



***REIMAGINING PHILANTHROPY: Shifting Perspectives, Ceding Power, and Healing Communities***

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# About the Consumer Health Foundation

- Vision: Black people and people of the global majority live powerfully, abundantly and beautifully in healthy, self-determined communities free of social, economic and ideological violence
- Values: Truth-telling, authentic relationships, risk-taking, radical learning, centering communities, acknowledgement of the inconsistencies in philanthropy
- Strategies: Culture, Healing, Community Power, Institutions & Structures and Reparations & Economic Justice

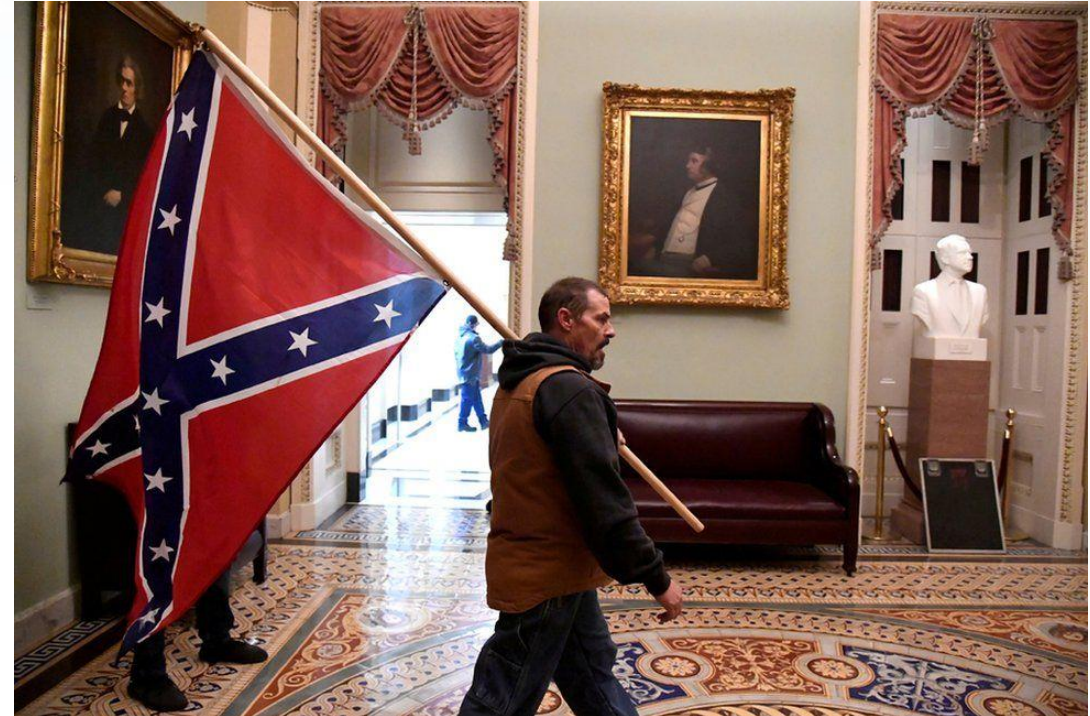


# SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES



# Shifting Perspectives

- COVID-19 pandemic and disproportionate rates of death in communities of color
- George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and a summer of racial justice protest and movement building
- Capitol insurrection by white supremacists



# CEDING POWER





# The Journey

- Conversion foundation with deep roots in equity
  - Group Health Association – an HMO founded in the 1930’s to provide healthcare in racially integrated settings
- History of community voice and engagement
  - Community speakouts in the 1990s pointed to racism and other social determinants of health
- Diverse board: race, gender and otherwise
  - However, very little socio-economic diversity
- Our current evolution asks:
  - What does it mean to be a community-centered foundation?

**2005**

- Second program-related investment is made with the Nonprofit Finance Fund.
- CHF staff views and discusses Name: The Power of an Illusion.

**2006**

- Foundation's investment Policy Statement is amended to formalize the Foundation's commitment to mission-consistent investing.
- Foundation partners with Metro Health AIDS and Woolly Mammoth Theatre to sponsor 500 youth of color to attend In the Continuum, a play about the impact of HIV/AIDS on African and African-American women.
- The Applied Research Center and the Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity receive a grant from CHF to conduct the Racial Justice Grantmaking Assessment pilot project.
- ANNUAL MEETING features Dr. Camara P. Jones, Research Director on the Social Determinants of Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention speaking about the impact of racism on health.

**2007**

- UNNATURAL CAUSES: A PRELUDE TO SICKNESS AND DEATH
- ANNUAL MEETING features preview of Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?, and keynote speaker Dr. Adewale Troutman, founder of the Lucille Markey Center for Health Equity.
- COMMUNITY HEALTH SINGAPOUTS are held across the region in which community members discuss how place, race and other social and economic factors affect health.
- ANNUAL MEETING features Dr. Camara P. Jones, Research Director on the Social Determinants of Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention speaking about the impact of racism on health.

**2008**

- ANNUAL MEETING features Sarah James in her one-woman play, A Right to Care.
- ANNUAL BOARD & STAFF RETREAT focuses on the connection between place and health.
- Board and staff engage in a facilitated discussion on the relationship between health, race and racism and how to evolve the Foundation's health disparities frame.
- CHF staff views and discusses Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?
- Strategic Plan and Logic Model are updated to include a focus on Health Justice.
- Worked with the Praxis Project to support grantees in examining racism in their work, communities, institutions, and organizations.

**2009**

- ANNUAL REPORT, Health Justice: A Conversation, is released.
- CATALYTIC CHANGE: Lessons learned from the Racial Justice Grantmaking Assessment is released.
- RUTTENBERG YOUTH HEALTH JUSTICE RETREAT gives teen advocates an opportunity to learn about the Social Determinants of Health Equity.
- Chief Joint Leadership Committee of the More for Mission Campaign, an initiative that seeks to engage more foundations in mission related investing. Foundation also opens an operating account with a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).
- Foundation's program staff attend two-day training from Structural Racism to Racial Equity: A Pathway to Social Change facilitated by OpenSource Leadership Strategies, Inc.
- Annual board and staff retreat focuses on youth-led organizing work.
- CHF partners with Grantmakers in Health to convene Changing the Conversation: Talking Social Determinants of Health Approach to Addressing HIV/AIDS Among Women of Color.
- New request for proposals, Advocacy for Health Care Access and Health Justice, is released. RFP requests applicants to submit racial diversity data for their boards, management staff and staff.

**2010**

- Foundation sponsors two community members to advance diversity, equity and inclusion within their organizations in partnership with OpenSource Leadership Strategies, Inc.
- CHF provides organizational development support to people of color led nonprofits through Equity Community Empowerment as a Path to Better Health program.
- ANNUAL MEETING features Dr. Tony Kim, Senior Vice President for the California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities Initiative, speaking about health, race, and place.
- Structural Racism and Racial Equity in Health trainings are provided to nonprofit partners facilitated by OpenSource Leadership Strategies.
- CHF co-leads briefing on Cleveland's community wealth building initiative, Greenprint Cooperatives, and stakeholders explore implications for the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. region.
- Annual board & staff retreat focuses on racial equity and includes an exercise called Consciousness, where relationships are built through developing and sharing cultural history charts. Consultants Bigette Rouson and Abigge Potapchuk facilitated the training.

**2011**

- ANNUAL REPORT is released. Building Equity Community Empowerment as a Path to Better Health
- NGO PROJECT LAUNCHES, www.ngoproject.org, and includes information about health care programs in multiple languages.
- TRAINING on communicating health and racial equity is provided to nonprofit partners facilitated by Society Media Studies Group.
- ANNUAL MEETING features Angela Glover Blackwell from PolicyLink speaking about Equity as a Superior Growth Model.

**2012**

- Co-assistance is offered to nonprofit partners to advance diversity, equity and inclusion within their organizations in partnership with OpenSource Leadership Strategies, Inc.
- Charting a Path Toward Health Equity article discusses evolution of the Foundation's work to address health equity in the DC metro region.
- CHF supports Black, Latino and Asian Youth Dialogues to advance cross-racial understanding and alliance building.

**Consumer Health Foundation Logic Model + Theory of Change**

We envision a region and nation in which everyone – regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status – has an equal opportunity to live a healthy and dignified life.



# Defining Community

A community member for the purpose of our transformation is a person of color who has recent (<5 years) lived experience and expertise with:

- Homelessness, housing instability, subsidized housing or renting from landlords who have created unsafe and unhealthy living conditions
- Low-wage work as an adult, including working for tips and experience with wage theft
- Unemployment for six months or more or working less hours than desired because an employer won't provide more than half-time hours



# Why Community-Centered Transformation?

“To make the world a better place, communities need to build power; funders need to share their power with these communities; and they both need to wield their power to influence relevant audiences and decision-makers.<sup>1</sup> Evolving the CHF into a community-centered foundation is ultimately about building, sharing and wielding power.”

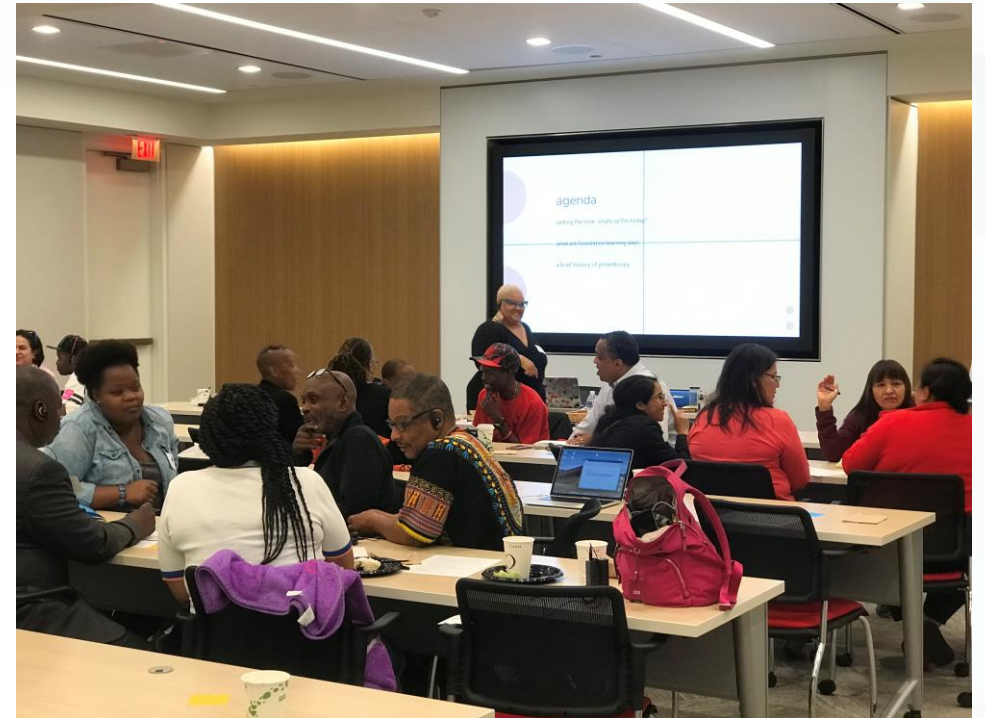
<sup>1</sup> Power Moves Toolkit, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy





# Community-Centered Transformation in Action

- Community leadership in governance
  - Popular education about philanthropy
  - Capacity building regarding grantmaking and other programs
  - Orientation to board and committee functions, IRS requirements, etc.
  - Cohort of four community members on the Board of Trustees
  - Compensation policy for these four community-based board members



# Community-Centered Transformation in Action

- Participatory grantmaking
  - Pilot program in 2019
  - One-third of grantmaking in 2020
  - Most of grantmaking in 2021
- Community engagement
  - Strategic planning and learning
  - Community fellows



# HEALING COMMUNITIES



# Healing Justice

- Heal Ourselves
  - Interrogate white supremacist culture
  - Organizational pause and summer weeks off
  - Tree of Life storytelling
  - Zone of genius
  - Staff wellness benefit
  - Breathwork
- Heal Our Communities
  - Digital Learning Labs
  - Healing justice grantmaking pilot
  - Healing retreat for people of color in philanthropy



**CHF HEALING JUSTICE**  
DIGITAL LEARNING LABS  
JULY 28 | AUGUST 4 | AUGUST 18 | SEPTEMBER 1  
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**July 28 & August 4**  
**RESILIENCE PRACTICES DURING COVID AND BEYOND (PART 1 & 2)**  
BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities have centuries-old traditions of healing and resilience. Now more than ever, we must revisit, reclaim and practice ways of caring for ourselves. Join this two-part online workshop on skills that community leaders and organizers can learn and practice as we fight for justice during the global pandemic. We will explore topics like how to maneuver to protect yourself, how to help the injured, how to manage chaos, how to make masks and sanitizer and how to respond to health crises.

**August 18**  
**MAPPING OUR LIVED REALITIES**  
We achieve justice by remembering. Sankofa, a word in the Twi language of Ghana, is our springboard. It means go back and get it. Join us as we engage in an online collective mapping and remembering of the conditions that shape our individual and collective lived realities in the Washington, DC area. We will go back and get the stories. We will grieve the losses. We will celebrate the ways in which we have resisted. We will then use this map to guide us toward a more just and equitable future.

**September 1**  
**SEEDS OF RESISTANCE**  
They tried to bury us. They didn't know we were seeds. This hands-on workshop will use houseplants and balcony herbs (mailed in advance to all participants) to explore the topic seeds of resistance. We will connect with and reclaim the land. We will learn how to cultivate plants and herbs as resistance. Gardening decreases stress levels, improves mental health and memory, and increases creativity. Herbs and herbal tinctures have healing effects both physically and mentally. Mother Earth, we ask you to heal us as we strive for justice.



# ECONOMIC JUSTICE





# Racial Capitalism





# Universal Basic Income

## Definition

- a) It provides a sufficiently generous cash benefit to live on, without other earnings;
- b) it does not phase out or phases out only slowly as earnings rise; and
- c) it is available to a large proportion of the population, rather than being targeted to a particular subset of the population.

*Definition from 2019 National Bureau of Economic Research paper: Universal Basic Income In The US and Advanced Countries*



# Universal Basic Income

## Pilot Project

- Hospitality worker involvement in CHF's popular education
- Double-bottom line investment
  - Impact investing that generates both a social and financial return
  - Re-route financial return into UBI project for hospitality workers
- Evaluation
- Advocacy



# RISE WITH US

To learn more about our work on **R**eparations, **I**nstitutions and **S**tructures, and **E**conomic Justice, contact:

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