

**Democracy and Power Fund**  
**Docket I – 2011 Grant Recommendation Blurbs**  
**Circulated January 31, 2011 for March 14, 2011 Docket Meeting**

The Democracy and Power Fund expands on U.S. Programs' long-time support of efforts that inspire the participation of people of color, immigrants, young people, and low-income people in open society idea generation, organizing, and advocacy. Via general support grantmaking, the fund invests in multi-issue organizations that work at the local, state, and federal levels to expand open society. Specific strategies for Democracy and Power Fund grantmaking include: idea generation; non-partisan voter engagement; community organizing, base-building, and constituency development; youth engagement; leadership development; cultural organizing; and innovative usage of art, culture, and technology to advance social justice. The fund includes a portfolio of 100 grantees with a 2011 grantmaking budget of \$13.75 million. Of this, roughly 20% will support grantee partners that work at the local and state levels in North Carolina and Texas, the fund's priority states, and 80% will support national organizations, including many that have extensive networks of local or state-based affiliates, chapters, or partner organizations.

The Democracy and Power Fund makes a priority of monitoring the equity of its grantmaking and tracking the diversity of its grantees. At the conclusion of every docket's blurbs document will be a short demographic analysis of recommended grantees.

**Non-Partisan Voter Participation**

**National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund**

*\$300,000/2 years (renewal)*

To support the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund (NALEO), a Los Angeles-based national network of over 6,000 Latino elected and appointed officials. NALEO facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service, through integrated strategies that include increasing the effectiveness of Latino policymakers, mobilizing the Latino community to engage in civic life, and promoting policies that advance Latino civic engagement. Responding to the historic immigrant's rights mobilizations of 2006 and continuing immigrant engagement on comprehensive immigration reform, the DREAM Act, and state and local immigration policies, NALEO has spearheaded the "Ya Es Hora" campaign, linking naturalization to census to voter participation under a single message: "it's time."

**Organizing, Base Building, and Constituency Development**

**Jobs with Justice Education Fund**

*\$200,000/2 years (renewal)*

To support the Jobs with Justice Education Fund (JWJEF), a Washington, DC-based national network of 47 coalitions in 25 states comprised of both member organizations and over 100,000 individual activists that engage workers and allies in campaigns to win

justice in workplaces and in communities where working families live. Since its founding in 1987, JWJEF has built a base of diverse constituencies at the local level and provided training, coordination, and networking at the national level to more effectively advance economic and social justice. With workers' rights and immigrant rights increasingly under attack, JWJEF is working to bridge the gap between the labor movement and immigrant rights groups to explore strategies to fight for better living and working conditions for all workers, regardless of their legal status.

## **Youth Engagement/ Non-Partisan Voter Participation**

### **Wellstone Action Fund/ Campus Camp Wellstone**

*\$250,000/2 years (renewal)*

To support Wellstone Action Fund, a Minneapolis, MN based organization that provides capacity building assistance to non-partisan voter participation efforts nationwide, and Campus Camp Wellstone (CCW), for its work to provide civic engagement and leadership training to college and university students. Wellstone Action Fund provides extensive non-partisan trainings to support community, campaign, and elected leaders in cities and states across the nation and was supported by the Democracy and Power Fund in 2010 for its technical assistance provision to a number of state civic engagement tables. CCW plays a key national role as a technical and strategic intermediary developing critical youth leadership, building a large scale network of skilled, civically-engaged young people and strengthening the capacity of the national youth movement. CCW has played an important role in increasing the number of youth who are engaged and effective on a variety of Open Society Foundations priorities, including immigrant rights, climate change, and racial justice.

## **Cultural Organizing**

### **The Culture Group – fiscal sponsor: Citizen Engagement Lab**

*Amount tbd, likely in the \$75,000- 100,000 range; (new; planning grant; Democracy and Power Fund to lead with Strategic Opportunities Fund co-funding)*

To support a 6-month planning process for The Culture Group, a new initiative to popularize progressive values, ideas, and policies through cultural strategy and cultural organizing. The Culture Group features a diverse cohort of cultural producers and progressive activists who are looking to link multiple sectors – including music, visual arts, television, film, publishing, online and community-rooted organizing, and issue-based work to unite cultural and political change. The planning process will identify the systematic deficiencies in how advocates and artists work with one another and provide mechanisms to strategically engage media, arts, and culture for social change. The Culture Group is led by a team of seasoned social change experts and creative producers including Jeff Chang, Ian Inaba, Liz Manne and Alexis McGill Johnson. The Culture Group is being incubated under the aegis of Citizen Engagement Lab, a national online/offline organizing and advocacy incubator – home to Color Of Change and Presenté.org – that is based in Oakland, CA and is a co-funded grantee of the Democracy and Power, Equality and Opportunity, and Criminal Justice Funds.

## **Idea Generation – Economic Opportunity**

### **American Rights at Work Education Fund**

*\$300,000/ 2 years (renewal)*

To support American Rights at Work Education Fund (ARAWEF), a Washington, DC-based national organization that advocates for equality in the workplace through coalition-building, research, public relations, policy analysis, and organizing. ARAWEF investigates and exposes workplace discrimination and the inadequacy of U.S. labor law; stimulates debate about the state of workplace equality among journalists, policymakers, advocacy groups, and the public; researches policies that can lead to enhanced levels of unionization in the U.S.; and highlights public policy that protects workers from hostile employers and weak laws. As workers' rights come increasingly under attack at the state level, ARAWEF will pivot its campaign assets and infrastructure in support of efforts to fight back in state defensive battles.

### **D&P Docket I (2011) Recommended Grants and Grantees**

#### **Grant Recommendation Analysis, Demography, and Equity**

Total number of grants recommended:	5
Total general support:	3 (60%)
Total funding recommended:	\$1.15 million
Co-funding from other programs and campaigns:	\$25,000- 50,000 potential *
Number of multi-year grants recommended:	4 (80%)
Number of tie-off recommendations:	0
Number of newly recommended grantees:	1 (20% of total recs.)
Number of recommended grantees with people of color as director**:	4 (80% of groups)
Number of grant dollars recommended for people of color led organizations:	\$900,000 (78% of grants)
Number of recommended grantees with women as director**:	2 (40%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for women led organizations:	\$500,000 (43%)
Number of recommended grantees with immigrant or first generation American as director**:	1 (20%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for immigrant led organizations:	\$200,000 (17%)
Number of recommended grantees with openly LGBTQ identified director**:	1 (20%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for LGBTQ led organizations:	\$300,000 (26%)

#### **Geographic Diversity**

The following is where the five recommended grantees have their base of operations. Many of the recommended organizations have local and state affiliates, partners, or chapters that enable them to reach far beyond the cities where their offices are located.

Washington, DC:	2
California:	2 (Oakland, Los Angeles)
Minnesota:	1 (Minneapolis)

\* Co-funded grant recommendations for Docket I are unspecified to date but likely for one (The Culture Group) recommended grantee.

\*\* The background or identity of an executive director is only one measure, among many, for identifying an organization's authentic commitment to diversity. Through due diligence in our grantmaking process, D&P uses this and several other measures of assessment. By monitoring our performance from docket to docket, we seek to improve our track record of funding organizations that are rooted in and led by people from communities that face the greatest historic and ongoing challenges to achieving social justice and a more open society.

Circulated by the Democracy and Power Fund. For further information on these recommended grantees, please contact program director Bill Vandenberg; program officers Cristóbal Alex or Patricia Jerido; or program associate Nashay Jones.