



solidaire

10
year

STRATEGY



INTRODUCTION

Solidaire Network is united by our vision of an equitable society deeply rooted in solidarity, individual freedom, and an ethos of community care. We are working for a future where we live in harmony with Mother Earth, every human being is valued and where we uphold the sovereignty and cultural rights of Indigenous Peoples. When we use the terms ‘left’ or ‘progressive,’ this is the vision we are fighting for. We firmly believe in the transformative power of social movements to create a world where every individual is given the resources and opportunity to flourish. We know that to achieve this reality for us all, we must center those most affected by the destructive forces of settler colonialism, racial capitalism and white Christian nationalism. Our approach is unabashed in its focus on Black and Indigenous communities, along with grassroots organizers working in underfunded regions and emerging areas of work, particularly rural, LGBTQ+ and communities impacted by carceral systems. We hold steadfast in our belief that the most innovative solutions are borne from those with a legacy of resistance, and that they will uplift us all. We invest in the brilliance, creativity and experimentation of communities to replace our current extractive systems with innovative, regenerative systems rooted in love.

Project2050 recently concluded that the social movement left in the United States is weak, fragmented, and, as yet, unable to shape public policy in the interest of poor and working people.^{1,2} Still, leftist ideas and policy proposals have entered into the mainstream, and in 2020, grassroots organizers and movement groups helped win elections against all odds, as racial justice movements engaged and activated new people and forced issues of anti-Black racism and structural racism onto the national stage.³ Young leaders have stepped forward and are actively working on intersectional issues, including climate justice, racial justice and gender justice.

1 Between 2020 and 2022, Solidaire Action proudly hosted Linda Burnham as their Movement Elder in Residence. In this role, Linda led Project2050. Launched in the fall of 2020, [Project2050](#) sought to stimulate strategic thinking and greater alignment on the U.S. left. This report was completed in July 2022 and offers frameworks for discussion and debate about the strengths and weaknesses of the left and the identification of political goals that might be achievable over the next 25-30 years. The report is offered in the hopes that it will contribute to opening up the kinds of conversations that lead to greater political clarity and unity among diverse left forces. It has already had an immense impact on Solidaire’s own strategic direction processes.

2 We define “left” as base building organizers and activists grounded in an analysis of the impact of settler colonialism, white supremacy, cisheteropatriarchy and capitalism, who seek to transform social injustices into ecological, political and cultural transformation.

3 Solidaire Action proudly funded [Power Concedes Nothing: How Grassroots Organizing Wins Elections](#), edited by Linda Burnham, Max Elbaum and Maria Poblet and published by OR Books in 2022. This book tells the stories behind a victory that won both the White House and the U.S. Senate and powered progressive candidates to new levels of influence. It describes the on-the-ground efforts that mobilized a record-breaking turnout by registering new voters and motivating an electorate both old and new. In so doing, the book charts a viable path to victory for the vital contests coming in 2024.



Solidaire has shifted power dynamics, dismantled walls and role-modeled mutuality between donors and grantees.

Donor formations like Solidaire have been more effective at unleashing new financial resources and offering unprecedented solidarity to flank these critical intersectional social movements. The recently completed learning and evaluation study of Solidaire’s impact since 2019 asserted that Solidaire has shifted power dynamics, dismantled walls and role-modeled mutuality between donors and grantees.⁴

Movement organizations perceive Solidaire as a trusted and supportive partner that “walks its talk” and is accessible, communicative, committed to its mission and values and steeped in love and justice. Solidaire is also credited with transforming and inspiring our members through high-quality political education programs, peer-to-peer storytelling and concrete tools to inform their financial plans and actions.

Born out of a need to fight against corporate greed and economic, climate, gender and racial injustice, Solidaire Network is a community of resource organizers who mobilize quickly to get critical funding to and enact solidarity with the frontlines of social justice movements. Since our inception in 2013, we have attempted to transcend the limitations of traditional philanthropy in pursuit of a more radical vision of accompanying and fortifying social movements. This work is far from done.⁵ Philanthropy overall remains weak at serving social movements and community organizing relative to the scale of impact needed to build a multiracial and multicultural democracy.

Solidaire Network aims to accompany grassroots processes to build lasting left power in the United States. Our sister arm, [Solidaire Action](#), accompanies grassroots processes to build an organizationally coherent, strategically grounded left capable of governing and influencing local, regional and state policies. This paper articulates Solidaire’s ten-year strategy based on lessons learned from the sources cited above. It seeks to answer the question posed in the recent evaluation:

Toward what end and how are we moving unprecedented resources?

⁴ Solidaire Network, [Looking Back, Moving Forward: Learning and Reflections Report](#), 2022.

⁵ Dawn Wolfe, [“It’s Not Just About Moving Money”: How Solidaire Is Challenging Wealth, Power and Privilege,](#) *Inside Philanthropy*, October 26, 2022.



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OUTCOMES

Between 2023 and 2033, Solidaire Network will aim to increase left influence, build on our existing work and engage with members, movement partners and strategic collaborators by:

- **Strengthening movement capacity to fight and win against authoritarianism** by increasing movement organizations' ability to mitigate security threats posed by a fascist, white Christian nationalist and anti-democratic right.
- Strengthening the capacity of movement organizations to **absorb and develop mass numbers of people** spurred into action by recent mobilizations for racial justice.
- **Expanding voting rights and the electorate of poor people and communities of color** by mobilizing new and unengaged voters at the grassroots, increasing access to the polls and enfranchising individuals excluded from voting.
- Supporting a **higher level of alignment and cooperation among organizations and social movements** that work intersectionally for racial, gender, economic and climate justice.
- Influencing philanthropic stakeholders and **shifting philanthropic practices** such that movement organizations are less reliant on the 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) structures and the directives of the wealthy.
- Resourcing experiments that **redistribute wealth toward community-led and community-governed efforts** and reduce the overconcentration of wealth.

LIBERATE WEALTH FOR MOVEMENTS TO WIN



**ALIGN
MOVEMENTS
ORGANIZING
INTERSECTIONALLY**

**FREE
PHILANTHROPY
FROM THE
STRUCTURES &
DIRECTIVES OF
THE WEALTHY**

**RESOURCE
COMMUNITY-LED
& GOVERNED
EXPERIMENTS**

**PROTECT
ORGANIZERS &
BUILD CAPACITY
TO ORGANIZE
MASSES
SUSTAINABLY**

**ACCOMPANY
SOCIAL
MOVEMENTS
BUILDING LONG-
TERM SOLUTIONS
AT SCALE**

ORGANIZE MEMBERS

PRIORITY 1: Organize and strengthen a movement-aligned base of donor members resourcing power building

STRATEGY 1A: DEEPEN POLITICAL EDUCATION, ORGANIZING SKILL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE APPLICATION OF THOSE SKILLS IN COLLABORATION AND CONNECTION WITH MOVEMENTS.

- **Strengthen political and practical baselines** of what it means to be a member of Solidaire through clarity of expectations, roles, responsibilities in the context of their roles in philanthropy and left movements.
- **Deepen member capacity to hold each other accountable** to these strengthened baselines of Solidaire membership.
- **Create opportunities for members to share effective practices** in family systems, organizational change and more to inspire their peers.
- **Support members in creating intentional, value-aligned giving plans** that allow room for emergent movement funding opportunities while also making multi-year commitments to movements.
- **Build Solidaire members' understanding of racialized capital and white Christian nationalism** and how these impact the financial and wealth building tools at their disposal.
- **Grow our membership with joy, depth, creativity and integrity** without sacrificing a sense of belonging, community and political home.

ORGANIZE MEMBERS

STRATEGY 1B: UNLEASH DONOR AND INVESTOR PROTAGONISM IN MOVEMENT BUILDING.

- **Grow member understanding** of how movements are built and evolve over time.
- Help members to grow from offering occasional short-term solutions to **stepping into the role of essential and just protagonists** in base building and movement building.
- **Strengthen Solidaire's regional hubs** to increase members' regional connections, including with grassroots organizations.
- **Support members in aligning personal wealth and assets toward greater liberatory community investment** and divesting from publicly traded companies that systematically extract from and harm vulnerable communities.



STRATEGY 1C: LEAD PHILANTHROPY TO INVEST IN LONG-TERM STRUCTURAL CHANGE

- **Support individual and institutional members' capacity to organize others in philanthropy** toward a unified vision and coherent strategies for long-term structural change.
- **Coordinate with existing campaigns to increase taxes on the wealthy** to support community wellbeing and reduce dependence on private philanthropy.
- **Organize family foundation trustees toward anti-racist practices** and internal transformation of philanthropic institutions.
- **Engage in campaigns to expose the hypocrisy of wealth hoarding** and exploitation inherent in the behaviors of asset managers, estate attorneys and family wealth offices.
- **Unite disparate forces in philanthropy to expose and disrupt** capital streams toward white Christian nationalist movements and false solutions.
- **Demonstrate liberatory ways of working through Solidaire's internal practices**; invest in ongoing learning, evaluation, reflection and iteration capacity within the team.



PRIORITY 2: Accompany movements as they contest for power

STRATEGY 2A: FUND AND INVEST IN EXPERIMENTATION, PROTECTION, IMAGINATION AND TRANSFORMATION TO BUILD A PLURALISTIC, MULTIRACIAL FUTURE.

- **Make bolder multi-year, unrestricted, general operating funding and integrated capital commitments** for Indigenous sovereignty and Black liberation.
- **Resource safety, wellness, healing and resilience needs** of grassroots organizers and movement builders.
- **Fund movement-led self-determination and sovereignty efforts**, including work focused on protecting bodily integrity and autonomy.
- **Invest in protecting the vote and the rights to protest and dissent** by funding impact litigation and legal support for Solidaire grantees and/or their members when they are plaintiffs or otherwise impacted.
- **Invest in accountability for elected officials**, through co-governance strategies and leadership development.
- **Bolster funding to subregional movement-led vehicles**, especially in the South and the Midwest to the intersection of climate, gender and racial justice.

ACCOMPANY MOVEMENTS AS THEY CONTEST FOR POWER



**FUND A PLURALISTIC,
MULTIRACIAL AND
MULTICULTURAL FUTURE BY TRUSTING MOVEMENTS**

**PARTICIPATE IN MOVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE
TO ALIGN AND COORDINATE THE LEFT**

STRATEGY 2B: FUND, INVEST IN AND PARTICIPATE IN MOVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS AND COORDINATION WITHIN THE LEFT.

- **Fund learning exchanges that build movement capacity** to engage in principled struggle and transformative conflict resolution.
- **Invest in and amplify the leadership of movement elders** so that their insights, guidance and cautions strengthen the left.
- **Increase intergenerational learning from Global Southern movements** that have successfully defeated authoritarianism.
- **Invest in movement capacity to communicate messages to mass audiences** in ways that expose fascism, resonate with lived experiences, increase confidence in movements and inspire coordinated, strategic action.
- **Invest in organizing infrastructure** that challenges unjust systems and builds interdependence and solidarity.



CONCLUSION

We believe that it is possible in a ten-year time frame to build new left power and influence in the United States that can have outsized impact on national and international scales. We embark on this strategic direction with internal rigor and the capacity to learn, innovate, grow and transform. We know that we have a strategic lane to occupy as a donor network, and that through this work, we can not only fundamentally transform philanthropic practices, but impact the flow of resources for a generation.

We are working on bolstering internal infrastructure and strengthening a rigorous and loving internal culture so that we may do this work in sustainable ways for a long time to come. We seek to do all our work with a movement building approach, in which we see ourselves as one force among many in a long liberatory struggle and we work in deep collaboration and accountability with others to advance our collective goals.

Having a strategic, long-term view of the future, we do so much more than react to the here and now. Instead, we are invited into a long arc of possibilities that our actions in the present day make possible. We are invited to think and act toward a 50-year power building agenda commensurate with how our movement formations strategize at this time. We measure our effectiveness not only in short cycles but by how well we can align our actions with strategies that ultimately make it possible for all humans to live with dignity.



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