



**Decolonizing
Wealth Project**

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

**Reflections and highlights from our
first five years of education, advocacy,
narrative change, and grantmaking.**

Transforming Philanthropic Practice

Reparative Philanthropy is now a best practice for advancing equity internally and externally for foundations and donors.

In 2018, the groundbreaking book, *Decolonizing Wealth*, was published and sparked a powerful reckoning that has launched a global movement for reparative philanthropy, which is defined by Decolonizing Wealth Project (DWP) as:

The redistribution of resources in a manner that acknowledges the extractive origins of philanthropic wealth (family or institutional) and how colonization, slavery and the forms of oppression facilitated the accumulation of wealth that philanthropy protects, grows and distributes; and seeks to foster reconciliation, repair collective healing through acts of giving.

(from DWP's Reparative Philanthropy Framework)

Reparative Philanthropy in Action



In the first five years, DWP directly influenced more than **\$600 million** in new investment to organizations focused on for racial and economic justice through direct donor engagement.



Catalyzed a global movement within the philanthropic sector to explore the origins of its wealth and to support community-led movements for truth, healing and reparations.



Inspired the launch of new community-led funds utilizing decolonized funding practices such as the Indigenous Giving Circle (Australia) and the Black Future Co-Op Fund (Seattle). Galvanized shifts in funding practices at major institutions such as Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation & The Bush Foundation.

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Edgar’s book and the ensuing movement represent an important call for truth, reconciliation, and healing to communities most affected by the legacy of colonization that all people stand to benefit from—and should take seriously. In the coming years, I’m hopeful that the community will grow and include more and more people who imagine a more just, inclusive, and equitable future for all in the United States and across the world.”

John Palfrey

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

“

We see DWP as a trusted ally in this work and the book gave the field shared analysis and language to talk about reparative action and healing. It also challenged us all to think about how we might move greater resources to Native communities.”

Dana Arviso

Common Counsel Foundation

DWP’s Black and Indigenous-focused funding vehicle is modeling a new way to engage donors and is materially disrupting inequity philanthropy by redistributing and influencing more investment.

Liberated Capital

Launched in 2019, **Liberated Capital** is a 625+ member donor community and funding vehicle that moves untethered resources to Black, Indigenous, and other people of color for liberation. We welcome individuals at all levels of giving who are committed to collectively healing the wounds of colonialism and white supremacy by using money as medicine to shape an equitable future. To learn more, visit bit.ly/joinliberatedcapital.

278+ orgs and 2,100 families

supported via the 6 Liberated Capital funds.

over \$15 million

redistributed by Liberated Capital since its inception for our funds addressing climate change and conservation, food and agriculture justice, COVID-19 pandemic relief, and truth, healing, and reparations.

Our historic Alight, Align, Arise National Conference on Repair in June 2023 brought together a diverse spectrum of leaders from philanthropy, media, community, and policy-making, spotlighting an unprecedented prominence and dialogue on repair and healing.

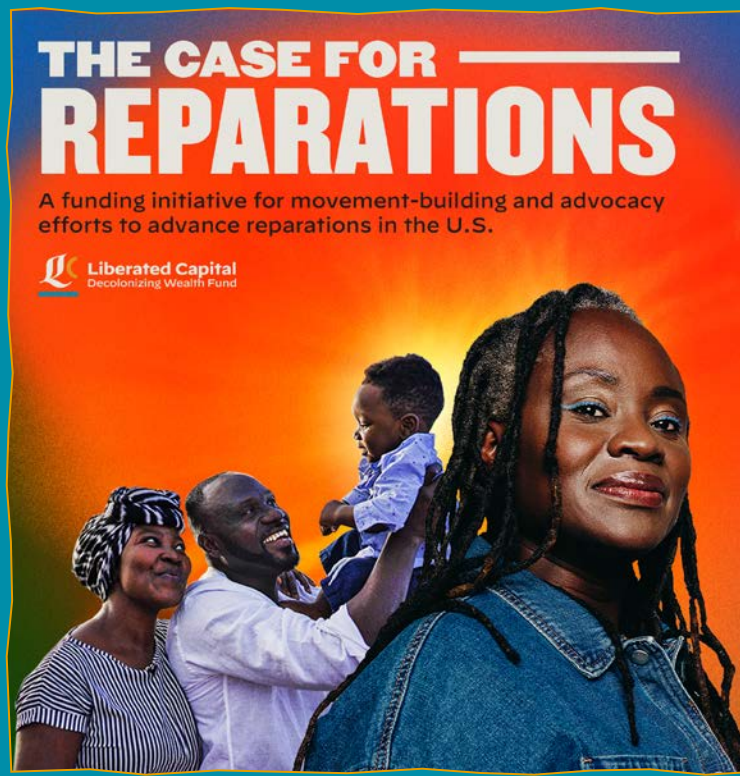
\$20 million

was announced as a campaign goal at the conference, making our #Case4Reparations Fund the largest contemporary fundraising campaign dedicated to reparations for Black people in America.



Liberated Capital fund growth

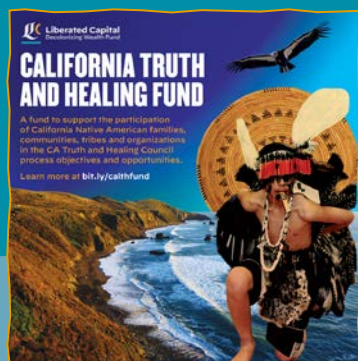
\$6,700,000	#Case4Reparations Fund 2021 - present
\$3,100,000	Indigenous Earth Fund 2021 - present
\$2,100,000	Native American COVID Relief Fund 2020-2021
\$2,000,000	Food & Land Justice Fund 2021 - 2023
\$1,575,000	California Truth and Healing Fund 2022 - present
\$17,000	Indigenous Circle of Giving 2021 - present
In Development	National Truth and Healing Fund



THE CASE FOR REPARATIONS

A funding initiative for movement-building and advocacy efforts to advance reparations in the U.S.

Liberated Capital
Decolonizing Wealth Fund



Healing

DWP’s healing summits and programs advance sector-wide healing in philanthropy.

~300 donors and community leaders

engaged in healing summits and programs. These engagements provide access to resources, tools, and spaces designed to facilitate personal and organizational transformation that promotes repair.

“Decolonizing Wealth Project has been an electric call to action for me and so many in the field. It has called us to scrutinize how wealth is created, how it disadvantages and divides us and how it can be used as medicine.”

Crystal Hayling
Libra Foundation

Narrative and Culture Change

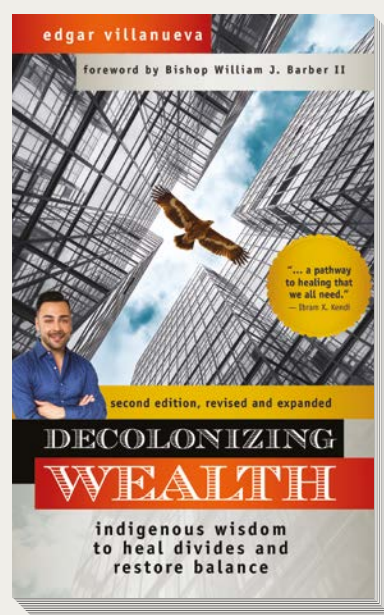
Developing community narrative power is essential to deconstruct the harmful stories about our communities. DWP is committed to shaping positive narratives that center Black and Indigenous voices. Our strategy includes

- 1 Utilizing media to amplify essential messages of truth and repair;
- 2 Funding mission-aligned films and digital projects;
- 3 Engaging in narrative research and leading impactful campaigns; and
- 4 Organizing events and activations to broaden our impact, reaching beyond philanthropy to influence cultural perceptions about race, wealth, and power.



Photo by Carol Lee Rose/Getty Images for Decolonizing Wealth Project

DWP has successfully shifted and integrated language such as decolonizing wealth, reparative philanthropy, money as medicine and healing in philanthropy in philanthropic discourse and adjacent sectors to drive important and historical changes in philanthropic giving.



60,000+ book sales

Since 2019, Decolonizing Wealth Project (DWP) has cast a global wave of influence, with a reach of over a billion people through robust social media engagement, press coverage, and transformative speaking engagements.

In the summer of 2023 alone, our narrative change efforts to advance the movement for reparations for Black people in America garnered:

1.2 billion media impressions and 307 media hits

Photo by Kristina Bakrevski. Jay Ellis for Decolonizing Wealth Project

“

Continuing to go into the places where our most radical movements or even radical imaginations have yet not been, breaking open doors and creating bridges, I think is one of the many things that DWP does really beautifully.”

Tynesha McHarris
Black Feminist Fund

“

Decolonizing Wealth Project’s work and perspective is an invaluable resource for the entertainment industry and can only increase our collective ability to prioritize diversity and inclusivity in everything that we do.”

Amanda Chen
Participant



Education and Advocacy

DWP has actively collaborated with leaders in philanthropy, nonprofit sectors, and socially conscious businesses worldwide through our education and advocacy programs. We aim to inspire and mobilize these leaders around our Reparative Action Framework and the broader concepts of decolonizing wealth. Our key strategies include:

Speaking Engagements

Participating in conferences and events

Resource Provision

Offering practical tools and resources to support

Educational Programs

Conducting workshops, training sessions, and webinars to educate and activate leaders

DWP LIVE Events

Organizing events focused on crucial discussions about race, wealth, and the process of healing



“

I would say it's impacted me more than any single other thing I've read about the intersection between race, racism, colonization, and philanthropy. The way that Edgar in those opening chapters, was able to characterize the degrading experience of being the supplicant, and having run a grantee organization for 20 years, I could feel that in my bones. But he also helped you feel how there are multiple, multiple, multiple exclusions that happen, colonizations that happen.”

Hillary Pennington
Ford Foundation



Between 2018 and 2023, DWP reached **2.4 million** people through more than 600 speaking engagements at various conferences, universities, museums, corporate, and community events.

Beyond Philanthropy

DWP has deeply impacted the broader nonprofit community. Not only in unlocking resources to support critical work, but in shifting practice, narrative, and beyond.

DWP's work has influenced education, research, and knowledge about the economy, social finance, philanthropy, nonprofit operations, and racial equity. Our ideas have been infused across literature and touted as best practices.

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From “freedom from” to “freedom for,” the link between “decolonizing” and “wealth” has been masterfully framed.”

Derrick Hamilton
The New School

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As hundreds and thousands of people from around the world looked to Stanford for guidance on best practices, I was so grateful to frequently reference DWP's work, Liberated Capital giving model, and events as best practices and powerful trends in the sector that any thoughtful donor or socimpact investor should be paying close attention to.

Heather Newberry Lord
Stanford Center on Philanthropy
and Civil Society

Research & Academia

Decolonizing Wealth has been cited 165 times in academic publications.

The book and other print materials, including interviews with staff, have been used in undergraduate and graduate courses nationwide.

Nonprofit Sector

Nonprofit organizations often report impacts on their work as a result of DWP. One example is the YMCA. Its national office restructured its entire organization to foster “a culture of truth, reconciliation, transformation and healing ” after engaging with our programs.



Photo by Carol Lee Rose/Getty Images for Decolonizing Wealth Project

“

I think his book gave these funders and the rest of the sector just the permission to talk about things like reparation and slavery and stolen Indigenous land and things that were a little bit taboo even bring up in the past. And I know that lots of people were trying to bring that up in the past and it was just nice to actually have a rallying cry and an academic official work.”

Vu Le

NonprofitAF.com

Lush Cosmetics North America has worked with DWP to integrate our Reparative Philanthropy Framework into their operations and philanthropy. Together, we’ve engaged in various activations, including campaigns highlighting COVID-19’s impact on Native American communities and events for Native American Heritage Month in the US and Canada. These initiatives have reached millions of ‘Lushies’ worldwide. This year, Lush created the “Guardians of the Forest” bath bomb, proceeds supported Land Defenders and Water Protectors, particularly Indigenous women-led campaigns, through Liberated Capital’s Indigenous Earth Fund.

Fashion & Beauty

Since 2021, DWP has hosted an annual *Celebrating Indigeneity in Fashion* event at New York Fashion Week. The event brings together Indigenous fashion designers, industry leaders, and disruptors to connect and bring visibility to Native leaders and influencers in the industry.



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For us at Lush, Decolonizing Wealth was really the springboard framework that we have used to frame our reconciliation and decolonization work. Since Edgar’s workshop with our senior leadership, we’ve been able to reference it throughout the whole business. The workshop and the book certainly continue to feed the community connections that our retail shops, manufacturing, and support staff are making in their local communities.”

Carleen Pickard

Lush



Photo by Kisha Bari

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2024, the Decolonizing Wealth Project will embark on a strategic planning journey. As we navigate a divided world, our focus is on deepening truth, connection, belonging, and healing.

Our initiatives will include:

- Increasing financial support to movements advocating for truth, repair, and reparations, while exploring additional ways to aid our partners;
- Publishing key research and reports to assist philanthropists and movement leaders, including findings on reparations narratives and a report on decolonizing global philanthropy;
- Launching our digital Reparative Philanthropy resource hub and community of practice;
- Developing a digital platform dedicated to reparations mapping and resources;
- Expanding our healing program offerings; and
- Continuing our journey of leadership, growth, learning, and listening, embodying the spirit of Niganni Benashi (Leading Bird).

To learn more, contact us at
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www.decolonizingwealth.com