NEW COMMUNITIES, JUBILEE JUSTICE, AND DECOLONIZING WEALTH PROJECT PARTNER TO REDISTRIBUTE OVER $1M TO 32 BIPOC GRANTEES LEADING FOOD AND LAND JUSTICE AND SOVEREIGNTY EFFORTS

USDA Equity Commission member Shirley Sherrod and Jubilee Justice Founder and President Konda Mason steered the Advisory Committee for the new partnership, The Food and Land Justice Fund

NEW YORK, NY - April 12, 2022 - New Communities, Jubilee Justice, and Decolonizing Wealth Project (DWP) announced today the redistribution of more than $1M to 32 Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-led organizations leading food and land justice and sovereignty efforts across the country through the Food & Land Justice Fund, a new partnership and funding initiative between the three organizations.

Final grant award decisions were made by the Fund’s Advisory Committee, which includes Shirley Sherrod, Executive Director of the Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education, Inc, and Co-Founder of New Communities, Inc., and member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Equity Commission and Konda Mason, Founder and President of Jubilee Justice, based in Louisiana. The donation was seeded by Bia-Echo Foundation in the name of Jubilee Justice and New Communities, with the intention of expanding funding for BIPOC farmers.

“In order to accurately address the racial wealth gap in the United States, we must first acknowledge the injustices of our food and agriculture industry,” said Edgar Villanueva, Founder and Principal of Decolonizing Wealth Project and Liberated Capital. “We’re thrilled to join our two partner organizations and grantees in growing the movement to reclaim land and food systems in an effort to create a more equitable and sustainable future for all.”

“It is an honor to work alongside leaders like Konda Mason and Edgar Villanueva to spearhead such a meaningful and impactful partnership,” said Sherrod. “This fund will become an invaluable tool and a template for funders, supporters and advocates as we build a nationwide network of sustainable land-based communities and address the injustices in this country's food and agriculture system.

“Joining forces with Shirley Sherrod, Decolonizing Wealth and Bia-Echo Foundation to fund BIPOC food and agriculture organizations who have historically had little-to-no access to funding has been an incredible honor,” said Mason.

The Food & Land Justice Fund comes as Black farmers fight to reclaim land ownerships that have declined by over 16 million acres in the last century and as Native farmers fight to reclaim their ancestral foodways. The grantee partners selected as part of the Food and Land Justice Fund are building on these efforts while addressing the disparities that their communities have faced for generations. They are employing a range of strategies, including building local power through community organizing to protect the loss of additional land, fighting back against pipelines being built through farmlands, and protecting
and stewarding seeds in order to reclaim the pre-colonial diet that is rooted in traditional hunting, fishing, and foraging practices.

The first round of Food and Land Justice Fund grantee partners were announced in December 2021. The second round was announced today.

ROUND ONE (December 2021):

- Farms to Grow, Inc - Oakland, CA
- Black Food Fund - Portland, OR
- Drinking Gourd Farms - Phoenix, AZ
- Reuben V Anderson Center for Justice - Tougaloo, MS
- East Baker Historical Society - Newton, GA
- Dianne’s Call - Columbia, SC
- Growing Augusta: Arts, Agriculture, & Agency - Hephzibah, GA
- Marshview Community Organic Farm, Inc. - St. Helena Island, SC
- Come Up Project’s Gangstas to Growers - Atlanta, GA
- The Ramapough Culture and Land Foundation - Newton, NJ
- Acres of Ancestry Initiative/Black Agrarian Fund - Washington, D.C.
- Southside Action Pact - South Ozone Park, NY
- Rustic Roots Sanctuary Co - St. Louis, MO
- Lugenia Burns Hope Center - Chicago, IL
- i-Collective - Appleton, WI
- Soul Food Project - Indianapolis, IN

ROUND TWO (April 2022):

- Burundians Iowans Association, Inc. - Des Moines, IA
- Medicine Bowl - Green Mountain, NC
- Tierra Negra Farm at Earthseed Land Collective - Durham, NC
- Pick 42 Foundation - Mullins, SC
- Fresh Future Farm - Charleston, SC
- The Local Farm Cooperative - Selma, AL
- Ohelaku - De Pere, WI
- Black Oaks Center - Chicago, IL
- Solidarity Economy St. Louis - St. Louis, MO
- Lakota Youth Development - Herrick, SD
- Jones Gardens - Staunton, VA
- Flower Hill institute - Jemez Pueblo, NM
- Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund - Detroit, MI
- Kumano | Ke Ala - Waimea, HI
- Fresh Rx Oklahoma - Tulsa, OK
- Anishinaabe Agriculture Institute - Callaway, MN
For more information about the Food & Land Justice Fund, visit:
https://decolonizingwealth.com/liberated-capital/foodandland/

About New Communities
New Communities is a grassroots organization that has worked for more than 40 years to empower African American families in Southwest Georgia and advocate for social justice and is widely recognized as the original model for community land trusts in the US.

About Jubilee Justice
Jubilee Justice supports Black farming communities through new models of regenerative farming, cooperative ownership, and access to new markets, as well as reparative capital and legal services.

About Decolonizing Wealth Project/Liberated Capital
Liberated Capital is a fund of the Decolonizing Wealth Project that aims to move untethered resources to support Black, Indigenous and other people-of-color-led initiatives working for transformative social change.

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