

# WAYS TO WORK WITH THE OC

## FOUNDATIONS EDITION



*Participants at a planning retreat*

## OVERVIEW

The Organizing Center primarily supports movement organizations to strengthen their resilient base building practices through training, coaching and retreat facilitation. In addition to that work, we have engaged with movement funders to do the following:

- Support foundation staff to deepen their understanding of base building and how it differs from advocacy
- Facilitate planning and meaning-making retreats for foundations (often with their grantees)
- Facilitate cohorts that support foundation grantees to deepen their practices

More details can be found on the back of this page.

“As a movement funder, we were asked by our movement partners to convene a retreat of key BIPOC led organizations to update their assessment of the strengths and challenges of statewide organizing infrastructure. The OC worked closely with us to design and facilitate a 2-day retreat that enabled us to make sense of a mountain of data, assess local and national factors impacting our region, and ultimately create a roadmap for the next five years. They skillfully lead our team through some weighty topics in a way that also advanced our team dynamics. We were able to make significant breakthroughs in our work because of their support.

~ Lisa Owens, Executive Director, Hyams Foundation

*In-person workshop for grantees at a funder convening*



# EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK



## Planning Retreats

In an effort to be more responsive to the needs of grantees and more democratic in grant making, many foundations are bringing grantees into agenda-setting and decision-making processes. The Organizing Center has experience facilitating retreats that support foundations and their grantee partners to make meaning of the work they have already done together, assess their current conditions, and set priorities for the future.



## Cohorts for Grantees

At the request of grantees, some foundations are creating cohorts that work together over the course of a year (or more) to strengthen their organizing & resilience practices. The Organizing Center has led cohorts that support organizations to develop resilience practices and/or base building practices like one-on-one conversations, leadership development and campaign strategy. This work has been done both in person and virtually.



## T.A. for Grantees

In addition to deep, long-term cohort work, The Organizing Center has provided one-off, or a series of, workshops for grantees to meet specific needs. Topics have included one-on-one organizing conversations, leadership development, campaign strategy and coalition building. We have also been contracted to offer coaching to individuals or organizations on their campaign strategy and organizer supervision.



## Base Building 101 for Foundation Staff

Many people use the word “organizing” but mean different things. The Organizing Center has run workshops for foundation staff to support them to develop shared definitions and understand the differences between organizing and advocacy.

**Schedule time with us find out more:**  
<http://calendly.com/orgcenter>