

BELOVED
COMMUNITY
IMPACT REPORT
2020-2022

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INTRODUCTION

Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.

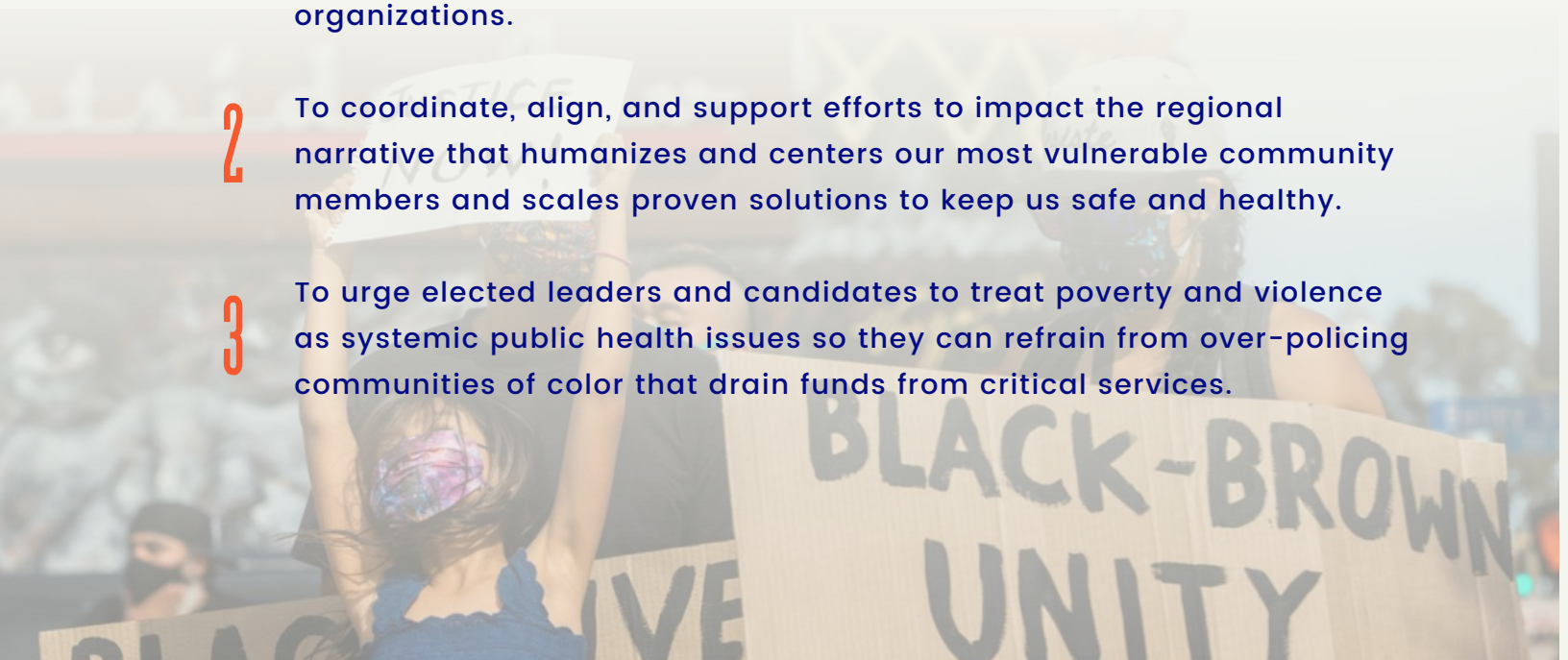
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the fall of 2020, the Beloved Community network formed as a carefully woven collective of 20 Black- and Brown-led and rooted organizations across L.A. County. Convened by Mike de la Rocha and Angela Rye, we have come together as community leaders to have space to heal and develop authentic relationships to further build narrative power and capacity, a step that is absolutely imperative to protecting and advancing efforts to transform Los Angeles's justice system not just for Black and Brown Los Angelenos, but for all.

BELOVED COMMUNITY IS A HEALING-CENTERED NETWORK REIMAGINING JUSTICE

GOALS

- 1 To advance healing and transformative justice among leading community-based organizations in LA County through a network that elevates the leadership of people of color-led community-based organizations.
- 2 To coordinate, align, and support efforts to impact the regional narrative that humanizes and centers our most vulnerable community members and scales proven solutions to keep us safe and healthy.
- 3 To urge elected leaders and candidates to treat poverty and violence as systemic public health issues so they can refrain from over-policing communities of color that drain funds from critical services.



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

LISTEN to our community members as they share what has and has not worked historically to keep our communities safe.

DEVELOP a new vision of community care that's rooted in the shared and intersectional healing of everyone, driven by the most impacted individuals, and sustained by the expansive work of community-based organizations driving the transformation of Los Angeles' justice system.

BUILD organizational capacity and a regional communications infrastructure to ensure long-term movement building power for the most impacted communities.

ORGANIZATIONS IN BELOVED COMMUNITY NETWORK

Athletes for Impact
Brotherhood Crusade
The BUILD Program
Centro Cha
CD Tech
Champions in Service
Community Coalition
Creative Acts
Dignity and Power Now
Healing Dialogue and Action
Homies Unidos
Impact Strategies (Convener)

LA Community Action Network
Los Angeles Youth Uprising
Coalition
Prosecutors Alliance
Represent Justice
Revolve Impact (Convener)
Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural
TransLatin@ Coalition
Unite The People
Youth Justice Coalition
#YouAreEssential

Methodology Notes

This report reflects data collected from several appreciative inquiry processes, surveys, individual and collective interviews and conversations most significantly from an evaluation retreat in Sept. 22 and an year-end survey.




OUR COLLECTIVE JOURNEY

In the fall of 2020, we set out to create a generative process with directly impacted communities to invent the future. We responded to a unique and urgent opportunity to heal inter-community divisions, address historic systemic oppression, and build a new system of community care.

PHASE 1: RESOURCING ORGANIZATIONS

Fall 2020-October 2021



With more public awakened racial consciousness following the 2020 uprisings, community stewards Angela and Mike began to bring together Black and Brown lead and focused organizations to form a network that might collectively address needs of healing and reform in L.A. County. Soon after, they began to meet with funders to raise support for the existing work of the network member organizations.

Based on values of equanimity and mutuality, we advocated for grants of equal size for each organization regardless of size and budget. \$10,000 was awarded to each organization from the California Community Foundation as a direct result of these efforts.


Here are some of the ways organizations used the unrestricted funds to further goals:

- We used the funds to create a video educating the public about the role of police and prosecutors to help them understand who has responsibility for what work in the system.
-Cristine Soto DeBerry, Executive Director at Prosecutors Alliance of CA
- Brotherhood Crusade used the support to our trauma informed youth development programs including our youth based social justice organizing activities and initiatives.
-Curtis Silvers, Executive Vice President at Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade
- The generous \$10,000 grant was used to advance our Los Angeles narrative strategies such as a roundtable with LA journalists on combatting negative youth justice narratives, training formerly incarcerated storytellers on how to produce their stories, and storytelling around the Youth Justice Reimagined youth advocates.
-Gretel Truong, Vice President of Original Storytelling at Represent Justice

PHASE 2: BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY

October 2021-December 2022

For over 15 months, the network gathered, deepened relationships, and co-created strategic plans for the work ahead. Through this communal process, 3 primary objectives and key activities were identified and executed upon:



Objectives	Key Activities
Community Building and Healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bi-Weekly Community Meetings for network orgs• Healing Retreats for leadership of network orgs• Community-Centered Events
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications Support• Content Creation for network orgs
Narrative Intervention and Storytelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinated Storytelling Campaign• Community-Centered Events

Grant funding received from The California Endowment and The California Wellness Foundation supported this phase of the initiative.



ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHT: COMMUNITY EVENT

BREAKING BREAD DISTRIBUTION EVENT AT TIA CHUCHAS IN SYLMAR

August 2022

When Los Angeles went into lockdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Homies Unidos, one of our network partner organizations, launched 'Breaking Bread', an initiative to strengthen Black and Brown solidarity and distribute healthy groceries and resources to families most in need. The Beloved Community network built off the success of Breaking Bread and implemented an engagement strategy that includes a series of community-centered events that provides residents with basic needs, such as gas, food, PPE, Metro cards, etc., voter registration materials, and information on how to get involved with local organizations in their neighborhoods and communities through organizing efforts.

In August 2022, our fourth Breaking Bread event gathered 400 families to receive food, PPE, voter registration information and access to resources for personal healing and education. Like all the Breaking Bread events, multiple network organizations joined forces to support in various locations across the county to bring resources closest to families in need.

Watch a short highlight video of the event in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



20

Black- and Brown-led and centered organizations mobilized in coalition

3

Healing retreats with renowned healing justice practitioners in June 2021, March 2022, and Sept. 2022

25

25 Community-wide 'Breaking Bread' distribution events of food, PPE, and resources

3,400

Families served groceries and resources through 'Breaking Bread' events

25+

Network virtual meetings and sessions

20

Videos and communication assets produced

3

Large community events (Elect Justice Food Distribution and Concert Nov. 2020, Schools not Prisons Concert in Oct. 2022, Community Celebration Luncheon Dec. 2022)

REFLECTIONS FROM THE NETWORK



While many network organizations knew of each other and worked often in parallel, participating in Beloved Community created space for deeper knowledge sharing and relationship building with groups of similar focus.

Beloved Community's early focus on 'healing the healers' allowed movement leaders to pause and reflect on building intentional connection before and while engaging the broader community.

"Best of all is the fellowship that led into connections with amazing folks doing amazing work. That led into having more resources to bring to the folks and communities that I service. All this along with gaining more diverse and new perspectives and approaches— is priceless."

—Kenny Green, Centinela Youth Services

The stories and work of the diverse organizations, with collective efforts grounded in healing work and decolonized practices created a terrain for "freedom and imagination" for the network.

"One thing that surprised me about this journey is when we spend time together, what we share is beyond words and helps so much with burn out or the loneliness that can accompany trying to make change. . . In the movement we talk a lot about family... I feel like one of the things with family is that you can be yourself. I feel like I can be myself in this space. it's non-judgmental"

— Sabra Williams, Creative Acts

"We were able to bridge Black and Brown communities more than we have before."

—Alex Sanchez, Homies Unidos



“Beloved Community made me consider more healing practices in our meetings and gatherings.”

“I show up more grounded in community values and decolonized practices now.”

“I've learned so much and broadened my understanding of the community, which is usually so hard to do when you're going at 100 mph.”

“I would like our organization to put efforts toward incorporating healing practices with the part time Teaching Artists that we work with. The places you introduced us to seem like great locations to do retreats in the future for our organization.”

100%

OF PARTICIPATING
NETWORK MEMBERS
SAID BELOVED
COMMUNITY HAS
POSITIVELY
INFLUENCED THE WAY
THEY LEAD AND SERVE
THEIR COMMUNITY



LOOKING FORWARD

After two years of successful foundation laying and community building, the Beloved Community is excited to continue to expand our commitments to heal intercommunity divisions, address historic systemic oppression, and collaborate on a new system of community care.

Together we have learned the value of healing the healers, mutuality and sharing resources, investing in community over competition and working as intergenerational and intersectional leaders working towards collective impact.



2023 GOALS

With additional investment, Beloved Community will pursue the following goals in 2023 and beyond:

- 1 Produce community-based events across L.A. County to increase public awareness on alternatives to incarceration, the negative impacts of mass criminalization, as well as provide support for local community-driven violence prevention solutions
- 2 Expand Beloved Community to additional organizations with aligned values while offering an intentional onboarding into the network
- 3 Continue 'healing the healers' efforts through quarterly healing retreats and monthly network calls with expanded community
- 4 Jointly pursue additional opportunities for funding Beloved Community organizations and the network itself

DEEPEST GRATITUDE

Beloved Community would like to thank all who have invested time, talent, treasure and testimony in support on this work over the last two years:

- All of the participating L.A. County community organizations and leaders committed to this work
- California Community Foundation
- The California Endowment
- The California Wellness Foundation
- Mike del la Rocha and the Revolve Impact Team: Mariela Rosario, Irene Franco Rubio, Claudia Torres de la Rocha, Carola Secada
- Angela Rye and the IMPACT Strategies team including Naja Mix, Lillian Garcia, and Leonetta Elaiho

To learn more about Beloved Community and how you can support this work, please reach out to:

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WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
REIMAGINING JUSTICE