



Peace & Justice Center Highlights 2019-2020

Over 1500 people attended our educational programs:

- Seeing and Disrupting Racism (18*)
- Unpacking Whiteness (formerly Toxic Whiteness) (17)
- BIPOC in Vermont Affinity Group (9)
- Fair Trade Labels Presentation (6)
- Fair Trade 101: Global Trade and Racism (5)
- Chocolate and Modern Slavery (4)
- Building Empathy and Addressing Racial Oppression (2)
- Banana Industry Presentation (2)
- Talking with Kids About Racism (1)
- Privilege & Accountability for Aspiring Allies (1)
- Black Beauty Presentation (1)



In addition to our regular educational workshops, we hosted and/or cosponsored the following event:

- A book discussion on White Fragility (30 participants)
- Three films and a theater production (unknown numbers)
- Rodney Patterson's six-part workshop on Dissecting Racism (70 participants)
- Three teach-ins – two for the No Mas Polimigra campaign and one with the UVM Iranian Student Union (200 people total)

Some community organizing efforts we took part in:

- Coalition to Change the Name of Negro Brook (Townsend State Park)
- Truth to Power readings to Senator Leahy in opposition to the F35s
- Black and Brown at Democracy Prep (Marlboro)
- Outright VT's organizing against Gender Critical VT
- Battery Park Encampment and RISE BTV's efforts to defund the Burlington Police



2020 Annual Report

October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020

peace & justice center

advocacy • education • action

Dear friends,

This fiscal year did not go as planned: our work turned upside down first when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and then with the uprisings against the police murder of Black people.

We thought the biggest news would be the retirement of Wendy Coe, PJC co-founder and Operations Manager for 41 years, and the transition to a new Executive Director. Wendy did move on, which was a monumental change, but the ED transition got postponed when COVID hit.

The first half of the year was busy with educational programs, interns and volunteers, store operations, and supporting other organizing and activist groups around the state. We put a new floor in the store. We moved all our files onto the cloud and started using the Microsoft suite for storage and communication. We welcomed several new Allied Groups who receive fiscal sponsorship and other support from us. We supported community organizing around the state.



We hosted our second trip to the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum & National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. An interracial and intergenerational group of 12 were deeply impacted

by their group process as well as the sites they visited.

And then COVID hit.

Like everyone, we have a COVID narrative. On March 13, we shut down the store and cancelled all our programs. We had enough

money in the bank to get through two pay periods. Thanks to our amazing membership, along with the government support and our generous landlord (Main Street Landing), we have remained on solid ground with no layoffs.

The first couple months were messy and difficult. We had some hardships including one staff member who got COVID, one who had a fire and a flood, and one who left the organization suddenly. We spent time doing behind the scenes things: self-education, website clean-up, and inventory management. We figured out how often to meet on Zoom. First it wasn't enough. And then it was too much. We've continued to shift and adjust.

And then George Floyd was murdered.

When the uprisings against police murder of Black people began, people shifted from focusing on public safety and community needs related to the virus, to public safety for Black people and other marginalized



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Staff 2019-2020

Amy Crosswhite
Fair Trade Store & Program Manager

Aris Garcia
Volunteer Coordinator & Assit. Store Manager

Joshua Oyetubo
Operations Manager

Kina Thorpe
Educational Program Manager

Rachel Siegel
Executive Director

Wendy Coe
Operations Manager (Oct-Jan)

Willow Babcock
Operations Manager (Jan-June)

Board of Directors

Aden Haji (Oct-Mar)
Beverly Little Thunder (Oct-June)
Chuck Brewer
David Shiman
Emma Schoenberg
Jayna Ahsaf
Jennifer Pacholek, Secretary
Lam Phan (Oct-Jan)
Kahlia Livingston, Chair
Nathan Suter, Treasurer

PJC Mission

We work on the interconnected issues of peace, human rights and economic, social, and racial justice through education, advocacy, training and nonviolent activism, community organizing, and collaboration.



communities. This meant that many more people were reaching out to PJC for support. Our work went from zero to 100 in a day.

After we helped with the George Floyd protests, we hosted a Racial Justice in Vermont panel. (You can watch it on our YouTube channel.) About 2,000 people watched it live or after. Of those people, many have become members and volunteers, come to educational programs, and/or contracted us to bring a racial justice program to their place of work.

We sold 100s of BLM signs curbside. We moved our educational programs to online formats. We were contacted and supported by many Vermont businesses. This is all very affirming. It told us that people think our work is valuable and that businesses and artists are looking for ways to contribute to social justice.

Community Voices for Immigrant Rights had its one-year anniversary in July, and we left the Steering Committee knowing that they have great leadership to continue their amazing work.

We had our first BIPOC retreat thanks to the generosity of Knoll Farm. This



was great timing as the racial make-up of our staff shifted: for the first time in the 41 years of the Peace & Justice Center’s existence, we are now majority POC. We have an opportunity to continue to transform into an organization that can more authentically serve both BIPOC and white people. It is hard work at times as we fumble, get hurt, and figure things out, but we

are doing the work to shift the culture of the organization while still maintaining our roots and mission.

Starting in September we returned to the center part time but we have yet to welcome the public back. We launched our online store in November so we can support our partners around the world with curbside and shipping options. We, like everyone, are working in unprecedented times and making it up as we go while holding true to our mission and values.

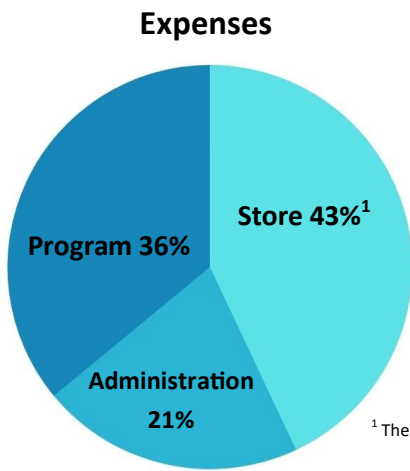
Thanks for being here with us.

Kira
Amy
Rachel
Aris
Josh

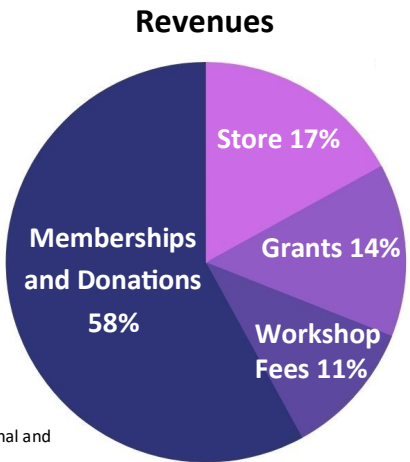


Many Hands:
750 members
20 facilitators
45 volunteers/interns
3320 volunteer hours
60+ cooperatives, artists, & vendors

Financial Summary: October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020



Net revenue \$391,868
Net expense \$312,265
Cash balance \$79,603



¹ The Peace & Justice Store is one of the educational and economic justice projects of the Center.

Workshops and trainings we participated in:

- How to Get the Most Out of Your Website
- COVID in Gaza
- COVID in Indian Country
- War Divestment with Code Pink and World Beyond War
- Community Accountability and Transformative Justice
- Storytelling for Impact
- Tools Every Nonprofit Needs to Simplify Their Life
- Social Media 102
- COVID’s Impact on the Black Community
- Leveling Up the Jewish Left

Some businesses and groups who supported our work:

- Expressions
- Middlebury Friends
- Burlington UU Society
- Switchback Brewery
- Lawson’s Finest Liquors
- Von Bargaen’s Jewelry
- Pi Kappa Alpha
- Sisters of Color
- Faith United Methodist
- VT Spice of Life
- The Drawing Board
- Pleasant Ranch

Active Allied Groups:

1. [2Creative Community](#)
2. [BrooklynStrongVT](#)
3. [Loving Day Vermont](#)
4. [People for Peace & Security](#)
5. [Randolph Area Asylum Seekers](#)
6. [Protect Geprags Park](#)
7. [Save Our Skies Stop the F-35s](#)
8. [Seeds for Venezuela](#)
9. [Social Equity Working Group](#)
10. [SURJ Middlebury](#)
11. [Vermont’s Freedom & Unity Chorus](#)
12. [Vermonters for Justice in Palestine](#)
13. [Waterbury-Area Anti-Racist Coalition](#)