

# Haymarket

PEOPLE'S FUND

A Foundation for Change since 1974

Spring 2018

## Grantee Spotlight: Lynn Worker's Center



Photo by North Shore Labor Council

Laura Ramirez, Lynn Worker Center Member, sharing her experience of wage theft.

**L**ynn Worker Center (LWC) has been leading a grassroots campaign to pass a municipal wage theft ordinance in the City of Lynn. Since last year, members have been studying ordinances in other cities to learn about the worker protections, concessions made, and success of implementation of each one, to make the Lynn Wage Theft Ordinance as strong and successful as possible. On February 27, Lynn Worker Center members Laura Ramirez, Mario Chun, and Vicente Lopez demonstrated bravery, conviction and power in testifying about their personal experiences with wage theft to the Lynn City Council on the introduction of our ordinance. They shared the extreme hardship wage theft had caused them and their families, and how they were organizing together to stop wage theft. Laura Ramirez said, "If it weren't for the Lynn Worker Center, I would still be waiting for the courts [to make a decision] but I've come to understand that together, as workers, we can fight to improve our working and living conditions." Mario Chun echoed this sentiment, stating, "I had thought that my stolen wages would be lost for good, but thanks to the Lynn Worker Center my employer has recently made a payment agreement with me."

Every day, there is a need for LWC to work against disempowering messages by analyzing the structure of power with our community. There are many messages through the media that are stoking fear and increasing people's

*continued on page 2*

## From the Director's Corner Spring 2018



**W**e stand on the shoulders of greatness. Radical movements in the United States have been won through long and arduous struggle.

As we face current obstacles, it is extremely beneficial to recall our history. It has been said that if we don't learn from history, we bear to repeat it.

Consider for a moment those who led the way toward the societal changes we now appreciate.

Not those who toiled for glory, but those who fought out of necessity for their very survival in contending with unfair circumstances that were put upon them.

Racial oppression, in particular, negatively affects people of color. Think of the Civil Rights Movement. Certain names come to mind. There are so very many less familiar and countless others. As a specific tribute, let's honor a particular historic figure William Edward Burghardt "W.E.B." DuBois.



February 23 of this year marked 150 years since his birth. While his name may be familiar, the impact of his efforts, and the ways his accomplishments affect our current organizing may not be as well known.

It is astounding to realize that DuBois was

*continued on page 8*

## Haymarket People's Fund

42 Seaverns Avenue  
Boston, MA 02130  
Voice 617-522-7676 Fax 617-522-9580  
www.haymarket.org

### Haymarket's Mission Statement

Haymarket People's Fund is an anti-racist and multi-cultural foundation that is committed to strengthening the movement for social justice in New England. Through grantmaking, fundraising and capacity building, we support grassroots organizations that address the root cause of injustice.

### Haymarket's Vision Statement

Haymarket envisions a world free of racism and other oppressions:  
Where peace and cooperation flourish  
Where people are valued and respected for their gifts and able to bring their whole selves to humanity  
Where vibrant communities thrive and different cultures are celebrated  
Where abundant resources and opportunities are equally shared and distributed while honoring the earth and all within it.

### Board of Directors

Ashley Stewart  
Cedric Shaw  
Fatou Drammeh  
Trina Jackson  
Santiago Nariño

### Development Committee

Dorotea Manuela  
Clifton Sims  
Magalis Troncoso

### Finance Committee

Ayeesha Lane  
Tiffany Brown  
Fatou Drammeh  
Cedric Shaw  
Santiago Nariño  
Valeska Daley

### Regional Funding Panel Members

Abdul Said  
Adanarys Barragan  
Claire Wheeler  
Collique Williams  
Erik Wissa  
Isa Mujahid  
Isabel Lopez  
Kelly Baker  
Laura Iteka  
Maggie Filler  
Malchus Mills  
Myrna Morales  
Oneda Horne

### Staff

Staff can be reached at 617-522-7676 with the following extensions and e-mail addresses.

Jennifer Dowdell-Rosario  
Development Director  
X106 - jennifer@haymarket.org

Karla Nicholson  
Executive Director  
X103 - knicholson@haymarket.org

Jaime Smith  
Grants Director  
X115 - jaime@haymarket.org

## Grantee Spotlight: Lynn Worker's Center *continued from page 1*

concerns about participating in organizing. LWC always emphasizes that Trump is like a cough, not the disease itself. He is a visible symptom of a much deeper underlying problem we've had for a very long time. The immigration system, for example, is built on exploitation and racism, built to favor the wealthy and the corporations. We appreciate the support from Haymarket whose funding really helped us get this campaign started. We are continuing to work to build a larger cadre of women leaders, and constantly evaluate how internalized oppression has the tendency to show up in ourselves, so we can address it within our own organization.

We are showing that the solution is within each of us, when we come together in solidarity. Our tactics of direct action and pressured negotiation with employers proves that in "the country of laws," the courts are not the solution for immigrant workers. Our most recent wage theft campaign victories—with Laura at the dry cleaning establishment, and with Mario and Vicente in the construction industry—show that direct action gets the goods AND builds power for us as individuals, as an organization, and as a community.

## CT-CORE Organize Now!

**W**e have been organizing, in coalition, in a campaign called Justice4Jayson around a set of demands for accountability after a Bridgeport Police officer killed an unarmed Bridgeport youth named Jayson Negron on May 9, 2017. We recently, officially, launched our 4th local chapter, in New Haven. We have chapters in Bridgeport, New Haven, Waterbury, and Hartford. Our Food Justice Guide (an anti-racism framework for urban, community food system work) will be made available by the end of March then we will begin working on our Food Justice online resource guide.



A demonstration at Bridgeport City Hall to deliver the Justice4Jayson demands to the Mayor, Joe Ganim, in the weeks following Jayson's death.]

Because of the consistent pressure we have been mounting in Bridgeport as part of the Justice4Jayson campaign, we have seen other residents self-organize and take direct action around issues of police misconduct. This was not commonplace in Bridgeport prior to the campaign.

We will do some strategic planning this year and take another look at our leadership structure. We have grown a lot, and quickly, over the past year. We want to make sure that all of our leaders are on the same page around the state, we are continuing to formulate a collective vision for liberation in Connecticut, and that all of our leaders are equipped to move the vision forward.

## New Mainers Public Health Initiative

**N**ew Mainers Public Health Initiative (NMPHI) is an ethnic based organization that focuses on educating the community about the Social Determinant of Health (SDOH) in the Lewiston-Auburn area. The mission of NMPHI is to engage, inform, empower, advocate, and educate immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers about preventative health measures through the promotion of healthy habits. By developing the capacity to mobilize community partnerships in identifying and solving health problems and also to bridge the gap in health inequity, NMPHI is committed to reducing racial health inequalities and identifying the Social Determinant of Health.

This past year our celebration of Refugee Day showed how multicultural coexistence is possible for Lewiston-Auburn. Despite the rainy weather forecast the community came out in support of the local New Americans. Providers and community members attended, showing support for their new neighbors and trying out new foods amongst the long lines and crowds. The celebration of diversity and the unity it brought for Lewiston-Auburn gives hope that the twin cities are moving in the right direction.



Celebrating Refugee Day helped to bridge acknowledgement and bring the community one step closer to joining together to fight problems that affect both native Mainers and New Mainers equally. For example, social issues such as low

wages, high poverty rate, and high lead poisoned homes could be fought with Lewiston and Auburn towns standing side by side and addressing these issues which affect the community at large. New Mainers need support to fight against racism and bigotry now more than ever therefore, mainstream Mainers should support and stand with their neighbors.

NMPHI strongly believes that through education, advocacy, and empowering the New Mainers they

can reach their highest potential to live a healthy life in Lewiston-Auburn. Our weekend educational classes focus on educating the community on health issues, women's health, developmental delay among our youth, and most of all lead poisoning in our homes. Discussing the issues and empowering the community with proper knowledge is one goal that NMPHI holds dear and will continue to bring that message to those who are affected most.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JAMAICA PLAIN OPEN STUDIOS

*Save the Date:*

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd**  
and **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd**  
*from 11:00am-6:00pm.*

**Visit us at Haymarket!**



## The Root Social Justice Center

*The Root Social Justice Center provides a physically and financially accessible space in Southern Vermont for social justice groups to meet AND is a hub for racial justice organizing. The Root prioritizes People Of Color (POC) leadership and shifting resources to POC led racial justice work. They operate collectively to sustain a space that strives to be free of oppression, harm, and injustice.*

In the last few months so many great things have happened at The Root. We added an additional program, Root Feeder, to our existing 5 programs which provides short videos on issues of racial and social justice. Through our programs we have created over 3 dozen authentic ongoing relationships and added a new Collective member. We have built in strength-based leadership opportunities throughout the whole structure of the Root to include volunteers for a variety of events, program co-coordinators, advisory board members, and Collective members. Families United founding group of impacted families have ALL seen positive progression in their cases with DCF and



the program is being recognized statewide, with interest in replicating it elsewhere. Youth 4 Change (Y4C) has established two campaigns they are taking leadership on: the removal of the High School mascot named "Colonel" and the Youth Vote campaign for 16 and 17 year olds to vote on local issues, hold a position on the school board and elect a

town representative. The Y4C also spoke at the Jan 21 rally, March for our Futures, in front of thousands of people. The People of Color Caucus (POCC) is growing and has a youth of color as a co-coordinator. We have excellent accountability from white folks, which recently enabled us to help one of our community members of color seek asylum. In addition we are moving forward with building a statewide POCC and the Burlington area has just started their own in collaboration with The Root. The "I Am Vermont, Too Project" is currently hosted at the Root and after five successful shows in Northern Vermont we pulled off a panel forum speaking to racial micro-aggressions, which made front page news. The project has drawn hundreds of folks

who have come to see the show, inspiring them to bring it to their communities and schools. We have directly shifted resources towards this show by setting a fee for the educational component and the curation.



Soul Food Sundays has brought folks as far as three hours away and from bordering states of NY, NH, and MA to break bread with us. More folks are coming and finding ways we can heal in this space, have fun and get to know one another. This event helps to draw people into the other programs the Root provides and really allows folks to be their full selves and share our connections. This too is being replicated around Vermont.

More and more we see people talking and doing more about racial injustice. Folks are mobilizing and organizing to fight and stand up for racial justice and folks of color; having more solidarity events, and more celebrations of people of color. People are finding a home away from home that is safe for them and people of color are able to contribute in meaningful ways and are being recognized for those contributions. The Root is becoming the go to place for racial justice in our community, a place where POC are visible, empowered and valued and white folks are held directly accountable to communities of color, where the status quo is not good enough.

We find ourselves challenged by concerns of safety for members of the Root and our larger community due to our visibility to those who might want to harm us. We are confronting how to address this, while acknowledging the work we are doing and the social climate we are living in. As we grow we find ourselves contending with the issue of resources. The resources to pay more people and pay them fairly and fully for their time, to be able to expand our space as we are grow and do more, while still supporting our established programs and finally the resource of time; time to have more space for healing and self care work, the time to just be with people. Increased resources would mean more time to relax, have fun and celebrate our extended Root Community.

## Rhode Island Jobs with Justice

**W**hat a year! The upheaval of 2016 to 2017 has been deeply destabilizing for everyone who works in the movement and RI Jobs with Justice (RI JwJ) is not immune to the psychic strain of pain that this new era brings. RI JwJ has traditionally taken a support role and stepped back from overly confrontational engagement, following the direction dictated by traditional labor leadership. This was a difficult position, the need for institutional support versus the need for a radical re-centering on Black, Indigenous and People of Color (POC). The institutions were looking for a transactional relationship and our community was demanding a transformational relationship. On the board level we set goals to be much more intentionally inclusive and look to our strengths and our weaknesses. 2017 was the year RI JwJ decided to not take a reactive role but to center ourselves as an incubator for new



Pride Labor Caucus.

with coalition building and direct action, 2017 has been a year of joyful struggle.

We were deeply proud of the formation of an All Union Anti-Racist Caucus and the RI JwJ Anti-Racist-Action Committee,



May Day

organization, and leaders, and take leadership where there was none.

This manifested in the need for RI JwJ to become a rapid response team and take an attack position; placing our resources, allies, partners, and bodies in the center of the struggle in Rhode Island. Combining legislative wins

and our Union Caucus's success in making an anti-racist, anti-oppression amendment to the RIAFL-CIO Constitution.

We filled a need for celebration and solidarity, making new connections and growing new event organizers when we hosted our May 1st International Workers Day March and Rally. 20 Organizations came together, focusing on issues from protection for undocumented workers to gentrification, and celebrated with food, speeches, poetry and music.

Following the horrible events in Charlottesville, RI JwJ convened a meeting with over 400 community members attending; this was an act of public mourning and action.

Labor unions, particularly the Teamsters, felt that the labor community needed to make a show of force and solidarity, in response to that RI JwJ hosted a large Labor Day rally against hate, over 1500 attended and some participants were inspired to maintain the momentum through follow up meetings.

In one follow up meeting local Black educator Marcos McWilliams centered our conversation when he asked, "What do we need to do to get our people free?" Bail justice was identified as a winnable campaign, in response The Providence Bail Justice Committee and Fund has been meeting and organizing among the recently incarcerated and their families to create a membership organization to work and win the abolition of the bail system. Legislation has been entered this year for the elimination of bail.

Marcos McWilliams' injunction to do what we need to do to make us free has been our motto for the year. Our community is so much stronger this year than last, and we are looking toward a stronger more beautiful movement moving forward.

## Welcome Haymarket's New Funding Panel Members



### Isa Mujahid

Isa Mujahid, Founder and Organizing Director of CTCORE-Organize Now!, is a native of Bridgeport, CT. The child and grandchild of Civil Rights Era activists, Isa was aware from an early age the role that racial politics had played in the history of the United States in the oppression of marginalized groups, in particular African Americans. He began community organizing with ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) in Bridgeport. Isa saw how effective community organizing was at winning demands from the powers-that-be and showing community members, who may have previously felt discouraged or unsure about their own ability to bring about social change, what was possible if communities work together in an organized and strategic way. Isa continued to organize with ACORN for several years - later organizing with the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of Connecticut and FaithActs for Education in Bridgeport, before forming CTCORE-Organize Now!

### Laura Iteka

Laura is of East African origins, multilingual, and an aspiring diplomat. She is a new Mainer who has resided in Portland, Maine for nearly three years and found her passion of social activism there. She has a specific interest in equity in education, meaningful education, and student centered learning. She continues to act on this interest through emphasizing the necessity of involved youth in their education nationally at different national education summits. She aspires to live on every continent for a minimum of one month and thus far has 4 continents left. She is currently pursuing a double major in Political Science, International Relations, and a master's in public policy at Simmons College.



### Collique Williams

Collique Williams is a Geek, Musician, Anime Head, Schemer, Dreamer, with a flair for facilitation and strategy. Collique is a Boston native who grew up in the youth social justice community. He is the former Lead Organizer at the Boston-area Youth Organizing Project (BYOP) and has worked for years on different youth and community campaigns. He has been a part of and a representative to several coalitions and currently works at The City School.



## Grantee Gathering

This year Haymarket People's Fund hosted the 6th annual Grantee Gathering in partnership with Episcopal City Mission's Burgess Urban Fund, The Hyams Foundation, Third Sector New England's Inclusion Initiative, and The Lenny Zakim Foundation. Through this partnership, we were excited to bring even more grassroots groups together as we continue to build & grow a social justice movement across New England! This gathering was an opportunity for our grantees to come together to share and to learn more about one another's work and to deepen our efforts to build a social justice movement.



This year at the gathering we held a Social Emergency Response Center (SERC). A SERC gives participants an opportunity to come together to learn, make, collectively heal, and organize! Visit <http://www.ds4si.org/interventions/serc> to learn more about SERC.

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!

You too can enjoy the rewarding experience of volunteering with Haymarket, and having a significant impact in your community. Simply email Jaime at [Jaime@haymarket.org](mailto:Jaime@haymarket.org) to learn more about becoming part of the New England Regional Funding Panel, or Karla at [knicholson@haymarket.org](mailto:knicholson@haymarket.org) about Haymarket's Board of Directors and committees. Participation is needed from Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine and Western Massachusetts.

## Haymarket's 40th Anniversary 4-year sustainability campaign Sustaining Time, Treasure, and Talent!

**T**his year Haymarket People's Fund reaches its 44th year! Over the years, Haymarket has given over \$29 million in support to grassroots organizations across the New England region. We believe that societal change can occur through effective community organizing. For Haymarket to continue to be a stable (yet visionary!) institution, not dependent on the ups and downs of fundraising, everyone's support is necessary.

Haymarket wants stable financial support for our operations, so as much money as possible can be dedicated to grants and work with grantees.

Haymarket's fundamental commitment is to provide support to grassroots organizations working for progressive social change. Our Sustainability Campaign will help is support that core mission.

As Haymarket grantees continue to make strides in improving the stability of their lives in the community, and as the disparity between wealth and poverty grows, the demands for funding continue to increase. We are often the first funder for many organizations working on controversial issues. We would like to increase the number of groups we can fund, increase the size of our grants, and continue to make multi-year grants.

Haymarket believes the most important thing we can do is keep that money moving out to grassroots groups working for social change.

### HAYMARKET SUSTAINABILITY CAMPAIGN GOALS:

1. **Sustainability of grants** – each year the pool of resources is raised from individuals and dispersed to dynamic grassroots organizations across New England. This pool must be expanded to fully support the work until the goals and mission can be realized.
2. **Secure our reserves** – Haymarket operates from a fully-owned building, and rents space at well below market rates to non-profits. Also, a small conference room space is maintained and rented for community usage. Reserve funds are needed to manage and maintain this valuable asset, and provide a fiscal base for operations.
3. **Sustainability of operations** - in order to staff the work, resources are necessary. Internally, Haymarket has become smaller, now we need the capacity to be more effective.

For more details about this program, and to support this beneficial campaign, please contact Karla at [knicholson@haymarket.org](mailto:knicholson@haymarket.org) or call 617-522-7676 x103.

### WAYS TO GIVE!



- I/We want to support Haymarket People's Fund's Grantees!
  - I/We have enclosed a check payable to Haymarket People's Fund
  - Here's my contribution of     \$1,000     \$500     \$100     \$50     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - I/We want to be a sustainer. Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card each month
- Please charge my                       Visa                       Master Card                       Amex

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

In addition please contact me for the following:  Gifts of Securities     Planned Giving     I have named Haymarket in my will

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

You can also donate online @ [www.haymarket.org](http://www.haymarket.org)

42 Seaverns Avenue ♦ Boston Massachusetts 02130

*continued from page 1*

born, grew up, and raised his family in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. During his 95 years, he made history that is worth knowing as we face our current conditions. He broke barriers in education, politics, and especially within racial justice. As the first black person to receive a doctorate, he leveraged these academic credentials to gain the access necessary to make bold statements around the eradication of racism. His accomplishments are expansive.

This year as he is being uplifted, take the time to learn more about him at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W.\\_E.\\_B.\\_Du\\_Bois](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W._E._B._Du_Bois). And try to make a visit to Great Barrington, where current day warriors fought the good fight to make this celebration happen like our good friends/allies at Multicultural Bridge. Be sure to view [Dubois150th.com](http://Dubois150th.com) and the DuBois Center at [duboiscentergb.org/](http://duboiscentergb.org/) Take the time to expand your knowledge beyond the few historic figures we hear about most.

In “Prayers for Dark People” W.E.B. Du Bois emphasizes “Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the playtime.”

Great enlightenment and inspiration can be drawn from so many historical figures. As we seek answers and solutions to save our communities, never forget those who came before us.

–Karla Nicholson,  
Executive Director

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Boston MA  
Permit No. 59391

address service requested

## UPCOMING EVENTS

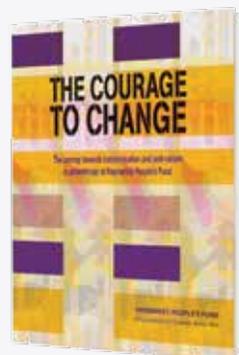
# 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LOBSTER FEED

**Saturday, June 30th, 2018**

*More details to come*



## THE COURAGE TO CHANGE



In 1998 Haymarket People’s Fund embarked on a deliberate process to advance the mission and undo the racism ingrained in every aspect of the organization. During the past decade, Haymarket has rewritten its mission, updated and/or developed organizational policies and practices, changed its leadership structure, and taken steps to shift its organizational culture.

To learn more about Haymarket’s anti-racism journey, and obtain copies of “The Courage to Change”, contact Haymarket at **617-522-7676** or [knicholson@haymarket.org](mailto:knicholson@haymarket.org)