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Powering Philanthropic Transformation

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Diagnosing "the problem:"

When you think about the ways your work (in finance) and your organization are impacted by institutional philanthropy, what comes to mind?



"Whether, when, to whom, and how much people give is a product of the laws that govern the creation of nonprofit organizations, charitable trusts, private and community foundations, and so on, and spell out the rules under which these may operate...."

-Robert Reich, Just Giving: Why Philanthropy is Failing Democracy and How It Can Do Better



1913

Income tax
status establ
beginning of
industrial col

1913

Income taxes & tax exempt status established: The beginning of the non-profit industrial complex

The Revenue Act of 1913 established an income tax on the highest incomes. At the same time, institutions "organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific or educational purposes" were exempted from paying federal income tax.

INTENT

Federal income tax was established to compensate for the reduction in tariff dues, which was also a part of the Revenue Act. Charitable organizations were defined as those whose net income does not benefit "any private stockholder or individual."

JUSTICE FUNDER ANALYSIS

Public charities and independent foundations had been in existence for decades, and operated for the public good. This Act formally started the era in which tax policy regulated philanthropic activities and incentivized charitable giving. These laws created a distinct non-profit sector defined by their legal status. This was the beginning of the non-profit industrial complex, in which the government has the ability to monitor and control social movements, and a reliance on state/foundation/corporate funding has derailed the course of social movements. Non-profits can only be as radical as their donors, and must often shape their activities to align with donor interests.

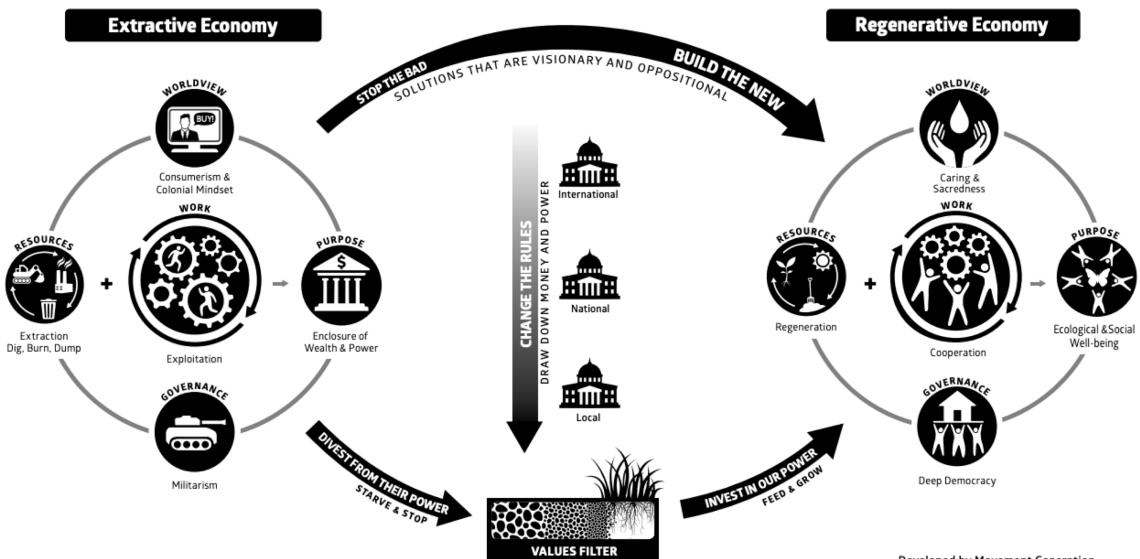
Intro

2000

2010

2020

A STRATEGY FRAMEWORK FOR JUST TRANSITION



TRANSITION

- A JUST Shift economic control to communities
 - ▶ Democratize wealth and the workplace

MUST: Advance ecological restoration

Drive racial justice and social equity

- Relocalize most production and consumption
- Retain and restore cultures and traditions

Developed by Movement Generation with **OUR POWER CAMPAIGN**COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR A JUST TRANSITION



Guiding Values & Principles



A Just Transition . . .

Moves us toward Buen Vivir

 Buen Vivir means that we can live well without living better at the expense of others. The rights of peoples, communities and nature must supercede the rights of the individual.

Upholds Self-Determination & Builds Deep Democracy

All peoples have the right to participate in decisions that impact their lives. This requires democratic governance in our communities, including our workplaces. Communities must have the power to shape their economies, as producers, as consumers and in our relationships with each other.

Equitably redistributes resources and power

We must work to build new systems that are good for all people, and not just a few. Just Transition must actively work against and transform current and historic social inequities. Just Transition fights to reclaim capital and resources for the regeneration of geographies and sectors of the economy where these inequities are most pervasive.

Builds what we need now!

We must build the world we need now. This may begin at a local small scale and must expand to begin to displace extractive practices. We must build and flex the muscles needed to meet our communities' needs.

"All of us who have been forced to the margins are the very ones who harbor the best solutions for healing, progress and peace, by virtue of our outsider perspectives and resilience. When we reclaim our share of resources, when we recover our places at the table and the drawing board, we can design our healing. We can create new ways of seeking and granting access to money. We can return balance to the world by moving money to where the hurt is worse. "

⁻Edgar Villanueva, Can Money Be Medicine?

From Extraction Towards Regeneration



Re-imagining the Way Forward

TRANSFORMING OUR INDIVIDUAL & INSTITUTIONAL WORLDVIEW

UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS ON THE ROLE OF CAPITAL

More Extractive

Individuals and institutions have the right to endlessly accumulate capital and make decisions on how it should be allocated for the public good. The preservation of wealth and power must be prioritized over the needs of people and the environment. Less Extractive

Individuals and institutions have the right to accumulate capital, but also have the responsibility to give away wealth for the public good. The preservation of wealth and power can occur alongside making positive social and environmental impacts. Restorative

Individuals and institutions have a moral obligation to redistribute their accumulated capital in support of communities most impacted by economic inequality. Positive social and environmental impact must be prioritized over preserving wealth and power. Regenerative

Rather than being accumulated by individuals and institutions, capital must support the collective capacity of communities most impacted by economic inequality to produce for themselves, give to and invest directly in what their communities need, and retain the returns generated from these investments. All aspects of collective wellbeing must be prioritized over the wealth and power of a few.

Transformation!

Wealth is redistributed, power is democratized and economic control is shifted to communities in a way that is truly regenerative for people and the planet.

Questions to move you along the spectrum towards the vision:

What is our vision for the world? What is our philanthropy's role in manifesting this vision? How might we challenge our current assumptions on the role of capital (grants and investments) and wealth in advancing collective well-being? What are our assumptions on perpetuity and risk? How do we challenge these assumptions given what the current political, economic, and climate conditions ask of us in this moment?



Re-imagining the Way Forward

Leadership:

Leadership reinforces a culture and systems in which those in organizational positions of power uphold the status quo. Leadership creates mechanisms for decisionmaking to be informed by all staff, but those in organizational positions of power are the ultimate decision-makers.

Staff creates mechanisms for organizational decisionmaking to be informed by the communities impacted by extractive systems. The organization has clear organizational mechanisms to ensure it is accountable to and informed by their community.



With your non-dominant writing hand, in cursive, please write:

We must build the muscle for regeneration





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