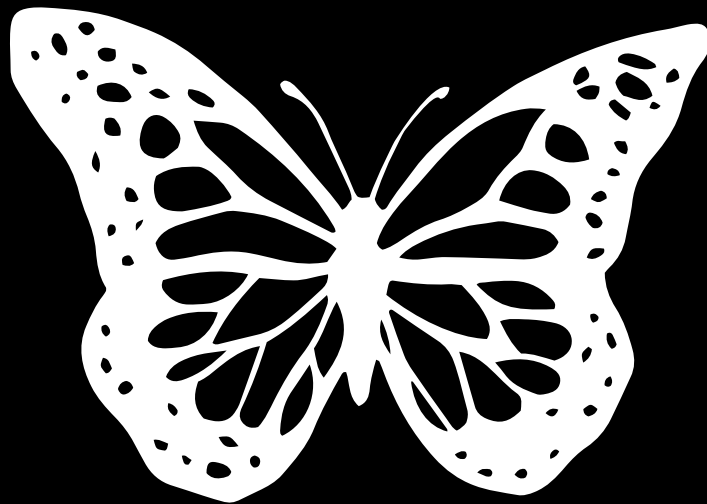


2022-2023 Report



PA'LANTE

Transformative Justice



OUR MISSION

Rooted in Holyoke, Pa'lante builds youth power to heal and transform interpersonal harm and systemic injustices.

"For me, Pa'lante means change. Pa'lante is a place where I can go where I am safe, where I can surround myself with positive people, and see the world in a different way."

— Isaias Rodriguez, age 18



WHAT WE DO

The basics of what we do are not changing even as we transform and expand!

Youth leaders use **indigenous circle practice** to support each other and their communities to address conflict and harm, grieve, solve problems, heal from trauma and oppression, as well as to celebrate victories.

In addition to hosting circles, Pa'lante youth design a **Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR)** project each year, where they engage in critical action research to address a problem that is relevant to their lived experience in Holyoke. Finally, Pa'lante gets involved in all kinds of other work relevant to our mission, especially when it connects to building youth leadership and power.

Pa'lante envisions a world where youth use their inherent power to create strong, healthy, intergenerational communities free from oppression and injustice.

Photos: During the summer program, Pa'lante's youth leaders develop their political analysis, deepen into circle practice, and build lasting, powerful relationships with one another.

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

We have had a very exciting year, as we transition from being only school based to establishing ourselves in the community. We opened our pilot Youth Leadership Hub in downtown Holyoke and opened our doors to youth five days a week.



Youth leaders and alumni staff laid a powerful foundation this year for our big move to our new building in Fall 2023!

Making big moves!

This year, we have been sharing a beautiful space with our friends at Lighthouse Holyoke. However, we have quickly outgrown it! After scouring the streets of Holyoke to find a new space, **we are thrilled to announce that we are in the final stages of purchasing a beautiful, 4500 square foot building only a half mile from Holyoke High at 220 Linden St.** We will soon begin renovations, and we plan to move in the late summer or early Fall of 2023! We also secured our official 501(c)3 nonprofit status from the IRS and will begin to operate as our own independent nonprofit on July 1, 2023!

Still Dismantling... Still Creating

For the last eight years, Pa'lante has worked to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline by working within schools to prevent school push out and build strong relationships and a sense of belonging at school. This year, Peer Leaders reimagined new ways to interrupt/dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline from our new position outside of schools. We are building partnerships so that we can receive referrals to divert youth out of the criminal legal system and into youth-led circles, leadership development, and community organizing.

Mindful Rage

As part of our Dismantling/Creating work, Peer Leaders decided to re-imagine an approach to court-assigned "anger management" that acknowledged the legitimate reasons we get angry. Pa'lante youth designed and hosted a six-week series of workshops inspired by the work of artists and activists who use their anger to create transformational change!



Connect with us!

FB: RJPalante

Instagram: Palante_TJ

info@palanteholyoke.org

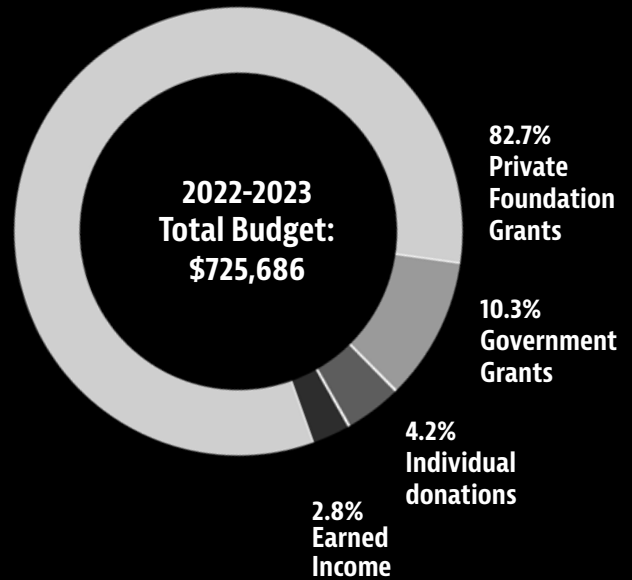
www.palanteholyoke.org



Youth leaders led trainings in transformative justice across the state, visited other youth organizing groups and made sure to spend time outside deepening our relationships.

OUR FUNDING

We nearly doubled our budget this year!



Funders

Nellie Mae Education Foundation, NoVo Foundation, Shannon Community Safety Initiative, MA Department of Public Health, MA Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Peace Development Fund, Schott Foundation for Public Education, The New Commonwealth Fund, the Burgess Urban Fund, Mount Pleasant Fund, the Visionary Freedom Fund and many individual donors! Our fiscal sponsor is the Social Good Fund through June 2022.

WHO WE ARE

Staff

- Alexy Bernard, Transformative Justice Coordinator
- Betty Medina, Interim Director of Administration
- Cristopher "Domi" Lora, Youth Leadership Coordinator
- Danielle Hayes, Interim Director of Youth Leadership and Organizing
- Katelynn Cruz, Operations Associate
- Luke Woodward, Executive Director
- Sierra Stewart, Youth Leadership Coordinator

Community Advisory Board

Alyzza Fontanez, Amy Bonilla, Ana Rodriguez, Ariya Lawson, Enid Ramos, Iohann Vega, Ariya Lawson, Evelin Aquino, Becca Neaubard, Destiny Santiago, Iohann Vega, Jeyleen Troche, Jo Kent Katz, Jonathan Soto, Justine Kim, Jariela Cruz-Caliz, Lindsey Laub, Marco Jusino, Maria Cartagena, Olivia McNeill, Romeo Romero Sigle.