

2025 FALL NEWSLETTER



**HAYMARKET
PEOPLE'S
FUND**

 WWW.HAYMARKET.ORG TO LEARN MORE.



Youth Justice & Power Union (Y.J.P.U.), Haymarket Grantee



Connecticut Worker Center, Inc., Haymarket Grantee

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

AT HAYMARKET: WHEN YOU SPEAK, WE LISTEN!

Haymarket People's Fund emphasizes being a collaborative partner with the communities we serve. This isn't lip service. We continue to strive to walk this walk in all our dealings with the groups we fund, businesses and organizations we work with, and among those who support the community organizing toward realizable change in our society.

This commitment does not waver when external forces shift. We stand steady, and we listen to what we are told.

In recent years, many organizations have collapsed their stance on diversity, equity, and inclusion in an attempt to retain resources. Haymarket is unapologetically a multicultural, anti racism foundation funding grassroots organizations to counter forces that limit or prevent their quality of life, and even their existence.

Nothing has changed for Haymarket. We continue to be a partner in moving even more resources to these communities being attacked so unfairly.

We knew that this wasn't the time to create some top-down approach, but to take a step back. Instead, it was necessary to make inquiries to those who do the work, and are the experts in what they need. These inquiries are occurring through our organizational processes.

Haymarket's interview process for grants is extraordinarily inclusive! It is not competitive. Everyone has the opportunity to be funded. Any clarifications about a funding proposal are made prior to the interview process.

Imagine stepping to an interview space with multiple other organizations. The funding decision-makers are those directly impacted by societal oppression and are in solidarity.

In a welcoming manner, this team of community organizers and activists, who comprise Haymarket's Regional Funding Panel, welcome them into the space.

Continue reading on page 10

Karla Nicholson
Executive Director

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT



"Solo el pueblo salva al pueblo. Only the people save the people."

BY: *Rachel Ferritt*

Unidad Latina en Acción (ULA) is a New Haven-based organization that has proudly fought for the rights of migrants and undocumented people for 22 years and counting. Guided by the principle "Nothing about us, without us, is for us," this grassroots, member-led organization has achieved many victories on behalf of the community they have served over the past two decades, including:

- Winning a law in Connecticut that allows workers to sue employers for double the wages stolen.
- Securing historic pro-immigrant policies in New Haven, including the establishment of sanctuary schools and an executive order prohibiting city employees from sharing information with US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- Leading a statewide effort during the pandemic to secure cash assistance and rental relief for undocumented immigrants excluded from federal aid.
- Developing mutual aid and emergency programs to support families' essential needs.

Continue reading on page 4

WHAT DRIVES US

AT HAYMARKET: WHEN YOU SPEAK, WE LISTEN!

OUR MISSION

Haymarket People's Fund is an anti-racist and multi-cultural foundation that is committed to strengthening the movement for social justice in New England. Through grantmaking, fundraising and capacity building, we support grassroots organizations that address the root cause of injustice.

OUR VALUES

Haymarket envisions a world free of racism and oppressions, where peace and cooperation flourish. Where people are valued and respected for their gifts and able to bring their whole selves to humanity. Where vibrant communities thrive and different cultures are celebrated. Where abundant resources and opportunities are equally shared and distributed while honoring the earth and all within it.

OUR PRINCIPLES

- Be Inclusive
- Let People Speak for Themselves
- Work Together in Solidarity & Mutuality
- Honesty
- Commitment to Self Transformation
- Sharing Culture
- Internal Dynamics of Leadership Development
- Openness and Commitment to the Process
- Taking Responsibility Sharing Information
- Support
- Humor

OUR COMMUNITIES

We extend our deepest appreciation to Haymarket's volunteers, whose dedication and compassion fuel our mission every day. Their commitment to justice, equity, and community care uplifts the neighborhoods we serve and strengthens the movements we support. Through their time, energy, and heart, our volunteers embody the spirit of collective action —proving that meaningful change happens when people come together to rise for one another.

John Jairo Lugo, Co-founder and Community Organizing Director, emphasizes the fight for fundamental liberties as a throughline over the course of ULA's history. "From day one, our fight has been about dignity and human rights." Whether offering direct support or engaging in advocacy to address unfair wages, police abuse, or deportations, Lugo emphasizes that the power of ULA is in the collective action of its members, many of whom come to this critical work from their own lived experiences fighting in their home countries for political freedom. Lugo himself was jailed as a vocal student organizer in Colombia, faced tremendous risk for himself and his family, and was later detained by immigration officials in the United States.

"When Trump said he was going to make this country great again, what we saw was a country starting to look like the ones many of us fled." But in this critical moment for the nation, Lugo is reminded of the extraordinary power that comes with standing together.

John Jairo Lugo, Co-founder & Community Organizing Director of Unidad Latina en Accion

**"EVERYONE
DESERVES
PROTECTION.
AND EVERYONE
IS IN JEOPARDY."**



Over the last several months, ULA's time and efforts have been largely devoted to the deportations of Connecticut-area residents who have been robbed of their due process. The organization's members and volunteers spend countless mornings in court, working against what can sadly feel like the inevitable. "Every time someone gets detained by ICE, most of the time they are going to be deported. There simply aren't enough lawyers to defend our people. That's why volunteers are more important than ever."

Some of the faces of these unjust proceedings have been more publicized, such as that of 18-year-old Esdrás Zabaleta-Ramirez, a junior at Wilbur Cross High School, who was detained for most of the summer after an ICE raid at a car wash where he worked part time. His recent release on bond, a credit to the community-wide activism on his behalf, is a victory. As ULA has stood with Esdrás from the outset, Lugo also points our attention to those immigrants whose heartbreaking stories don't get picked up by the press. The mother who was captured by ICE as she was en route to take her kids to school. The man who was headed to his court proceeding but never made it, because ICE was waiting outside of his house.

These stories are happening every day, right here in our communities," he reminds us. "It's not just about migrants. It's about whether we are going to be quiet or stand up for each other. Everyone is in jeopardy when injustice becomes the norm, including citizens who stay silent."

ROOTED IN JUSTICE

OUR BOARD

Ayeesha Lane
 Claire Wheeler
 Erica Licht
 Holly Fetter
 Jeremy Phillips
 Mercedes Tompkins
 Sarika Tandon

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Drotea Manuela
 Lujana Milton
 Magalis Troncoso
 Mercedes Tompkins

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Allistair Mallillin
 Anne Richmond
 Ayeesha Lane
 Claire Wheeler
 Holly Fetter
 Julio Ruiz
 Ricardo Neal
 Valeska Daley

FUNDING PANEL

Chanravy Proeung
 Landon A. Osborn
 Magalis Troncoso
 Ngoc-Tran Vu
 Rachel Siegel
 Randall Nielsen
 Samantha Langevin
 Ms. Shaunia Flowers
 Strong Oak Lefebvre
 Ta'LannaMonique Miller

Maine Community Integration, Haymarket Grantee

**“YOU CAN MAKE PHONE
CALLS, MOBILIZE YOUR
NETWORKS, AND BE IN THE
STREETS. THAT’S WHAT
CHANGES HISTORY.”**

ULA has grown to more than 1,400 members, and the commitment of funders such as the Haymarket People’s Fund has helped sustain the work.

“Haymarket was the first to support us, and not just with funding,” Lugo says. “They gave us opportunities to connect with other organizations and learn from each other. That kind of solidarity is powerful.”

The best tools we have are our bodies and our voices,” Lugo stresses. “American citizens especially can use your privilege to support people who don’t have that protection. You can show up at court with someone. You can help people know what to say to immigration.”

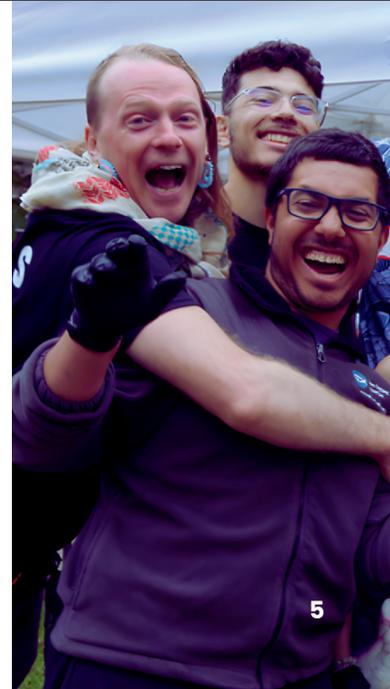
Unidad Latina en Acción goes so much further than advocacy as they work to ensure that immigrants have the resources, knowledge, and community to confront injustice. Their work ahead focuses on growing their numbers, strengthening protections and funding at the city and state levels, increasing the frequency of trainings that educate and mobilize, and sponsoring events that speak up against racism, sexism, and homophobia. As threats to immigrant rights and their allies intensify nationally and globally, ULA remains an inspiring reminder that real change comes from the power of the people.



CELEBRATION OF GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING IN BOSTON

The Celebration of Grassroots Organizing is an annual lobster picnic where Boston’s frontline movement leaders come together to practice sustainable fundraising and grow movements for racial, economic, and climate justice.

15 partner organizations envision and lead the event, extending collaboration beyond the coalition table into collective fundraising, an act that pushes against the scarcity and competition embedded in nonprofit funding. For the 12th year, partners worked collectively to unite the community and exceed our \$200,000 fundraising goal.



OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER CELEBRATION

Haymarket People's Fund Celebrated its 50th Anniversary in Vermont at Thingz from Yaad Kitchen with current and former board members, funding panel members, and friends.

RESOURCES FOR YOU

STAFF

Staff can be reached at (617) 522-7676

Jennifer Dowdell-Rosario
Development Director
jennifer@haymarket.org EXT 106

Shaz Hussain
Fundraising Administrative Coordinator
shaz@haymarket.org

Karla Nicholson
Executive Director
knicholson@haymarket.org EXT 103

Jaime Smith
Grants Director
jaime@haymarket.org EXT 115

STAY ENGAGED

Stay up to date with the latest Haymarket announcements by following our Facebook and news pages!

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Haymarket.PeoplesFund>

News: <https://www.haymarket.org/news>



Coffee time with grantees and friends at Muddy Waters

JAMAICA PLAIN OPEN STUDIO RECAP

This year Haymarket People's Fund hosted Ankana and Girly Pop at the 32nd Annual Jamaica Plain Open Studios in Boston for one of the most neighborhood and family friendly open studios around. In addition we hosted Amar Market led by Ankana and 6 local artists. This wonderful community has been introducing audiences and artists to each other to build connections beyond the canvas.

Due to the success of Amar Market, the artists will return to have a series of Markets starting on November 8th! Stay tuned for more...



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT



CHILDREN OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON

A Living Legacy of Liberation

Marsha P. Johnson, Stonewall activist and co-founder of the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), dedicated her life to establishing mutual aid and providing housing for LGBTQ+ youth. More than a generation after her untimely passing in 1992, the Connecticut-based organization Children of Marsha P. Johnson (CMPJ) carries this critical work forward, organizing with and for Black, Brown, and Indigenous LGBTQ+, trans, and nonbinary young people, often serving as their “chosen families” in the face of discrimination and alienation.

Alyssa-Marie Cajigas Rivera Ortiz, 26, explains the organization’s intentional focus on Black and Brown queer and trans youth. “We are nurturing a new generation of leaders. Stuff that we went through, we don’t want them to experience.” As co-executive directors, she and Erycka Ortiz carefully cultivate safe spaces where identity and culture are celebrated, equipping young people in their teens and early twenties with historical knowledge, social awareness, and community organizing skills.

CMPJ’s signature program is Black and Brown Queer Camp, a week-long overnight “journey of love,” where young people connect, ideate, and strategize, all while studying the framework of Black trans feminism. Alyssa and Erycka were surprised to receive applications from 11 states for this past summer’s session, speaking to the demand for this type of political education and community care. The selected youth cohort dug deep into the ideology of refusing oppressive systems and centering those with the least amount of privilege (i.e. trans, disabled, undocumented and incarcerated people). The concept is simple, but transformative: “None of us is free until the most targeted among us can live, love, and thrive without fear.”

Over the course of this intensive learning, CMPJ makes time for poetry nights, communal dinners, and beautiful conversations. This ethos of organizing and activism hand-in-hand with the joys of youth carries into their regular membership meetings and other formative experiences, such as the group’s recent trip to Puerto Rico. This journey of solidarity introduced New Haven youth organizers to the history of colonization and resistance on the island, highlighting shared struggles despite physical distance.

The high school and college students in CMPJ have also been deeply and authentically engaged in the organization’s strategic planning process. Challenged to “think beyond this administration,” they collectively set priorities for the next five years, including:

Continue reading on page 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

LAUGHTER HEALS FUNDRAISER

The Laughter Heals Fundraiser is making its triumphant return this Spring! This fundraiser will help Haymarket raise the funds it needs to continue our mission. Hosted by our 50th Anniversary MC Bethany Van Delft, get ready to laugh and have fun while also helping our community! The location and more information will be shared soon via email.

SPRING DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!



Bethany Van Delft

WAYS TO GIVE

Help provide the foundational support that Haymarket needs in order to fund grassroots, anti-racist organizing in New England!

Visit www.haymarket.org/ways-to-give to learn how you can become a sustainer or make a one-time donation online.

Scan QR
code to
donate
today!



SISTA Fire, Haymarket Grantee



"THEORY WITHOUT
PRACTICE IS EMPTY;
PRACTICE WITHOUT THEORY
IS BLIND"



- Trans health care, as hospitals in the state are halting their treatment for trans people under 19
- Housing affordability, as high costs and discrimination make renting difficult for queer youth
- Culturally responsive education, fighting against the erasure of marginalized individuals from history through the creation of a high school elective course in LGBTQ+ history
- People funded mutual aid, addressing the basic needs of trans people
- Expanded networks, building connections with other organizations outside of New England
- Through the implementation of this ambitious agenda, CMPJ leaders remind their young activists, "Organized people will always outweigh organized money."

For Alyssa-Marie, an Afro-Boricua trans woman, the work is deeply personal. She began organizing at the age of 13 through the Citywide Youth Coalition, an organization that serves as the fiscal sponsor for Children of Marsha P. Johnson. Despite her struggles in high school, where she was acutely aware of lack of spaces for queer youth of color, a handful of supportive teachers sparked her passion for culturally responsive education and encouraged her activism, granting course credit for her non-profit work. Alyssa carries the belief into CMPJ's youth-led work that a classroom is not bound to four walls.

At various times, circumstances have necessitated narrowing the organization's focus to the protection and safety of individual young people. "Supporting Black and Brown queer and trans youth can be a matter of survival," says Rivera Ortiz, recalling instances when CMPJ's leadership team has opened their actual homes and located services for teens with no place else to turn. "We understand that we are living in the lineage of Marsha P. Johnson. In her time, she did the exact same thing, and now in 2025, we continue her legacy."

CMPJ is grateful to Haymarket People's Fund for its early and unapologetic investment in their vision of queer, Black, radical organizing. Rivera Ortiz recognizes the significance of that support. "Haymarket has shown that it's not a waste of money or time to invest in those directly impacted. If anything, it is the key to our liberation."

BY: *Rachel Skeritt*

HAYMARKET 2025

2026 GRANT CYCLE

Haymarket's Funding Panel members, organizers, and activists from across New England collectively determine grant awards for the region according to Haymarket's mission, vision, and principles. Funding Panel members help shape Haymarket's work for justice and equity across New England through their organizing and accountability to their constituencies.

WE HAVE TWO TYPES OF GRANTS AVAILABLE:

SUSTAINING GRANTS

\$20,000

The Sustaining Grant
deadline is
Wednesday,
December 3, 2025.

Sustaining Grants are up to \$20,000 for grassroots, social change organizations that meet our funding criteria. These are annual grants for groups doing grassroots anti-racist organizing and movement building across New England. These grants are for general operating support. Grant sizes are determined after carefully evaluating each proposal, considering Haymarket's Funding criteria and commitment to strengthening anti-racist movement building in New England. We do not fund groups with budgets over \$400,000; we fund both emerging and more established groups.

If you have not received a Sustaining Grant in the past three years, you must have a phone screening to receive an application.

Contact Jaime at jaime@haymarket.org or call 617-522-7676 ext. 115.

URGENT RESPONSE GRANTS

\$5,000 Per Year

As we have for the past 50 years, Haymarket continues to support grassroots community organizing for racial and social justice. We know groups are and will need to act and mobilize quickly in our communities in response to what is happening nationally and politically. We understand that this could include organizing support, legal support, and basic community and organizational survival needs. In order to support your vital community organizing, Haymarket has increased the pool of available Urgent Response Grant funding.

Urgent Response Grants are up to \$5,000/year to help grassroots, social change organizations respond quickly to unforeseen crises or opportunities that critically affect your organization and constituency. This includes unexpected events, political crises, or organizing opportunities.

Groups will be notified about grant decisions 2 - 4 weeks after receiving application.

You do not need to be a grantee of Haymarket to apply but need to fit our basic funding criteria including an organizational budget under \$400,000.

To receive an application, call 617-522-7676 ext. 115 and speak with a Haymarket staff person about your request.

Groups are eligible for one Urgent Response Grant and a Sustaining Grant per year.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Continued from page 3

Everyone sits in a circle, which emphasizes equity. Each group exemplifies the vision for their work, and how this process applies to a set of anti-racism principles put into practice. The Panel members may ask a few clarifying questions.

After each group presents, a dialogue is encouraged among all the participants. Making these connections is movement building work! Over Haymarket's 51-year existence, many amazing occurrences have emerged from these spaces.

What was different this year is that groups were asked: "what do you need at this time"? Beyond seeking an annual grant, many of the groups in this space and across the New England region Haymarket serves are contending with unimaginable circumstances. In order to best respond, it is essential to hear of their immediate needs.

Haymarket's Board of Directors made a substantial increase to the Urgent Response Grants, which are different from the annual Sustaining Grants. These aren't for ongoing organizational work to fill any operational or programmatic gaps. Instead, it is for any one-time challenge or opportunity. Groups do not have to be grantees, but must meet the basis funding criteria confirming that they are grassroots organizations. No government designation, or fiscal sponsorship is required for any Haymarket grant.

Also, Haymarket did a very broad survey process to better understand groups' current needs. There were many responses.

As Haymarket makes plans for the future, a multi-year process has been ongoing to determine organizational focuses. This has gone well beyond a basis strategic planning process. Community that are impacted by Haymarket funding, volunteers, and staff engaged in bringing their honest thoughts and ongoing commitment to Haymarket's mission.



Karla Nicholson
Executive Director

THESE ARE "HAYMARKET'S ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES"

STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION & ANTI-RACISM:

Goal: Promoting and deepening structural transformation and anti-racism work externally and internally. Supporting grantees in deeper work addressing structural change and in capacity building for transformative anti-racist work. Connecting, sharing, and building collaboration of anti-racism work across New England.

GRANTMAKING AND CAPACITY BUILDING:

Goal: Make the application and grantmaking process accessible to all. Help grantees build capacity. Connect and convene groups, grounded in anti-racist community organizing. Evaluate grantmaking and the impact of anti-racism values in the work.

PHILANTHROPIC SECTOR & NETWORKING:

Goal: Continue to collaborate with, train, and organize the philanthropic sector on anti-racist, community-based, value-driven grantmaking and practices.

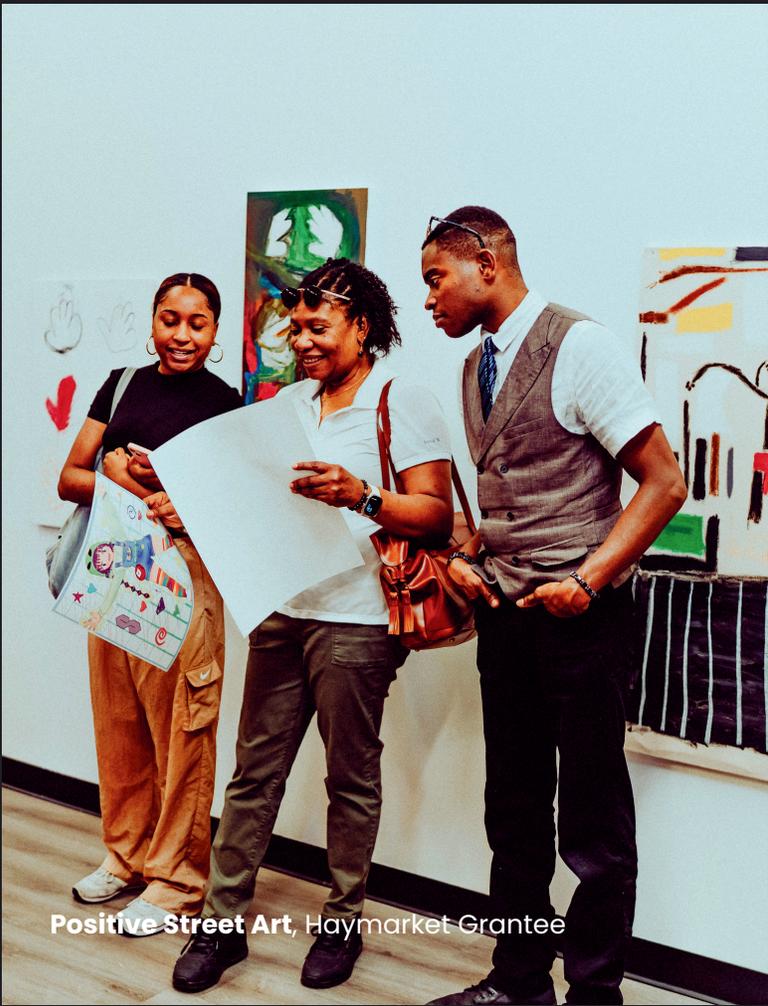
ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Goal: Maintain and grow Haymarket's organizational sustainability including financial health, expanding grants, building staff capacity, diversifying income sources, and maintaining the building.

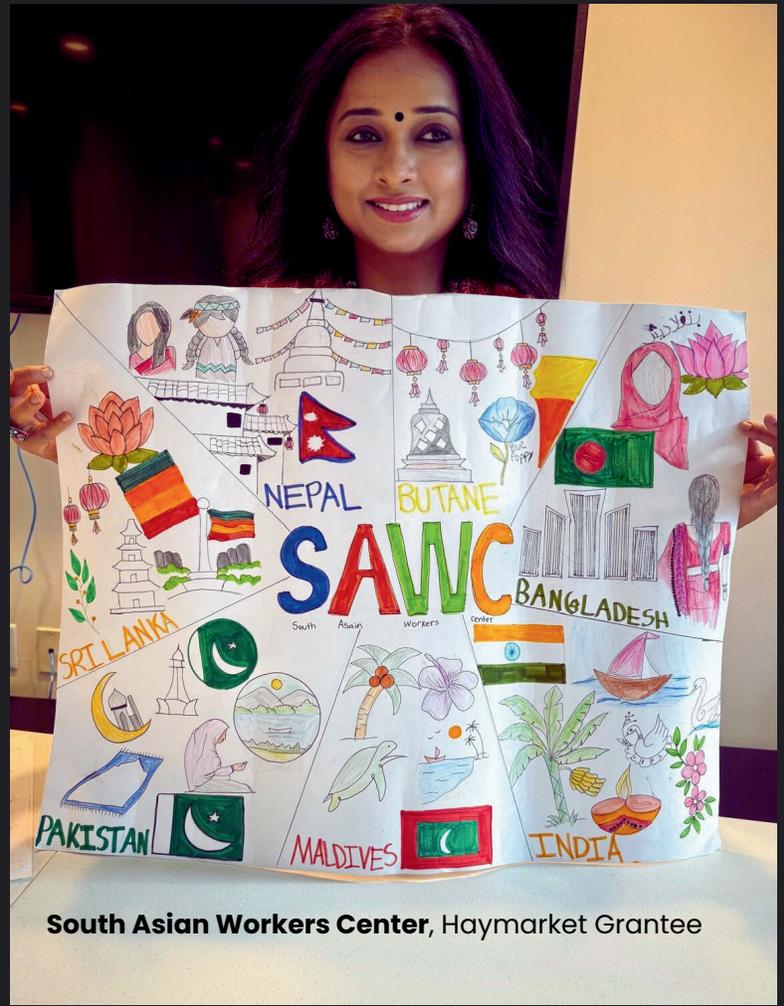
At the recent June 2025 Haymarket Annual Meeting (HAM), the community space was filled with those who were a part of the visioning, community meetings, prior HAMS to narrow the expansive options to what would occur in the next fiscal year.

As everyone was invited in to delve into this process, it was emphasized that Haymarket continues to stand strong, and not waver in our mission or commitments. Always know that we are listening, and we hear you!

You too can help to support the impactful community organizing that is occurring in New England. There has been no time in our lives when this has been more essential. Every gift to Haymarket is substantial! We have been, and must continue to be the (realizable) change we seek in the world!



Positive Street Art, Haymarket Grantee



South Asian Workers Center, Haymarket Grantee



Boston People's Response, Haymarket Grantee

Haymarket People's Fund

42 Seaverns Avenue
Boston, MA 02130

US Postage
PAID
BOSTON MA
Permit No. 59391
Address Service Requested

