

WHY WE

VOTE

WHY WE

BUILD

WHY WE

FIGHT

WHY WE

THRIVE



The Bus Federation Civic Fund
2016 Annual Report



WHY

Because our very democracy depends on young people having power when votes get cast & decisions get made.

ANYBODY LOOKING AT HISTORY CAN SEE – progress is driven by young people. From civil rights to women’s liberation, from the labor movement to just about every popular uprising from the American Revolution to the Arab Spring – young people are the spark, the tinder, and the fuel for fundamental change. No matter which party holds elected office, young people will drive change in this country. In the streets, at the ballot, and ideally both.

We are organizing our generation, because this nation must move forward, and our democracy must survive and thrive. This is why we vote. This is why we build. This is why we fight.



A Word from Our Fall Guy (aka Executive Director)

Why? For our own futures. For our family and friends. Because we owe it to all the folks who came before us. Because in the words of Edward Abbey, “Sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul.”

When I first started organizing as a teenager in 2002, I began dreaming of a world where young people have a real seat at the table. A world where young people can declare #ByeAnita and bring Chicago a new prosecutor. A world where our generation turning out in force brings down housing costs and expands transit systems. A world where young people in Oregon convince their state’s power players to try out their crazy automatic voter registration idea and give the power of the vote to 97,184 as soon as the system launches. Even in troubling times, I’m watching that world emerge.

This is my last year at the Bus Federation. It’s bittersweet to leave in the midst of so much change. 2016 was full of inspiring stories and heartbreaking ones, triumphant victories and lots and lots of tears. At this time, we have to keep pushing ahead; our network is moving through an incredible set of changes big and small to address the needs of our nation and our generation. Thanks for being with us on each step of this journey.

Onward,

Matt Singer, Bus Federation Executive Director & Fall Guy

**Young people
accomplished
so much in 2016.**

**Young people
have so much
more to do.**

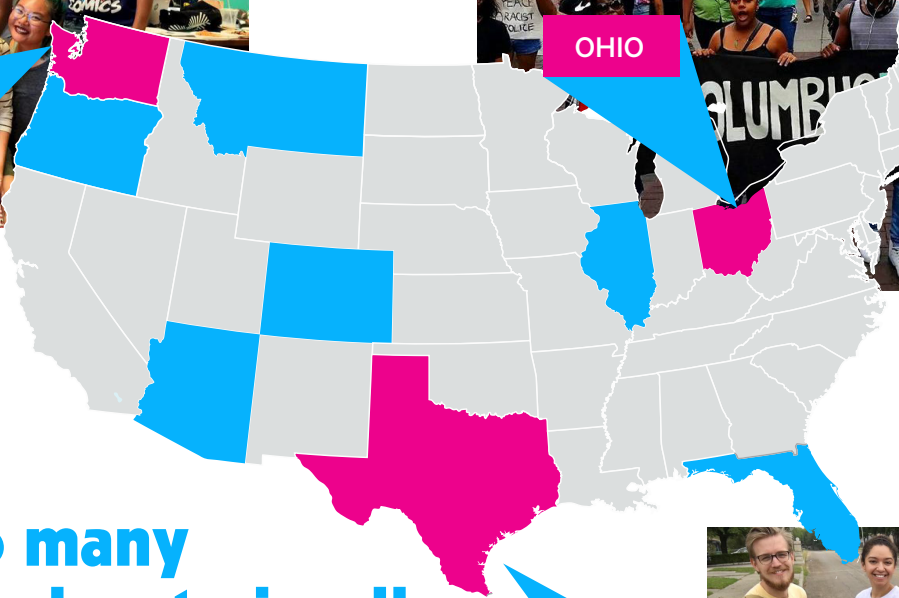
**Young people
can be trusted
to get it done.**

WHY WE

The future of American leadership, leading America to the future – right now.

IN OUR FEDERATION, young people run the show – writing the plans, setting the goals, calling the shots, doing the work, scheming up the memes. You name it, young people do it. We forge unmatched new leaders because we give them the chance to be powerful, now.

In 2016, our network welcomed an incredible crop of new leaders – wayyyyyy too many to name. But we'll give you a peak at a few choice champions.



So many leaders trained!

445 fellows & interns graduated with with a full spectrum of organizing experience, to be exact!

New Affiliates

2016 saw the Bus Federation's reach expand into the deserts of Arizona and the manatee-filled waters of Miami, Florida. Our network now unites youth organizing from piney mountains of the northwest to the beaches of the southeast – all pushing for young people power together.

Young Engaged Arizona

Started by DREAMers with an uncommon instinct for field organizing, Young Engaged Arizona played a key role in lifting youth and Latinx voices in Maricopa County in 2016. They helped put a measure to raise the minimum wage on the ballot, and educated young voters to get it over the top; registered 3,716 students at Arizona State University to vote; and trained a dazzling squad of young high school and college students who will carve out power in the Grand Canyon State.



Engage Miami Civic Fund ↑

If Will Smith, Gloria Estefan, and Pitbull have taught us anything, it's that Miami is the place to be if you want to stir things up. Lucky thing, an extraordinary crew of young organizers, activists, artists, and social justice lawyers came together to found Engage Miami – and they're already changing things. From winning landmark campaign finance transparency policy, to registering 4,699 young people to vote for 2016, Engage Miami's youth power has arrived in the 305.



WHY WE

VOTE

When Millennials
are deeply engaged,
change happens.
That's just what we do.

MILLENNIALS ARE THE LARGEST, most diverse, and most justice-loving generation in American history. Our generation created powerful, culture-shifting social movements from Occupy Wall Street, to the DREAMers, to #BlackLivesMatter. When we take to the streets AND the voting booth in big numbers, we transform what's possible.

The Bus Federation runs straight-up huge youth civic engagement drives, and tears down age-old barriers to the ballot. We grew National Voter Registration Day into a nationwide force. We registered so many young voters it'll give you whiplash. Plus, we led the charge to bring automatic voter registration to America, and helped make it a record-shattering success.



**Biggest. National Voter
Registration Day. Ever.**

Voting is a tough task in this country when states impose difficult and overbearing voter registration laws. That's why we are here. *cue heroic soundtrack* Registering voters is one of the best tools we've got for getting over these useless barriers and, well, we are basically experts at it by now. In 2016, National Voter Registration Day was H-U-G-E. Like colossal. We grew the holiday into a massive national effort that reached millions of people. Don't believe us? Let the numbers speak for themselves:

3,524

partners
across the country

10,353

volunteers

359,954,794

social media impressions

And drumroll please....

771,321

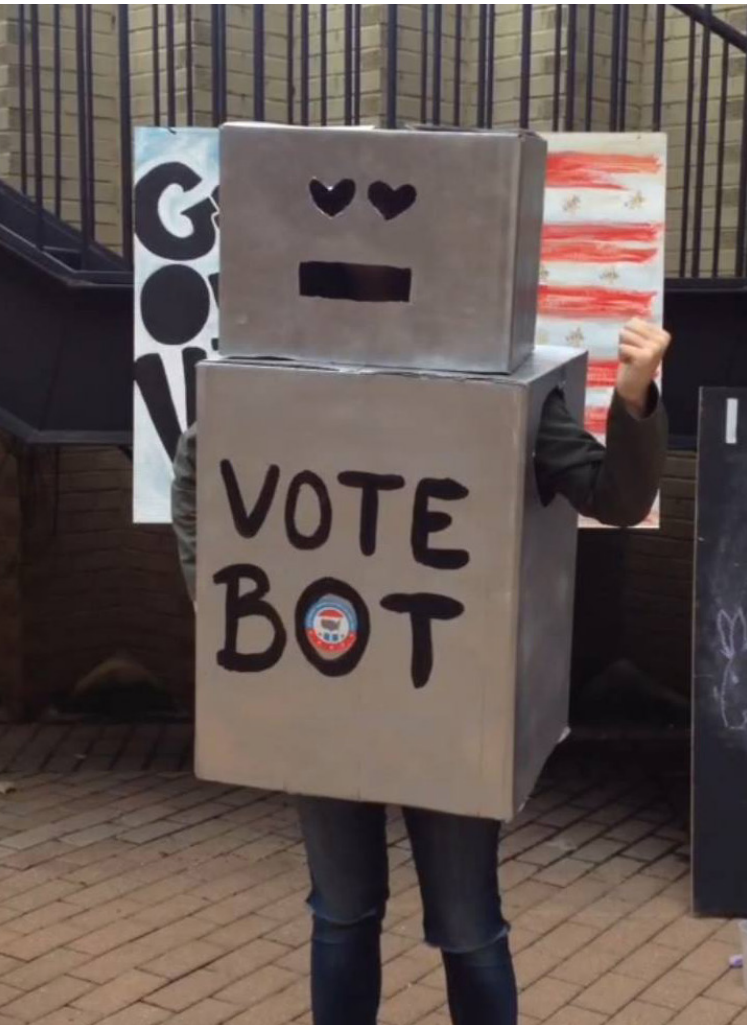
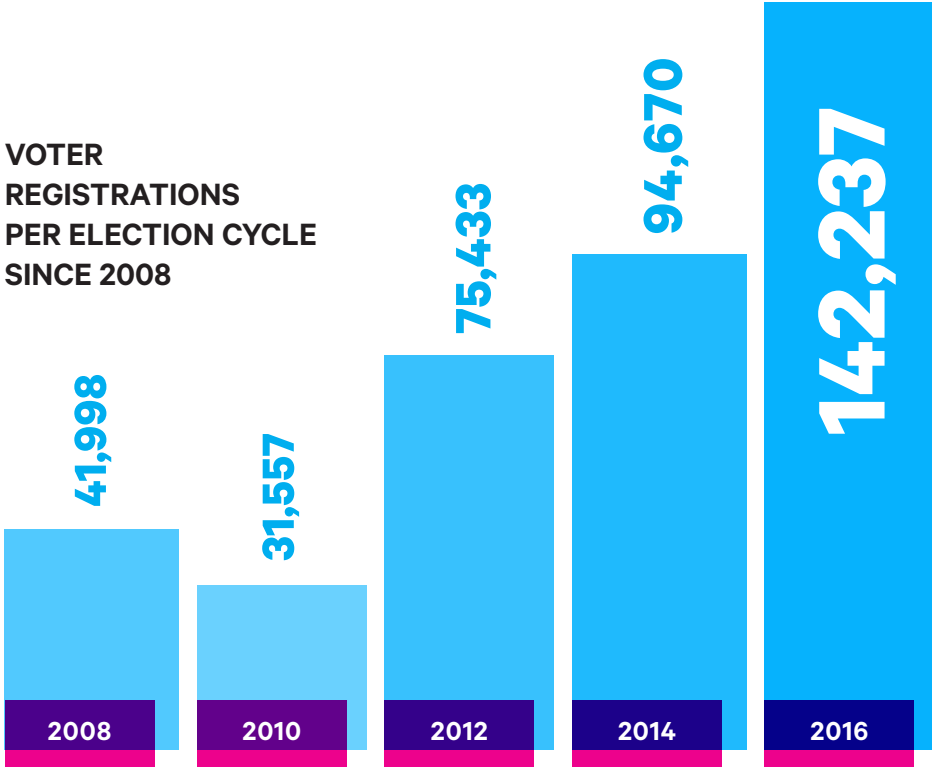
voters registered!



Soooo, we hit it out of the park. It was a party and the guest list included everyone – MTV, Google, Tumblr, and Univision, Stephen Colbert, Trevor Noah, Common, Katy Perry – we could go on but we don't want to brag toooooo much. Plus our partners in the field like League of Women Voters, NonProfit Vote, our affiliates, and many more absolutely blew it out of the water. We routinely set the bar for what young people can achieve in this country and our success on National Voter Registration Day is proof of that.

Federation Voter Registrations Won't Stop Growing →

Since 2010, Bus Federation affiliates have registered tens of thousands more voters than the year prior. 2016 saw our biggest growth yet – nearly 50,000 more than 2014. It's a pretty cool trend.



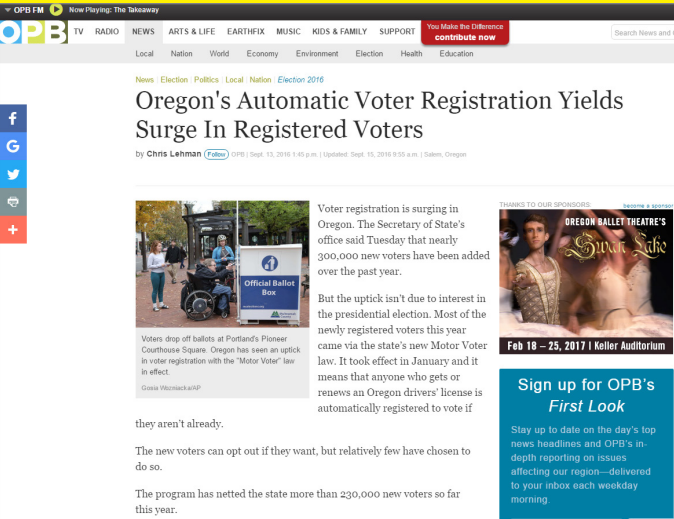
Making Automatic Voter Registration Happen ←

In 2009 the Bus Federation’s oldest organization, the Oregon Bus Project hatched a plan to break the barrier of voter registration once and for all – using state records to register every eligible citizen, automatically. After years of building coalitions across the state, pounding out the policy details, and donning cheap, secondhand suits at the state capitol, automatic voter registration became law in 2015, and took effect at the top of 2016.

Like any good scheme, this set off a chain reaction that led to automatic voter registration quickly becoming state policy in California, West Virginia, Vermont, Connecticut, and Alaska – a bipartisan policy that’s truly solving problems.

And it works. Like *woah*. With 97,184 new automatically registered citizens casting ballots, Oregon’s turnout of eligible voters grew more than any other state in the country over the last presidential election.

Our Federation + Automatic Voter Registration = Media Sensation



Vox

Ways to expand voter registration

Implement automatic voter registration (AVR): Since March 2015, six states have adopted legislation to automatically register citizens when they come into contact with governmental agencies, notably a Department of Motor Vehicles. Oregon, the first state to adopt this reform (after years of advocacy by the Oregon-based Bus Federation), has registered 225,000 people this way since the start of this year. The payoff: 43 percent of those new voters cast ballots on November 8.

Reveal

Voting rights – and wrongs

Oct 1, 2016

Subscribe on iTunes

Reveal Voting rights - and wrongs

WHY WE BUILD

Check the record: When youth power organizations are strong, so are their communities.

THE BUS FEDERATION values local organizing over everything. It's our favorite. When young people organize locally with the support they need, they fundamentally alter the course of their community. Voters engage more. Local leadership gets more diverse. Public policy improves. Food tastes better. (Ok, we're not 100% certain about that last one.)

In 2016, some of our federation's newer affiliates came into their own, and some of our strongest groups shocked us with how much stronger they became. Here's a few examples:

Ohio Student Association: Power in the streets & on the voter rolls →

The Ohio Student Association first made their national mark with powerful responses to the police killings of unarmed Black Ohioans, John Crawford, Tamir Rice, and Tanisha Anderson. In 2016, they brought that power to the ballot. Resourced, supported, and committed, they multiplied their voter registration by 10x – from 2,008 last cycle to 27,359 in 2016. O-HI-O.



← New Era Colorado: Blowing voter registration goals out of the water

Already one of the strongest youth organizations in the country, New Era Colorado shifted into overdrive for the 2016 elections – DOUBLING their voter registrations from over 26,000 new voters in 2014 to over 55,000 in 2016. That's straight-up bonkers.

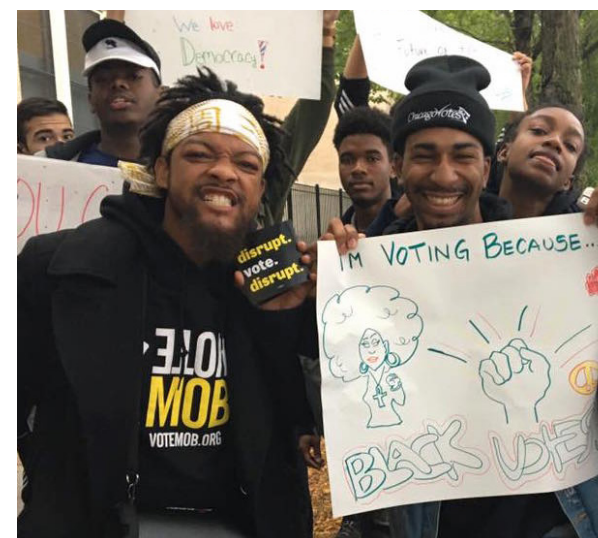
MOVE San Antonio: Growing Big, the Texas Way →

In 2013, MOVE San Antonio Foundation was an idea hatched by a few teenage college students in a coffee shop. By 2016, they have helped pass an LGBTQ non-discrimination ordinance, put body cameras on police, saved campus polling places and broke into the voter registration double digits with 11,322 young people registered this cycle. Yahoo!



Chicago Votes: Transforming Democracy in Illinois ←

At the dawn of Chicago Votes, old fashioned voting laws and a corrupt political culture brought voter turnout so low it would win most Limbo contests. Enter Chicago Votes, whose successful campaigns for online voter registration and Election Day voter registration plus a ton of voter registration and mobilization, have helped Illinois make the second biggest turnout improvement in the nation from 2012 to 2016.





WHY WE

FIGHT

With our futures on the line, we line up wins to empower our futures.



WITH AMERICAN POLITICS IN TURMOIL, one thing remains undeniable – organized youth power means wins for justice – and those wins mean more youth power. It's a flipping fantastic flywheel that offers hope for progress, and a model for reshaping policy possibilities across the country.

Raising the Wage →

With our generation's economic mobility stuck in the muck, our affiliates poured their strength into building a path out. In Colorado, Arizona, and Oregon we engaged, educated, and turned out young people to support historic increases in the minimum wage – putting more money in the pockets of literally millions of low-income workers.



LGBTQ FTW ↗

We shouldn't still need to fight for LGBTQ rights, but dammit we do. With right-to-discriminate laws popping up around the country, we fought back and beat the bigots. In Washington, our organizing helped block a major anti-trans measure from the ballot. In Montana, we pushed for and won non-discrimination job protections for LGBTQ state workers. The fight is not over, but our folks are pushing progress forward even in tough times.



← Affording our Homes

With over 2/3 of Millennials spending more money on housing than we can afford, cheaper rent and transportation is basically do or die for us. We threw down on ballot measures to build a ton of housing that you can afford without being Mr. Monopoly. In Oregon and Washington, we helped pass huge new housing packages, while adding in a massive public transportation package in the greater Seattle to boot.



WHY WE

THRIVE

None of this is possible without your ginormous generosity.

YOUNG PEOPLE DRIVE THIS MOVEMENT with our sweat, swagger, and seriously worn out shoe soles. But we basically can't do any of it without the open minds, hearts, and wallets of foundations, businesses, and individuals across the country.

You're so darn amazing we can hardly stand it. Thank you for all your support. We can't wait to build more with you in 2017 and beyond.



Great Gratitude for Glorious Giving

The deepest thanks to the generous foundations, businesses, and individuals who fueled our work this year.

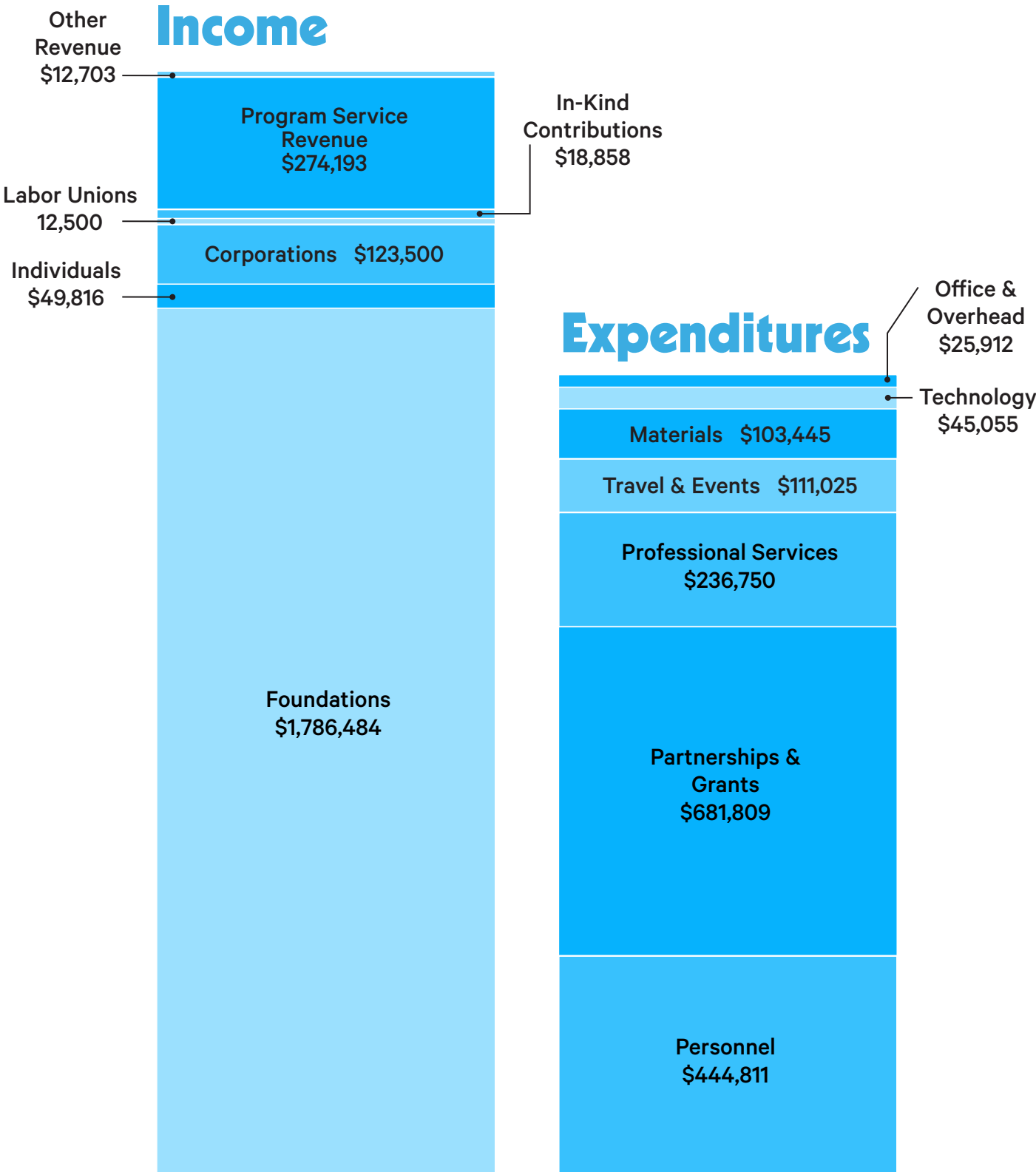
Alki Fund
Amalgamated Bank
Anonymous
AOL
Arkay Foundation
Betsy Krieger
BlueLabs
Brendan Lind
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Coulter Foundation
Craig Newmark Philanthropic Fund
Davi Phair
David Morris
Debbie Spalding
Democracy Fund Voice
Educational Foundation of America
Etsy
EveryAction
Gerard Gleason
Google
Harriet Barlow
Hull Family Foundation
International Union of Painters
and Allied Trades
Jonathan Grossberg
Judy Brooke
Julia Fariss
Lake Research Partners
Lisa & Douglas Goldman Fund
Mary Stern

Matt Singer
McDonald Jacobs
Mollie Ruskin
NextGen Climate America
Open Society Foundations
Orange County
Community Fund
Patagonia
Print For Progress
Richard & Lynn Voelbel
Ronald Kirkpatrick
Samir Luther
Sarah Stadler
Saul Ettlin
State Infrastructure Fund
Steven Cole-Schwartz
Strother Strategies
Tides Donor Advised Fund
Trey Pruitt
Twitter
Vadon Foundation
Video Game Voters Network
Wanderlust
Wallace Global Fund
WhyNot Initiative

SUPERFINE FINANCIALS

The financial information here has not yet been audited.

THE TEAM



Assets

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Cash in Checking Accounts | \$826,981 |
| Accounts Receivable | \$20,769 |
| Loans Receivable | \$0 |
| Grants Receivable | \$39,790 |
| Prepaid Expenses | \$1,612 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$889,152 |

Liabilities

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Accounts Payable | \$37,626 |
| Credit Card Payable | \$7,769 |
| Accrued Payroll Liabilities | \$9 |
| Deferred Revenue | \$0 |
| Accrued Paid Time Off | \$6,704 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$52,108 |

Net Assets

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Unrestricted Funds | |
| Avaliable for General Use | \$323,533 |
| Board Designed Reserve Fund | \$229,930 |
| Restricted to Fiscally Sponsored Org. | \$111,597 |
| Other Temporarily Restricted Funds | \$171,983 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | \$837,044 |

Board of Directors

Liba Rubenstein, *Chair*
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Cathy Lerza, *Treasurer*
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Saul Ettlin
Cietta Kiandoli
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 Secretary of States / Program Director
Daniela Lopez, *National Voter Registration Bae /*
 National Programs Coordinator
Andrea Marcoccio, *Bus Lightyear /*
 Organizational Health Director
Rita Ombaka,
 Chief of Stuff / Operations Manager
Matt Singer,
 Fall Guy / Executive Director
Sarah Stadler,
 Big Bucks Hunter / Deputy Director
Stevie Valles, *Mr. Nationwide /*
 National Campaigns Director

Many of the staff of the Federation and our Affiliates at a recent gathering in Portland, OR

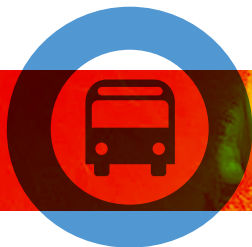


Our Majestic Mission

The Bus Federation supports and scales the work of local organizations, building a movement of young people, by young people, and for all people.

Our Vivacious Vision

The Bus Federation envisions a new era of locally-led democracy with inclusive processes and equitable outcomes, where lots of young people engage in democracy as voters, organizers, and leaders, making the world more just, more sustainable, and more awesome.



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