

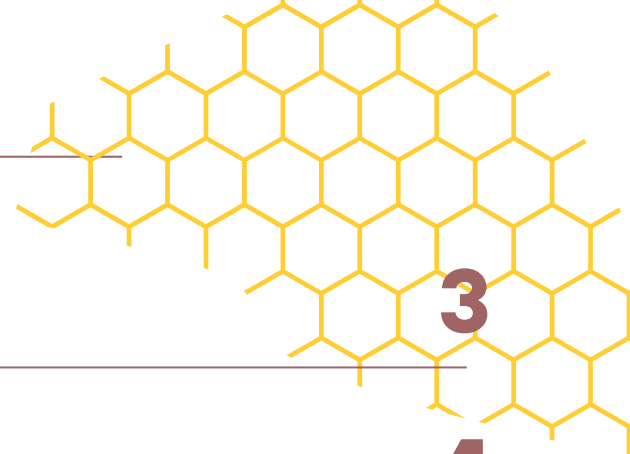


# 2023 Annual Report



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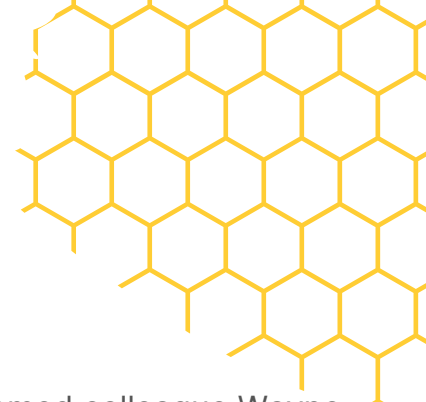
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# In Memorium

## Wayne Gifford Early

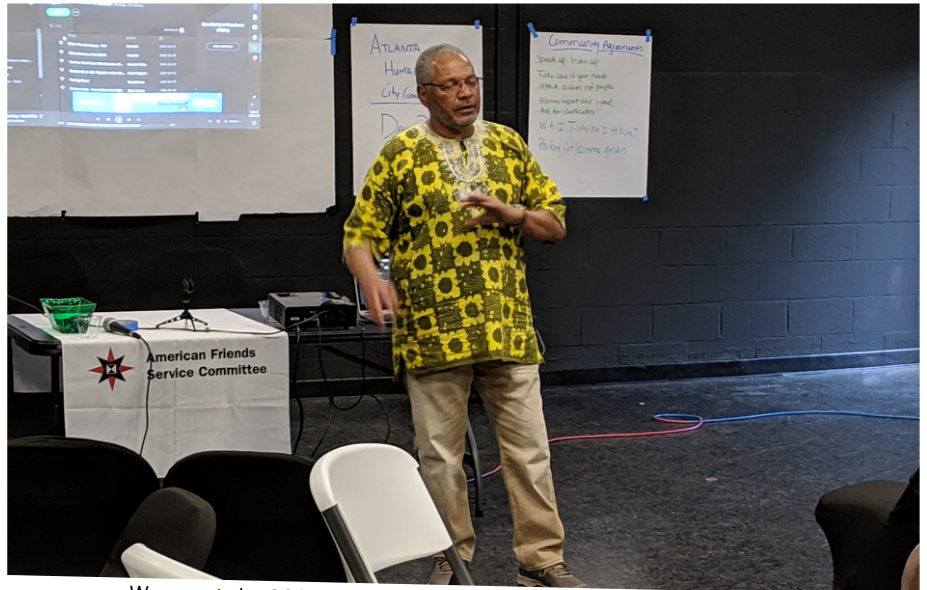
January 5, 1949-June 3, 2023



As an ecosystem, we have celebrated and grieved the transition of our esteemed colleague Wayne Early. Though we are saddened by his transition, Wayne has more than earned his title as an Ancestor. Wayne has not only been an integral part of the OHRD/Regenerate Atlanta team for several years, but he spearheaded the creation of Regenerate Atlanta Cooperative Wealth Fund with his passion for economic liberation. Wayne has made significant contributions to the Atlanta cooperative ecosystem through cooperative education, connection to the national worker-owned cooperative network, and prioritizing economic justice to create sustainable jobs, build wealth in Black communities, and advance the project of Black liberation.



Family photo of Wayne



Wayne at the 2018 OHRD Human Rights Cities Summit



Wayne at a 2015 OHRD early organizing meeting



Wayne at the 2019 RA launch event, w/ Jovan (L) and Rev. Allen J (C)

# About Us

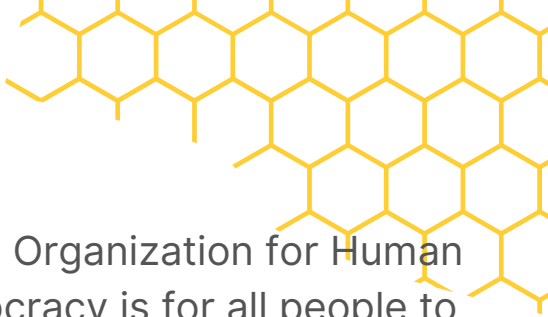


Using Metro-Atlanta as our model, the Organization for Human Rights and Democracy (OHRD) works across multiple identities and geographies (local to global) to develop a Radical Queer Black Feminist (RQBF) framework and ecosystem nourished by human rights principles and indigenous/ancestral lifeways. We are a multi-generational, multi-lingual mix of Black, brown, Indigenous, immigrant, gender expansive, femme/womxn, youth, elders, parent/caregiver, poor/working-class organizers, theorists, and dreamers. As our ancestors before us, OHRD envisions a world where all people can govern their own institutions, steward the resources, and perform the cultural practices to safely pursue their full potential, in harmony with Mother Earth. Our overarching strategy is to build power among our communities through five key objectives: grassroots organizing; modeling alternative institutions; undertaking research and developing theory; strengthening movements; and building OHRD as a model of our RQBF approach.

Board chair Edget Betru (R) leads workshop w/ various attendees, including staff member Soteria Thomas (L-white wrap) & Lakou facilitator Elijah C (C - blue shirt)



# Our Vision



The Vision of the Organization for Human Rights and Democracy is for all people to govern the institutions, steward the resources and perform the cultural practices to safely pursue their full potential, in harmony with Mother Earth.



# Our Mission

The Organization for Human Rights and Democracy (OHRD) engages in multi-issue, grassroots, radical, intersectional human rights organizing to transform communities and the world using Metro-Atlanta as the model. We are guided by the lived experiences, the activism, and the knowledge of Black feminists and womxn of color. We prioritize working-class people of color and the conditions they experience to build movements, develop cooperatives, and create an institution for change.

# Our Principles



OHRD is guided by a set of principles that together reflect our influences and commitments, our purpose and goals, and our process and approach.

## We believe in...

- **The Intersectionality of Oppressions**
- **Group-Centered Leadership by those Multiply-Impacted**
- **Building Bridges and Multi-Issue Struggle**
- **International Perspective**
- **A Human Rights Framework**
- **The Personal as Political**
- **Political Independence**
- **Principled Partnerships**
- **Principles Over a Seat at the Table**
- **Whole People, Whole Movements**
- **Cultural Transformation**
- **Reflection and Action**



# Our Team

Our members are the leaders of OHRD. We recognize three classes of members: Supporters, General Members, and Core Members. Our Core Members consist of directly- and multiply-impacted Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, including immigrants/refugees, youth, elders, people with disabilities, womxn/femmes, LGBTQI2s folx, poor/working-class folx, formerly incarcerated folx, and other marginalized and oppressed peoples. We prioritize core members in our recruitment, programs, decision-making, and leader/organizer development and education. They serve on our board of directors and have sole voting authority within our general assembly.



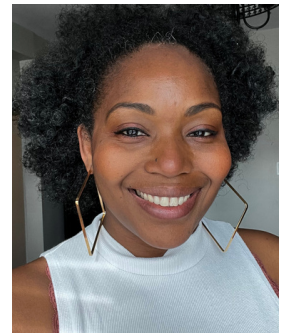
**Jovan Julien, PhD**  
Director of  
Operations &  
Administration



**Savanha Renald, JD**  
Human Rights and  
Climate Justice  
Fellow



**Soteria Thomas**  
Program Assistant,  
Regenerate Atlanta



**Yolande Tomlinson, PhD**  
Director of  
Alternative Futures



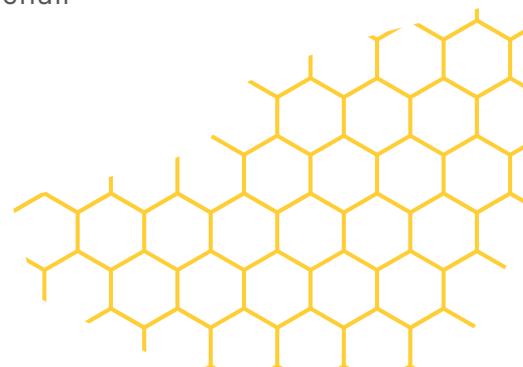
**Angel Torres, MA**  
Director of  
Environmental  
Justice



**Khye Tyson, MA**  
Director of  
Operations and  
Chief of Staff

## Board Members

Alsie Parks, Secretary  
Tamika Middleton, Treasurer  
Edget Betru, Co-chair





# 2023 highlight: Environmental Justice Launch



L to R: Angel T, Savanha R, Jovan J, and Bob Bullard

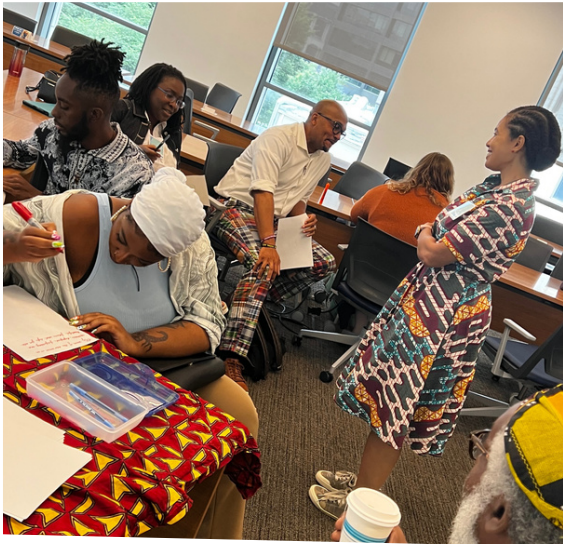


Far right: Angel Torres w/ fellow J40 leaders

The Justice40 Initiative, spearheaded by the White House, is an ambitious effort aimed at advancing environmental justice and addressing climate change by ensuring that 40% of the overall benefits from federal investments in key areas are directed towards communities that have borne the disproportionate burden of pollution, environmental degradation, and climate change impacts. By focusing on equitable distribution of resources and opportunities, the Justice40 Initiative strives to support these communities in building resilience, improving public health, and fostering sustainable growth.

In January 2023, the J-40 initiative catapulted our Environmental Justice (EJ) work. From January-March 2023, OHRD received the White House's Justice40 grant, attended a strategy meeting in New Orleans, participated in a convening in Houston, and solidified a partnership with the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA). July was a busy month; we hired our new Human Rights and Climate Justice Fellow, Savanha! In addition, the team visited a Black community plagued by flooding in Elba, Alabama after the expansion of Highway 84 in 2018. Throughout 2023, OHRD and WAWA have oriented 8+ local organizations to the initiative, such as ChopArt, BLKHEALTH and Concerned Citizens of Cook County.

# 2023 Highlight: Human Rights Cities Leadership Summit



Board chair Edget Betru (C) leads workshop and Soteria Thomas (L)



Jovan J (R) leads workshop on health justice



Prof. Tonya Washington (L) Former UN Rapporteur Leilani Farha (C) and Council Member Liliana Bakhtari (R)



Yolande T (L), Mama Fund's Jill Cartwright & GSU's Julian Hill

In May 2023, we continued our movement building work of convening local, national and international partners around pressing human rights concerns.

In partnership with the Southern Center for Human Rights, the Human Rights Cities Alliance, and other partners, OHRD co-organized the 2023 Human Rights Cities Leadership Summit, here in Atlanta. We brought together human rights leaders, activists, and policymakers from across the US and Canada. The summit aimed to nurture collaboration and idea exchange in order to advance human rights at the local level, using international human rights standards. Our team and wider ecosystem members participated in thought-provoking panel discussions, intergenerational dialogues, workshops, and networking sessions that focused on key issues such as reproductive justice, solidarity economy organizing, housing justice, reparations, health and healing justice, state violence and police repression, and starting a Human Rights City near you.

# 2023 Highlight: Regenerate Atlanta Co-op Wealth Fund

## \$692k Loan for Tri-State Coop!!!



Tri-state coop owners and their families on their newly purchased boat.

This fall our cooperative loan fund solidified its position in our national partner's, Seed Commons', network by securing \$692k for our coop client, Tri-State Southeastern Fisheries Coop. With the loan, Tri-state has been able to secure a shrimping boat, and thereby their long-held dream of creating a multi-generational coop business for Black folks in their families and community across Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida.

In turn, OHRD and RA deepened our partnership with Georgia Coop Development Center, with whom we operate our Coop Academy.

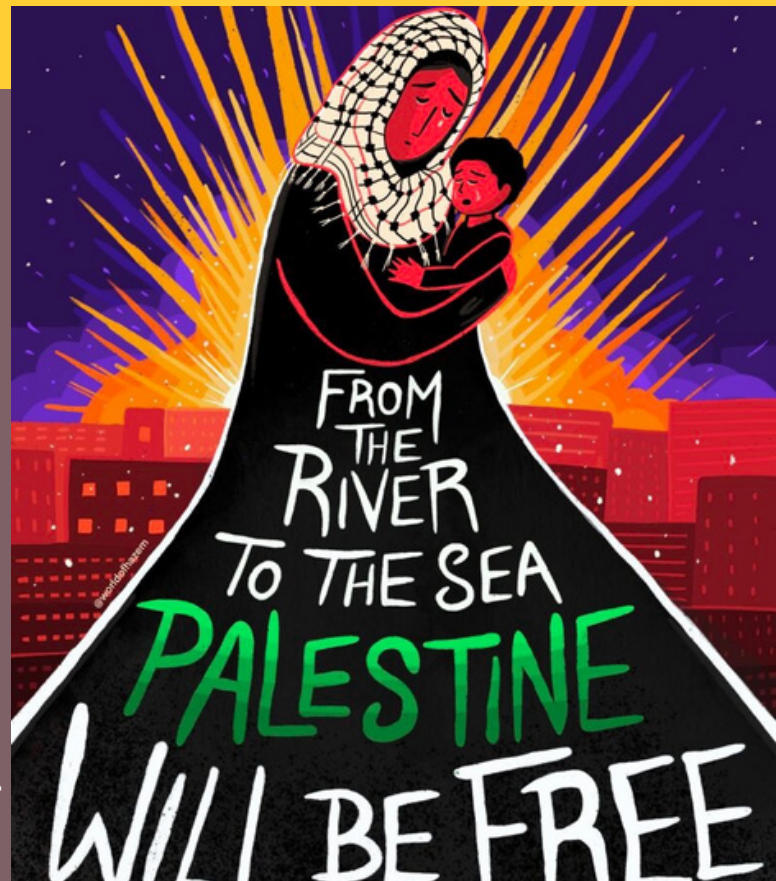
# 2023 Highlight: Freedom Papers Relaunch

OHRD's Freedom Papers (FP) advances liberatory theory, analysis and research, grounded in our intersectional human rights or Radical Queer Black Feminist framework.

We relaunched FP in October 2023 with the publication of our solidarity statement, calling for Palestinian Liberation and charging the United States Government with Genocide. We followed up on International Human Right Day, highlighting some of the ways our work advances and expands the aims of the Universal Declaration of Humans Rights.

“Atlanta could be a champion of economic democracy - where wealth and power are in the hands of peoples and communities. Economic democracy would mean being able to meet people’s collective needs for affordable housing, and creating long term infrastructure, institutions and practices outside of white supremacist, capitalist control.” - Savanha Renald, “Revolutionizing our Values for Atlanta and Beyond”

Art by @worldofhazem (IG) | www.worldofhazem.com





**Black Mama's Bail Out**

**WELCOME HOME PARTY**  
@PERKERSON PARK  
UNDER THE PAVILION

770 DECKNER AVE. ATLANTA, GA 30310  
When: Friday, May 12th  
Time: 5:00-7:00 PM

AM IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME, DOING THE RIGHT THING.

**FOR MORE INFO: (833) 322-6459**



**Come Find Lakou @ House in the Park!**

September 3, 2023  
GRANT PARK  
537 PARK AVE. SE |  
ATLANTA, GA 30312

We're inviting you to join us in our Lakou Liberation tent to dance, fellowship, and have a wonderful time as a community! Please bring snacks, blankets, and good spirits! Reach out to Yolande Tomlinson @ 404-721-2226 for more details!

**P.O.T.S PART OF THE SOLUTION FESTIVAL**

HOSTING BY: FRESH THE CLOWNSSS

COOL CHARLIES SLUSHIES FOR THE FIRST 100 KIDS

ADMISSION: \$1  
SEPT. 2  
12:00 PM - 6:00PM

GET TICKETS NOW

SCAN THE CODE

J.F. KENNEDY PARK 225 CHESTNUT STREET, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

Collaboration and networking are key strategies of OHRD. OHRD's work is deeply rooted in contemporary Black Liberation movement strategies including uplifting a Radical Queer Black Feminist framework and politic; practicing self-determination and democratic governance; reclaiming our indigenous/ancestral lifeways in cooperation, mutuality, and solidarity; reconnecting to ourselves and communities through healing and joy; and clearly demanding abolition of the carceral state and all other institutions of structural violence.

**Local action,  
global impact**



# Learning & Liberation Coop Rebirth



The vision and birth of Lakou began in 2017 with the Anna Julia Cooper Learning and Liberation Center. A radical vision for educating our children and supporting Black and Brown mamas and families in a practice of decolonized learning, we operated until the pandemic. Nothing like it exists in Atlanta. So Dr. Tomlinson, Dr. Julien and a new lineup of families, friends and supporters brought it back in 2023.

Inspired by Haitian post-revolution multi-generational coop communities of the same name, Lakou (La-coo / la-ku) Learning and Liberation Cooperative is a global cooperative learner-centered, self-directed community, rooted in a joyful and nourishing practice of liberation. We value multiple ways of knowing, learning, and being, and we actively lift up ancestral, queer, Black and Brown, feminist, peasant, crip, and indigenous lifeways. We are dedicated to sharing power with our children as we bring into existence a world that is liberatory to all.

Former AJC facilitator Sanae A (L) and Lakou facilitators Amanda J (C) & Alex A (R)



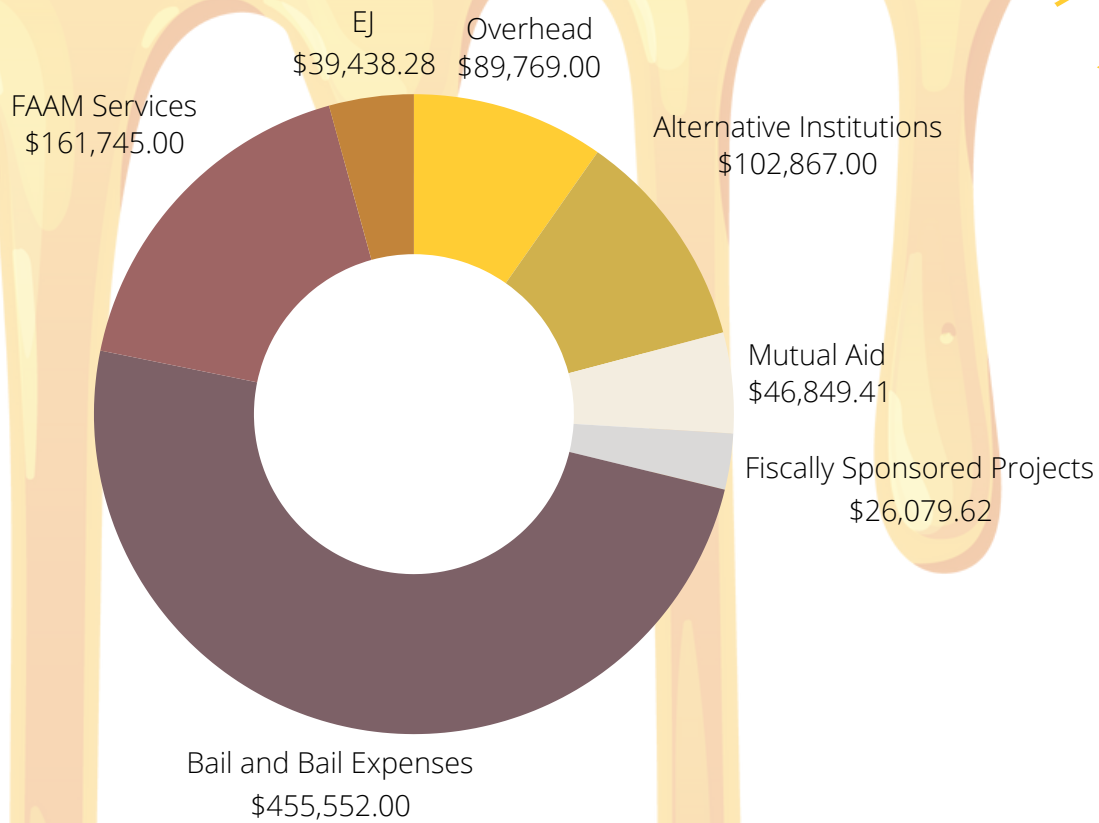
Learners prepping raised beds during their farming class

Parent facilitator Ceci leading an outdoor art class with learners



Learners on a community walk at Everything Nola Cafe in Sylvan Hills

# 2023 Budget Allocations



Across the ecosystem, our 2023 expenses went toward furthering work that directly addresses the needs of the communities we serve. Our 2023 numbers tell the story of our growth to become a self-sustaining organization and ecosystem that mutually nourish each other and steadily grow, as we allocate resources thoughtfully to address a variety of needs and further our commitment to the well-being of our staff, ecosystem, and community members.

In 2023, we've been able to pay all staff at a flat rate of \$31+/hour, bring on our second ever full-time employee with benefits, launch our environmental justice program, grow our programs, bring on a new fiscal sponsee, hire contractors to support grant writing and communications, and strengthen our financial infrastructure.

We extend our gratitude to our funders, who include a host of recurring individual donors, private donors, National Bail Out, Borealis' Black Movement Fund, The Bullard Center/Texas Southern University, SisterSong, The Working World/Seed Commons, The United Way, and New Economy Coalition.



# Selected 2023 Accomplishments



## January

- Received Justice40 (J-40) grant



## February

- J-40 strategy meeting in New Orleans
- Jovan and Soteria get onboarded with Seed Commons (Regenerate Atlanta)
- Publication of “Atlanta 2021: [Practicing] Radical Futures” in Jackson Rising Redux: Lessons on Building the Future in the Present



## March

- Angel and Jovan attended J-40 Houston convening
- J-40 WAWA partnership



## June

- Bridgette (Barred Business) on Human Rights commission
- Wayne Early (Regenerate Atlanta) transitioned
- Submitted 1st part of ESOC application
- All staff members are paid!



## May

- Human Rights Cities summit
- Brought in \$500k across ecosystem
- Mother’s Day bailout (FAAM)
- \$100k support to FAAM and MAMA Fund



## April

- Supported protected campaign
- Co-op Academy strategic planning session between RA and GCDC

# Selected 2023 Accomplishments



## July

- First visit to Elba, Alabama
- Met Roodline from Seed Commons in person (Regenerate Atlanta)
- Hired Savanha! (Fellow)
- Onboarded new member to MAMA Fund



## August

- Savanha attends Municipalism program
- J-40 convening in New Orleans



## September

- POTS Festival (Barred Businesses)
- Celebration of life for Wayne
- Tri-State loan
- Launched Lakou
- Lakou CRC/HR class (HR 101 syllabus)
- Endorsed UN ICCPR statement submission by SCHR



## December

- International Human Rights Day FP publication
- Staff begins monthly-long winter break



## November

- ESA ungendered campaign
- Veteran's Day event
- EJ trip to Elba, Alabama
- Soteria and Savanha's first OHRD retreat!



## October

- Tri-State launches boat
- Re-launch of Freedom Papers
- Lakou's Pumpkin Fest!
- Held EJ/HR planning meeting

# Work with Us

Are you interested in joining us and contributing to our work? Do you want to invest in ATLiens directing their own lives, families, and communities?

As we continue this work, we are looking to expand our ecosystem through partnership, fiscal sponsorship, incubation, co-op financing, and more.

Further, we are open to receiving foundational and individual donors, planned giving, and reparations from individuals and organizations. Contact us to discuss your particular details and options.



# Contact Us



## Phone Number

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## Email Address

**info@ohrdemocracy.org**



## Website

**www.ohrdemocracy.org**

# Follow Us



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