The Overbrook Foundation is a progressive family foundation that supports organizations advancing human rights and conserving the natural environment.

Through its Environment and Human Rights Program, in 2020 Overbrook Awarded:

$4,791,000 and 101 Grants

The Environment Program Awarded: The Human Rights Program Awarded:

$2,571,000 55 Grants

$2,220,000 46 Grants

Board of Directors

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Kathryn G. Graham *

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Director Emeritus

Aaron Labaree

Robert Labaree

Helen Lang

Elizabeth G. Lindemann

* It is with great sadness that The Overbrook Foundation Board of Directors and staff note the passing of family member and Director Kathryn G. Graham. A granddaughter of the Foundation’s founders, Helen and Frank Altschul, Kathryn served the Foundation as Director for over two decades. Her passion for social justice, in particular her commitment to women’s and LGBTQ rights, was a guiding light as a steward for the Foundation. She will be missed by all who had the good fortune of working with her.

Staff

Stephen A. Foster  
President & Chief Executive Officer

Daniel R. Katz  
Vice President, Environment Program

Mary J. Grecco  
Chief Financial Officer & Vice President of Operations

Nikole LaVelle  
Grants Manager

Jessica Mowles  
Human Rights Program Officer

Megan Nickel  
Environment Program Assistant
A Note from the President

During 2020, The Overbrook Foundation continued to pursue its mission to advance human rights and conserve the natural environment, surpassing over $200 million in grants awarded since its founding in 1948. As perhaps the most contentious and tumultuous year in recent U.S. history played out, the Foundation awarded support to organizations working to fulfill the promise of a democracy inclusive of all who make up the American electorate. It also made commitments addressing the increasingly urgent need to conserve the world’s environment and make it safe for all. As the end of 2020 approached, the Foundation’s Board and staff launched an intensive period of introspection and strategic planning. Our goal is to complete the process, affirming the Foundation’s fundamental values and clarifying our programmatic direction, by mid-to-late 2022.

The New Year saw democracy and our sacred political institutions survive extraordinary challenges as the 2020 election cycle finally ended. However, democracy did not survive unscathed. For the first time in U.S. history the transfer of power between incoming and outgoing administrations was neither smooth nor peaceful. In reaction to the election results, conservative state legislatures across the country are moving forward with hundreds of proposals to change how elections are conducted. Most are clearly intended to make voting more difficult.

These efforts can be seen as an effort to continue “Jim Crow” discrimination that for decades disenfranchised huge segments of people of color by keeping them away from the polls. While the new administration focuses on a return to democratic principles, great injustices remain throughout the United States. Overbrook will continue to use all of the tools at its disposal to support groups that strengthen American democracy and push for basic human rights and a cleaner environment.

On March 4, 2020 the Foundation closed its New York City offices and began virtual operations. One year later, the Foundation and the majority of its Human Rights and Environment Program grantees continue to pursue their missions remotely. The challenges have been daunting. The resilience of our grantees and their ability to reinvent their operations and reorient their programming has been inspiring to witness.

As noted, when we wrote a year ago, science continues to provide undeniable evidence that the window is rapidly closing for minimizing the worst of the impacts from the climate crisis. Fortunately, one outcome of the 2020 elections is a new federal administration committed to aggressively addressing this crisis. In this new context, the Foundation and its grantees will work to erase the many steps backward taken by the previous administration and instead be a part of the broad coalition racing forward to reduce the emissions that are warming the planet.

The Foundation’s grantmaking honors our mission to “support organizations advancing human rights and conserving the natural environment.” Where does The Overbrook Foundation play a role in facing existentially critical challenges to the country? The short-term answer to this question is that the Foundation will continue its ambitious agenda throughout 2021. As noted at the beginning of this letter, our future grantmaking will be determined during the strategic planning work which the Board and staff is now beginning.

Overview of 2020

Environment Grants Awarded 2020

- Latin American Biodiversity Conservation: 21%
- Behavioral Change: 18%
- Corporate Practices: 11%
- Innovation: 26%
- Movement Building: 24%

Human Rights Grants Awarded 2020

- Advancing Gender Rights: 1%
- Challenging Mass Incarceration & Criminalization: 26%
- Reforming Money in Politics: 21%
- Defending Human Rights Defenders: 19%
- Other: 33%
Program Description and Review:

In 2020, the Environment program provided support to a range of organizations in the United States and in Latin America. In the United States, the Program supported organizations that tackle some of today's greatest environmental challenges, using tactics that range from behavior change to advocacy. The Program's Movement Building portfolio assisted frontline organizations that are building a more socially and environmentally just Planet. In Latin America, the Program supported initiatives that advance biodiversity conservation with a specific focus in Mesoamerica. The Program was also flexible and responsive to both new and long-term grantees as they faced many challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis.

Environment 2020 Grants by Program Area:

- **Movement Building**: $551,000
- **Innovation**: $450,000
- **Corporate Practices**: $280,000
- **Behavioral Change**: $665,000
- **Latin American Biodiversity Conservation**: $625,000

General Operating Support vs. Project Support

- General Operating Support: 58%
- Project Support: 42%

International vs. Domestic Grants:

- International: 63%
- Domestic: 37%
# Environment Program 2020 Grantees

## Movement Building
- Building Equity and Alignment for Impact (Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs)
- Climate Justice Alliance (Movement Strategy Center)
- Coming Clean Inc.
- Environmental Grantmakers Association
- Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
- Ironbound Community Corporation
- Just Transition Alliance
- Midwest Environmental Justice Network (Minneapolis Foundation)
- Mosaic (Windward Fund)
- Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services
- The Wildfire Project (Social Good Fund)
- UPROSE
- US Climate Action Network

## Corporate Practices
- As You Sow
- EARTHWORKS
- Environmental Investigation Agency
- Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
- Rainforest Action Network
- Stand

## Innovation
- Food System 6
- In Our Backyards - ioby.org
- Just Fund (Proteus Fund, Inc.)
- Not An Alternative, Inc.
- Plastic Solutions Fund (Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors)
- Progressive Multiplier Fund
- The Smithsonian Institute

## Latin American Biodiversity Conservation
- Amazon Conservation Team
- Amazon Watch
- Asociacion de Comunidades Forestales de Peten (ACOFOP)
- Global Greengrants Fund
- Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda (International Community Foundation)
- LegacyWorks Group
- Mongabay Org. Corp
- Rainforest Alliance
- Toledo Institute of Development and Environment (Philanthropic Ventures Foundation)
- Wildlife Conservation Society - WCS
- Ya’axche Conservation Trust

## Behavioral Change
- 350.org
- Alliance for a Greater New York - ALIGN
- Alliance for Climate Education – ACE
- Better Future Project
- Clean Water Fund – Rethink Disposable
- Ecology Center
- Food Tank
- Grist Magazine Inc.
- GrowNYC
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- New York Harbor Foundation
- Power Shift Network
- Sunrise Movement Education Fund
- The Story of Stuff Project
- Transportation Alternatives

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**Human Rights Program Overview**

**Program Description and Review:**

In 2020, Overbrook’s Human Rights program continued to support organizations promoting and defending human rights in the United States and Latin America. In particular, the Foundation funded organizations advancing work across four main issue areas. In Central America and Mexico, Overbrook supported frontline human rights defenders who face significant personal risk as they endeavor to advance feminist, Indigenous, and environmental causes and protect a range of human rights. In the U.S., the Foundation focused on three areas of work: challenging the undue influence of moneyed interests at all levels in the political system; working across reproductive justice and LGBT rights issues, particularly around legal advocacy, movement-building, and organizing; and challenging mass incarceration and criminalization, building on Overbrook’s long-term support for organizations using human rights principles and values to advance their missions.

**Human Rights 2020 Grants by Program Area:**

- **Defending Human Rights Defenders**: $575,000
- **Reforming Money in Politics**: $475,000
- **Challenging Mass Incarceration & Criminalization**: $415,000
- **Advancing Gender Rights**: $725,000
- **Other**: $30,000

**General Operating Support vs. Project Support**

- General Operating Support: 54%
- Project Support: 46%

**International vs. Domestic Grants**

- Domestic: 76%
- International: 24%
### Challenging Mass Incarceration & Criminalization
- American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
- Barnard Center for Research on Women
- Borealis Philanthropy – Transforming Movements Fund
- Borealis Philanthropy – Black-Led Movements Fund
- Innocence Project
- Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
- New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation
- Partners for Dignity and Rights
- Solitary Watch (Institute for Nonprofit News)
- Youth First Initiative

### Advancing Gender Rights
- Bold Futures NM
- Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
- Forward Together
- Funders for Reproductive Equity - Rockwood Fellowship
- Groundswell Fund
- Kentucky Health Justice Network
- Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund
- National Advocates for Pregnant Women
- National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
- National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
- Rights Faith & Democracy Collaborative (Proteus Fund, Inc.)
- Third Wave Fund (Proteus Fund, Inc.)
- Transgender Law Center
- URGE

### Defending Human Rights Defenders
- Amazon Conservation Team
- American Jewish World Service – AJWS
- Article 19, Office for Mexico & Central America
- Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
- Committee to Protect Journalists
- Environmental Defender Law Center
- Front Line USA Foundation
- The Fund for Global Human Rights
- Indian Law Resource Center
- Just Associates, Inc.
- Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders (IM-Defensoras)
- UDEFEGUA
- Urgent Action Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean
- WITNESS

### Reforming Money In Politics
- Brennan Center for Justice
- Democracy Initiative Education Fund
- Demos: A Network for Ideas & Action
- OLF Education Fund
- Piper Fund (Proteus Fund, Inc.)
- Represent.Us Education Fund

### Other
- The New Press
Past Environment and Human Rights Giving

Last Ten Years (2010-2020)

Environment Grants Awarded: 2010-2020

- Behavioral Change | $2,560,000
- Corporate Practices | $1,470,000
- Innovation | $1,730,000
- Latin American Biodiversity Conservation | $7,844,900
- Movement Building | $3,928,013
- Other | $457,500
- Food and the Environment* | $140,000
- Sustainable Consumption / Production* | $5,840,000
- Public TV, Radio, Other Media* | $735,000

Human Rights Grants Awarded: 2010-2020

- U.S. Human Rights & Mass Criminalization | $5,095,000
- U.S. Gender Rights** | $7,618,000
- Money in Politics | $3,535,000
- International Human Rights Defenders | $4,758,500
- Other | $746,000
- International Gender Rights* | $855,000
- Media* | $1,085,000
- International Human Rights* | $565,000

*Categories are Currently Inactive
**U.S. Gender Rights includes: Marriage Equality/LGBT Rights, Reproductive Justice and HIV / AIDS

Since its inception, The Overbrook Foundation’s Environment and Human Rights Program Awarded Approximately $98,155,377 in Grants