

SAN FRANCISCO

RISING Impact Report 2023



Letter from our Executive Director

Dear community,

This has been a momentous year for San Francisco Rising. This year, we experienced many transitions including the transition of Emily Lee from Co-director to Strategic Advisor, my own transition from Co-director to Executive Director, and of our Lead Student Organizer, Alex Lalama, to leadership. As we make space for new leaders in our organization, we're also able to grow our capacity and reach. This year, we had our first ever 5 month-long Student Rising Fellowship, held 2 civic engagement programs to talk to San Francisco voters about critical issues like affordable housing and progressive taxation, and brought together our alliance to fight for a People's Budget.

As you look through this impact report, you'll see these and many other accomplishments we've made this year, which has been particularly important since this year has been a training and preparation ground for 2024. Next year will be a huge opportunity for our communities to achieve the future we all want: One where everyone has a voice in our democracy, one where college is free and accessible for anyone who wants to continue their higher education, and one where we can address public safety in humane, compassionate, evidence-based approaches that don't further harm marginalized communities.

We know that when we come together, educate voters, and ensure they have what they need to feel empowered to vote, we can win change that lifts up working-class communities and communities of color.

That being said, next year will bring a lot of challenges as well and we'll need the support of all of us. Please join our efforts to win what our communities need next year by [donating to SF Rising](#), [signing up to be a volunteer](#), or [staying in the loop](#) with our efforts.

I'm excited for you to take a deeper look at what we've been up to in 2023 and to see you on the doors in 2024!

In solidarity,
Celi Tamayo-Lee



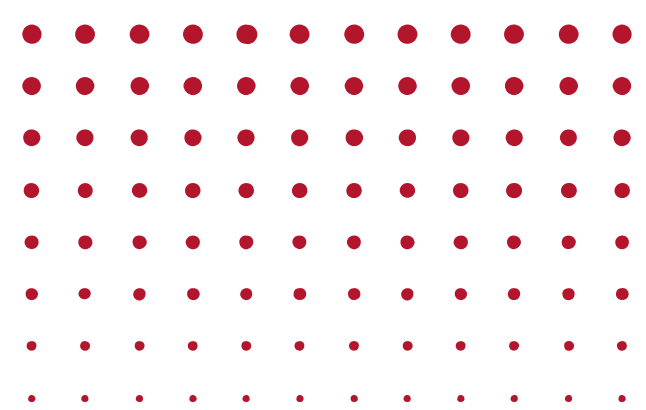
Celi Tamayo-Lee
Executive Director

2023 By The Numbers

- **181** people registered to vote
- **7,700+** conversations had with voters at the doors and on the phones
- **3,900+** textbanking messages sent
- **450** students in the Bay Area given political education about the student debt crisis
- **71** new volunteers engaged
- Over **\$10.5M** secured through the budget advocacy process from the city of San Francisco for programs that affect working-class & BIPOC communities



About SF Rising



Our Mission

San Francisco Rising builds the political power of working-class communities and communities of color in San Francisco to lead the way for a government that centers racial, economic and environmental justice. We are an alliance of grassroots organizations led by people of color, and a political home for San Franciscans who care about justice and sustainability. We build power through deepening multiracial solidarity, educating and mobilizing voters, working closely with policy makers, organizing, and developing leaders of color.

Our Impact

Win political representation and lasting political power of SF working-class people and communities of color.

Be a political home for San Franciscans fighting for racial, economic, and environmental justice.

Win policies that do right by communities of color and working families, replacing lip service and token acts.

Practice co-governance that brings community leaders & elected officials together to move an agenda that advances equity, justice, & sustainability.



History & Theory of Change

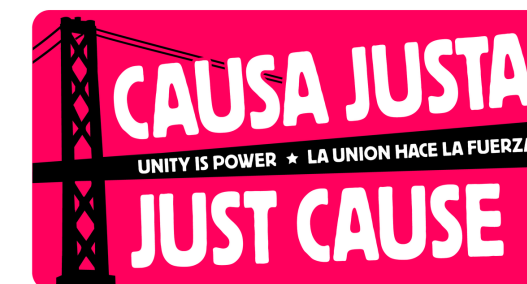
SF Rising was founded in 2009 by a group of organizers from long-standing community organizations that realized San Francisco city government was not working in the interest of its communities – particularly low-income communities, immigrant communities, and communities of color. By tapping and supporting those in communities often labeled as ‘unlikely’ or ‘moderately-likely voters’ by traditional campaigns, we believe they can have an impact on city legislation and leadership.

Theory of Change



SF Rising Alliance Organizations

SF Rising's alliance organizations are community-embedded organizations around San Francisco that provide basic services, put on events, and organize their communities. Because the alliance meets frequently, alliance members have the opportunity to hear what is going on in other communities around the city and support and organize together for collective change.



Our Volunteers



Collective efforts by our volunteers are crucial to the fight for civic justice. We welcome volunteers of all ages and walks of life, and offer many different ways to get involved. Volunteers **engage our collective community** by registering voters, handing out voting informational materials, knocking on doors, phone and text banking, and offering political education at their schools.

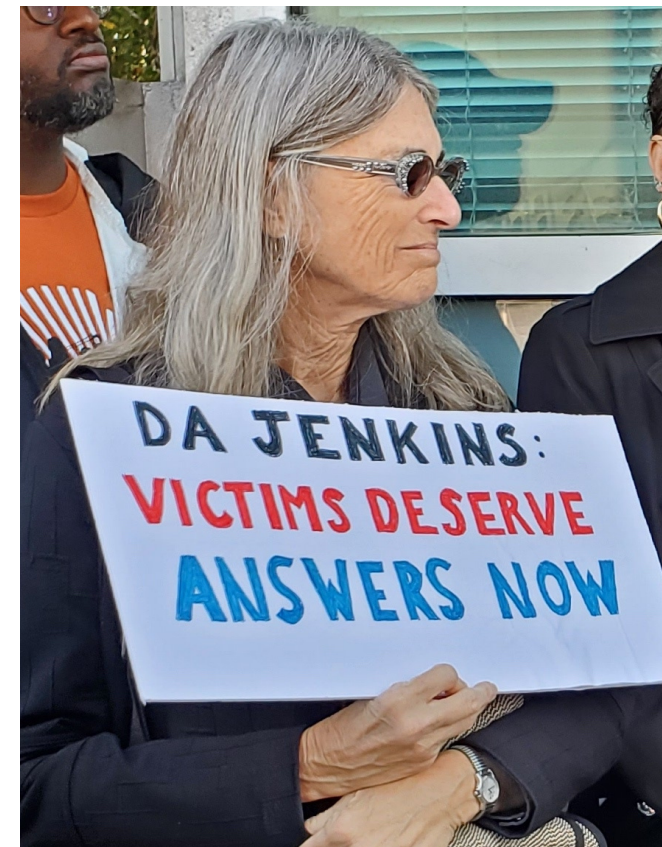
Volunteers are also essential to **engaging our local government** and representatives, advocating for budget and criminal justice reform through letter writing, rallies, and outreach to other community members about these issues.

SF Rising is always looking for new volunteers willing to fight for our working-class communities and communities of color to get what we need to thrive. **Join us** by signing up to [be a volunteer today!](#)



In 2023, we welcomed **71 new volunteers!** A special shoutout to volunteers Mimi Klausner, Joyce Nakamura, Maie Abed, Gena Bullio, Tes Welborn, Sam Anderson, and Connor Kelley who dedicated much of their time to support our organization and collective vision.

"I fully support SF Rising's mission of increasing the political and economic power of SF's working class and communities of color. The staff have been so welcoming and appreciative of my work; it just has a really good vibe."
-- **Mimi Klausner**, SF Rising volunteer



"I had always been interested in social justice and organizing and wanted to find a way to get involved locally. Little did I realize the profound impact volunteering for SF Rising would have on my life; from learning to voice my opinions confidently to finding community and learning technical details about our justice system"

-- **Gena Bullio**, SF Rising volunteer

Read more on our [blog](#).

Key Programs

Civic Engagement

SF Rising works to engage voters not just during election time but year round through an Integrated Voter Engagement strategy. To enact long-term change, SF Rising develops skills of canvassers to be in conversation with voters around issues that impact working-class communities and people of color in the City. Voter education is particularly important because of the broad range of communities that SF Rising organizes with. Although many may not be eligible to vote, and many are hampered by inaccessible information, they can still make their voices and needs heard to elected officials, organizations, and governing bodies.

In 2023, despite being a non-election year, we registered **181 voters**, and handed out over **1,000 voting materials**.

In addition to voter registration, SF Rising runs several types of civic engagement programs every year. During non-election years, SF Rising uses the opportunity to get communities engaged around issues that they care about and prepare them for the future elections. In 2023, through a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations called California Calls, SF Rising ran two civic engagement programs on the topics of affordable housing and progressive taxation. Throughout the duration of these programs, our canvassers and volunteers helped us **knock on 13,374 doors** and **make 13,710 phone calls**, resulting in **1,923 conversations on the doors** and **5,858 conversations over the phone**!



Key Programs

Budget Advocacy

The 2023 budget cycle was an illuminating example of alliance organizations standing together for a unified front. SF Rising and its alliance members work to build substantial political unity and boots on the ground to put the needs of communities of color front and center inside City Hall and during every election.

The police budget was proposed to increase by several million amidst ongoing police violence controversy and low standards for accountability. Meanwhile, food security programs, tenant rights programs, and community garden budgets were being significantly reduced if not eliminated. SF Rising created space and strategy for alliance organizations including the Filipino Community Center, Chinese Progressive Association, PODER (People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Justice), and Dolores Street Community Services to share their respective priorities and stories for this upcoming budget cycle.

We organized rallies and press conferences over the month of June which culminated on Public Comment Day on June 26th. We created content and visuals that highlighted the importance of continued funding for community programs and recommended where that funding could be reallocated from. On Final Deliberations Day, June 28th, SF Rising alliance organizations camped out together at City Hall for well over 12 hours to share information, discuss strategy, and support each other while awaiting updates on budget negotiations.

Overall, the collective effort of SF Rising, alliance organizations, and volunteers was a success, saving over **\$10 million*** from the next two years of city budgets. Highlighted achievements include that the Chinese Progressive Association was able to restore all funding cuts from the Mayor's proposal through the Board of Supervisors' Addback process. This included **\$4.8 million per year to the SRO Collaborative** and code enforcement outreach for two years, **\$115 thousand for Sisterhood Gardens** for one year, and **\$400 thousand per year for the Workers Rights Community Collaborative** for 2 years.

*Unfortunately, during the Mayor's December budget update, our budget add-backs were cut in addition to other programming, garnering an overall loss of more than \$20 million.



Key Programs

Criminal Justice Reform

This year, SF Rising was proud to be a part of the Restorative Justice Learning Community, joining six other organizations in better understanding how to implement **restorative justice** in our workplaces and communities to address harm, rather than punitive measures that often negatively impact people with marginalized identities.

We functioned as the anchor organization for the **San Francisco Restorative Justice Learning Community**, offering stipends to participants to attend trainings that covered topics like community building circles, restorative approaches to harm, and ecosystems of healing. In addition to recruiting people to and organizing training logistics, we also offered technical assistance for people who wanted to help implement restorative justice practices. There were a handful of events that people held based on what they learned in the trainings, including a series of “Carne Asadas,” or barbeques, where community members came together for healing.

SF Rising also collaborated with the ACLU of Northern California and the DA Accountability Alliance to lead a **district attorney and police accountability** campaign in the case of **Sean Moore** who was murdered by SFPD police officer Kenneth Cha. We provided direct support to the family of Sean Moore as they dealt with the case dragging on through deliberate delays by District Attorney Brooke Jenkins in court. In an op-ed published in the SF Chronicle, Mrs. Moore, Sean Moore’s mother, wrote, *“Families who have lost loved ones at the hands of police are also victims of violence. We deserve basic respect, common courtesy and support. I have had none of that from Jenkins or her staff in charge of this case.”*

We informed community members and allies about the status of this case, prompted them to send in letters to the DA, and recruited both community members and the press to turn out to the court hearings, garnering media attention on an otherwise low-visibility case. We also held a **community solidarity gathering for people** to hear directly from Sean Moore’s family, learn more about Sean’s life, and how they could join the fight for justice for Sean Moore.

Despite this work with many other partners to hold both the DA and SFPD accountable when they break the law and commit violence on civilians, DA Jenkins dropped the charges against SFPD officer Kenneth Cha for the murder of Sean Moore. The movement for police accountability must continue and center the voices of those most harmed.



“In my mind, SF Rising has been the engine and heart of RJ community members coming together. SF Rising was the only presence that brought Healing Justice Initiative grantees together. Otherwise grantees would do their work in silos and never have connected.”

-- **Sandra Rodriguez**, former Senior Program Specialist at Impact Justice

Key Programs

Student Organizing

SF Rising began organizing with students at San Francisco State University, City College of San Francisco, and University of San Francisco in 2017. We engaged students by registering them to vote, tabling at campus events, and through grassroots organizing. Now, we have a growing base of student organizers who organize other students around issues like student debt cancellation and free college for all. We support student organizers with workshops and trainings to build up the relevant skills in organizing and to explore ways to address the issues impacting their communities. In March, we finalized our strategic planning process to shape the future of our student organizing, with an eye towards building student power and win free college for all.

SF Rising also holds a **Student Rising Fellowship**, which focuses on creating space for working-class, queer, Black, Indigenous, and other students of color to lead, build community with other college students from across the Bay Area, and learn foundational organizing skills.

This year, our **14 Student Rising Fellows** and **5 Student Leads** organized a successful end-of-summer teach-in, providing political education around issues like student debt to **45 students and community members**. In April, SF Rising student organizers at the University of San Francisco organized a **mass action** to call out the school administration for raising tuition all while students struggle with unlivable housing conditions and unacceptable cafeteria food quality. Student organizers in the USF Initiative also surveyed over **500 students** to learn how financial obligations from tuition impact their general well-being. SF Rising student organizers continue to make big waves in their fight for more accessible higher education for everyone.



"I felt embraced by the community - SF Rising was a place to grow not just as an organizer but as a human being. It's much more than a fellowship, it's another community and family"

-- **Sharon Song**, former Student Fellow

"I love how the fellowship experience is unique for each person, because SF Rising considers your skills and interests, and offers an experience based on that. After becoming a Student Rising Fellow, I actually changed my mind about what I wanted to do after college."

-- **Denzel Penullar**, former Student Fellow



Thank you to our amazing community of alliance organizations, volunteers, and supporters.

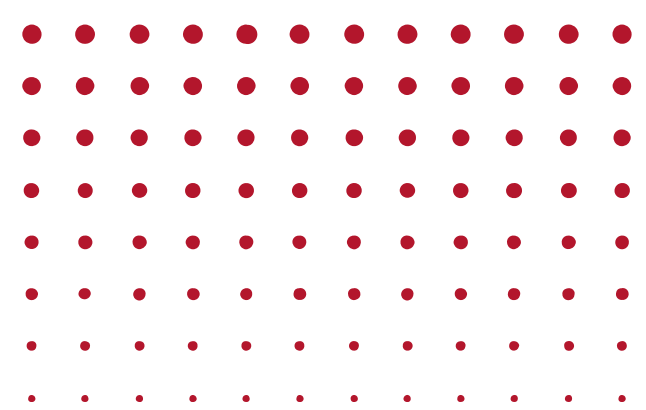
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A special thank you to our volunteers from Full Circle Fund for creating this Impact Report!

Appendix

About our Alliance Organizations



Chinese Progressive Association: Founded in 1972, the Chinese Progressive Association educates, organizes, and empowers the low-income and working-class immigrant Chinese community in San Francisco to build collective power with other oppressed communities to demand better living and working conditions and justice for all people. www.cpasf.org

Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth: Founded in 1975, Coleman Advocates believes that all children and families deserve access to high-quality education, living wage jobs, family-supporting benefits, affordable housing, and a voice at the decision-making table. Coleman currently focuses on building more effective, equitable, and supportive public schools in San Francisco and dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline. www.colemanadvocates.org

Causa Justa/Just Cause: Founded in 2010 as a merger of two organizations fighting for tenant rights, immigrant rights, and more, CJC builds grassroots power and leadership to create strong, equitable communities. They are challenging displacement and gentrification by growing coalitions and campaigns that confront corporate development with strategic community demands that serve the people. www.cjic.org

Filipino Community Center: Founded in 2004, the Filipino Community Center is dedicated to providing a safe space where Filipino families can access services, receive support, and build community. They foster and develop community empowerment, grassroots leadership, advocacy, and organizing to address the immediate and long-term issues of their communities locally, and in the Philippines. www.filipinocc.org

Mujeres Unidas y Activas (United and Active Women): Founded in 1990, Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA) is an organization of Latina and Indigenous immigrant women with the mission of growing their personal and community power to achieve social and economic justice. Fostering personal transformation and civic-political participation go hand in hand. www.mujeresunidas.net

PODER (People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Justice): Founded in 1991, PODER's mission is to organize with Latino immigrant families and youth to put into practice people-powered solutions that are locally based, community-led, and environmentally just. They nurture everyday people's leadership, regenerate culture, and build community power. www.podersf.org

SOMCAN (South of Market Action Network): Founded in 2000, SOMCAN is a multi-issue and multi-strategy organization that nurtures the lives of youth, families, individuals, and workers. They work on a wide range of issues—from tenant rights to community planning to Filipino language access to workers' rights—and provide culturally competent direct services ranging from tenant counseling to family support to youth empowerment to employment. www.somcan.org

Dolores Street Community Services: Founded in 1982, Dolores Street Community Services nurtures individual wellness and cultivates collective power among low-income and immigrant communities to create a more just society. www.dscs.org