A Message from our Executive Director

Compañeros/as,

All of my life I have been around resilient people: from my parents to my classmates in middle school who were with me when I first directly encountered racism in this country, to the COPA members who despite all the challenges our community is facing continue to be on the front lines leading the resistance, building power and fighting for change, and to you all, who continue to support us and fight with us for justice.

We are a resilient community—resiliency lives within Colorado People’s Alliance. Our start in 2015 was difficult but we have succeeded against all odds. We are building power, achieving incredible victories, and standing stronger than ever.

Looking forward, we know more challenges are to come, but we will continue to be resilient, we will continue to build power and we will continue to win. And now more than ever we are committed to:

- Fight for the dignity and humanity of all immigrants
- Fight to ensure our economy works for all, not just the wealthy few and corporations
- Fight and ensure communities of color and working class communities lead the fight for climate justice
- Fight for racial justice and against white supremacy

I am honored and humbled to be part of the COPA team and family, and I am grateful for your incredible support that has allowed us to move important and critical work forward, and make COPA, in our short time of existence, such an incredible success. Thank you - we could not have done it without your support!

COPA is by and for community - directly impacted individuals leading the change for climate, economic, racial and immigrant Justice.

En Solidaridad,

Lizeth Chacón
Founding Executive Director
In December 2015, Colorado People's Alliance started out of the union of Rights for All People and Colorado Progressive Coalition. As a member-led, grassroots racial justice organization our members lead the fight for climate, economic, and immigrant justice.

Our work is conducted through a racial justice lens because we understand that systematic oppression is the root cause of the issues we work on. We believe that in order to truly create change, we must also change the systems that perpetuate oppression.

We believe that those who are most directly impacted should lead the work for change and at our start we established a dues paying membership model and we now have close to 400 dues paying members. In 2016 we co-chaired and led the successful statewide ballot measure that increased Colorado’s minimum wage to $12 an hour by 2020. In 2017, 25 members planned 21 direct actions of resistance during the first 100 days of the new administration. Additionally, our members along with allies wrote and passed an Immigration Protection Policy and Legal Defense Fund for the City of Denver.

Your support made all of this work possible!

**Leadership Development**

We provided leadership trainings to ensure our members have the necessary tools to lead COPA's campaigns.

- **2** Day-Long Trainings
- **50** Members Trained
- **1** training on structural racism to environmental allies
- **27** Members developed through the 100 Days of Action

---

**OUR FIRST TWO YEARS**

**DECEMBER 2015**

We opened our doors as Colorado People’s Alliance (COPA)!

**NOVEMBER 2016**

We co-chaired and led the passage of a ballot measure in Colorado for $12 an hour by 2020!

**JANUARY-MAY 2017**

Every Tuesday during the 1st 100 Days of the new administration, we did a direct action, mobilizing over 270 people.
WE WIN.

Climate Justice
Through our canvass in 2017 in Commerce City & the Denver neighborhood of Montbello, community members shared concerns about their drinking water. We are now working to ensure everyone in our community has access to safe drinking water.

- 1,613 Doors knocked
- 49% Of those engaged reported water issues
- 7 Members began campaign to move Colorado to a just and equitable renewable energy economy

Immigrant Justice
2017 was filled with resistance as we faced the new administration and three of our members faced deportation. Yet we moved on offense to fight for our immigrant brothers and sisters.

1 Colorado Rapid Response Network created (including a hotline)
1 Denver Legal Defense Fund & immigration protection policy passed—“Denver Public Safety Enforcement Priorities Act"
11 Actions in support of the Dream Act
700+ Calls in support of a clean Dream Act & Denver Immigration Protection Policy
60 Members mobilized against the City of Aurora’s anti-immigrant policies
1 Increase of funding to driver’s licenses for undocumented immigrants

Know Your Rights
We provide workshops to ensure our community understands and utilize their constitutional rights.

- 602 People trained
- 30 Workshops
- 1 Entire Denver school district sent home our materials

Citizenship Class
We provide bilingual English/Spanish classes that support members in becoming US Citizens & provide the leadership skills needed for them to be involved in their community.

- 170 Students
- 62 New Citizens

Economic Justice
After our successful measure in 2016 that increased Colorado’s minimum wage to $12 an hour by 2020 we continue to work to ensure everyone in our community has the ability to thrive not just survive and to hold corporations accountable.

COPA started and chairs the Work Here, Thrive Here Coalition to allow municipalities the ability to increase their minimum wage to higher rate than that of the state.
NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Members
We are so grateful to all our founding members who dedicated hours of their time to the formation of COPA. Their tireless work and vision of transformation and power for our communities laid the foundation for our victories!

Our members continue to lead our work as we fight for progressive change in Colorado--thank you!

Donors
Thank you to all of our founding donors who have supported us from the beginning! Your support allowed us to open our doors.

And thank you to all our new donors--your continued contributions allow us to grow and build power--we couldn't do our work without you!

And lastly, to our 2017 monthly Power Builders, a special recognition.

Anonymous
Erin Binford
Kathy Bougher
Regan Byrd
Lupita Carasquillo
Madison Cassels

Caroline Casteel
Lizeth Chacon
Joe Deras
Josh Downey
Ken Flurry
Juan Gallegos

Margaret Gomez
Nate Gutierrez
Liz Hamel
Ben Hanna
Billy Husher
Ben Ishibashi

Julie Laven
Dalila Lopez
Martha Lugo
Neha Mahajan
Vanessa Marcano
Elizabeth Murphy

Cynthia Negron
Elsa Oliva
Jacquelyn Parkins
Corrine Rivera-Fowler
Rogelio Rodriguez
Joel Schmidt
Merrill Schmidt

Board of Directors
Madison Cassels, Board Chair
Billy Husher, Board Secretary
Regan Byrd, Board Treasurer
Felipe Vieyra, Board Member

A special thank you to our past board members: Elena Nuñez, Chet Sisk, and Maggie Gomez.
2017 FINANCIALS

**Income**

- Foundations: 78.0%
- Program: 9.0%
- Other: 2.0%
- Individual Donations: 7.5%
- Annual Grassroots Fundraising Event: 3.5%

2017 Total Income: $481,642.02

**Expenses**

- Personnel: 73.5%
- Operating Expenses: 12.5%
- Program Expenses: 8.5%
- Professional Services: 5.5%

2017 Total Expenses: $354,420.92

A copy of our 990 is available from the Secretary of State and the IRS.
Looking forward to even more victories in 2018 and beyond.

Thank you for being part of the COPA team!

GET INVOLVED!

Visit us at www.coloradopeoplesalliance.org
• Become a member
• Become a monthly Power Builder
• Make a one time donation
• Sign up to receive our emails

And follow us on social media!
Facebook Colorado People's Alliance
Instagram COPAPower
Twitter Colorado People's Alliance