



Crossing the Threshold

2016 Annual Report





Threshold noun

1. strip of wood, metal, or stone forming the bottom of a doorway and crossed in entering a house or room
2. a point of entry or beginning
3. the oldest progressive donor network in the U.S.



MISSION STATEMENT

Wealth as an Instrument of Change

The Threshold Foundation is a community of individuals united by our commitment to create a just, joyful, and generative world.

For more than three decades, Threshold has been a catalyst for social and environmental change by seeding hundreds of nascent organizations, and by supporting the inception of multiple donor networks and socially responsible businesses throughout the world.

We are a multi-generational membership organization devoted to aligning our resources with our values while fostering a fertile training ground for the full and authentic expression of our passions and purpose.

Who is Threshold?

The Threshold Foundation is made of passionate members, shared social justice values, and participatory grantmaking.



Membership

in the last three years

- 304 members
- age range of 64 years
- 8 countries
- 30 States in U.S.
- 51 new members



Grantmaking

- \$1.68M granted
- 5 major issue areas
- \$44M+ since inception
- 1,800+ organizations benefitted



Committees

10 committees of self-selecting members that nourish different aspects of the network such as membership, conference agendas, investments, kids, and youth programs.



Gatherings

2 member gatherings with 170+ members focusing on race, class, power, and immigration, among other topics.



Community

- Oldest progressive donor network in the country
- Conscious, responsible, and adaptive philanthropy
- Exploring personal connections to wealth





“We are looking to the next few years with energy and fire to charge through the headwinds, knowing that we will learn more about ourselves and community in the process.”

Letter from the President

What a year 2016 has been for our community, for this country, for the world. I feel in many ways we reached some of our highest highs while also hitting our lowest low. With the outcome of our Presidential Election, everything seems to have changed. How we look at the world. How we listen to others. How we learn. How we heal. How we move forward.

Reflecting on the past year, Threshold indeed did center the topics and themes that felt urgent and relevant for the cultural and political climate—trying to better understand and change ourselves so that we could be better agents of change in the world. Ultimately, some of these efforts fell short. But Threshold is an organization that wholeheartedly embraces and seeks



challenge, and we are looking to the next few years with energy and fire to charge through the headwinds, knowing that we will learn more about ourselves and community in the process.

So while our meetings explored different issues and took place in unique settings, community is and has been the real through line that ties Threshold together—since our founding in 1981, in 2016, and for many more years to come. The itinerant nature of our network enables Threshold members to step out of their comfort zones to learn and play with new and unexpected partners. It also allows us to turn inward, welcoming others or even just ourselves, to reflect and meditate in a safe space—our community, our home.

As we drop in and out of our community gatherings, we enter and exit our home. Each time we cross the threshold we carry with us new tools, information, and inspiration—whether we

are coming or going. Each time we better understand what is essential, our mission and our values, and what we may leave behind. Now, more than ever, we must continue to journey outward and also reflect inward to find a way forward holding the vision of a more just, joyful, and generative world as a torch.

Onward,

Terrence Meck
President



Community Gatherings: From Austin to Denmark



Progressive philanthropy takes on not just many functions, but also many forms. At Threshold Foundation, we see our community as the central driving force behind our grantmaking work, creating an environment where giving is not just an ideological and financial decision, but an experience that impacts community members—helping them be challenged, grow, and connect.



Community Gatherings provide the opportunity for members to strengthen both their grantmaking, and the personal connections that help them grow as people and grantmakers.

As a community, Threshold members meet in-person twice a year to examine social and environmental justice themes and movements, reflect on their role in relationship to the issues, and inspire each other to become fully engaged in pursuing a more just, joyful, and better world. Community Gatherings provide the opportunity for members to strengthen

both their grantmaking, and the personal connections that help them grow as people and agents of change.

2016 was a year of deep reflection for many across the country and the world. Equity, power, and identity were central to the two Gatherings, and the sites played more than a backdrop to the issues discussed.

In the winter, members met in Austin, Texas to explore the intersection of race, class, privilege, and money, and how they show up in our own lives, culture, and society. Through embodied work and frank conversations, members deepened their alignment of wealth with values through equitable practices.

“This was an opportunity to influence the rest of my children’s lives by meeting people of means who are exploring using their wealth to support positive change.”

—Threshold member



“I’m leaving with greater awareness about issues of power and privilege.”

—Threshold member

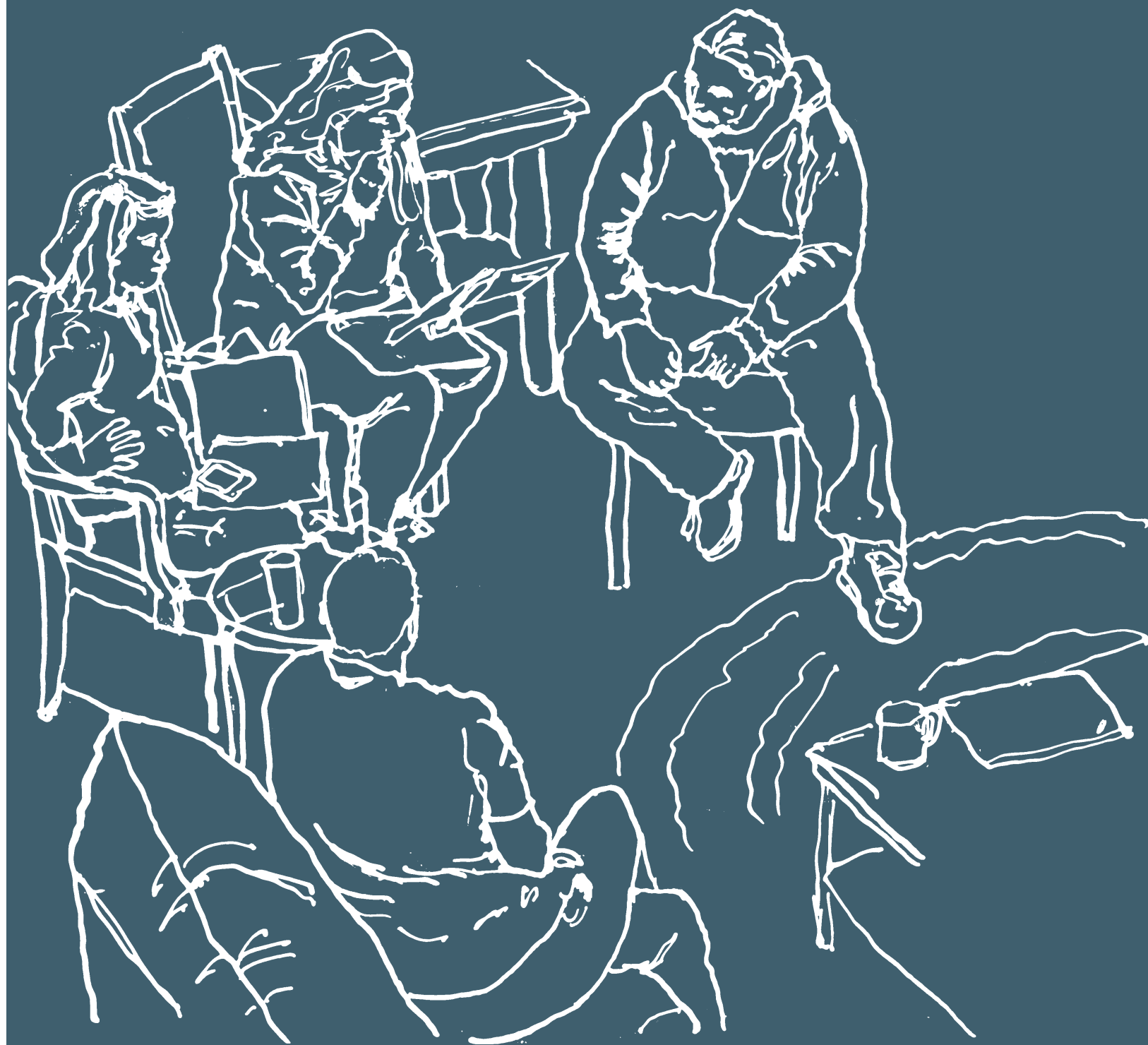
Over the summer, Threshold traveled to Denmark—learning about Danish culture, politics, and values. Starting in Copenhagen, the group traveled to a 17th century castle to dig deeper into the conversation started at the winter gathering. Against a setting symbolizing Northern European wealth and power, members explored the path for progress through the lens of money, socialism, and immigration. Threshold members met with asylum-seekers who welcomed the group and engaged them in rich dialogue about peace, power, and freedom.

These were newer concepts for some than for others, but the conversations members had were challenging for everyone—and purposefully so. Something happens when our worldview is stretched: our capacity to talk about the issues shifts, and we see our own thresholds and the circumstances under which they can move. This year’s Gatherings took on difficult topics knowing that growth happens precisely in these moments—and recognizing the ripple effect that these transformations can have not just personally, but across an entire community.



“I’m taking home a deeper sense of being at ease and peace with myself. I had a lot of meaningful connections and conversations, and heard a lot of honesty and wisdom in the circles and small groups.”

—Threshold member



Funding Circles: Step Inside Our Grantmaking

Threshold's grants program is structured through dedicated funding circles that focused on five core areas in 2016: Food and Farming, High Impact Documentary Films, Restorative Justice, Sustainable Planet, and Thriving Resilient Communities. Funding circles are a collaborative giving structure that enables Threshold members to direct the membership's dollars toward promising, transformational work, with the added bonus of creating relationships and accountability between volunteer funding circle members themselves, as well as with grantee partners.



FOOD AND FARMING

The Food and Farming Funding Circle is supporting innovative advocates who are working to shift agricultural paradigms.

In their own words

Our mission is to transition from destructive farming policies and practices towards a regenerative model of agriculture. We are regrowing food systems that respect the integrity, diversity, and resilience of communities and ecosystems.

We work collaboratively to change the discourse among funders and policymakers to bring about fundamental change. We do this by identifying projects that serve as acupuncture points to activate forces of life which transform our relationship with the natural world.

HIGH IMPACT DOCUMENTARY FILMS

The High Impact Documentary Films Funding Circle believes that stories, especially documentary films, have the power to create change and impact society.

In their own words

We are in a golden age of documentary films. Progressive issues are being exposed in powerful new ways, and through new distribution and marketing channels. Documentary filmmakers are filling the void left by a mainstream media that is unwilling or unable to take on important and controversial subjects.

Our funding circle funds documentaries that are addressing some of today's most pressing issues. By partnering with BRITDOCS, we are helping to not just give voice to these issues, but connect them with a plan of action that is powerful, innovative, and unexpected.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Restorative Justice Funding Circle is committed to dismantling mass criminalization through courageous, innovative, and envelope-pushing grantmaking.

In their own words

Our funding circle is guided by the principles of liberation, empowerment, restoration, and healing. We use a movement-building lens to support organizations working inside and outside of prison to protect the rights and humanity of the incarcerated, the formerly incarcerated, and those at-risk of incarceration, as well as their families and communities.

We fund organizations working within and for communities that are most directly impacted by mass criminalization at the national, regional, statewide, and local levels. We take risks, knowing that it will take both traditional organizing and innovative approaches to overhauling America's approach to criminal justice and abating mass criminalization.



SUSTAINABLE PLANET

The Sustainable Planet Funding Circle leverages its social and financial resources to address the drivers of climate change.

In their own words

We seek to protect and enhance life on the biosphere by supporting organizations that are fighting for environmental justice. We provide funding and collaborative opportunities to organizations to implement programs, activate communities, and effect policies to reduce or sequester carbon emissions.

Our funding circle supports small organizations, grassroots groups, indigenous and other marginalized people who are influencing policy; advocating for clean energy and natural habitat conservation; creating new models for a low carbon future; and building bridges between movements seeking environmental, social, and economic justice.



THRIVING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The Thriving Resilient Communities Funding Circle funds projects that build collective wisdom, map the field, and foster best practices and leading edge work in community resilience in the U.S. and Canada.

In their own words

We believe in the power of grassroots regional and trans-local networks to shift larger-scale social change.

A thriving resilient community is sustainable, just, and compassionate: a place where the people can respond to any challenge and thrive in the process. Resilience is based in the understanding that community systems for the way we live, eat, breath, govern, and survive, are all interrelated aspects of the wellbeing of our community. Our funding circle is working to foster this whole-system perspective and lifting up the tools, stories, and leaders who are working to help communities grow into this holistic approach.



2016 Grantees

Food and Farming

- Berkeley Food Institute [↗](#) \$20,000
- Center for Food Safety [↗](#) \$30,000
- Civil Eats [↗](#) \$25,000
- Cultural Conservancy Sacred Land Foundation [↗](#) \$20,000
- Ecdysis Foundation [↗](#) \$30,000
- Fundación Semillas de Vida, A.C. [↗](#) \$40,000
- Greenhorns [↗](#) \$30,000
- Immediate Life Inc. [↗](#) \$13,000
- International Development Exchange [↗](#) \$30,000
- Savanna Institute [↗](#) \$30,000
- Sustainable Economies Law Center [↗](#) \$36,000
- Women, Food and Agriculture Network [↗](#) \$40,000

High Impact Documentary

- Big Sky Film Productions, Inc. / *Dark Money* [↗](#) \$16,300
- Low Key Pics / *The Bad Kids* [↗](#) \$25,000
- Open'hood / *The Force* [↗](#) \$25,000
- Requisite Media, LLC / *Rescue Breath* [↗](#) \$60,000
- Sustainable Markets Foundation / *Idiom (Hale Country This Morning, This Evening)* \$20,000
- Syria Campaign / *While Helmets* [↗](#) \$50,000
- Whose Streets? [↗](#) \$100,000

Restorative Justice

- American Indian Prison Project Working Group \$20,000

- Because Black is Still Beautiful \$20,000
- Black Organizing Project [↗](#) \$20,000
- East Point Peace Academy [↗](#) \$15,000
- Formerly Incarcerated & Convicted People and Families Movement [↗](#) \$20,000
- The Gathering for Justice [↗](#) \$35,000
- Impact Justice [↗](#) \$20,000
- Native Action \$29,000
- Native Generational Change [↗](#) \$29,000
- Root & Rebound [↗](#) \$29,000
- Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos [↗](#) \$20,000
- Silicon Valley De-Bug [↗](#) \$35,000

Sustainable Planet

- Amazon Watch [↗](#) \$25,000
- Bonobo Conservation Initiative [↗](#) \$49,000
- Center for Health, Environment and Justice [↗](#) \$23,800
- Chickaloon Village Traditional Council [↗](#) \$48,000
- Earthworks [↗](#) \$32,000
- Fondo Acción Solidaria, A.C. [↗](#) \$20,000
- Friends of the Earth [↗](#) \$26,000
- Gaia Amazonas [↗](#) \$46,000
- Georgia Strait Alliance [↗](#) \$26,000
- MN350 [↗](#) \$24,000
- New Energy Economy [↗](#) \$21,000
- Oregon Climate [↗](#) \$44,000
- Partnership for Policy Integrity Inc. [↗](#) \$26,000

- Taxpayers for Common Sense [↗](#) \$23,000
- Yansa Inc. [↗](#) \$20,000

Thriving Resilient Communities

- Boston Ujima Project [↗](#) \$23,700
- Cooperation Richmond [↗](#) \$39,200
- Daily Acts [↗](#) \$23,200
- Movement Generation [↗](#) \$32,500
- New Economy Coalition, Inc. [↗](#) \$8,200
- New England Grassroots Environment Fund [↗](#) \$18,200
- Thriving Resilient Communities Collaboratory [↗](#) \$20,900

Informal Grants

- Creative Visions Foundations [↗](#) \$21,240
- DreamRider Productions Society [↗](#) \$22,010
- Eyak Preservation Council [↗](#) \$27,200
- Healthy Climate Foundation [↗](#) \$17,300
- Plastic Pollution Coalition [↗](#) \$26,270
- Walking Water [↗](#) \$23,520
- Women's Earth and Climate Action Network [↗](#) \$22,030
- Yellow Seed [↗](#) \$18,670

Discretionary Grants

- Alma de Mujer [↗](#) \$2,100
- Columbia River Environmental & Economic Development \$2,210
- Global Fund for Women [↗](#) \$1,500

Threshold Foundation

Statements of Financial Position

(with summarized information for the years ended
December 31, 2015 and 2016)

Years Ended December 31,	2016	2015
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,192,898	\$ 1,135,564
Pledges receivable	36,820	17,335
Interest receivable	5,643	4,796
Other current assets	31,918	12,958
Deposits	40,000	75,800
Investments, at fair value	2,380,676	2,189,585
Program related investments	387,173	444,195
Intangible assets, net	27,147	51,442
Total assets	\$ 4,102,276	\$ 3,931,675
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 96	\$ 87
Grants payable	86,000	60,000
Deferred conference revenue	112,506	137,490
Refundable Deposits	186,571	–
Other Accrued Expense	600	–
Total liabilities	385,977	197,577
Net Assets		
Net assets	3,639,193	2,608,080
Net revenues over expenses	77,310	3,296,687
Total net assets	3,716,503	3,734,098
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 4,102,276	\$ 3,931,675

2016 figures from our financial audit.

Threshold Foundation

Statements of Activities

(with summarized information for the years ended
December 31, 2016)

Year Ended December 31,	2016
Revenues	
Contributions	\$ 1,756,833
Conference Fees	427,199
Membership Fees	290,380
Change in Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	123,607
Realized Gain/(Loss)	53,937
Interest and Dividends	48,008
Other income	147,988
Total support and revenue	2,847,953
Expenses	
Grants and Awards	1,736,050
Management Fees	369,601
Conferences, Events, & Affiliated Expenses	289,551
Consulting & Contract Services	99,050
Depreciation – Website	33,044
Travel	22,194
Investment Fees	20,932
Administrative & Other Expenses	200,220
Total expenses	2,770,643
Excess (Deficit) of Revenue over Expense	77,310

Threshold Foundation Statements of Cash Flows

(with summarized information for the year ended December 31, 2016)

Years Ended December 31,	2016
Cash flows from operating activities	
Change in net assets	\$ 73,780
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to cash used in operating activities:	
Amortization	-
Net realized gains on investments	(52,506)
Net unrealized losses on investments	(120,970)
Contributed stock	-
Proceeds from the sale of contributed stock	-
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Pledges receivable	(19,485)
Interest receivable	(692)
Other current assets	16,190
Deposits	35,800
Accounts payable	(9)
Grants payable	26,000
Deferred conference revenue	(207,354)
Net cash provided by operating activities	(249,246)
Cash flows from investing activities	
Purchase of investments	(661,774)
Sales of investments	684,938
Website	-
Change in program related investments	55,000
Net cash provided by investing activities	78,164
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(171,081)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	1,117,748
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 946,667

These figures may be updated Fall 2017 upon completion of our financial audit.

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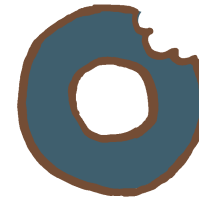
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