



# Resistance and Resilience

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



## ABOUT EARTH ISLAND

For more than 40 years, Earth Island Institute has been a home for people who protect Earth and all life on it. Through our programs, we equip changemakers with the systems and support they need to take action. We drive action by lifting up stories, ideas, and strategies that inspire and promote change. And we strengthen the movement by centering equity and the deep connections between human and natural systems. Our programs consist of (1) fiscal sponsorship that provides changemakers with the administrative and operational supports and systems they need; (2) Earth Island Journal, which offers new insights, strategies, and inspiration through storytelling to help make action appealing and effective; (3) Earth Island Advocates, a program for legal action in collaboration with fiscally sponsored projects; and (4) the New Leaders Initiative, which provides training and support to young changemakers to cultivate the next generation of environmental leadership. Founded in 1982, Earth Island Institute is one of the leading environmental activist organizations in the United States.

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## EXECUTIVE LETTER

Dear Friends,

In moments when the path forward is uncertain, our capacity for resistance and resilience is revealed. As we look back on this past year, amid the noise of the political landscape and the passage of environmental rollbacks, the fundamental truth of our work shines through: The commitment of a dedicated community is the greatest engine for change.

The forces designed to divide us and dismantle progress are real, and they require a response that is more than merely defensive. At Earth Island, we believe that effective environmental change demands that we move beyond reacting to focusing on proactive solutions.

This is why Earth Island Institute is more vital than ever. Fundamentally, we are a home for people who protect Earth and life on it.

Our work is guided by the belief that human and natural systems are deeply interconnected and interdependent, and that solutions must center this essential interaction to be effective. We are

focused on the mutuality of natural and human thriving, recognizing that one is not possible without the other.

This strategic clarity allows us to transform anxiety into action across our programs:

We are **equipping changemakers** with the connections, systems, and support they need to take action.

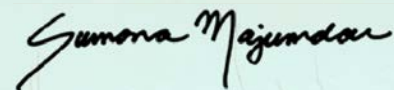
We are **driving action** by seeding the movement with stories, ideas, strategies, and legal actions that spark change.

We are **strengthening the movement** by centering equity and the connection between human and natural systems in everything we do.

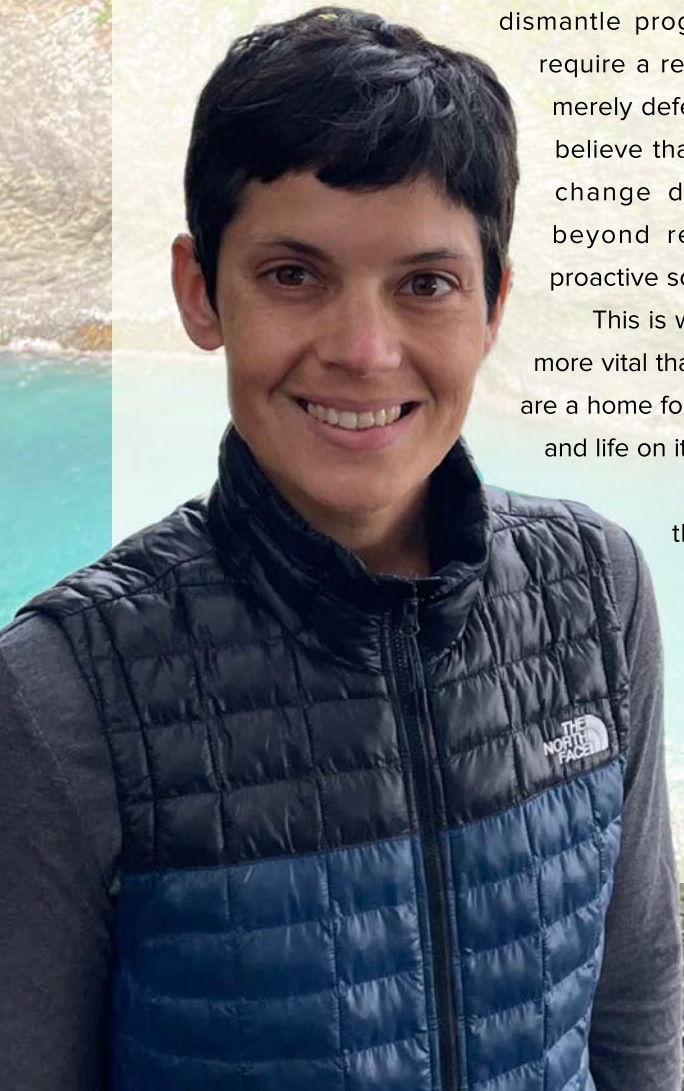
From our youth leaders imagining a regenerative future to our legal advocates holding corporations accountable, we are not waiting for permission to build the world we need; we are creating it now, together. This is our strategic advantage: a cooperative approach that fosters community resilience and amplifies diverse voices. This work proves that when we act in community, our dreams for a just, thriving world can help shape reality.

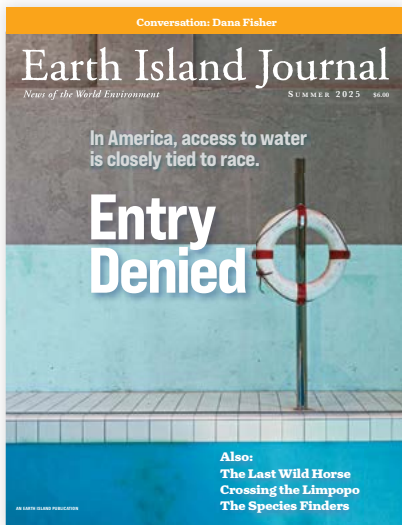
Thank you for refusing to retreat. Thank you for standing in community with us. Let us turn our shared commitment into a force that heals and transforms.

Onward,



Sumona Majumdar  
Chief Executive Officer





## PROGRAM UPDATES

### *Earth Island Journal*

Our award-winning international magazine combines investigative journalism, thought-provoking commentary, and inspiring art to highlight the subtle but profound connections between the environment and pressing social issues.

We are living in a time of escalating climate chaos, mounting biodiversity loss, and a global rise in authoritarianism. At the same time, misinformation is more prevalent than ever, yet independent media faces strong headwinds and free speech is increasingly under threat. All of which means that Earth Island Journal’s fearless, fact-based reporting on the environment is more important than ever.

In 2025, our print magazine published hard-hitting features from around the world, including a story from South Sudan, where activists are pushing for the inclusion of people with disabilities in climate-disaster response planning; an essay from the American South about how access to swimmable water is closely tied to race; an investigative report from Washington State about a quasi-academic group that has been trying to classify industrial logging as a climate change solution; and a feature from Hungary about efforts to reestablish free-roaming populations of the world’s only remaining wild horse species.

Online, we continued watch-dogging by publishing articles and essays that spotlight the many ways the Trump administration is rolling back environmental safeguards. We also unearthed cases of corporate malfeasance and highlighted many inspiring people and campaigns fighting to protect our planet and our communities.

## ***Earth Island Advocates***

Earth Island Advocates uses the law to amplify the critical work of our projects to defend ecosystems and their inhabitants. At the same time, we also launch impactful litigation that protects key environmental values and communities. We hold corporations and institutions accountable for their environmental harm, challenge misleading greenwashing claims, and work to ensure that sustainability commitments are honest, transparent, and enforceable. Advocates is fortunate to rely on a web of support that includes the pro-bono resources of law firms, legal clinics,

and other nonprofit organizations. Several of our recent victories and notable projects include:

In our campaign to hold plastic water bottle manufacturers accountable for misleading statements about the purity and recyclability of their products, we built on our earlier victory against Coca-Cola and brought new suits against the makers of Aquafina, FIJI Water, Just Water, and Core Hydration. We reached a settlement with Danone Waters of America, which produces Evian.

The Georgetown Environmental Law and Justice Clinic assisted our project RISE St. James to prepare an innovative report on climate

reparations — compensation for communities that have suffered the greatest harms from climate change. RISE used the report to highlight the issue at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

We have also engaged in litigation to resist the unlawful freezing of federal funds that impacts our own projects and undermines crucial environmental work across the country.

In the coming year, we will continue to challenge misleading corporate claims that overstate the benefits of recycling and distract from the real goal of reducing plastic production. We will expand the scope of our work to focus on the climate crisis, and focus our legal action on the intersection of the human-created and natural systems that shape our world. We expect an ambitious year that uses new legal theories to protect our cherished places and the people who sustain them.



Earth Island Advocates and the legal team challenging Big Plastic's sustainability claims.



### ***New Leaders Initiative***

Since 2000, the New Leaders Initiative has celebrated and supported young environmental leaders in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Each year, the New Leaders Initiative produces the Brower Youth Awards program, which honors the work of six outstanding young environmentalists between the ages of 13 and 22 for their leadership and environmental activism. Our 2025 recipients led diverse projects, which included successfully passing legislation focused on environmental justice in Colorado, pushing for youth participation in political and environmental decision-making worldwide, using storytelling to shed light on climate insecurities and solutions, empowering youth and Indigenous leadership to

create a fire-resilient future, and addressing the rising mental health impacts of climate change.

In addition to a cash prize and public recognition, the winners receive a suite of capacity- and skill-building workshops that include coaching and training from politicians, educators, business leaders, activists, and Brower Youth Awards alumni. Additionally, winners have access to peer support designed to provide them with skills to advance their initiatives.

And while Brower Youth Awards is Earth Island’s flagship event, we strive to engage, grow, and support young activists all year long through an exciting series of panel discussions that match experts with alumni on engaging topics such as “Emotional Responses to Climate Change.”

In collaboration with the Rose Foundation

for Communities and the Environment, the New Leaders Initiative hosts an annual youth poetry workshop and slam, which 40 young poet/ climate activists attended in 2025 at RYSE youth center in Richmond, California. New Leaders Initiative also collaborates with UC Berkeley to run a student fellowship program. For 2025, five UC Berkeley students worked with Law Students for Climate Accountability, researching the landscape of the fossil fuel industry and helping to hold parties accountable for their actions.

**2025 Brower Youth Award winners (left to right): Lily YangLiu, Inaam Chattha, Sophie Tipper, Joey Wu, Kyle Trefny.**

## ***Project Support Program***

The Project Support Program provides coordinated, values-aligned infrastructure to support nearly 70 fiscally sponsored projects across the Earth Island network. In 2024-2025, the program navigated both transition and growth, supporting the closure of several projects while onboarding two new initiatives: Tallgrass Institute and the SIRGE Coalition.

2025 marked a significant deepening of proactive support across human resources management, financial management, compliance, contracts and grants, and organizational systems. Clearer workflows, strengthened risk management, and closer coordination across Finance, Human Resources, Legal, Development, and other Earth Island programs increased consistency and responsiveness throughout a complex and diverse project portfolio.

At its core, the Project Support Program reflects the Earth Island approach: infrastructure as care, relational (not transactional) sponsorship, and coordinated support that strengthens resilience over time. By providing stable systems amid uncertainty and change, the program enables projects to improve internal management while directing energy toward their missions, collaboration, and lasting impact.

### PROJECTS JULY 1 2024–JUNE 30 2025

**ACTION FOR A LIVABLE TOMORROW • ALASKA CLEAN WATER ADVOCACY (FORMERLY CSAW) • ALERT: A LOCALLY EMPOWERED RESPONSE TEAM • ALTER TERRA • ARMENIAN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK • BAIKAL WATCH • BAY AREA WILDERNESS TRAINING • BORNEO PROJECT • CALIFORNIA CLIMATE & AGRICULTURE NETWORK • CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY, ART, & NATURE • CALIFORNIA TRADE JUSTICE COALITION • CALIFORNIA URBAN STREAMS PARTNERSHIP • CAPACITY COLLABORATIVE • CASTANEA FELLOWSHIP • CHILDREN IN NATURE COLLABORATIVE • CONSERVATION KIDS • CULTIVATE OREGON • ECOEQUITY • ECOVET GLOBAL • ECOVILLAGE FARM LEARNING CENTER • ENERGIERICH • ETHICAL TRAVELER • EURASIAN WILDLIFE AND PEOPLES • FISH ON • FOOD CULTURE COLLECTIVE • FOOD SHIFT • FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY INITIATIVE • FRIENDS OF ALEMANY FARM • FRIENDS OF MUONDE • GARDEN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT • GREEN SCHOOLYARDS AMERICA • GUIAS UNIDOS • INTERNATIONAL MARINE MAMMAL PROJECT • JOHN MUIR PROJECT • JUNIOR WILDLIFE RANGER • KELLY CREEK PROTECTION PROJECT • KIDS FOR THE BAY • LAW STUDENTS FOR CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY • LIVING WELL COLLABORATIVE • LOVE THE BULB (ICAN SUBPROJECT) • MAPPING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE • MISSISSIPPI FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK • NATURE IN THE CITY • NUMI FOUNDATION [ON HIATUS] • 1,000 FOUNTAINS • PEOPLE OF THE GLOBAL MAJORITY, IN THE OUTDOORS, NATURE, AND ENVIRONMENT • PLANET EARTH ARTS • PLASTIC POLLUTION COALITION • PROJECT COYOTE • PUBLIC LANDS MEDIA • RAPTORS ARE THE SOLUTION • RICHMOND TREES • RISE ST. JAMES LOUISIANA (FORMERLY RISE ST. JAMES) • SACRED LAND FILM PROJECT • SAVE OUR SOIL (FORMERLY SAFE FOOD AND FERTILIZER) • SERENGETI WATCH • SHARK STEWARDS • SHE BUILDS POWER (FORMERLY GWWI) • SIRGE COALITION • SOUTH COAST HABITAT RESTORATION • STOP FISH BOMBING USA • TALLGRASS INSTITUTE • TRANSITION EARTH • ULTIMATE CIVICS • VIVA SIERRA GORDA • WEST COUNTY DIGS • WILD HERITAGE • WILD OYSTER PROJECT • WILDFUTURES • WOMEN’S CLIMATE CENTERS INTERNATIONAL • WOMEN’S EARTH ALLIANCE • YOUTH EMPOWERED ACTION CAMP •**

## PROJECT NETWORK HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025, **INTERNATIONAL MARINE MAMMAL PROJECT** (IMMP) advanced global ocean protection by securing commitments from 852 tuna companies to prevent harm to dolphins and other marine life from tuna nets. IMMP's advocacy and monitoring reached

approximately 125,000 participants, donors, and members, strengthening protections for dolphins and marine life against commercial fishing, captivity, plastic pollution, entanglement in fishing gear, and commercial whaling and dolphin hunting.



During 2024-2025, **ALASKA CLEAN WATER ADVOCACY** mobilized public engagement to protect clean water in Southeast Alaska, reaching 2,500 participants through community campaigns and advocacy. The project strengthened local resistance to large-scale industrial threats affecting salmon habitat, tribal communities, and regional ecosystems.

A humpback whale breaching (left). Paradise Cove in Chilkat Inlet, Alaska (above).

**BAIKAL WATCH** has expanded its work to other former Soviet countries, with special emphasis on strengthening the national parks of Mongolia, Ukraine, and Hungary. Two newer initiatives worth noting are our **WILD HORSE PROGRAMS** in Eurasia, and our **NATURE HEALING PROGRAMS** in the parks and other natural areas of Ukraine. Through these and other programs, we have engaged more than 900 participants in the last year from all over eastern Europe and Asia in our various “eco-education, advocacy, and public outreach” exchanges.



Nature Healing program (left). Wild Horse Program: International project to protect the Przewalski's Horse in places like Hortobagy National Park, Hungary (above).

In 2024-2025, the **CASTANEA FELLOWSHIP** advanced leadership development for early- and mid-career environmental professionals through a structured fellowship program focused on strategy, collaboration, and movement resilience.

Last year's cohort engaged in facilitated learning, peer exchange, and applied projects designed to strengthen long-term leadership capacity across the environmental field.

Native Hawaiian actor and farmer Kaina Makua with Castanea fellows overlooking the Kumano I Ke Ala farm in West Kaua'i.



**THE SIRGE COALITION** is an Indigenous-led initiative advancing Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination and Free, Prior and Informed Consent in the energy transition. They seek systemic change that centers Indigenous Peoples' rights and environmental justice in the global transition to a green economy. In the last year, SIRGE co-created the Organization for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD)

Handbook (FPIC) for filing complaints against harmful business practices, and created a new grant-making framework for grants to mining-affected Indigenous communities.

**THE CALIFORNIA URBAN STREAMS PARTNERSHIP** advanced urban watershed restoration by supporting collaborative, community-driven stream projects across the



state. During the past year, the partnership convened local agencies and practitioners advancing restoration efforts that improve water quality, habitat, and climate resilience in urban areas, including the San Francisco Bay Area.

Securing Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the Green Economy (SIRGE) Coalition Retreat 2025 (left). California Urban Streams Partnership staff Jessica Hall discusses bioengineering methods at Rheem Creek in Richmond, California. (above).

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FYE 2025

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

## Assets and Liabilities

### Assets

Cash	\$	4,411,125
Grants/Accounts receivable	\$	11,334,587
Fixed assets	\$	5,443,307
Operating lease right-of-use asset, net	\$	697,606
Investments	\$	21,567,378
Other assets	\$	1,018,605
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>44,472,608</b>

### Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$	1,571,363
Accrued vacation	\$	1,066,447
Deferred revenue	\$	90,571
Operating lease liability	\$	694,328
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,422,709</b>

**Net assets** \$ **41,049,899**

## Statement of Income and Expenses

### Income

Grants	\$	25,885,223
Contributions	\$	9,456,931
Program service revenue	\$	2,090,398
Investment income/(loss)	\$	1,618,645
Settlements	\$	2,231,639
In-kind contributions	\$	660,534
Other income	\$	348,705
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>42,291,975</b>

### Expenses

Program service expenses	\$	31,726,373
Administrative expenses	\$	3,512,868
Fundraising expenses	\$	2,030,496
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>37,269,737</b>

**Revenue less expenses** \$ **5,022,238**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**JOSH FLOUM**, President

**FRANCISCO MARTINEZ**,

Vice President (FYE 24)

President (starting 1/1/2025)

**KEN ALEX**

**JESSIAN CHOY**

**TIAUNA GEORGE**

**REGINA HARMON**

**ARIANA KATOVICH**

**PIA MACDONALD**

**DEBORAH SIVAS**

**ARIELA ST. PIERRE**

## STAFF

**ERNESTO ARÉVALO**, Senior Program Advisor

**NADIA BOUARABA**, Administrative Assistant to CEO

**BRIAN CALVERT**, Associate Editor

**MATTHEW CARLSTROEM**,

Website Manager

**SRIVALLI CHIVUKULA**, Accounting Associate

**CHARLI CLELAND**, General Counsel

**DIXIE DAVID**, Human Resources Associate

**RIZWAN DHANANI**, Program Advisor

**STEVE FOX**, Development Director

**KRISTY HABER**, Grants Contracts Administrator

**SCOTT HOCHBERG**,

General Counsel and Litigation Director

**BRIDGET HUGHES**, Senior Program Advisor

**FARHEEN JAMIL**, Grants Admin Associate, Project Support

**SUSAN KAMPRATH**, Director of Operations Program

**TERRY KELLEY-FARIAS**, Senior Program Advisor

**SUSANNAH LEE**,

Program Associate, New Leaders Initiative

**ZOE CLAIRE LOFTUS-FARREN**, Managing Editor

**WENDY LOVEN**, Accounting Associate

**SUMONA MAJUMDAR**, Chief Executive Officer

**ALFONSO MARTINEZ-TORRES**, Accounting Manager

**CECILIA MEJIA**, Program Advisor

**KANCHAN MHATRE**, Human Resources Associate

**MAUREEN NANDINI MITRA**, Editor-in-Chief

**MEGAN MUBARAKI**, Project Support Manager

**GINA MUÑOZ**, Accounting Manager

**SIVAN ORR**, Program Advisor

**KIMBERLY PICONE**, Development Relations Manager

**MICHELLE THOMPSON**,

Human Resources Director

**MONA SHOMALI**, Director, New Leaders Initiative

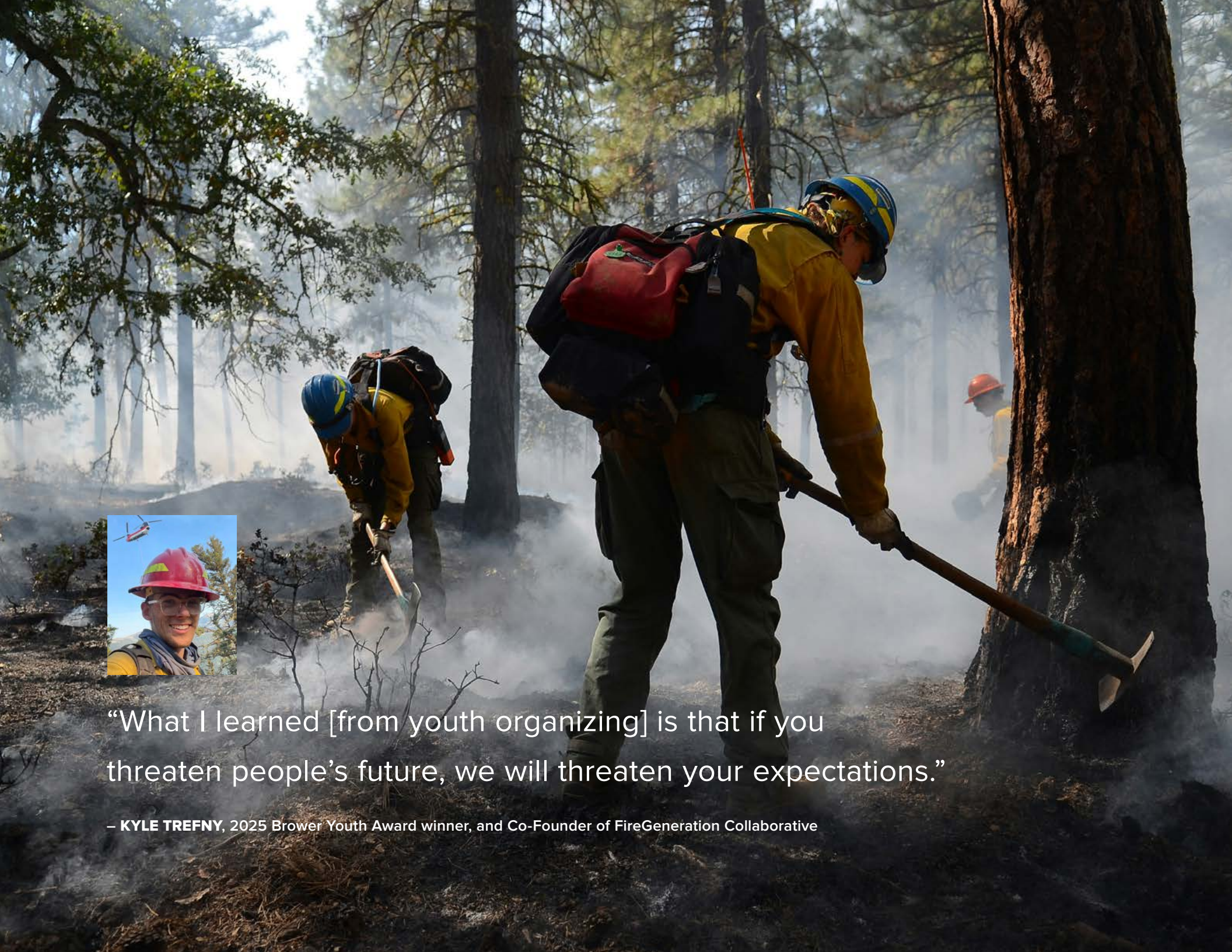
**MICHAEL SOWLE**, Finance Director

**RACHEL STROMINGER**, Director of Project Support

**RAQUEL TRINIDAD**, Director of Communications

**OLI VORSTER**, Administrative Associate, Project Support

*List represents those who were staff and board members from July 2024 to June 2025.*



“What I learned [from youth organizing] is that if you threaten people’s future, we will threaten your expectations.”

– KYLE TREFNY, 2025 Brower Youth Award winner, and Co-Founder of FireGeneration Collaborative



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Print copies of this annual report and financial disclosure are available upon request. Scan the QR code to find a link to our audit and 990.