

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

DECEMBER 2020

CoFED ANNUAL REPORT

Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive

The seeds we are saving

THE SOIL OF 2020



**2020 HAS BEEN A YEAR
OF MANY CRISES,
CHANGES, UPHEAVALS.**

**IT HAS ALSO BEEN A
YEAR OF PLANTING
MANY SEEDS.**

In March, we couldn't have imagined what this year would bring. We prepared the soil of our work with love and care, and that has been powerful in a year when we have prioritized our collective wellness, our healing, and the abundance of the young cooperators in our network. We are very proud to share all the seeds that we planted, the abundant blooms that have grown, and the groundwork we're laying for our next planting season.

THE HANDS WORKING THE SOIL

When most of the country went into our first lockdown this Spring, we were going through an internal transition at CoFED - Suparna Kudesia transitioned into the role of Director after serving as Education Director since March 2019. In May, Dallas Robinson (previously a Racial Justice Fellow) joined our team as the Communications and Content Coordinator. Our team further grew in July when Teia Evans (previously a board member) transitioned into the role of Finance and Operations Director.



OUR SEEDS

CoFED (Cooperative Food Empowerment Directive) is a Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color-led organization that partners with young QTBIPOC communities to build food and land co-operatives. We move our mission forward through 3 strategies:

Education

BUD (Build, Unlearn, Decolonize) and Racial Justice Fellowship had a record turnout year. These are our flagship cooperative educational programs.

Policy & Culture

MyceliYUM is our binational network of young cooperators of color who are advancing food and land justice. We connect cooperators to exchange resources, knowledge and build collective strength in the cooperative food system to shift policy & culture.

Economics

CoFUND is our regranting fund for QTBIPOC cooperators and farmers of any age. We launched the application for this fund in December 2020 with an initial capital pool of \$70,000.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

COFED PARTNERS WITH YOUNG QTBPOC COOPERATORS TO BUILD THEIR LEADERSHIP AND TRANSFORM THE FOOD AND LAND ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH JOY, COOPERATION, AND LIBERATION

WE HAD 27 COOPERATORS REPRESENTING 13 FOOD AND LAND-BASED COOPERATIVES AND COLLECTIVES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY THIS YEAR IN BUD (BUILD, UNLEARN, DECOLONIZE)!



Due to Covid, we transformed our in-person Summer Co-op Academy into a 5-week virtual experience BUD (Build, Unlearn, Decolonize) designed with love for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian and Pacific Islander youth who are working in co-ops and collectives to grow community health and wealth through food and land. During these 5 weeks, we focused on:

- Building resilience inside and beyond capitalism ~ Harvesting financial, spiritual, emotional, and technical wisdom to do so.
- Decolonizing story-telling and communications strategies ~ Too often our suffering is what sells. We shifted the narrative so that our triumph is recognized for what it's worth.
- Centering healing and creative arts through music, visual arts, movement, yoga, and reiki offerings throughout the BUD program.
- Exploring cooperative and solidarity economic histories ~ Our ancestors are the roots, we bud from their nourishment.
- Generating healing, trust-building, and accountability in action ~ We believe in people over profit and that unlearning white supremacist culture in relation to human connection is an important step toward liberation.

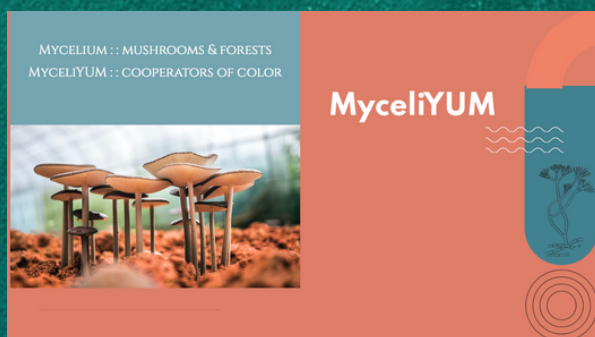
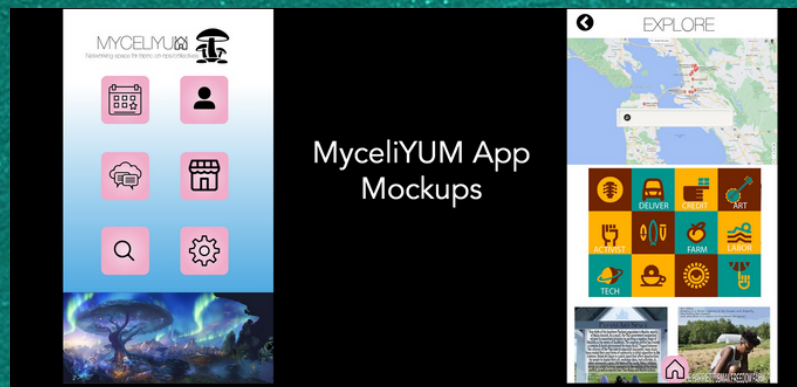
WE EXPANDED OUR RACIAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP TO 3 FELLOWS SPANNING UNIQUE FOOD, LAND, AND LEGACY PROJECTS FROM OAKLAND (CA) AND CHICAGO (IL) TO BROOKLYN (NY)

“ BUD PARTICIPANT REFLECTION: *"The specificity of the business planning tools & decision-making strategies supported us in having more explicit, clear conversations about our goals & what some next steps could be"* **”**

POLITICAL & CULTURAL IMPACT

COFED CONNECTS QTBIPOC COOPERATORS ADVANCING FOOD & LAND JUSTICE WORK ACROSS GEOGRAPHIES IN THE U.S. & CANADA

THIS YEAR, COFED PARTNERED WITH CODEBASE (A BAY-AREA BASED CODING COMPANY LED BY COLLEGE STUDENTS) TO BUILD A MYCELIYUM APP TO CONNECT COOPERATORS TO ONE ANOTHER AND REMOVE GEOGRAPHICAL BARRIERS TO ACCESS AND MOVEMENT OF RESOURCES.



JUST LIKE MYCELIUM IN NATURE, MYCELIYUM ENRICHES & CONNECTS QTBIPOC COOPERATORS AROUND THE COUNTRY & BEYOND. IN 2021, WE WILL BEGIN OUR MYCELIYUM EVENT SERIES TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN OUR MYCELIAL CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE COOPERATIVE FOOD SYSTEM.

COFED WAS CHOSEN FROM OVER 400 ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS 51 COUNTRIES FOR A PRESTIGIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP OUR MYCELIYUM APP AMONG TOP-INNOVATORS & SOLUTIONARIES IN THE CIRCULAR FOOD SYSTEM. WE RECEIVED FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND PLANTED LIFELONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH FOOD JUSTICE INNOVATORS FROM FINLAND TO BURUNDI!



CoFUND

Quick Sheet



The Fund

our regranting fund aims to support and build the collective resilience of food and land-justice based cooperatives; led by Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous People of Color of all ages.

PURPOSE

This grant is meant to support co-ops and small farmers in the day-to-day operations to aid in the development of their organization.



ELIGIBILITY

This grant is for LGBTQIA+ B/I/L/POC lead co-ops and farms. We encourage legally established entities at all stages (from start-up to scale-up) to apply!

OFFERINGS

Grants are up to \$5000.00. In addition to grant funding, grantees will also have access to 12 months of technical assistance in business management, financial and operational skills, and communications support.



PROCESS

Grantees will be chosen by a selection committee. See our application to learn more about the process!

<https://bit.ly/CoFUND>

ECONOMIC IMPACT

COFED IS PLANTING SEEDS IN THE RICH SOIL OF FOOD COOPERATIVES THAT FEED AND BUILD THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH OUR REGANTING FUND COFUND

This year, we launched **CoFUND - our regranting program** - aimed to support and build the **collective resilience of food and land-justice based cooperatives; led by Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous People of Color of all ages.**

We raised **\$70,000** over the course of **6 months** to regrant to cooperatives, small farms, and food justice organizations. This is part of our mission and work to move financial and social capital in the direction of historically under-resourced communities.

With the support of a selection committee we will select up to **12 cooperatives** to receive up to **\$5000**. In addition to grant funding, grantees will also have access to **12 months of technical assistance in business management, financial and operational skills, and communications support.**

THE STRONGEST TREES
HAVE THE DEEPEST ROOTS



TENDING TO THE ROOTS

2020 REMINDED US THAT OUR HUMANITY, RELATIONSHIPS, AND COLLECTIVE CARE ARE CENTRAL TO THE HEALING OF OUR FOOD SYSTEM, LAND, PLANET, EACH OTHER, AND OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE

COFED HEALING & VISIONING WORK

IN FALL OF 2020, OUR TEAM COLLECTIVELY EMBARKED ON A MULTI-MONTH AND MULTI-SEASON HEALING, STRATEGIC PLANNING, AND VISIONING PROCESS

WE WORKED WITH A BRILLIANT AND TALENTED TEAM OF HEALERS, VIOLENCE-PREVENTION ADVOCATES, AND MOVEMENT LEADERS TO CREATE A STRATEGIC VISION FOR COFED, WHILE CENTERING OUR COMMUNITY'S AND OUR TEAM'S WISDOM, HEALING, AND GROWTH

OUR TEAM IS STRONGER AND MOVING FROM A PLACE OF LOVE AND RENEWED ABUNDANCE. ESPECIALLY IN A YEAR OF MASS GRIEVING AND LOSS, OUR TEAM AND ORGANIZATION LEANED INTO SPACIOUSNESS AND CARE TO STRENGTHEN OUR ROOTS. WE'RE READY TO DEEPEN OUR ROOTS AND CONTINUE THRIVING

OUR PARTNERS: THE WATER & SUNLIGHT

OUR BIGGEST CURRENCY IS RELATIONSHIPS. WE THANK YOU - OUR **INCREDIBLE SUPPORTERS, MONTHLY DONORS, FOUNDATION ALLIES, COOPERATIVE SPONSORS, AND MOVEMENT PARTNERS** - FOR BEING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH US & SHARING YOUR WATER AND SUNLIGHT WITH US.



Arch Community Fund



NEW ECONOMY COALITION



THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT & BELIEF IN OUR MISSION, TEAM, VALUES, WORK, AND VISION. WITH YOUR HELP, WE **TRIPLED OUR GRASSROOTS DONATIONS** THIS YEAR! THIS ENABLED US TO **LAUNCH A NEW PROGRAM (COFUND)**, **INCREASE OUR STAFF CAPACITY**, AND **EXPAND OUR EXISTING PROGRAMS (BUD & RACIAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP)** TO REACH MORE COOPERATORS, IN MORE REGIONS, AND OFFER DEEPER LEVELS OF SUPPORT OVER LONGER PERIODS OF TIME, TO COLLECTIVELY BUILD A TRANSFORMATIVE FOOD SYSTEM

THE CoFED TEAM

COFED STAFF AND ADVISORY BOARD



AMETHYST CAREY
BOARD MEMBER



AYANO JEFFERS-FABRO
BOARD MEMBER



BRIANA SIDNEY
RACIAL JUSTICE FELLOW



CARLOS HERNANDEZ
BOARD MEMBER



DALLAS ROBINSON
COMMUNICATIONS &
CONTENT COORDINATOR



EBONY ROSS
BOARD MEMBER



GREGORY JACKSON
BOARD MEMBER



MAYA MARIE
RACIAL JUSTICE FELLOW



SUPARNA KUDESIA
DIRECTOR



TEIA EVANS
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE &
OPERATIONS



TIM LAMPKIN
BOARD MEMBER



YAHDI CAPRICE
RACIAL JUSTICE FELLOW

THANK YOU FOR BLOOMING AND HARVESTING WITH US

WE ARE READY FOR A NEW SEASON, MOVING FORWARD WITH HOPE, VISION, AND ABUNDANCE - BECAUSE WE ALREADY HAVE SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE - NOURISHED SOIL, HEALING SEEDS, HANDS TO PLANT AND NURTURE, WATER, SUNLIGHT, AND A VISION.

WE HAVE A COMMUNITY AND A LEGACY OF COOPERATIVE RESILIENCE GUIDING US. AND WE ARE READY FOR 2021. WE KNOW WE'RE NOT ALONE WHEN WE SAY, "WHAT A YEAR 2020 HAS BEEN!" WE HARVESTED MANY FRUITS & LESSONS OF OUR WORK, AND WE HAVE SAVED MANY SEEDS FOR OUR NEXT SEASON.



ONWARDS - WITH KINDNESS AND IN COOPERATION,
THE COFED TEAM