

2020-21 Annual Report



# MISSION AND IDENTITY STATEMENT

The American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership organization that serves as an enduring guardian of justice, fairness, and freedom, working to protect civil liberties and advance equity for all.

ACLU-PA defends and promotes the fundamental principles and values protected by the constitutions of the United States and of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as by national, state and local civil rights laws. For more than 100 years, the ACLU has sought in particular to protect and expand the freedoms of expression, belief and association; voting rights; the separation of church and state; the right to privacy, including reproductive freedom; due process of law, including

the rights of the accused and of immigrants; limitations on the power of police; and the right to equal protection for all, including marginalized and historically disadvantaged individuals and groups. In advancing these rights, ACLU-PA strives always to acknowledge and remedy the pervasive and persistent harms of systemic racism.

Integrating litigation, legislative and policy advocacy, organizing, and communications, ACLU-PA's staff and volunteers work both independently and in coalition with those most affected by the issues we address to ensure that threats to liberty and the civil rights of all persons in Pennsylvania are met with stark resistance as we progress toward a more genuine multiracial, multicultural democracy.

# **OFFICERS**

# **Peter Goldberger**

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Philadelphia Chapter Representative

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**Board Vice President** 

At Large Director

### **Paula Harris**

**Board Vice President** 

Pittsburgh Chapter Representative

# **Ronna Bolante**

Philadelphia Chapter Representative

**Board Secretary** 

# William Warren, Jr.

**Board Treasurer** 

At Large Director

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# **MEMBERS**

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Ex Officio - Affiliate Equity and

**Inclusion Officer** 

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At Large Director

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Ex Officio - Director Emeritus

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Lower Membership Chapter Representative

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# Ayodele Gansallo

At Large Director

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At Large Director

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At Large Director

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Philadelphia Chapter Representative

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Philadelphia Chapter Representative

# Lauri Lebo

South Central Chapter Representative

# **Tracey McCants Lewis**

Ex Officio- Immediate Past President

# **Michael Louik**

Ex Officio - Director Emeritus

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Philadelphia Chapter Representative

# Don Millinger

Philadelphia Chapter Representative

### **Wasi Mohamed**

At Large Director

## Aaysha Noor

At Large Director

# Justin T. Romano

Pittsburgh Chapter Representative

# Virginia Roth

At Large Director

# Amer A. Sajed

At Large Director

# Stephanie L. Towles

At Large Director

# **Margaret Watts**

Lower Membership Chapter Representative

# **STAFF**

**Reginald T. Shuford** 

**Executive Director** 

Andrea C. Anastasi

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People and Benefits Manager

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Criminal Justice Policy Advocate

**Andrew Christy** 

Criminal Justice and Poverty Attorney

Rebecca Cusumano-Seidel

Policy & Engagement Advocate

**Alex Domingos** 

Senior Organizer Campaign for Smart Justice

**Gloria Ginyard** 

Office Operations Specialist

**Trisha Graham** 

Director of Finance and Administration

**Andy Hoover** 

**Director of Communications** 

Samantha Jeune

**Donor Communications & Development** 

Operations Manager

**Harold Jordan** 

Nationwide Education Equity Coordinator

Marissa Kolarosky

Interim Director of Philanthropy

**Cambriae Winifred Lee** 

Marketing & Brand Manager

Jessica Li

Criminal Justice Investigator

Ghadah Makoshi

Community Advocate

Sara Mullen

Associate Director/Advocacy & Policy Director

Ian Pajer-Rogers

**Communications Strategist** 

**Jamie Pauls** 

Senior Manager Volunteer Engagement

**Elizabeth Randol** 

Legislative Director

**Mary Catherine Roper** 

**Deputy Legal Director** 

# ACLU OF PA STAFF

Sara J. Rose

Senior Staff Attorney

**Jaclynn Rosen** 

Office Manager

**Naiymah Sanchez** 

Trans Justice Coordinator

**Danitra Sherman** 

Deputy Advocacy & Policy Director

**Marianne Stein** 

Legislative Associate

Vanessa Stine

Immigrants' Rights Attorney

**Nyssa Taylor** 

**Criminal Justice Policy Counsel** 

**Terrell Thomas** 

Senior Field Organizer, Campaign

for Smart Justice

Witold "Vic" Walczak

Legal Director

Julie Zaebst

Senior Policy Advocate

# **LEGAL FELLOWS**

**Joshua Dean** 

Barrack-Rubin Legal Fellow

Muneeba Talukder

Immigrants' Rights Legal Fellow

# **OPENING MESSAGE**

Dear friends,

The twelve-month period from March 2020 to March 2021 was probably the most challenging of my 25 years at the ACLU.

You know about the external difficulties. A (now former) president and his minions who have no respect for democracy, honoring the results of a free and fair election, or the rule of law. A once-in-acentury pandemic that forced us all into our homes, if we were so lucky to be able to even stay home. And a long-overdue reckoning with America's racist history.

What you may not know is that, in the midst of all of the above, our team at the ACLU of Pennsylvania undertook a strategic planning process that lasted for more than a year. Strategic planning is almost always challenging. It forces members of a team to do a full evaluation of what work they're doing, how they're doing it, and what needs to change. And the process can dredge up difficult topics that need to be addressed head on. Our experience with strategic planning this year was no different.

But I'm proud to say that we've finished the work and have a plan that will make us a stronger version of the ACLU of Pennsylvania. Over the next three years, we're prioritizing ending mass incarceration and excessive carceral control, police reform, and voting rights, while remaining eternally vigilant about a host of civil liberties concerns, including free speech, LGBQ&T equality, immigration, and reproductive rights.

And we have a renewed and more robust commitment to racial equity, which has led to an overhaul of our organizational structure. That new structure will promote leadership growth in our staff, and we anticipate that our operations will become more transparent and will enhance the ability of team members to be more involved in organizational decision-making.

To learn more about our new three-year strategic plan, visit aclupa.org/strategicplan2021.

I'm glad that we did the work that we've done over the last year-plus. It was hard. But, in the end, it makes the ACLU-PA a better organization, one that both preaches a set of values and lives them.

Onward, Reggie



Reggie Shuford
ACLU-PA Executive Director



# **DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**

By Andy Hoover Art by Micah Bazant

# In 2020, democracy in the United States was under assault by those who are hostile to free, fair elections.

# The ACLU of Pennsylvania was there to defend it.

# The numbers speak for themselves:

**6.8 million:** Then-President Trump's campaign and other Pennsylvania Republican elected officials asked federal courts to overturn the results of the presidential election, which would have overturned the votes of nearly seven million voters in the commonwealth. ACLU-PA intervened on behalf of advocacy organizations and individual voters. (Intervening is a legal process in which a party can join a lawsuit because they will be directly impacted by the result.) Court after court turned away Trump's claims, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

**2.6 million:** Pennsylvanians took full advantage of the opportunity to vote by mail, with 2,637,065 mail and absentee ballots submitted in the general election. In 2019, ACLU-PA advocated for the passage of the legislation that allows voters to submit ballots by mail, without the need for an excuse. We educated voters about the procedure for voting by mail. And when the Trump campaign went to court to stop counties from offering drop boxes for submitting ballots, ACLU-PA intervened. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled against Trump, ensuring that voters had an easy way to submit their ballots.

**1.15 million:** ACLU-PA teamed up with the voting rights coalition Keystone Votes to create and send a "know your rights" mailing to nearly one million BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) voters.

We followed that effort with a second mailer to 156,000 BIPOC voters in 12 priority counties that promoted the election protection hotline, 866-OUR-VOTE.

Hundreds of thousands: ACLU-PA reached countless voters through a wide range of advertising. We ran ads on Black radio stations in Philadelphia, sponsored public transportation ads in Philly and Pittsburgh, and rented a billboard in Harrisburg. And we created two video ads for Google platforms. One featured former Pittsburgh Steeler Troy Polamalu promoting 866-OUR-VOTE, and the other explained "naked" ballots, reminding mail-in voters to include the secrecy envelope with their ballot.

**3,000:** Along with our allies, ACLU-PA staff helped to respond to more than 3,000 calls to 866-OUR-VOTE on Election Day.

**9:** ACLU-PA, ACLU, and our allies participated in nine election-related lawsuits.

**Immeasurable:** It is difficult to count the number of hours ACLU-PA staff spent in defense of democracy in 2020. It was a total effort that crossed every department. Our team was in court, in the state legislature, in county offices, and in communities across the state protecting the right to vote and educating voters about their rights.

# DRIVING PENNSYLVANIA FORWARD

By Marianne Stein Art by Manuela Guillén (Lazy Beam Arte)

The ACLU-PA is working with the Driving Pennsylvania Forward (DPF) coalition to pass legislation to allow people to be eligible for a standard driver's license regardless of immigration status. Additionally, the legislation would add crucial privacy and data protections for all Pennsylvanians in the PennDOT database.

In addition to working with Representative Danillo Burgos (D-Philadelphia) to introduce the bill first in September 2020 and again in January 2021, the coalition launched the Secure Our Data privacy report, which was discussed during a House Democratic Policy committee hearing and a press event. The coalition has conducted a series of

webinars to build public support for the bill and, in November 2020, participated in a Unity in Power parade and press conference in Harrisburg. The bill, House Bill 279, remains in committee as the coalition continues to hold multiple lobby days, webinars, and press events.

If passed, Pennsylvania would become the 19th state to provide access to driver's licenses or cards, regardless of immigration status. Pennsylvania would also join the host of states that have implemented data and privacy protections to ensure that residents who obtain driver's licenses can do so knowing that their information will not be sold and shared with federal agencies.





# INSIDE-OUT: ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN IN PHILLY'S JAILS

By Adrian Perry Art by The People's Paper Co-op

When COVID-19 first struck last spring, I, like everyone else, was anxious. The difference was, I was locked up at the time in Riverside Correctional Facility, the women's jail in Philadelphia, where I couldn't take the precautions that people on the outside could. I couldn't buy a mask or socially distance from others. I couldn't go to the emergency room if I showed symptoms of COVID. I couldn't even get up-to-date information about the virus since we were sheltering in place and had limited contact with the outside world.

I was lucky to be released from jail less than two months into the pandemic. One of the first people I reached out to when I came home was Valerie Todd, who happened to be a consultant for the Incarcerated Women's Working Group that the ACLU of Pennsylvania co-convenes. She put me in touch with an ACLU-PA lawyer who was working to develop a case against the Philadelphia Department of Prisons for its failure to take adequate protections against COVID-19, and I shared my concerns about what I experienced at Riverside. Then, I was invited to join a Working Group meeting and quickly got involved with the subcommittee that was working to address

conditions at the Philadelphia jails. When the Working Group put out a call for paid consulting positions just a few months after I came home, I jumped at the opportunity.

As a consultant, I've participated in monthly meetings with leadership in the Philadelphia prisons and spoken up for what people in our jails need: virtual, and now in-person, visitation, programming, and up-to-date information about the virus and the vaccine. Recently, I've visited the jails as part of a Vaccine Champions Program that the Working Group developed, where formerly incarcerated people talk with folks on the inside about the vaccine and answer their questions. This also gives me a chance to find out what conditions are like for the women who are still locked up, which I then take back to the Working Group and the ACLU-PA so we can make change together.

There's still work to do to make our jails and prisons safer, but I've seen a lot of progress through the advocacy and litigation that's happened so far. And I'm excited to continue to fight for what people incarcerated across Pennsylvania need to stay safe and healthy.



# **EDUCATION, NOT** INCARCERATION

# By Harold Jordan and Ghadah Makoshi Art by Cambriae Winifred Lee

The ACLU of Pennsylvania saw a number of successes in the area of school policing in 2020, despite this unprecedented year. Although our advocacy shifted to the virtual arena, we were primed to play a leading role in these struggles because of the foundation laid for almost a decade of working to reduce the number of young people who have contact with the criminal justice system.

After the publication of our report Police and Pennsylvania's Schools: What Education Leaders Need to Know at the end of 2019, the Woodland Hills School District in Allegheny County made several policy changes to reduce arrests and referrals of students. Perhaps the most significant policy change was cancelling the district's contract with local police and the removal of "school resource officers" from district schools.

With the closure of public schools in March 2020, school officials everywhere were left to grapple with how to apply school discipline rules, both to students who had discipline infraction allegations pending and to students, generally, in the virtual environment. Many school districts tried to enforce existing policies in students' homes or created new ones specific to e-learning. Our publication School Discipline in the Era of COVID-19 helped spark a national debate about discipline practices during school closures. In Pittsburgh, we were successful in convincing the local school board to remove most of the punitive language from its proposed distance learning policies.

While schools across the country tried to navigate how to deliver education from a distance, it was the murder of George Floyd that had the greatest impact on our work. More school communities than ever before came to question the presence of police in schools and to challenge police violations of student privacy rights.

In September 2020, we collaborated with the Black Girls Equity Alliance on a report, Disrupting Pathways to Juvenile Justice for Black Youth in Allegheny County. It highlights the disproportionality of arrests, referrals, and summary citations of those students within Allegheny County, with a focus on Pittsburgh, where school-related arrests are one of the drivers of high arrest rates for Black youth in the county.

The ACLU of Pennsylvania has long been concerned about the expansion of police contact with students who have posed no real threat to a school community. The expansion of "threat assessment," which allows police to access personal information from school records, has been swift, with little thought given to the ramifications for youth rights. In March 2020, we published an analysis of the practice in Youth Today, The Risks of Threat Assessment to Students Are Dire, which showed how the practice, when misapplied, undermines the basic civil rights and liberties of students, with particularly harsh consequences for students of color and students with disabilities.

As kids are set to return to the classroom this fall, there is a danger that symbolic reform in schoolbased policing arrangements (such as keeping police but taking away their traditional uniforms) will subvert the drive for meaningful change.

We need to be extra vigilant in our work to demand change and accountability in 2021 and beyond.

# **DONOR THANK YOU**

While we at ACLU-PA are not able to recognize every donor due to space constraints, your support has helped us get through one of the busiest periods in the history of the organization. This past year's work has been nothing short of critical. Despite the endless curveballs, you allowed us to step up to the plate each time: from our reactive COVID-19 work to protect the rights of those incarcerated and most vulnerable; to responding to police brutality and the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ricardo Muñoz, Walter Wallace, Jr., and too many others to list; and to ensuring that the 2020 election

was fair and free and that every vote counted. When things got tough, you stuck with us.

The ACLU-PA relies heavily on our supporters to sustain our fight to protect the civil liberties of all Pennsylvanians. As we look ahead, we are prepared to repair the damage done to civil liberties over these last four years, which will require a tremendous amount of time and resources. We will remain vigilant and committed to our fight for a more just Pennsylvania. Together, we will succeed.

Thank you for remaining committed to this work.



# IMPORTANT



MY SOUL INSPIRED ME TO BE COURAGEOUS





IT WAS AT THIS TIME I FOUND MY FREEDOM FROM WITHIN



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Friends of the ACLU-PA:

For the ACLU of PA, no less than for all of our communities, we look back on the 2020-2021 year and can hardly believe what we have all been through. Just as we were celebrating ACLU's centennial, a global pandemic forced us to rethink every aspect of how we live our lives, including how we carry out the ACLU-PA mission of protecting liberty throughout the commonwealth. Could we continue to fulfill our objectives while working from home? We could. Could we pursue a full caseload while appearing remotely? We could. Could we engage with and support a nationwide upsurge of activism in opposition to police brutality and in support of Black lives? Yes, we could. Could we work with the national ACLU to brief and argue two landmark cases at the Supreme Court in the same year? That, too. And assume a leading, nonpartisan role in the fight for everyone's right to vote - and to have their votes counted - in the face of unprecedented challenges? Yes.

Internally, could we complete a long-planned, in-depth strategic planning process, engaging staff, board and volunteers throughout the state? Somehow, we managed that also. We emerged with newly focused priorities, ideas for improved efficiency and effectiveness, and a redoubled commitment to our ABIDE principles: authentic belonging, inclusion, diversity and equity.

Throughout the year, as reflected in this annual report, we were sustained by our engagement with the arts. We regularly feature music, book talks, and spoken-word performance at our events. We not only defend the full range of First Amendment-protected activity, we also enjoy and learn from it. On behalf of the statewide, volunteer board of directors, I thank our supporters for your loyalty, dedication, and generosity. We are ready for the challenges of the future, strengthened by what we learned in the past.



Peter Goldberger ACLU-PA Board President

# PRO BONO LEGAL PARTNERS

# **Volunteer Attorneys**

Daniel Aiken Clayton Bailey Ben Barnett Seth Bastianelli Riley Bauer Mira Baylson Noah Becker Seth Berlin Steven Bizar Simon Bord Derek Brader Wilson Brown Emmanuel Brown Allison Burdette Thomas Burke Sam Callahan Marc Capuano Elizabeth Casey Craig Castiglia Ellen Chiulos

Melissa Cieszkowski Kristen Cissne Anthony Cocuzzi Claudia Cohen Laura Collins Scott Conrad Michael Corcoran David Cromley Robert Cultice Jeffrey Davidson Eleanor Davis Jim Davy

Anna Do Avishai Don Renee Dudek

Shankar Duraiswamy

Kevin Eddy Ilana Eisenstein Tiffany Engsell Yoella Epstein Nathan Farris Jonathan Feinberg Nicholas Feltham

Molly Flynn
Vernon Francis
John Freedman
Alan Freeman
Tim George
Blair Gerold
David Gersch
Rory Gledhill
Peter Goldberger
George Gordon
Carla Graff
Gayle Green
John Grogan
Jared Grubow
Martha Guarnieri

Rani Gupta
Anne Gwynn
Eldin Hasic
Arleigh Helfer
Shawna Henry
Christopher Herling
Kathy Herman
Alejandro Herrera
D. Alicia Hickok
Michael Iannucci
Sara Jacobson
Arjunn Jaikumar
Stanton Jones
Bruce Jones
Michale Joyce

Scott Kaplan
Charles Kelly
Jordan Kelso
John Kessler
Mary Kim
Ashley Kissinger
Seth Kreimer
Kelly Krellner
Cole Kroshus
William Kuzma
Charles Lange
Rachel Leary

Justin Kadoura

Peter Leckman
Timothy Lewis
Susan Lin
Jason Liss
Stephen Loney
Theresa Loscalzo
Forrest Lovett
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Jim Martin
Lori Martin
John Marty
Stormie Mauck
Benjamin McAnaney

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David Rudovsky
Will Sachse
Michael Savino
Lewis Schlossberg
Eli Segal
Ilene Shane
Megan Shannon
Sam Shapiro
Stephen Shapiro
Lillie Shobe

Brian Pickard

Jennifer Pike

Rachel Rosenberg

Allyson Slater James Smith Amy Spencer Russell Spivak John Stapleton Matthew Steigler Sonia Sujanani Sarah Suwanda Mark Taticchi Courtney Devon Taylor Elizabeth Theodore Alex Thompson Matt Thornton Carol Trevey Sozi Tulante Andrew Vaden Nicholas Vari

Eric Wang

Cory Ward

Catherine Wigglesworth John Wixted Robert Wiygul David Yin Catherine Yun David Zionts

# **Volunteer Firms**

Arnold & Porter
Ballard Spahr
Blank Rome LLP
Covington & Burling LLP
Cozen O'Connor
Dechert LLP
DLA Piper LLP
Faegre, Drinker, Biddle &
Reath LLP

Hangley Aronchick Segal

Pudlin & Schiller LLC
Hogan Lovells
K&L Gates
Kairys, Rudovsky, Messing,
Feinberg & Lin LLP
Langer, Grogan & Diver
Levan Muhic Stapleton LLC
Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.
Offit Kurman
Purchase, George & Murphey
Reed Smith
Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP
Schnader Harrison
Troutman Pepper
Wilmer Hale



# FINANCIALS (Unaudited)

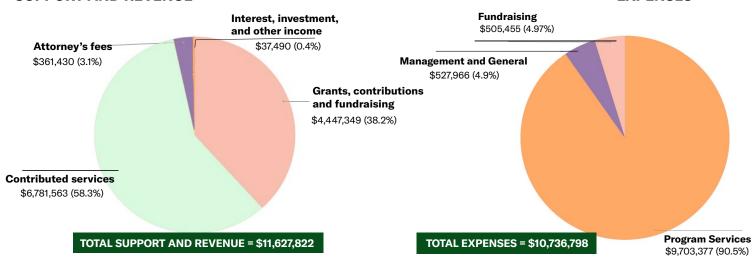
# **American Civil Liberties Foundation of Pennsylvania**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (UNAUDITED)

Fiscal Year April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021

### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

### **EXPENSES**



**Change in net assets = \$1,399,907** 

Net assets, beginning of year = \$6,343,297

Net assets, end of year = \$7,743,204

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)

As of March 31, 2021

Current Assets	
Cash and equivalents	\$2,806,814
Accounts receivable	\$690,558
Prepaid expenses	\$34,348
Due from national ACLU	\$1,591,762
Due from affiliate Union	\$153,049
Investments	.\$2,104,587
Legacy Trusts	\$778,221
Security deposit	\$3,849
Subtotal:	\$8,163,188

# **Property and Equipment**

Building and impr	covements\$238,7	15
Leasehold Improve	ements\$14,9	60

Less: accumulated depreciation.....\$-215,225

Total Property and Equipment: .\$38,449 Total assets: \$8,201,637

### Liabilities

\$25,305
\$69,790
\$168,400
.\$194,938

**Total Liabilities:** \$458,433

### **Net Assets**

Unrestricted
General, Board funds......\$5,131,781
Litigation funds.......\$413,331 **Total Unrestricted:** \$5,545,112

Temporarily restricted......\$1,511,398 \$25,305 Permanently restricted......\$686,694

> Total net assets: \$7,743,204 Total liabilities

and net assets: \$8,201,637

# **American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (UNAUDITED)

Fiscal Year April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021

# Support and Revenue

Memberships	\$2,090,404
Grants, contributions, and	
fundraising	\$518,85
Interest and investment	
income	\$270,750
Total support and revenue	e: \$2,880,00

# Expenses

Program Services	\$999,942
Management and general	\$288,718
Fundraising	\$71,411
Total Expenses	\$1,360,071

Change in net assets: \$1,514,802 Net assets, beginning of year: \$5,251,333 Net assets, end of year: \$6,766,135

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)

As of March 31, 2021

# **Current Assets**

Cash and equivalents	\$1,744,153
Prepaid expenses	\$1,638
Investments	\$4,996,376
Due from national ACLU	\$282,789
Total current assets:	<b>\$</b> 7.024.956

# **Property and Equipment**

Building and improvements.......\$34,438 Less: accumulated depreciation: \$-29,932 **Total Property and Equipment:** \$4,506 **Total assets:** \$7,029,462

### Liabilities

Due to affiliate Foundation	\$153,049
Accounts payable	
Accrued expenses	
Accrued pension	
Accrued vacation	
Total Liabilitie	

### **Net Assets**

Total net assets:	\$6 766 135
Temporarily restricted	\$120,637
Unrestricted	.\$6,645,498

Total liabilities and net assets: \$7,029,462

# **ABOUT THIS ANNUAL REPORT**

This year we produced a special annual report in partnership with local artists who use their talents for activism. If the last two years have taught us anything, it is that we need each other to dismantle racism, defend democracy, and create the necessary change that is long overdue. Whether you are a lawyer, advocate, community activist, educator, philanthropist, or artist, we all have our role to play in the fight to defend and expand civil liberties. So, let's march on together.









Follow us on social media: @aclupa



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