



PRESS | **ON**

ANNUAL
REPORT

2023

Reflections on 2023

Dear Press On community,

Press On came into existence six years ago to challenge the status quo that mainstream media upholds. **We believe that ethical journalism – movement journalism – challenges oppression and advances liberation.** Press On prioritizes the voices of Southern Black, brown, trans, queer, immigrant, working-class, incarcerated, and disabled people as the expert media makers of their own lives.

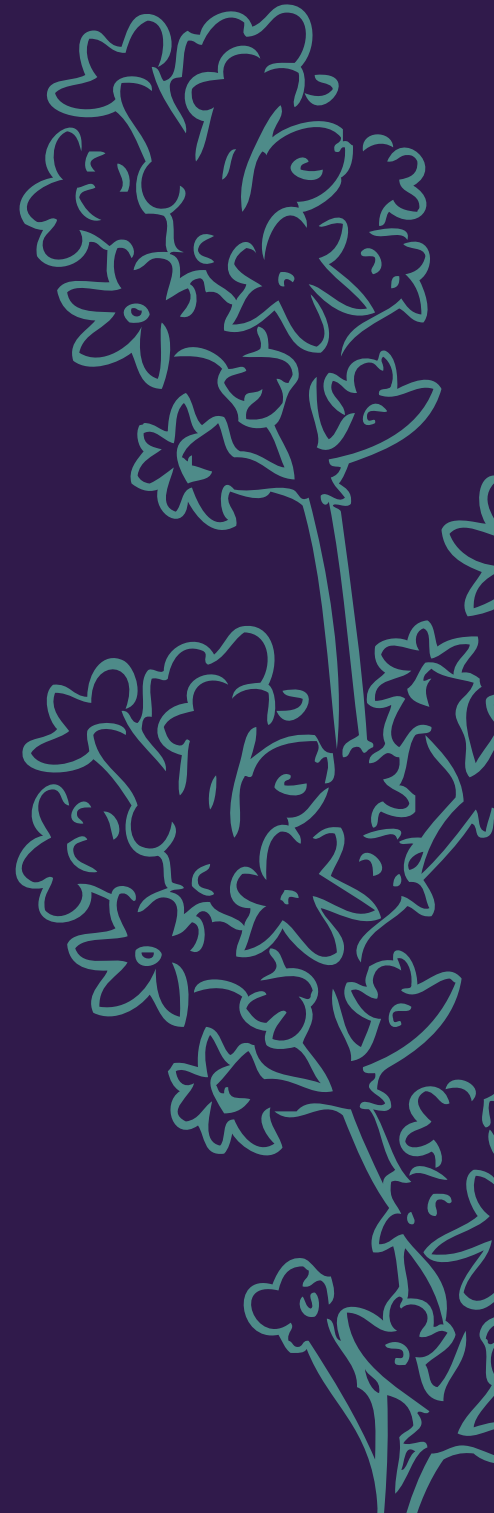
In 2023, we faced an onslaught of attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, Critical Race Theory, trans and queer communities, reproductive rights, the environment, and in the last three months, we saw how the genocide in Gaza has unfolded.

What we saw as a response were millions of people in the streets, in legislative buildings, in school board meetings, and locked to construction cranes. By their side, and in solidarity, we saw movement journalists document these social justice fights to get accurate information out to the communities who need it most.

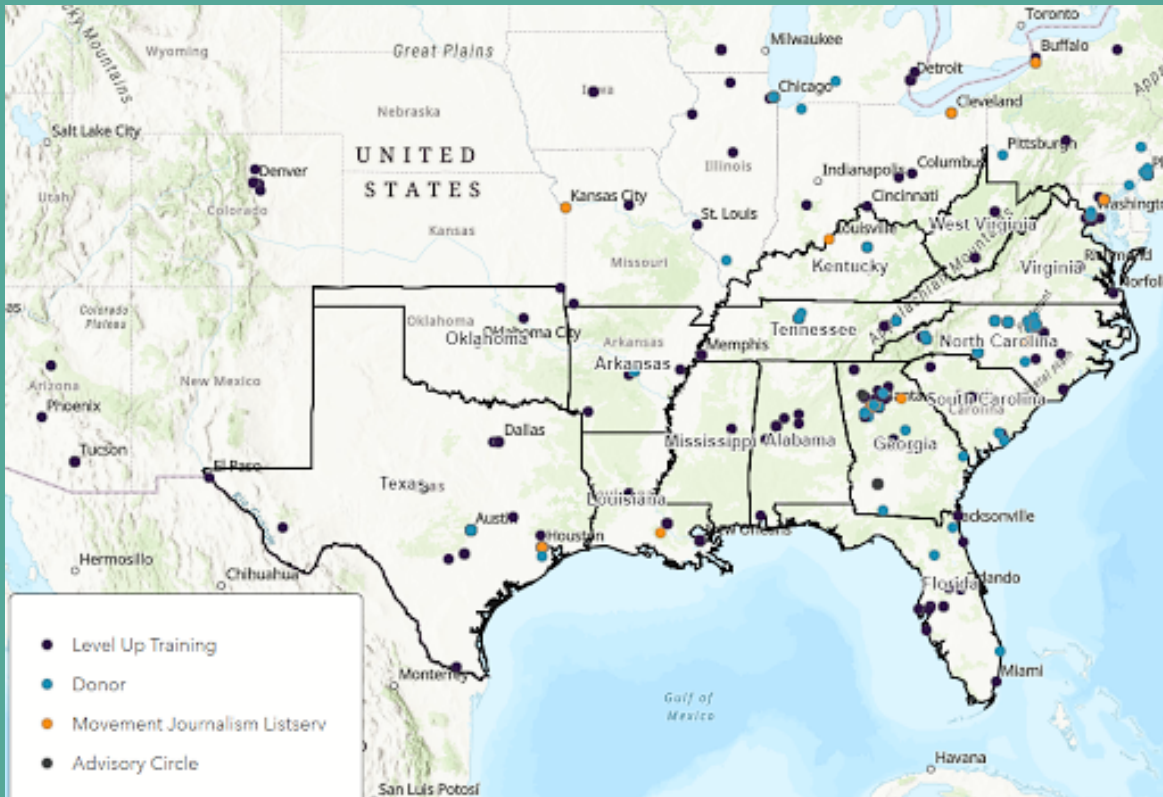
Press On works to resource and strengthen organizers and media makers as they shift narratives, ideologies, and reshape the field of journalism.

We deeply resonate with murdered Palestinian poet Refaat Alareer's quote, "If I must die, you must live, to tell my story," as guidance in this work.

- In solidarity, Nadeen, coral & Neesha



Where is Press On's Impact?



Who is a part of Press On?



Level Up Program Report

Press On's popular education program, **Level Up**, meets the needs of Southern movement journalists and organizers by increasing their understanding of emergent and urgent justice issues within movement and media landscapes, as well as advancing their technical media skills.



In 2023, we hosted:

- Snack & Learn: [Building Solidarity Between Organizers & Journalists](#)
- Snack & Learn: [Media & Messaging Strategies to Defeat Anti-Trans Legislation](#)
- Making Media for Weelaunee Summer: A Virtual Stop Cop City Teach-In
- Snack & Learn: [Black Feminist Media Past, Present & Future](#)
- Editors for a Free Palestine
- Movement Broadcasting Intensive: Creating Audio & Video for Collective Liberation- [a 12-session skill sharing series](#)

Participant Feedback

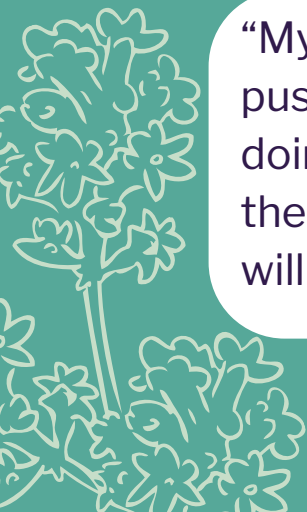
- ✿ 67% of participants are BIPOC Southerners.
- ✿ 77% of participants are queer.
- ✿ Participants come from every state and territory in the South.
- ✿ Participants on average rated the quality of the trainings 4.58/5.
- ✿ 477 participants registered for our Level Up trainings.

“I got a more thorough understanding of the roles, skills, and capabilities of documenting and sharing on people and issues. My most major takeaway is to do it!!!! It’s necessary and vital, and there are so many other folks who aren’t trained journalists, and the work we do is still valuable. My other takeaway is lead with integrity and care. Just take care with people, how their story is being told, and I got some practical skills about how to do that—researching, editing, fact checking, and sticking to your principles.”

“My key insight is to keep pushing, that the work we are doing is making a difference and there are more and more people willing to throw down.”

“I have taken away that there are people in community with me in the journalism world and so many people who are so supportive. Being a marginalized journalist, one pushing for change in a conservative industry is really hard; however I’m not alone. “

“This was one of the most comprehensive, thoughtful, and straight brilliant courses I have ever been a part of. Most of it has to do with the experience, courage, and thought leadership of the organizers and guest speakers. It's been inspiring on so many levels.”



Program Spotlight

Southern Movement Media Fund

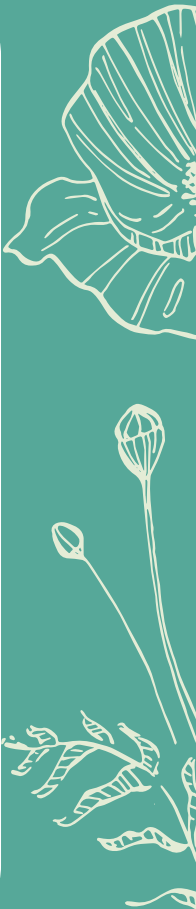
The Southern Movement Media Fund provides grants to Southern movement journalism practitioners, providing them support to work alongside their communities, with each other, and movement partners to produce the news and information people need to make informed decisions about their lives.

In 2023, the Southern Movement Media Fund awarded a total of \$186,000 to 30 Black, Indigenous, queer, and trans-led movement media projects across the South. **We see our grantees as the model for movement media and believe that if projects like these were more fully funded, the entire media industry could be transformed**

Movement Journalism Network

There are 300+ organizers/media makers in the movement journalism network who share resources and strategies. Patrice Wilson curates the network with a monthly newsletter and weekly prompts to engage participants and support their well-being.

The network served as a connector for nine Southern movement journalists to meet, build trust, and ultimately produce a powerful op-ed on the need for journalists to speak out against the ongoing genocide in Gaza. This op-ed was co-published in eight different movement media outlets simultaneously. Not only did this project build lasting relationships, but it also consolidated efforts, skills, and expertise to focus on the much needed political intervention at hand, while also creating a model that could be replicated.



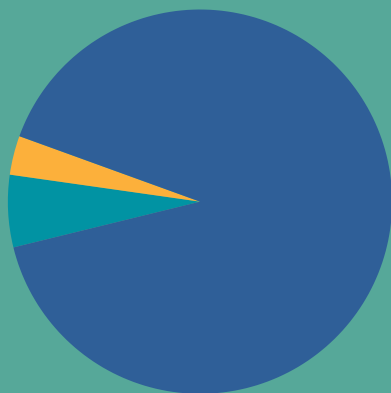
Financial Report

2023 Income

Foundation
91%

Interest
3%

Individuals
6%



2023 Expenses

Program
74%

Fundraising
6%

Admin
20%



Thank you to our Funders:

Ford Foundation
Levi Strauss Foundation
Borealis Philanthropy
Democracy Fund
Rainbow Justice Fund
Milton A & Charlotte Kramer Foundation
and
Our 347 individual donors!

Accountability & Partners

Advisory Circle:

In 2023, Press On launched our Advisory Circle. The advisory circle is an accountability mechanism and includes past program participants, past staff members & collaborators, stakeholder convening participants, Southern movement journalists, and Southern movement organizers.

They support Press On by:

- Keeping staff accountable to our mission and guiding principles.
- Creating a shared analysis of the political and media landscapes and what interventions are needed.
- Offering feedback on our work.

Thank you to our advisory circle members:

Clarissa Brooks, Reckon

Nicki Faircloth, Women AdvaNce

Kési Felton, Better to Speak

Jupe Javeta, dts (down the street) media

DaLyah Jones, Borealis Philanthropy's Racial Equity in Journalism Fund

V Starks, sweet tea & cinema collective

Nada Merghani, Southern Vision Alliance

Thank you to our Level Up partners:

Triad City Beat, Intransitive, Georgia Youth Justice Coalition, Country Queers, Mainline, Scalawag, Community Movement Builders, sweet tea & cinema collective, National Council of Elders, Prism, Teen Vogue, +972 Magazine, Mizna, Migrant Roots Media & Interrupting Criminalization



Welcome Neesha!

New addition to our staff:

In 2023, Press On welcomed Neesha Powell-Ingabire as a full-time staff member to direct the Level Up program.

She is a coastal Georgia-born-and-raised movement journalist, essayist, and community & cultural organizer living in Atlanta/occupied Muscogee territory.

She first engaged with Press On in 2019 as one of the inaugural Freedomways reporting fellows, producing two stories about reproductive injustices in Georgia and collaborating with SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW on a live podcast about how fake clinics (so-called “crisis pregnancy centers”) harm pregnant people by coercing them into not seeking abortion care. She also received a grant from Press On’s Southern Movement Media Fund in 2020, allowing her to report on environmental threats to Gullah Geechee culture in her home county.

Her debut book, *COME BY HERE: A Memoir in Essays from Georgia’s Geechee Coast*, will be published by Hub City Press on September 24, 2024.



Join us



presson.media



[@presson_south](https://www.instagram.com/presson_south)



[@PressOn_South](https://twitter.com/PressOn_South)



bit.ly/PressOnLinkedIn



bit.ly/PressOnNewsletter



givebutter.com/press-on



Press On South, Inc.
730 Peachtree St STE 570
Atlanta GA 30308
EIN #84-3775642

Staff

Nadeen Bir, Director of Finance and HR, 2021-present

alyzza may Director of Development, 2021-March 2024

coral feigin, Director of Organizational Development, 2020-Present

Neesha Powell-Ingabire, Director of Popular Education, 2023-Present

Board

Tina Vásquez, Prism, Board Chair, 2020-present

Rumba Yambú, Intransitive, 2023-present

Anita Varma, Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Austin School of Journalism and Media, 2023-present

Lisa Armstrong, Assistant Professor,

UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, 2023-present

Hannah Hasan, Epoch Tribe, 2023