Thousand Currents
exchanging grassroots brilliance

annual report 2017
you stood for
courage
in action
36 grassroots partners sharing local solutions to our shared global challenges; 8 partners are new, because solidarity must be grown

3 focus areas
• food sovereignty
• alternative economies
• climate justice

2 million+ women, small farmers, Indigenous Peoples, sexual and ethnic minorities, and youth have been reached by our partners

Combined 44 years of partnership with our 3 longest-standing partners, because solidarity does not stop

Partners working cross-regionally and in 9 countries, including Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, India, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, South Africa and Zimbabwe

Here’s what your courage and support made possible at Thousand Currents during our Fiscal Year 2017, from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.
1 new name and brand

100% of gifts from individuals went to direct grantmaking for our grassroots partners, since our operating costs were covered by foundation grants

15 staff walking the talk with partners

600+ members are part of the Young Professionals Network

2,934 hours

hours spent creating a new grassroots-led approach to impact investing, the Buen Vivir Fund

5 out of 5 stars on GuideStar, and 100% Charity Navigator score for “accountability and transparency”

32 years since we were founded in 1985 (as IDEX)
"As we were biking down country roads, we saw migrant laborers bent over toiling in the fields of America’s breadbasket in 100 degree heat. We biked through struggling towns hit hard by the creative destruction of ‘progress.’

“But our 500-mile ride [from San Francisco to Los Angeles] also reminded me of the incredible beauty there is in the world and of Thousand Currents partners, who are working toward peaceful solutions to systemic injustice.”

Julian Rhoads
board member, donor, and co-founder of Grassroutes, an annual fundraiser for Thousand Currents
You stood with people who create healthy, cost-saving, high-yield, and sustainable food systems.

This year, Thousand Currents partners protected 1,400 native varieties of potatoes in Peru; mobilized 25,000 people to sign a petition opposing Monsanto GMOs in South Africa; organized 200 million small farmers to protect land and property rights; and much more.
It takes courage to...
PROTECT COLLECTIVE ASSETS.

“We have creations that date from more than **1000 years B.C.** Textiles worn by us Indigenous Mayan women [contain] current symbols that are still replicated as part of the philosophy and worldview of our people.

“These are links that convey our history, our colors, our relationship with nature, our geometry, and all the science involved in weaving a textile. It is an art and it is a science that has not been recognized until now.”

Joint statement by **over 1,000 members** of the Guatemalan National Movement of Women Weavers, co-led by Thousand Currents partner Asociación Femenina para el Desarrollo de Sacatepéquez (AFEDES), or Women’s Association for the Development of Sacatepéquez
You stood with people who reimagine wealth, and put people and planet before profits.

This year, Thousand Currents partners were among 81 founding circle members of an investment fund governed by love rather than fear; were featured in an AJ+ video viewed by over 12 million people about a legal battle to protect Mayan textile designs from global fashion companies; and much more.
It takes courage to...
CREATE NEW STRUCTURES.

“We need to unite and stop these people from denying us our rights...to tell the leaders that they cannot take decisions about us without consulting us. At the moment, all the big projects are benefiting the few.

“We want the people’s economy that talks about protecting the land, giving the land back, protecting the food, and giving them water.”

Desmond D’sa, Coordinator of the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA), who led 100s of marchers in protest during the May 2017 World Economic Forum in Durban
You stood with people who challenge polluting industries and unleash local solutions to climate change.

This year, Thousand Currents partners shared sustainable farming techniques among 1,000+ villages in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan, India; walked with 12,000 subsistence fisher folk to protect their rights and access to the sea in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; and much more.
It takes courage to...
FOREGO THE STATUS QUO.

“A lot of people may have textbook solutions to local problems, but there’s all kinds of context[s] you’re missing...

“If we were to pinpoint 1 thing Thousand Currents does best, it would be partnering with people that have a deep understanding of what’s happening on the ground.”

Max Garcia and Dave Beck of Rotunda Software, long-time Thousand Currents donors
You stood with us as we flip traditional approaches to philanthropy, putting grassroots wisdom first.

This year Thousand Currents hosted 2 week-long training academies for people mobilizing resources for grassroots solutions; merged with Africans in the Diaspora to connect the collective knowledge, passion, and resources of the Diaspora (remittances estimated at US$60 billion annually!); spoke at 10 conferences; launched 2 books; and much more.
It takes courage to...
REMAIN UNDAUNTED.

“[I am] doing what I can to #MAHA (Make America Humane... At last) and I look forward to working beside Thousand Currents, its brave partners around the world, and many others who are also committed to truth, beauty, and connection as the antidotes to fearmongering, greed, and alienation.”

Sarah Jones, Tony award-winning playwright and performer and Thousand Currents supporter
1 GREAT LOSS
Prudence Nobantu Mabele
21 July 1971 - 10 July 2017

Nobantu was a tireless activist, fashionista, feminist, Olympic torch carrier, *sangoma*, jazz lover, and friend.

In 1992, she was also one of the first African women to publicly share her HIV status in South Africa, despite the shame and stigma fueling an epidemic that would kill over 15 million people on the African continent.

Thousand Currents first partnered with Positive Women’s Network (PWN), an organization that Prudence founded, in 2005. PWN has created safe spaces and networks of support for over 35,000 women to date and has inspired countless more.
OUR PARTNERS

As of 30 June 2017

Guatemala
Asociación de Mujeres Ixpiyakok (ADEMI) / Ixpiyakok Women’s Association
Asociación Femenina para el Desarrollo de Sacatepéquez (AFEDES) / Women’s Association for the Development of Sacatepéquez
Asociación para la Prómoción de la Salud y el Desarrollo Socio-Económico (APROSADSE) / Association for the Promotion of Health and Social Economic Development

India
Sahyog Sansthan

Mexico
Educación para la Paz (EduPaz)
Ñepi Behña

Nepal
ASHA Nepal
Nari Chetana Kendra / Women Awareness Center Nepal (WACN)

Peru
Federación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas, Artesanas, Indígenas, Nativas y Asalariadas de Perú (FENMUCARINAP) / National Federation of Peasant, Artisan, Indigenous, Native and Wage-Earning Women of Peru
Grupo Género y Economía (GGE) / Gender and Economy Group
Red Ñuqanchik Marionijei Noshaninka / Indigenous Youth Network of Ayacucho

South Africa
Biowatch South Africa
Positive Women’s Network (PWN)
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA)
Surplus People Project (SPP)
Whole World Women Association (WWWA)

Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers’ Forum (ZIMSOFF)
Catalyst Partners

**Ethiopia**
Siiqqee Women’s Development Association*

**Fiji**
Pacific Network on Globalization (PANG)
Social Empowerment Education Programme (SEEP)

**India**
Focus on the Global South (FGS)

**Nepal**
Digo Bikas Institute (DBI)
ForestAction Nepal

**South Africa**
African Centre for Biodiversity (ACBio)
Ntinga Ntaba kaNdoda

**Zimbabwe**
Chikukwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust (CELUCT)
Institute for Young Women Development (IYWD)
Katswe Sistahood

**Global**
La Via Campesina (LVC) / International Peasant’s Movement

*Thousand Currents and Africans in the Diaspora (AiD) merged in 2017, and some of AiD’s partners became catalyst partners of Thousand Currents.

Senior Partners

**Guatemala**
Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA) / Peasant Farmers Committee of the Highlands
Instituto para la Superación de la Miseria Urbana de Guatemala (ISMUGUA) / Institute for Overcoming Urban Poverty in Guatemala

**India**
Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS) / Center of People’s Science for Rural Development

**Mexico**
Desarrollo Económico y Social de los Mexicanos Indígenas (DESMI) / Social Economic Development of Indigenous Mexicans

**Peru**
Asociación ANDES / Association for Nature and Sustainable Development

**South Africa**
Ubunye [“Togetherness”] Foundation
OUR TEAM
1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

Staff
Rajasvini Bhansali
Jenesha “Jinky” de Rivera
Stephanie de Wolfe
Trishala Deb
Sam Fowler
Dino Foxx
Angela Jia-Yin Ng, Fellow
Rajiv Khanna
Luam Kidane
Solomé Lemma
Jennifer Lentfer
Joanna Levitt Cea
Heather Masaki
Verónica Moreno

Erin Morioka
Hafsa Mustafa
Jessie Spector
Hilda Vega
Yeshica Weerasekera
Katherine Zavala

Artists-in-Residence
Sharon Bridgforth
Pregs Govender, PhD
Omi Osun Joni L. Jones, PhD

Board
Nwamaka Agbo
Fahad Ahmad
Rajasvini Bhansali
Gregory Hodge
Sasha Rabsey
Julian Rhoads
Gerald Richards
Susan Rosenberg
Topher Wilkins
Ada Williams Prince
FINANCIALS

Thousand Currents has experienced an excellent few years of steady and sustainable financial growth. From 2013 to 2017, our organizational revenue, institutional fundraising, and grantmaking have grown substantially, increasing Thousand Currents’ impact by channeling even more resources to our grassroots partners.

Thousand Currents ended our fiscal year 2016 at $6.6 million in revenue. (This figure also includes revenue earned through our fiscal sponsorship of the Black Lives Matter Network.) Moreover, to ensure long-term financial sustainability we grew our reserve fund, called the Baobab Fund. The graphs below reflect data from our last audited fiscal year, 2016.

Thanks to multi-year, flexible funding commitments from key institutional funders, as well as from our earned-income strategies, we began fiscal year 2017 and 2018 with 100% of our core organizational costs covered. This means that giving from Thousand Currents’ loyal individual donors is able to go directly to programmatic work, i.e., our responsive grantmaking to visionary leaders and grassroots organizations and movements in the Global South – those that are creating lasting solutions to their communities’ most pressing issues and our shared global challenges.
IN GRATITUDE FOR THEIR COURAGE, SOLIDARITY, AND SUPPORT

**Institutional Funders**

Abundance Foundation  
AgroEcology Fund  
Ashurst Foundation  
Blossom Fund  
The Christensen Fund  
Clif Bar Family Foundation  
Dietel Partners  
Ing Foundation  
Foundation for a Just Society  
GenSpring Gertrude and William C. Wardlaw Fund  
HOW Fund  
The Libra Foundation  
Mize Family Foundation  
Mortenson Family Foundation  
NoVo Foundation  
Organic Consumers Fund  
Oscar G. and Elsa S. Mayer Family Foundation  
Peterffy Foundation  
Robert Field Bullock Foundation  
SWF Immersion Foundation  
Swift Foundation  
Tamalpais Trust  
Threshold Foundation  
Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund  
USA for Africa  
Vista Hermosa Foundation  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

**Individual Donors**

Aakruti Gorde  
Aaron Miller  
Aaron Zukoski  
Abdella Yusuf  
Ada Williams  
Adam Aronson  
Adam J. Adele Kurstin  
Adrienne Kaplan  
Afi de Wolfe  
Ahmad Zayn  
Ajanleko Lasisi  
Akonadi Foundation  
Albert Rojas  
Alex Mercier  
Alex Morris Memorial Fund at Horizons Foundation  
Alexandra Sprague  
Alexis Flanagan  
Alice Bartholomew  
Alice Kennon  
Alicia Andrews  
Alicia Demo  
Alison Ascher Webber  
Alison Carman  
Alison Yee  
Allie Kruse  
Almaz Tilahun  
Alyssa Smaldino  
Amanda Ferrandino  
Amanda Galvin  
Amanda Georgeson  
Amanda Schweizer  
Ami Fox  
Amika Sergejev  
Amit Patel  
Amro Radwan  
Amy Paulson  
Ana Mejia-Dietche  
Anders Eddy  
Anders Naar and Julie Munro  
Andrea Lee and Keyvan Kashkooli  
Andreas Ozzuna  
Angie Miller  
Anirvan Chatterjee and Barnali Ghosh  
Anisa Kumar  
Ann Marie Sulzbach  
Anna Edmondson and Peter Rumsey  
Anne Marie Kornbluh  
Anne Mize  
Anneli Eddy  
Annie Cooper  
Annie Ross  
Anthony Shen  
Antoine McGrath  
Anuj Desai  
Aramis Shannari  
Ari Sahagún  
Arpit Shah  
Arvind Venugopal  
Ashish Singhvi  
Aya Tasaki  
Ayushi Vig  
Azaz Elshami  
Bahaar Faquih  
Barbara Polk  
Barbara Wenger and Jennifer Rader  
Belay Rebi  
Bella Weinstein  
Benjamin McKendall, Jr. and Patricia Albers  
Bertram and Lynne Strieb  
Beth and Robert Saltzman  
Betsy and Jack Rix  
Beverly Goodman  
Beverly Thompson  
Bill Marczak  
Bill Tobey  
Birhanu Bulto  
Bonny Ngo  
Boris Khmelnitskiy  
Bret Knobelauch  
Brianna Mariolle  
Britt, Izumi, and Kaia Yamamoto  
Brzezicki Family Foundation  
Caitlin Duffy  
Caitlin Ho  
Caitlin Stanton and Randy Trigg
Rishi Palriwala
Rita Brandeis Memorial Fund
at TIDES Foundation
Robert Johnson
Robin Pendoley
Robindra Deb
Rohit Dhawan
Rony and Catherine Shimony
Ross Millie
Roveen Bhansali and Cybele Tomlinson
Rupal Jain and Daniel Hikes
Rutendo Thembani
Ruth Yow
Ryan Golten and Brandt Milstein
Ryan Phillips
Ryan Tuohy
Sally Amaya
Sally Edwards
Sam Cash
Sam Davis and Yael Falicov
Sam Vinal
Samantha Alarie-leca
Sandra Gratias
Sandra Macias Del Villar
Sara Logan
Sarah Brady
Sarah Hobson
Sarah Miers
Sarah Nisbett
Sarah Patellos
Saran Kaba Jones
Saroj Quinn
Sasha Rabsey and Fred Berkowitz
Savannah Kuang
Scot Nakagawa
Scott Lee
Sean Egan
Sean Poynter
Seema Arora
Seun Olu-ayeni
Shalini Nataraj
Shannon Corey
Sharice Davids
Sharon Bridgforth and Omi Jones
Sheri Mar
Shilpa Jain
Shoshana Cohen
Shreejana Upety
Sneha Desai
Solome Lemma
Son Chang
Sonia Demessie
Sophie Gildesgame
Sophie Harrison
Soya Jung
Stacy Kono
Stefano DeZerega and Johanna Hartwig
Stephanie de Wolfe
Stephanie Hochman
Stephanie Ijoma
Stephanie San German
Steve Fredricks
Steve Jurczyk
Steven Lafrance
Sufia Dadabhai
Sumeya Mohamednur
Suruchi Ahuja
Susan Ackerman and Susan Wood
Susan McGee
Susan Miller
Susan Rosenberg
Taiwo Abayomi
Tania Kaimowitz
Tanya Cothran
Teblet Lemma
Ted Melo
Terri Tea
Terry McGovern
Theodore A. Von Der Ahe Jr.
Thomas Joseph
Tiffany Wong
Toni Clark
Tonia Osadebe
Tracy A. Hill
Trishala Deb
Trupthi Basavaraj
Urann Chan
Urooj Arshad

Vanguard Charitable
BOLIAYD Fund
Veronica Gonzalez
Veronica Moreno
Victor de Wolfe
Victoria Ngo
Victoria Nguyen
Vijay Setty
Vineer Bhansali
Virginia King and Stuart Rickey
Whitney Caruso
Yamandou Alexander
Yashika Mody
Yolanda Mitchell
Yong Bai
Yumi Sera
Yusuf Kosoko
Yvonne Chen
Zema Atnafu
Zewditue Yewondater
Zeytuna A. Gemda