

THE CARMACK COLLECTIVE

 2023 Annual Report

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Letter from the Director

It's hard to believe it's been a year since we officially launched The Carmack Collective! It's been an exciting year full of learning, experimentation, **\$750,000** in grantmaking, and developing or deepening relationships with incredible people that I feel so lucky to work alongside. Throughout this first year, one of our key priorities has been to explore how we can best be of service to the climate justice movement. In order to facilitate that goal, we did a few things – (1) we launched with a broad and flexible strategy, (2) we held an open application call for our Exploratory Grants, which allowed us to get to know over 500 applicants across the movement ecosystem, and (3) we leaned into feedback from our grantees and advisory board.

Now, looking back on our first year of grantmaking, analyzing what went well and where we can have the most value add, we feel ready to evolve in two key ways – first, to increase our annual grantmaking budget to \$1,000,000 and second, to strategically narrow our mission. We, of course, remain a progressive funder committed to global climate justice. To advance that mission, we will be laser focused on combating and dismantling the fossil fuel industry. We will continue to fund within our key tactical pillars of movement building and culture change. Philanthropic agitation will no longer be a funding pillar, as we think it more appropriately describes an overarching aspect of our identity – driving the way we think about what, how, and why climate movements are funded. As you read on in this report, we provide a fuller breakdown of our evolved mission and strategy, but here I'd like to provide a bit more context on our thinking.

To begin, it's abundantly clear to us that we are in a climate emergency, yet we also know that we have the solutions we need to build a more just and equitable green world – for example, renewable energy is currently cheaper than fossil fuels. What is stopping us? The answer is, unfortunately, the deeply entrenched and powerful fossil fuel industry, which is desperate to continue profiting from the destruction of our planet and its people. Removing this obstacle is urgent; we must stop burning fossil fuels. Luckily, there are existing and emergent movements around the world fighting back against the fossil fuel industry in the legislature, in the courts, at the bank, and in the public's opinion. However, many (if not most) of these organizations are wildly underfunded. By backing frontline agents of change in taking on one of our world's most powerful and toxic industries, we will work to create the potential for a climate just future.

To conclude, I'll say that this renewed focus on the fossil fuel industry feels very true to my roots in the climate movement. As some of you may know, a key catalyst in my early climate activism was learning about fracking in my family's hometown in Western Pennsylvania. I am ready to continue taking the fight directly to the perpetrators of the climate crisis. Thank you for being on this journey with us.



Jessie Bluedorn

Organizational Strategy

At The Carmack Collective, **our mission is to catalyze transformative change in the pursuit of climate justice by strategically confronting the deeply entrenched and powerful fossil fuel industry.**

We recognize that the barriers to a sustainable future are not due to a lack of solutions, but rather the influence of a desperate industry. We support the frontline agents of change who actively challenge the fossil fuel industry's stranglehold on our planet and its people, in order to pave the way for a more sustainable and equitable world.

In order to advance our mission, our funding is centered on two strategic tactics.

Movement Building

Social movements and the organizations that flank them are leading the charge against the fossil fuel industry through a broad range of work including community organizing, non-violent direct action, litigation, research, and policy campaigns. We fund a diverse set of movements and movement adjacent organizations holistically, as we know that the strength of a movements' infrastructure, people, and connectivity are integral to their power and impact.

Culture Change

We fund groups using cultural interventions such as comedy, public art activations, social media content, and journalism to reshape and strengthen narratives surrounding the fossil fuel industry. By leveraging creative expressions, we engage the public, shift perspectives, and foster a collective consciousness that rejects the destructive practices of the fossil fuel industry.

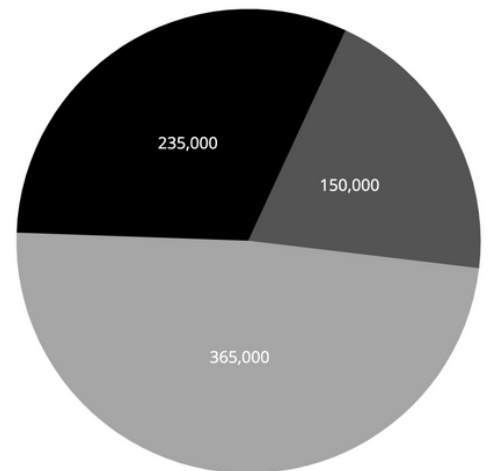
Grantmaking

This year we supported a broad range of grantees working toward climate justice at local, national, and global levels. Through our grantmaking process, we aligned our approach with our values of centering frontline expertise, advancing equity, shifting power, and embodying transparency.

Our **core grantmaking** program consisted of Exploratory Grants and Multi-Year Grants, with a total of **\$515,000 granted this year**. These grants were made by The Carmack Collective team in consultation with our advisory board of movement leaders.

Exploratory Grants are a one-year commitment of \$10,000 each, given to first time grantees. They provided the opportunity to explore a mutual fit between The Carmack Collective and new grantees over the one year period. In order to democratize access to climate philanthropy and foster new relationships, this year we offered an open call for applications. We received over 500 applications, and we were able to make **15 grants, for a total of \$150,000 granted**.

Multi-Year Grants are three-year commitments that range from **\$10,000-\$75,000/year**. As an important part of our first year process, all 12 of our 2023 multi-year grantees were grandfathered in from our director's previous funding relationships. We know that movement victories don't happen overnight and long-term relationships are important to us. As such, multi-year grants made up the bulk of our 2023 funding, with **\$365,000 granted this year**.



■ Flow Fund - 31% ■ Exploratory - 20% ■ Multi-Year - 49%

Our **Flow Fund** is a decentralized project within The Carmack Collective. The 2023 Flow Fund grantmaking was directed by the advisory board, composed of five movement leaders. This year, the advisory board worked collectively to nominate and distribute **\$235,000 in grants to 26 grantees** via one year operating and/or project grants. The Flow Fund has been an opportunity for The Carmack Collective to embrace our belief that those on the frontlines of movements have the most innovative and effective solutions, experiment with values aligned operating models, and explore new or emergent areas of funding.

In total during 2023, The Carmack Collective granted \$750,000 to 53 organizations. Here, we profile nine of those grantees, which we think illustrate the scope and vision for our grantmaking.

Climate Activist Defenders



Tactic: Movement Building
Grant Type: Exploratory
Grant Amount: \$10,000

Climate Activist Defenders (CAD) provides vital emergency response and safety resources to frontline climate justice activists facing immediate physical threats or human rights violations. Recognizing that climate activism intersects with oppressive regimes and fossil fuel industry harms, CAD bridges divides to advocate for at-risk activists and their families.

By connecting a network of over 30 partner groups, CAD strengthens climate justice movements from the ground up. Their protective services and expanding support system uphold the wellbeing of those on the frontlines so critical momentum continues building against the entrenched fossil fuel stranglehold. CAD's mission to confront barriers that endanger activists aligns with The Carmack Collective's commitment to supporting agents of change taking strategic action toward climate justice.

Climate Town



Tactic: Culture Change
Grant Type: Flow Fund
Grant Amount: \$9,500

Climate Town is a comedy media organization engaging millions of viewers around the world on the urgent issue of climate change. Through entertaining and rigorously researched videos, they aim to challenge climate disinformation and promote climate literacy without judgment.

While creating compelling content, Climate Town also provides clear calls to action and partners with established climate groups to empower viewer involvement. This approach aligns with The Carmack Collective's mission to shift public narratives through culture and media and mobilize communities to take meaningful action that confronts the fossil fuel industry. By leveraging humor and facts, Climate Town breaks down barriers to engagement and builds momentum for the collective action and systemic change needed to advance climate justice.

Corporate Accountability



Tactic: Movement Building
Grant Type: Multi-Year
Grant Amount: \$75,000

Corporate Accountability helps bridge local to global organizing in order to foster collective actions that target and dismantle the pillars that prop up transnational corporate abuse. They expose industry deception and interference in policymaking spaces like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). By leveraging people power and creative organizing, Corporate Accountability advances structural solutions holding corporations liable for the destruction they have caused.

Their multi-pronged strategy aligning grassroots mobilization, narrative intervention, and movement connectivity fosters the conditions for breakthrough change. Corporate Accountability stands at the forefront of dismantling the power of abusive corporations, like the fossil fuel industry, in solidarity with communities bearing the greatest consequences.

Global Greengrants Fund



Tactic: Movement Building
Grant Type: Multi-Year
Grant Amount: \$50,000

For 30 years, Global Greengrants Fund has strategically resourced frontline groups struggling to halt environmental injustices that are destroying our shared planet. Through their decentralized regranting model, which uplifts localized solutions, they have contributed to historic climate victories defending critical ecosystems and advancing grassroots visions for a just, sustainable future.

Global Greengrants prioritizes backing bold campaigns obstructing new extraction sites, pipelines and other infrastructure expanding and prolonging fossil fuel reliance despite consequences to people and ecosystems. They stand in solidarity with frontline leaders who are directly confronting new fossil projects in areas from the Amazon to across Africa. By combatting the momentum of the fossil fuel industry, Global Greengrants focuses on what's needed now to slow the vehicles of destruction, so alternatives for justice can take root.

GoodLaugh



Tactic: Culture Change
Grant Type: Multi-Year
Grant Amount: \$15,000

GoodLaugh leverages the power of comedy to shift public thinking and discourse around pressing social issues like climate breakdown. By pairing rigorously researched content with heartfelt humor delivered by a diverse cast of messengers, GoodLaugh meets audiences where they are emotionally to inspire hope, cultivate understanding, and spur involvement toward solutions.

For example, through their Climate Comedy Cohort, which engages respected comedic talent in developing climate centered content, they are challenging dominant narratives that breed climate apathy and fuel inaction. Their focus on molding pop culture to motivate mass climate action aligns with The Carmack Collective's focus on using innovative culture change tactics to dislodge the fossil fuel's societal stranglehold and catalyze a justice-centered transition.

Green Workers Alliance



Tactic: Movement Building
Grant Type: Exploratory
Grant Amount: \$10,000

The Green Workers Alliance (GWA) organizes renewable energy workers to advance climate justice and create good green jobs. Through worker-led campaigns and leadership development, GWA engages workers in the fight against climate change. By bringing workers into alliance with climate advocates, they advance labor movement support for urgent climate policies.

The Green Workers Alliance strategically targets exploitative labor practices within the renewable energy and utility industries, while also building bridges across movements to strengthen the collective power needed to achieve a just transition.

New York Communities for Change



Tactic: Movement Building
Grant Type: Flow Fund
Grant Amount: \$10,000

New York Communities for Change (NYCC) builds power among low-income people of color to advance economic, racial and climate justice across New York. They wage hard-hitting multiracial campaigns that unite impacted residents to put pressure on government and corporate climate offenders. Strategic community-led actions have secured transformative environmental policies locally and statewide, like their work with Local Law 97, which would create tens of thousands of green jobs over the coming decade and other policy work that would require all buildings in New York to shift away from fossil fuels to more high energy efficiency systems. Their model aligns with The Carmack Collective's mission to support those directly confronting the entrenched fossil fuel industry. By mobilizing some of the very communities devastated by climate disasters, NYCC moves hearts, minds and political will toward the system changes needed for climate justice breakthroughs.

Unión de Afectados por Texaco/Chevron (UDAPT)



Tactic: Movement Building
Grant Type: Flow Fund
Grant Amount: \$10,000

For over 25 years, Unión de Afectados por Texaco/Chevron (UDAPT) has organized communities devastated by Chevron's negligent oil extraction in Ecuador. In the groundbreaking 1993 class action lawsuit against Chevron, UDAPT began its long history of demanding reparations for the destruction of ancestral territory and irreversible harms to 30,000 lives and the environment. In recent years UDAPT has expanded their advocacy beyond the courts to expose Chevron's refusal to rectify damages, demanding the corporation respect the court's verdict compelling comprehensive remediation and compensation for those affected by their egregious actions. They now also organize around contemporary threats, as Ecuador's government pursues expanded extraction threatening more communities. By spotlighting the intolerable human costs of fossil fuel profits, UDAPT's visionary grassroots mobilization exposes root injustices worsening the climate crisis. They pioneer what it looks like when those treated as disposable by polluters stand up, link arms, and fight back.

We Refuse to Die



Tactic: Culture Change
Grant Type: Exploratory
Grant Amount: \$10,000

Through bold collaborations with frontline organizers, the new multi-year effort from Not An Alternative, We Refuse To Die, creates provocative art and media interventions supporting climate justice campaigns that directly challenge the fossil fuel and petrochemical industries. Through rituals, events, media, protests, and a 2023 exhibition at The Carnegie Museum of Art, We Refuse to Die, spotlights community resistance to fossil fuel industry harm and shifts dominant narratives around "sacrifice zones" residents as powerless victims. Their cultural organizing aligns art with grassroots movements to reach new audiences while forging deeper connectivity across the movement.

Projects like We Refuse to Die strategically engage community power, narrative change, and artistic activism to reject and resist the stranglehold fossil fuel corporations have on the planet. We Refuse to Die leverages the imagination and influence of cultural institutions to empower those on the frontlines of the battle for climate justice.

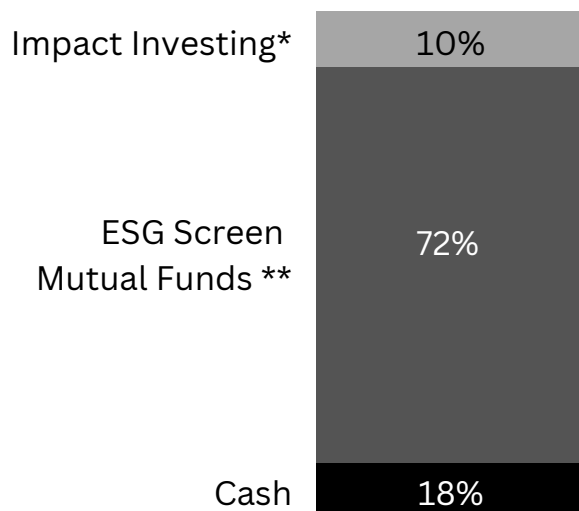
Financials

In 2023, with an initial endowment of \$10 million from the Bluedorn family, The Carmack Collective was launched as a redistributive family fund, hosted as a donor advised fund at the Tides Foundation.

An important aspect of our financial strategy has been the impact investment of this endowment, as we work to best align our financial capital with our mission. Currently we have basic ESG (environmental, social, and governance) screens applied to all of our investments. This is a good starting point, but we are transitioning into more active mission-aligned investments. As of the close of 2023, we've shifted 10% of our endowment to these more mission-aligned investments, and we'll continue this work in 2024 and beyond.

In our first year of operations, we made **\$750,000** in grants (non-inclusive of expenses), and we intend to scale up our resourcing of climate justice by increasing our 2024 grantmaking budget to **\$1,000,000**.

By Investment Vehicle



Investment Performance

Assets Under Investment as of 8.3.2022	\$10,000,000
Grants Paid Out	(\$750,000)
Expenses	(\$76,398)
Investment Returns	\$788,598
Assets Under Investment as of 12.31.2023	\$9,962,200

*Examples: Community Development Financial Institutions, Proactive Shareholder Engagement, Environmental Issues

**Average Morningstar Sustainability Rate >4

Meet the Team

Staff



Jessie Bluedorn (she/her)
Founder & Director

Jessie is an organizer and funder working at the intersection of climate and culture. Prior to the founding of The Carmack Collective in 2023, she worked across the organizing and media sectors in a number of roles including as a member leader with Resource Generation, a Climate Action Fellow at 350.org, a NYC Hub Leader with the Sunrise Movement, and a digital media strategist at Digitas and SocialCode. She has a BA in History and Marketing from Washington University in St. Louis.



Todd Bluedorn (he/him)
Chief Financial Officer

Todd is a retired business executive with 30+ years of leadership experience, most recently as Chairman & CEO of Lennox International, a global leader in climate control products. Todd currently serves on the Board of Directors of Texas Instruments Incorporated, a global designer and manufacturer of semiconductors and on the Board of directors of Samsara, a global leader in Industrial IOT. His firm belief that global man-made climate change is the most consequential issue of our time drives his involvement with The Carmack Collective.



Ricardo Benavidez (he/him)
Philanthropic Strategist

Ricardo Benavidez is associate director at Ktisis Capital, a progressive philanthropic advising firm, where he serves as a strategy and organization advisor, researcher, and project manager for a diverse mix of individuals and foundations. He works primarily with individuals, families, and private foundations on formulating their giving strategies. Ricardo holds a masters of public administration degree and is a fellow with the WK Kellogg Foundation's Community Leadership Network.

Advisory Board



Nathalie Rengifo Álvarez (she/her)

Nathalie is a campaign organizer as well as a climate justice and human rights activist. Specializing in international humanitarian law, coexistence and conflict, and sustainable international development, she currently works as the Latin America Climate Campaign director for Corporate Accountability. Previously, she worked at the ACLU of Massachusetts as a public advocacy fellow and the U.N. Population Fund as a public policy officer.



Matthew Miles Goodrich (he/him)

Miles is a writer, organizer, and fundraiser who has spent the last decade building the youth climate movement into a force powerful enough to pass federal climate legislation. In 2017, with other young leaders, he launched Sunrise Movement, where he currently serves as the Fundraising Director. In addition to his organizing, Miles is also a writer, contributing pieces on movement strategy to outlets such as Dissent and The Nation.



Miriam Fogelson (she/her)

Miriam is a cultural strategist, producer and nonprofit leader with over two decades of experience working at the intersections of culture change, movement building, and progressive politics. Miriam is currently the President at Harness. In 2017, she founded Girasol Consulting to advance long-term culture change and timely advocacy and campaigns to secure rights, equity, and visibility for those who experience injustice.



Michél Legendre (he/him)

Michél is an independent consultant supporting movements, organizations, and people for impactful justice work. Previously he was an organizer at corporate campaigning organizations including as a campaigns director. He serves/has served on boards of climate organizations, is a member of Green Leadership Trust, and supports work for redistributing resources to Black people and BIPOC communities wherever he can.



Catalina Ethel Romo Paxcle (she/they)

Catalina Romo Paxcle, is a queer adult-adoptee passionate about place-based learning across the lifespan. Currently Catalina works in housing justice across Los Angeles County, California via Stay Housed LA and the Right to Counsel. Cata has led campaigns across New York and California and prioritizes their role in change making at the intersection of bridging people to policy using curriculum, the arts, and life span learning.

2023 Grantees

Grantee	Tactic	Grant Type	Amount	Status
Accion Ecologica	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Arvoeagua	Culture Change	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Bold Futures NM	Culture Change	Flow Fund	\$7,500	Year 1 of 1
Building Stories	Culture Change	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Casa Suelo Carneiro	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$7,500	Year 1 of 1
Center for Popular Democracy	Movement Building	Multi-Year	\$15,000	Year 1 of 3
Cine Solar Rodante	Culture Change	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Climate Activist Defenders	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Climate Town	Culture Change	Flow Fund	\$9,500	Year 1 of 1
Colectivo Casa	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Confederación Mapuche de Neuquén	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Corporate Accountability	Movement Building	Multi-Year	\$75,000	Year 1 of 3
Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa	Movement Building	Multi-Year	\$10,000	Year 1 of 3
Creative Wildfire	Culture Change	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
De Olho nos Ruralistas	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$7,000	Year 1 of 1
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ)	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1

Grantee	Tactic	Grant Type	Amount	Status
Emergent Fund	Movement Building	Multi-Year	\$15,000	Year 1 of 3
Extreme Energy Extraction Coalition	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Get Free	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$7,500	Year 1 of 1
Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice	Movement Building	Multi-Year	\$15,000	Year 1 of 3
Global Greengrants Fund	Movement Building	Multi-Year	\$50,000	Year 1 of 3
GoodLaugh	Culture Change	Multi-Year	\$15,000	Year 1 of 3
Grassroots International	Movement Building	Multi-Year	\$50,000	Year 1 of 3
Green Workers Alliance	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Health of Mother Earth Foundation	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Hegemonicon	Culture Change	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Justice is Global	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Kanan Derechos Humanos	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Maui Just Recovery Fund	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Narrative Infrastructure Community of Practice	Culture Change	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
National Network of Abortion Funds	Movement Building	Multi-Year	\$10,000	Year 1 of 3
Native Movement	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Native Voices Rising	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
New Economy Coalition	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1

Grantee	Tactic	Grant Type	Amount	Status
New York Communities Organizing Fund	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Nihikeya	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$7,000	Year 1 of 1
Observatory of Political Ecology of Venezuela	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$8,000	Year 1 of 1
Outras Palavras: Terra & Antropoceno	Culture Change	Flow Fund	\$8,000	Year 1 of 1
Power Shift Network	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Pueblo Resurgents	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Red Dominicana de Estudios y Empoderamiento Afrodescendiente	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$8,000	Year 1 of 1
Resource Generation	Movement Building	Multi-Year	\$50,000	Year 1 of 3
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Taproot Earth	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
The Alliance for Appalachia	Movement Building	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
The Decolonial Centre	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$7,500	Year 1 of 1
Thousand Currents	Movement Building	Multi-Year	\$50,000	Year 1 of 3
Unión de Afectados por Texaco/Chevron (UDAPT)	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
UPROSE	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
We Refuse to Die	Culture Change	Exploratory	\$10,000	Year 1 of 1
Women Donors Network	Movement Building	Multi-Year	\$10,000	Year 1 of 3
Youth vs Apocalypse	Movement Building	Flow Fund	\$7,500	Year 1 of 1



THE CARMACK COLLECTIVE

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