

Our mission is to challenge the concentration of wealth and power that corrupts democracy, deepens the racial divide and tears communities apart. We use popular economics education, trainings, and creative communications to support social movements working for a resilient, sustainable and equitable economy.

"Education is the first step in organizing and popular education methodology is at the core of our work for racial and economic justice."

- Jeannette Huezio,
UFE Executive Director

Popular education is a powerful tool for organizing for a fair economy.

Popular education promotes **critical thinking, dialogue and active participation** in the learning process.



Popular economics education engages people to learn how **the economy is structured to create inequities**. It provides a space for those most impacted by systems of oppression to **develop collective solutions**.

▶ Participants at UFE's Spring 2022 Training of Trainers (TOT) at the Avila Center, Durham NC.

Popular education **activates potential leaders** and motivates their commitment to organize. Therefore, it mobilizes more people **to take action** for economic and racial justice.

▶ Participants wearing headsets at UFE's spring TOT participate in simultaneous interpretation.

Popular education is **inclusive**. We model and embody the values of **language justice** in our popular education work through **simultaneous interpretation**.



UFE provides unique and sought-after support and training to help economic justice organizations and coalitions strengthen and grow.

UFE's **Popular Economics Education** curricula is available for free and used across the country. In 2022, we updated our "War and the Economy" curriculum and co-developed a new curriculum about addressing **anti-Blackness in the Latino community**.

Our **Healing for Liberation** work merges popular education, circle work and healing practices to help **sustain and nourish our movement spaces**. In 2022, UFE supported youth, community leaders, people impacted by incarceration, and union members, among others.

Our **Responsible Wealth (RW)** program helped build a coalition of organizations working to pass a federal **Billionaire Income Tax** and a **Millionaire Surcharge tax** on incomes over \$10 million in 2022.

Our **Inclusive Economy Project (IEP)** is facilitating and growing the **Raising Wages NC** coalition to increase the minimum wage in North Carolina. In 2022, our **Below the Line** video series highlighted worker stories through personal interviews.

▶ Participants bring personal items to share and put on the altar as part of healing work at our trainings.



▶ The amazing group of leaders and organizers at our September follow-up training about generative conflict at the Avila Center.

In 2022, we developed new partnerships, new offerings on conflict and healing, and hosted a record number of Trainings of Trainers.

Our national **Trainings of Trainers (TOTs)** focused on popular education, generative conflict and healing for liberation. TOTs at the Avila Center in NC and the Highlander Center in Tennessee reached 46 organizers. We also held **7 customized TOTs for partner groups** on facilitation, restorative justice, and more.

80 people attended **RW's Billionaire Income Tax** June symposium to discuss advocacy efforts to tax the rich. **15 speakers** from partner organizations and from Washington shared information and ways to get involved.

In partnership with Centro Unido Latino-Americano, we offered two multi-day **Liberating Minds** mental health retreats for 68 BIPOC young people in North Carolina, providing tools and support for youth organizing that launched an ongoing collective of youth organizations called **CHILL (Community Healing Initiative for Love and Liberation)**.

Our **Inclusive Economy Project Grassroots Organizing School of Alabama (GOSA)**, launched the a new **partnership with grassroots organizations** to provide popular education training and movement building support statewide.

▶ In October, our staff supported organizers from Alabama in Washington DC with healing circles as they organized people at the supreme court during the voting rights case *Merrill v. Milligan*.



▶ Young people at the Liberating Minds mental health retreat participated in team building activities.

FROM EDUCATION TO ACTION

Community-based Leaders Growing and Strengthening with UFE.

Ricky Grant, Jr., School administrator and life-long community and youth worker, Boston



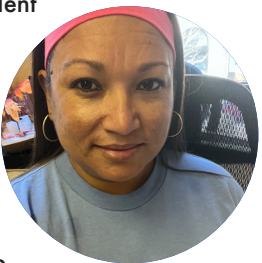
"In 2022, I attended a 4-day Training of Trainers at the Highlander Center in Tennessee. That was a tremendous experience. I learned so much, especially about **circle process**. **We're creating space where folks are listening to one another.** There's a real intentionality that everyone's going to be heard. I

picked up so much by watching the way Eroc (UFE staff) navigates with compassion. He has the emotional intelligence to be nimble, to take the temperature of a group and lead us accordingly. **That's something I've put in my tool belt as I facilitate.**

My takeaway is that UFE builds consciousness. A lot of us don't learn these skills or these ways of thinking about liberation and justice and social movement. I wish these practices were embedded from the moment that young kids go to school, across our faith practices and in the places we frequent socially. The world needs it. **I came back able to lead with more compassion, humanity, patience, and understanding.** That's how I want to show up in the world."

UFE's programs engage people in **building the movement** through popular education, healing justice, coalition building, partnerships and other transformative strategies. In 2022, UFE **impacted over 2,000 people across the country**, including many grassroots leaders. Most of our offerings were free to participants, many of whom were supported with scholarships, stipends, food, and childcare.

Enilda Lovo, Director, Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE)



"I'm a Salvadoran immigrant and resident of East Boston. More than a decade ago, I started as a volunteer at NUBE. **UFE and Jeannette Huevo have been a fundamental pillar for me.** I learned about how the system works for the few at the top and not for the majority, like the most vulnerable communities. I had the opportunity to attend my first workshop with UFE and **I fell in love with the popular education methodology that they use, because they include different components in their trainings, such as the economic functioning of capitalism, patriarchy, healing with justice and liberation.**

We implement small practices that we learned from UFE in our workshops with the community we serve – Latinx communities, immigrants, BIPOC residents.

UFE is so important and necessary for us in Massachusetts, in Boston, in my East Boston neighborhood, to continue implementing these practices and teachings of the realities on the local, state, national and international levels."

Jennifer Castillo, Co-Executive Director, The Resiliency Collaborative, Raleigh, NC



"**UFE has been a healing, grounding and visionary force** for The Resiliency Collaborative in 2022. We have been incredibly fortunate to work with and learn from Fernando (UFE staff) in particular, from **mental health retreats for BIPOC teens to restorative justice circles and workshops to be a facilitator.** After our students experienced a restorative justice circle at the summer mental health retreat, we all – adults and students – were incredibly appreciative of its power in **fostering community, restoring connection and resolving conflict.** I think the quotes from our high school students best capture the impact of UFE for our community:

"The most impactful thing I learned from the retreat was that it's important for us to hold circles **so everyone can speak without pointing the finger or judging others.** I feel like my peers should know the importance of circles and the sense of community because that's what everyone needs in their life. It holds a lot of value." (Youth Participant, Liberating Minds Healing Justice for Youth Retreat)"

Claudia Lainez, COPAL (Communities Organizing Latino Power and Action) Minneapolis, MN



"I went to North Carolina for UFE's Training of Trainers and when we arrived, UFE asked us to share in a circle to learn from our own experiences, and also learn from people we didn't know. **It was through this popular education methodology that we shared and connected with people of different cultures, languages and religion.**

Meeting in this circle allows us to share our experiences and we become stronger together to **continue working for the community** and for the future generations so they don't have to live what we have had to live.

These workshops have been of great help for my current job, since I was not only in a new position but also in a new place and working with a community with many needs. **I appreciate the space you give us to learn and heal in community!"**

How has UFE impacted you and your work?

Thank you for being part of our community and our collective work to build a society where all people have access to the opportunities and the resources they need to thrive. For UFE resources and updates, please visit www.faireconomy.org.

