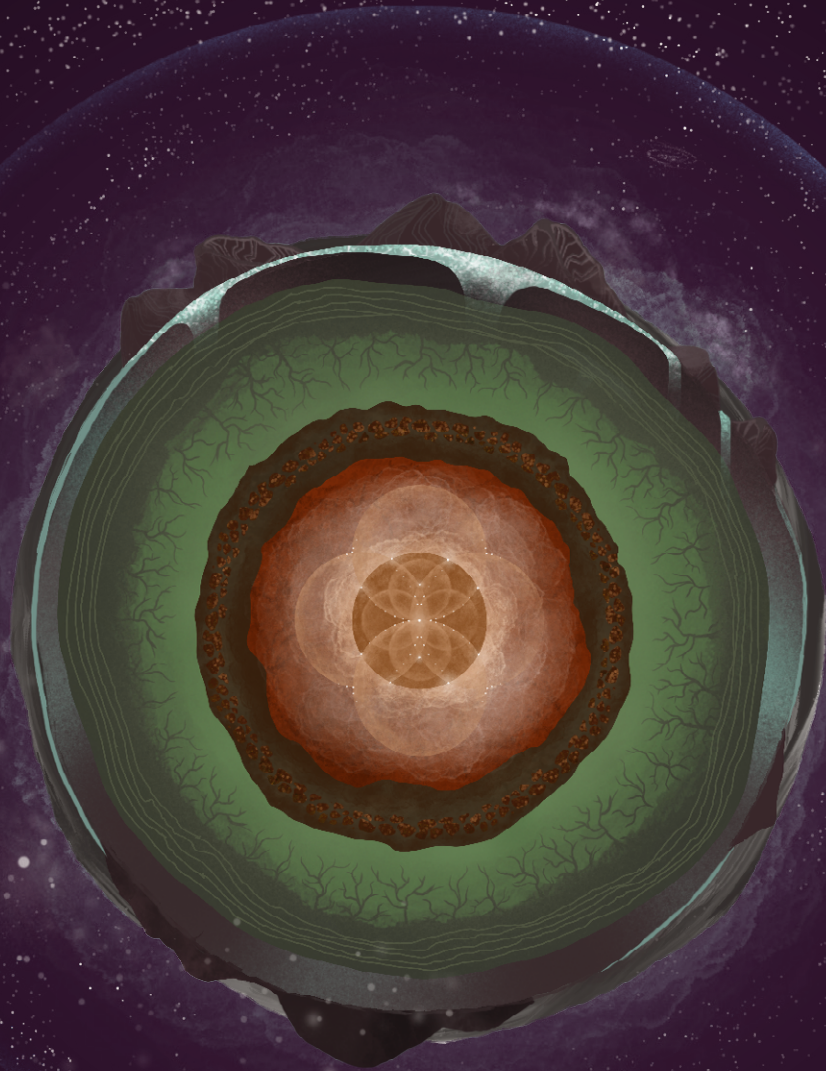
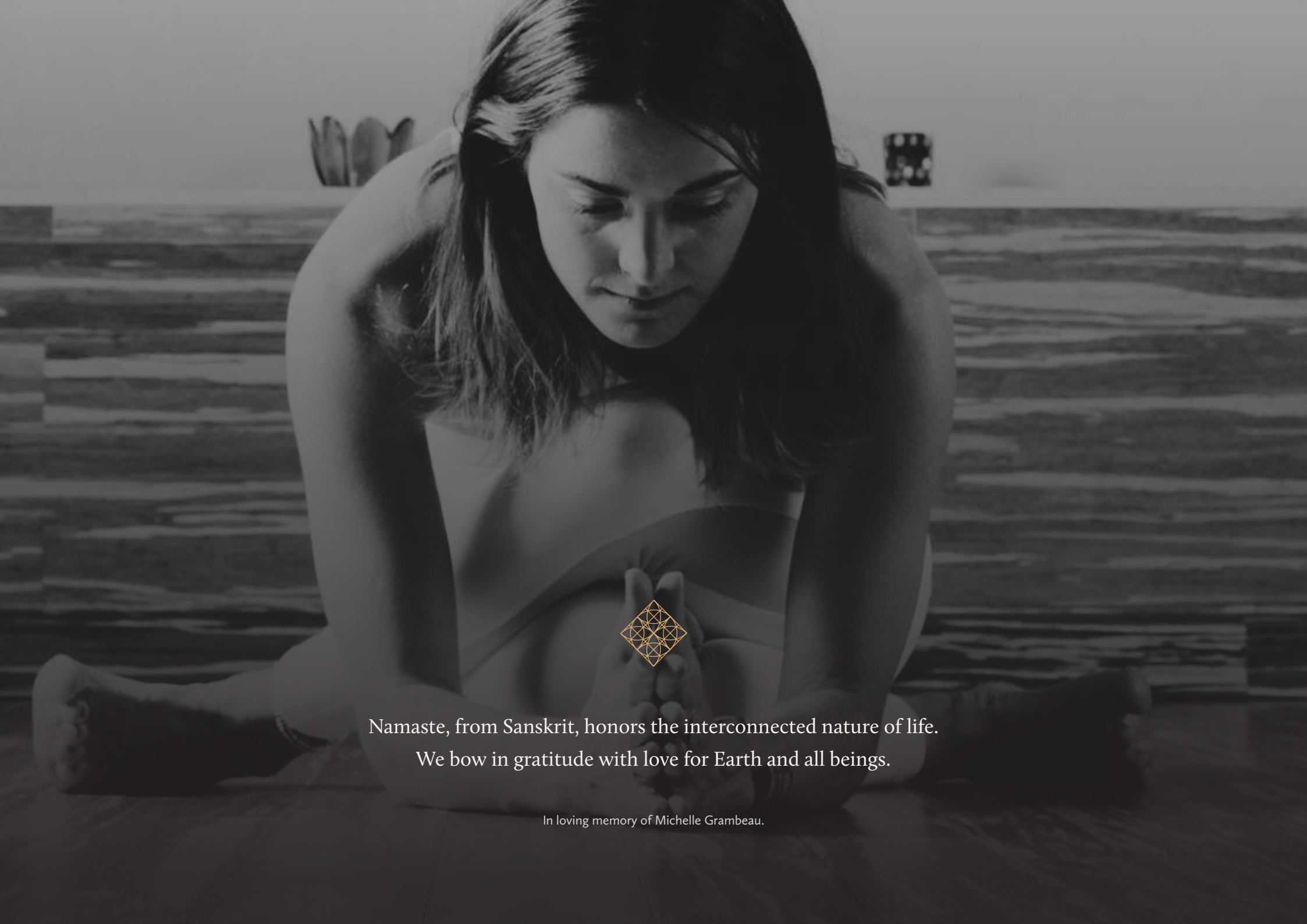


A decade of supporting nonprofits for ecological care.



Namaste Fund
Giving Report

2013
to 2022



Namaste, from Sanskrit, honors the interconnected nature of life.
We bow in gratitude with love for Earth and all beings.

In loving memory of Michelle Grambeau.

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Introduction

The Namaste Foundation was established in 2013 as a spend-down philanthropic fund. Administered by Silicon Valley Community Foundation and The Gift Trust, the Namaste fund was initially setup by Brian and Matthew Monahan, enabled by the sale of genealogy startup Archives.com.

A total of US \$4 million was granted over 10 years, through 450 gifts to 200 unique projects and organizations, across a range of causes including conservation, education, health, justice reform, and media.

Over time, the fund concentrated most of its giving on environmental themes in New Zealand, reflecting the team's location and interest, and also in response to the small percentage of philanthropic giving that goes towards climate and nature-related activities.

This summary report features some of the inspiring groups and people the Namaste fund was privileged to support. A full list of gift recipients is included at the end, along with more details about total grant composition.

Upon completion of the Namaste fund, the Monahan family started and endowed Biome Trust to continue this work toward ecological care and restoration. You can learn more at biometrusterth.com.


Thank you to the giftees, contributors, partners, friends, and everyone who made this chapter possible. We honor the memory of Michelle Grambeau, our dear friend and collaborator, who passed in 2021.

Contributors

Brian Monahan
Catlin Powers
Denise Monahan
Hamida Hamza
Matthew Monahan
Michelle Grambeau
Tai Kenning
Yoseph Ayele

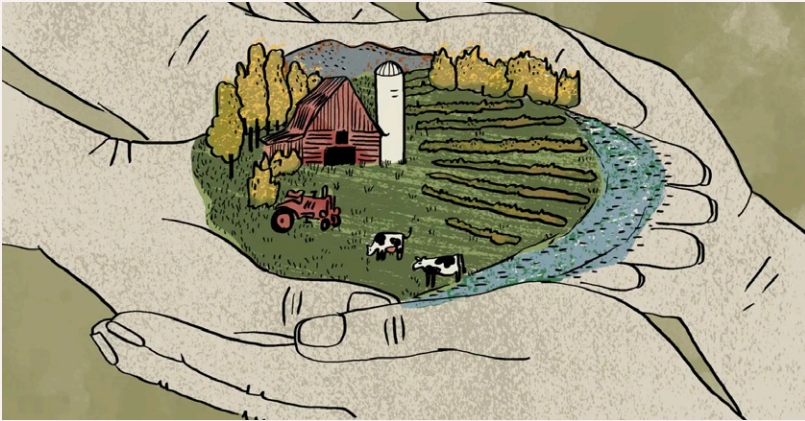
Partners & Friends





The Namaste fund made gifts to over 200 groups over 10 years. The following projects represent some of our more significant contributions, and highlight the voices of those who are leading these inspiring organizations.

Agrarian Trust



Agrarian Trust supports land access for the next generation of farmers, as four hundred million acres of US land are changing hands as thousands of farmers and ranchers retire. Alternative models of ownership and stewardship are needed to support the next generation, address historic inequities in land ownership, and grow food sustainably.

The Namaste team learned about the work of Severine von Tscherner Fleming through Bioneers. Severine was the impressive founder behind Greenhorns and FarmHack, and exudes a contagious enthusiasm for supporting young farmers and land justice.

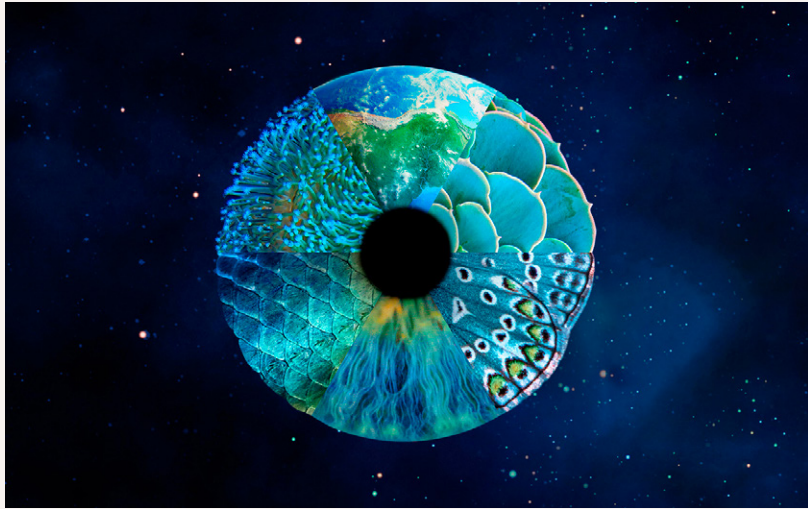
www.agrariantrust.org

“It was because of Namaste that we were able to launch Agrarian Trust from a visionary volunteer led organization into a staffed land trust that is inspiring and leading culture shifts in the US in how farmland is owned and tenure and equity are conveyed.”



Severine von Tscherner Fleming

Bioneers

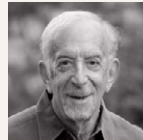


Bioneers highlights breakthrough solutions for restoring people and planet. Led by Kenny Ausubel and Nina Simons, Bioneers acts as a fertile hub of social and scientific innovators, first peoples, and a celebration of the genius of nature and human ingenuity. Bioneers publishes an extension collection of media and learning resources.

The Bioneers annual conference was a nourishing tradition and source of inspiration for the Namaste team, and helped us connect with several other nonprofits and future giftees.

www.bioneers.org

“Namaste is among the wise and respectful grantors who support you, because of the work you do that speaks for itself.”



Kenny Ausubel

“Namaste is exactly the kind of partner we wish for - their involvement was whole-hearted, dimensional and reciprocal, and we felt truly supported by their allyship all the way.”



Nina Simons

Caremongering NZ



When the COVID pandemic turned the world on its head, a “Caremongering” movement sprung up in New Zealand to support communities by spreading acts of compassion, often through assistance of food and support for elderly and disadvantaged.

The Namaste Foundation followed this trend with the creation of a Caremongering fund, administered by The Gift Trust. Fund recipients included Common Unity, Student Volunteer Army, Kaibosh Food Rescue, and Wellington City Mission.

www.thegifttrust.org.nz

“The Gift Trust is proud to have worked with Namaste Foundation to distribute more than \$100,000 to the urgent funding needs of vulnerable communities in the Wellington region. Through a simple application process, local community groups and charities could apply for funding to cover food supplies for vulnerable or at-risk communities, medical supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), and to cover funding gaps due to the COVID-19 crisis.”



Cheryl Spain

Culture Hack Labs



Culture Hack Labs (CHL) supports organizations, social movements and activists to create cultural interventions for systems change. CHL was born out of a decade of research and development in narrative-led culture change work via The Rules, an activist collective focused on addressing the root causes of inequality through narrative and cultural interventions.

CHL operates as a decentralized network of researchers, movement leaders, social scientists, strategists, artists, communications & political strategists, and technologists.

www.culturehack.io

“Namaste Foundation has provided essential support to Culture Hack Labs during our incubation period. This was not only granting essential financial resources for the development of our technology and curriculum, but also advisory and community support. It is often difficult to find resonance for the radical and demanding work that we do, however our engagement with Namaste provided us with the recognition and support so necessary for our journey.”



Mehul Sangham

Edmund Hillary Fellowship



Launched by Sir Ed and patroned by Helen Clark, The Hillary Institute for International Leadership recognises exceptional mid-career leadership, acting as a kind of ‘Nobel prize of New Zealand’.

The Namaste team helped incubate the Edmund Hillary Fellowship (EHF) within the Institute umbrella, to bring over 500 impact entrepreneurs and social enterprise investors together in Aotearoa New Zealand. In partnership with Immigration NZ and Te Ati Awa Taranaki Whanui, international EHF Fellows were granted a Global Impact Visa, a world’s first visa type with a pathway to residency.

www.ehf.org

“Namaste Foundation played a quiet but key role in our development at a critical time in the Institute’s Leadership journey - the foresight of its founders reflects what can be achieved by mission-driven, incisive philanthropy at its best.”



Mark Prain

Eyak Preservation Council



Eyak Preservation Council (EPC) protected wild salmon habitat, indigenous Eyak culture, natural habitat, and fish and wildlife of the Copper River delta and Prince William Sound.

The work is now expressed through the Cultural Defense Fund, which promotes innovative concepts and implementation to ensure cultural resonance for traditional and subsistence ways of life. The mission remains steadfast, to honor Indigenous heritage by conserving cultures, lifeways and pristine habitats on lands and waters for all People.

www.eyakpreservationcouncil.org

“Namaste’s deep understanding about the commitment and heart it takes to save pristine wild salmon bearing ecosystems is rare. The fluidity of support, and trust Namaste has shown to us, a smaller Indigenous led organization, is rare and exemplary.”



Carol Hoover & Dune Lankard

First Voices Radio



Tiokasin Ghosthorse is the host of First Voices Radio, dedicated to indigenous issues, concerns, cultures and customs. First Voices has been on air for three decades, and syndicated to more than 90 public, community, and commercial stations across Turtle Island.

Namaste helped coordinate a comprehensive digitization effort to help preserve and protect these timeless episodes and recordings.

www.firstvoicesindigenousradio.org

“I’ve been thinking about how much it means to Indigenous people of North America but to the world’s Indigenous peoples voice that Namaste enhanced and amplified. The history, the interviews, the messages for the last 30 years that will not be forgotten and remains to be sourced through the archiving, restoring irretrievable medium hardware, for First Voices Radio. The contribution from Namaste created the possibility for ensuring the stories of Earth languages remain strong for the generations to come.”



Tiokasin Ghosthorse

GLOBAÏA



GLOBAÏA is dedicated to cultivating planetary awareness by merging art and science, fostering collective understanding of socio-ecological issues, and inspiring stewardship through innovative visual representations.

GLOBAÏA's stunning displays have been featured in work like the Planetary Boundaries, The Earthshot Prize, Breaking Boundaries, and The Global Safety Net. Félix Pharand-Deschênes and members of the GLOBAÏA network were also EHF Fellows in the Edmund Hillary Fellowship.

www.globaia.org

“I am immensely grateful to Namaste for the patronage they offered us, which made a huge difference as we migrated our operations from Canada to New Zealand. The existence of dedicated funds like Namaste is, in our world, a reason for something we all need much more of: hope.”



Félix Pharand-Deschênes

Happen Films



Happen Films makes solutions-focused documentaries that explore how we can build resilient communities and landscapes in the face of global challenges. Most of their films are available for free on YouTube and have garnered millions of views.

Since their first feature film *Living the Change*, the team has published short films including *Together We Grow*, *Fools and Dreamers*, *The Food Forest Farmers*, and *Hua Parakore: Building Indigenous Food Sovereignty*.

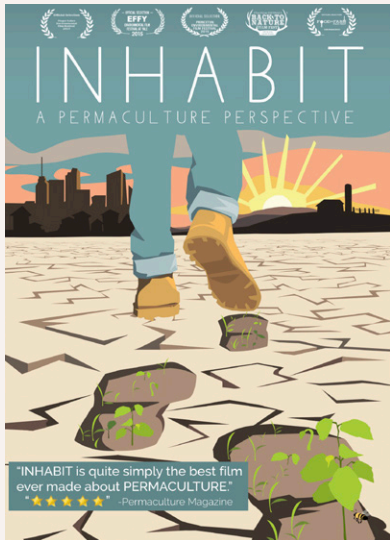
www.happenfilms.com

“Namaste’s support over the last five years has enabled us to develop as filmmakers, to improve the quality of our films, and to bring high-impact stories to light. We’re deeply grateful for their very special approach to philanthropy. They have trusted us wholeheartedly to take each gift and do something beautiful with it.”



Antoinette Wilson & Jordan Osmond

Inhabit



Inhabit: A Permaculture Perspective is a documentary introducing permaculture: a design method that offers an ecological lens for solving issues. Inhabit was the first media project Namaste fund supported. We met the directors, Costa Boutsikaris and Emmett Brennan, through their post-production crowdfunding campaign.

Inhabit has since been translated into several languages, won multiple awards, and is being utilized as a teaching tool around the world.

Alongside Anna Palmer, Costa went on to co-direct Woodlanders, an online film series about people who care for forests, and Inhabitants: An Indigenous Perspective, a documentary that follows five Native American Tribes as they restore their traditional land management practices.

www.inhabitfilm.com

“Namaste’s vision for a better world directly aligned with our mission of uplifting voices who are living and designing more harmonious ways of living. Working with Namaste has been a crucial piece of my documentary journey. I am so honored to be part of the many projects they have stood behind to help shape humanity’s future.”



Costa Boutsikaris

Koanga Institute



Kōanga Institute has been a long-standing pillar of regenerative gardening and education in New Zealand, housing the country's largest collection of heritage seeds. Kōanga Institute provides training through workshops, internships, and online course offerings.

Kōanga's seed collection is built on the foundation of hundreds of generations of growers who have nurtured biodiversity and cultural heritage. Kōanga's mission is to make these amazing heritage seeds available to New Zealand gardeners and to provide information and support on how to grow them in the best possible way.

www.koanga.org.nz

“Kia Ora, the best thing for me about receiving grants from the Namaste Foundation is that it didn't feel like something I had to work really hard and put loads of time into securing, which always means I can get on with doing what it is that is so important and hard to do without support. The Namaste Foundation's generous gifts to Koanga over the past 3 years have been critical in enabling us to do a better job of saving our NZ heritage seeds and trees and making them available to the general public.”



Kay Baxter

The Learning Environment



The Learning Environment is developing a set of living classrooms and restoring the Piwakawaka Farm along the Whanganui River, connecting wellbeing with local food and community resilience. This inspiring group brings fresh approaches and enthusiasm for what environmental education can become.

The Learning Environment was built upon a simple idea, ‘when you heal the land, you heal yourself, and vice versa.’ The Namaste team has been privileged to accompany them on the journey, along with receiving vital support from the Edmund Hillary Fellowship community.

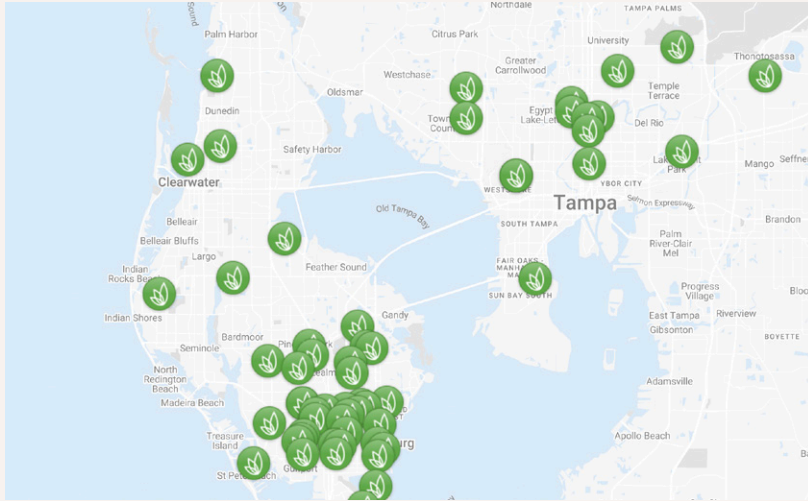
www.learningenvironment.nz

“With Namaste’s support, we have been able to move 68 hectares of private land to the protection of a Trust whose Charitable purposes are to regenerate and educate for socio-ecological equality. Namaste Foundation has not only gifted to us financially: they have gifted us with a strong affirmation to the work we are doing, mentorship, friendship, love, laughter and a commitment to mutually support each other in creating a thriving future for individuals, community and ecosystems. That is far more powerful than anything else.”



Ness Radich

MakeSoil



MakeSoil is an online platform that matches ‘Soil Makers’ (people who compost) with nearby ‘Soil Supporters’ (people who contribute scraps). The platform empowers local citizens and municipalities to create neighborhood composting hubs that keep organic waste out of the landfill, bring down greenhouse gas emissions, and produce more of the topsoil that our food system depends on.

Josh Whiton, the founder of MakeSoil, is also an Edmund Hillary Fellow.

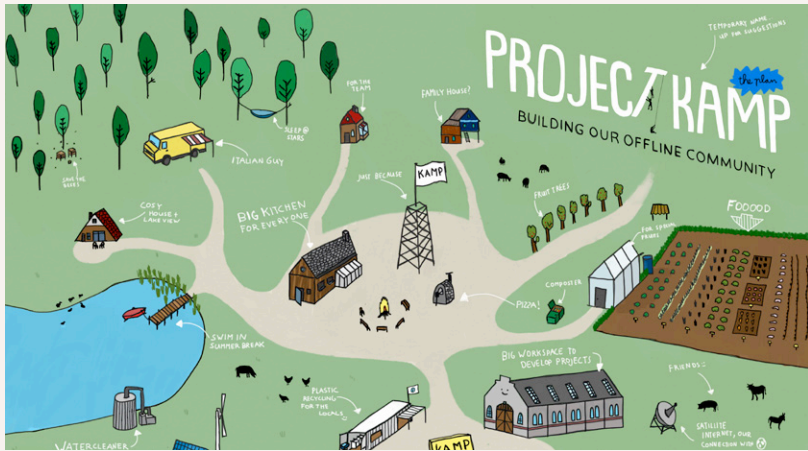
www.makesoil.org

“The Namaste Foundation was an early champion of MakeSoil, offering us an incredible opportunity to grow our platform to over 800 soil sites in 55 different countries. The foundation recognized the potential of a simple, yet profound act, making soil together.”



Josh Whiton

One Army



One Army creates projects tackling global problems, like plastic pollution, e-waste, and waste from fashion. One Army is prototyping new ways of sustainable living with Project Kamp, a community research center that will open source its learnings.

We've long admired Dave Hakkens from his work on Precious Plastic, a global movement that has grown to over 500 workspaces and has recycled more than 400 tons of plastic. It was a privilege to contribute to Dave's new community initiatives.

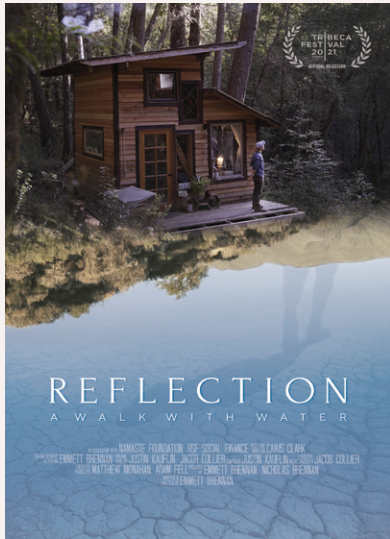
www.onearmy.earth

“Namaste Foundation allowed One Army to push forward two very early stage projects. It helped to buy a piece of land to setup a research centre for sustainable living in Portugal. And it supported us to build software to build online communities. Both are ambitious projects and still in early stages. Having a foundation to support the work and let them find their paths is a very unique and valuable gift.”



Dave Hakkens

Reflection

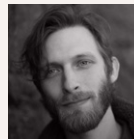


Reflection: A Walk with Water confronts our current environmental and systematic troubles, showing how parts of California are bellwethers for change. Directed by Emmett Brennan, with voices and stories that speak to today's younger generations, Reflection is both a personal meditation on water as well as a practical roadmap for positive change.

Reflection was released in 2021 at the Tribeca Film Festival, featuring an original score by Jacob Collier. The film played at many festivals and was followed with an educational campaign.

www.reflectionfilm.com

“Namaste gift from a place that is thoroughly steeped in love and trust. Partnering with them has fortified my commitment to the work I do and inspired a real determination to follow through in as best and as big a way as possible. Not because of any expectation or sense of obligation, but because I’m naturally moved by the constancy of their belief in my efforts.”



Emmett Brennan

RIVER



The name RIVER stands for Revitalizing Indigenous Virtues for Earth's Regeneration. RIVER is an inter-Nation-al circle of people collaborating from different leverage points to evolve societal systems and grow international solidarity.

The collective is both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, spanning generations and hold wide-ranging experience in the areas of law and governance, sustainable enterprise, cultural restoration, biodiversity conservation, Earth's living systems, engineering, artistry, education, and design.

www.weareriver.earth

“The Namaste Foundation were the first to support RIVER, and that generosity and belief ignited the courage in us to pour energy into the relationships we had fostered, and our offerings together. This unique funding experience was one of emergence, building a community of practice whose work all flows back to protecting Papatūānuku innovatively and allowing the work to evolve as the people and the organisation grow.”



Erin Matariki Carr & Jodi Gustafson

Tiwaiwaka



Tiwaiwaka is a set of 6 principles, written by renowned Rongoā Māori practitioner Pa Ropata / Rob McGowan.

These principles weave together a collective of people with unique gifts, Mātauranga (knowledge and wisdom), skills and experience throughout the network of Aotearoa.

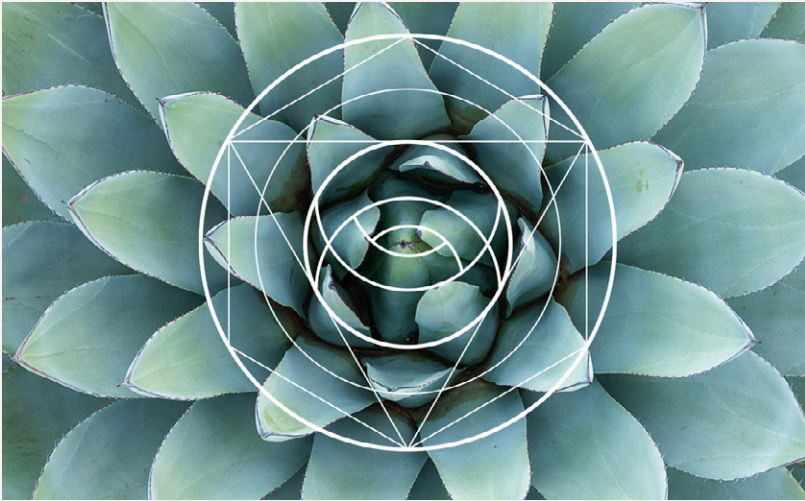
www.tiwaiwaka.nz

“The need is urgent, Mother Earth’s health is in a dire state. The ways of politics are too slow to act with the urgency that is required. It is time for people to take the lead. Tiwaiwaka is ready to play its part. Thank you Namaste Fund and the special people that you speak for. Your generous gift has helped make that big step possible.”



Rob McGowan

Transition Resource Circle



The Transition Resource Circle (TRC) brings together funders and activists, to engage in inquiry and dialogue about the role of philanthropy, rooted in today's context of poly-crisis and ecological collapse. TRC explores how to alchemize and liberate capital to be in service to life.

TRC published a compilation of their research and findings in their book, "Post-Capitalist Philanthropy".

www.transitionresourcecircle.org

“Namaste has always operated in the spirit of gift without obligation or ulterior motives. What has been honored and preserved in our interactions has been the relational lines and our belief that there are other ways of partnership outside of commodification, transaction and usury. As we have been researching and writing about post-capitalist philanthropy, we have been blessed with a partner who already lives the values of reciprocity, care, interbeing, generosity and solidarity required to shift the philanthropic sector, and social change more broadly.”



Lynn Murphy

Walking Water



Walking Water is an invitation, an action, an educational journey and a prayer devoted to local and global watersheds. The group hosts walks, offers dialogue, and published the book, *Waters Rising: Guidance for Our Times*.

Co-founders Kate Bunney and Gigi Coyle are guided by the prayer that is water, walking along ancestral pathways. We witnessed the community's profound influence ripple through many gatherings and other initiatives. The story of Walking Water is also highlighted in the film, *Reflection: A Walk with Water*.

www.walking-water.org

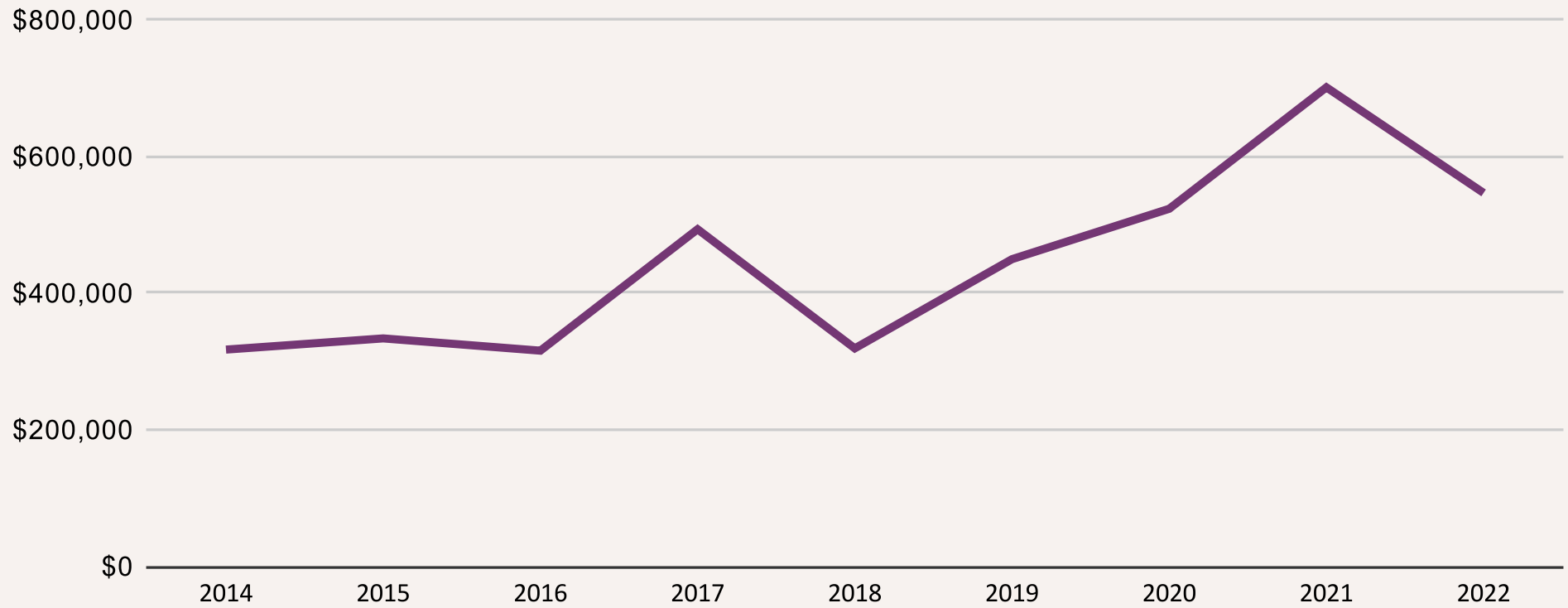
“The Namaste Foundation has accompanied us for much of the way since 2016 and has reflected back to us the beauty of staying in integrity with our original vision, the profound simplicity of doing what we can do well and not more, and understanding grantmaking to be a gift not wrapped in conditions.”



Kate Bunney

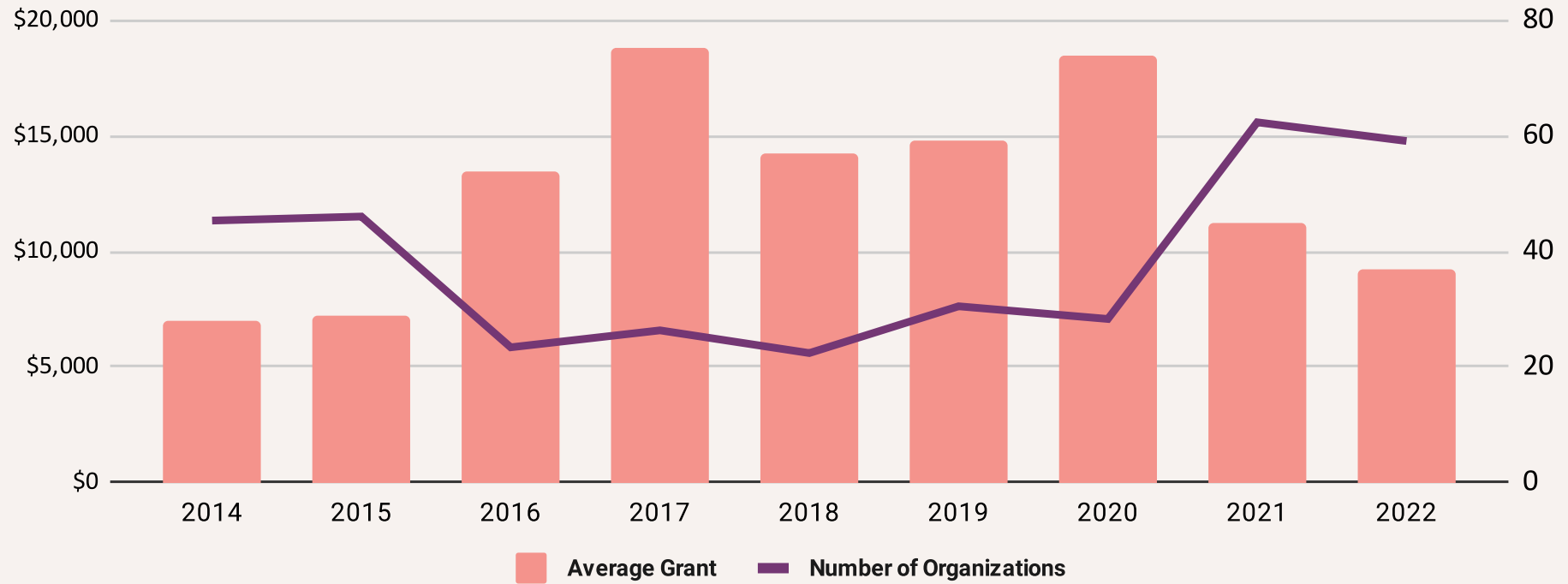
Fund Summary

Total Gifts Per Year



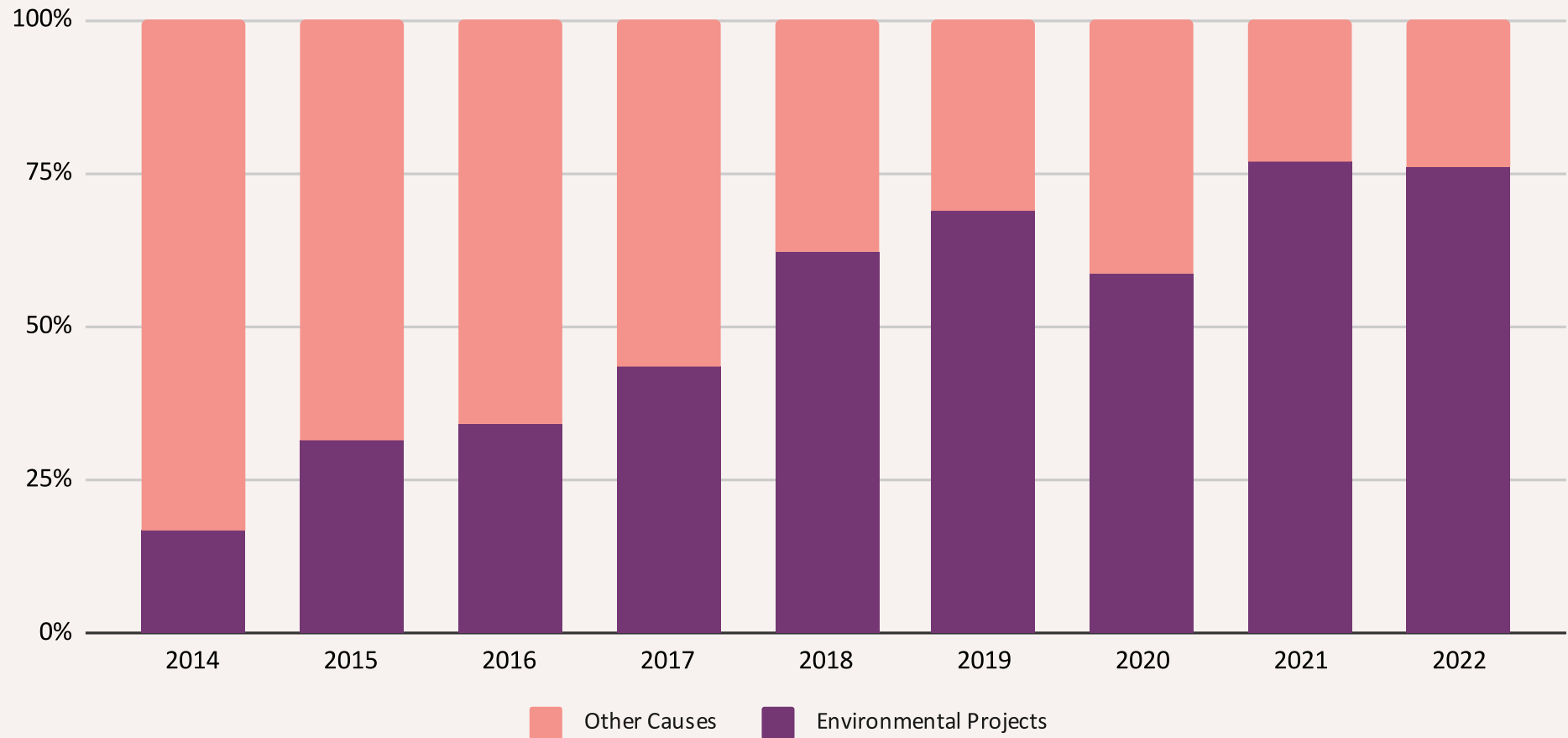
Fund Summary

Gifts Detail



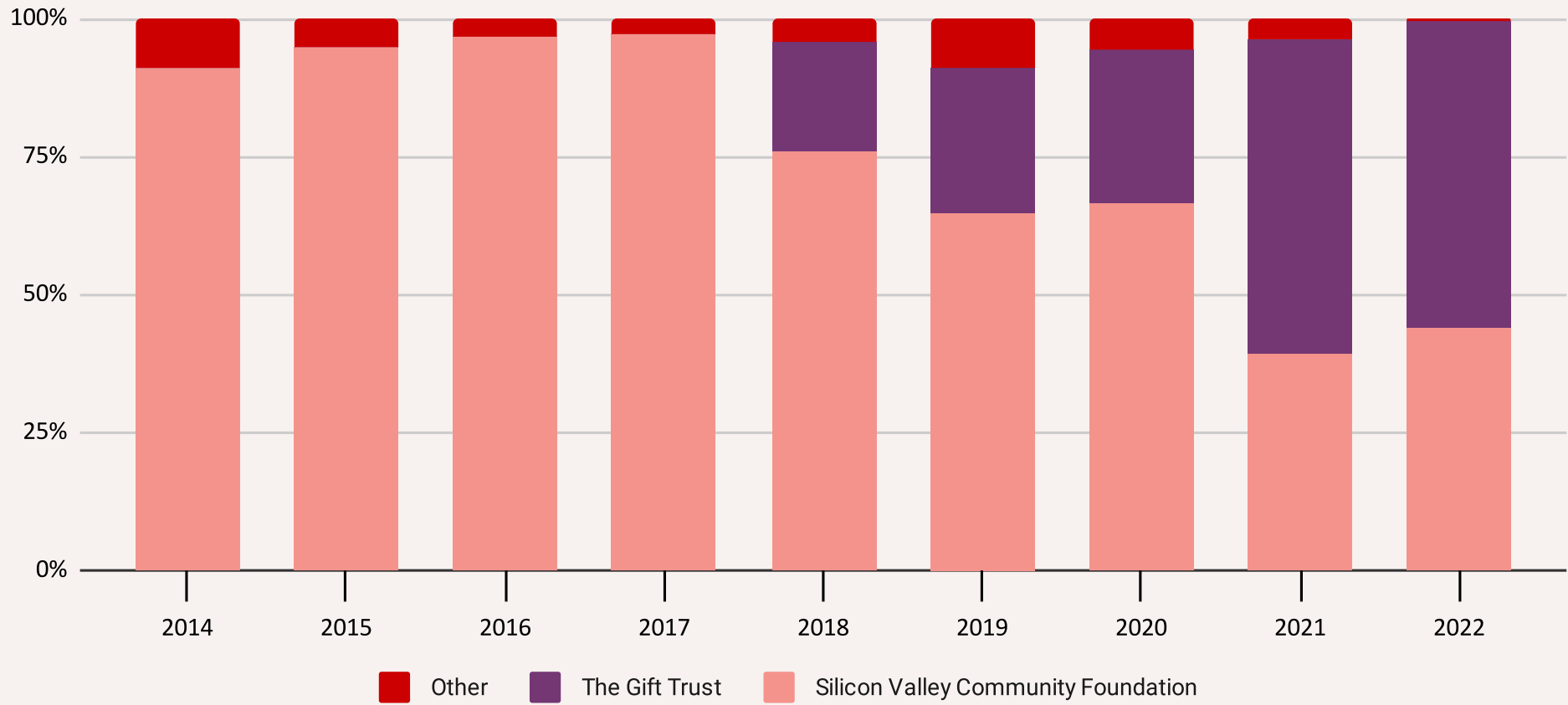
Fund Summary

By Category



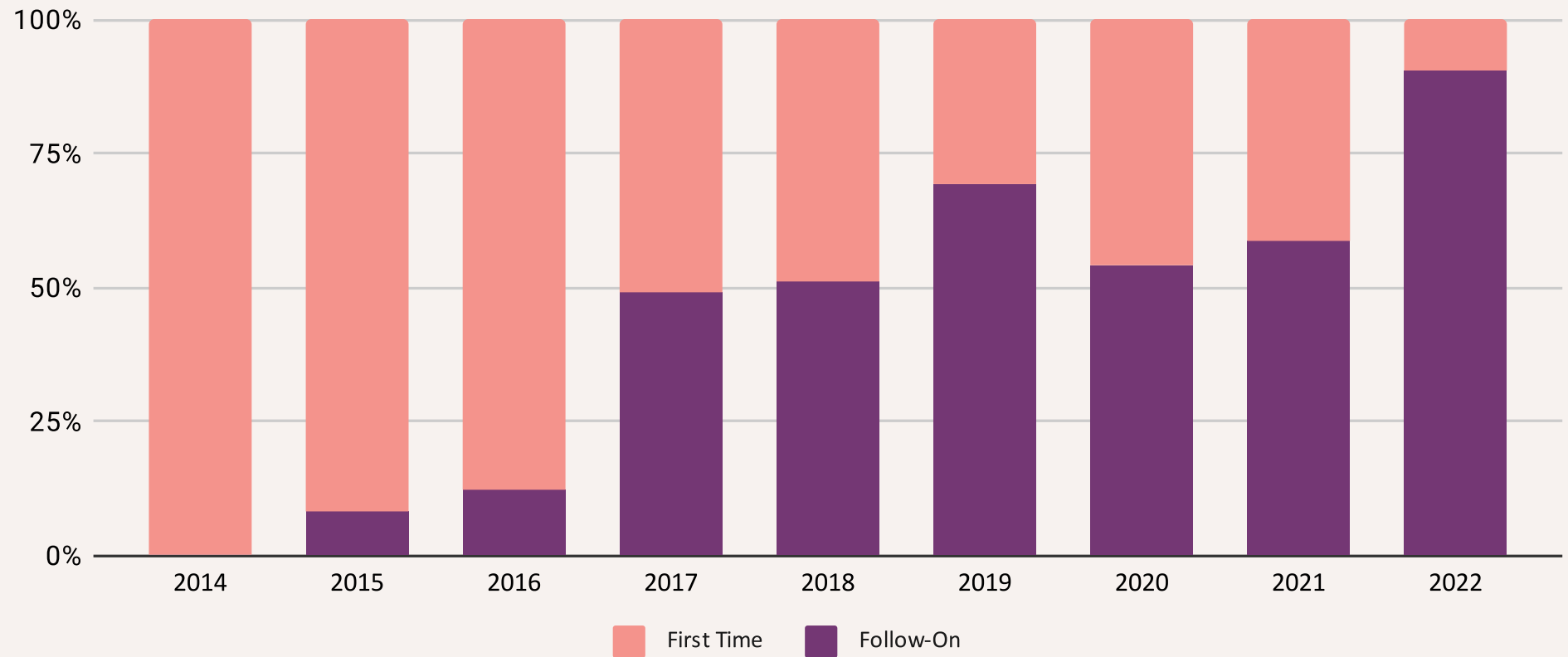
Fund Summary

By Administrator



Fund Summary

By Type



Full List of Gift Recipients 2013-2022

#

10 Books A Home
350 Aotearoa
350 Org
4 A Better City Trust

A

Action Station Aotearoa
Advancement Project
Agrarian Trust
Alliance for Global Justice
Amazon Defenders
Amazon Emergency Fund
Ambition NZ
American Civil Liberties Union - Northern
CA
Aspen Institute
Asylum Access
Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA)

B

Band of Light Collective
Benetech
Better Work Together
Bioneers
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Black Permaculture Network

Black Rock Arts Foundation
Black Youth Project 100
Blue Cradle Foundation
Buckminster Fuller Institute
BWB Publishing Trust

C

Campfire Stories
Carbon Cycle Institute
Caremongering COVID Relief Fund
Carry the Vision
Center for Education Imagination and
Natural World
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
Centro Legal De La Raza, Inc.
Chaikuni Institute
Charity: Water
Civilization Research Initiative
Colombia Verde Y Limpia
ColorOfChange.org Education Fund, Inc.
Common Unity
Community Environmental Legal Defense
Fund (CELDF)
Community Works West Inc
Conscious Consumers
Cool Earth Action USA, Inc.
Culture Hack Labs

D

Dancing Without Borders
Defend the Sacred
Defy Ventures Inc
Democracy Now Productions, Inc.
Dev Color
Doctors Without Borders USA, Inc.
Dome to Dish
Dream Corps
Drug Policy Alliance

E

Earth Guardians Inc
Earth Law Center
Earthcare Education Aotearoa
East Bay Community Law Center
Eden Reforestation Projects
Edmund Hillary Fellowship
Ekos
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Enspirial Foundation
Equal Justice Initiative
Equal Justice Under Law
Esalen Institute
Eyak Preservation Council

F

Fellows of the RSA in the US
Ferguson Municipal Public Library
Ferguson Youth Initiative
Fight Toxic Prisons
First Look Media Works
For the Love of Bees
For The Wild Collective
Force for Good Fund by LIFT Economy
Forest and Bird
Foundation for P2P Alternatives
Free the Children
Friends of the Earth
From The Heart Productions
Future Whenua

G

General John A Logan Museum
Generation Zero
Girls for Gender Equity Inc
Give Direct, Inc.
GiveLove
Globaia
Global Alliance for Rights of Nature
GoFundMe

H

Happen Films

Full List of Gift Recipients 2013-2022

Hartley Film Foundation

House of Science NZ

How Soon Is Now

Human Rights Measurement Initiative

I

Ian Mackenzie Films

Indiegogo

Indigenous Environmental Network

Indigenous First Voices Radio

Infinite Focus

Inhabit

Inhabitants film

Innocence Project, Inc.

Innovative Young Minds

Insight Prison Project

Inspiring Stories Trust

Institute for Humane Education

International Development Exchange

International Refugee Assistance Project

International Rescue Committee, Inc.

K

Kia Kotahi Ako

Kickstarter

Koanga Institute

L

Lawyers Committee For Civil Rights S.F.

Learning Environment

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

Lifehack

Loomio

Lower Hutt Te Awakairangi Birthing

Centre

M

MakeSoil

Mindful Schools

Ministry of Awesome

Mohua

Multicultural NZ

N

National Immigration Law Center

New Thinking Allowed Foundation

O

Occidental Arts and Ecology Center

One Army Foundation

One Nation Life

One Percent Collective

Orientation Aotearoa

Owens Valley Indian Water Commission

P

Pachamama Alliance

Patreon

Permaculture NZ

Philanthropy NZ

Pledgeme

Plum Village Community

Polaris Institute

Preventable Surprises

Prison Ecology

Prison University Project, Inc.

Prisoners Literature Project

Pro Publica, Inc.

R

Re/Culture Media

Reflection Film

Resonate Workshops

Resource Information Help for Disadvantage

Restorative Justice Community Action, Inc.

Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth

Returned Citizen

River Aotearoa

Roimata Food Commons

Root & Rebound

Rules Foundation

S

Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network

Share Necessities

Silicon Valley Gives

Sister Song, Inc.

Social Good Fund

Southern Vision Alliance

Southerners On New Ground

SpaceBase

Syzygy Dance Project

T

Te Ara Whatu

Te Kai a te Rangatira

Te Waiwaka

Teaching for Change

The Art of Yoga Project

The Borneo Project

The Common Unity Project

The Gift Collective

The Gift Trust

The Grace Foundation

The Last Mile

The Marshall Project

The National Incarceration Association

The Ojai Foundation

Full List of Gift Recipients 2013-2022

The Praxis Project, Inc.

The Rules Foundation

The Scout Association of New Zealand

The Sentencing Project

To the Ends of the Earth

Toitoti Manawa Trust

Tolaga Bay Foundation

Transfarnation

Transition Resource Circle

TreeSisters

U

Upper Hutt Toy Library

Urban Flow

V

Village Well Symposium

Vipassana Trust

W

Walking Water

We Collective

Wellington City Mission

Women Designing For Resilience

Women's Earth and Climate Caucus (WECAN)

Women's Media Center

Work that Reconnects

Z

Zehr Institute for Restorative Justice

