



THE COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK CITY

# SOLIDARITY ECONOMY GIVING PROJECT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The Solidarity Economy Giving Project (SEGP) is a new type of funding approach that allows for **relationship building, power-shifting and resourcing hyperlocal organizing**. This unique model within the nonprofit sector has the potential to close the resource gap faced by New York City's solidarity economy organizations run by people of color and low-income, immigrant, women and LGBTQIA+ communities.

***Solidarity,  
not charity***

New York City has a growing number of democratic organizations, many led by volunteers, that meet neighborhood needs in every area of the economy, from food to finance, housing to culture. Most do not fit the requirements for traditional philanthropy, face systemic discrimination from traditional financial institutions, and receive limited or no government support. This lack of resources stymies growth, creates scarcity and competition, and undercuts economic self-determination.

Enter Solidarity Economy Giving Project, **the only philanthropic initiative dedicated to supporting the solidarity economy in the United States**. It is a program of the Cooperative Economics Alliance of New York City (CEANYC), which is the democratically-managed membership organization for NYC's co-ops and community gardens committed to social and racial justice.

Total raised for  
2019 grantmaking: **\$58,072**

Total grant  
amount awarded: **\$37,300**

Total grant  
amount requested: **\$79,300**

Organizations  
applied: **19**

SEGP  
Program Costs: **\$15,000**

Organizations  
awarded: **15**

# HOW IT WORKS

SEGP raises funds through a Giving Circle and annual May Day party that are then granted out in amounts between \$500—\$5,000. Worker co-ops, food co-ops, community development credit unions, community gardens, affordable housing

co-ops, community land trusts, and co-op incubators in the five boroughs are all eligible to apply.

Founded on the premise of solidarity and mutual aid, of giving rather than charity, SEGP's fundraising and grantmaking breaks with philanthropic mechanisms for control and accumulation by the wealthy.

Donors form a community that builds relationships to the solidarity economy while also deepening their understanding of the ways race, class, gender, and systemic oppression face who benefits and who is left out of the benefits of

capitalism. They also release control of the grantmaking to the community being served, with the understanding those doing the work and most impacted by the issues best understand how to move resources and make decisions. This is an act of trust and solidarity, a financial and spiritual investment in the capacity of New York City's marginalized communities to do for themselves rather than being done for.

Grants are determined by the elected CEANYC Board of Directors on a rolling basis, and both application and reporting requirements are streamlined to move money quickly each month and without wasting unnecessary time and energy from folks on the ground. The CEANYC network is both deep and relational, and folks applying for grants understand that the SEGP is a shared resource. Folks apply for only what they need, then leave room for others, practicing cooperation that releases abundance rather than the competition which creates scarcity.

*"Participating in SEGP was a powerful experience in both building community with other young people committed to social and economic justice in our city and in forging relationships with bold grassroots groups that are laying the groundwork for a just, sustainable, and democratic local economy."*

*Mike Sandmel*



# 2019 GRANTEES

## WORKER CO-OPS

### **Action OSH** (Queens)

\$4000 to translate a construction worker safety training manual into Bangla

### **Cards by Dé** (Bronx)

\$1500 to cover training and consulting to support start-up greeting card enterprise led by Black women

### **Co-op Cafe** (NYC)

\$2500 for espresso machine and start-up costs for cooperative coffeeshop organized by low-wage workers

### **Maharlika Cleaning Cooperative** (NYC)

\$4000 towards mediation for Filipina cooperative cleaning enterprise members

**Samamkaya Yoga Back Care and Scoliosis Collective** (Manhattan)  
\$3000 to subsidize classes for people with disabilities

**Sunset Scholars LLC** (Brooklyn)  
\$3000 to provide tutoring scholarships for low-income children by Sunset Park immigrant tutoring cooperative

**Tribe CoCreate** (Bronx)  
\$2500 to cover start-up costs for a Black women's co-working space

**Worker's Transport** (Brooklyn)  
\$3000 to support start-up costs for opening a bike shop in Bed-Stuy

## LOW-INCOME HOUSING CO-OPS

### **517 West 184th Street (Manhattan)**

\$2500 to build a conference room for shareholder meetings in Washington Heights/Ft George

### **568 W. 171st St. HDFC** (Manhattan)

\$900 to cover cost of a bike rack for residents in Washington Heights

### **Desperation HDFC** (Manhattan)

\$1400 to purchase fire extinguishers for 70 shareholders, many of whom are seniors

### **Oliver Gardens HDFC** (The Bronx)

\$2500 to purchase and install LED lighting to meet insurance requirements

## COMMUNITY GARDENS

### **Kelly Street Garden** (The Bronx)

\$1000 for participation in Cooperative Leadership Intensive training

## COMMUNITY-BASED COLLECTIVES

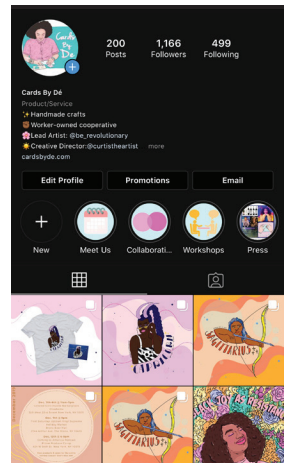
### **BK Rot** (Brooklyn)

\$2000 to purchase technology and provide training to young people of color who operate the collective's business in Bushwick

## COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

### **White Pine Community Farm**

(Hudson Valley)  
\$3500 to expand CSA program to low-income families



*Cards by Dé*



*Samamkaya Yoga Back Care and Scoliosis Collective*

# IN GRANTEE'S OWN WORDS

*"Thank you for believing in cooperative economics. Cooperatives are the future, and you are a huge part of that. It wouldn't be possible without your support. **Thank you for believing in us and funding work that shifts and changes the world!**"*

*Sade Swift, Cards by De*

*"This grant will help BK ROT to **pursue our goal of creating accessible, meaningful jobs for youth and young people of color**, who often don't have access to training and technology that could support their professional development."*

*Guy Schaffer, BK Rot*

*"The project creates **real opportunity for otherwise neglected communities**"*

*White Pine Community Farm*

*"We are a new cooperative business that is in the pre-startup phase. Through the grant, we were able to hire a part-time, temporary digital marketing intern. We were also able to develop a new website using the grant money and plan to use the remainder for ongoing marketing and development consultation. **It was very important for us to be able to pay a young, black woman for her services rather than insist she work for free.**"*

*Bianca Shaw,  
Tribe CoCreate worker co-op*

*"This grant program allows our cooperative to continue our mission to serve the community by **giving our services to those who don't have the ability to pay for our programs**"*

*Ashley Taylor,  
Samamkaya Yoga Back Care  
and Scoliosis Collective*

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

### Join The SEGP Peer-Facilitated Giving Circle!

- Meet monthly for 6 months to build community and get to know solidarity economy work in NYC with a network of peers
- Make a gift of at least \$2,000 and help plan and host the annual May Day Giving Party

### Support/attend the May Day Party!

- Join the sponsors or host committee
- Donate a raffle prize
- Enjoy local worker-coop food, drink a signature cocktail, and come dance with us!

**Email [organize@gocoopnyc.com](mailto:organize@gocoopnyc.com) for details on how to contribute in either way!**

