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May 2025

Dear Friend of Davis-Putter,

If they can come for Mahmoud, Rumeysa, Mohsen, Yunseo, they can come for our grantees! 2025 began with a deeply troubling start and just seems to get worse each day. The repression of student organizers is escalating daily, with activists being suspended, expelled, deported, and even disappeared. As we face a moment eerily reminiscent of McCarthyism, a time from which our Fund was born, the need for the Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund has never been more urgent.

Now, more than ever, we need to secure the resources to protect student organizers and empower them to keep fighting. For that, we need your support. Your donation will directly aid these students in their work toward liberation, while strengthening a national network that has been building for over six decades — and, with your continued help, will continue for many more.

We are hearing from our grantees their fears and concerns of removal from universities, questioning whether or not to go to their home countries for fear of not being allowed to return and fears of being Trans in this repressive atmosphere. And yet, they continue their work organizing and mobilizing communities. That work and commitment to carrying on in the face of growing authoritarianism is reflected in the reports below.

As you read about their ongoing work and the impact they are able to have because of your donations, I know you will want to continue your support for our next class of grantees with a donation to the Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund.

Alex Ball continued organization building with Central Arkansas Harm Reduction Project, building connections with people affected by homelessness & drug use, while completing an MPH in Epidemiology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. **Daisy Benitez Paz** partnered with community groups to organize a Noise Demo on New Year's Eve, building solidarity for racial, economic and energy justice while continuing leadership with the George Wiley Center in Rhode Island. **Luz Burgos Lopez** continued organizing with the Diaspora Pa'lante Collective International Solidarity Committee, planning and implementing panel discussions related to education, colonialism, and imperialism (shown right) and establishing a Graduate Education Justice Collective to hold the University of Connecticut-Storr accountable within U.S. higher education.

Sky Cambron planned a mutual aid event with Sunrise Boise centered around the effect climate change has on the local houseless community and has become involved with Youth4Housing, promoting housing unionization in dorms and holding schools accountable as landlords. **André (AJ) Chonnay-Wallace** collaborated with their union to create mutual aid support for students in their schools in response to new administration policies and cuts, while continuing to pressure Yale to pay their fair share in taxes, decrease policing, and divest from weapons manufacturing.



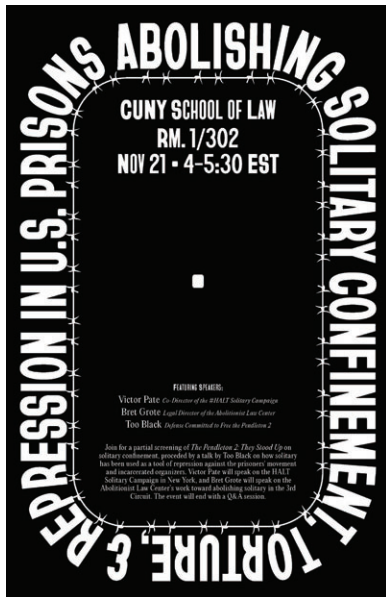
ZONE OF PEACE PANEL



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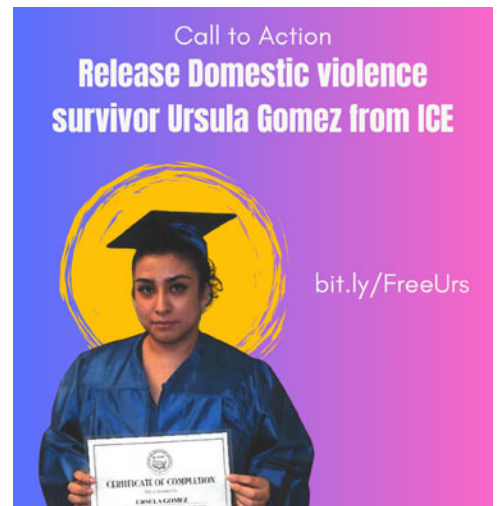
Nathan Cheung, an activist and labor organizer had their solo MFA art show at California Institute of the Arts and is currently doing art builds for mass protest with Housing Now! (photo right) **Lucille Elliott** joined with students, Richmond community members, teachers and artists to develop their intersectional radical zine, Riot Ghoul RVA into a quarterly newspaper, while working in solidarity to address inhumane conditions at the Red Onion State Prison. **Dustin Gordan** completed his M.A. in Humanities from California State University focusing on Prison Abolition and Liberation. Dustin said, “Thank you so much for the incredible opportunities you have made possible for me. I didn’t even have a GED when I came to prison, and for a decade I never believed education was even possible in here. It is a goal and dream of mine to sit on the board of directors for Davis-Putter one day, but at the very least I will be a huge supporter, advocate, fundraiser and donor!”



Nicholas Greven continued organizing with the Abolitionist Law Organization at CUNY Law, planning “Abolishing Solitary Confinement, Torture, and Repression in U.S. Prisons (flyer left) and is a Law for the People Brigade Co-Coordinator, organizing the 2025 Brigade and preparing the pre-trip political education on the Cuban Revolution and Cuban blockade under international law. **Destiny Hodges** is actively engaged in climate justice, community organizing, and cultural exploration as part of Black Hive @ Movement 4 Black Lives, facilitating intergenerational climate and environmental activists with the Freedom Futures Collective and Generation Green. **Victoria Huynh** is focusing on PhD fieldwork researching how members of the largest-ever refugee resettlement project in U.S. history (post-war refugees from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam 1975-1994) came to face mass incarceration and deportation from the US in the present day, while continuing in-prison teaching and anti-deportation advocacy (see right) with the Asian Prisoner Support Committee.

Sally Jeon completed an MD at the University of Minnesota (UMN) Medical School and said, “Activists are familiar with the changing tides. To persevere through waves of all kinds, we develop an adaptability to pivot with the unexpected, a grit to withstand the most difficult, and a gracious understanding to heal after the storm.” **Banah Khamis** has focused on mutual aid efforts for the people of Gaza while organizing with the Drexel Palestine Coalition and working to institutionally reinstate their chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine after the university froze its activity last year. **AJ Kurdi** passed the qualifying exams for Ph.D. candidacy in Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, shown at right speaking at a Berkeley Civil Liberties Union event about the contrasts between repression and Palestine organizing on U.S. college campuses, and how these dynamics relate to relief efforts and organizing on the ground.

César Mosquera participated in a call for artists in Solidarity with Cuba called “Cuba is not Alone (shown opposite top) with the Utopix Community Organization and created a poster series for the Union of Southern Service Workers while organizing with Savannah for Palestine. **free Pierre** brought self-care work to the law school and community, breathing through the chaos of the current administration and advocating for secure housing, while completing a JD at UCLA School of Law.





Isaac Resendiz organized “Kayaktions” with the Rich City Rays in Richmond, CA including: a flotilla at a Bay Area coal terminal, an action on Lake Merritt in Oakland for a ceasefire and arms embargo, and an action supporting the striking Alcatraz Union, fighting for living wages and fair working conditions under the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). (photos below) **Hasti Aryana Rostami** is currently on the steering committee of Students for Justice in Palestine at NYU and closely works with the Palestinian Youth Movement organizing teach-ins, protests (photo in banner) and a divestment campaign in coalition with Columbia SJP. **Gabriel Singer** organized an art show titled “*Our Love is Stronger Than Their Walls,*” raising awareness about the human impact of restrictive rules and barriers between family members and folks experiencing incarceration, while organizing around criminal justice reform ballot measures.


Karter Strider supported organizing efforts around the University of Nevada, Reno’s administration and their lack of action towards transphobia on the women’s volleyball team, while focusing on trans legislation and a research project on discourse surrounding trans joy. **Nakia Wallace** planned a series of events on political repression of protesters,



examination of police murders in Detroit, the state of the movement in defense of Black and Brown Life, the role of lawyers in social justice movements and defending protesters against criminal prosecution in cooperation with the National Lawyers Guild, Criminal Law Society and Black Law Students Association at Wayne State. **Breanna Wheeler** organized around Indigenous issues with the Native and Indigenous Student Health Forum and solidarity with Palestinian relatives experiencing the ongoing genocide, calling for a ceasefire and boycotts, divestment and sanctions at Harvard, who continues censoring speech, threatening and punishing students engaged in peaceful protest.

Reading about the work of our grantees brings me hope - hearing about their work on the frontlines of movements for social change — fighting to end the genocide in Gaza, to defend Trans rights and abortion access, to combat the climate crisis, and to end mass incarceration. In a time filled with bad news, with hopeless news, I hope this feels like good news for you - I hope this feels like collective resistance.

The applications of our Class of 2025/26 are currently being reviewed and interviews are taking place. We understand our assignment, support and protect student activist voices. Will you join us by making a donation before the end of our fiscal year? All gifts before June 30 will directly increase the amount of funding we can award. Will you give generously today in support of our Class of 2025/26? We need you now more than ever! Thank you for your loyal support.

In solidarity,

 Carol J. Kraemer, Director

P.S. Will you consider joining our Monthly Movement Building Circle by setting up a recurring gift at www.davisputter.org? Support the future of the Fund with a designated planned gift to ensure our sustainability! Contact me at davisputter@davisputter.org.

Connecting DPSF Grantees Across the Decades

DPSF hosted an online call with grantees from the past several decades of student activism on January 20, 2025 - MLK Day and Inauguration day. This was a space and opportunity to connect with other folks doing important and radical work to challenge systems of oppression. In the face of this new administration and the growing movement towards fascism, strengthening our relationships and building community is a powerful force. Twenty grantees spanning 5 decades shared love and hope and made connections across the miles - from Nigeria and Canada to Philadelphia, Boston and Brooklyn to Los Angeles, Reno and Oakland to Atlanta, Asheville and St Louis and beyond. They came together for some moments of grounding, reflecting and mutual connection. This was an opportunity to deepen and prepare for the wave of resistance to come. We hope to offer these kinds of opportunities again and believe strengthening our DPSF community helps sustain us into the future - watch your email for future offerings.

Scan the QR code below to make an online donation.



Congratulations DPSF 2025 Graduates!

Alex Ball - University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, MPH Epidemiology

Andre "AJ" Chonnay-Wallace - Southern Connecticut State University, MA Teaching

Destiny Hodges - Howard University, BA Media, Journalism & Film

Sally Jeon - University of Minnesota Medical School, MS Medicine

Banah Khamis - Drexel University, BA in Global Studies and Political Science

free Pierre - UCLA School of Law, JD Critical Race Studies / Public Interest

Gabriel Singer - San Francisco State University, BS Criminal Justice

Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund

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