



2018

ANNUAL REPORT

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

MISSION STATEMENT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Daniel R. Tishman
Chairman and President

Sheryl C. Tishman
Vice President

Francis W. Beck
Treasurer

Kate Sinding Daly
Secretary

NorthLight Foundation, a private foundation established by Dan and Sheryl Tishman, invests at the intersection of human and environmental landscapes, looking for opportunities to work with organizations and thought leaders to deliver high impact and systemic change.

NorthLight Foundation envisions a world where the earth's natural environment is healthy, protected and sustained for future generations. Our work focuses on building new power across diverse communities to lead on environmental protection, with a particular focus on climate and land conservation. We fund through a lens of economic and environmental justice.

STAFF

Kate Sinding Daly
Executive Director

HISTORY & FOCUS

Originally incorporated as the Dan and Sheryl Tishman Family Foundation in 2011, the Foundation entered a new phase in 2018 with the hiring of its first staff, an Executive Director, and the development of a strategic grantmaking framework. It also adopted a new name, NorthLight, evoking the Trustees' commitment to supporting solutions that will bring about a healthy, just and sustainable world.

Five new programmatic areas of focus centered on the overarching goal of environmental movement building were identified: leadership development, cross-movement collaboration, just transition, experimental approaches, and communications. A sixth new area of focus is Alaska and the Arctic. Also in 2018, the remainder of the John L. Tishman trust, which is earmarked to support education and scholarship, was incorporated into the Foundation. As a family foundation, the Trustees continue to support a range of additional causes and institutions of personal importance, including cutting edge brain science.

As a matter of course, unsolicited requests for support are not considered.

An aerial photograph of a river delta, showing a complex network of channels and distributaries. The water is a light brown color, and the surrounding land is a mix of dark and light brown. A large, solid blue wave graphic is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, curving from the left to the right.

GRANTS

From January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018, NorthLight Foundation awarded 40 grants totaling \$5,816,271. Specific grants in each of the Foundation's principle strategic areas of focus are identified in the following pages.

ENVIRONMENT

NorthLight Foundation's primary environmental interests are climate and conservation. The Trustees believe that making progress on these and a range of related issues depends upon the development of a strengthened, deepened and broadened environmental movement. Accordingly, with the exception of Alaska – which faces a particularly imminent series of threats – the Foundation's environmental grantmaking is organized under five interrelated, and often intersecting, tactics for movement building: new leaders, cross-issue collaboration, just transition, experimental approaches and communications.

NEW LEADERS

The New School

\$150,000 planning grant to develop a leadership development program to support leadership and cohort development for environmental justice leaders

www.newschool.edu

Power Shift Network

\$20,000 in general support

www.powershift.org

The Trust for Public Land

\$83,334 (first payment on 3-year pledge) to support the Will Rogers Fellowship Program

www.tpl.org

Catskill Mountainkeeper

\$3,000 to provide public speaking training for youth environmental leaders

www.catskillmountainkeeper.org

The Solutions Project

\$25,000, as fiscal sponsor for the Fighter League project, to support leadership and cohort development for environmental justice leaders in the Gulf Coast region

www.thesolutionsproject.org





CROSS ISSUE COLLABORATION

The Foundation deployed approximately \$30,000 to begin developing a strategy to support work at the intersection of the environmental/environmental justice and reproductive rights/reproductive justice sectors. Funding underwrote the first stage of a collaborative planning process by which leading activists and thinkers will help inform the Foundation's strategy in this area of work.

JUST TRANSITION

The Island Institute

\$300,000 (second payment on 5-year pledge) to support sustainable and just economic conversion in coastal Maine's communities

www.islandinstitute.org

The Telluride Foundation

\$130,000 (fourth payment on 10-year pledge) to support sustainable and just economic conversion in Colorado's West End communities

www.telluridefoundation.org

EXPERIMENTAL APPROACHES

The Foundation deployed approximately \$22,500 to convene a group of legal and issue experts and academics to explore the potential for cutting-edge litigation strategies to expand protections of public lands.



COMMUNICATIONS

The YEARS Project

\$500,000 to support the expansion of the YEARS Project's climate change storytelling capacity and communications strategies domestically and globally

www.theyearsproject.com

Grist

\$200,000 in general support

www.grist.org

ALASKA

Alaska Wilderness League

\$1,000,000, as fiscal sponsor for the Arctic Refuge Defense Campaign, to support the establishment of a campaign including representatives of a range of national, state-based and Native-led groups in coalition to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from potential oil and gas development

www.alaskawild.org

Natural Resources Defense Council

\$300,000 to support work to defend against ill-conceived proposed fossil fuel, mineral and natural resource extraction activities in Bristol Bay (Pebble Mine), the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Tongass and off-shore in the Arctic Ocean

www.nrdc.org

EDUCATION

John L. Tishman's Legacy Trust directed that, after certain other disbursements were made, the remainder of his estate support education and scholarship. The Foundation's John L. Tishman Fund issues grants in this area in his name and honor.

Montefiore-Einstein

\$1,375,000 (second payment on five-year pledge) to support educational programming, scholarship support, and research initiatives in brain science

www.monterfiore.org

University of Michigan

\$1,000,000 (second payment on five-year pledge) to support faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and program in the areas of sustainability and construction management

www.umich.edu

Mountainfilm

\$10,000 to provide scholarships to two graduating seniors pursuing careers in the environment (grants were made directly to the students' universities)

www.mountainfilm.org





Additional grants were made to support a variety of causes and institutions that are personally important to the Foundation's Trustees.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Many thanks to **THE NEW SCHOOL** (pages 3 & 6) and **FLORIAN SCHULZ** (front and back cover, pages 2, 4 & 5) and the **TELLURIDE FOUNDATION** (page 5) for providing the images used in this report.