography or identity that are socially, economically, and politically harmed by systems of oppression, such as white supremacy, colonialism, etc. These communities are frontline targets of disenfranchisement and repression by institutions with power to make decisions affecting their lives. They are disproportionately impacted by policing, unemployment and environmental hazards, and are underrepresented in decision-making bodies, like elected office or other positions of power.



ELLA BAKER MODEL OF LEADERSHIP is a philosophy of leadership development espoused by Ella Baker, a southern civil rights activist and adult ally who co-founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in Raleigh in 1960. This model of leadership prioritizes group-centered decision-making.



FRONTLINES, related to directly-impacted communities, refers to the communities who are hit first and often hardest. It also refers to battlegrounds where resistance is emerging and connected to immediate, sometimes ongoing sites of organizing and action. These frontlines of resistance are often sparked by an incident, but reveal much deeper and systemic problems. For example, Ferguson, MO, was ‘frontlines’ in the Movement for Black Lives.



GRASSROOTS INTERMEDIARY is SVA’s model that supports grassroots, frontlines organizations and communities who are fighting back against attacks on people of color, LGBTQ people, Muslims, immigrants, youth and students, disabled people, rural communities, and more. As an intermediary, SVA provides fiscal sponsorship, tools, coaching, and support for its members to help them flourish and grow.

SVA’s model fosters a culture of collaboration and coordination that is designed to reduce competition and scarcity in the social justice ecosystem. SVA’s programs and services are informed by the needs and direction of our members. We are grounded in a theory of change that centers the leadership of directly impacted communities, uplifts the importance of organization, and works in the interest of the larger movement.



ORGANIZING can look like a lot of things. For SVA, organizing is building power, building consensus, designing solutions, taking collective action, and bringing in as many people as possible who have a stake in their own liberation. SVA members recognize organizing as the primary strategy for confronting and dismantling oppressive powers and building a better world.



SVA defines **YOUTH** as people aged 13-35. SVA recognizes the leadership role that youth have played in every successful movement and revolution. At this moment in history, we recognize that so-called “Millennials” do not have the same educational and career opportunities as previous generations. Many young people, especially Black and brown youth, are not obtaining meaningful employment, are financially insecure and carry huge debts. Historically, the age bracket for what defines “youth” has been slimmer, but due to recent economic, social, and political conditions, including changes in technology, and the impacts of globalization, those who were born in the mid-80’s have had similar experiences as those born through 2000. Most young people do not remember life before the internet or a time that the U.S. was not actively engaged in wars in the Middle East. The quality of life of Millennials is projected to be lower than their parents.



THE US SOUTH is a geographic region that encompasses thirteen-sixteen former slave states, the states of the Confederacy. The South is an historically underdeveloped region with diverse social and cultural features, whose current conditions are the product of legacies of genocide of indigenous people, slavery, union busting, and exploitation of poor and working class people. Many features of underdevelopment in the US South mirror conditions in the Global South. Factories and industries that once provided stable, well-paid union jobs in the north and the rust belt have relocated to the South where environmental and labor protections are weak.

The South is home to large populations of LGBTQ people of color, some of the largest growing communities of Latinx and Asian immigrants, and many poor and precarious rural and working families. The history of the south is one of resistance and resilience. It is the birthplace of indigenous uprisings, slave revolts, the Civil Rights Movement, the Sit-In movement, and the Environmental Justice movement. The South has been frontlines in struggles against repression and racism for generations.

OUR MISSION

The Southern Vision Alliance (SVA) is a “grassroots intermediary” organized to provide infrastructure, capacity-building, coaching and technical assistance to groups and projects led by directly-impacted communities, with a special emphasis on youth-led and youth-centered programs.

SVA supports leadership development, organizing, and base-building programs with a pro-democracy agenda that work for social, racial, economic, gender, education, LGBTQ and environmental justice, in the US South.

WHAT WE DO

SVA Supports Directly-Impacted Communities



To Become Organized Movements Able to Effect Change



VISION & VALUE STATEMENT

These are the values that guide our work and our commitments to each other.



January 2017 • Raleigh • No Ban No Wall Protest. Source: Muslims for Social Justice

Our movement is part of historic struggles for justice, equity, and liberation that span generations.

We believe that current conditions are rooted in the legacies of colonialism, slavery, white supremacy, patriarchy, and capitalist exploitation.

We believe that there is no human dignity without access to food, shelter, health care, and education.

We prioritize our resources to support young people, build community organization, and aid trusted leaders of directly-impacted communities that are engaged in frontline struggles for justice, dignity, and change.

We believe in organization, we value group-centered leadership, and we apply the “Ella Baker School” of leadership development – that “strong people don’t need strong leaders.”

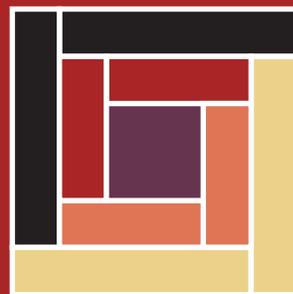
We believe in “Less Ego More Impact,” that the movement is larger than our individual organizations, personalities, or networks. We put the interests of the movement before any one organization, brand, or individual.

Because the issues facing our communities are deeply connected, we must build alliances in order to win.

We believe alliances are more powerful when they are multi-racial, multi-gendered, multi-national, and multi-generational. We build power from the grassroots up.

We believe communities have the right to self-determination and to defend themselves against racism and repression.

We embrace the slogan of the labor movement that “an injury to one is an injury to all!”



PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

Our principles of unity lay the foundation for building a strong, nimble, dynamic, and inclusive movement across communities, issues, identities, and geographies.

SOUTHERN VISION ALLIANCE MEMBERS ALIGN AROUND THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES OF UNITY



November 2014 • Vote Defenders monitor polls across NC and document cases of voter suppression



September 2016 • D'atra Jackson, Ignite NC, at protests during the Charlotte Uprising (left, front)



June 2013 • Raleigh • Ignite NC co-founder Bryan Perlmutter speaks at Moral Monday rally.

1. We are committed to organizing to transform the US South.
2. We will uplift the voices, demands, and solutions of working class communities, communities of color, immigrants, indigenous people, women, and youth, particularly queer and trans youth of color. We will work to alleviate barriers to power, equity, and resources.
3. We reject systems that dispose of people and create toxic environments. We will defend our right to a healthy environment in our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces. Within our organizations we will develop strategies for collective access, stewardship, and community care. We will work to create spaces that are accessible in terms of language, income, physical ability, child/family-friendly, etc.
4. We will practice intersectionality, solidarity, and respect community self-determination.
 - a. We will support strategies developed by directly impacted communities.
 - b. Solidarity is a verb. We will come when called and will work to build authentic relationships of trust and mutual respect with each other.
5. We pledge to build principled united fronts.
 - a. We will build meaningful alliances that embrace different strategies and diversities of tactics.
 - b. We will respect principled differences, keep debates and criticisms internal to the movement, and avoid public or media denunciations of fellow activists and organizers.
 - c. At the same time, we will create spaces for transformation, critical feedback, evaluation, and embrace mistakes in order to grow and evolve.
6. We reject the right of the state to decide what is, and what is not, legitimate protest.
7. We oppose state repression of dissent, including surveillance, infiltration, disruption, and violence. We pledge not to assist law enforcement actions against activists or marginalized communities.

DEVELOPING YOUNG LEADERS

SVA core programs provide deep leadership development. They are meant to create meaningful entry points to the movement for young people ages 13-30.

The Youth Organizing Institute (YOI)

is a popular education program aimed at developing the leadership of young activists. In 2016, the Youth Organizing Institute (YOI) hosted Freedom Schools in Raleigh and Durham. 2016 was also the inaugural year of YOI's Chapel Hill Freedom School. YOI's director Loan Tran reflected on the past year noting, "the ability to be where the struggle is has been tremendous."

In February 2016, YOI supported three Black girls at the School of Creative Studies who faced disciplinary action for wearing head wraps on the first day of Black History Month, anchored a petition that gathered several hundred signatures, and garnered national media attention.

In partnership with the Durham Association of Educators and Organize 2020, YOI joined the fight to demand the release of Wildin Acosta, a Riverside High School student who was detained by immigration enforcement on his way to school. Wildin's release in August 2016 was a huge victory, shedding light on the power that rapid response and coordination can have in the community.

Formed in 2010 • Founding SVA Program



ASSATA GOFF, YOI FREEDOM SCHOOL GRADUATE

"I wanted to go to The Youth Organizing Institute for many reasons. I wanted to learn how to organize my community, how to effectively talk about the oppressions that we all face and to learn about the history of organizing. Little did I know YOI would become so much more than that; it would open the doors that allowed me to see the bigger picture. I would create real friendships with people who would support you and check you when you needed it. I learned so much in the span of a couple weeks we have cried their tears and all the things I learned will continue to help me through my life.

I became more in touch with who I am in this world and who I want to become. I realized that more black women need to be involved in these conversations. It is so important for black women to speak up about the struggles that we face and stand in solidarity with countless others. We each have a unique voice that needs to be heard. Sometimes it's hard when people say, "your struggles and your opinions don't matter" – that they're not important. There are people who will support you, people who will help you. Sometimes our fear is what holds us back, we have to speak up because everyone's voice is needed."

"The ability to be where the struggle is has been tremendous."

- Loan Tran,
Director of YOI





September 2016 • Ignite NC's Fall 2016 cohort of fellows at a three-day training retreat.

IGNITENC

Ignite NC is a social justice and organizing fellowship program for college-age youth run by young people of color. Ignite NC believes in young people's capacity to lead movements for social change. From voting rights to LGBT equality, Ignite NC is dedicated to defending the gains made by previous generations and building a more just future.

In 2016, Ignite NC provided stipends to 90 youth fellows on 17 campuses and in 4 communities. The organization increased millennial voter turnout using creative media, organizing marches to the polls, and advocating for precincts on or near college campuses

at County Board of Election meetings. Ignite NC's "Vote Defenders" program trained and deployed over 300 young people who gathered data that supported successful legal challenges to North Carolina's monster voting law.

Ignite NC hosted Black University, in October 2016, a convening that brought together 75 students from 9 different HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities). In January 2017, Ignite NC welcomed its new co-directors, Holden Cession and D'atra "Dee Dee" Jackson.

Formed in 2013 • Founding SVA Program



September 2016 • Ignite NC hosts first ever "Black University" convening.



October 2014 • NC Vote Defenders monitor precincts for voter suppression across North Carolina.



BREE NEWSOME, PROGRAM STAFF TO MEMBER-LEADER

Bree Newsome was arrested at the Moral Monday protests in 2013. Through those protests she connected with other young people who sought more space for youth leadership in North Carolina. In spring 2014, Bree joined Vote Defenders, a project of Ignite NC, whose work was critical in proving North Carolina’s voting suppression law unconstitutional. Bree became Ignite NC’s first western field organizer in the fall of 2014.

In June 2015, Bree gained national

attention after she climbed the South Carolina state house’s flagpole and removed the confederate flag. That year, Bree co-founded Tribe in Charlotte, a grassroots organization dedicated to the self determination of marginalized communities. The Tribe wanted to grow organically with their community and decided not to form a 501(c)(3). “[W]e still need to fund the work” she says, “that’s where an intermediary like SVA comes in, helping us share knowledge and access resources.”

MEMBER PROFILES

SVA members are base-building groups and organizing projects led by directly impacted communities.



The Tribe is a Black-led organization that challenges racism, inequality, and repression in Charlotte, NC. The Tribe builds coalitions with local community groups, including: Charlotte Uprising, Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice, SAFE Coalition, the NAACP, and Males Place. In 2016, the Tribe mobilized in response to the deaths of Keith Lamont Scott and Justin Carr. Several members of Tribe’s core leadership made appearances in the media, drawing national attention to Charlotte Uprising and uplifting the voices of those on the frontlines. *Formed in 2015 • Joined SVA in 2016*



February 2015 • Raleigh, NC
MSJ contingent at the Moral March/HKonJ

Muslims for Social Justice (MSJ) was founded in response to increased attacks on Muslim communities

in North Carolina. MSJ organizes Muslim communities on a broad range of issues including immigrant rights and racial equity.

In 2016, MSJ spoke out against HB2 and stood in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement. In response to the post-election KKK rally held in Pelham, NC, MSJ, in partnership with the Triangle Unity May Day Coalition, organized an anti-KKK rally in Raleigh with over 2,000 people in attendance.

In July 2016, members of MSJ attended the NC Public Workers Union Convention. MSJ’s Manzoor Cheema spoke highlighting the importance of solidarity: “As Muslims for Social Justice, we are committed to linking the movement against Islamophobia with Black Liberation and the worker rights movement,” he said. “We do not take the issue of solidarity lightly. Solidarity is beyond sentimentality... joining the broader workers and progressive movement is essential to topple the oppressive balance of power.”

Formed in 2013 • Joined SVA in 2015

The Community Alliance for Public Education brings students, educators, and parents together to advocate for education justice across North Carolina.

In 2016, CAPE joined the #SchoolsVoteTogether campaign, working to increase voter turnout among educators through a photo-sharing campaign where educators shared their motivation for voting. CAPE also collaborated with the Durham Association of Educators to organize an early vote rally where 42 of 55 Durham Public Schools were represented.

Formed in 2015 • Joined SVA in 2015



May 2016 • Educators and parents march more than 20 miles to the NC legislature to advocate for funding for public education



The Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia (MERI) works to educate social justice, education, and nonprofit organizations about Islamophobia. MERI builds community throughout the Triangle and works with organizations, including: Jewish Voice for Peace, Black Workers for Justice, and Triangle Showing Up for Racial Justice. In 2016, MERI hosted over forty events, trainings, and workshops. In October 2016, MERI organized a protest in Chapel Hill after Diana West, an Islamophobic author, was invited to give a lecture. Throughout 2016 and 2017, MERI hosted letter writing events where members wrote letters-to-the editor and op-eds aimed at challenging Islamophobic narratives.

Formed in 2015 • Joined SVA in 2015

TransPride – Through their annual TransPride event in Greensboro and community events throughout the year, TransPride builds community among Trans and gender nonconforming people across North Carolina.

2016 was TransPride’s third NC Trans Pride in Action, with the theme of “centering our past, present, and the trans futures we want to create together.” The annual three-day event includes workshops, self-care spaces, and community building. TransPride in Action concludes with a talent showcase, featuring trans* and GNC artists, poets, and musicians.

In addition to organizing TransPride in Action, members of TransPride have been present on their campus and non-campus communities, advocating for Black Lives Matter, against the Dakota Access Pipeline, and on the ground in Charlotte throughout the uprising.

Formed in 2014 • Joined SVA in 2016

“Centering our past, present, and the trans futures we want to create together,”

- TransPride Goal



The Education Justice Alliance (EJA)

works to disrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline and the racist policies that contribute to school push out in Wake County, NC.

In 2014, EJA filed a complaint with the Department of Justice regarding the Wake County Public School System’s racist disciplinary practices. In March 2016, representatives from the Department of Justice came to Raleigh. EJA and the Youth Organizing Institute co-hosted a community forum where community members spoke about their experiences in Wake County public schools.

Formed in 2012 • Joined SVA in 2014

Left: A 2014 strategy meeting with members of EJA and YOI.

Trans Queer People of Color Collective (TQPOCC)

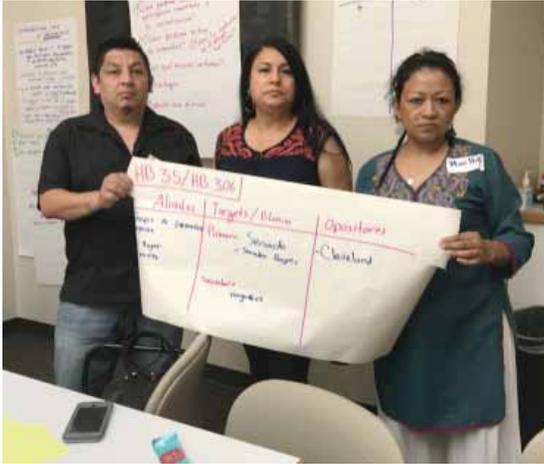
Charlotte is a collective of trans and queer people of color that mobilize around issues that directly impact their communities.

Members of TQPOCC stood on the frontlines of the Charlotte Uprising and continue to organize around police violence and anti-LGBTQ hate crimes. In particular, the collective works to call attention to murder of trans women of color. TQPOCC also hosts community building events, including: writing holiday cards for incarcerated people, legal observer trainings, and queer history teach-ins, focusing on building community and developing the leadership of collective and community members.

Formed in 2016 • Joined SVA in 2016

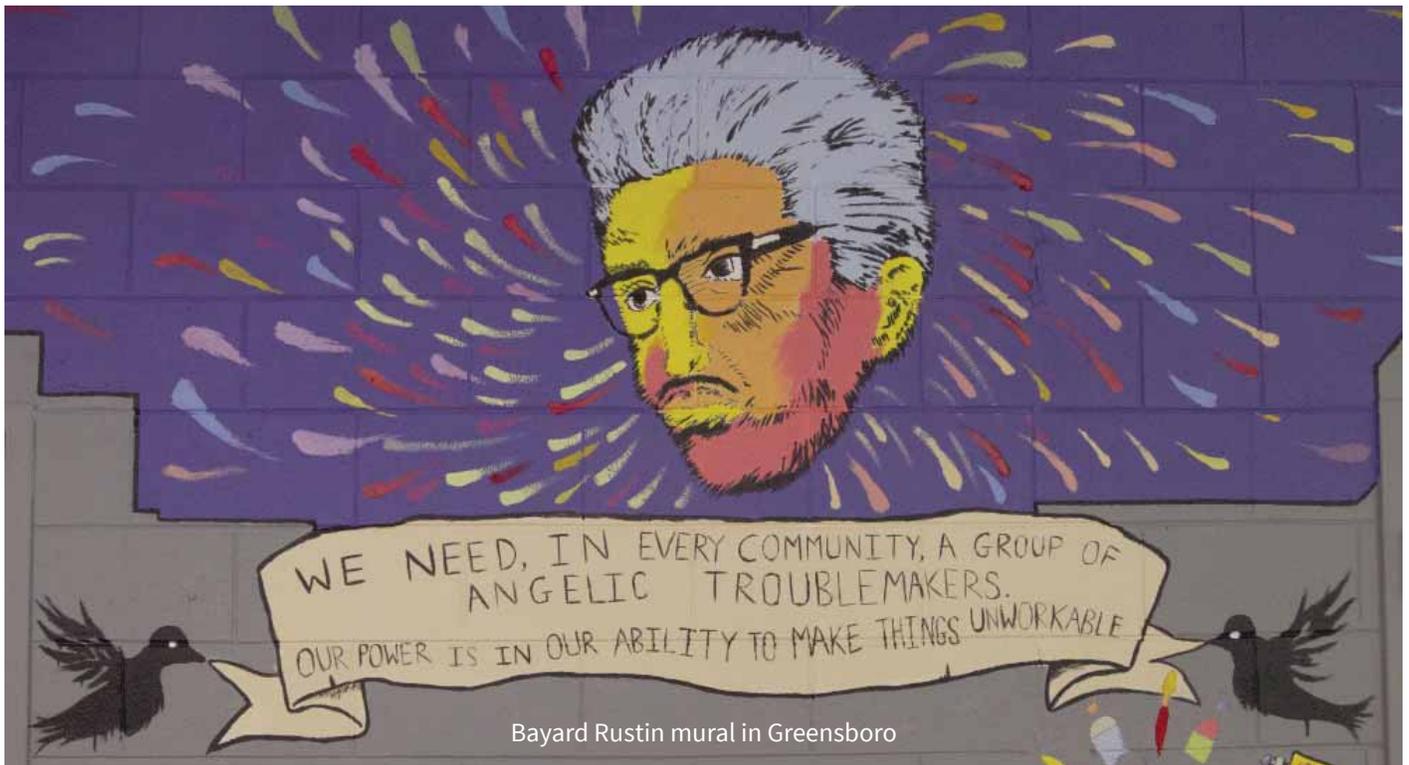


March 2016 • Charlotte, NC • TQPOCC-Charlotte supports resistance to HB2.



Comité de Acción Popular is an immigrant justice organization based in Raleigh, NC dedicated to combating xenophobia and racism. Comité's members (some shown at left) have organized lobby days at the North Carolina General Assembly, worked to halt deportations and stood in solidarity with workers and other marginalized groups. When asked what motivated her to attend the Hanukkah Action Against Islamophobia, Comité co-founder Martha Hernandez said, "Necesitamos apoyarnos porque sabemos que la supremacía, el odio está amenazando todas nuestras comunidades. // We have to support each other because we know that racism, supremacist beliefs and hate are threatening all of our communities."

Formed in 2017 • Joined SVA in 2017



Bayard Rustin mural in Greensboro



The **Greensboro Mural Project** paints murals through a collective process that allows for community building and creativity.

In 2016, the Project made two murals, both in collaboration with young people. They worked with the youth group at the New Garden Friends Meeting to create a mural honoring civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, a gay Black Quaker. In the Spring of 2016, the Project painted a mural at the Irving Park Elementary School. Lead artist, Korinna Sergent, worked with



Irving Park students to make a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and outer space themed mural.

Formed in 2011 • Joined SVA in 2016

FROM THE VAULT: FORMER SVA PROJECTS

The Southern Vision Alliance supports experiments with new models in organizing. From 2014-2015, the young people who led Queer Youth Power Coalition and NC Student Power Union made a big splash. SVA is grateful to have been a part of their journeys. These organizations are no longer active, but their leaders transitioned into exciting new projects and work.



Inspired by global student movements and local freedom struggles, the **NC Student Power Union (NCSPU)** worked to combat the ongoing assault on public education. The NCSPU organized in response to tuition hikes and budget cuts, the systematic privatization of public schools, the constant attacks on teachers and workers, the denial of an education for undocumented students, and the attempts to re-segregate Wake County schools.

Using social media and creative actions, NCSPU challenged the Board of Governors' attempt to close nine centers at UNC, including: the Stone Center for Black Culture, the Carolina Women's Center and the UNC Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity.



Above: Summer 2014 • NC SPU statewide coordinator, D'atra Jackson joins delegation to Edmund Pettus Bridge to mark the 50th Anniversary of Freedom Summer. Below: 2012 • UNC system students march on the Board of Governors to oppose tuition hikes and budget cuts.



The Queer Youth Power Coalition was a partnership between three youth-led LGBTQ organizations: the Youth Organizing Institute (YOI), QORDS (Queer Oriented Rap-Rock Day School), and iNSIDEoUT/ UPSIDEDOWN. In 2013 and 2014, NCQYPC organized “Queernival: A Southern Celebration of Queer Youth Liberation” and a queer youth poetry slam. NCQYPC worked to build community and power among LGBTQ youth in North Carolina.

SHORT-TERM FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

SVA provides short-term fiscal sponsorship for one-time events, planning processes, and short-term organizing campaigns. Projects or groups seeking short-term sponsorships should read through our Vision and Values and Principles of Unity.



“[Participatory budgeting] completely transformed how residents of Greensboro engage with the city money and budget.” - Alyzza May, Member

Greensboro Participatory Budgeting

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a direct democratic process where residents can vote on how to spend a portion of a government’s budget. Participatory budgeting is part of a larger movement to involve marginalized communities in the governing process.

Here is the PB process:

- Residents submit an idea for a PB project,
- Community members work with public officials to develop a project proposal,
- The city votes on the proposal, and
- The project is implemented.

Greensboro was the first city to implement participatory budgeting in the South. Member, Alyzza May, has worked to bring PB to Greensboro for years: “[PB]” they said, “completely transformed how residents of Greensboro engage with the city money and budget.”* In the age of voter suppression, the work of Greensboro Participatory Budgeting is more important than ever. *Via an interview with Truth Out.

Charlotte Uprising

On September 20, 2016, Keith Lamont Scott, a father of seven, was killed by the Charlotte Police. Dedicated to combating police violence, the Charlotte Uprising was an alliance of dozens of activist organizations that demanded justice for Keith Scott through direct action and community mobilizations. When 26 year-old Justin Carr was shot by CMPD during the course of the protests, activists used social media and traditional news outlets to call attention to his death and continued violence against protesters. Charlotte Freedom Fighters continue to demand justice for Rayquan Borum, a 21 year-old freedom fighter who has been criminalized for his involvement in the Charlotte Uprising.



September 2016 • Thousands mobilize to demand justice for Keith Scott, a black man murdered by the CMPD.

#DurhamBeyondPolicing (DBP) is a grassroots campaign that grew out of a collaboration between Southerners on New Ground (SONG), the Black Youth Project 100, and the Durham City Worker's Union, UE 150. DBP's demand is simple: divest from the police and invest in black and brown communities. In 2016, the Durham Police Department announced plans to build a multi-million dollar police headquarters in east Durham, one of the poorest areas of the city. #DurhamBeyondPolicing canvassed in East Durham and asked residents how the city should use \$71 million dollars. People wanted more affordable housing, programs for youth and jobs training, NOT more police.

#DurhamBeyondPolicing has organized around city council meetings, urging the city to halt construction on a new police station. In her address to city council, DBP organizer Chanelle Croxton asked city council to, "Please consider what real safety looks like beyond policing in Durham."



March 2016: Durham Beyond Policing supports local activists protesting construction of new \$71 million police headquarters, photo by Elainiel Baldwin

MINI-GRANT FUNDS

SVA is committed to resourcing innovative, bold grassroots efforts led by directly impacted communities across the U.S. South. SVA's mini-grants program helps groups scale-up efforts, identify best practices, and deepen a diverse blend of leaders.

The current political climate demands that our movements be nimble, strategic and visionary. SVA mini-grants respond to urgent needs. We prioritize community-centered funding proposals from youth, working class leaders, people of color, queer and trans activists, and groups that are not traditionally funded.

14 Days
Average Turnaround Time for a Grant Decision

\$736
Average Grant Size

\$3,000
Largest Grant Awarded

Over
\$25,000
in Total Grants Awarded

34
Projects Funded



#WeAreThis Queer Mobilization Fund

SVA created a rapid response fund in the aftermath of the passage of HB2, the transphobic, anti-worker “bathroom bill.” The QMF decision-making team was made up of three young queer and trans activists of color from Charlotte, Greensboro, and Durham. They supported grassroots initiatives led by queer youth and queer people of color to resist and repeal the bill.

Millennial Voter Engagement Fund

The MVF was a program of the NC Millennial Voter Partnership. It provided resources to young people working on youth enfranchisement across North Carolina. The Partnership included Ignite NC, Common Cause NC, Democracy NC, and the NC PIRG Education Fund.

In 2016, MVF supported over 25 youth-led projects, including several “March to the Polls” events, innovative media projects, and student-led teach-ins to engage their peers. MVF also supported the Black Student Association at Appalachian State University to mobilize students to raise their issues at the NC Board of Governors’ meeting.

Building Organizations and Leaders

- ➔ Provided seed money or first grant to **4 emerging organizations**
- ➔ Supported **18 different trainings** that engaged more than **350 leaders**
- ➔ Invested in **9 youth leaders** to attend skill-based trainings in **4 different states**

Maximizing Campaigns

- ➔ Generated over **100 news stories** - including several national outlets
- ➔ Supported **8 rallies** in response to HB2 - engaging **over 4,200 people**
- ➔ Engaged **over 10,000 people** through community education events
- ➔ Helped over **900 Millennials to vote** through supporting shuttles or marches to the polls

Expanding Ideas and Building Solidarity

- ➔ Supported **4 identity-based convenings**
- ➔ Sent **3 delegations** to resistance movements across the country
- ➔ Supported **multi-racial statewide** strategic planning meeting with youth organizers



From 2013-2016 Ignite NC’s Vote Defender program trained over 300 young people to be state-wide “boots-on-the-ground” precinct monitors to document incidents of voter suppression, particularly around campuses.

BY THE NUMBERS: OUR IMPACT IN 2016

2000 petition signatures gathered to free Wildin Acosta from immigration detention



20 mini-grants awarded by the #WeAreThis Queer Mobilization Fund

300+ Ignite NC vote protectors who gathered crucial data that was used to prove North Carolina's voting law unconstitutional



75 students attended Black University convening from 9 different HBCU campuses



3 solidarity delegations traveled to Standing Rock



3 Freedom Schools in Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh



2 murals painted in Greensboro

119 youth leaders paid



1 anti-KKK rally in Raleigh with over 2,000 in attendance

145,000 Millennials contacted to get out the vote



949 individual donors

OUR DONORS

SVA and its member organizations appreciate all the support we receive from our community. The following donors gave \$100 or more to SVA or one of its member organizations.

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“The Southern Vision Alliance’s commitment to developing transformative youth leadership in North Carolina is second to none, while their support for frontline resistance in communities of struggle is never more timely or critical than in our current moment.”

– Theo Luebke, Durham, NC

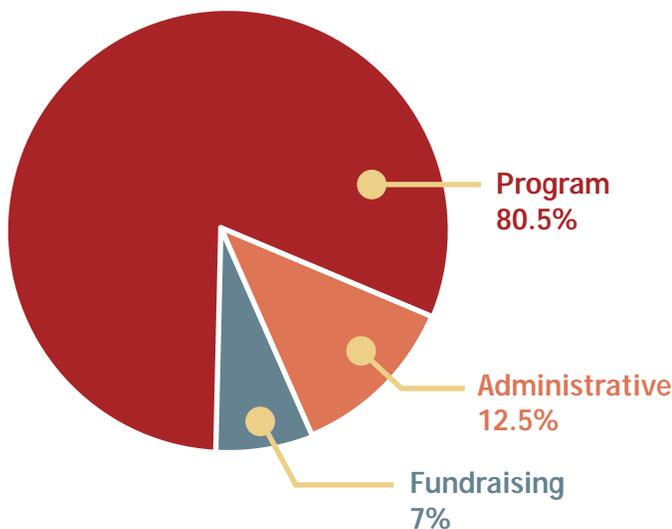
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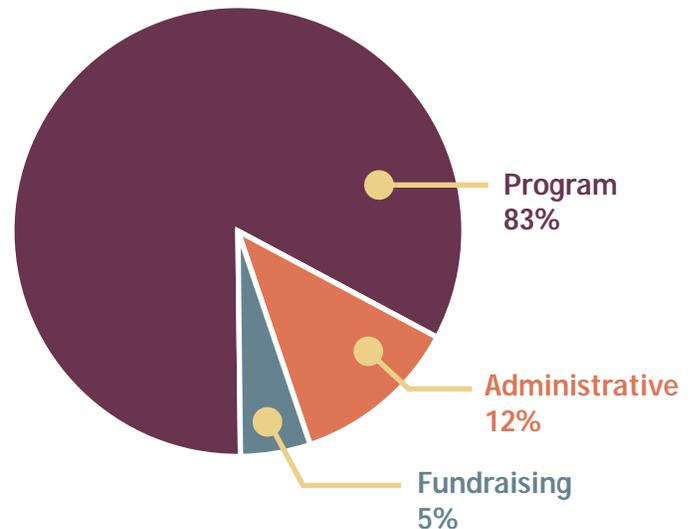
2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue Total: \$348,579



2016 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue Total: \$858,962





**SOUTHERN
VISION
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Learn more today at
southernvision.org