

# 2015 IMPACT REPORT

If I may paraphrase my fellow co-founder here at The Democracy Collaborative, the political economist and historian Gar Alperovitz, I invite you to see this moment we are living in as the prehistory of a period of fundamental change: the next American revolution. As Gar emphasizes, behind every moment of seemingly sudden transformation—such as the New Deal or the Civil Rights movement—one finds the long, patient, careful work of people who prepared the foundation for that transformation. There were people quietly creating the infrastructure, helping people see themselves in new ways, running hopeful experiments pointing toward a better future, and all the while building to larger and larger scales. What they were building was, quite simply, the fabric of a new common sense.

I can think of no better way to describe what it's felt like here at the Collaborative over the past year. Our growing staff has been reaching more and more people and institutions, getting into their hands the tools of this new common sense—the tools of community wealth building. We've been convening mayors to help break local economies out of the cycle of poverty and disinvestment ... working alongside major hospital systems to promote real visions of health equity ... designing strategies for inclusive economies with small community foundations and some of our largest financial institutions. We're also been deepening our analysis—with a research agenda that's uncovered key levers to build grassroots power, and traced the rise of an emerging paradigm for inclusive economic development in more than 30 cities. With the launch of our major new initiative on "the next system," we're knitting together this powerful work on the ground with a broader, long-term framework, aiming to help our nation better understand how to confront the undeniably deep challenges—economic, ecological, and political—facing our communities.

I encourage you, with the map and timeline we've prepared here, to look back with us on the impact we have had in this past year, and help us envision what we can—with your support—accomplish in the years to come.

Ted Howard  
President and Co-Founder  
The Democracy Collaborative

[democracycollaborative.org](http://democracycollaborative.org)  
[community-wealth.org](http://community-wealth.org)  
[thenextsystem.org](http://thenextsystem.org)

Make a gift to The Democracy Collaborative: [democracycollaborative.org/support](http://democracycollaborative.org/support)

## LEARNING/ACTION LAB FOR COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Supported by the Northwest Area Foundation, we are advising a cohort of Native community wealth builders: Little Earth of United Tribes from Minneapolis; Native American Natural Foods and the Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation from the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, Oglala Lakota Nation; the Native American Youth and Family Center from Portland, Oregon; and the Spokane Tribal Network, Wellpinit, Washington, Spokane Nation.

## THE ANCHOR DASHBOARD LEARNING COHORT

Supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, we are working with six higher ed institutions—Buffalo State, Cleveland State, Drexel University (Philadelphia), Rutgers University - Newark, The University of Memphis, and the University of Missouri, St. Louis—to pilot effective metrics of community impact for anchor institution initiatives.

## HELPING ROCHESTER DEVELOP A MARKET DRIVEN COMMUNITY COOPERATIVES CORPORATION

We worked on the ground with the City of Rochester, under Mayor Lovely Warren, to develop a comprehensive plan for a worker cooperative development corporation that can build opportunity in disinvested neighborhoods by connecting communities to anchor institution demand.

## HELPING COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS ALIGN INVESTMENTS WITH VALUES

As part of an expert consulting group, we helped the Rhode Island Foundation create an impact investing policy statement.

## THE EVERGREEN COOPERATIVES

We are continuing our ongoing partnership with Cleveland's innovative network of worker-owned green businesses tied together in a nonprofit framework for community job creation.

## ADVANCING COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING WITH LOCAL PHILANTHROPY

We helped the Community Health Foundation in Washington, DC, develop a plan to strategically reorientate its grantmaking towards inclusive and equitable economic development.

## HELPING RICHMOND'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

We are helping design an anchor-institution based social enterprise strategy as part of the city's comprehensive efforts to fight entrenched poverty.

## BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS TO ENGAGE IN COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Working alongside Cooperation Jackson, we helped these Southern activists for racial and economic justice build their capacity to engage anchor institutions around community wealth building procurement policies.

## HELPING NEW ORLEANS CONNECT HEALTHCARE'S ECONOMIC RESOURCES TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

On behalf of the New Orleans Business Alliance (NOLABA), we helped conduct an assessment of the procurement practices and supply chain needs of New Orleans healthcare institutions and the capacity of small, local businesses to fulfill those needs, building on the commitments from city leaders to identify strategies to address the crisis of black male unemployment.

## EMPOWERING GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP

We are helping Nexus Community Partners in Minneapolis, a grassroots community intermediary, to develop strategies to build community wealth in East St. Paul.

## CREATING HEALTHCARE'S COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY WEALTH STRATEGY

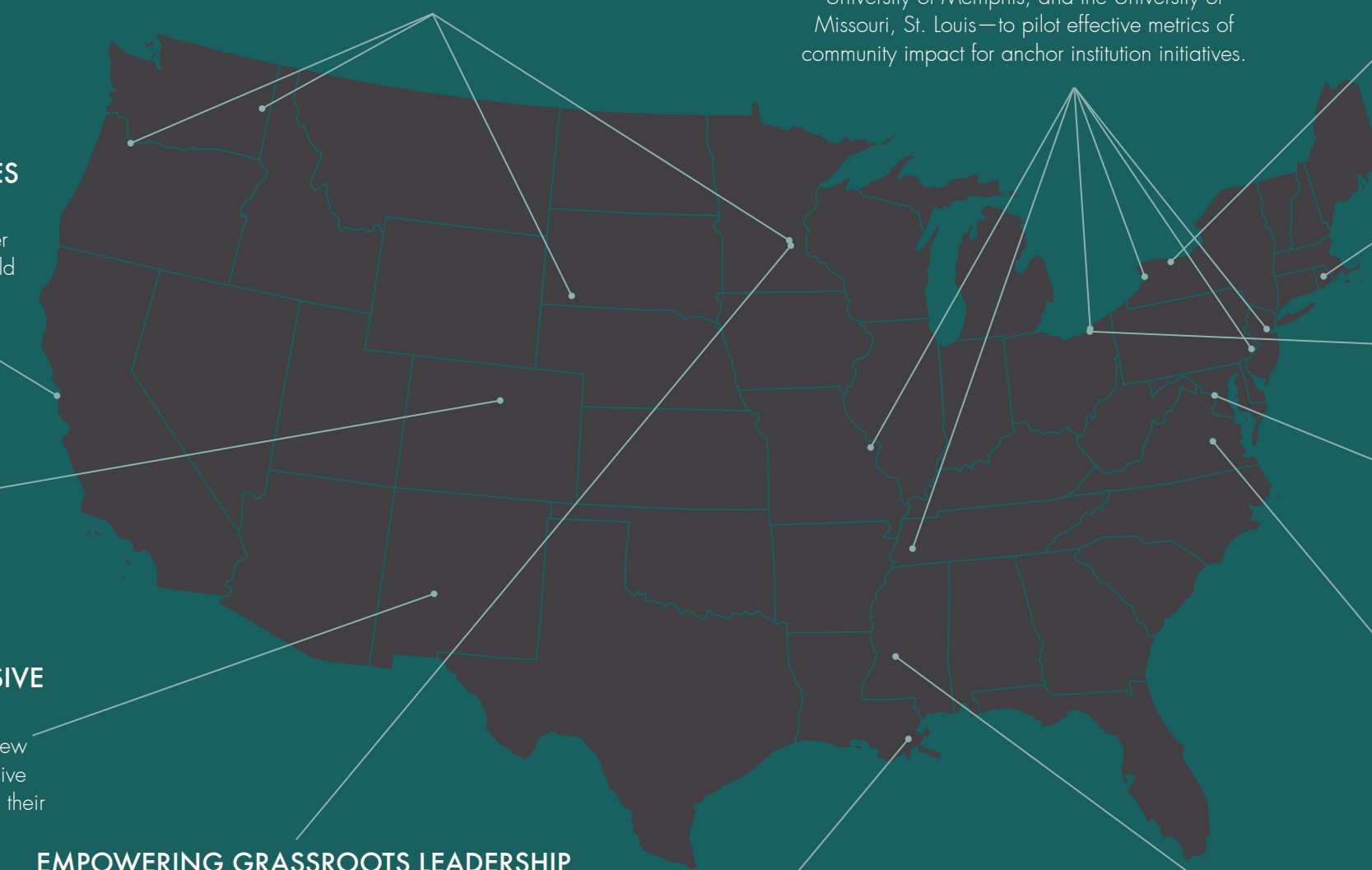
Beginning in 2016, we are helping the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center develop a comprehensive plan to connect their resources as an anchor institution to their local community.

## GROWING LOCAL CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

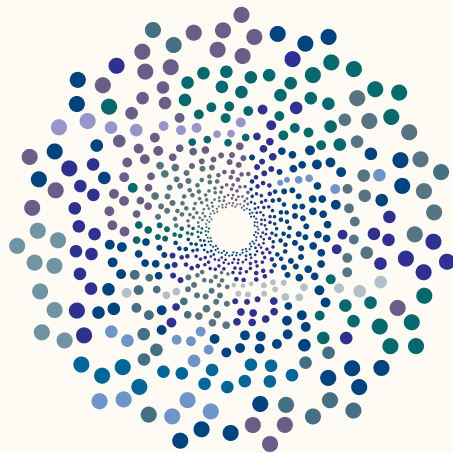
We are helping the Denver Foundation and its community partners connect the resources of a local medical center to the economic needs of disinvested communities.

## ANCHORS FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

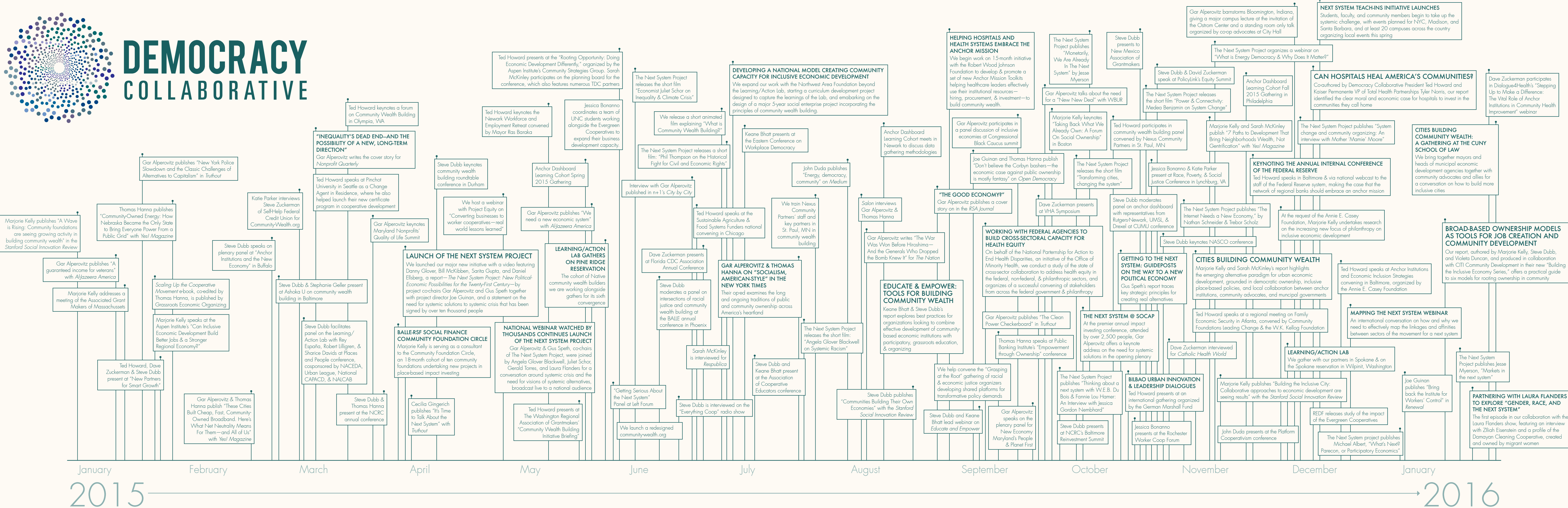
We are developing new models for engaged anchor institution strategies in the Bay Area together with Kaiser Permanente, The California Endowment, and the Emerald Cities Collaborative.



THE DEMOCRACY  
COLLABORATIVE



# DEMOCRACY COLLABORATIVE



Marjorie Kelly publishes "A Wave is Rising: Community foundations are seeing growing activity in building community wealth" in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*

Thomas Hanna publishes "Community-Owned Energy: How Nebraska Became the Only State to Bring Everyone Power from a Public Grid" with *Yes! Magazine*

Gar Alperovitz publishes "New York Police Slowdown and the Classic Challenges of Alternatives to Capitalism" in *Truthout*

Katie Parker interviews Steve Zuckerman of Self-Help Federal Credit Union for *CommunityWealth.org*

"INEQUALITY'S DEAD END—AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW, LONG-TERM DIRECTION"  
Gar Alperovitz writes the cover story for *Nonprofit Quarterly*

Ted Howard speaks at Pinchot University in Seattle as a Change Agent in Residence, where he also helped launch their new certificate program in cooperative development

Steve Dubb speaks on plenary panel at "Anchor Institutions and the New Economy" in Buffalo

Gar Alperovitz publishes "We need a new economic system" with *Aljazeera America*

Anchor Dashboard Learning Cohort Spring 2015 Gathering

Ted Howard speaks at the Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Funders national convening in Chicago

John Duda publishes "Energy, democracy, community" on *Medium*

Anchor Dashboard Learning Cohort meets in Newark to discuss data gathering methodologies

Gar Alperovitz publishes "The War Was Won Before Hiroshima—And the Generals Who Dropped the Bomb Knew It" for *The Nation*

Gar Alperovitz writes "The Clean Power Checkerboard" in *Truthout*

Gar Alperovitz publishes "The Good Economy?" Gar Alperovitz publishes a cover story on in the *RSA Journal*

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2016