



The Lenny Zakim Fund  
BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

## What's New at the Zakim Fund

Dear friend and partner

The past year has felt like a whirlwind, so I am using the occasion of my Jackie Robinson birthday (42!) to take a moment to reflect on our work and share some of those highlights with you. These past seven months have reinforced the urgency of placing equity front and center in how we "do" philanthropy. The Fund started 2021 strong, bringing on [new board members](#) and awarding [\\$619,000 to 58 nonprofits](#) as part of our annual grants cycle.



Looking ahead, I am excited about what the future holds. Last week, we sent invitations for our flagship leadership development program, the Transformational Leadership Cohort (TLC), and will soon launch a storytelling and data visualization cohort in collaboration with the [Data for Good Fund and UpMetrics](#). Through these programs and our fall seminar series, we plan to continue equipping under-the-radar nonprofits with the financial and technical resources they need to **thrive**.

**Love** remains at the heart of our approach to philanthropy and community building. Many of you increased your giving in 2020, while others reaffirmed your commitment to the grassroots focus of the Fund. We sincerely thank you for that continued confidence and support. Please know that our dynamic staff and outstanding board stand at the ready to help repair and make the world a better place.

In solidarity,

Eric Esteves  
Executive Director



## Fourth Round of COVID-19 Emergency Grants

In June, we awarded **\$77,500** in grants to **19 grassroots organizations** in the fourth round of grants for the **COVID-19 Emergency Response and Recovery Fund**. Of the 19 grant recipients; 13 organizations are led by people of color, 15 are current grantee partners, and 4 are former grantee partners. **In total, LZF has awarded \$425,425 to 71 nonprofits through four rounds of the COVID-19 Fund** to provide both immediate and long-term relief

in response to the pandemic. Thank you to all of the donors who contributed to this effort to get direct support to those on the frontlines! Another round of emergency funding will be announced in late-August.

1. Aaron's Presents
2. Africano Waltham
3. Ansaar of Worcester
4. Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative
5. Black and Pink Massachusetts
6. Black Economic Justice Institute
7. Brazilian Women's Group
8. Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores
9. Community Caring Clinic
10. Hawthorne Youth & Community Center
11. Healthy Waltham
12. Institute for Pan African Cultural Education
13. Mass. Coalition of Domestic Workers
14. Mount Olives Community Center
15. PieRSquared
16. Refugee Immigration Ministry
17. Sibling Connections
18. South Coast LGBTQ Network
19. Top Notch Scholars

## Second TLC Cohort Announced

The Fund is pleased to announce the 2nd cohort of the **Transformational Leadership Cohort (TLC)** program. We have invited another set of impressive grassroots leaders who are serving in a variety of professional roles across arts, education, community organizing, health, and wellness. This year, we are delighted to have additional funds to expand this 16-month program to 10 participants and build the critical skills of grassroots nonprofit leaders through **executive coaching**, while exploring and developing their leadership abilities, and strengthening their connection to other grassroots leaders.

Meet the second TLC cohort:

- 1) Adrian Ventura, [Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores](#)
- 2) Chien-Chi Huang, [Asian Women for Health](#)
- 3) Doreen Murray, [Building Bridges through Music](#)
- 4) Ellice Patterson, [BalletRox](#)
- 5) Gina Dessources Benjamin, [Mount Olives Community Center](#)
- 6) Joe Walsh, [Adaptive Sports New England](#)
- 7) Juliet Najjumba, [Africano Waltham \(African Cultural Services\)](#)
- 8) Mei Hung, [Chinese Culture Connection](#)
- 9) Ruth Rollins, [We Are Better Together Warren Daniel Hairston Project](#)
- 10) Vanessa Ly, [Sisters Unchained](#)

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