TOO MANY CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS ARE UNDER-SUNG AND UNDER-RESOURCED. JUSTICEAID AIMS TO CHANGE THAT.

2021 IMPACT REPORT
JusticeAid leverages the community-building power of art and music to transform awareness into action in the fight against injustice.

Since 2013, JusticeAid has provided over $1.5 million to its grantee partners.
In 2013, a group of civil rights advocates and music lovers founded JusticeAid to use music and the arts to raise money for organizations fighting injustice and inequality. This year, in spite of the pandemic, JusticeAid raised $421,242 to combat racist policing, the highest dollar amount in our history.

Each year the JusticeAid Board of Directors identifies a pressing civil rights cause and a nonprofit deeply committed to correcting that injustice.

JusticeAid Board members and a circle of loyal donors cover all administrative and program costs so that 100% of every other donation goes directly to support our grantee partners.

In 2021, our concerts featured emerging and Grammy Award-winning artists, all of whom share our passion for justice. We also produced live and virtual educational programs with nationally recognized thought leaders who raised awareness about racist policing and the complexities of public safety.

When JusticeAid’s board of directors chose racist policing as our focus of 2021, it was in the wake of widespread civil unrest across the U.S., sparked by the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. His murder laid bare what Black and Brown communities have always known—that the police routinely, unjustifiably, and systematically brutalize minority communities. Mr. Floyd’s death may have ignited the flames of protest, but his murder was not the first, nor sadly, the last.

Following a rigorous review, we selected Neighborhood Defender Service (NDS) as our 2021 grantee partner for the work it is doing to reimagine public safety.

NDS is a pioneering national public defender office with three decades of experience in holistic defense representation in Harlem and Detroit. Its new Police Accountability/Community Empowerment (PACE) program aims to help individuals and communities secure their futures by addressing the police misconduct that marginalizes and oppresses them. PACE is reckoning with police impunity and over policing, and working to reshape policy in ways that build community power and wealth. As a result of the money raised by JusticeAid, NDS will be able to expand PACE into new communities across the country.

"NDS PACE is a reality because of our partnership with JusticeAid in 2021."

—RICK JONES
Executive Director, Neighborhood Defender Service; Changemaker; Public Defense Innovator; Founder, NDS PACE

2021 was a record-setting year, with $421,242 raised for NDS PACE!
Music and social justice are inextricably linked in American history, and in 2021 the two converged once more through the community-building power of JusticeAid's arts and education programming.

PUBLIC FORUM
JusticeAid partnered once again with the Riverside Church of New York for our 2021 Spring Forum, “Safety for Whom? Racist Policing in Communities and Schools.” The virtual discussion introduced our grantee partner, NDS PACE, and featured Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; US Rep. Cori Bush (MO-01); Prof. Angela J. Davis, American University Washington College of Law; Rick Jones, Executive Director, NDS PACE; Prof. Kristin Nicole Henning, Georgetown Law; Sally Lee, Executive Director, Teachers Unite. The audiences enjoyed performances by The Resistance Revival Chorus and jazz pianist and organist Matthew Whitaker.

Watch the virtual program, “Safety For Whom: Racist Policing in Communities and Schools” at bit.ly/3HZPm6u

ROBERT GLASPER & FRIENDS
While we couldn’t be together in person for our 2021 Spring Concert, we were delighted to produce a custom performance taped live at the Miracle Theater in Los Angeles. Multi-Grammy Award-winning keyboardist Robert Glasper is one of the founders of a new sound that has changed the face of a genre. Performing with him were multi-instrumentalist Terrace Martin and trumpeter Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah, with bassist Ben Williams, drummer Justin Tyson, and DJ Jahi Sundance.
PUBLIC FORUM

Music and social justice are inextricably linked in American history, and in 2021 the two converged once more through the community-building power of JusticeAid’s arts and education programming.

On the afternoon of the Fall Concert, JusticeAid hosted an author talk at Busboys and Poets with Kristin Henning about her new book, The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth. The conversation, moderated by Prof. Angela J. Davis, focused on race and the juvenile justice system—a subject aligned with JusticeAid’s 2021 theme. Watch the author talk at bit.ly/3rgJmAp

Mavis Staples

At Washington DC’S famed Lincoln Theatre, hundreds of music fans were treated to a performance by one of America’s national artistic treasures, Mavis Staples. Her soulful growl has entranced listeners and affected social change for more than half a century. Joining Mavis and her band was special guest, singer-songwriter Amy Helm, who lit up the house with her energy and vocal power.

“Racism and discrimination distort normal adolescent behaviors into crime and deviance among Black youth and deny them the grace and tolerance that society extends to their peers.”

—KRIS HENNING, GEORGETOWN LAW PROFESSOR

Author Talk

Kris Henning

On the afternoon of the Fall Concert, JusticeAid hosted an author talk at Busboys and Poets with Kristin Henning about her new book, The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth. The conversation, moderated by Prof. Angela J. Davis, focused on race and the juvenile justice system—a subject aligned with JusticeAid’s 2021 theme. Watch the author talk at bit.ly/3rgJmAp

Special Thanks

to Absolutely Live Entertainment, Danny Melnick; Audio Alchemy, Dave Smith; Bravedog Productions, Ray Conley; C-Squared, Rick Brotman; Day One Pictures; Evy Mages Photography; Pamela Garlick Communications; Stephanie Herndon, Director of Operations and Scheduling for Rep. Cori Bush; IVPR, Maria Ivey; KT World Communications, Katie Marinello; The Lincoln Theatre; Juan Martinez, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer, LDF; The Miracle Theatre; the staff at NDS; The Riverside Church of New York
MANY THANKS TO OUR 2021 CONCERT SPONSORS

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Gifts through October 2021 from the following supporters are helping to expand the NDS Police Accountability/Community Empowerment program. Thank you!

JusticeAid was recognized by Guidestar in 2021.
We’re excited to announce our focus on protecting civil rights for LGBTQ Youth, and our 2022 Grantee Partner, SMYAL.

SMYAL (Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders) is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit that builds, sustains, and advocates for programs, policies, and services that LGBTQ youth need as they grow into adulthood.
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Alison Wylegala and Steve Lewis

In 2022, make a pledge to help LGBTQ youth reach for a brighter, safer, and healthier future.

2022 EVENTS + PROGRAMMING
PUBLIC FORUMS
April 7 and May 15, 2022
Free educational events hosted by ClassActHR’73 and in partnership with The Riverside Church of New York

SPRING CONCERT
May 16 2022
City Winery, NYC

FALL CONCERT
Oct. 11 2022
City Winery, NYC

LGBTQ QUEER ARTS+ARTISTS
Films, readings, and artworks of interest to LGBTQ youth, adults, and allies, updated monthly at justiceaid.org
TRUSTED VOICES
Stacey Abrams
Fair Fight
Fair Count
(D-MO)
Kristen Clarke
Assistant Attorney
General for Civil
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Gina Clayton
Essie Justice
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Prof. Angela J. Davis
Washington School
of Law
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Bari Koral
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Resistance
Revival Chorus
Los Lobos
Terrace Martin
Leyla McCalla
Tom Morello
The Morrison
Brothers Band
Ivan Neville
Ozomatli
Paine the Poet
Pants Velour
Martha Redbone
Mary Ann
Redmond
Zack Feinberg
& David Shaw
of The Revivalists
Carrie Rodriguez
The Roots of Music
Cécile McLorin
Salvant
Somi
Kandace Springs
Trombone Shorty
Mavis Staples
Trouble Funk
Matthew Whitaker
Dr. Michael White
& His Original
Liberty Jazz Band
Dar Williams

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