Backbone Campaign 2018 Annual Report

As Backbone Campaign celebrates 15 years, we celebrate you – it is your support, ideas, participation, volunteer energy, actions, and donations that have contributed toward inspiring a civically engaged public to protect the places we love and help build a democracy by and for the people. By supporting and using Backbone’s creative tools, you’ve helped make our movement beautiful and given participants a joyful experience that is lasting and builds power. Thank you!

“*The role of the artist is to make the revolution irresistible.*” – Toni Cade Bambara

Backbone supports organizations, change agents, and activists with imagery that gets attention of media and bystanders. Because of the ways you’ve pitched in, our creative props and tools showed up at over 175 actions in 2018!

We are grateful to all our collaborators, especially the volunteers who show up to our warehouse on Vashon Island each Wednesday. They create props, LEDs, GOBOs, and banners that we share and send out across the country for actions, rallies, marches - generating street heat that builds power for *we the people*.

A major focus of 2018, in addition to building out Solidarity Brigades and Solutionary Rail, was pitching in all our creative resources to the campaign to remove the Lower Snake River dams, in order to restore chinook salmon runs and feed the starving Puget Sound Resident Orca. These three projects will continue to be the focus of Backbone’s work in 2019.
**HERE COME THE SOLIDARITY BRIGADES!**

Activists trained in light projection and banners are at the ready in over 30 US cities to project messages on buildings and hold banners over freeways. In 2018 multi-city Solidarity Light Projections lit up buildings, broadcasting messages on issues like NRA and gun violence, immigration, fossil fuels, Green New Deal, stopping Kavanaugh, the Poor People’s Campaign, and executive branch accountability. Join a Brigade in your city or get trained and start your own!

**TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS, AND EVENTS**

Events and workshops included a 2-day anti-oppression training with Dr. Leticia Nieto, author of “Beyond Inclusion Beyond Empowerment;” co-hosting an event for Winona LaDuke on Vashon Island; co-led Single Payer Action Camp in DC; supported IEN’s gathering at Nisqually. Our 10th year of Localize This! Action Camp explored a **grassroots strategy to save orca and salmon.** From Camp, we launched **Pop Up Trainings,** traveling in our spiffed up box truck to communities across the Pacific NW, to demonstrate to groups and activists how to use Backbone’s creative tools.

**SOLUTIONARY RAIL: ALL ABOARD!**

Solutionary Rail made headway in the WA State Legislature. We added **Solutionary Perspectives** podcast interviews with experts in labor, rail, community self reliance, utilities, environmental justice, and economics. 2019 will be a pivotal year for this visionary project that connects so many urgent needs, making a material difference in the lives of so many.

**BACKBONE 2018 INCOME, BY TYPE (TOTAL $300,468)**

- $49,618 - Lumbar Club - recurring monthly support
- $205,120 - General Donations
- $23,380 - Hired Gigs
- $7,550 - Trainings
- $14,800 - Grants

- Lumbar Club Monthly Support
- Donations
- Hired Gigs/Earned Income
- Training Income
- Grants

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