



SOCIAL  
JUSTICE  
FUND  
NORTHWEST

2022

# ANNUAL REPORT



“

My hunch is that joy is an **ember** for our precursor to wild and **unpredictable** and **transgressive** and **unboundaried** solidarity. And that that solidarity might incite further joy... My hunch is that joy, emerging from our common sorrow... might draw us together.”

- Ross Gay



## WHAT WE DO

Social Justice Fund NW (SJF) funds social justice movements throughout Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. All of our grantees are grassroots organizations on the frontlines of social change. We provide them with **flexible funding** with the **freedom** to respond to **community needs**, to invest in **leadership** and **relationships**, and to innovate and **take risks** for long term systemic change.

### **We are member-funded and member-led. SJF is fueled by our community.**

Much of our grant making is done through an innovative model called **Giving Projects**. Each Giving Project is a multiracial, cross-class cohort of volunteers who come together with a shared commitment to social justice. Our staff guide them through a process of **political education, community building, collective giving, grassroots fundraising, and democratic grant making**; these volunteers raise the money for our grants and make the grants themselves. The result is a more **accountable, sustainable, and connected** form of philanthropy AND hundreds of donor organizers with the skills and analysis to resource our movements for the long haul.

We also provide **Rapid Response Grants** (to help communities meet urgent needs that couldn't have been anticipated) and Seed Grants (to help promising young groups gain momentum), and host **Donor Advised Funds** (helping higher wealth donors move money to community). And we run workshops that help people across race and class become more strategic social justice givers and more effective fundraisers, reclaiming philanthropy for all.

Through Social Justice Fund NW, we are all stronger together. Thank you for being part of SJF and part of a growing movement for justice.

Social Justice Fund NW is a registered 501c3 charitable organization. Donations to SJF are tax deductible. Our federal tax identification number is 91-1036971



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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Community Co-Conspirators,

2022 was a year of evolution for SJF! With your help, we granted out nearly \$4.5 million to our grantees, facilitated the Queer Justice Momentum Giving Project, cohosted the Native Led Grantmaking Panel with Potlatch Fund, and grew our reach while inviting others to engage philanthropy through a decolonial lens. In addition to granting millions in funding, internally we reviewed our policies and practices to mirror our new SJF values (see page 8).

We know it is critical to sharpen our analysis by staying informed about organizing efforts that interrupt white supremacy and other unjust practices that historically exploit the social, economic, and political capital of minoritized communities. For this reason we choose to align ourselves with radical about Black liberation based efforts that seek to uplift communities and thoughtfully interrupt the scarcity and fear mindset that permeates the philanthropic industry and our world.

Folks with disabilities, trans people, Black, Native, and Brown immigrant communities, displaced and unhoused communities continue to be impacted. In particular I want to specifically name that:

- ❑ As many of us know, white supremacy has continually attempted to erase the richness, vibrancy, and heritage of Native American communities. Beyond land acknowledgements, Native American communities deserve our full solidarity guided by a spirit of abundance and reparation.
- ❑ Trans communities are under unrelenting attacks from right-wing conservatives and harmful legislation. These attacks and the attacks on reproductive rights are intrinsically tied, and solidarity across these movements calls for both bodily autonomy and trans liberation.
- ❑ We are witnessing state after state take issue with truth-telling of our Black history and ultimately trying to erase Black history and the heritage of our ancestors who paved the way for how we are even organizing today.
- ❑ We are witnessing an ongoing mental health crisis that has caused us to lose loved ones due to isolation, grief, health challenges, and the rising cost of living, causing displacement and food insecurity.
- ❑ Moreover our immigrant communities—specifically undocumented communities, refugees, asylum seekers and Black and Brown immigrant households—are continually navigating a labyrinth of oppression for a system that was not built to support all immigrant communities.

Each year your investment in this work makes it possible to deepen the richness of progressive social movements. We remain grateful for your continued support in amplifying and resourcing this work.

With Liberation,  
Valeriana Chikoti-Bandua





# TRIBUTE TO MADS DESHAZO

*On January 25th, mads dezasho passed. SJF would like to take this opportunity to celebrate and mourn the loss of this wonderful person.*

Over the past year, our hearts have been heavy with grief as we bid farewell to exceptional leaders, changemakers, innovators, and cherished individuals who have left a lasting impact on our lives. Among them, we deeply mourn the loss of mads deshazo, who unexpectedly passed away earlier this year. Mads was not only a vital and beloved member of numerous communities, including SJF, but she brought her light and passion to every aspect of her work.

Many of us initially connected with Mads through her work in the progressive Jewish community, in particular Kadima Reconstructionist Community. In 2022 Mads joined SJF as a consultant, helping us incorporate accessibility planning and a disability justice framework for our Annual Celebration. Through her leadership, we learned how to host more inclusive, accessible, and meaningful events that embodied the values we hold dear. Mads was able to skillfully support SJF by asking careful questions about how we create space and how these spaces can be more welcoming and loving.

Mads' family wrote this on the occasion of her memorial service: "Mads loved nature, her friends, singing, making art, and helping others in every way possible. She was an inspiring community organizer and activist dedicated to racial justice. Mads was a leader in Seattle's Jewish community - teaching songs, facilitating art, and supporting people in their grief, healing, ritual, and connection. She participated in community farming and was active in local food justice efforts... She gave massive hugs and would insist that friends take something (always original) from her closet. Dark red lipstick and big earrings looked fabulous on her. She could discuss systemic injustice and throw a joyful dance party with equal finesse. Mads loved without reservation or limitation, and with her whole heart."

Mads' absence is deeply felt, and our community has been forever changed by her loss and others that we've lost due to mental illness, insufficient health care, racism and transphobia, and state sanctioned violence. We aim to forge stronger bonds and embrace radical ways of caring for one another. We strive to honor mads' memory by centering accessibility, joy, and friendship in all the work we do.



# RECAPPING THE 2022 QUEER JUSTICE GIVING PROJECT

The Queer Justice Momentum Giving Project (QJMGP) took place in the fall and winter of 2022 in the midst of continued anti-trans legislation, attacks on bodily autonomy and queer and trans folks' ability to live and thrive across the U.S. As a cohort, participants came together in solidarity, determination, and hope to build a community of care that would support us as we fundraised and moved resources to community organizing work in pursuit of a world where queer joy, magic, dreams, and futures are alive and vibrant. **We raised \$440,000 allowing us to make two-year \$40,000 grants to 11 organizations!**

Like adrienne maree brown so famously says, “

Science fiction is simply a way to practice the future together. I suspect that is what many of you are up to, practicing futures together, practicing justice together, living into new stories. It is our right and responsibility to create a new world.”

- adrienne maree brown,  
*Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*

As a cohort we “practiced the future together.” We transformed the virtual space, centering abundance and queer magic. Ultimately, we cultivated even more than we initially imagined. QJMGP wanted this to be a space that was resourcing.

Being a part of a GP is an immense amount of time, energy, and heart. Rare to Giving Projects, QJMGP retained the same participants from project start to finish. QJMGP co-facilitators, Mercedes Klein and Andriana Alexis, made sure that in the current crisis-filled landscape participants were nourished and resourced, infusing connection, joy, abundance, and queer magic throughout the entire experience. In our closing, what emerged was a deep sense of alignment across the group.

## QUOTES FROM PARTICIPANTS

“Opening portals within my imagination and body around queer justice, futures, dreams”

“Feeling like we were meaningfully supporting queer justice when the world and attacks on us feel relentless”

“Getting comfortable with being imperfect and leaning into [the] power and wisdom of the collective!”



# GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: NORTH IDAHO PRIDE ALLIANCE

Founded in 2016, the North Idaho Pride Alliance (NIPA) was born from a need for connection and support within the Coeur d'Alene LGBTQIA+ community. The organization was sustained by an all-volunteer Board of Directors for the majority of its lifetime, and is the largest Pride organization in North Idaho. Beyond its CDA4Pride programming in June, this budding nonprofit seeks to create a North Idaho where LGBTQIA+ people belong, connect, and are empowered to thrive, accomplishing this mission through a threefold approach of educating, advocating, and networking. NIPA creates strong connections and alliances through collaboration between community organizations, educational opportunities, and our year-round programming.

Their vision for North Idaho is for it to be a safe and inclusive community for LGBTIA+ people to connect and feel empowered to thrive in this area. And they are gaining more momentum in the area and receiving more support from their community. This year, NIPA joined the Coeur d'Alene Regional Chamber, furthering our networking efforts through relationship building and enhanced LGBTQIA+ visibility in the community. This has given them a lot of visibility and presence in the community that they didn't have before.

NIPA's pinnacle annual event was targeted last year by various Christian Nationalist and White Supremacist groups, culminating in the arrest of 31 Patriot Front members just blocks away from the 6th annual, and largest ever, Pride in the Park event. This occurrence was transformational not only for the entire community, but especially for NIPA, who took the fall season to pause, healing from burnout and fear, and reflecting on the way forward. While the 2022 Pride in the Park accelerated the establishment of necessary relationships for public safety purposes, it also resulted in many LGBTQIA+ folks moving across state lines to ensure the security of their families and loved ones. Finding volunteers and donors in these times of political extremism has been especially challenging for NIPA.

Looking to the future, NIPA seeks to further their long-term strategic goals of building capacity and resources; preventing violence and bullying; ensuring access to the cross-section of the LGBTQIA+ community in ethnic and cultural communities; collaborating not only for acceptance, but also affirmation in faith communities; and finally, working towards civil and legal equality.

Their most ambitious dream is to bolster their current staff to include a full-time Executive Director plus supporting staff, and house them in downtown Coeur d'Alene storefront office space. This would allow them to create their own safe space for LGBTQIA+ North Idahoans, and serve as a hub for networking and event planning, and for marketing our educational and advocacy programming throughout the year.



# GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: NATIVEWOMANSHARE

NATIVEWOMANSHARE is an organization focused on Native and QTBIPOC (Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous People of Color) representation, celebration, cultural programming, and connection to land in rural Oregon. They are specifically located in Southern Oregon, in “Rogue Valley” which is on Takelma Lands. This area is significant because there is an entrenched history of racism: the local town, Grants Pass, is known to have been a recent sundown town and unsafe for Black and brown people. NATIVEWOMANSHARE is currently working to transform this dynamic.

In 2020, the co-founders of the organization learned about the opportunity to create a space that honored their Native roots while doing a form of Land Back, and simultaneously provided a chance to offer environmental workshops and create gatherings around social justice issues. They wrote a proposal for this land called NATIVEWOMANSHARE, and they were immediately invited to come and begin caring for the land. The decision was made to transfer the land ownership to a 501c3; NATIVEWOMANSHARE is currently finalizing this process. This is momentous. Their mission is to be loud, proud, and to create community education events and safe space on these 23 acres for Indigenous and QTBIPOC folks.

While in the process of transferring ownership, NATIVEWOMANSHARE has been hard at work providing vital programming to their local community. In April of 2023, in collaboration with Equity Project of Josephine County, they hosted an event called The Wisdom Gathering focused on highlighting three women of color elders in the county who have been doing the work for decades without proper recognition and celebration. Also in April, they held their Native Earth Day “Land Back, Land Camp” event where all Indigenous women and Two Spirit people cared for the land together on Earth Day.

They’re not only creating these amazing spaces for healing work within the Native QTBIPOC community, but also intentionally educating the public and deepening relationships so that more folks can learn how to be better allies.

As they enter a new phase of their organization, as the land is officially transferred to their stewardship, NATIVEWOMANSHARE is in a building mindset. They are looking for community to support them in sustaining their work as they radically create space for Native and QTBIPOC folks, while also devoting many hours and resources to educating the general public on becoming better allies to Indigenous communities.

They’re also excited for Native and QTBIPOC rural communities who feel a connection to this work, to please reach out. NATIVEWOMANSHARE wants to expand the circle, expand their community, and expand the amount of people who can come to these events and feel supported. Everything they do is for the people, by the people.





# MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: KIM YU

I have been supporting Radical Donors of Color for Collective Liberation (RDCCL) as a committee member since 2019 and am a giving project alumni of the 2018 Environmental Justice Giving Project, and an SJF Member!

Around 2017, I moved to Seattle and began wondering how to get involved with local and community activities. Not too long after that, a friend invited me to a workshop about resourcing movements hosted by Social Justice Fund Northwest. It was at that event that I first learned about the Giving Projects and the 2018 Environmental Justice Giving Project opportunity. I signed up for the project and while participating learned and challenged myself in many new ways. It was a great experience to explore ideas new to me through reflections on what it means to give and why I do it, to what it means to arrive as a person of color in a space where philanthropy is not reflective of people who look like me. Even better, was moving a lot of resources to amazing grassroots organizing work led by those most impacted by the injustice.

After that opportunity, I remained connected with the Social Justice Fund by joining the committee of a network formerly called Seattle Donors of Color (Seadoc), and newly renamed Radical Donors of Color for Collective Liberation (RDCCL). Being part of RDCCL has been a consistent part of my life even as I've gone through life transitions like having my two children. It has been really nice to be in a community with folks dedicated to do this kind of work.

## WHAT IS RDDCL?

Radical Donors of Color for our Collective Liberation (RDCCL, pronounced like “radical”) is excited to introduce ourselves to the SJF community! We were formerly known as SeaDoC and we are a network of donors of color who function under the umbrella of Social Justice Fund Northwest. Going hybrid and taking “Seattle” out of our name has made it possible for us to have conversations about these larger issues as donors of color that cross regional lines. We are building a collective, shared, and radical perspective on philanthropy formed to address the lack of collective influence we as people of color have in philanthropy.

People of color have not been prioritized in philanthropy. We are working towards countering the white-centered paradigm and anti-Black practices through practicing and supporting radical philanthropy. With a donor of color community, our lived experiences and collective presence can be brought to the forefront of mainstream philanthropy.

## WHAT'S YOUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF RDCCL?

I hope that we are able to go back to doing more in-person connecting with folks. We have begun hosting more in-person opportunities, but it takes momentum to build. We look forward to getting to know who currently is part of RDCCL better and connecting with folks who want to join the RDCCL community in the future. With our work to uncover answers to questions about accountability to commitments in philanthropy and beyond, there is a lot of excitement and interest generating. The more people joining us in this collective work, the better. It is also my hope that we continue to think of thoughtful and innovative ways.





# HYBRID / EVENTS / RETURN TO IN-PERSON

2022 was the beginning of SJF's new hybrid model. Starting with our 2022 Annual Celebration: Ecosystems of Change, we began inviting our members and community to re-engage with us in person in ways that felt safe, engaging, and fun. We are taking care to ensure that our online programming remains accessible as an option while we transition to start hosting more in-person events.

Integrating hybrid services into our work has been a challenging process, rife with questions. In the face of COVID-19 safety concerns, how many people can we invite to participate in-person? How do we balance our facilitators in-person and online? How do we acknowledge that having a hybrid event means we are doubling our workload? None of these questions have perfect answers and there are times when the outcomes have not been what we expected. But the SJF team is committed to centering disability justice principles (we'll share more about that in our 2023 Annual Report!) and we are committed to creating these critical spaces even when the process is messy.

Especially with the grief, the continued stress of the pandemic, continual renewals of racism, transphobia and homophobia, and class struggles, it is so important that we have spaces for our community to gather our strength, support each other, and practice liberatory joy together.





# SJF'S NEW ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

How do we move forward without a shared sense of purpose? This was a recurring tension that was arising in SJF over the past several years. Our organizational values hadn't been updated in nearly twenty years and with the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, the uprisings of 2020 and the myriad other challenges that were facing not only SJF, but the world at large, we realized that it was time to get clear about what we stood for.

So a small team was formed including staff (Alison Cheung, Marc Mazique, and former staff member Shardé Nabors) and board (Em Bookstein) to reimagine our shared goals, ideas and dreams and construct our new organizational values. These values serve as guideposts for SJF as we create programming, our strategic vision, department work planning, and in many more areas of our work. But these values also serve as a space for accountability and transparency with our members. We hope you are as energized as we are by these new values.

You can learn more about our values and read in-depth analysis of each of these values on the Social Justice Fund website. And, of course, the work to integrate our new values is not done. Values are just words on a piece of paper until we give them life through our practices, policies, and relational work. SJF will continue to be courageous in how we breathe life into these goals throughout all of our work.





# SJF'S NEW ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES



## BLACK LIBERATION

SJF supports the liberation of all Black people across the diaspora. SJF centers Black liberation because we know it to be the root of collective

liberation; when all Black people are liberated, everyone is liberated.



## EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY

We believe equity and accessibility means that everyone can access the

resources they need to thrive and fully participate in their communities with the goal of achieving self-determined wellbeing and liberation.



## DECOLONIZATION

At SJF, we aim to liberate our organization by uprooting white supremacist norms and putting Black liberation, Indigenous sovereignty,

anti-capitalism, and reparations frameworks at the center of our work. We affirm that decolonization is not a metaphor, unequivocally support the return of land to its original stewards, and seek opportunities to support such work.



## ACCOUNTABILITY

We believe accountability means an ongoing effort to make sure our actions reflect our values in all areas of our work.



## TRANSFORMATION

As the world transforms, so do its movements for social justice: communities uncover new ways to understand, communicate, strategize, and drive

change. We center rest and honor our humanity as a necessary practice in transformation.



## COLLECTIVE POWER

We understand power as the ability to control, change, and/or create outcomes. Collective power — power that is shared by many

people instead of just a few — is key to working toward liberation because it creates more power instead of limiting it unjustly.



## ABUNDANCE

Our work is grounded in the idea of abundance: that, together, we have what we need for everyone to live full, sweet lives.





# 2022 GRANTEES

## 2022 GRANTMAKING

GRANT CYCLE	NUMBER OF GRANTEES	NEW GRANTEES	AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED
Fund 4 the Frontlines Base Building Grants	4	N/A	\$1,000,000
Queer Justice Momentum Giving Project	11	2	\$440,000
Rural Community Organizing	10	6	\$150,000
Native Led Organizing	21	19	\$300,000
Seed Grants	15	15	\$75,000
Rapid Response	1	1	\$3,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>\$1,968,000</b>



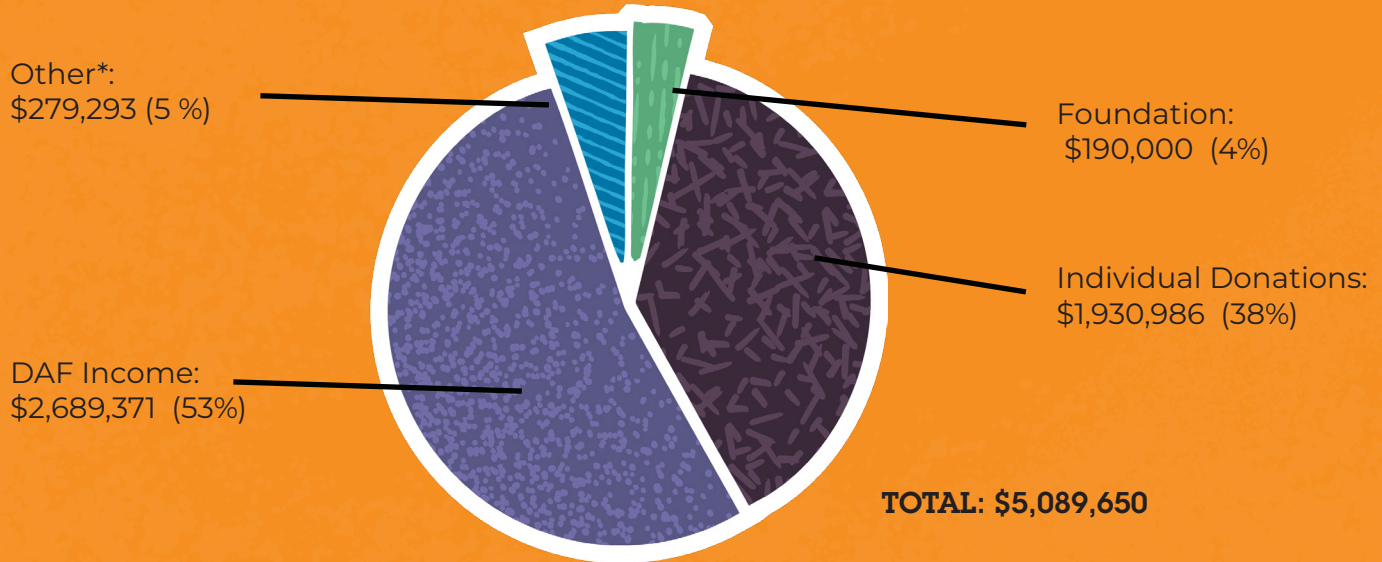
As stated earlier in this report, SJF held our Queer Justice Momentum Giving Project at the end of 2022. We granted out **\$440,000** to **11** organizations in early 2023.



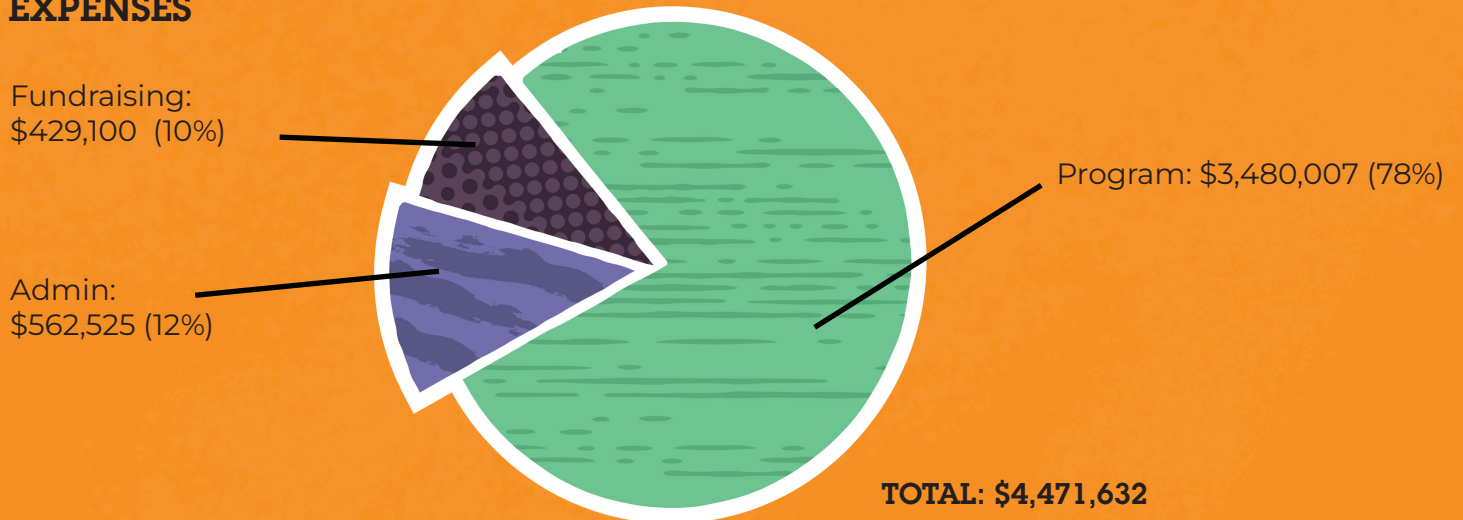
# FINANCIALS

## 2022 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### INCOME



### EXPENSES



### Total amount of SJF grants awarded: 1,968,000

Giving Project Grants: \$440,000

Other Grants (Includes Basebuilding, Rural Organizing, Native-led Organizing + Rapid Response and Seed grants): \$1,528,000

Donor Advised Fund Grants (Includes Displaced Tenants Fund): \$4,253,015



# STAFF LIST

## 2022 STAFF

Aisha Al-Amin  
Lady Anderson  
Alison Cheung  
Valeriana C.B. Estes  
Rahel Gaguro  
Kaylen Hendrick  
Mercedes Klein  
Marc Mazique  
Burke Stansbury  
Amy Truax  
Essex Lordes

## 2023 STAFF ADDITIONS

Muzzamil Afzal  
Adiza Ameh  
Precious Arney  
Emily Chu

## BOARD LIST

2022 Board  
Aaron Oravillo  
Em Bookstein  
Maria Hernandez  
Monica Foucher  
Ranfis Villatoro  
Rebecca Chan

## 2023 BOARD ADDITIONS

Florence Sum  
Taylor Coats  
Allister Byrd  
Bax (Bdub) White  
Nuhamin Eiden  
James Filipi





