Overview

Bay Area Asset Funders Network (AFN) is a regional chapter of grantmakers who engage philanthropy to advance equitable wealth building and economic mobility. Members include private, public, corporate, and community foundations, public-sector funders, and financial institutions who want to help residents of the nine-county Bay Area become more economic secure, build and preserve assets for themselves and future generations.

To accomplish its mission, Bay Area AFN focuses on the following four strategic objectives:

Connect:
Bay Area AFN members support peer-to-peer learning and cross-sector collaboration. Members identify and leverage replicable and scalable high-impact strategies and innovative approaches to connect and inform influential funders of actionable investments. Members provide an insightful voice to inform both regional and national conversations.

Build:
Bay Area AFN works to increase the number of grantmakers and resources focused on strategies that help low and moderate income people build and protect assets. Members leverage one another’s interests and investments and actively look for additional funders willing to co-invest in Bay Area.

Inform:
Bay Area AFN members learn from one another and other stakeholders as they seek solutions to local challenges. The chapter hosts issue-based programming and calls-to-action that reflect research and philanthropic thought leadership that highlights actionable roles for philanthropy. While focusing on a variety of topics, the chapter gathers local leaders and national experts together to share data and ideas, promote innovative approaches, and help establish common language to build collaboration.

Influence:
Bay Area AFN is working to raise the visibility of asset-building strategies within the broader community of foundations, public-sector funders, and financial institutions. Members seek opportunities to accelerate economic prosperity, especially for low-income individuals and communities while also reducing racial, ethnic, and gender wealth gaps by addressing structural and systemic changes which have created barriers to individuals ability to build and preserve their wealth.
2022 Reflections and Successes

In 2022, Bay Area AFN funders continued to elevate burgeoning and intersectional issue related to building a more equitable and anti-racist economy that resulted in releasing two Bay Area publications; leveraging public funding through a statewide pooled fund; and deepening collaboration among external organizations and members for its 24 members.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Publications Released

Small Business Vulnerability Mapping Project & Report (January 2022)
- Developed with the Urban Displacement Project at UC Berkeley, BAAFN released a unique interactive map highlighting the vulnerability of POC-owned businesses in the nine-county Bay Area. The publication was released via webinar and included panelists representing the small business sector, government and philanthropy. The session highlighted structural and historic barriers faced by POC-owned businesses, policy solutions necessary to address these inequities and opportunities for philanthropy to make strategic philanthropic investments which can help POC-owned businesses thrive.

- The map and report were released in California via webinar (January 2022) and to a national audience at AFN’s national conference: How to Rebuild a More Equitable and Anti-Racist Economy (September 2022).

Reimagining a More Inclusive Economy: Supporting the Economic Security of People who are Undocumented (November 2022)
- BA AFN, in collaboration with California Immigrant Policy Coalition (CIPC) produced a report to deepen philanthropy’s understanding of the existing inequities experienced by people who are undocumented and their families; the ecosystem of current supports and exclusions; and the opportunities to advance policies and systems which address both short-term economic relief and longer-term economic security and stability for undocumented Californian’s and their families.

- The report was released on a webinar and included a living statewide database of organizations working on intersectional issues around economic security for people who are undocumented; a county profile on Contra Costa and detailed timeline of historic discriminatory policies impacting people who are undocumented.

Guaranteed Income Initiatives

CA Guaranteed Income Pooled Fund – In May, Bay Area AFN established a partnership with the Economic Security Project (ESP), Mayors for Guaranteed Income (MGI), the Governor's Office of Public/Private Partnerships, California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and Social Finance to develop a Guaranteed Income Pooled Fund to leverage the state's $35MM investment into a first-of-its-kind statewide guaranteed income initiative.

- The Fund will be used to provide match dollars for CA pilots which have received conditional approval for state funding but have not been able to raise the full amount of the philanthropic match.

- To date the fund has raised approximately $1.25MM from the following funders: (Blue Shield of CA Foundation, California Wellness Foundation, May & Stanley Smith Trust, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Weingarten Foundation).

Guaranteed Income Community of Practice (GICP)

- BAAFN continues to participate in a new role as co-convener (vs. co-chair) in the California GICP, a collaboration between MGI, ESP, Stanford Basic Income Lab (SBIL) and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. The GICP is a community of practice for policy makers, practitioners, researchers and advocates around guaranteed income in California. BA AFN transitioned its role from co-chair to co-convener in order to provide community-based organizations with an opportunity for leadership roles in this growing space.

- AFN is continuing to participate in the national GICP lead by Springboard to Opportunities (STO) and ESP as a co-convener to ensure there remains a connection and opportunities for learning, alignment and collaboration between the California and national GICPs as well as to continually shape funder education on this issue.
Development of Economic Justice Policy Agenda

2022 marked the first year BA AFN developed a regional policy agenda focused on identifying key intersectional economic justice policies members would collectively support and help advance, resulting in three main areas:

- Policies that address and advance basic needs
- Policies that correct structural conditions of economic and racial injustice
- Policies that promote economic security and opportunity

The policy agenda was followed by a convening (July 2022) with 10 key economic justice focused community-based organizations (CBOs) which helped members further explore and learn about burgeoning economic justice issues, legislative efforts and policy solutions for which grantmakers should be aware. The meeting included a discussion of how to center the needs of CBOs when making grants for their critical work.

REGIONAL PROGRAMMING

The chapter continued to deepen its collaboration with all three Philanthropy Serving Organizations (PSOs) including NCG, SCG, Catalyst San Diego & Imperial Counties and Philanthropy California by co-sponsoring convenings for funders. These webinars were held on a wide range of intersectional issues revolving around building a more equitable and inclusive economy. Over 520 individuals, including funders, policy advocates, government representatives, and staff of community-based organizations attended the following convenings:

- Empower 2022: Policy Pathways Toward Guaranteed Income in California+ Funder-Only Discussion (3/16/22) *
- Why Care About Care: How Collaboration Advances Care for All (04/19/22) **
- Workplace Equity: A Framework for Building Economic Mobility (5/11/22)
- Economic Justice Roundtable (7/15/22) ***
- Release of Supporting the Economic Security of Undocumented Immigrants (11/16/22)

BA AFN Members in National Publications: Bay Area members were instrumental in supporting national research and funder briefs. Members were also highlighted in national AFN publications around strategies to close the racial wealth gap, including this year’s national publication entitled: Guaranteed Income A Primer for Funders (5/11/22).

Elevating Bay Area AFN Nationally: BA AFN influenced national AFN content through championing specific issues areas and supporting research and publications on urgent and emerging economic security topics. The following national AFN convenings were championed by local SC members:

- **AFN National Conference:** How to Rebuild a More Equitable & Anti-Racist Economy: Bay Area members were featured in two sessions as part of the pre-conference day and initial day of the conference.
- The Real People’s Fund: A Community Driven Approach to Wealth Building (9/13/22)
- Solutions Supporting Long-term Recovery and Resilience for POC Small Businesses (9/13/22)
- Fines Fees and Strategies for Reform (9/14/22)
- National Webinar: Why Care About Care Cooperatives? (7/19/22)
- National Peer to Peer Conversation: Care Economy (10/21/22)

PROGRAMMING FEEDBACK

Audiences continue to find value in BA AFN educational convenings.

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<th>Question</th>
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<td>How satisfied are you with today’s webinar?</td>
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<td>How useful to you was the information presented at today’s webinar?</td>
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<td>How likely are you to use information from today’s session in your future programming?</td>
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Member Transitions: This year BA AFN bid a farewell to three active members of the steering committee. Marco Chavarin (Citi Community Development), Jean Nudelman (Kaiser Permanente) and Christa Brown (San Francisco Foundation). We share our sincerest appreciation for all their thought partnership, leadership and support in the BA AFN and wish them the greatest success in their future endeavors!

Three new steering members were added: Jazmin Gonzales (Sobrato Family Foundation); Glenda Monterroza (Kaiser Permanente) and Anand Subramanian (San Francisco Foundation).

Conclusion: In 2022 Bay Area AFN not only deepened its programming around the root causes of generational economic inequities and corresponding policy solutions but also experienced the strongest member-based collaboration and alignment around racial & gender equity initiatives since its founding.

We are continuing to develop our strategic priorities for 2023. However our region will continue to lift up new data, tools, resources to inform funders’ understanding of the root causes of economic inequities and develop initiatives in which philanthropy can collaboratively invest in to drive more equitable wealth building opportunities for all Californians.

*Lead by California Budget & Policy Center (co-sponsored by BA AFN). BA AFN held a funder only discussion after the public webinar.
**Co-sponsored with SCG as part of its annual policy conference.
***This was a BA AFN Member only convening.