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ANNUAL REPORT



BPI BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE FOR
THE PUBLIC INTEREST

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LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Though 2021 brought significant challenges – in the Chicago region, across the state of Illinois, and to our country – BPI met the moment with a fierce commitment to racial, social, and economic justice.

We saw victories in several longstanding BPI priorities, including the creation of a community oversight ordinance for the Chicago Police Department that serves as a national model and holds great promise; the installation of the Ida B. Wells monument at Oakwood Shores; tireless work to expand access to higher education in prison; and meaningful support of the Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Collaborative and preparation to transition it to a truly community-led coalition.

We know that barriers to justice and equity run deep, and so we go deep. We work to get to the core of problems and address them in a way that produces long-term change, shifting the balance of power towards equity.

We're forging ahead, with intentionality and clarity of purpose. We have added new staff and debuted a new website. And in 2021, we committed to three strategic organizational priorities:

- Strengthening our impact by rooting the work and voice in communities and collaborations and by amplifying our message;
- Expanding the effectiveness of our work through innovation, partnerships, and accountability; and
- Investing in a culture of equity through board and staff development and support.

These strategic priorities are grounded in and guided by a focus on equity, inclusion, and shared power. For us at BPI, that means walking the walk as we build the collective power of those who haven't had a seat at the table, of our partners, and within our own team.

There's no doubt that these are challenging times. At BPI we know that the recourse to structural injustice and racism is the collective action of people committed to facing systemic injustice and building enduring change.

We're deeply grateful to all of you who work with us and stand with us through your support of BPI's work. We're forging ahead, together.

Sincerely,
Jonathan & Cara



Jonathan M. Kaden
BPI Board President



Cara Hendrickson
BPI Executive Director

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

BPI'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY COALITION GOT A BIG WIN IN 2021

BPI's Police Accountability program is working to enact systemic police reforms, including strengthening the police accountability system, promoting community safety, improving police practices, reimagining the roles that police departments and other entities play in producing public safety, and transforming the relationship between the police department and the communities it serves.

In July 2021, we celebrated the Chicago City Council's passage of a transformative ordinance to empower Chicago communities in building

public safety in Chicago. The Empowering Communities for Public Safety (ECPS) ordinance represents many years of work by the Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability (GAPA) and Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (CAARPR), two broad-based community coalitions. Thousands of people and more than 100 community groups took part in creating the ordinance. For over five years, BPI's Police Accountability team has provided extensive support to the GAPA coalition, and we partnered with the broader ECPS Coalition after GAPA and CAARPR joined efforts.

The ECPS ordinance creates a citywide community oversight commission with the power to bring about systemic police reform. This commission will play a critical role in selecting key leaders, including the Chicago

Police Superintendent; set strategic goals and priorities for the Chicago Police Department; and set police department policy—helping to ensure those police department policies and priorities are rooted in expert knowledge about best practices and grounded in the needs and values of the community.

It also creates elected three-member District Councils in each of the city's police districts. District Councils will work to bring together police department leadership and community members to set local priorities for the district and work together to increase safety and accountability.

BPI is committed to working with our community partners and other stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and to see to it that the ordinance realizes its full promise.



CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

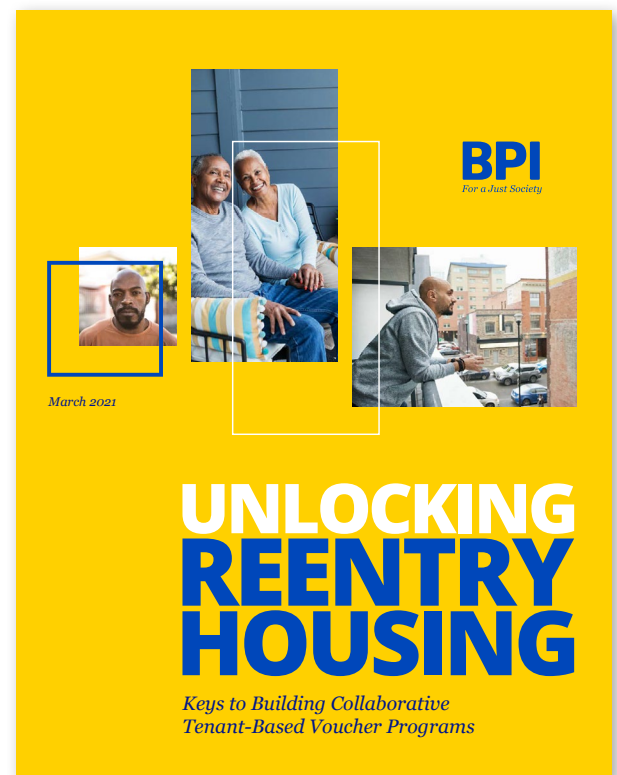
DECREASING THE ILLINOIS PRISON POPULATION

BPI's Reimagining the Criminal Legal System team advocates for policies and practices that create and protect alternatives, promote justice and accountability, and seek equitable outcomes for those impacted by the criminal legal system in Illinois.

Stable housing is a key imperative for the success of residents exiting the criminal legal system, but returning residents face several obstacles that limit their ability to find a home. In 2021, BPI released **Unlocking Reentry Housing: Keys to Building Collaborative Tenant-Based Voucher Programs**. This report presented the results from an 18-month pilot program, the Partnership for Housing Access, that provided returning residents in Cook County with tenant-

based housing vouchers and supportive services to help them obtain affordable housing and settle into their neighborhoods. BPI created the pilot following the 2018 publication of our report, *No Place to Call Home: Navigating Reentry Housing in Chicago*, which showed how the presence of a criminal record creates barriers for individuals on the private housing rental market.

The results of the pilot program highlight key strategies and policy recommendations that will help support returning residents obtain greater access to affordable housing and a



model for future replication of the tenant-based voucher model across the state of Illinois.

HOUSING

IDA B. WELLS MONUMENT UNVEILING

BPI's housing advocacy focuses on removing barriers and promoting housing choice across the Chicago region, including families living in or seeking subsidized or other affordable housing.

BPI works to ensure that CHA considers resident and community views, especially through our role as members of mixed-income working groups at each site where redevelopment is planned, taking place, or complete.

BPI lawyers continue to attend regularly scheduled CHA mixed-income working groups and to meet with CHA legal and development staff about implementation of the *Gautreaux* settlement

agreement. Our on-the-ground efforts at the 13 new and planned mixed-income Chicago Housing Authority communities will contribute to the creation of thousands of public and affordable housing units. Our Authority-wide work related to tenant-based and project-based Housing Choice Vouchers, and our advocacy around monitoring the site-based wait list system are focused on expanding the availability of high-quality housing opportunities for low-income children, families, and individuals.

In 2021, we celebrated with the Oakwood Shores community at the unveiling of *Light of Truth*, the Ida B. Wells National Monument, in that community. BPI supported the Oakwood Shores Commemorative Art Committee throughout the years-long planning and



development of the monument, serving as the fiscal sponsor for the project. Created by the sculptor Richard Hunt, the memorial honoring renowned journalist and civil rights activist Ida B. Wells stands in the center of Oakwood Shores, the new mixed-income community on the former site of the Ida B. Wells public housing development.



EARLY LEARNING

BPI is celebrating 10 years of convening and facilitating a community-driven effort to create a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system. This work supports children from pre-birth to age eight in the Altgeld-Riverdale community on Chicago's far southeast side.

Recognizing the need to unify Altgeld around a collective vision by identifying and prioritizing the most urgent early childhood education needs in the community, BPI laid the groundwork for the Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition to address the community's early learning needs. The coalition showcases the partnership and power of the community stakeholders dedicated to the children of this community.

Despite the intense challenges faced by families in 2021, children and families served by the enduring Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition enrolled in pre-K programs at a rate higher than the city average. The Coalition met the many challenges of 2020 and 2021 and continues to provide a comprehensive system that supports children from birth to age eight, along with their families.

Now, on its 10th anniversary, we honor the success

of the Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition and its next leadership phase as a community-based and community-led resource.



STAFF

AS OF AUGUST 2022



Cara Hendrickson
BPI Executive
Director



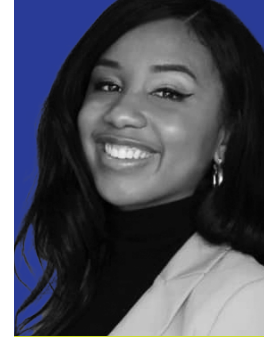
Julie Elena Brown
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& Director, Housing



Kimberly Campbell
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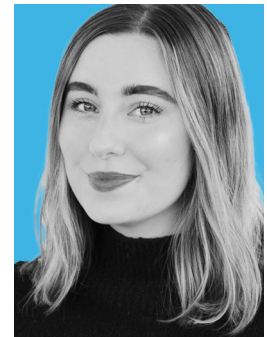
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Housing



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Sydney Sakharia
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of Finance and
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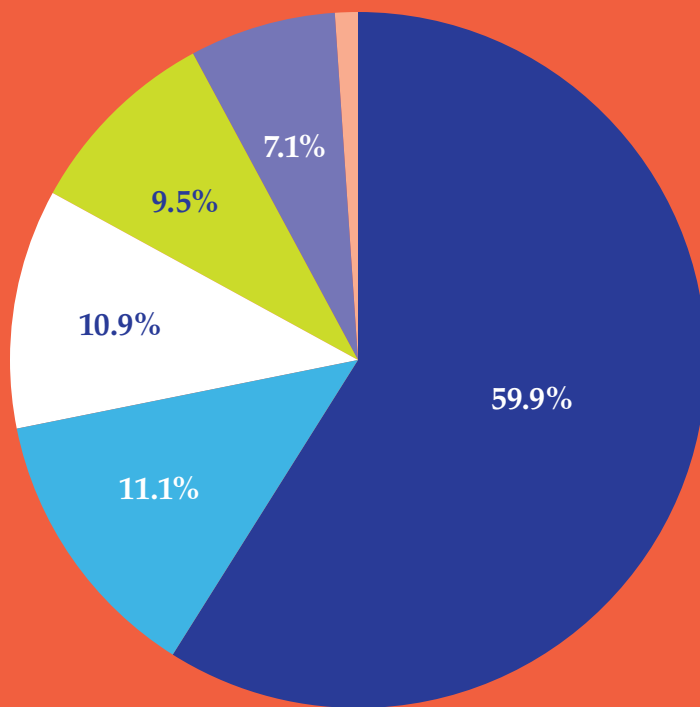
Amy Thompson
Polikoff-Gautreaux
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Counsel



Tamara Reed Tran
Managing Director
of Development and
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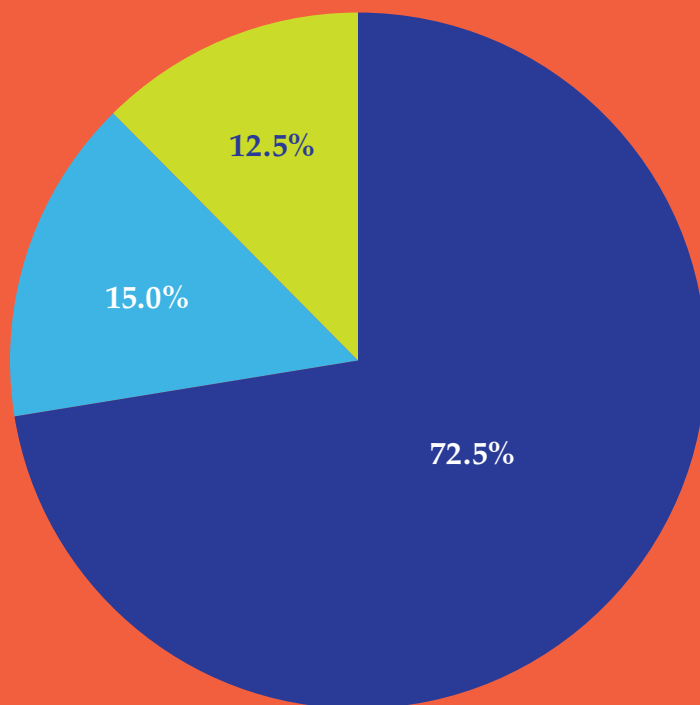
FINANCIALS

SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS: JANUARY 1–DECEMBER 31, 2021 (ACTUAL)



SOURCES OF FUNDS

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Foundations | \$1,695,345 |
| Individuals | \$314,612 |
| Attorneys Fees | \$307,500 |
| Fellowships/Internships | \$269,541 |
| Endowment Fund | \$200,000 |
| Miscellaneous | \$41,236 |
| Total | \$2,828,234 |



USES OF FUNDS

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Program Services | \$2,051,367 |
| Administration | \$424,273 |
| Fundraising | \$352,594 |
| Total | \$2,828,234 |

CONTRIBUTORS

BPI would like to thank all of its donors for their steadfast support of our mission, vision and values.

The listing below reflects contributions made from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Contributions made in 2022 will be included in next year's Annual Report.

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ABOUT BPI

BPI is committed to addressing the structural racism and systemic oppression that has led to inequities and injustices, particularly for people and communities of color, in Chicago and Illinois. An innovative public interest law and policy center, BPI utilizes a combination of legal tools, policy research, advocacy, organizing, and convening to work towards transformational change.

Dedicated to advancing nuanced solutions to pressing racial, economic, and social justice issues, BPI's work is focused on housing, police accountability; the criminal legal system; and early learning. We lead and support efforts to dismantle systems of injustice, create structures that empower communities, and reduce harms caused by racism and oppression.

Business and Professional People for the Public Interest

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