Thousand Currents

exchanging grassroots brilliance

annual report 2017



courage in action



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)



It takes courage to... PUSH YOUR MIND AND YOUR BODY.

"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

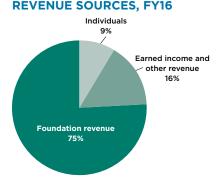
Nwamaka Agbo Fahad Ahmad Rajasvini Bhansali Gregory Hodge Sasha Rabsey Julian Rhoads Gerald Richards Susan Rosenberg Topher Wilkins Ada Williams Prince

FINANCIALS

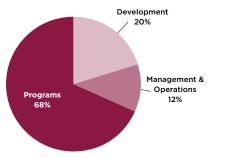
Thousand Currents has experienced an excellent few years of steady and sustainable financial growth. From 2013 to 2017, our organizational revenue, institutional fundraising, and grantmaking have grown substantially, increasing Thousand Currents' impact by channeling even more resources to our grassroots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

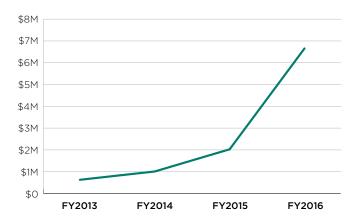
Thanks to multi-year, flexible funding commitments from key institutional funders, as well as from our earned-income strategies, we began fiscal year 2017 and 2018 with 100% of our core organizational costs covered. This means that giving from Thousand Currents' loyal individual donors is able to go 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*.



EXPENSES BREAKDOWN, FY16



REVENUE PROGRESSION, FY2013-FY2016



DONORS 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

Wallace Global Fund Weissman Family Foundation West Foundation The Whitman Institute

Individual Donors

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Alison Yee Allie Kruse Almaz Tilahun Alyssa Smaldino Amanda Ferrandino Amanda Galvin Amanda Georgeson Amanda Schweizer Ami Fox Amika Sergeiev Amit Patel Amro Radwan Amy Paulson Ana Meija-Dietche Anders Eddv Anders Naar and Julie Munro Andrea Lee and Kevvan Kashkooli Andreas Ozzuna Angie Miller Anirvan Chatteriee and Barnali Ghosh Anisa Kumar Ann Marie Sulzbach Anna Edmondson and Peter Rumsev Anne Marie Kornbluh Anne Mize Anneli Eddy Annie Cooper Annie Ross Anthony Shen Antoine McGrath Anuj Desai

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Fugen Archibald Gabriel O Gabriel Rhoads Gayatri Shetty Gennie Gebhart Geoffrey and Rebecca Dewolfe Geoffrev Ashbrook George Eddy George Otiono Gerald Richards Gianna Quinci Gillian Wilson and Robert Fllison Ginny McGinn Girma Lemessa Gloria Branch Gregory Hodge Gregory Hunt and Steven Contreras Guillermo Condeso Hal Harvey Hannah Brenner Hannah Katz Haresh Chatlani Hassan Avinde Heather Danton Heather Masaki Heather Newberry Lord Helena Lane Holly Badgley and Peter Stern Holly Pearson lan Slatterv Ileana Mendez Imo-Jean and William Carlson Ioana Ghimu Iris Garcia

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