



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

NorthLight Foundation envisions a world where the Earth's natural environment is healthy, protected and sustained for future generations.

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NorthLight Foundation is a private foundation established by Dan and Sheryl Tishman. The Foundation envisions a world where the Earth's environment is healthy, protected and sustained for future generations. Our work focuses on building power across diverse communities to lead on environmental protection, with a particular focus on climate and land conservation. We fund through a lens of environmental justice.

Year in Review

In 2019, NorthLight Foundation hired two new staff and buttressed its strategic framework to support solutions that bring about a healthy, just, and sustainable world. For example, NorthLight developed a strategy to support a Just Transition and climate resilience in New York, a state that is poised to serve as a climate action model for the rest of the nation. NorthLight also began a thorough search for an investment advisor who could help leverage the rest of the Foundation's endowment to align with mission. This process was completed in early 2020, and NorthLight plans to work with the advisor to develop Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria for its investments.

In 2019, NorthLight also completed its second full year of grantmaking. Grantmaking coalesced around three primary themes: 1) Strengthening the Environmental Movement, 2) Conservation, and 3) Education and Scholarship. Specific program areas focused on New Leaders, Just Transition, Cross-Issue Collaboration, Communications, Innovative Strategies, Alaska, and Public Lands, as discussed further in the report.



An aerial photograph of a dry, winding riverbed in a desert landscape. The riverbed is composed of light-colored sand and gravel, with dark, rocky banks. The riverbed winds through the landscape, creating a complex pattern of curves and straight sections. The surrounding terrain is arid and rocky, with some sparse, low-lying vegetation. The overall scene is a stark, natural landscape.

Grants

From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, NorthLight Foundation awarded 43 grants totaling \$7,261,296. The Foundation's three principal themes and the program areas within those themes are described in the following pages.

Strengthening the Environmental Movement

NorthLight's strategic direction in 2018 emerged from a desire to strengthen the environmental movement, with the aim of achieving and protecting victories in climate and conservation. In 2019, the Foundation focused grantmaking on program areas that it viewed as key to movement building: New Leaders, Just Transition, Innovative Strategies, Communications, and Cross-Issue Collaboration. As its strategy continues to develop, NorthLight no longer plans to build out free-standing portfolios for Communications or Innovative Strategies in 2020. Instead, it plans to support communications and innovation within the context of its primary focus areas.

New Leaders

NorthLight supports initiatives fostering new leadership in the environmental movement, with a focus on building power and connection across diverse communities for environmental justice.

Just Transition

NorthLight supports transitions from resource extractive economies to alternative, long-term, regenerative, and just economies. In 2019, the foundation developed its theory of change and evaluation framework for Just Transition and invested in Just Transition efforts both nationally and in New York State.

Innovative Strategies

NorthLight seeks to nimbly deploy capital in support of innovative solutions to climate change as well as creative tactics that invigorate the environmental movement.

Cross-Issue Collaboration

Movements stand a greater chance of achieving long-term, durable success by working together. In 2019, the Foundation enlisted the support of experts to create a framework for investing at the intersection of environmental justice and reproductive justice and is currently exploring opportunities at the intersections between climate and health.

Communications

NorthLight supports powerful storytelling to inspire, inform, and motivate people to take action.





Conservation

Alaska

NorthLight Foundation supports groups working to advance long-term sustainable economies and to protect Alaska from oil, gas, mining, and other forms of resource exploitation. Its efforts are focused on protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Bristol Bay against imminent threats by extractive industries.

Public Lands

NorthLight's trustees have an abiding commitment to the protection of public lands. In 2019, the Foundation supported work that emerged out of its 2018 convening of legal and issue experts to pursue innovative approaches to public lands conservation that centers the public trust doctrine.

Education & Scholarship

A significant portion of NorthLight Foundation's grants are made through the John L. Tishman Fund. John L. Tishman's Legacy Trust directed that his estate support education and scholarship. In addition to providing legacy grants to organizations and institutions important to John L. Tishman, NorthLight Foundation funds education and scholarship that further our strategic priorities of conservation and movement building.

Beyond Grantmaking

Volunteer Time

In addition to grantmaking, the trustees of NorthLight Foundation contributed a combined total of over 700 hours in 2019 as board members and supporters of organizations including Montefiore Einstein, Mountainfilm, Natural Resources Defense Council, Open Space Institute, Riverkeeper, Trust for Public Land, and more.

Racial Equity

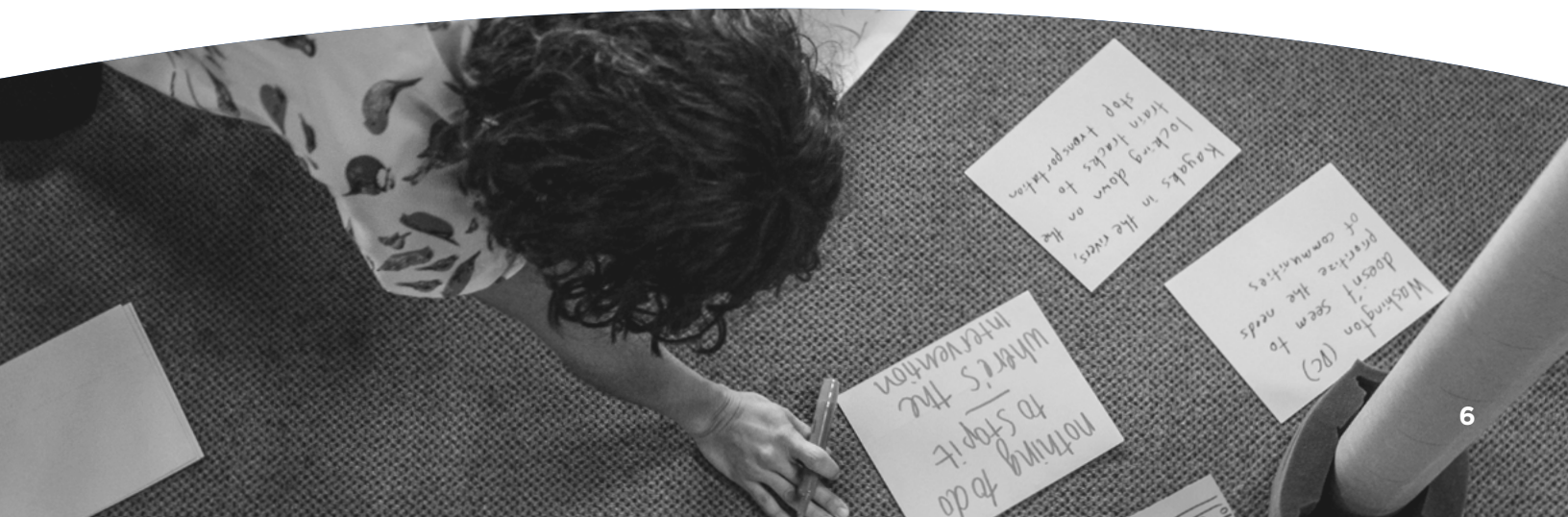
The Foundation has committed to ongoing work around racial equity in its grantmaking practices, evaluation, and internal operations. Staff underwent a Leading with Race Equity training cohort at Philanthropy New York, are embarking on a journey to align practices with values of racial equity, and welcome feedback and partnership on this process.

Grants Summary: Strengthening the Environmental Movement

Organization	Grant Amount	Primary Program	Secondary Program	Geography
Trust for Public Land: Will Rogers Fund**	\$83,333	New Leaders		National
The New School**	\$248,027	New Leaders	Just Transition	National
Power Shift Network	\$50,000	New Leaders	Just Transition	National
Sunrise Movement Education Fund	\$35,000	New Leaders	Just Transition	National
SustainUS	\$7,000	New Leaders		New York
Telluride Foundation*	\$130,000	Just Transition		Colorado
Island Institute*	\$300,000	Just Transition		Maine
NY Renews Education Fund	\$128,000	Just Transition		New York
Waterfront Alliance	\$160,000	Just Transition		New York and New Jersey
Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund	\$50,000	Just Transition		National
Climate Jobs New York Education Fund	\$50,000	Just Transition		New York
Climate Justice Alliance†	\$35,000	Just Transition	New Leaders	National
NY Energy Democracy Alliance	\$50,000	Just Transition		New York
Center for Story-Based Strategy	\$25,000	Just Transition	Communications	National
Partnership for Southern Equity	\$50,000	Just Transition		Southeast
Rebuild by Design	\$20,000	Just Transition		New York
Our Climate Education Fund	\$15,000	Just Transition	New Leaders	New York
Building Equity and Alignment for Impact Fund	\$50,000	Just Transition		National
Environmental Law Institute: Climate Judiciary Project	\$125,000	Innovative Strategies		National
Mosaic*	\$333,334	Innovative Strategies		National
Grist†	\$200,000	Communications	Just Transition	National
The Solutions Project	\$50,000	Communications	Just Transition	National

Grants Summary: Conservation

Organization	Grant Amount	Primary Program	Secondary Program	Geography
National Resources Defense Council	\$150,000	Public Lands	Innovative Strategies	National
University of Oregon Foundation†	\$24,885	Public Lands	Innovative Strategies	National
Mountainfilm*	\$250,000	Communications		Alaska-Artic Refuge
Native Movement	\$100,000	Alaska	Just Transition	Alaska-Artic Refuge
Gwich'in Steering Committee	\$50,000	Alaska		Alaska-Artic Refuge
Arctic Refuge Defense Campaign	\$1,000,000	Alaska		Alaska-Artic Refuge
Trustees for Alaska	\$50,000	Alaska		Alaska-Artic Refuge
Northern Alaska Environmental Center	\$50,000	Alaska		Alaska-Artic Refuge
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition	\$50,000	Alaska		Alaska-Artic Refuge
Bristol Bay Defense Fund	\$250,000	Alaska		Alaska-Artic Refuge
Hip Hop Caucus Education Fund	\$50,000	Alaska	Communications	Alaska-Artic Refuge
Alaska Wilderness League	\$54,000	Alaska		Alaska-Artic Refuge
Trust for Public Land: Board Leadership Fund*	\$116,667	Public Lands		National
Riverkeeper	\$25,000			New York



Grants Summary: Education and Scholarship

Organization	Grant Amount	Primary Program	Secondary Program	Geography
University of Michigan**	\$1,000,000	Education and Scholarship		Michigan
Montefiore**	\$1,375,000	Education and Scholarship		New York
Mountainfilm†	\$10,000	Education and Scholarship		National
Planned Parenthood of Northern New England†	\$50,000	Education and Scholarship		Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine

Grants Summary: Other

Organization	Grant Amount	Primary Program	Secondary Program	Geography
Donor Advised Fund	\$400,000			
Philanthropy New York	\$11,050			New York

Total Grantmaking: \$7,261,296

* Multi-year pledge

†John Tishman Fund Grant





Many thanks to **JAMES BASSETT-CANN** (page 7), **DESMOND LOVE** (pages 1 and 6), **THE NEW SCHOOL** (page 3), **FLO-RIAN SCHULZ** (front cover, back cover, and page 2), and **TELLURIDE FOUNDATION** (page 4) for providing the images used in this report.