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Dear friends,

Welcome to the first edition of the Amplify quarterly newsletter!

We know you're busy and have hundreds of emails in your inbox, but we're bursting at the seams to share Amplify updates with you.

Since the Amplify Fund launched in 2018, we have built an amazing community of members, grantees, advisors and partners. Specifically, we've:

- [Co-created](#) context-specific grantmaking strategies in the eight places where we work with local strategy advisors, 31 in total;
- Distributed over \$5 million to 53 grantees;
- Expanded our membership to include 11 foundations (soon to be 12!);
- Hired a team including 3 full-time staff members and a number of consultants;
- Launched a culture of racial justice process as a staff and steering committee.

Below this short message you'll find a sampling of powerful news stories and videos highlighting the work of a few Amplify grantees, and with one click you will find [our full grants list here](#). These groups, 95% BIPOC-led, are all building power in communities of color to wield influence and direct decision-making authority over development in

the places where they live. We encourage you to check them out and fund them directly whenever possible!

Adapting to an all-virtual practice has been challenging for us all, but here at Amplify, we've done our best to create spaces for deep learning, exchange and even some fun throughout it all. Via Zoom we've hosted grantee convenings, learning visits for funders (like our virtual Nashville visit that you can read all about [here](#)) and spoken on panels organized by funder-focused groups like The Funders Network (TFN), Filantropía Puerto Rico, and with our colleagues in the Democratizing Development Program.

Along with the full team at NFG we urge you to fully resource work that centers the lives, safety, and success of Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities, and we leave you with 3 invitations in support of that work. Please:

- Forward this email to any colleagues or partners that might be interested Reach out to us directly to learn more about how to join our community;
- Join us at our December 2 session at NFG's 40 years Strong convening, *Get it Together: How the Amplify Fund Supports Black-led Power Building and Organizing*, by registering [here](#).

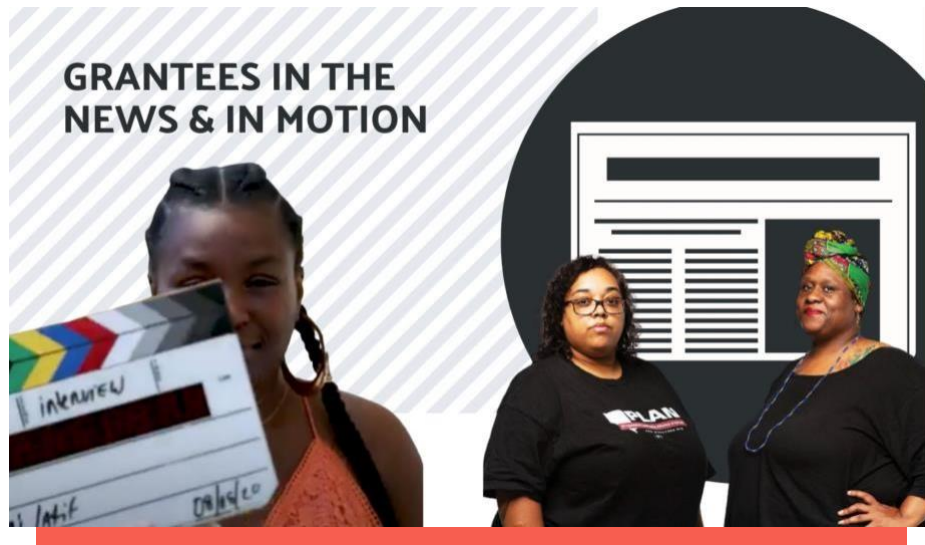


We're so excited that this newsletter marks the beginning of quarterly updates coming to your inbox. Stay in touch!

In solidarity,

Amy, Melody and Nicole -- the Amplify team amplify@nfg.org

For full detail on our core values, strategies and goals please check out all the materials at <https://www.nfg.org/amplify>



Amplify's core belief is that community power is the key driver of just and equitable development. Below you will find links to 6 news articles and 3 videos that highlight recent wins accomplished by grantees, profile some of the visionary leaders and contextualize the work within broader movements for justice.

Click the links below to read about:

- Make it Work Nevada's Executive Director Erika Washington
- How Kayla Reed, Co-founder and Executive Director of Action St. Louis, thinks about building power in Jessica Byrd's New York Times op-ed
- Shariana Ferrer-Núñez and Zoan Dávila Roldán, and Colectiva Feminista's bold calls for change in Puerto Rico
- How after 2 years of steady work, St. Louis organizers got politicians to vote yes to closing the oldest and most notorious jail in the city
- What The Equity Alliance (TEA) found out about federal stimulus money in Nashville after connecting with over 7,000 people through "Our Fair Share"
- Tara Raghuvver's, Founding Director of KC Tenants, perspective on the COVID-related eviction ban

And, to learn even more, you can watch videos about equitable development work in Tennessee, Puerto Rico and South Carolina. The short pieces include stories of community benefits agreements, the fight for public land, housing justice and just recovery after disaster.



PROFILE

Making It Work

Erika Washington takes conversations from kitchen tables to Congress

BY **Heidi Kyser**

The New York Times

Opinion

The Future of Black Politics

Sanitation workers on strike. Mothers occupying vacant houses. These are our leaders.

By **Jessica Byrd**
Ms. Byrd, the deputy campaign manager for Stacey Abrams's race for governor of Georgia in 2018, is a founder of the Electoral Justice Project at the Movement for Black Lives.

Sept. 1, 2020



¿CUÁNTAS MÁS?



marcharon hasta La Fortaleza anoche para emplazar a la gobernadora Wanda Garced a que declare un estado de emergencia por la violencia de género :ps

After Two Years of 'Relentless' Community Organizing, St. Louis' Oldest and Most Notorious Jail Is Closing

Anne Branigin
7/28/20 3:00PM • Filed to: CLOSE THE WORKHOUSE ✓



THESE TIMES

POLITICS LABOR INVESTIGATIONS CLIMATE BLACK LIVES MATTER CORONAVIRUS

Tenants Just Won a Nationwide Eviction Ban. They're Still Fighting to Cancel Rent.

President Trump's surprise eviction moratorium is an election hail-mary. But to stave off a disastrous housing crisis, organizers say Democrats—including Joe Biden—must embrace bolder measures.

REBECCA BURNS SEPTEMBER 2, 2020



TENNESSEE LOOKOUT

COVID-19 CRIMINAL JUSTICE & POLICING EDUCATION HEALTHCARE POLITICS WORKING & THE ECONOMY

INVESTIGATES

Covid-19 Nashville/Davidson

Civil Rights COVID-19 Working & the Economy

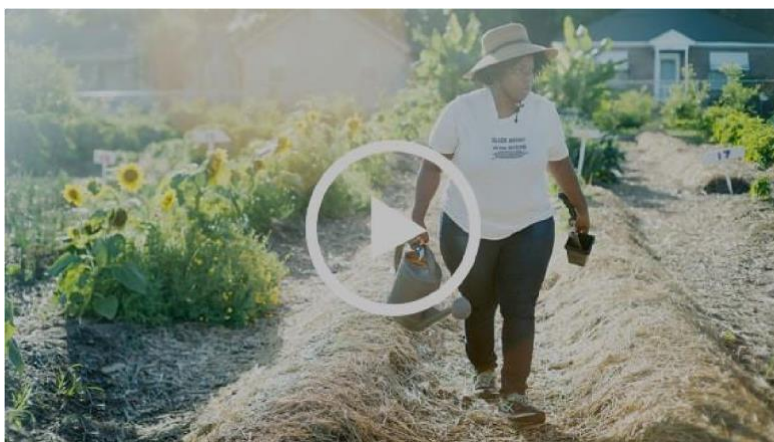
Equity Alliance survey shows Black and Hispanic Nashvillians experiencing pandemic hardships at high rates

By **Holly McCall** - September 16, 2020



Hear directly from Tequila Johnson of The Equity Alliance (TEA) and Odessa Kelly from Stand Up Nashville (SUN) in this short video co-produced by Amplify & our NFG colleagues, Funders for a Just Economy (FJE).

Learn about how Puerto Ricans are defending their homes in the face of government corruption and neglect in this short video produced by Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico. This related to everyday realities on the island that are exacerbated by disasters like Hurricane Maria.



Learn about land and farming in Charleston, South Carolina by watching this movie trailer produced by Seedlight Pictures to learn about Fresh Future Farm and the project's visionary founder Germaine Jenkins.

Join the Amplify community

MEMBERS SAY WE'RE...

"Strategic, values-driven, community"
RINI BANERJEE, JESSIE SMITH NOYES FOUNDATION

"Authentic, dynamic, refreshing"
CHAE KIM, THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

"Sincere allies, unafraid, adaptive"
HELEN CHIN, SURDNA FOUNDATION

"Genuine earnest, inspiring"
JEN PATRICK, THE JPB FOUNDATION



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