

Backbone Campaign 2017 Annual Report

For 14 years you have helped inspire a civically engaged public to protect the places we love and build a democracy that is by and for the people, using creative strategies and artful activism tactics. Thank you!



2017 started with protests at Inauguration and ended with a “citizen’s arrest” of #45

To begin the year, we shone a light on racism and sexism at the Predator-in-Chief’s Inaugural Ball and paraded our 210’ *We the People* at DC’s Women’s March. On the last weekend of the year, we arrested #45, with the help of the NYPD! One resolution for 2018 is for more “Citizen’s Arrest” Actions with three Trump Heads you helped build. *Indict & Impeach the Predator-in-Chief!*

Backbone Builders Guild & Prop Library

Thanks to the Builders Guild, we have a warehouse of imagery and props to provide for creative actions. These volunteers attending our weekly Art Builds on Vashon Island have created Trump heads, giant inflatables including a pipeline, two 11’ earth globes, and a chinook salmon in 2017. They’ve built banners for land and sea, assembled banner toolkits for folks around the country, and painstakingly soldered our new shippable light panels. We’re grateful for our community’s generous & creative collaboration!



Here come the Solidarity Brigades!

In 2017, you helped Backbone expand and nurture the Solidarity Brigade network. We’re making steady progress toward our 2019 goal of 50 cities with trained squads of artful activists. Solidarity Brigades autonomously organize to make a difference on the issue campaigns in their local communities, as well as to rise up in solidarity on national campaigns. Brigades in 20 cities have taken action against white supremacy, shone lights in solidarity with #metoo, advocated for single payer health care and impeachment. These squads of artful activists have access to Backbone’s prop library as well as consultation on strategy, tactics, and messaging.



Localize This! Action Camp, Trainings, and the NW Change Agent Center

We hosted multiple trainings last Spring at the possible future NW Change Agent Center, a 9-acre site where we aspire to establish a permanent base and movement resource. 75 activists, from as far as the Netherlands and Bahamas, attended our 9th annual Action Camp on Vashon Island for a week of skill building. The Camp’s final actions took a stand against new fracked gas infrastructure, with an occupation of the regional Puget Sound Energy corporate headquarters and a flotilla in solidarity with the Puyallup nation, against PSE’s pipeline & proposed massive LNG plant.



Flotillas to protect what we love

On the 50th anniversary of the Yippies levitating the Pentagon, Backbone coordinated a flotilla at the US HQ of war to “float” a message to “Stop War on Planet Earth”, connecting the dots on climate and the war machine. We supported LNG resistance across the globe with flotilla support in Sweden and Canada. Our Kayaktivist Team also mobilized to Free the Snake river and end dangerous salmon farming in Puget Sound. We stand ready in 2018, as the President threatens to open up the Arctic and both coasts to offshore drilling. *Love Wins!*

“Kayaktivism builds community and transforms those who participate. It requires people to look out for and support each other. ... I found that being on the water, my body and mind fully engaged, reinforced a sense of place. Doing this, especially with others, connected me to the deepest reasons for doing this work.”

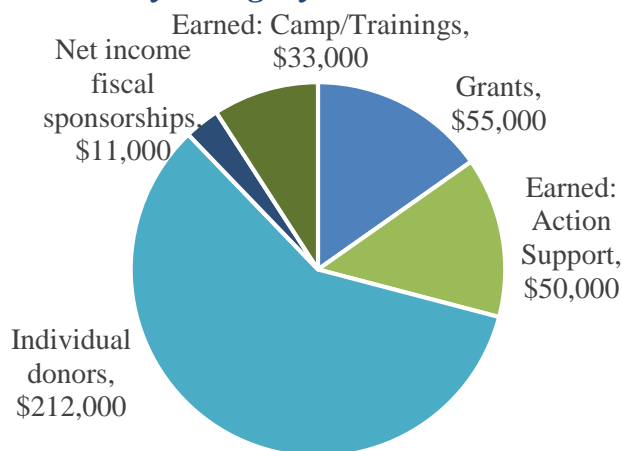
--Bill Moyer, Executive Director, Backbone Campaign

Solutionary Rail:

one of the many solutions needed to end our addiction to fossil

Solutionary Rail kicked off 2017 with a Launch Party at the historic Union Station in Tacoma. Many new allies such as Washington State Sierra Club have joined the cause. The Moving Forward Network of community-based environmental justice organizations has invited us to explore a deeper partnership with a Solutionary Rail Working Group. Our solidarity with rail labor continues to deepen. Much of this is due to the great work of Diane Wittner who produces our Solutionary Perspectives video podcast series at SolutionaryRail.org. These interviews, our new 3.5 minute promotional video, and the many articles published in Grist, YES! Magazine, Clean Technica, and elsewhere propel Solutionary Rail forward, as we pursue legislative action in the Washington State legislature with a proviso for feasibility in the 2018 session.

2017 Income by Category



Board of Directors

Backbone Campaign thanks outgoing (◇) board members for their service and welcomes new (*) 2018 board members.

Yvette Arellano, Houston, TX *

Jim Farrell, Vashon Island, WA

Mary Lou Finley, Seattle, WA

Margaret Flowers, Baltimore, MD *

Susannah Hale, Seattle, WA ◇

Derek Hoshiko, Seattle, WA ◇

Daniel Wayne Lee, Culver City, CA *

Anthony Rogers-Wright, Seattle, WA

Jeffrey Snyder, Olympia, WA

Kyle Tanner, Janesville, WI ◇

Sabina Virgo, Los Angeles, CA

Backbone Campaign's mission: To amplify the aspirations of “We the People” with creative strategies and artful activism, to manifest a world where life, community, nature, and our obligations to future generations are honored as sacred.

For more info contact: Backbone Campaign, PO Box 278, Vashon WA 98070 BackboneCampaign.org / 206.408.8058