



## **For World Food Day, RAF Announces Grants to 15 Black, Indigenous, and People of Color-led Organizations**

### ***Organizations Receive \$32,000 Grants in a Participatory Grantmaking Process to “Restory Regenerative Agriculture”***

October 15, 2021

In Celebration of the October 16 World Food Day, [The Regenerative Agriculture Foundation \(RAF\)](#) announces the distribution of \$500,000 in funds to 15 Black, Indigenous, and People of Color-led food and farming organizations through a new “Restorying Regenerative Agriculture” program. Spanning across the continental US and Hawaii, these organizations bring forward practices and ethics that can inform broader, more expansive definitions and principles of regenerative agriculture.

“As a jumping off point, the selection committee acknowledged that frontline communities have always practiced what is now being called regenerative agriculture, even if there wasn’t a need to call it that,” said Brett Ramey, project lead and climate resiliency planner for the [Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska](#). “We hope this funding effort not only provides some long overdue support, but also increases visibility of their important work.”

In addition to providing funding, RAF and partners also recognize the need for philanthropy to adopt more participatory grantmaking and decision-making practices. For this project, all grantmaking decisions were made by a selection committee composed of leaders representing a wide range of geographies and sectors within regenerative agriculture and broader food systems work. Rather than a traditional competitive process, the selection committee designed and utilized a more collaborative, relationship-based process to make decisions and engage with potential grantees.

Following a nomination from the selection committee, the 15 organizations were invited to a one-hour conversation with selection committee members to build relationships and share more of each other's work. If the organizations were interested in receiving the \$32k offered, they were then asked to submit a short form “application”. At that point a transfer of funds was

initiated, which was the final step of the process unless they choose to take part in a forthcoming virtual engagement with the other grantees.

“Our process set a precedent for how grantmaking can be done. The best part is no one had to sing and dance or outshine each other. Our intention was to set in motion a way of grantmaking that can be replicated and practiced even deeper by other funders” said Selection Committee member Helga Garza.

“As a sector, philanthropy has an aversion to reputational risk and often ends up funding the same organizations using the same changemaking strategies,” said Mark Muller, RAF executive director. “We knew that if we truly want to support innovative, regenerative approaches to the climate crisis, and if we truly want to address the inequitable distribution of grant funds to communities of color, we need to let go of some of our regular ways of doing business. We are deeply grateful to A-dae Briones of the [First Nations Development Institute](#), Rosie Fitz of the [HEAL Food Alliance](#), Helga Garza of the [Agri-Cultura Network](#), Noah McDonald of [Southeast African American Farmers’ Organic Network](#), and Brett for their leadership throughout this process.”

This is intended to be one step in a long journey toward financially supporting and raising the voices of a diversity of organizations that are “Restorying Regenerative Agriculture”. Following are the 15 organizations receiving general operating support:

The organizations are:

- [Agri-Cultura Cooperative Network/ La Cosecha](#)
- [American Indian Mothers Incorporated](#)
- [Black Dirt Farm Collective](#)
- [Black Farmer Fund](#)
- [Black Oregon Land Trust](#)
- [Catatumbo Cooperative Farm](#)
- [Gangstas to Growers](#)
- [Kokua Kalihi Valley](#)
- [Los Jardines Institute](#)
- [Mississippi Association of Cooperatives](#)
- [Red Willow Center/ Taos Pueblo](#)
- [Rosebud Economic Development Corporation \(REDCO\)](#)
- [ShipRock Traditional Farmers](#)
- [Sistas in the Village](#)
- [Swinomish Indian Tribal Community](#)

“These organizations not only *continue to* use practices that support healthy soils, clean water, and mitigate impacts of climate change. They also carry a land-ethic rooted in the intergenerational and ancestral knowledge of their respective communities. The ways of relating to land and each other embedded in those ways are truly transforming our food and farm systems amid the compounding social and climate crises of these times.” said Ramey.

To learn more about the “restoring” work please see this [RAF blog post](#). If you are interested in learning how to support any of these organizations directly, or to support further activities in the “Restoring Regenerative Agriculture” program, please contact Mark Muller at [mark@regenerativeagriculturefoundation.org](mailto:mark@regenerativeagriculturefoundation.org), 612-203-5648.