

DPSF Leadership Updates

Gratitude to **Walter Putter** for his 40-year commitment to the Fund as a trustee, honoring his parents, Norton and Ruth's legacy. As Walter stepped back from the board this year, colleagues shared some words of thanks at our 2025 Annual meeting: "Walter has offered institutional memory and a gentle sense of humor. He has shown a true enthusiasm for each student we grant and a generosity of spirit." Thank you, Walter - you will be missed!

As we continue building our board of directors, we look to past grantees. They have embodied knowledge of just how integral Davis-Putter is for student activists. This year, we are excited to welcome **gabriel sayegh**, who was a DPSF grantee in 2001- 2003 while an undergraduate student at The Evergreen State College. He is a longtime organizer for racial and economic justice and is a co-founder of the Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice, where he serves as executive director. Thank you, gabriel - we look forward to you sharing your knowledge, experience and passion with DPSF!

About the Fund

The Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund was created in 1961 as a memorial to Marian Davis, a teacher and advocate for peace, racial justice and the rights of working people. Founded by her husband, Horace B. Davis, along with family and friends, the Fund honors Marian and her family's long history of standing up to McCarthyism. Norton Putter was a civil rights activist who brought needed resources and new energy to the Fund in 1987. Our grantees, now totaling 1156, have been at the forefront of virtually every major progressive social movement as artists, scholars, people's lawyers and frontline organizers and have been integral to the work for peace and justice with the same commitment and passion modeled by Marian, Horace and Norton.

DPSF grantees bring hope through resistance - will you support them with a gift today?



Donate! There is no endowment and we seek no corporate support - we are grassroots!



Amplify! Share DPSF with friends who will support with a donation and student activists who might apply at www.davisputter.org. April 1 application deadline.



Invest! The future of the Fund depends on you. Make a planned gift today.

Founders: Mina D. Caulfield, Terry Davis.
Rest in Power: C. Quentin Davis, H. Chandler Davis, Horace B. Davis, George and Janet Faxon, Sara Gordon, Robert and Jane Hodes, Jessie Lloyd O'Connor, Leonard Radinsky, Dirk Struik, and Ann and Katherine Timpson.

Sponsors: Huwaida Arraf, Lisa Brock, Margaret Burnham, Noam Chomsky, Johnnetta B. Cole, Angela Y. Davis, Lennox S. Hinds, Nancy J. Hodes, Robin D. G. Kelley, Jill Nelson, Jan Phillips, Walter Putter, Barbara Ransby, Paul Schachter, Andrés Torres, and Mary Helen Washington.

Trustees: Matt Birkhold, Karen Buenavista Hanna, Manuela Delnevo, Ben Graham-Putter, Mia Henry, Cedric Johnson, Amanda Katapang, Carol J. Kraemer, Nathalie Meza Contreras, Laura McSpedon, Lenina Nadal, Swati Rayasam, gabriel sayegh, Rachel Stocking, PG Watkins, and Megan Ybarra.



**DAVIS-PUTTER
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**



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HOPE through RESISTANCE



Artwork by Favianna Rodriguez, © [2014]

2025 2026



**DAVIS-PUTTER
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Davis-Putter grantees bring hope through resistance

Davis-Putter grantees bring hope through resistance in times of deepest despair. We welcome this sixty-fourth grantee cohort, committed to creating transformative movements even as state sponsored violence and repression attempt to stop them from building a world for all of us. Through their resistance and organizing, our grantees honor the lasting legacy of the Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund, and the decades of student activists who have come before. We're still here and our grantees are boldly leading the way!

DPSF Class of 2025/26

Nataly Barragan is a formerly incarcerated student pursuing her Master's Degree in Chicano/a/x Studies at California State University Northridge, researching the criminalization of vulnerable populations while organizing mutual aid, direct action, movement building, and restorative justice. **Abaki Beck** is an organizer, writer, and public health PhD student at the University of Minnesota whose passions lie at the intersections of Indigenous resistance, prison/police abolition, and community driven action for health equity. **Emily Bosworth** is an organizer within historically marginalized communities and is a leader in the graduate student workers' union at the University of Miami, while seeking a PhD in

Counseling Psychology.

Teja Davis is completing a BA degree in Environmental Studies and Human Geography and pursuing certificates in African American Studies, Gender and Women Studies, Theater, and Teaching in the Arts at the University of Wisconsin Madison, while focusing on Arts, Academics, and Activism with First Wave. **Cameron Driggers** founded the Florida Youth Action Fund, a state-wide resource center providing financial resources as well as strategic guidance to groups of youth leading issue-based campaigns in their communities, while pursuing a Masters in Nonprofit Management at the University of Central Florida. **Dulce Garcia Cleto** leverages storytelling to lead narrative change surrounding immigration, and creates change through action and collective healing in her community, while beginning a Master of Science in Media Management at The New School.

Rosen Turquoise Gordon is a Black trans feminist public historian and autistic cultural worker researching Black Jamaican trans people and their disruption of the violence of colonization and enslavement, while seeking a masters in Africana Women's Studies from Clark Atlanta University. **Ingrid Guandique Gonzalez** has organized Native youth in Southern Nevada around protecting indigenous lands, Palestinian Liberation and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and now studies History at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. **Jose Herrera** is a Homies 4 Justice and Dream Beyond Bars alum, a grassroots organizer and advocate for healing and policy change for justice involved youth, while training in auto mechanics at Contra Costa College.

Me Me Hlaing Oo is a first generation Burmese immigrant, displaced by the 2021 military coup in Burma, organizing with the Myanmar Student Union, dedicated to queer liberation and revolutionary movements, while studying Sociology with a minor in Gender and Women's Studies at UC Berkeley. **Ashley Huesca** organizes around food insecurity, climate and disability justice and immigration, while studying Architecture and Environmental Studies at Wellesley College. **Delilah Jabbour** aims to grow working-class solidarity, focusing on organizing for Palestine, and linking anti-imperialist issues to local Baltimore struggles like food apartheid, violent policing, and inadequate housing, while seeking an MFA in Curatorial Practice at the Maryland Institute of Art.

Kole Ko is a student, organizer and artist who has been a part of civil disobedience movements of his homeland in Myanmar and mobilizes anti-imperial, anti-capitalist queer events here in the U.S, while pursuing a BFA in Animation at California College of the Arts. **Reggie Lewis** defended himself to get off death row, helping others as a jailhouse lawyer to navigate legal processes, while prolifically writing on the brutal racism and abuse in the system and beginning an AA in Criminal Justice at Upper Iowa University. **Kahelelani Mahone** is a Kanaka Maoli (Indigenous Hawaiian), mähū (trans/queer/non-binary) transdisciplinary artist, DJ and grassroots community organizer engaged in decolonial methodologies while seeking a joint major in American and Indigenous Studies and Studio Art at Bard College.

Martin is a Computer Science student at Skyline College and a leader in the All Burma Federation of

Student Unions, an anti-imperialist organization fighting against dictatorships and fascism in Burma and abroad while organizing for students', workers' and migrants' rights in the US. **Julia Montejo** is a longtime organizer for immigrant and racial justice, engaged in coalition efforts to combat ICE detentions and racial profiling while seeking a J.D. at the University of Miami School of Law. **Natalie Monzon** is a student leader based in CSU Long Beach, studying Graphic Design and organizing with the CSULB Divest Coalition and La Fuerza, building coalition, mobilizing and educating students against militarism and U.S. Imperialism.

César Mosquera organizes against capitalism and for the people as an Illustrator, graphic designer, web developer, and comic book artist with the Union of Southern Service Workers while completing his Master's in Sequential Art at Savannah College of Art and Design. **Rosa Navarro** has led deportation defense campaigns and organized alongside domestic workers in Chicago, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and Farmworkers in the Pacific Northwest, and is now a PhD candidate in Sociology/Latin American and Latinx Studies at UC Santa Cruz. **Michael Owens** is an incarcerated activist, abolitionist and political educator, serving as an advisor for prisoner led and community based organizations, while working on his Master's in Humanities with an emphasis in Abolition and Liberation Studies at California State University - Dominguez Hills.

Michael "Chaos" Ralston has organized labor strikes, built a trans support network and has started political education initiatives inside the prison and is seeking a paralegal certificate from

Adams State University to continue supporting civil litigation for elderly, disabled or trans folks inside. **Isaac Resendiz** is a queer, Latine, first generation, working class cultural worker and organizer deeply invested in the environmental justice movement, holding the liberation of land and people as central, while attending San Francisco State University as an Ethnic Studies major. **Eleni Sefanit Retta** is a life-long D.C. area native, labor organizer, and multidisciplinary creative who works to support compensation and benefits of journalist and publishing workers with the Industrial Workers of the World's Freelance Journalists Union, while seeking a Master's in Law at UPenn.

Ryan "Flaco" Rising is an abolitionist organizer, scholar, and PhD candidate in Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California, Irvine and the founder of West Coast Credible Messengers, a network of formerly incarcerated leaders building transformative systems of healing, accountability, and liberation across California. **Nakia Wallace** is a co-founder of Detroit Will Breathe, an anti-capitalist organization addressing police violence, evictions and gentrification, and has been organizing events focused on police repression of protesters in support of Palestine while attending Law School at Wayne State.



Drawing above created by Kahelelani Mahone during a group share about lineage on a recent virtual grantee gathering. Reflecting on the call they said, "Hope is a challenging thing to connect to right now, but it is a powerful anchor. I am feeling hopeful hearing from all of you."



Nataly Barragan



Abaki Beck



Emily Bosworth



Teja Davis



Cameron Driggers



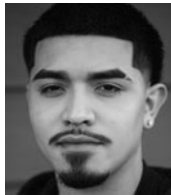
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Michael Owens



Michael "Chaos" Ralston



Isaac Resendiz



Eleni Sefanit Retta



Ryan "Flaco" Rising



Nakia Wallace

Read about more
DPSF grantees
on the back page

Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar

Each year the Fund selects a grantee who honors the legacy of commitment to peace and justice modeled by Jessie Lloyd O'Connor, a labor journalist, organizer and an early and beloved member of our Board, who with her husband Harvey, opened heart and home to activists seeking



respice. Our **Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar** this year is **Bella Week** who is studying to become an investigative reporter at CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism. For over fifteen years,

they have been active in movements for prison abolition, queer and trans liberation, immigrant justice, and youth power. Since 2019, Bella has organized with public school educators, students, and families to dismantle policing and build restorative justice in NYC schools. More recently, they helped build a coalition of 30 organizations that coordinated three citywide school walkouts against US support for Israel's genocide in Gaza. Bella aims to use investigative reporting to expose injustice, hold power accountable, and equip communities with information that strengthens collective resistance.

Anne Braden Award

Following Anne Braden's death in 2006, the Fund created an award to honor this long-time civil rights activist and Davis-Putter Trustee that recognizes an activist in the South who keeps



racism central to all aspects of their work. **Loan Tran** is our awardee this year - a southern based organizer with over 15 years of movement building experience across a number of struggles,

namely immigrant, racial, youth, and student justice and organizing. They currently serve as the National Co-Director of Rising Majority, a national formation aligning social movements around a shared vision and power building strategy. Loan also serves on the board of directors of Highlander Center and is a member of Viet Left Power. Loan is interested in the question of faith and spirit as it relates to movement building and the restoration of the social fabric in the U.S. and around the world.

Marilyn Buck Award

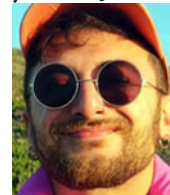
Marilyn Buck was a political prisoner and poet who worked in solidarity with Black Liberation struggles to end white supremacy. She received grants from the Fund in 2003 and 2004, and continued connection through supportive notes from her jail cell. To honor her memory and legacy, The Marilyn Buck Award is given to an incarcerated or formerly incarcerated activist working for justice. **Kinzie Noordman** is this year's awardee.



Kinzie is currently pursuing a M.A. from CSU Dominguez Hills in Humanities minoring in Punishment and Abolition. Her advocacy work started as a teen fighting for LGBTQ rights and environmentalism. Today, she works as a Research Advocate for the UC Sentencing Project and alongside advocacy groups focusing on social justice reform. She serves as an editor for the prison newsletter, The Razor Wire, and uses her lived experience and education to fight for a future without violence, hate and inequality. Kinzie is passionate about advocating for incarcerated women, restorative justice and using the power of narratives to change individuals and systems of oppression.

Brock/Ransby Award

The Brock/Ransby Award was created to honor the international solidarity and racial justice work of Dr. Lisa Brock and Dr. Barbara Ransby both Chicago-based historian/scholar-activists who organized against South-African Apartheid. This award is given to a graduate student activist with an international solidarity focus, rooted in racial justice. **AJ Kurdi** is our awardee this year. AJ is a Ph.D. student in the Department of



Ethnic Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Gender, Women, and Sexuality at the University of California, Berkeley. His research focuses on transnational social movements, immigration

and diaspora studies, policy diffusion, and queer of color critique. AJ's dissertation examines the circulation of ethnicity and race within intersectional queer organizing, and its impact on mainstream movements and public policies across Europe and North America. A significant aspect of his work involves studying Palestinian activist circles in Europe, where he has been actively involved for years as a student. AJ's research is deeply informed by themes of immigration policies, imperialism, and Islamophobia from a relational framework across various Global North contexts, aligning with his commitment to advocating for interconnected struggles on a global scale.

Read more about our
2025/26 grantees and
DPSF leadership at
davisputter.org

Go to www.davisputter.org between January 1 and April 1 to apply for a scholarship