



Onion  
Foundation



2024 Impact Report

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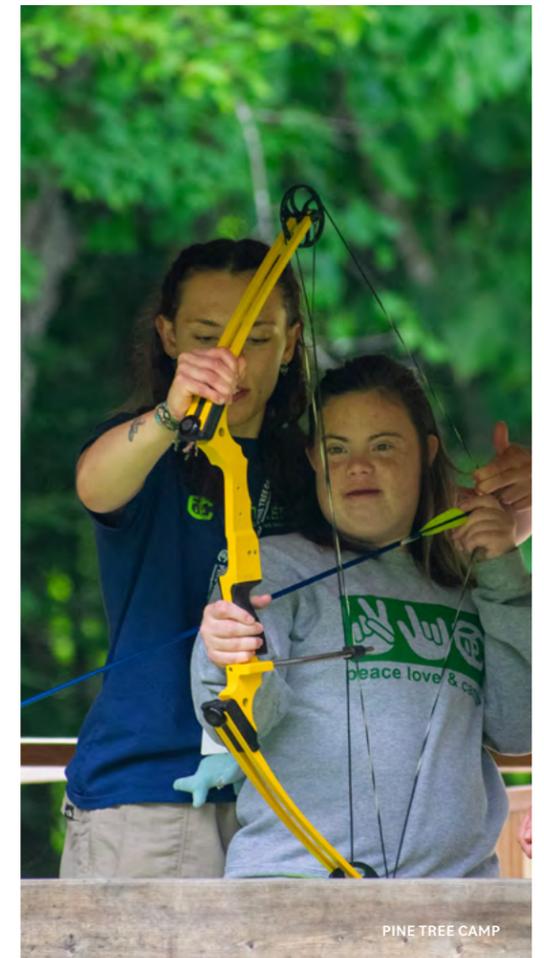


## ONION FOUNDATION TEAM

- Fritz Onion**, *Co-Founder and Trustee*
- Susan Onion**, *Co-Founder, Trustee, and Environment Program Officer for Freshwater*
- Alene Onion**, *Trustee*
- Diana Morris**, *Executive Director*
- Rosalind Erwin**, *Environment Program Officer*
- Nat May**, *Arts Program Officer*
- Sally Struever**, *Grants & Office Administrator*
- Holly Taylor**, *Program Associate*

## IMPACT REPORT TEAM

- Ash Holland**, *Editorial Consultant*
- Cecilia Rebecca Ziko**, *Graphic Designer*



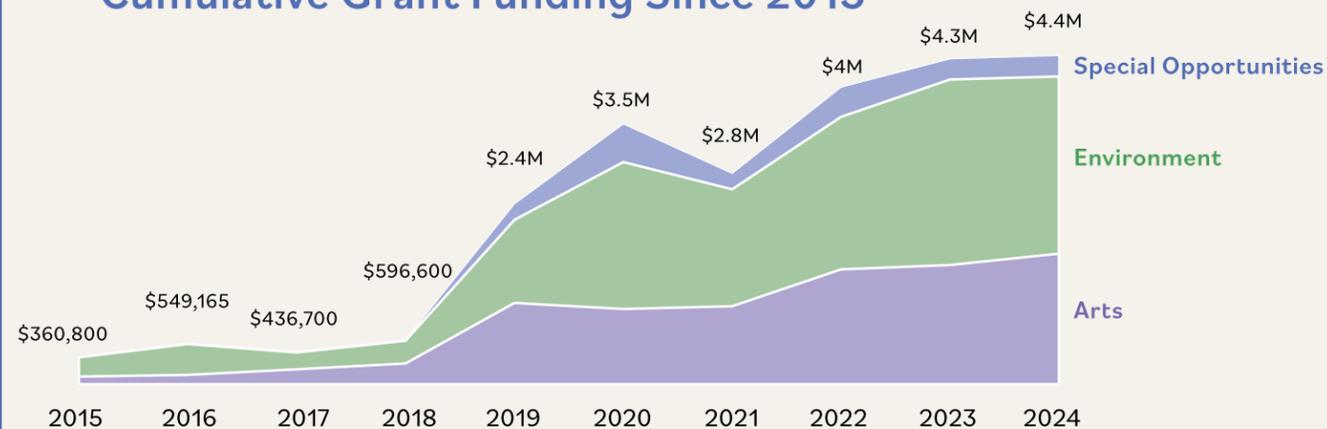
# Building on a Decade of Progress

## A Word From the Founders

In February of 2015, we announced the formation of our foundation, marking the start of what's turned out to be an amazing journey of learning, connecting with the community, and growing together. After much thought and research, we decided that starting a foundation was the best way to carry out our charitable work — but at that point, we never could have predicted where it would take us.

Fast forward 10 years, and now we've got a fantastic team of five full-time staff members, an office in Auburn, and partnerships with more than 500 nonprofits from every corner of the state. The foundation's growth and impact over these past 10 years have been beyond anything we could have predicted when we first started.

### Cumulative Grant Funding Since 2015



While we've been steadily growing and evolving over the past decade, we had a big year in 2024. We brought on Rosalind Erwin as our Environment Program Officer and Holly Taylor as our new Program Associate, and we started working with Ash Holland to boost our communications efforts. We also welcomed Alene Onion to our board, bringing her insight and environmental expertise to the table.



With a bigger team and a fresh focus on refining our core programs and strategies, we made some significant strides in 2024, including:

- Refining our mission and values as an organization
- Granting nearly \$4.5 million in grant funds to around 200 organizations
- Offering technical support to nonprofits for financial literacy, marketing, data collection, and overall health
- Launching a new website and sharing a dozen stories about the amazing work our grantees are doing across Maine
- Hosting a listening session to discuss accessibility and hear about nonprofit experiences
- Participating in three national conferences on philanthropy, as well as local workshops on ageism, racism, and Wabanaki history

It's been a year of growth and accomplishments, all thanks to our incredible team and their dedication to strengthening relationships in the community and creating a more inclusive and vibrant Maine. But we know there are still challenges ahead, and the political shifts and uncertainty we're seeing now are tough for many people. Moving forward, foundations like ours will have an even bigger role to play in helping nonprofits navigate these changes.

As we head into the next decade of our foundation's work, we're more committed than ever to building strong, collaborative, and transparent relationships with our grantees. Together, we'll continue working toward a more equitable and healthy Maine!

Fritz Onion and Susan Onion  
Co-Founders and Trustees

# 2024 By the Numbers

## Grant Support

Nonprofits across the state left an indelible mark on Maine’s communities, from helping young people with disabilities explore the outdoors to protecting the state’s vital freshwater sources to reimagining arts experiences for broad audiences. We’re proud to have supported a number of these organizations in 2024 — our biggest grantmaking year yet.

**\$4,413,975**

Total grant funds awarded

**196**

Total grants approved

**40**

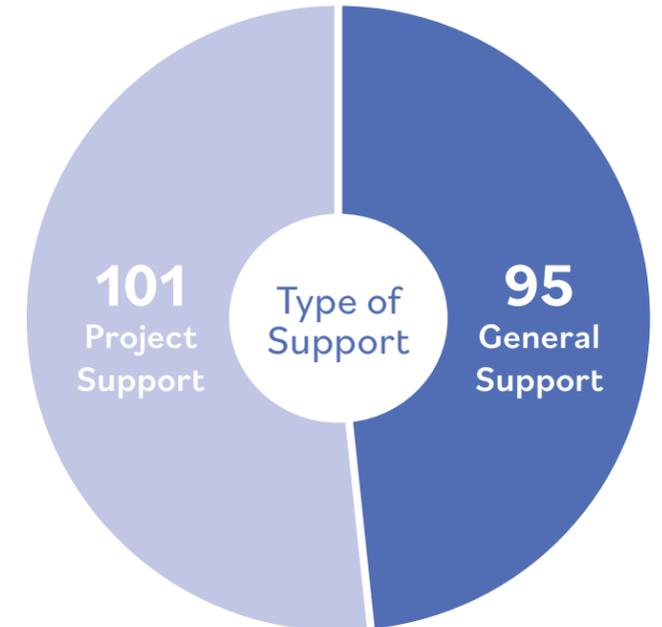
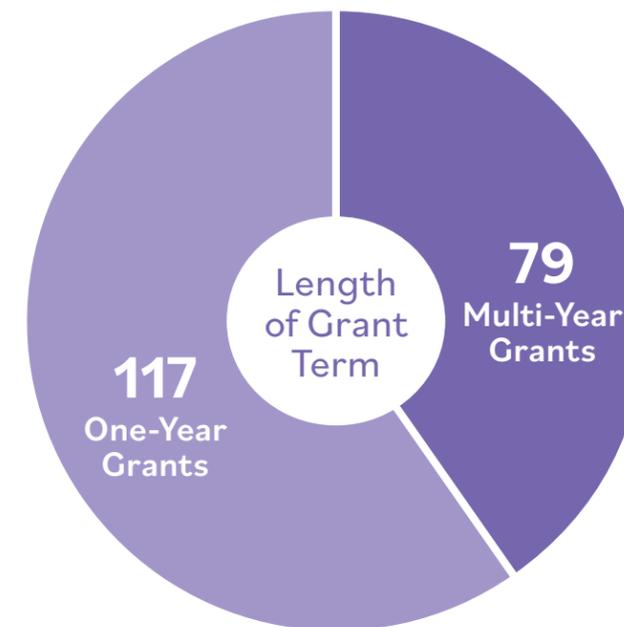
First-time grantees

**300+**

Interactions with grantees and applicants, including site visits

**394**

Active grants, including multi-year grants approved before 2024



	ONE-YEAR	MULTI-YEAR
Environment	38	26
Arts	49	47
Special Opportunities	34	2

	PROJECT SUPPORT	GENERAL SUPPORT
Environment	48	16
Arts	47	49
Special Opportunities	6	30



## Arts and Environment Programs

Throughout Maine, the arts provide residents and visitors with opportunities for self-expression and cultural exchange, while the state's natural features give communities safe spaces to learn, play, and connect. Onion Foundation grantees support these two vital resources, building robust arts and environment sectors and helping make Maine a beautiful, energizing, and more equitable place for all. To aid in that effort, we support them through grantmaking and technical assistance.

### Arts Program

96 approved grants

- Arts Education: 48 grants
- Public Engagement: 45 grants
- Arts Sector Capacity Building: 3 grants

### Environment Program

64 approved grants

- Equitable Outdoor Access: 36 grants
- Nature Learning: 19 grants
- Advocacy and Movement Building: 9 grants



## Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

### Marketing

Contracted with [Maine Public](#) to expand arts grantees' marketing efforts

### Capacity Assessments

Partnered with [TCC Group](#) to offer the Core Capacity Assessment Tool to grantees

### Inclusion

Worked with [OUT Maine](#) to organize cohorts and facilitate learning sessions for arts grantees

### Data Collection

Collaborated with the [Data Innovation Project](#) to create a data-collection toolkit for arts organizations

### Bookkeeping

Teamed up with [A Bookkeeping Cooperative](#) to provide financial training for grantee cohorts

### Entrepreneurship

Partnered with Northeastern University's [Roux Institute](#) to offer environment nonprofits training to develop earned-income streams

### Convening

Offered in-person convening opportunities to [Maine Crafts Association](#) and [Creative Portland](#), fostering collaboration, networking, and shared learning



## Populations Served

While most of our grantees serve Maine's general population, many recognize the need to support historically underserved communities by reducing barriers to access and making programming more welcoming, affirming, and inclusive. In 2024, we awarded a number of grants to organizations that place priority on improving access for particular communities, including:

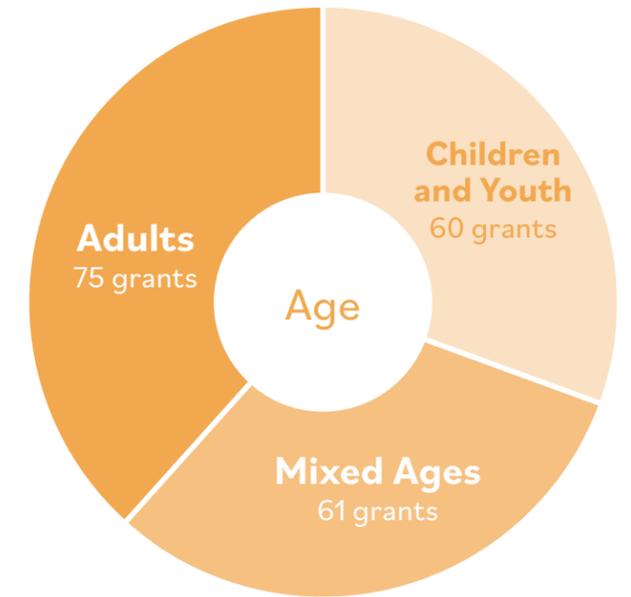
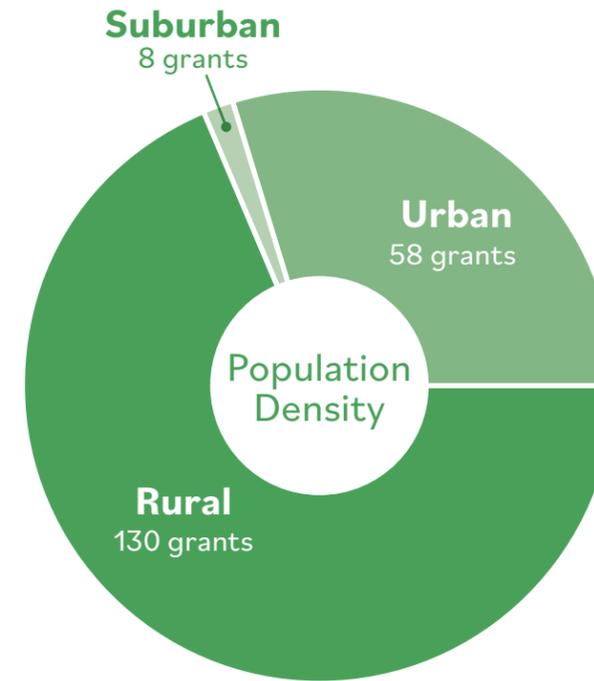
### Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

**Economically Disadvantaged People**

**Immigrants and Migrants**

**LGBTQ+ People**

**People With Disabilities**



# The Foundation Supported Programs Benefiting All of Maine's 16 Counties

**Cumberland: 60**  
\$758,507

**Waldo: 19**  
\$111,483

**Franklin: 10**  
\$87,365

**Androscoggin: 27**  
\$307,960

**Kennebec: 18**  
\$202,722

**Piscataquis: 9**  
\$116,200

**Hancock: 24**  
\$208,928

**Penobscot: 17**  
\$105,754

**Somerset: 8**  
\$27,930

**York: 22**  
\$74,913

**Washington: 17**  
\$112,338

**Aroostook: 6**  
\$19,005

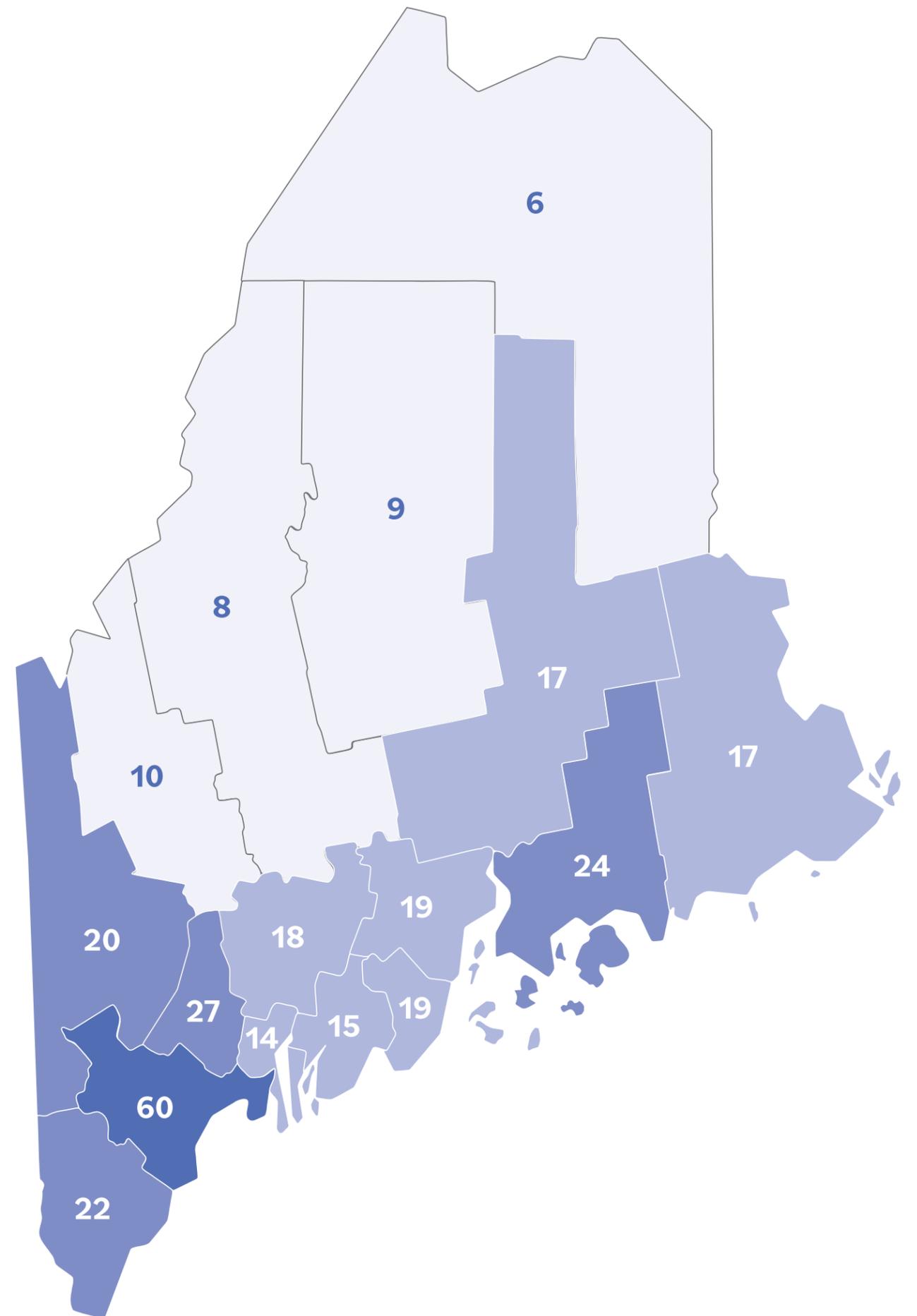
**Oxford: 20**  
\$177,599

**Sagadahoc: 14**  
\$77,443

**Knox: 19**  
\$96,433

**Lincoln: 15**  
\$88,244

**Grantees Working Statewide: 69**  
\$1,841,155



# Looking Back

## Reflections on a Year of Growth and Change

We approached 2024 as a building year in which we placed priority on growing our organizational capacity. This work translated to progress across a number of initiatives that we had started prior to the new year, including:

**Clarifying our program strategies and priorities.** To provide more transparency for our current and potential grantees, we clarified both the “why” behind our program strategies and the grant review criteria we use in each priority area.

**Developing and launching a new website and publications hub.** We built this new site not only to expand our reach within Maine’s philanthropic community but also to participate in critical conversations, shine a light on our grantees’ great work, and promote activities happening within the arts and environment sectors.

**Refining and articulating our values.** Through careful and deliberate workshoping, we developed value statements that resonate best with our approach to grantmaking — and we work every day to live those values.

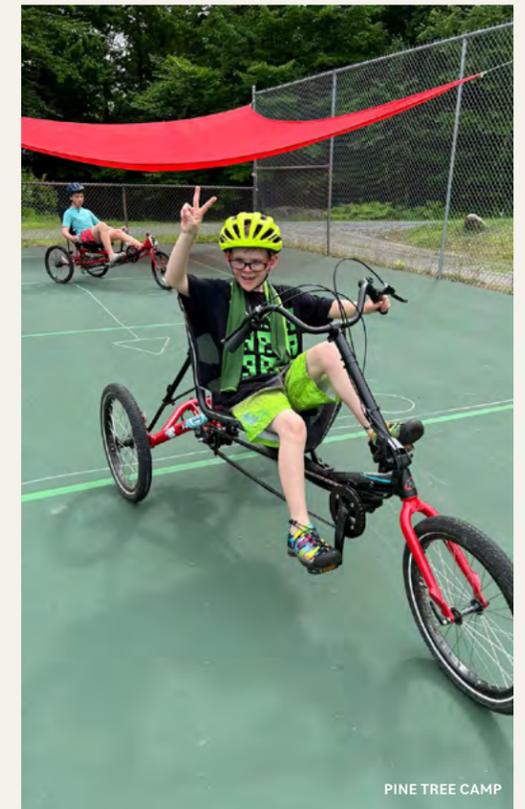
**Supporting our grantees “beyond the check.”** To advance our trust-based approach to philanthropy, staff allocated more time to supporting grantees through conversations, technical assistance, and convening sessions.

The year also offered our team opportunities to learn more about various communities throughout the state and how we can better serve them. In 2023, we signed the [Disability & Philanthropy Forum’s Disability Inclusion Pledge](#), a commitment to [hold ourselves accountable to adopting inclusive policies and practices](#). In 2024, we acted on this pledge under our [Equitable Outdoor Access](#) strategy by prioritizing programs serving people living with disabilities. We also supported projects to collect demographic data on arts participation and made our operations, website, and grant application processes more accessible.

In addition to attending numerous conferences and workshops, we organized sessions to help grantees learn from one another. Our [accessibility listening session](#), for example, allowed arts organizations from across the state to share their experiences, learn about effective accommodations for people with disabilities, and identify what foundations can do to help advance these efforts.

“While we’re a small team with a lot of active grantees, my colleagues and I enjoy hearing from grantees and getting to know the people who are working creatively and persistently across the state. I’m grateful to be able to play a small part in supporting their work.”

— Sally Struever, Grants & Office Administrator



# Environment Program

We know that time in nature brings remarkable benefits to individuals and communities. But not every person has the same opportunity for meaningful outdoor experiences, and not every outdoor resource gets equitable funding and support.

After reviewing research and reflecting on these disparities, we refined our Environment Program strategies to focus on two primary things:

## 1. People

### Our Goals

We strive to reduce barriers for those systemically and historically left out of outdoor activities, including Black, Indigenous, and people of color; people in rural areas; and people with disabilities.

### Progress in 2024

In 2024, we prioritized organizations supporting marginalized groups through our [Equitable Outdoor Access](#) strategy. We also focused on advocacy initiatives and youth mobilization efforts through our [Environmental Advocacy and Movement Building strategy](#).

Building on insights from the Community-Based Outdoor and Environmental Learning (CBEL) census, we focused our support for [nature-learning](#) programs on organizations working in Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, and Washington counties.

## 2. Place

### Our Goals

We strive to support organizations and initiatives focused on ensuring Mainers and visitors have safe, accessible, and enriching outdoor spaces to recreate and connect.

“By offering a wide array of outdoor activities and high-quality nature learning, Onion Foundation’s environment grantees are ensuring that more people can enjoy meaningful time in nature and learn about the complex systems that contribute to a functional ecosystem.”

— Rosalind Erwin, Environment Program Officer



“Onion Foundation grantees are improving the accessibility and health of Maine’s lakes, lands, and waters through advocacy, education, and protection efforts. Working closely with local communities and volunteers, they’re creating more welcoming and inclusive spaces for people to recreate, learn, and connect with nature.”

— Susan Onion, Co-Founder and Environment Program Officer for Freshwater



### Progress in 2024

We provided grants and assistance to watersheds, lake-protection organizations, and land trusts that work to protect and expand access to critical environmental spaces throughout the state.

To expand the grantmaking that supports land trusts and help advance land conservation efforts, we established a [philanthropic partnership with Momentum Conservation](#) in 2023.

As we talk with and visit grantees across the state, we’re struck by how many organizations strive for more inclusive programming. So many organizations are promoting the benefits of the outdoors on individuals’ well-being and communal health, and many are taking steps to facilitate outdoor experiences for more people.

We’ve also seen strong coherence around environmental policy issues and participation in research. A staggering 917 organizations and schools shared insights for the [CBEL census](#), for example, helping reveal programming gaps that nonprofits are now working hard to fill. From investing in Wabanaki studies to responding to climate change initiatives to breaking down barriers to outdoor access, organizations are making Maine a more inclusive and rich place to be outside.

[Learn More About Momentum Conservation](#)



# Arts Program

While the year brought significant change in many ways, it simultaneously offered us a chance to hold steady in our Arts Program grantmaking initiatives. With a grounded foundation in place from our previous years' work, we leaned into several areas of our partnerships with grantees, including:

- Offering technical assistance and cohort learning to arts organizations
- Providing as much general operating support as possible
- Awarding more multi-year grants

What made this year special was the connections we made with new grantees and strengthened with existing ones. We entered the year intending to improve our accessibility and ended it feeling proud of the relationships we fostered and continue to nurture.

While there continues to be significant leadership turnover in arts organizations, we're hopeful about the organizational and community-building work our grantees are undertaking. Coming into 2025, we expect to see organizations continuing to grapple with inflation and ongoing political divisions. But by building strong relationships and reducing barriers to creativity, we can grow Maine's rich arts culture and develop inviting, vibrant communities.



**“In 2024, we helped our arts grantees continue their excellent programs and offered them support to strengthen their programming and organizational development. Because of the work these nonprofits do every day, more Mainers and visitors can experience new perspectives and creativity in various art forms.”**

— Nat May, Arts Program Officer

# Grantee Spotlights

## Great Work. Great People. Even Greater Impact.

Each of the grantees we supported make their mark on Maine's communities in unique ways. Many specifically seek to raise the voices of marginalized individuals, expand access to life-changing experiences, and help build more resilient communities. We're proud of the people who uphold the values of these organizations and commit their unwavering dedication to bettering the state's arts and environmental programming. Here's a glimpse at just a few of the impactful organizations we supported in 2024.

Full list of 2024 grantees on page 26.



### Rural Aspirations Project

Rural Aspirations Project works with students and educators to design educational programming with a strong sense of place that celebrates the heritage of rural Maine communities.

**2024 Support:** \$40,000 over two years to support the Maine Forest Collaborative, an initiative designed to help young people build connections to their local forests and learn about forest-based careers  
**Program and Strategy:** Environment — [Expand Nature Learning](#)

[Learn More](#)



### Adaptive Outdoor Education Center

Adaptive Outdoor Education Center provides fully adaptive and accessible outdoor programming for people with physical and cognitive disabilities. Through this nonprofit, people with disabilities and their caregivers can enjoy camping, fishing, skiing, sailing, environmental retreats, and more.

**2024 Support:** \$30,000 over two years in general operating support  
**Program and Strategy:** Environment — [Increase Equitable Outdoor Access](#)

[Learn More](#)

# Grantee Spotlights



## Boothbay Sea and Science Center

Boothbay Sea and Science Center works to minimize barriers to sailing, boating, and ocean science. By providing enriching educational programs at public schools — including marine science, maritime engineering, and environmental studies programs — the team bolsters students’ engagement with STEM-focused activities.

**2024 Support:** \$40,000 over two years to support school-based marine education initiatives

**Program and Strategy:** Environment — [Expand Nature Learning](#)

[Learn More](#)

PHOTO BY PAULINE DION



## Maine Conservation Alliance

Maine Conservation Alliance advocates for policies that help protect the environment and address climate change. The organization facilitated the state’s Environmental Priorities Coalition, an alliance of 39 organizations that identify policy priorities related to the climate crisis and work together to advance environmental justice.

**2024 Support:** \$60,000 in general operating support

**Program and Strategy:** Environment — [Foster Environmental Advocacy and Movement Building](#)

[Learn More](#)



PHOTO BY LSM STAFF

## Lake Stewards of Maine

Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) trains volunteers to collect critical data related to lake water quality and invasive species. As an organization that recognizes the urgent need to protect our state’s freshwater resources, LSM facilitates citizen participation to promote conservation awareness, motivation, and action.

**2024 Support:** \$27,000 in general operating support

**Program and Strategy:** Environment — [Increase Equitable Outdoor Access](#)

[Learn More](#)

## Cultural Alliance of Maine

Cultural Alliance of Maine is a statewide advocacy organization that works to advance the capacity of Maine’s cultural sector. With its vast network of libraries, historical societies, arts organizations, and artists, the nonprofit advocates for research-backed policies that positively impact the state’s culture.

**2024 Support:** \$75,000 to support arts and culture advocacy across Maine

**Program and Strategy:** Arts — [Build the Capacity of Maine’s Arts Sector](#)

[Learn More](#)



# Grantee Spotlights

## OUT Maine and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts

OUT Maine and Haystack worked together to create a weekend immersive arts retreat for LGBTQ+ high school students in Maine. The organizations introduced these youths to blacksmithing, fiber arts, ceramics, graphics, and [Haystack's Fab Lab](#), guided by LGBTQ+ teaching artist mentors.

**2024 Support:** \$15,000 to support an arts retreat  
**Program and Strategy:** Arts — [Increase Access to Arts Education in Maine](#)

[Learn More](#)



PHOTO BY ELLIE ROY



## River Tree Arts

RiverTree Arts builds community and celebrates the arts by providing people of all ages with workshops on painting, ceramics, metalsmithing, textile arts, dance, music, and more. The organization serves as a creative hub for the Kennebunk area, offering open studio time, exhibition space, and classes for the whole community.

**2024 Support:** \$36,000 over three years (starting May 2023) in general operating support  
**Program and Strategy:** Arts — [Support Public Engagement in Maine](#)

[Learn More](#)

## First Light New Learning Journey

First Light comprises non-Wabanaki land-oriented organizations that work together to recentre Wabanaki voices and expand Indigenous land stewardship. Through its Learning Journey course, First Light educates people about Wabanaki history and helps land organization leaders examine conservation and their own assumptions about land ownership through a new lens. The organization advances the work of returning land, power, and decision-making to Wabanaki peoples.

**2024 Support:** \$36,000 over three years (starting May 2023) in general operating support  
**Program and Strategy:** Special Opportunities

[Learn More](#)



## Waterfall Arts

Waterfall Arts engages the community through arts classes, exhibitions, and outreach programs, helping people explore their inner creativity. The organization offers classes on letterpress printing, clay arts, photography, glass-blowing, life drawing, and more.

**2024 Support:** \$20,000 in general operating support  
**Program and Strategy:** Arts — [Support Public Engagement in Maine](#)

[Learn More](#)



PHOTO BY PETER FORBES

# Looking Ahead

## Priorities and Goals for 2025 and Beyond

In 2025, we'll take time to assess what we and our grantees are accomplishing, the changing context of our work, and the evolving landscape of the arts and the environment in Maine. This assessment will help us understand where to accelerate our momentum, where to explore new pathways, and how to adapt to changing needs. Our nonprofit partners are immersed in and responsive to the priorities of the arts, environment, and philanthropic sectors in Maine — particularly during this rapidly changing milieu — and we welcome their candid feedback on our effectiveness, accessibility, and transparency. Are we missing opportunities? Are there areas in which we need to go deeper?

By the end of 2025, we plan to adopt a new three-year strategic plan that articulates not just what we'll do as an organization, but also why and how we will do it — all equally important to our goal of working hand-in-hand with the community. We'll set clear indicators to measure our progress and impact and use our website to outline our plans.

Two groundbreaking studies will shape our future direction and inform collaborative discussions with nonprofits and funders to shape our grantmaking strategies:

**An analysis of fiscal sponsorships in Maine.** Many small nonprofits could thrive with robust fiscal sponsorship support. But the number of organizations serving as fiscal sponsors are few, none offer fiscal sponsorships at any scale, and the range of services they offer is limited. In partnership with other foundations, we hope to build this capacity across Maine to maximize the efficient use of resources.

**An examination of the state's youth climate movement.** This study — conducted by Maine Environmental Educators Association and Maine Youth for Climate Justice in collaboration with the Maine Climate Action Now coalition — will provide us with a roadmap for making a network of accomplished young activists even stronger. Our youth climate initiative springs from a simple belief: Young people who connect with nature become its strongest defenders. We hope to expand our support to help youth across all 16 Maine counties develop powerful advocacy skills they can use throughout their lives to drive positive change.



As early signatories to the Disability & Philanthropy Forum's Disability Inclusion Pledge, we're taking concrete steps to enhance accessibility. In 2025, we'll provide resources, continue to facilitate knowledge-sharing sessions, and encourage the inclusion of accommodation expenses in program budgets. Because inclusion is one of our key values, we'll also help grantees make their programs welcoming to groups that are marginalized for other reasons, such as their sexual orientation, race, immigration status, or geographic location.

Despite challenging national headwinds — including funding cuts, policies that disregard science and vulnerable populations, and attacks on NGOs and agencies — we remain steadfast in our core values:

**Equity — Learning & Creativity — Inclusion & Diversity  
Accessibility & Transparency**

We understand that different economic, social, and geographical conditions shape the priorities and needs of individuals and communities in Maine, and we'll continue to adapt our support accordingly.

The arts and the environment are powerful forces for reflection, connection, and healing — more vital now than ever. During this difficult period, we'll invest in Maine's resilient future by supporting our grantees in creating safe, welcoming spaces and maintaining organizational stability and professional integrity. Together, we aim to build a world in which arts and nature provide both comfort and inspiration, deepening our understanding of ourselves and our place in this remarkable state.

Diana

Diana Morris  
Executive Director

# Grants Awarded in 2024

## Arts

Arts Education:  
Support for programs that incorporate arts-related learning goals, particularly equity-oriented organizations and those in rural areas.

240 Strings	\$20,000 over two years to provide general support
317 Main Community Music Center	\$40,000 over two years to provide general support
A Company of Girls+	\$30,000 over two years to provide general support
Acorn Productions	\$12,000 to provide general support
Arts at Greenwood Garden	\$5,000 to support artists teaching and performing on Peaks Island (fiscal sponsor: Creative Portland Corporation)
Bangor Symphony Orchestra	\$30,000 over two years to support Young People's Concerts
Bay Chamber Concerts & Music School	\$40,000 over two years to support music education in midcoast Maine
Bearnstow	\$15,000 over two years to provide general support
Celebration Barn Theater	\$30,000 over two years to provide general support
Center Theatre for the Performing Arts	\$10,000 to support arts education programs
Cobscook Institute	\$10,000 to support a community ceramics studio
Continuum Arts Collective	\$10,000 to provide general support
Double House Arts Collective	\$15,000 over two years to support visual arts workshops for artists living with and without disabilities (fiscal sponsor: Maine Inside Out)
FLOR	\$10,000 to provide general support
Greenhorns	\$7,500 to support the creation of murals at the Sipayik School and Museum (fiscal sponsor: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association)
Halcyon	\$7,500 to support Halcyon education programs in schools
Hardy Girls	\$7,500 to support a camp for girls and nonbinary youth for learning about art and activism
High Peaks Creative Council	\$7,500 to support middle school students making barn quilt murals
Khmer Maine	\$15,000 over two years to support Khmer dance classes

Leaps of Imagination Inc	\$15,000 to provide general support
Maine Academy of Modern Music	\$40,000 over two years to provide general support
Maine Inside Out	\$45,000 over three years to provide general support
Maine Youth Circus	\$7,500 to support afterschool circus arts workshops
Monson Arts	\$15,000 to support youth arts education programs in Piscataquis County (fiscal sponsor: Pineland Farms)
Nevaeh Dance Circus	\$5,000 to support a youth dance circus camp (fiscal sponsor: Creative Norway)
Nibezun	\$7,500 to support Wabanaki traditional arts workshops
Palaver Strings	\$40,000 over two years to provide general support
Pihcintu	\$10,000 to provide general support
Portland Ballet	\$30,000 over two years to provide general support
Portland Museum of Art	\$40,000 over two years to support Learning and Community Collaboration
Portland Ovations	\$40,000 over two years to support education and outreach activities
Portland Stage	\$40,000 over two years to support K-12 theater education programs
Side x Side Inc.	\$40,000 over two years to provide general support
Smooth Feather	\$10,000 over two years to provide general support
Snow Pond Center for the Arts	\$25,000 over two years to support youth arts and music education
STAGES Youth Theater	\$7,500 to provide general support
Swans Island Educational Society	\$12,000 over three years to support youth arts education programs
Tear Cap Workshops	\$7,500 to create hands-on arts learning programs for adults
The Grand	\$7,500 to support arts education programs
The Joy Truck Project	\$7,500 to support traveling creative activities for Piscataquis County youths (fiscal sponsor: Central Hall Commons)
The Public Theatre	\$30,000 over two years to support youth theater education programs
The Telling Room	\$40,000 over two years to provide general support
Tides Institute & Museum of Art	\$7,500 to support a variety of arts engagement programs
Torchlight Media	\$7,500 to support new media storytelling workshops for youths (fiscal sponsor: Belfast Community Radio)
United Youth Empowerment Services	\$5,000 to support a creative space for immigrant youths in Lewiston
Waterfall Arts	\$20,000 to provide general support
Wayfinder Schools	\$20,000 to support arts learning opportunities
William A. Farnsworth Art Museum and Library	\$30,000 to support classroom-integrated arts education programs

**Public Engagement:**  
Support for arts-mission nonprofits that offer ongoing events and foster strong public engagement.

Bagaduce Music	\$25,000 over two years to provide general support
Bar Harbor Music Festival	\$10,000 to provide general support
Bates Dance Festival	\$40,000 to support training programs and performances
Belfast Flying Shoes	\$10,000 to provide general support
Bethel Area Arts & Music	\$10,000 to provide general support
Blue Hill Bach	\$7,500 to provide general support
Blue Hill Concert Association	\$9,000 to provide general support
Brazen Bandits	\$4,000 to support arts programming by and for queer, trans, and marginalized community members (fiscal sponsor: Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance)
Chocolate Church Arts Center	\$20,000 to provide general support
ChoralArt	\$7,500 to provide general support
Classical Uprising	\$40,000 over two years to provide general support
Denmark Arts Center	\$15,000 over two years to provide general support
Down East Singers	\$10,000 to provide general support
Everyman Repertory Theatre	\$5,000 to support the 2024 theater season
Friends of Congress Square Park	\$7,500 to provide general support
Friends of the Kotschmar Organ	\$7,500 to provide general support
Hewnoaks Artist Residency	\$4,000 to support public arts programs
Hogfish Maine	\$7,500 to offer performances as grief gatherings
ISLE Theater Company	\$10,000 over two years to provide general support
Johnson Hall, Inc.	\$40,000 over two years to provide general support
L/A Arts	\$25,000 over two years to provide general support
Lights Out	\$10,000 to support community arts programs
Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition (MPAC)	\$7,500 to support the making and sharing of artwork by incarcerated individuals
Maine State Music Theatre	\$7,500 to support sensory friendly performances for children and families
Meetinghouse Arts	\$15,000 over two years to provide general support
Midcoast Community Chorus	\$7,500 to provide general support
Midcoast Symphony Orchestra	\$10,000 to provide general support
Milbridge Theatre & Community Arts Center	\$10,000 to support community arts programs

New Surry Repertory Theatre and Acting School	\$22,500 over three years to provide general support
Opera House Arts	\$15,000 to provide general support
Opera in the Pines	\$5,000 to support the spring opera season
Opera Maine	\$5,000 to support the spring opera season
Penobscot Marine Museum	\$5,000 to support live music programs to accompany an exhibit about music history
Points North Institute	\$30,000 over two years to provide general support
Portland Theater Festival	\$15,000 to provide general support
Rangeley Friends of the Performing Arts	\$30,000 over three years to provide general support
Reach Projects	\$5,000 to support a participatory community art project (fiscal sponsor: Blue Hill Community Development)
Saco River Theatre	\$7,500 to provide general support
Salt Bay Chamberfest	\$20,000 over two years to provide general support
Schoodic Arts for All	\$40,000 over two years to provide general support
Spindleworks, a program of Independence Association	\$30,000 over two years to support studio arts programs for adults with disabilities
The Parsonage Gallery	\$7,500 to support a community engagement retreat and exhibition (fiscal sponsor: Common Foundation)
Vigorous Tenderness	\$20,000 over two years to support a series of free outdoor chamber music performances (fiscal sponsor: SPACE)
Waterman's Community Center	\$7,500 to support community arts programs on North Haven
Waterville Creates	\$40,000 over two years to provide general support
Mayo Street Arts	\$75,000 over two years to support the Traditional Arts Network

**Arts Sector Capacity:**  
Support for arts nonprofits to build organizational capacity, financial stability, marketing strategies, and advocacy.

Creative Portland Corporation	\$7,500 to support the 2024 Creative Portland Arts and Culture Summit
Maine Crafts Association	\$20,000 to provide general support

# Environment

Equitable Outdoor Access: Support for organizations that work to increase access and eliminate barriers to the outdoors.	
30 Mile River Watershed Association	\$30,000 over two years to provide general support
Adaptive Outdoor Education Center	\$30,000 over two years to provide general support
Camp Beech Cliff	\$20,000 to run three new programs to connect underserved teens and adults to nature
Camp Susan Curtis	\$20,000 to support underserved campers in Maine
Community Geographics	\$50,000 over two years to conduct trail assessments and training for trail managers on access for people with disabilities (fiscal sponsor: Quebec-Labrador Foundation)
Gateway Community Services Maine	\$25,000 to support transportation, lodging, and staffing for outdoor experiences for youth and families
Hearty Roots	\$15,000 to run Afterschool Outing Club and Sunbeam Camp for youth with disabilities and neurological differences
Hurricane Island Outward Bound School	\$30,000 over two years to support the Pinnacle Partners program
IFKA Community Services	\$20,000 over two years to create a new program that connects immigrant youth to nature through hands-on outdoor and culturally responsive activities
Juneteenth Downeast	\$20,000 to coordinate and host Juneteenth Weekend on the Water events and a new swim program (fiscal sponsor: Healthy Acadia)
Khmer Maine	\$15,000 to host a monthly series of Indigenous learning events and outdoor trips
Kindling Collective	\$1,180 to participate in financial training (fiscal sponsor: Mission Earth)
Kindling Collective	\$30,000 over two years to plan and coordinate outdoor programming in Maine (fiscal sponsor: Mission Earth)
Lake Stewards of Maine	\$27,000 to provide general support
Lakes Environmental Association	\$50,000 over two years to provide general support
Main Street Skowhegan	\$11,000 to facilitate use of a new accessible trail by local residents living with disabilities
Maine Appalachian Trail Club, Inc.	\$30,000 over two years to bring on an Outreach Steward to facilitate experiences on the Appalachian Trail for new audiences
Maine Coast Heritage Trust	\$30,000 over two years to support Maine Land Trust Network's Land Trust Census
Maine Community Integration	\$25,000 over two years to support programs that connect youth and adults to the outdoors with field trips and education
Maine GearShare	\$40,000 to provide general support
Maine Island Trail Association	\$15,000 to coordinate and facilitate island trips for underserved groups
Maine Mountain Collaborative	\$20,000 to provide general support
Maine Trails Coalition	\$30,000 to support the work of Maine Trails Coalition (fiscal sponsor: Kennebec Estuary Land Trust)
Momentum Conservation	\$415,000 to support its Land Trust Grant Fund Program
Momentum Conservation	\$215,000 to provide general support
More Women+ Surf	\$1,180 to participate in financial training (fiscal sponsor: Good Medicine)

Niweskok: From the Stars to Seeds	\$20,000 over two years to support Wabanaki Rematriation School
Northern Forest Canoe Trail	\$5,000 to conduct outreach, planning and design for accessibility modifications
Pine Tree Society, Inc.	\$20,000 to support camp and accessible outdoor family programming for children and adults with disabilities
Portland Parks Conservancy	\$20,000 to run three sessions of Portland Youth Corps
Rippleffect	\$30,000 to support the ROLE program
SailMaine	\$10,000 to expand the adaptive sailing program
The Summer Camp Inc	\$15,000 to support campers from Maine
Tree Street Youth	\$40,000 over two years to expand three outdoor programs for youth of all ages
Watershed Friends	\$40,000 over two years to provide general support
Nature Learning: Support for high-quality, science-based nature learning programs that help Maine youth understand environmental systems.	
Appalachian Mountain Club	\$60,000 over two years to support the Maine Woods Community Youth and Environment Program
Boothbay Sea and Science Center	\$40,000 over two years to support seaweed farming and marine education in schools
Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust Inc	\$20,000 to provide teacher training on a model nature learning curriculum
Chewonki Foundation Inc.	\$50,000 over two years to enable Maine students to participate in the Outdoor Classroom
Cobscook Institute	\$13,000 to expand the Midden Minders program to engage more students in Washington County
Greater Franklin Food Council	\$11,800 to support the elementary school garden education program
Hirundo Wildlife Trust	\$12,000 to support educational programs
Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership	\$30,000 over two years to support nature-based science education programs
Maine Environmental Education Association	\$60,000 over two years to provide general support
Maine Environmental Education Association	\$15,000 to provide mini-grants to teachers for nature learning
Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance	\$11,000 to conduct training workshops on the Next Generation Science Standards for out-of-school-time environmental educators
Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance	\$30,000 over two years to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Climate Education Professional Development Grant Pilot Program
Midcoast Conservancy	\$15,000 to sustain and expand the nature-based education program
Nature Based Education Consortium	\$30,000 to provide general operating support (fiscal sponsor: Maine Audubon)
ReTreeUS	\$40,000 over two years to sustain on-site school orchards and deliver related educational lessons (fiscal sponsor: United Charitable)
Rural Aspirations Project	\$40,000 over two years to support the Maine Forest Collaborative
Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park	\$50,000 over two years to expand the Schoodic Education Adventure for underserved Maine schools
Western Foothills Land Trust	\$17,000 to expand nature learning with the Roberts Farm Experiential Learning partnership
Wild Seed Project	\$30,000 to implement experiential ecology programs in schools with accompanying teacher training

Advocacy and Movement Building:  
Support for programs that help advance climate change action and shift environmental protection policies.

A Climate to Thrive	\$40,000 to formalize an advocacy training program
Center for an Ecology Based Economy	\$40,000 to provide general support
JustME for JustUS	\$40,000 to provide general support
Maine Climate Action Now	\$50,000 to provide general support
Maine Conservation Alliance	\$60,000 to provide general support
Maine People's Resource Center	\$40,000 over two years to support advocacy training
Maine Youth for Climate Justice	\$50,000 over two years to support education, training, and advocacy activities (fiscal sponsor: Maine Climate Action Now)
Natural Resources Council of Maine	\$25,000 to provide general support

## Special Opportunities

Bicycle Coalition of Maine	\$20,000 to provide general support
High Peaks Alliance	\$15,000 to provide general support
Roux Institute	\$27,000 to enable the Roux Institute to help a cohort of environmental nonprofit organizations to develop an earned income stream (fiscal sponsor: Northeastern University)
Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness	\$40,000 to facilitate Wabanaki youth engagement in the design and implementation of the Three Sisters Garden and the Bangor River Walk
Blue Sky Funders Forum	\$2,750 to support the Blue Sky Funders Forum (fiscal sponsor: Environmental Grantmakers Association)
Grantmakers in the Arts	\$1,100 to provide general support
Maine Association of Nonprofits	\$10,000 to present webinars on recently enacted state and federal labor and tax laws and regulations that directly affect nonprofit organizations
Maine Philanthropy Center	\$16,700 to provide general support
Maine Philanthropy Center	\$11,000 to support a part-time Network Facilitation Manager
New Learning Journey	\$80,000 over two years to support the educational and community programming activities of First Light
Spurwink	\$10,000 to support operations in the Lewiston Auburn region
Technology Association of Grantmakers	\$515 to provide general support



WATERFALL ARTS

## OUR MISSION

### To build a more equitable and healthy Maine by deepening the connection of all people to the arts and nature

#### PHOTO CREDITS

Front cover

**Lake Stewards of Maine**, Dale Schultz  
**Leaps of Imagination**, Nancy Harris Frolich

Inside cover and page 1

**Maine State Music Theatre**, Dane Whitlock  
**Mahoosuc Land Trust**, Andy Gagne Photography  
**Pine Tree Camp**, courtesy Pine Tree Society

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**Tracker Certification**, courtesy BIPOC Naturalists

Pages 6 and 7

**Leaps of Imagination**, Nancy Harris Frolich  
**Everyman Repertory Theater**, Scott Anthony Smith

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**Docsong**, by Tim Greenway

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**Pine Tree Camp**, courtesy Pine Tree Society  
**Sally Struever**, Claire Houston

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**Opera Maine**, Martha Mickles  
**Leaps of Imagination**, Nancy Harris Frolich

Inside back cover

**Maine State Music Theatre**, Dane Whitlock

Back cover

**Bearnstow**, Kenneth Osborne  
**Adaptive Outdoor Education Center**



MAINE CLIMATE ACTION



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