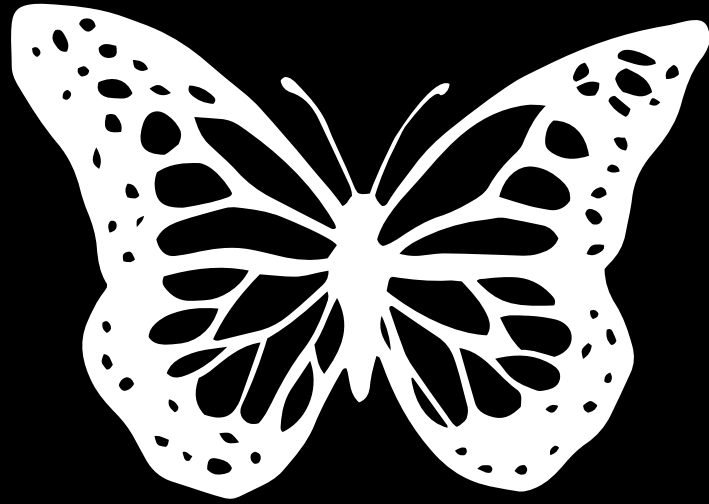


2021-2022 Report



PA'LANTE

Transformative Justice





HAVE YOU HEARD?

This spring, Pa'lante went through some transformational changes! We became our own fiscally-sponsored organization, moved into our beautiful new community-based space and laid the groundwork for a Youth Leadership Hub in downtown Holyoke.

We continue to partner with the public schools, with one full-time Pa'lante staff based at Holyoke High offering student-led indigenous circle practice to support students through conflict, trauma and grief.

In fact, despite all of the changes this year, **we engaged over 400 students in circles and other interventions and prevented 281 days of suspension!**

Our leadership development and community organizing work is now based where it belongs – in the community!

Re-imagining Pa'lante Outside of the Schools

From March through June, we worked with the Stoke Collective to do a deep dive into strategic planning with students, alumni, community advisory board members and staff to reimagine who we are outside of the schools.

We are thrilled to share our new Mission, Vision and Values via the beautiful artwork that follows!

PA'LANTE History

VISION
PA'LANTE ENVISIONS A WORLD WHERE YOUTH USE THEIR INHERENT POWER TO CREATE STRONG, HEALTHY, INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITIES FREE FROM OPPRESSION AND INJUSTICE.

2012 - 2013: Teacher/counselor group forms to address soaring suspension rates at Holyoke High School (HHS)

2013 - 2014: Pilot Restorative Justice project trains 17 teachers to implement RJ in classrooms and envision whole-school RJ.

2014 - 2015: Pilot RJ project introduces HHS to Circle Practice via teacher training and student advisories.

2015 - 2016: Pa'lante Restorative Justice is born! Teacher advocacy continues.

2016 - 2017: Regional recognition as a leader in RJ in schools. In-house suspension room transformed into Student Support Room.

2017 - 2018: "Racism Audit" at HHS highlights layers of systemic racism at HHS. Racism Audit

2018 - 2019: Anti-violence campaign music video goes viral. Alumni Fellowship Program launches!

2019 - 2020: Successful first Black Lives Matter at Schools regional event

2020 - 2021: Five Alumni Fellows support students during the pandemic. Cash grants distributed to impacted students and families. Organized to stop a proposed Random Search policy from going into effect. Ethnic Studies for All! Campaign demands curriculum that represents Holyoke students.

2021 - 2023: Pa'lante becomes its own organization separate from the Holyoke Public Schools. Partnership with schools allow students continued access to school-based supports. Pa'lante prevents nearly 300 suspension days through restorative/transformational interventions. Pa'lante reintroduced as 'Pa'lante Transformative Justice' with new mission, vision and values.



OUR VALUES

Youth Leadership

We believe in young people’s inherent wisdom and power, and in their capacity to envision and create the conditions they need to thrive. We value intergenerational solidarity, sharing power, and supporting youth to lead in every aspect of the organization.

Healing

We strive to create a culture of healing and transformation for ourselves, our communities, our ancestors and future generations. We center accountability as we strive to repair, heal and transform both interpersonal and systemic harm.

Justice

We shift power to those most impacted by oppression, colonization, and the school to prison pipeline in our pursuit of justice. We uplift those pushed to the margins and address the root causes of suffering and harm in our communities.

Love

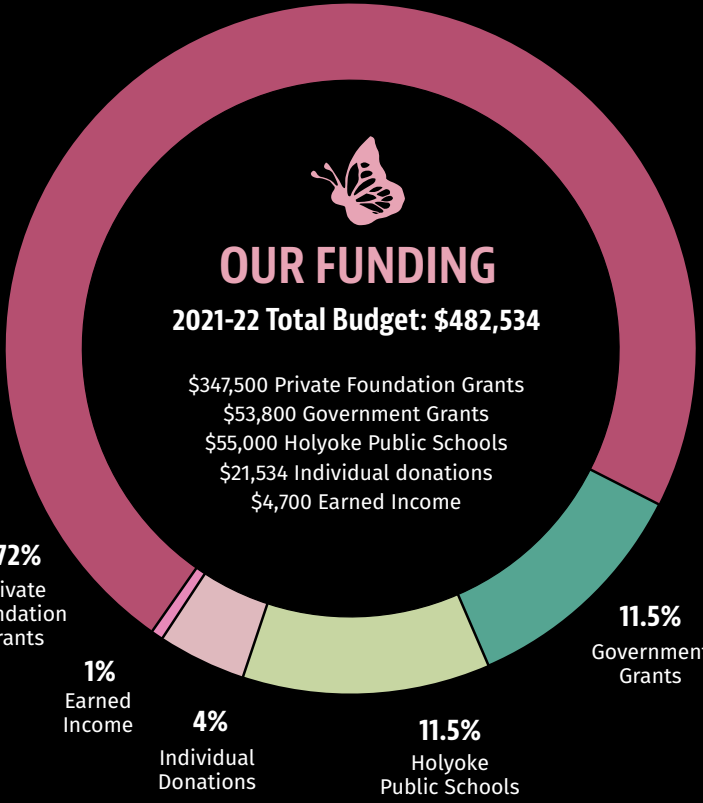
Love is at the heart of everything we do. Our work is driven by radical love for ourselves, our communities, and all young people. We center community care, authenticity, deep relationships, and a shared sense of belonging and home.

Honoring Native Languages

We honor our ancestors by speaking our native languages and embracing the history and culture they carry. We create accessible spaces that center marginalized languages, and encourage each other to offer translation and learn each others’ languages.

Joy/Fun

We reclaim joy and playfulness in a world that so often demands suffering and productivity. We play, laugh, and celebrate with a purpose - to learn, to heal, and to celebrate together.



Funders
 Nellie Mae Education Foundation, NoVo Foundation, Shannon Community Safety Initiative, Holyoke Public Schools, City of Holyoke Mayor's Office, MA Department of Public Health, Peace Development Fund, the Markham-Nathan Fund for Social Justice, Schott Foundation for Public Education, the TK Foundation/ Orange County Community Fund, The New Commonwealth Fund, the Burgess Urban Fund and many individual donors!
 Our fiscal sponsor is the Social Good Fund.

Staff
 Aleyx Bernard, RJ Coordinator
 Christopher "Domi" Lora, Senior Alumni Fellow
 Evelin Aquino, Assistant Director
 Katelynn Cruz, Operations Associate
 Luke Woodward, Director
 Sierra Stewart, Senior Alumni Fellow

Community Advisory Board
 Alina Torres, Alyzza Fontanez, Amy Bonilla, Aida Ortiz, Ariya Lawson, Danielle Hayes, Destiny Santiago, Iohann Vega, Jeyleen Troche, Jonathan Soto, Joseph Krupczynski, Lindsey Laub, Marco Jusino, Mishie Serrano, Richard Rodriguez

 **Connect with us!**

FB: RJPalante
Instagram: Palante_RJ
info@palanteholyoke.org
www.palanteholyoke.org