

IMPACT



2022 Report



Dear Reader,

The idea of ACRE grew out of lessons learned from organizing and campaigning during the Great Recession. We understood that we needed an organization like ACRE to marry sophisticated financial and economic analysis and research with campaigns to build power in Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities. As the US economy hurtles towards another recession, this time manufactured by Federal Reserve Chair Jay Powell, we know that ACRE's work in 2023 will be more important than ever.

2022 marked a year of transition for the ACRE team. We wished founding co-director Maurice BP-Weeks all the best in his new endeavors after five years of hard work and dedication leading ACRE and ACRE Institute. We knew it'd be hard to fill his shoes, so we are delighted to have [Bree Carlson](#) join the team to serve alongside Saqib Bhatti as co-director of ACRE and ACRE Institute. Bree spent the last 10 years at People's Action, first as the Director of the Structural Racism Program and then as its Deputy Director and Director of Organizing. Under Bree's leadership, People's Action undertook the creation of The Long-Term Agenda for a New Economy, which inspired a

slew of other organizations to develop years-long strategies for winning structural change rather than one-off campaigns. At ACRE, Bree will continue that dedication to comprehensive, structural victories and help lead an organization at the forefront of battles to secure racial and economic justice for our communities.

The ACRE team is so grateful for everyone's support along the way. We hope as you read through our 2022 impact report, you'll be able to see and feel the difference ACRE has made.

Thanks for coming along with us for the ride—we couldn't do this without you.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christina Livingston".

Christina Livingston
Board Chair, ACRE Institute

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Westin".

Jonathan Westin
Board Chair, ACRE

“ACRE IS AN ESSENTIAL PARTNER IN OUR SHARED WORK OF BUILDING A MILITANT, MULTI-RACIAL, MULTI-LINGUAL BASE OF APP WORKERS AND LAUNCHING A STRATEGIC CORPORATE CAMPAIGN THAT BRINGS APP CORPORATIONS TO HEEL.

This campaign is more robust and capable of confronting corporate power head-on

BECAUSE OF ACRE'S STRATEGIC RESEARCH.

THE ACRE TEAM IS INCREDIBLY TALENTED, BRINGING EXPERTISE, STRATEGIC VISION, INTEGRITY, AND CLARITY OF PURPOSE TO OUR SHARED WORK.”

SHONA CLARKSON
WPUSA/Gig Workers Rising

Overview

The trajectory we're on is now clear: the corporate concentration of power and financialization of the economy over the past 50 years has led to a slow but steady decline of worker power and the undoing of much of the social and economic progress of the 20th century.

Rising corporate power coupled with the disease of white supremacy resulted in a 2016 election that highlighted gaps in our movement landscape.

Emerging from this landscape, the Action Center on Race and the Economy (ACRE) and ACRE Institute were founded in 2017 to highlight how communities of color have been purposely underdeveloped and underinvested in, while public coffers have been decimated by politicians and their friends at big banks. Since its inception, ACRE has worked on behalf of Black and Brown working class communities, spearheading critical advocacy in an

effort to reveal and redress the harm that Wall Street greed and political malfeasance have caused over the course of decades. Its partner organization, ACRE Institute, has provided the popular education, targeted research, and incisive analysis that fuel ACRE's campaigns and help build a collective and sustainable future for all of us living in the United States today.

Since launching, ACRE and ACRE Institute have made real progress across our pillars of work. Our commitment to working collaboratively with movement partners to create and deploy corporate and policy campaigns, backed by our intersectional research and analysis, has given us on-the-ground wins and the ability to shape the narrative around progressive, race-conscious economic policies.



How ACRE and ACRE Institute Make An Impact

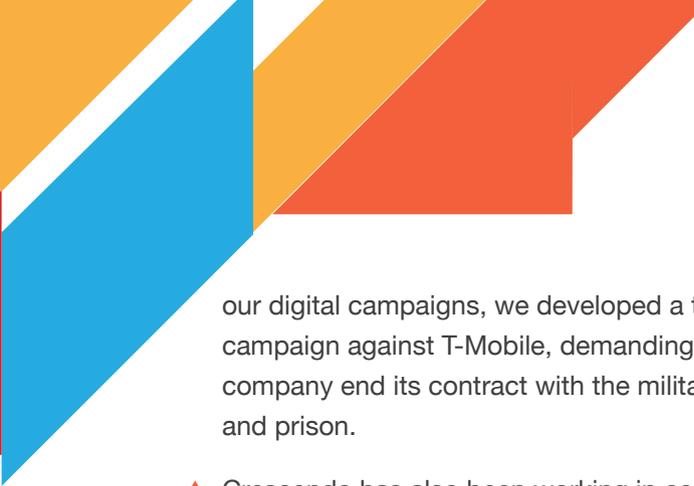
ACRE and ACRE Institute are among the only organizations today that are explicitly focused on how unchecked corporate power fuels structural racism. This work requires a multi-pronged approach that includes working with partner organizations and coalitions to drive national, state, and local-based strategies to educate, organize, and mobilize the grassroots and the grasstops for economic relief and systemic change. We are especially proud of our work that resulted in Dr. Lisa Cook's nomination and confirmation to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. Other highlights from 2022 include:

1. Exposing How Corporations Harm Communities

▲ In California, ACRE is partnering with the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment and the Common Good California table to expose the billionaires and corporations preventing Black,

Brown, and Indigenous communities from having the services and resources they deserve and need. As part of this work, we undertook a foundational research project that mapped the bad corporate actors who blocked efforts to raise progressive revenue in the state. Building off that research, we are now partnering with local organizations to develop policies to increase progressive revenue and win campaigns to neutralize corporations standing in the way.

▲ Working alongside LittleSis and MPower Change through our Crescendo project, ACRE continued to expose corporate anti-Muslim bigotry on platforms such as YouTube and Facebook. Building on our [Big Tech Sells War](#) work, we also led a campaign to expose the role of corporations in keeping Guantánamo Bay open and functional, bringing our corporate analysis to demands to close the prison on its 20th anniversary. Alongside



our digital campaigns, we developed a targeted campaign against T-Mobile, demanding that the company end its contract with the military base and prison.

- ▲ Crescendo has also been working in coalition to expose the dark money networks that allow the funneling of millions of dollars to organizations that promote and further systemic oppression globally. Working with partners including the Asian American Resource Workshop, Muslim Justice League, Resource Generation, and Political Research Associates, we released [The People Disclose](#) report in March 2022 to highlight how Fidelity Charitable and other donor-advised funds facilitate the funding of oppression in ways that are purposely difficult to track.
- ▲ ACREI launched and supported multi-media campaigns that were critical to shifting the narrative around abolition. Our Stop ShotSpotter campaign, which built on our [21st Century Policing](#) report, provided local organizers in Detroit, Buffalo, and Chicago with accessible framing, education materials, and important facts and figures to help them challenge their cities' contracts with ShotSpotter. In Michigan, we supported Detroiters who repeatedly forced their city council to delay a vote to expand a ShotSpotter contract, ultimately resulting in the city agreeing that COVID relief funds should not be spent on ShotSpotter. In Chicago, we supported organizing to turn the ShotSpotter contract into a litmus test for any

progressive candidate running for office in next year's municipal elections. Our narrative work in 2022, especially centered around ShotSpotter, has helped expand the definition of policing to include surveillance.

2. Educating and Mobilizing Communities

- ▲ Over the course of this year, ACRE's housing program helped build tenant power by forging relationships with local and national housing justice and tenant organizations. Specifically, we deepened our relationships in Florida, Virginia, and Texas, sharpening our partners' focus on corporate targets. This corporate focus has shaped policy campaigns, setting the stage for credible policy fights in 2023. In Virginia, our partnership with African Communities Together has advanced tenant demands against a national corporate landlord, CIM, moving the campaign closer to its goal of stopping the displacement of African immigrant tenants.
- ▲ This year, we increased coordination with national networks and their housing campaigns, culminating in a joint action in Washington, DC, with PowerSwitch Action and the Center for Popular Democracy's Renter's Rising campaign. Our demonstration brought together more than 100 tenants to demand one of the largest landlord lobby groups stop lobbying against tenant



protections in our cities and states. The action was a key leadership development moment for Black and Brown tenant leaders across the country and set the stage for a long-term campaign for tenants to take on corporate landlords and their lobbying groups. [Coverage of our action](#) helped amplify our demands for rent control measures. At the federal level, we highlighted the role of the landlord lobby's destructive impact on the single-family rental industry at a [hearing on the Hill](#) in June.

- ▲ We helped bring voices from frontline Black and Brown communities to national-level conversations on environmental and climate justice. As part of our [Vanguard SOS campaign](#), our environmental and climate justice team convened and held a briefing with participants from over 30 organizations representing frontline communities to discuss what a financial regulation agenda rooted in racial, economic, and environmental justice would look like. We collected and shared stories from participants in a [letter to the SEC](#), which highlighted how lack of regulatory oversight is allowing for continued pollution, policing, mass surveillance, and other systemic racial inequities in communities.
- ▲ In New York State, ACRE convened a table with environmental and climate justice groups, community organizers, and crypto experts to fight the abuses of the crypto industry, which proved instrumental in getting a moratorium on cryptocurrency mining passed through the state legislature. ACRE's Deputy Political Director, Michele Gilliam, co-authored an [influential op-ed](#) in The New York Daily News about the moratorium

bill; ACRE and our partners followed up with an advocacy campaign pushing NY Governor Kathy Hochul to sign the bill into law, which she did in November. The timing worked out in our favor: Governor Hochul was more receptive to pressure from activists because she was up for re-election—an important lesson we learned that we'll take into future advocacy work during midterm and presidential cycles moving forward.

3. Protecting Workers and Advocating for their Rights

- ▲ ACRE contributed to Gig Workers Rising's report, [Death and Corporate Irresponsibility in the Gig Economy: An Urgent Safety Crisis](#). The report looked at the health and safety crisis that app corporations, like Uber and DoorDash, have helped create, and repeatedly failed to address. The report found that 52 app-based workers, 63 percent people of color, had been murdered on the job since 2017. After sending the report out to electeds, partners, and the broader public, ACRE's Political Director reached out to Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey's offices. ACRE, along with Gig Workers Rising, were invited to share the report's findings in more depth. As a result, the Senators led six of their colleagues in sending a [letter of inquiry](#) (LOI) to the CEOs of major app corporations like Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash. Citing the Gig Workers Rising report throughout the letter, the elected officials called on companies to provide additional information on worker safety incidents and commit to implementing

new policies to protect app-based workers and compensate them for on-the-job injuries or deaths. The elected officials also sent a [follow-up letter](#) when the corporations refused to meet lawmakers' demands.

- ▲ ACRE is a founding member of the [Athena Coalition](#), which focuses on the harms caused by Amazon. We coordinated a meeting between Athena's worker table and the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) Associate General Counsel to talk about Amazon's use of sophisticated surveillance in their stores and warehouses to stop organizing efforts and retaliate against worker leaders. Months later, NLRB GC Jennifer Abruzzo issued a [Memo on Unlawful Electronic Surveillance and Automated Management Practices](#), laying out her intent to protect employees from abusive surveillance practices.
- ▲ In 2022, ACRE supported our partner organizations and organizers on the ground through training and capacity building. In Chicago, we provided strategic communications and research support to the Chicago Gig Alliance (CGA) in their work to pass the [Chicago Rideshare Ordinance](#), which would establish safety standards, a living wage, and decent working conditions for rideshare drivers in Chicago. The additional capacity ACRE provided made it possible to pull in more sponsors to support the ordinance, amplify the work happening, and frame the ordinance in a worker-centered way.

“ ACRE HAS BEEN

AN INVALUABLE MEMBER

OF THE PEOPLE'S COALITION FOR

SAFETY AND FREEDOM...

[ACRE] has brought
strategy,
facilitation &
leadership

TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE...

[AND] HAS BEEN A FOUNDATIONAL

PARTNER IN THE DRAFTING OF THE MODEL

LEGISLATION POISED TO REPLACE

THE 1994 CRIME BILL. ”

SARA MOKURIA
PolicyLink

4. Changing the Narrative

- ▲ ACRE put forth a bold vision around turning the Federal Reserve into a [tool for racial justice](#). As part of stretching the public imagination about the role of the Federal Reserve, ACRE and 350.org co-authored a [Teen Vogue article](#) and explainer in 2021 that went deep on the Fed, why it matters, how it's always been beholden to Wall Street, and why it can't be like that moving forward. Between Summer 2021 and Spring 2022, ACRE led a national coalition of organizations to fight to get Dr. Lisa Cook and Sarah Bloom Raskin confirmed to the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors. While we lost the fight for Bloom Raskin, we were thrilled to celebrate Dr. Cook's confirmation as the [first Black woman](#) on the Board in Spring 2022, and we are hopeful about the impact her tenure will have at the Federal Reserve in the years ahead.
- ▲ ACRE has built a foundational narrative about how the Fed could be used as a tool for racial justice and played a leadership role in pushing back on Jay Powell's renomination as Fed Chair. We highlighted his history of putting markets before people, which he exemplified when he directed large sums of COVID relief dollars to banks and megacorporations. Though he was renominated, we have been proven right in our analysis, since his approach to curbing inflation and cooling the markets over the past year has been to try to create [mass unemployment](#). Our work to get Dr. Lisa Cook confirmed to the Fed's Board of Governors will go a long way in ensuring that racial equity gains a stronger foothold in the Fed's work going forward.
- ▲ In 2022, ACRE anchored the [Tax the Rich PHL](#) campaign to advance a municipal wealth tax in Philadelphia in order to fully fund public services in Black and Brown communities. While tax hikes during times of austerity are typically unpopular, our team worked hard to show that in order for communities to flourish, taxing the wealthy is *absolutely necessary*—especially as an alternative to austerity budgeting. We brought together a diverse coalition of local groups to hold [public hearings](#), press conferences, and rallies and [actions](#) to show how a wealth tax would give communities the resources they need to thrive. The grassroots synergy was captured in multiple [media outlets](#) and, due to our work, the issue is likely to be included in discourse involving upcoming municipal elections.



Support for ACRE and ACRE Institute

ACRE and ACRE Institute are grateful for the support of our generous funders including:

The Arca Foundation

Amalgamated Action Fund

Chicago Teachers Union Foundation

Democracy Fund

Economic Security Project Action

Emergent Fund

The Equation Campaign

Martha Struthers Farley and Donald C. Farley, Jr.
Family Foundation, N.A. Trustee

General Service Foundation

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The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

HouseUS Fund

Libra Foundation

Liberated Capital

Marguerite Casey Foundation

Mertz Gilmore Foundation

Movement Voter Project

The Nathan Cummings Foundation

NorthLight Foundation

Oak Foundation

Omidyar Network

Pillars Fund

RISE Together Fund, a Proteus Fund Initiative

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Service Employees International Union

Surdna Foundation

The Solutions Project

Tides Foundation

Sixteen Thirty Fund

Unfettered Fund

Wallace Global Fund

Way to Win Action Fund

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

WhyNot Initiative

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

ACRE works alongside organizations across the country, including...

African American Roundtable

African Communities Together

Alliance for a Just Philadelphia

Alliance for Housing Justice

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment

Amazon Watch

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees

American Federation of Teachers

Americans for Financial Reform

Asian American Resource Workshop

Athena Coalition

Bargaining for the Common Good

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Innovation in Worker Organization at Rutgers

Center for Popular Democracy

Centre for International Corporate Tax Accountability and Research

Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha

Change the Terms Coalition

Chicago Gig Alliance

Chicago Teachers Union

Climate Nexus

Color of Change

Communications Workers of America

Communities for a Better Environment

Community Labor United

Community Resource Hub

Coworker.org

Debt Collective

Detroit Action

Divest Ed

Durham Beyond Policing

Earth Quaker Action Team

Economic Policy Institute

Energy Justice Network

Fight for the Future

Florida Rising

Food and Water Watch

Fossil Free Media

Friends of the Earth

Gig Workers Rising

Grassroots Collaborative

Groundwork Collaborative

Homes Guarantee

Housing Justice for All

Immigrant Defense Project

In the Public Interest

Indigenous Environmental Network

Indivisible

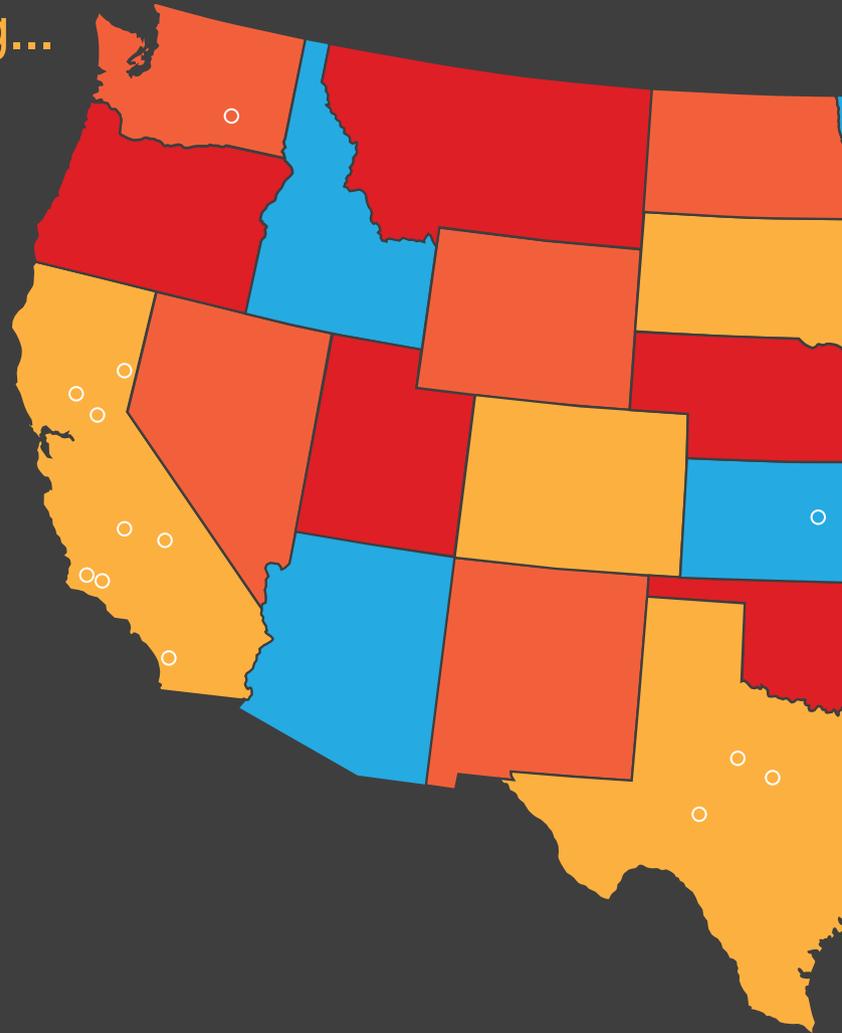
Inquilinx Unidxs por Justicia/
United Renters For Justice

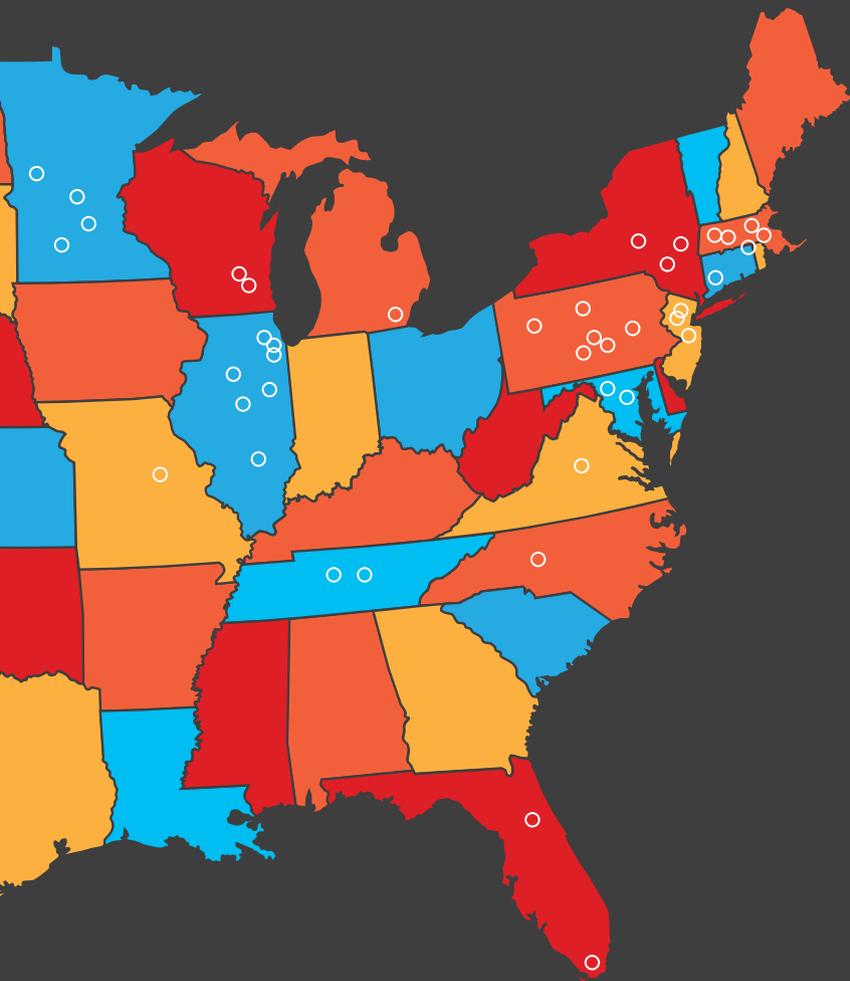
Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

Jobs wWith Justice





Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University

Law for Black Lives

League of Conservation Voters

Liberation in a Generation

Little Village Environmental Justice Organization

LittleSis

Local Progress

Los Angeles Alliance for New Economy

Massachusetts Teachers Association

Mazaska Talks

MediaJustice

Demand Progress

MoveOn

Movimiento Cosecha

MPower Change

Muslim Justice League

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

National Legal Advocacy Network

New York Communities for Change

Ocean Conservancy

Open Markets Institute

Our City Our Schools

People's Action

Philly Neighborhood Networks

PolicyLink

Political Research Associates

PowerSwitch Action

ProsperUS

Public Citizen

Rainforest Action Network

Recovery for All Connecticut

Revolving Door Project

Right to the City

Service Employees International Union

Showing Up for Racial Justice

Sierra Club

Stop the Money Pipeline

Strategic Organizing Center

Strong Economy For All

Sunrise Project

Survivors Know

Tax the Rich Philadelphia

Tennessee for All

Texas Organizing Project

The Hub Project

UltraViolet

United Auto Workers

United for Respect

United Teachers Los Angeles

United Working Families

We the People Michigan

Working Families Party

Working Partnerships USA

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