From the Director:

I often say, “Organizing gets the goods.” And, while the goods were got this year—we maintained crucial alliances and passed strong energy justice policy in the legislature—I’ve come to accept that the goods alone are not enough to maintain movements. Supporting frontline leadership and keeping our communities strong was harder in 2021 and 2020. Even as there were material victories, there was also heartbreak, exhaustion, and loneliness. We missed the real, deep relationship building that can be easier in person. We missed being on the buses with clipboards, sitting and standing right next to our community members.

While we felt the losses of the past years, we reaffirmed our vision of a tender future and committed to strengthening our foundations to keep our movement going. OPAL spent 2021 building and nurturing our internal structures and staff. We hired four new staff members, none of whom have been in the same room together, and invested in a two-part staff retreat where we bonded and learned from each other and our partners about grassroots feminism, combatting anti-Blackness, youth justice, and more. We also implemented OPAL’s first Collective Bargaining Agreement—learning together how to co-create new policies and practices. Our internal work was made possible by our strong historic partnerships with local organizations, funders, and community members and our new funder relationships.
Meanwhile, we kept at our bread and butter—keeping BRU! and YEJA meetings online, tuning in to legislative sessions via Zoom, and hiring researchers for a report on alternatives to policing coming out in 2022. One highlight was our annual Movement of Movements, which brought our community together for a night focused on the power of youth, the challenges our movement faces, and the need for real community investment.

Our communities continue to display leadership, imagination, and joy that we know is the basis for transformative organizing. We are determined to continue fighting for a robust and accessible transit system, and are excited to roll out updated versions of beloved leadership development programs that will continue to help develop the frontline community’s analysis and practical skills necessary to win big campaigns. We will all continue to fight for a transit system where we can all feel safe. With tenderness in our hearts, we think about how we can heal and soften together, even as we face tomorrow’s challenges.

I am grateful to be in the movement with so many amazing, passionate, skilled people.

In Unity,

HUY ONG
Executive Director

OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon builds power for environmental justice and civil rights in our communities.
OPAL's Financials

REVENUE

- **Government Grants**: 3.9% ($24,028)
- **Events**: 1% ($6,756)
- **In-Kind**: 0.2% ($1,389)
- **Grants**: 81.5% ($506,483)
- **Contributions**: 13.2% ($81,944)

EXPENSES

- **Administration**: 25.1% ($170,544)
- **Fundraising**: 16.9% ($114,994)
- **Organizing & Base Building**: 8.1% ($54,533)
- **Bus Riders Unite!**: 18.6% ($126,637)
- **Youth Environmental Justice Alliance**: 12.4% ($84,473)
- **Policy & Advocacy**: 7.1% ($48,138)
- **Narrative Strategy**: 11.8% ($79,820)