



ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

2023-2024

RSF | ROBERT
SCHALKENBACH
FOUNDATION



Dear Friends,

In 2019, RSF undertook a strategic planning process. Guided by the goals of expanding our outreach, making our publications more accessible and resonant with a variety of audiences, and growing and formalizing our educational efforts, the Board of Directors and Staff worked to build what have now become the Foundation's four core program areas. Today, less than four years later, it's amazing to reflect on how much happened since those initial aspirations were put down on paper.

Our Progress of Ideas scholarship program welcomed its second cohort of scholars in 2023, and our support of Tufts University's Neighborhood Fellows Program also marked its second anniversary. From their conception, we knew that these efforts would connect us with amazing people - people committed to careers in economics and social justice - but it wasn't until we actually met the individual award recipients that it became clear just how driven, committed, and brilliant they are. It's truly an honor to know that the Foundation is able to play a supportive role in the lives of next generation changemakers and we're thrilled to have the opportunity to introduce them to the ideas of Henry George.

Our Engel Georgist Library has grown in size and sophistication, from shelves of texts that were only accessible to office visitors, to a large and expanding collection of Georgist publications, most of which can be accessed (free of charge) from anywhere in the world through our online archive. And today, with the combined support of the Danica Foundation and Gaffney family, we are nearing completion of our first special collection - the Mason Gaffney collection - which includes not just the scholar's published works, but many of his class notes and select correspondence, as well.

Recognizing that there is far more work to be done than any one organization can take on alone, we initiated the Progress of Ideas grant program. In this, the second year of awards, we're excited to be funding investigations spanning a variety of issues including water rights, the interplay of taxation and mobility, and the utility of blockchain technology in aiding local affordable housing-focused discourse. The next grant cycle will be opening early in 2024, so keep an eye out for that announcement!

And 2023 was an important year for RSF's internal research efforts. The Center for Property Tax Reform was reimagined as Resource Justice, and with that new vision came a host of more focused efforts around Land Value Tax, climate change-induced adaptation and migration, and land valuation practices. In particular, I want to call your attention to our Land Value Tax toolkit - a wonderful resource for anyone seeking an in-depth understanding of the theoretical underpinnings and practical implications of this important policy.

Now, as we look toward 2024 there is a sense of excitement, not just about the continuing development of our programming, but about the eve of a true milestone in RSF's history: our centennial anniversary. It will be an honor and privilege to be present for the Foundation's 100th birthday, and I hope that all of you will join us in celebrating when the time comes. More to come on that soon!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josie Faass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josie" and last name "Faass" clearly distinguishable.

Josie Faass, Ph.D.
RSF Executive Director

PROGRESS OF IDEAS SCHOLARS

In keeping with the Foundation's mission to foster economic equity and social justice, RSF created its Progress of Ideas Scholarship program in 2021. For the 2023-24 academic year, RSF provided nine Progress of Ideas Scholarships.

Scholarships were awarded for the 2023-24 academic year, supporting five scholars in fields of study related to RSF's mission.

2023-24 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



JESSIA AVILA
Columbia University



CHRISTOPHER BADILLO
Stanford University



BRITTANEY KEY
Yale University



KYLA DENWOOD
Georgetown University



ALEXANDRA ROTH
New York University

In the spring of 2023 four of the five original POI Scholarship recipients were eligible to renew their scholarships for the 2023-24 academic year.

Tess E. Gellert, New York University – Political Science

Olga Rodriguez, University of California, Berkeley – Sociology

Tori Vestal, University of Kentucky – Foreign Languages and International Economics

Willa F. White, Austin College – Political Science and History

Additionally, the application cycle for the 2023-24 academic year saw an increase in applicants.

RSF is supporting the Neighborhood Fellows Program at Tufts University within the department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning (UEP) for the second year in a row. We contributed \$25,000 to support five fellows for the 2023-24 academic year. The program recruits up to five experienced urban leaders each year to UEP's mid-career Master in Public Policy (MPP) program.

RSF hosted a webinar to introduce our scholars and fellows to one another and to meet RSF staff and board members. Additional programming and support was offered to the scholars, including job interview skills and up to \$500 in conference attendance support.

2023-24 NEIGHBORHOOD FELLOWS



PAMPI DAS

A newcomer-settler of Turtle Island (currently on Wompanoag and Mattakeesett territory), Pampi is a nonbinary second-genx casteD-Bengali culture worker who leans on the expressive arts, popular education, and gardening. Since 2014 they gathered with local anti-racist culture workers as Decolonize Our Museums to counter programming that perpetuates violent iconography at cultural institutions that use public monies. With the Pandemic they began engaging with neighbors to demonstrate how people can support food, housing, land, language, racial, climate, and economic justice by growing food together. Neighborhood Grow Plan members encourage community care and civic engagement through a Peoples' Apothecary. A monthly, 'We Are Forests' gathering of neighbor organizers and culture workers over food and music/dance, a Soil Lab (to develop drought-resistant soil layering); and a mini publishing endeavor (zines as love letters). They are organizing to build temporary greenhouses on vacant lots held in land trusts and currently creating a workers cooperative. Pampi holds a BS from MIT in Art and Design.



RAYANA GRACE

Rayana is a lifelong New Bedford resident. Upon graduating from Boston College in 2013, she entered the nonprofit sphere working in family support, youth development, and arts and culture. In January 2021, she was named Program Officer at the Island Foundation managing their Womxn and Girls and New Bedford portfolios. In this role, Rayana supports organizations addressing root causes of inequality for womxn and girls in the United States and that promote progressive social change and combat discrimination in all its forms in New Bedford. Rayana also serves a number of local organizations as a Board member and teaches catechism at her church. In 2021, she graduated from the PLACES Fellowship that uses learning, coaching, and reflection to explore structural racism, community empowerment, and equitable grantmaking practices. She also is a Zumba instructor and a Justice of the Peace in Massachusetts. Rayana enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, and writing spoken word poetry.



ANDRE GREEN

Andre Green is the Executive Director of SkillWorks, a nationally recognized workforce development funders' collaborative. Andre has been an elected member of the Somerville (MA) School Committee since 2016. He has a wide variety of experiences and expertise. At YouthBuild, he served as Senior Manager for Field Mobilization coordinating federal advocacy efforts of 240+ local YouthBuild programs in 45 states. Andre later served as Founding Senior Project Manager at the On Solid Ground Coalition, a group of 40 Massachusetts organizations working on comprehensive cross-sector solutions to end family homelessness. In 2016, Andre was selected to serve as the first Political Director of MASSCreative. He served as a transitional Executive Director with FairTest, a national advocacy organization going through a generational change as the founding staff and board move to retirement.



CHELLAMAL KESHAVAN

Chellamal is a mother, activist and change maker -- a dedicated and fervent advocate for racial equity and progressive systems change. Chelli recently stepped down as Chair of the Medford Human Rights Commission after three years of service. She is currently a Harvard Catalyst Member of the Community Coalition for Equity in Research at the Harvard Clinical and Translational Science Center at Harvard University. Chelli previously served as Executive Director at the Boston Association for Childbirth Education, where her 20+ years of experience with children and families along with her certifications as a Doula and Lactation Counselor informed curricula, policy, and professional development. Furthermore, Chelli has served in various board and consulting roles for several Boston based nonprofits. Her experience encompasses the intersection of Maternal and Infant/Child Development, Early Childhood Education, and Public Health.



RENE MARDONES

Rene migrated to the United States from Chile in 2000. Since then, he has been actively involved in social issues affecting low income communities, immigrants, and communities of color in the Greater Boston Area. In 2003 Rene joined the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPND) as an AmeriCorps Organizer. Later Rene joined Sociedad Latina as a parent organizer; there he had the opportunity to work with immigrants who wanted to better understand the educational system in Boston. Rene spent seven years working as a community organizer for Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) and its T Riders Union program. In 2013, Rene became the lead organizer with Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) working on a range of issues such as affordable housing, local jobs and community benefits agreement around new developments coming into Somerville, MA. In 2021, Rene joined Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI) as the Director of Community Organizing. He has a BA in Human Services from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

PROGRESS OF IDEAS SPONSORED RESEARCH

RSF realizes its important mission through a number of initiatives, including providing support for original research. Throughout its history, RSF has supported Georgist scholarship and research. The “Progress of Ideas Grant Program”, officially established in 2020, makes funding available to researchers and authors whose work advances understanding of a variety of topics related to our mission.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Our commitment to the “Progress of Ideas Grant Program” continues with the next request for proposal cycle scheduled for Spring 2024. While funding available to support the program will vary according to the Foundation’s budget constraints, grants are typically made up to a maximum of \$10,000. We are excited to be able to offer research funding to the academic community and others addressing topics that are related to our mission and advance Georgist ideas relevant to contemporary issues and social concerns. We will continue to offer the results of this research through blog posts, interviews, and research symposia, making it accessible to all through our website.

HOW CAN YOU ENGAGE?

Researchers interested in proposing projects for the “Progress of Ideas Grant Program” should [click here](#) for the latest funding announcements.

2023-24 GRANT RECIPIENTS



PROFESSOR HALLIE EAKIN

School of Sustainability
Arizona State University

"Reconciling urban growth with water scarcity: Limits to adaptation or opportunity for policy innovation?"



JONATHAN LAMB, PH.D CANDIDATE

Pardee RAND Graduate School,
RAND Corporation

"Positive spillovers under a land value tax system:
Exploring incentive-based mechanisms for equitable
and sustainable land use."



FRANCESCO RUGGIERI, PH.D CANDIDATE

University of Chicago,
Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics

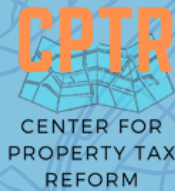
"Property Taxes and Spatial Mobility: Evidence
from Local Governments in the U.S."



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ABEL WINN

The George L. Argyros College of
Business and Economics
Chapman University

"New Rules for Efficient and Equitable Land Use:
An Experimental Investigation"



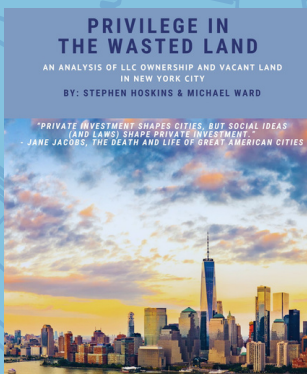
IS NOW



Resource
Justice

Resource Justice focuses on advancing equitable resource use through responsive research. We conduct novel and translational research into pressing social issues including urban land use & housing issues, land & property taxation, value capture of natural resource rents, and climate change & the environment.

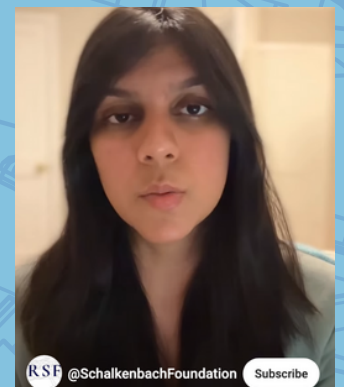
WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...



Privilege in the Wasted Land: we kicked-off the year by publishing our comprehensive analysis of vacant land speculation by LLCs in New York City, culminating with a published piece in Shelterforce.



LVT in Detroit, MI: to build public interest in the LVT plan proposed by Mayor Duggan in Detroit, we have published a series of blog pieces which describe details of the plan and its legislative status, explain how it will impact tax bills, what impact it is likely to have on housing and business outcomes, and exploring the key criticisms of the plan.



Green Georgism: we released a series of articles establishing RJ's perspective on environmental issues, with the first piece explaining that George was talking about all natural opportunities, part two exploring historic connections between environmentalism and Georgism, and the last part applying these principles to specific issues and their policy response.

Land Valuation in Baltimore: we have contracted a group of researchers at the National Center for Smart Growth to create a set of land valuations for Baltimore, MD. The core objective for this project is to demonstrate a proof-of-concept for best-practice land valuation methods. This project is currently in month two of six.

LVT Analyses for Richmond, VA: We have met with a range of stakeholders (including local developers, realtors, assessors and a City Councilmember) in Richmond to present the benefits for the city of a tax shift towards LVT. This led to our being commissioned to conduct two separate projects studying a revenue-neutral LVT shift for Richmond. On behalf of the City, we are analyzing how LVT will change each property's tax bill, and the implications across neighborhoods, demographic groups and property types. With support of the NAR, we are looking in greater detail at how Richmond's planned upzoning would intersect with a LVT shift, by use of 12 case study sites.

Georgist StoryMaps: using ArcGIS StoryMaps (or a similar open-source tool), we are creating two tools which will explain key Georgist concepts using a powerful combination of spatial data, videos, news articles and statistics. Our first StoryMap will explore the question 'Who owns the earth?' by considering key categories of natural resources, while the second piece will explain how to solve poverty & inequality using data to demonstrate the paradox of progress and poverty.

Tax Equity in New York City: Work continues on our collaboration with the Community Services Society of New York, analyzing and explaining sources of regressivity in NYC's property tax code, leading into a larger project which will explore an LVT shift as an alternative (and for which we are hoping to get funding).

LVT TOOL KIT

ENGEL GEORGIIST LIBRARY

With its focus on the works of Henry George and related scholars, our Engel Georgist Library and Francoise Rosen Reading Room contain a well curated, niche collection, perfect for anyone who recently “saw the cat” and wants to learn more, as well as the longtime Georgist who wants all of their favorite texts at their fingertips. RSF’s collection consists of more than 2,500 physical holdings that can be accessed at our Princeton location, as well as a large and growing digital collection, searchable online via TinyCat cataloging software and preserved using Preservica’s active digital preservation software.



PHASE I OF THE GAFFNEY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT IS NEARING COMPLETION. SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST YEAR'S EFFORTS INCLUDE THE ADDITION OF SELECT CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MASON GAFFNEY AND POLLY CLEVELAND AND OUR CURRENT FOCUS: THE DIGITIZATION AND UPLOAD OF HIS CLASS NOTES - TAKEN BOTH FROM HIS LONG CAREER AS A PROFESSOR, AND HIS OWN EARLY YEARS AS A STUDENT!

WE THANK THE **DANICA FOUNDATION**
FOR MAKING THE MASON GAFFNEY COLLECTIONS POSSIBLE.

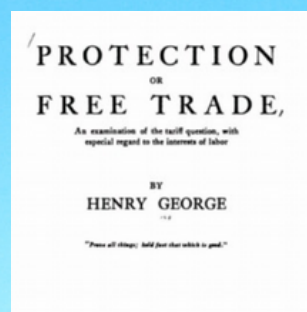
SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION OF GEORGIIST WORKS

Additional acquisitions to our Engel Georgist Library as well as the physical and digital preservation of its existing holdings and ambitious projects such the digital Mason Gaffney Collection are made possible by your generous donations to the Engel Georgist Library Fund.

[LEARN MORE](#)

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR DONATIONS TO THE EGL

Thank you Wyn Achenbaum for the latest donations



OUR TEAM



LAUREN BELL
Digital Librarian



ROXANNA CHOE
Librarian/Archivist



CLAIRE CRAIG
Full Stack
Geospatial Developer



STEPHANIE CULLINS
External Affairs Director



JOSIE FAASS
Executive Director



STEPHEN HOSKINS
Research Director



GAYLE LAMBERT
Operations & Finance
Manager



DAVID SOUTHGATE
Senior Research Associate



NADINE THOMPSON
Program Manager

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022)

TOTAL ASSETS

\$18,195,112

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$126,662

TOTAL NET ASSETS

\$18,068,450

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$675,725

TOTAL CHANGE IN ASSETS

(\$3,561,602)

NET ASSETS (BEGINNING OF YEAR): \$21,630,052

NET ASSETS (END OF YEAR): \$18,068,450

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS: \$20,240,862

OUR MISSION

TO ENHANCE LIBERTY AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL PEOPLE THROUGH RESEARCH, OUTREACH, AND COMMUNITY-LEVEL INTERVENTIONS THAT INTEGRATE CONCERNS FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE; POVERTY; AND GOVERNMENT GRANTED PRIVILEGES.

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WAYS TO ENGAGE

YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMATIC EFFORTS BY CONTACTING STEPHANIE CULLINS, OUR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR TO DISCUSS MAJOR GIFT OPPORTUNITIES AT SCULLINS@SCHALKENBACH.ORG.



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