2023 was a pivotal year for ACRE and ACRE Institute.

We continued to provide much needed support to our partner organizations while solidifying the crucial role we play in helping grassroots organizations and coalitions across the country build and execute campaigns that center race and target corporations and billionaires. From publishing research reports to supporting direct actions to meeting with legislators and training partner-organization members, ACRE contributes meaningful strategy and capacity to the movement to build real power among communities of color and poor people.

With that in mind, we are recommitting ourselves to creating a more racially and economically just society by: (1) exposing the billionaires and megacorporations that color and poor people and (2) building and supporting campaigns that redistribute power, wealth, and resources from those billionaires and megacorporations to communities of color and poor people.

With a new Co-Executive Director at the helm, we thought this was a good time to center the leadership of our partner base-building organizations, we also recognize that we are a strategic resource that can help connect their issues to a broader national-level visionary strategy, amplify relevant research, and convene tables that allow for local partners to learn from each other and strategize together.

In solidarity,

Saqib Bhatti and Bree Carlson
Co-Executive Directors, ACRE & ACRE Institute
Our 2023 report, titled *Passing the Buck*, detailed how Mayor Johnson’s opponent, 7Hs|hszhkehlyk|yvkm|j|phs mishandled; the report played a Jy|p|jhsyvs|lpuw|zopunh|j|hnhdiz for mayor. Once elected, Mayor Johnson named ACRE Co-Executive Director Saqib Bhatti, the author of the report, to his transition team. Following Mayor Johnson’s inauguration, ACRE released another report called *First We Get the Money*, detailing a set of policies to create $12 million in revenue to fund the progressive policies in the Johnson platform. The report, which called for taxing the wealthy and major Jyvym|vzun|uluhj|lkhy|ylz|vytpu|ol wins for our communities.

As a direct result of #StopShotSpotter, a campaign anchored by ACRE demanding divestment from a private surveillance tech company, Mayor Johnson’s platform included a pledge to cancel the city’s ShotSpotter contract. The company ZSvu|kz|lkhyvpm|vsh|p|vz changed its name. Mayor Johnson named Alyx Goodwin, who ran ACRE’s #StopShotSpotter campaign, Senior [K|pzywmy7j]spmlpuozvijl

ACRE’s progress in Chicago epitomizes the success of our organizational strategy: the ZSv|hukz|lkhyvpm|vsh|p|vz and campaigns that center the needs of SJh|s|sh|rhu|kyv|v|ujuvtpu|ol simultaneously advancing progressive economic solutions, will result in major

How We’re Spending

- Programming/Organizing Expenses
- Administrative/Overhead Expenses
- Regrants
ACRE In Partnership

In 2023, ACRE partnered with, supported, and joined coalitions with grassroots base-building organizations across the nation. Though we also regularly partner with other national organizations, we focus our energy on connecting to local partners.

PROGRESS REPORT:
Digital Ad Tax Campaign

ACRE made crucial strides in 2023 in engaging state partners on Digital Ad Tax, a tax on the massive profits Big Tech makes from extracting and monetizing our private information while avoiding taxes on those profits. The Digital Ad Tax (DAT) is popular in red and blue states, according to PEW research, and is a smart policy that ACRE believes can help us advance our vision of redistributing wealth and power from corporations to Black and Brown communities.

Using the successful campaign to institute a digital ad tax in Maryland, ACRE leads a table of researchers, legal scholars, and state policy partners to advance digital ad tax campaigns in Illinois, Connecticut, and New York. In order to collaborate across states, ACRE held multiple briefings in 2023 for partners and legislators to provide a policy framework, model legislation, and campaign material. Throughout 2023, we provided training and educational materials directly to organizers and legislators in all three states to rebut the Big Tech industry's misinformation campaign against DAT legislation.

With ACRE’s collaboration, Connecticut and New York introduced initial DAT bills in 2023, and we are supporting them to reintroduce the bill with more widespread support by their next legislative sessions. We will continue to work to support grassroots partners in their movement-building campaigns to popularize and advance Digital Ad Taxes that can be scaled nationally.
PROGRESS REPORT: PAYBAC Campaign

ACRE’s work through the PAYBAC Table, a collaboration among major grassroots organizations across Pennsylvania, has effectively highlighted and brought to public attention the role of PA’s richest billionaire Jeff Yass in undermining our democracy. ACRE leads the overall strategy of the table, developing popular education trainings, organizing direct actions, and driving a press strategy to educate and agitate thousands of Pennsylvanians against corporations and the ultrawealthy.

This year the PAYBAC table trained over 100 movement leaders across the state in a clear analysis of which and how corporate actors are holding back progress; we generated dozens of media stories about Jeff Yass’s impact on Pennsylvania and supported the creation of a statewide Pennsylvania organizing plan for 2024.

ACRE is building a replicable and scalable model for (1) naming the problems that the ultrawealthy produce in our democracy and in the lived conditions of Black and Brown communities, (2) identifying solutions to curtail the power of billionaires and fully fund our communities, like wealth taxes and other progressive revenue solutions, and (3) organizing broad swaths of people to advocate for these solutions.

ACRE co-leads a training with members of Make the Road PA to highlight the influence of billionaires on state politics. August 12, 2023.
What We Supplied in 2023

33 reports, fact-sheets, toolkits published

What It Produced in 2023

1,847 report downloads

37,267 website hits

45 explicit media mentions

"...counter their misinformation campaign in the legislature."

NORMA MARTINEZ-HOSANG
Organizing Director
Connecticut Recovery For All
Who We Addressed

Audience across platforms: 104,011

Who Engaged With Us


"ACRE is a key partner in our shared work of confronting corporate power and pushing app corporations to treat dignity. The ACRE team has our rideshare ordinance forward by supporting us with strategy, research, campaign planning, and creating broad support for driver dignity."

LORI SIMMONS
Organizer, Chicago Gig Alliance
For many years Pennsylvania’s Black and Brown leaders have experienced an indescribable feeling of angst, trepidation and disillusionment connected to day-to-day struggles in our communities. With ACRE’s leadership, PAYBAC has clarified the details, the bad actors, the connections, and the choices made that affect our lived experiences. Pennsylvanians’ fight against Yass and corporate greed is just getting started! Free the Ballot grows stronger and healthier through our participation in this coalition, a coalition that respects our unrelenting pursuit for justice for our people."

TONYA BAH
Executive Director,
Free the Ballot
Highlights From Our Year

ACRE co-publishes Murdered Behind the Wheel: An Escalating Crisis for App Drivers with Gig Workers Rising and PowerSwitch Action, corresponding with a National Day of Action, in which ACRE supports actions across the US that bring 1,000+ drivers to the streets to demand justice for Uber drivers.

ACRE co-organizes a 500-person candidate forum for Philadelphia City Council at-large candidates. The forum results in candidates—including those who would go on to win the primary—pledging their support for a wealth tax in Philadelphia.

ACRE delivers testimony in front of Connecticut State Legislature in support of a Digital Ad Tax.

ACRE co-organizes an action with LittleSis, POWER Action, Free the Ballot PA, Make the Road Action PA, One PA, and other grassroots PA organizations to highlight the outsized influence Jeffrey Yass has on Pennsylvania politics during a weekend convening of the state’s political and business elite in NYC.

ACRE co-leads trainings across Pennsylvania to train over 100 PAYBAC Table member leaders on why we must target billionaires and corporations to get our public services funded.

ACRE delivers testimony in front of Connecticut State Legislature in support of a Digital Ad Tax.

ACRE's First We Get the Money: $12 Billion to Fund a Just Chicago report makes local and national headlines for its unapologetic proposal to increase revenues to fund public services in Chicago.

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Thank You!

On behalf of the staff of ACRE and ACRE Institute, thank you for your continued interest in ACRE’s work. We’re proud of how our year went and look forward to continuing to lead and support campaigns that move power and resources from corporations and the wealthy to our communities!