



philanthropy,  
social justice,  
civil society  
and democracy

**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**OF COMUÁ NETWORK**

TRANSFORMING PHILANTHROPY

**comuá** comuá network  
transforming  
philanthropy



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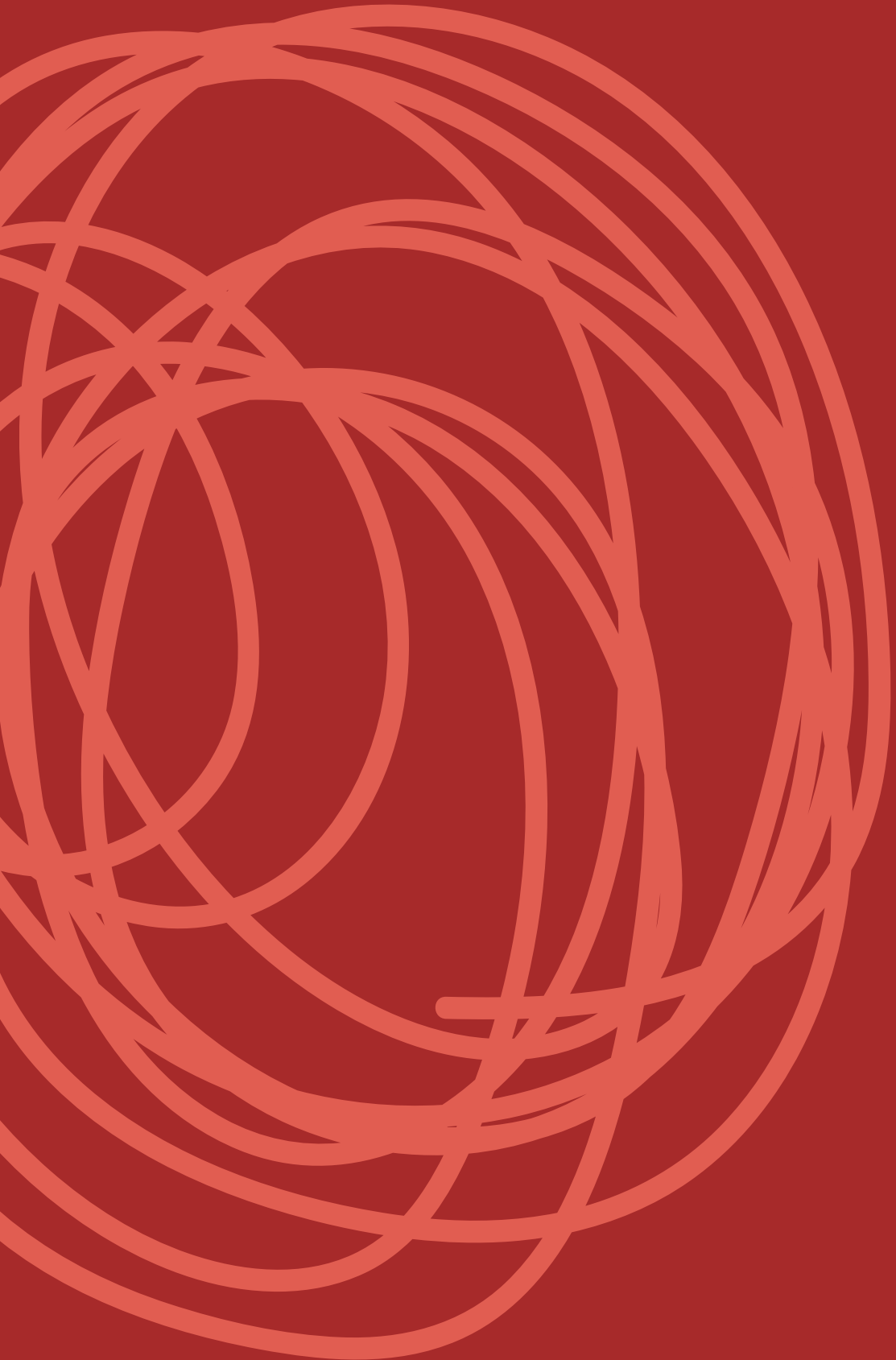
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são paulo, 2022

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the  
philanthropy,  
social justice,  
civil society  
and democracy  
seminar



In September 2022, Comuá Network organized the Philanthropy, Social Justice, Civil Society and Democracy Seminar to celebrate its 10th anniversary



It was an occasion for reunions, following a worldwide pandemic, which was extremely powerful, echoing numerous voices





during a 21-hour program featuring over 50 speakers, 220 participants attended in-person and 360 joined virtually. the event also saw participation from over 110 organizations.



We prepared this publication to tell you all about the seminar and just how much content and reflections were shared there... **enjoy!**



12



13





how can community  
philanthropy  
for social justice  
contribute to the  
strengthening  
of civil society  
and democracy  
in brazil?

graciela hopstein



It is in the field of rights that philanthropy for social justice and democracy are connected. Contributing financial resources to community-based initiatives, organizations, groups and movements engaging in the defense of rights is a crucial strategy to strengthen these agendas and the various civil society actors that work in this field.

In the current political scenario, it is urgent that we act to transform the field of philanthropy, democratizing access to resources, branching out its distribution, connecting it to social demands, while remaining in permanent dialogue with civil society (#ShiftThePower).

There is no doubt that philanthropy is a complex arena in which different initiatives and forms of action coexist. In fact, there is not a single philanthropy, but multiple philanthropies as it is important to recognize the diversity of the actors and dynamics in this field. The Comuá Network and its members believe it is crucial to approach the field of philanthropy from a political viewpoint, since life and our very existences are, in fact, political in nature. Including this dimension is vital to allow for the understanding of its connection to the real, material world, and so that we can reflect on philanthropy's role in the transformation processes in the social field (in the broadest sense). Because transforming means breaking preexisting pacts (grounded on patrimonialism, sexism, racism, etc.) and conceiving of power not only as control, but rather as the ability to create and multiply what is common.

At the same time, transformation implies the establishment of a process of deconstruction, in order to overcome and abandon a colonial – and binary – rationale – based on a white, male, heteronormative Euro-

centrism, centered on socially constructed opposites – challenging power relations, the imposition of agendas and actions, avoiding the reproduction of relations of oppression and subordination. At the same time, it is impossible to conceive of a democratic space without dialogue, without the ability to accept differences and the rights of minorities. Because strengthening democracy means fighting racism, lgbtphobia, sexism, misogyny, ageism, ethnocide, ableism, among multiple other forms of discrimination.

The starting point of philanthropy for social justice is the recognition of differences, diversity and intersections. It operates through rhizomatic networks, recognizing the power of connections in continuous and changing processes. It is a philanthropy based on trust and the power of social transformation, whose protagonists are the various actors making up civil society.

Democracy, socio-environmental justice and the defense of rights are the core principles guiding the work of the Comuá Network and its members, through collaborative actions, partnerships with the actors in the field of philanthropy and civil society.

The donation of financial resources – through diversified grantmaking strategies – to civil society organizations and initiatives has proven to be one of the most relevant ways to contribute to the strengthening of civil society. The thematic and community funds and community foundations comprising the **Comuá Network** absolutely hold a strategic position as they have in fact continuously donated resources to civil society, not only to face the pandemic, but also in the fight to ensure access to rights and in the construction of the agendas in the fields of human rights and social justice,

led by groups, collectives and movements focusing on political minorities. And even in the adverse scenario marked by setbacks in the fields of rights and public policy, by necropolitics and denialism, independent funds contributed to support the resistance efforts led by grassroots movements and groups in Brazil.

The emergence of independent local funds since the 2000s implied a process of transformation not only of Brazilian philanthropy, but also of civil society, as they established themselves as an effective alternative for financing and strengthening small and medium organizations and movements that work in the field of social justice and community development.

Among the Network's funds, which work to defend diversified, interconnected agendas in the fields of social justice and community development, there is a common understanding that supporting civil society – organizations, social movements, leaders, is a crucial strategy to strengthen it, since promoting access to rights – having the right to rights – is the fundamental starting point for the consolidation of democracy.

One of the primary foundations of the work done by the Comuá Network is its advocacy program. It aims to promote collective and networked action to enable the joint construction of strategies and narratives, the generation and sharing of knowledge that can leverage and better position the community and social justice philanthropy agenda in the Brazilian and international philanthropic ecosystems. Additionally, the program aims to expand grantmaking practices and the culture of giving to the benefit of civil society organizations, groups, collectives, movements, and leaders committed to these causes.

This approach to philanthropy also seeks to promote change in philanthropic ecosystems, promoting a decolonial shift in the field, questioning traditional and hegemonic practices that aim to determine which local agendas are relevant, which movements deserve support, what solutions are best and how they should be reported.

To change how donations are made and expand grantmaking practices, observing the organizations and territories that receive financial support as active agents of change, recognizing the communities' assets in the search of their own solutions to existing problems in the construction of a greater common good.

In the context of change, the Network has also been transforming. When it was created in 2012 it had eight members, today we are 16 and we believe that we will continue to grow in number of members.

In the past years, the Network has consolidated important partnerships with domestic and international philanthropic organizations, and we managed to establish it as a political actor in the field, whose mission is to advocate within the philanthropic ecosystem to strengthen the agendas and the donation of funds to philanthropy for social justice, a dynamic for which the generation of knowledge is imperative.

To celebrate the Network's 10th anniversary and reflect on these ways of doing philanthropy and its practices, several civil society organizations, philanthropy and social justice organizations came together on September 20 and 21, 2022, in São Paulo, during the Philanthropy, Social Justice, Civil Society and Democracy Seminar.

This publication marks the Network's tenth anniversary, while at the same time presenting a summary of the discussions and contributions that were the high point of the Seminar.

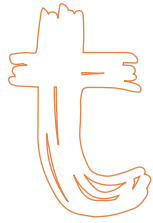
**more:**

- » [Watch the video about the Network's way of doing philanthropy](#)
- » [Read the article published in Le Monde Diplomatique Brasil on the subject](#)  
(available in Portuguese)





the role and  
history of  
**comuá network**  
philanthropy that  
transforms



The Philanthropy Network for Social Justice, which has changed its name to Comuá Network – transforming philanthropy, celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2022.

It is a space that brings together funds and community foundations, donor organizations (grantmakers) that mobilize resources from diverse sources to support groups, collectives, movements and civil society organizations that work in the fields of social justice, human rights, citizenship and community development.

The Network was created in 2012 to promote and transform the philanthropic culture in Brazil into one that ensures and expands the resources available for social justice. The following organizations are among its founding members: Fundo Baobá, Fundo Elas+, Fundo Brasil, Fundo Casa Socioambiental, Instituto Comunitário da Grande Florianópolis – ICOM – Brazil Foundation, Instituto Rio and Instituto Baixada.

The organization's first six years were dedicated to structuring and establishing the Network's presence in the field. In the following years, big steps were taken, with the procurement of important funding and the development of relevant work within the Brazilian philanthropic ecosystem and with its member organizations.

If, at the start, the Network fought to get closer to funders, partners and relevant organizations, we are now seeing an opposite path, in which the Network is being approached for its recognition as an important space for reflection and promotion of agendas. Since then, the Network has been collaborating, through different activities and the development of

initiatives in the programmatic area, to strengthen its member organizations by offering spaces for mutual learning and training in topics relevant to agendas of common interest.

The years 2018 to 2020 were crucial for its consolidation, coordination with different actors in the field and institutional reinforcement. The Network was recognized as a relevant player in the field of Brazilian and international philanthropy, and the arrival of six new members contributed to this.

Different activities and publications released during this period established those milestones, such as **Philanthropy for social justice, civil society and social movements in Brazil** – organized by Graciela Hopstein, which compiles a number of articles produced by member organization personnel, the seminar held in partnership with GIFE – **Expanding and Strengthening Community Philanthropy in Brazil**; the development of **Capacity Building** and **Strategic Support** programs, in association with the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) and Porticus, following the restructuring of the programmatic area; and the **Giving For Change program**, which relies on the support of the Dutch cooperation and expanded the Network's international reach as well as contributed to the strengthening and promotion of its institutional work.

During the Philanthropy, Social Justice, Civil Society and Democracy Seminar, a panel was held to discuss the role and history of the Comuá Network during the course of its first ten years, with the participation of Harley Nascimento (Fundo Positivo), Giovanni Harvey (Fundo Baobá para a Equidade

Racial), Ana Valéria Araújo (Fundo Brasil), and Roberto Vilela (Tabôa), and the mediation of Cristiane Azevedo (ISPN – Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza).

According to Ana Valéria Araújo, superintendent of Fundo Brasil and member of Comuá's Steering Committee, the Network celebrates a new moment in its story. It started out as a group of six young funds and foundations, which came together to exchange experiences, learning, and face challenges of this new, innovative and unprecedented form of philanthropy in Brazil, and became a relevant player within the philanthropy field itself.

"The common ground of the group that founded the Network was the understanding that we had to work mostly with donations. Donate to whomever was actually doing the work instead of doing it ourselves. And, by doing so, we also innovated. Because this group and the Network began producing knowledge about what it was like to support, what was the purpose, how relevant it was to do it, and how to do it. This idea was groundbreaking, it brought us together and it meant that the Network could start to be seen as a reference, to transform itself into a relevant actor within the field of philanthropy and dialogue with other actors in the field of private social investment, proposing the grantmaking, donation agendas, and how to do it in a different way. What the Network is doing today is guiding, creating incentives for others to do something similar, so that philanthropy can be transformed and brought into our way of doing things," she analyzes.

The executive coordinator of the Comuá Network, Graciela Hopstein, believes that "the conservative wave that we are experiencing in Brazil and the world is surely a reaction by power against the advancement of socio-environmental agendas, racial justice, gender and ethnicity, LGBTQ+, which as society we must defend organically, as in fact they are the product of the fights and the achievements of the movements. This is because rights are not given, they are earned. And it is in this dynamic that the Network's funds play a crucial role: supporting, with financial and non-financial resources, groups, organizations and movements in the construction of guidelines and agendas in the field of social justice and human rights."

Roberto Vilela, executive director of Tabôa and also a member of Comuá's Steering Committee, believes that "the Network managed to create a space for social justice philanthropy within the Brazilian philanthropic ecosystem, which is recognized in Brazil and abroad, and to help thematic funds and community foundations to find a place within this ecosystem. Additionally, the network has been a place of learning among community funds and foundations."

"The Network is a space where we, as peers, recognize and strengthen each other. A place where we innovate and elaborate strategies to promote philanthropy for social justice," explains Cristina Orpheo, Fundo Casa Socioambiental.

Giovanni Harvey, executive director of the Fundo Baobá and member of Comuá's Steering Committee, believes that "here at the Network we can practice philanthropy on both ends without the old hidden

agenda. We can state outright that we finance fight and resistance. For anyone who, like me, comes from a social movement, from an organization created by social movements, it is extremely important to have funding partners that propose to do this. Because social movements do this using their own means, the experiences accumulated in the field of black philanthropy, which are centuries-old in Brazil. We can have a candid conversation with the social movements, so that they can trust and understand that these funds have a real commitment to social transformation.”

“We believe in the form of philanthropy that the Network practices. It is a horizontal philanthropy, as our leaders, our staff, are people who came from the movement in which we operate. This, no doubt, gives us knowledge of the territory, the needs, the urgencies, the territories’ agendas. And, above all, we are able to establish a relationship of trust and respect.” Harley Nascimento, Fundo Positivo.

The Comuá Network has increasingly established itself as a strategic, innovative, differentiated space within the philanthropic ecosystem through its vision and ways of doing philanthropy. It promotes and supports a philanthropy that is independent, focusing on agendas of social justice and development, leveraged by multiple civil society actors. And it promotes the mobilization and donation of resources as a political act, in support of the ongoing fights and resistance. Transformation is driven by those civil society actors, while philanthropy boosts change.

## more:

- » read the series of articles published by the network in celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary: **10 years of the RFJS: the contexts, the work done and future possibilities\***
- » **10 years of the RFJS: philanthropy for social justice, assurance of rights and democracy\***

## and now, we are comuá...

So, we finally changed the way we present ourselves to the world. We have adopted a more direct name, which generates a better understanding of how we work. Now, we are Comuá Network – transforming philanthropy.

Responding to a concern expressed by the Network’s members, we are declaring to the world what it is that we do. Without losing sight of our mission, vision and commitment to community and social justice philanthropy, to the common good and human rights.

As funds and foundations that are connected through the mobilization of resources from many different sources, to support groups, collectives, civil society organizations and movements engaging in the fields of social justice, human rights, citizenship and community development.

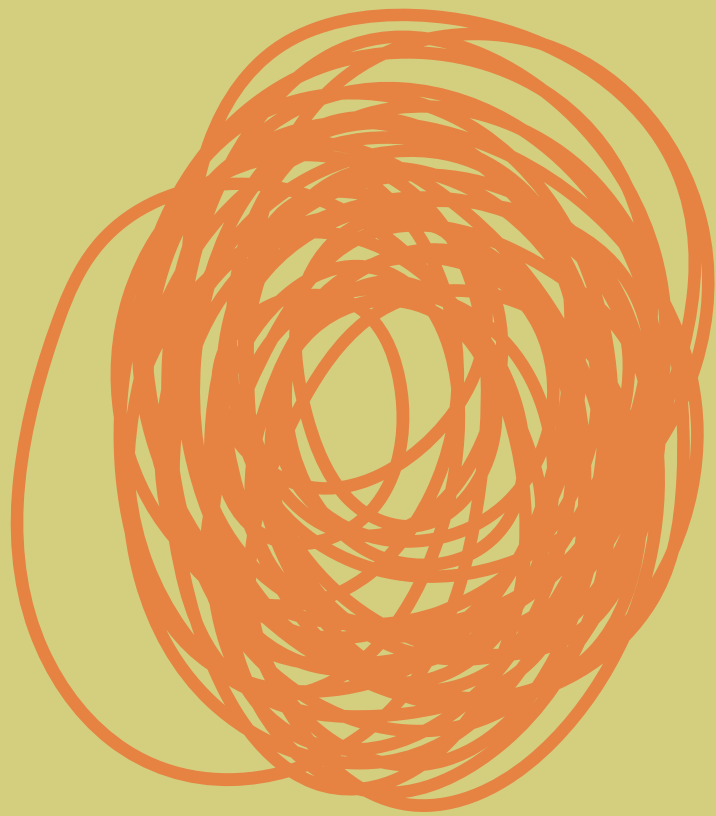
Our branding was co-created, carefully and collectively, in partnership with FutureBrand SP, based on our history, on our contributions to the strengthening of civil society and the consolidation of democracy.

## more:

- » [Access the Comuá Network motion\\*](#)

\*available in Portuguese





what is the  
relationship  
between  
philanthropy,  
social justice,  
civil society and  
democracy?

**P**hilanthropy can be an agent of change by strengthening, through financial support, the causes of organizations, collectives, movements and leaders that work for the recognition of and access to rights, led by a diversity of political minorities, in view of reinforcing democracy and social justice.

This topic was debated at a roundtable held during the Seminar, with the participation of Cássio França (GIFE), Amália Fischer (Elas+ Fund), Henrique Silveira (Casa Fluminense), Iara Rolnik (Instituto Ibi-rapitanga), Roberto Vilela (Tabôa), and Davi Fleischer (IAF), and the mediation of Ana Toni (iCS).

Among the Network's funds, which work to defend diversified, interconnected agendas in these fields, there is a common understanding that supporting civil society - organizations, social movements, leaders, is a crucial strategy to strengthen it, since promoting access to rights - having the right to rights - is the fundamental starting point for the consolidation of democracy.

"Perhaps, I think for us all, the last four years have been the hardest working in this field. Not only did we have to face the Covid-19 epidemic, but also a government that acted against civil society from the beginning, and our whole purpose is to reinforce the access to basic rights and civil society. As organizations for social justice, we were forced to change our strategies very quickly. We were put in a position of resistance almost 100% of the time. We have always resisted, but we resisted and moved forward. In the past four years, we were just resistance. It is a difficult place, because we want more, we want more rights,

and society needs more rights. And to be there, incessantly pushing the metaphorical boulder of rights previously secured uphill, was not easy. But I am sure that without the Network and other organizations, we would not have resisted," ponders Ana Toni, from the iCS (Institute for Climate and Society).

Henrique Silveira, from Casa Fluminense, stresses the importance of talking about Brazil's democracy in the making. "We lack reflection on this, not within the Network, but in society. Even when we think of the two hundred years of independence, we must remember that this process of political independence of Brazil from Portugal did not mean freedom for the black population, and this country has always furthered the choice of exclusion. This unfinished democracy still reflects to this day on our incomplete citizenship. We are talking about a huge contingent of the Brazilian population that now lives below the line of dignity. And, throughout this process, there have always been civil society actors fighting for freedom, equality, dignity. I include philanthropy for social justice in this movement of how we support the people 'at the bottom', expanding the access to rights."

"In this country, we have learned in a very cruel way that opposing democracy is not dictatorship, it is the reduction of inequality. So, with every historical moment that we expedite to promote equality, equity, democracy is weakened, it is tensioned by the groups and elites that are here.

Expanding rights means undermining liberal democracy, and even if we believe that democracy is in fact the overcoming of inequality, the birthplace of liberal democracy is peaceful coexistence with in-

equality. Our task is to change the interpretation, the political culture of the elite of this country, to rethink the defeat of inequality as the opposition of democracy,” explains Cássio França, general secretary of GIFE.

“It is important to remember where philanthropy comes from in Latin America. It comes from the colonization of the Iberian Peninsula. And, in that historic moment, what we have is the holy inquisition of the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church, in turn, will determine the agenda for the philanthropy that exists in Latin America. The holy inquisition persecuted those who were not white, those who were not noble, those who were not at the top of the Catholic hierarchy, and those who did not profess the Catholic faith. Muslims, Jews, women who were doctors. This form of thinking would prevail in this continent for centuries. And that thinking will never recognize the different forms of philanthropy of other cultures. We had the philanthropy of native peoples, consisting of collective efforts, for example. And we had the black fraternities. These philanthropies date back thousands of years, they are collective, community-based and focused on social justice as well. So it is important that we start changing our way of thinking and abandon the rationale of mainstream philanthropy,” notes Amália Fischer, Fundo Elas+ Doar para Transformar.

Davi Fleischer, of IAF, notes that community philanthropy manages to acquire more resources for civil society that will be used to strengthen the democratic process: “Bringing in more resources through a philanthropy that is much more con-

nected to the local context, to civil society, which can use those resources that have been mobilized, both in Brazil and abroad, to ensure the processes of social transformation that promote a stronger, longer-lasting democracy.”

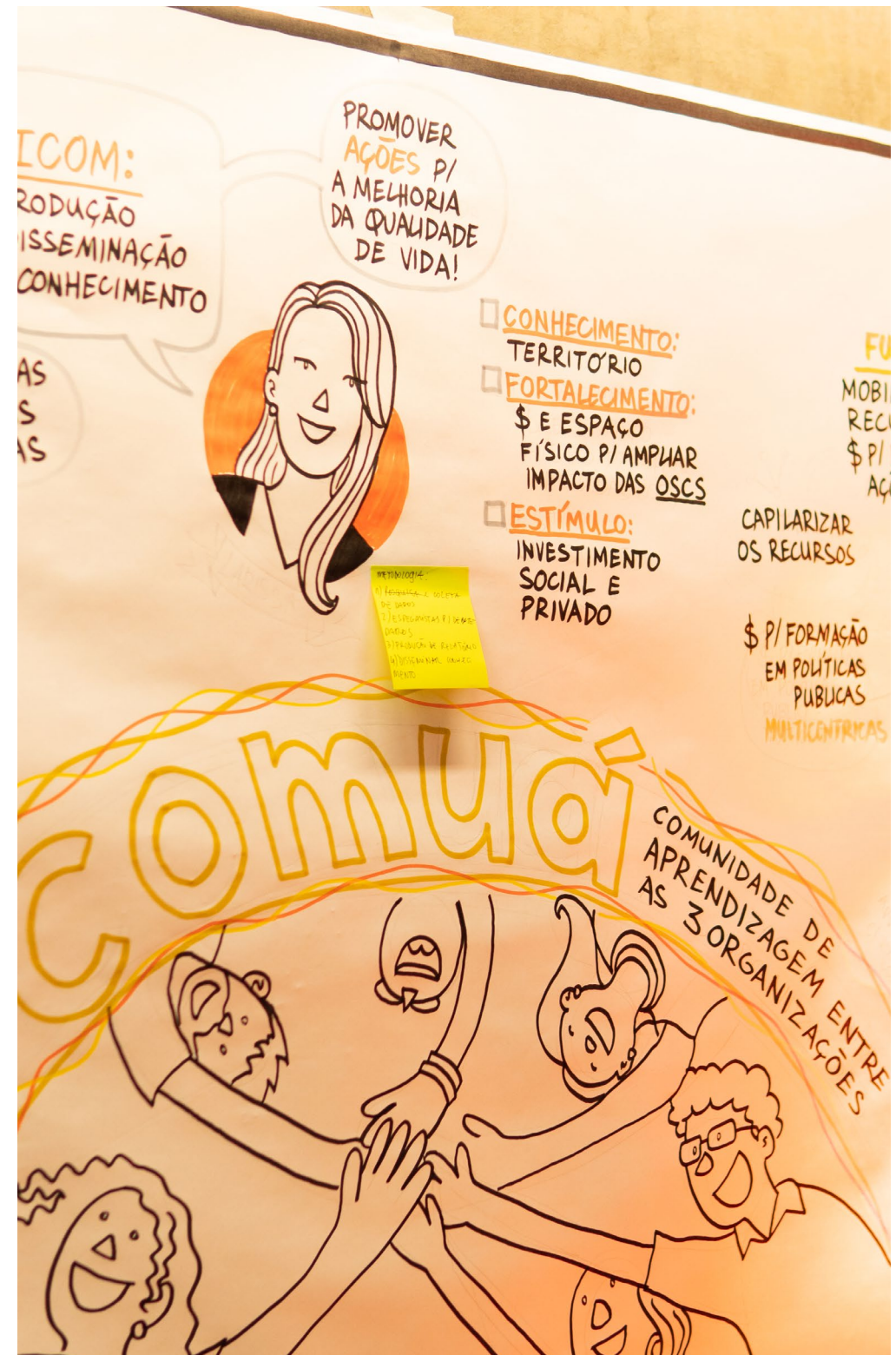
Iara Rolnik, of Instituto Ibirapitanga, believes that “it grows more and more important to bridge the divide separating philanthropy from civil society as a whole, while continuing to assume the asymmetries. To dispute these asymmetries and propose to challenge them every day. Facilitating the access to resources, simplification, autonomy, institutional strengthening are evidently the foundation for the construction of this project to democratize philanthropy. We cannot be more democratic unless we adjust our approach to project monitoring. And the most important thing is to actually conceive processes that broaden the forms of decision making in relation to support. More diverse and inclusive boards and teams produce more diverse views, capable of producing other types of knowledge,” she finds.

In the Brazilian scenario, the Network’s funds have stood out as relevant actors supporting resistance, working to minimize the impacts of the crisis and the setbacks in the field of public policy, citizenship, and access to rights. Democracy, which in Brazil is unfinished and exclusionary in terms of the access to rights, leaving out a significant number of groups and political minorities, has been even more challenged in the past four years. Recalling some of the history of the formation of Brazilian philanthropy,

which was developed based on colonial philanthropy, many other ways of doing philanthropy were not recognized, especially the ancestral forms created by indigenous peoples and black communities, whereas their recognition is crucial to the challenging of mainstream philanthropy. Positioning civil society as a strategic actor for the transformation and the consolidation of democracy implies that philanthropy must move closer to the organizations and movements, democratizing access to the resources and recognizing their autonomy.

### more:

- » [Watch the panel on the theme of the Seminar](#) (available in Portuguese)
- » [Read these articles about the Seminar and the Network's 10th anniversary](#), published by [Marcelle Decothé](#), [Diane Pereira](#), [Mariana de Assis](#), [Luisa Hernandez](#) and [Jonathas Azevedo](#) in Alliance Magazine
- » [Read this article about the relationship between philanthropy, democracy and the elections in Brazil](#), published by [Graciela Hopstein](#) in Alliance Magazine
- » [Listen to the Querino podcast](#) (available in Portuguese)





decolonial  
philanthropy  
paths and  
challenges  
in brazil



he traditional, hegemonic practices of philanthropy, which ultimately determine the agendas, movements that should be supported, the solutions and forms of reporting the results, must be rethought in order to actually strengthen civil society and contribute to social transformation, valuing the knowledge and insights of the territories and communities involved in those processes.

The debate on the decolonization of philanthropy has progressively advanced and is anchored on the deconstruction and challenging of principles based on the logics of dominant power (Eurocentric, white and male, among others). In Brazil, among the strategic protagonists of this agenda are community philanthropy and independent social justice organizations, focusing on the recognition of political minorities and powers and on social transformation driven by civil society within the territories.

This topic was discussed at the Seminar in a roundtable with Cássio Aoqui (ponteAponte). Diane Pereira Sousa (Instituto Comunitário Baixada Maranhense), Allyne Andrade (Fundo Brasil), Ese Emerhi (GFCF - Global Fund for Community Foundations), mediated by Graciela Hopstein (Comuá Network).

“Change is happening in terms of the future we want for philanthropy. This change will require collective actions between the individuals and organizations distributed throughout the system, from the center to the peripheries, on national and international levels. This conversation about decolonization starts with a conversation about rights, abuse and removal of rights, about the power to make decisions. Decolonization has become a very important word in recent years, but it

does not capture the nuances and intersectionality of the power dynamics in place,” notes Ese Emerhi, of the Global Fund for Community Foundations.

Cássio Aoqui, of ponteAponte, believes that there are very conflicting narratives and disputes within the field of philanthropy, and that we must keep in mind that there is not one philanthropy, but multiple philanthropies. “We built a continuum in the attempt to understand this: to the left, we put decolonial philanthropy, for progressive, radical, regenerative, social justice; to the right, collaborative philanthropy, philanthropic capitalism, venture philanthropy, strategic philanthropy, millennial philanthropy. What is the difference? On the left, we have a very clear attempt to change the power relationship, an anti-hegemonic view. To the right is a place that believes that the system can solve itself, and has a much more market-centered view. So, we have these two forms in dispute, but in the middle, a bunch of other things mixed together. By inserting decolonial philanthropy in this place, it will fight epistemic racism. And we have to change where the production of knowledge comes from and how it is produced, which is currently super elitist. It is produced for the few, who speak for the many.”

Allyne Andrade, of Fundo Brasil, emphasizes how the discourses of philanthropy can produce and reinforce colonial subjects: “We have learned to talk about resources reaching the ‘field’, as if when we become a philanthropy worker for social justice, we cease to be included in that. When we reproduce that speech, we set apart those human rights activists and put ourselves in a position of privileged observation of reality. Part of decolonization is unders-

tanding how those discourses have produced colonial subjects, unequal subjects.”

Diane Pereira Souza, of Instituto Comunitário Baixada Maranhense, believes that decolonial philanthropy is the philanthropy that happens within local territories, and that donor organizations must present themselves as partners of the communities, recognizing their role in the production of change:

“It is very selfish to assume that a community that has existed for 200 years can only be a community with our resources, which arrived just six months ago. A community that produces knowledge, such as Itamatatua, in Alcântara, State of Maranhão, with a clay artifacts production center. It is a community that has been producing for 200 years, and has developed an economy and management structure over that time. Actually, we are the ones learning there. When I think of decolonial philanthropy, I think of a philanthropy that happens within a territory, and that we have named, but what we should do is be a partner to that community. We don’t want communities to just be the focus of programmatic visits, but rather that they be the focus of the experiences that happen there. So you can experience with the community, and not live the community as if it were an empty object of knowledge.”

Decolonizing philanthropy means rethinking power relations and dynamics, as colonialism has a direct impact on the dominant vision, narratives and ways of doing things. Changing the hegemonic (Eurocentric, white, male) logics of power in terms of the access to resources and of the way of doing philan-

thropy means realizing that there are many ways to look at the field of philanthropy. It means starting with the knowledge that the organizations and movements have of reality and what is required to transform it, seeing them as effective agents of change. Reflecting on how this affects the composition of the teams of the organizations that donate resources to civil society in terms of diversity. And changing the way knowledge is produced, which currently involves few people speaking for many, without necessarily reflecting on the local demands and needs.

### more:

- » [Watch the roundtable on decolonial philanthropy held at the Seminar](#) (available in Portuguese)
- » [Read the article published by Mariana Rodrigues, of Brazil Fund, on the Decolonizing Philanthropy roundtable](#) (available in Portuguese)
- » [Read the article on the subject published by Allyne Andrade and Graciela Hopstein in Alliance Magazine](#)
- » [Read the article by Cássio Aoki, Jéssica Gonçalves and Letícia Cardoso published in the Network’s blog](#) (available in Portuguese)

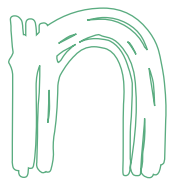






democratizing  
philanthropy  
trust and new  
arrangements





ew arrangements, new forms of communication, new perspectives that impact realities and leverage the country's transformation emerge in different territories and civil society groups. More than anyone else, they raise questions about the philanthropy that is being done in Brazil and possible ways of affording the grassroots organizations ample access to the resources, in a faster, more trust-based way, thereby contributing to the promotion of real, sustainable transformation.

This was the topic that closed the seminar held to celebrate the Network's tenth anniversary, with the participation of Marcelle Decothé (PIPA), Eliane Castro (Fundo Agbara), Larissa Amorim (Casa Fluminense), Inimá Krenak (Fundo Casa Socioambiental), and the mediation of Fernanda Lopes (Fundo Baobá).

"Philanthropy is not a solution, it is a tool, a means. And if we want to do philanthropy in a democratic state of law, we must reiterate that the state needs to exist, it needs to serve all people and recognize, in each and every person, a rights holder. And here, in this line of philanthropy, one cannot possibly present him or herself as democratic if not guided by these principles. Thinking about an agenda of sustainable development, thinking about development, in all its dimensions, that leaves no one behind," ponders Fernanda Lopes.

Marcelle Decothé, one of the creators of the PIPA initiative - whose purpose is to advocate to democratize Private Social Investment and philanthropy in Brazil - , explains that the proposal arose out of the difficulty to access resources: "We found oursel-

ves in a dilemma, which was - accessing investments is about the people that I know. About my closest relationship. About that dinner that I attend. About the number of likes on that publication. About the area where I live. About where I go. About my language when submitting a proposal. About my project. About my use of Portuguese. About the quality of my English, my Spanish. The PIPA initiative exists to put itself in the field as an actor or an actress, capable of generating change, of advocating from within and determining that the project for the future of the country goes through these organizations as well."

Inimá Krenak, program manager at Fundo Casa Socioambiental, recognizes advancements in the allocation of resources to indigenous populations, although a fair share of those has a utilitarian bias and ignores fundamental issues and needs. "For the past four years I have been a program manager at Fundo Casa, leading the support to indigenous peoples. And, as an indigenous woman, it is important to talk about where I come from. I am Krenak, my father is Ailton Krenak, who played a very important role in the drafting of the constitution, in the section that deals with the indigenous issue, and does very important work to this day. My first jobs were with indigenous organizations, on the other side, seeking resources, in this context of drafting projects, of trying to communicate with the philanthropy universe. In recent years, I have been learning this other side of philanthropy. There have been many advancements. However, the support to indigenous peoples is still heavily focused on the protection of forests, with a utilitarian view, since this support

is interesting to help control the climate crisis, and these communities are demonstrably protecting forests. These populations continue to have their rights systematically denied,” concludes Inimá Krenak.

“Fundo Agbara emerged from the crowdfunding culture to help black women in the community we live in, so that they could, in some way, have access to economic capital. And it expanded very fast, so we started looking at this project, we saw potential, we contacted a number of groups, mentors, other foundations that could guide us. Agbara emerged and is made stronger through networks, such as the Comuá Network,” explains Eliane Castro.

Larissa Amorim, of Casa Fluminense, stresses the importance of representation within the teams of the funds and foundations for the matter of trust: Talking about representation, training and staffing also means talking about trust. Representation on our teams is crucial. We believe that the people who conceive and build these funds must be the people who are also being affected by the same experiences, realities as our supported groups.

Having confidence in philanthropy for social justice is crucial when we realize that it is the organizations and movements that work directly in the territories are the ones that best understand the real needs to advance in social transformation and how the resources should be applied to achieve it. They are true agents of social transformation. This should reflect on the expansion of access to the resources and on the streamlining of that access and accoun-

tability. On the other hand, the diversity of the teams of the organizations that donate resources to the communities is also a factor that has the potential to raise the level of trust and respect, since they are made up of people who experience the problems that the organizations aim to help with the donations.

### more:

- » [Read the article by Marcelle Decothé, Gelson Henrique and Raul Santiago about PIPA](#) (available in Portuguese)
- » [Article by Marcelle Decothé in Alliance Magazine](#)







multiple,  
collaborative  
views and  
arrangements



Philanthropy for social justice focuses on a number of issues. During the Seminar, members of Comuá Network and other partner organizations proposed a collaborative program that brought different perspectives and points of view on the work developed in the territories.

### **community campaigns for giving tuesday: when philanthropy starts inside the community**

Community campaigns, promoted by communities, which are not dependent on funding or international organizations, are spreading throughout Brazil since the initiative driven by Giving Tuesday (Dia de Doar, in Portuguese). During the seminar, ABCR (Brazilian Association of Fundraisers) attempted to explain what community campaigns are, which are present in all regions of the country and have advanced local philanthropy in the country more than ever before. By discussing two of them, #DoaAraçatuba and #DoaMauá, the debate on the topic was encouraged, along with a reflection on how best to boost generosity within the community with initiatives by the people who live there.

The roundtable was made up of Carol Farias (ABCR), Thaisa Damo (founder of Instituto Ensina and volunteer leader of the campaign named #DoaMauá), and Zilá Moreira (individual who leads the community campaign in the City of Araçatuba)

[» access the report](#)

(available in Portuguese)

### **governance in networks and collaborative initiatives for social impact**

With its theme proposed by GIFE (Grupo de Institutos, Fundações e Empresas) and by “Movimento por uma Cultura de Doação”, the activity presented and discussed innovative management models, to inspire other organizations, spaces and horizontal movements based on the networked governance model adopted by “Movimento por uma Cultura de Doação”, proposing reflections on new organizational and engagement formats suited to the spirit of our time.

The roundtable was made up of Erika Sanchez Saez (Coordinating Committee of “Movimento por uma Cultura de Doação” and Executive Director of Instituto ACP), Pamela Ribeiro (GIFE), and Mariana Brunini (Executive Coordinator of “Movimento por uma Cultura de Doação”).

[» access the report](#)

(available in Portuguese)

### **philanthropy and the agenda for emergency protection of human rights and environmental defenders**

Based on a proposal by Fundo Casa Socioambiental, the purpose of this debate was to highlight the situation of Human Rights Defenders in Brazil, the limited access to fast, streamlined resources, and how to advance in their protection, as well as the importance of Funds in saving lives. The debate addressed data and experiences with the escalation of violence in Brazil, conflicts in rural and metropolitan

areas, the criminalization of and violence committed against human rights defenders; support from international actors in the protection of male and female defenders; the experience of Fundo Casa Socioambiental with the creation of the Emergency Fund for Defenders of the Environment and Climate Justice in the Legal Amazon; the experience of of Fundo Brasil with the creation of the Emergency Fund to Support Male and Female Defenders, and the support provided specifically to indigenous leaderships.

Andréia Silverio (CPT - Pastoral Land Commission), Thalita Salgado (International Amnesty), Débora Albu (U.N. Women), Rodrigo Montaldi (Fundo Casa Socioambiental), Alexandre Pachêco (Fundo Brasil), and Sandra Carvalho (Brazilian Committee of Human Rights Defenders, CBDDH) all participated in the activity.

[» access the report](#)  
(available in Portuguese)

### **collaborative philanthropy: challenges and prospects in the field of philanthropy for social justice**

The Alliance between Funds - arisen from community mobilization for racial, social, and environmental justice - proposes a new mode of action in the philanthropy ecosystem in Brazil: collaborative philanthropy for social justice.

With this in mind, the Alliance - composed of Fundo Baobá, Fundo Brasil, and Fundo Casa Socioambiental - proposed a roundtable with the aim of consolidating a debate based on the experience of exist-

ing opportunities and challenges in this new format of collaborative philanthropy in Brazil and how it can impact the field of Philanthropy for Social Justice.

Fernanda Garofalo Meister (Meraki Impact), Fernanda Lopes (Fundo Baobá), Juliane Yamakawa (Fundo Brasil), Cristina Orpheo (Fundo Casa Socioambiental) and Erika Sanchez Saez (Movimento por uma Cultura de Doação/Instituto ACP) participated in this debate.

#### **more:**

[» Click here to read the article by Allyne Andrade e Silva, Angélica Basthi, Cristina Orpheo and Fernanda Lopes](#)  
(available in Portuguese)

[» access the report](#)  
(available in Portuguese)

### **innovation, technologies and vulnerabilities: strengthening communities and the fight for socio-environmental justice**

Organized by the Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza (ISPN), the roundtable addressed "Innovation, technologies and vulnerabilities: strengthening communities and the fight for socio-environmental justice" addressed four technological initiatives/platforms that work with socio-environmental issues. The projects focus on solutions and paths to deal with situations of marginalization, invisibility and risk affecting people in vulnerable

situations. The debate and reflections identified a synchronicity between human rights and environmental protection, reiterating that it is impossible to think about philanthropic actions without establishing a dialog between these two areas.

“The roundtable was an important opportunity for us to bring into the Network the discussions about the agendas involving environmental and territorial protection, especially in regards to the second most threatened biome in Brazil: the Brazilian Cerrado. There are several communities in situations of vulnerability, due either to the reduction of their productive areas, resulting from the accelerated deforestation, or to the violence and threats that plague them, mainly in situations of land grabbing. Human rights and the environment are connected, and the support that we provide is precisely so that these historical inequalities can be repaired, along with the sustainability of our natural resources,” notes the coordinator of the ISPN’s Cerrado and Caatinga Program, Isabel Figueiredo.

**more:**

» [Click here to read the article by Méle Dornelas, of ISPN](#)  
(available in Portuguese)

» [access the report](#)  
(available in Portuguese)

**contributions to the strengthening of territories based on the experiences of collaborative philanthropy**

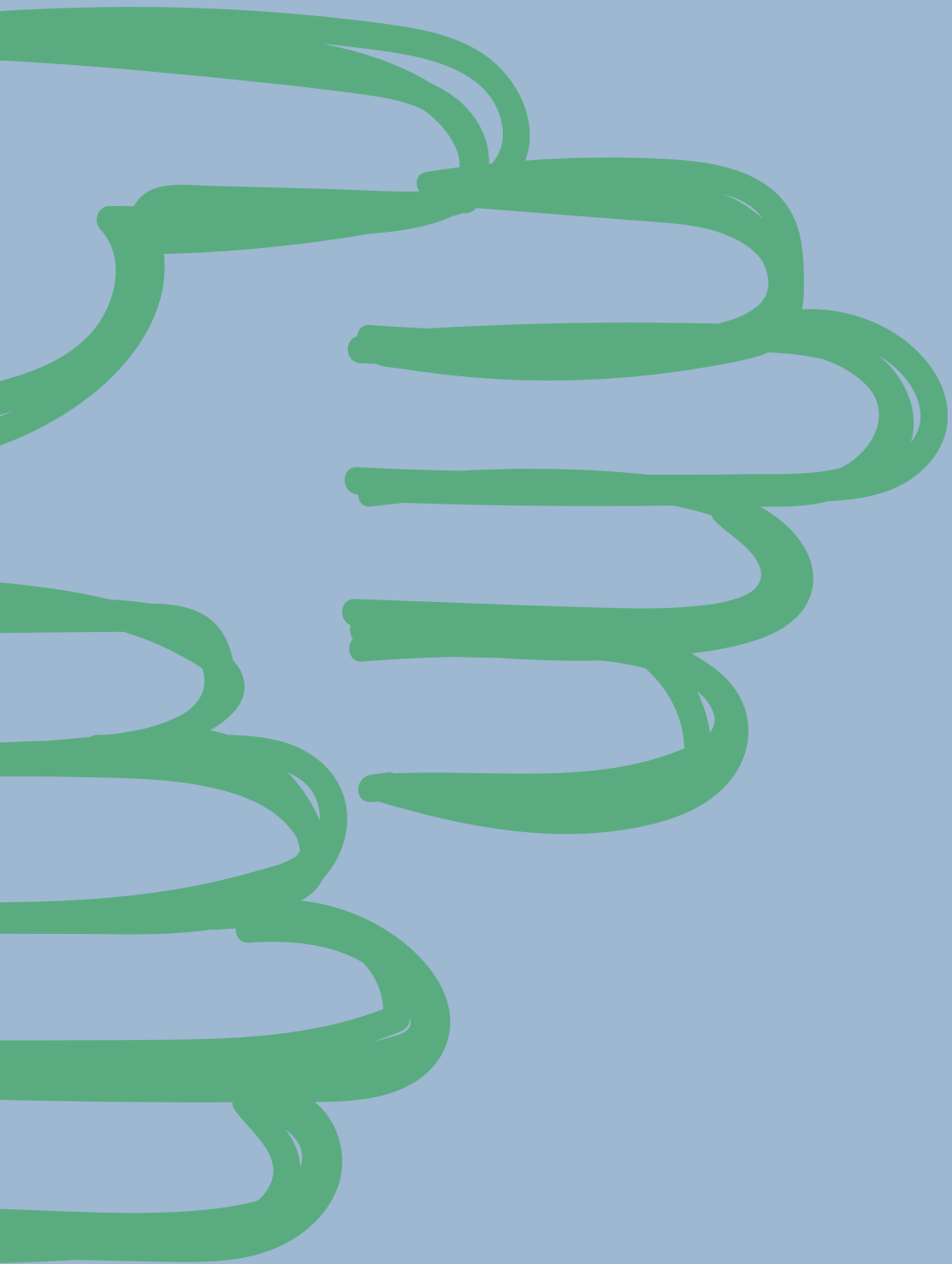
The purpose of the activity was to share reflections and lessons learned on strengthening territories based on the practices of collaborative philanthropy, fostering debate and gathering contributions to reinforce this agenda. The idea to discuss the coordination and management of collaborative arrangements in order to build more sustainable territories was born out of the experiences shared within the scope of the learning community consisting of Tabôa – Fortalecimento Comunitário Association, ICOM and FunBEA, inserted within the Strategic Support Program for member organizations of the Philanthropy Network for Social Justice. A world café was held in view of the collaborative production of knowledge, registering all the reflections and notes to strengthen collaborative philanthropy initiatives with a territorial focus.

Roberto Vilela (Executive Director of Tabôa), Larissa Boing (Manager of Projects and Social Investment Funds at ICOM), Semíramis Biasoli (General Secretary of FunBEA), and Bianca Limongi (Project Manager of FunBEA) participated in the activity.

» [access the report](#)  
(available in Portuguese)







transforming

knowledge

production:

'sabereres' program



ow much can the generation of knowledge on philanthropy for social justice in Brazil contribute to the strengthening of the field? It was based on this question that the Comuá Network created the 'Saberes' program and selected proposals for the knowledge production on philanthropy for social justice and community philanthropy related agendas, which embody the full power of transformation and contribute to the impact that RFJS has had on philanthropic ecosystem. The proposals and grantees were announced during the Seminar.

### **cássio inglês de souza**

#### **WHO HE IS**

Anthropologist with experience working with indigenous peoples and traditional communities, through government agencies, NGOs and indigenous organizations. He works as an independent consultant in the development, preparation, execution and evaluation of projects, advice and training in institutional management, and the indigenous and "quilombola" components of environmental licensing processes.

#### **PROPOSAL**

The project proposes to perform a general assessment of grantmaking through microprojects involving the traditional peoples and communities in Brazilian Cerrado and the Amazon, implemented by ISPN as a philanthropy tool.

### **cleber rodrigues**

#### **WHO HE IS**

Idealist, social activist and mobilizer of good deeds and healthy practices focusing on the health of the elderly population in the State of Minas Gerais. He is a physical therapist specializing in Gerontology, Health Manager at the Federal Institute of Northern Minas Gerais, and passionate about studies on healthy aging. He is also a manager at Associação Nossa Cidade.

#### **PROPOSAL**

The project proposes to actively remember and reflect on the Brumadinho Regenerative Fund, enabling the replication of the experience in other territories.

### **jész ipólito**

#### **WHO SHE IS**

She has extensive experience in the management of social projects, communication, management of social networks and coordination of networks in the third sector. A black feminist, she is a member of Articulação Nacional de Negras Jovens Feministas (ANJF) and the black media collective Revista Afirmativa, in Salvador-BA. She is also a Communications Assistant at Fundo Elas+.

#### **PROPOSAL**

In her project for the 'Saberes' Program, Jész

proposed to compile and systemize in a final e-book the political perspectives of black female leaderships and organizations from the North and Northeast regions of Brazil on the universe of black philanthropy.

## **larissa ferreira**

### **WHO SHE IS**

Environmental manager and analyst, she is currently specializing in Social Projects and Public Policy. She worked as a volunteer collaborator at NAPRA – Support Center for the Riverside Population of the Amazon, she is an environmental educator at Associação Acorde and a volunteer at FunBEA – Fundo Brasileiro de Educação Ambiental.

### **PROPOSAL**

The project proposes to investigate the Brazilian and international experiences with giving circles, as well as the strategies currently adopted by FunBEA in its experience of planning and structuring the North Coast giving circle campaign – launched this year with the support of the Comuá Network – in view of identifying characteristics and idiosyncrasies with the international literature on giving circles.

## **mariana assis**

### **WHO SHE IS**

A Business Administrator, she is currently pursuing a second degree in Law. Counselor of Law for the Municipal Council in the public and private sectors, with a strong presence in the social field. She is a Relationship Guardian with the organized civil society at ICOM – Instituto Comunitário Grande Florianópolis, a fiscal advisor at Politize and a voluntary administrative director at Instituto É da Nossa Cor.

### **PROPOSAL**

The project proposes to systemize the local experience of strengthening community-based organizations operating in the Greater Florianópolis region of ICOM, employing the services of individual, free, customized consultancies, related with institutional development for Community Philanthropy.

## **marcelle decothé**

### **WHO SHE IS**

A black woman hailing from the periphery, she is a bachelor in international strategic management and defense and holds a master's degree in Public Policies in Human Rights. She is a popular educator, gender, race and violence researcher, co-founder of the Favelas Na Luta Movement and the PIPA Initiative, and is

currently the Program Manager of the Marielle Franco Institute.

### **PROPOSAL**

Marcelle's project seeks to reinforce the construction of narratives and diagnoses in the field of philanthropy and private social investment in Brazil, advocating for the streamlining of the processes and prioritizing the transfer of resources to favela-based and peripheral initiatives focusing on racial, social and gender equity.

## **ronaldo eli**

### **WHO HE IS**

Practitioner of Jurema Sagrada, journalist, farmer, and community educator. He is experienced with Social communications and projects in view of the appropriation of information and communication technologies, with organizations and groups engaging in the fields of culture, education and free media. He is the caretaker of Terreiro Sítio das Matas, in Quilombo Santo Amaro, in Itacaré-BA, where he leads actions to develop the community.

### **PROPOSAL**

The purpose of his project is to obtain a qualitative view of the insertion of terreiro communities into the philanthropic ecosystems, by conducting interviews with leaders of terreiros that develop community actions and organizations that engage in community philanthropy.

### **more:**

» [Click here to read the article by Luisa Hernandez and Jonathas Azevedo about the 'Saberes' Program](#) (available in Portuguese)





expanding  
our network



To identify and characterize independent organizations that have been donating financial resources to civil society organizations, groups and movements focusing on the fields of social justice and community development in Brazil, Comuá Network and ponteAponte produced a mapping of those organizations.

31 organizations were mapped, located in 11 Brazilian states, using the snowball method, and by searching the organizations on specialized websites and news portals. 58% of those organizations are located in the Southeast region, while 23% are located in the North region, 13% in the Northeast region, and 3% in each of the South and Midwest regions. The data was collected through secondary data research, semi-structured interviews and questionnaires.

Common among them is that the donations made by the independent philanthropic organizations are rooted in the idea that the use of the resources as well as all the decisions should be made by the recipients of the donations, assuming the protagonism of their actions.

### the following key facts were identified:

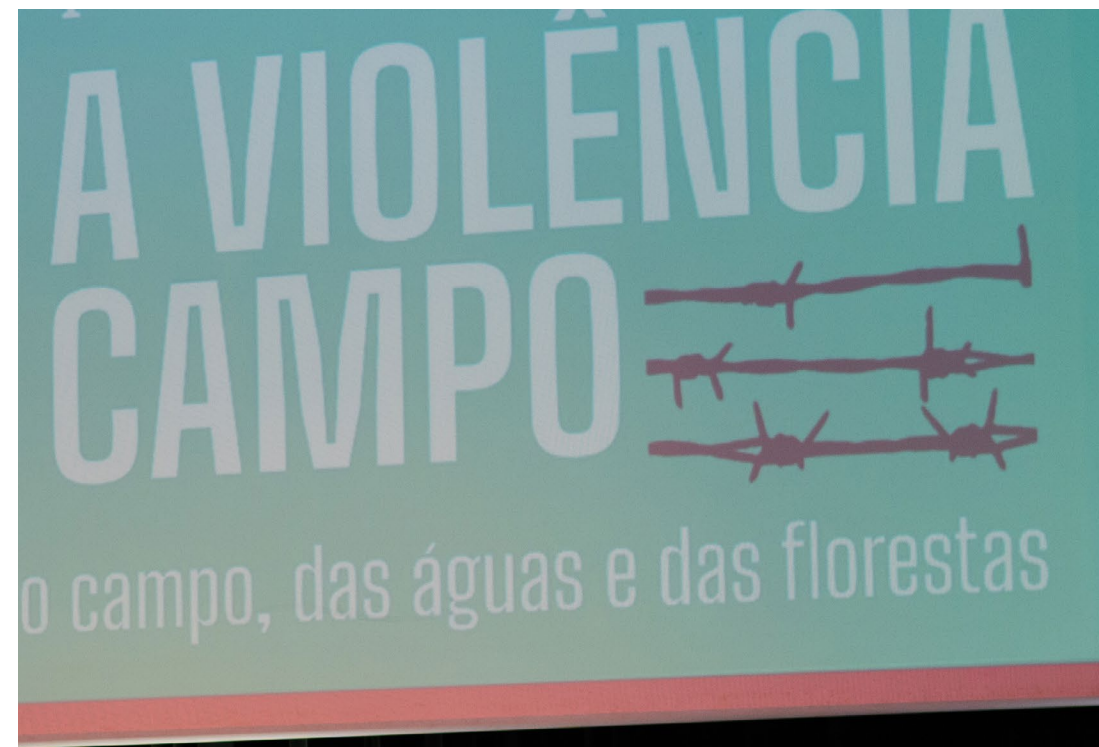
- 29 organizations are formally incorporated and have their own CNPJ (tax registration number); and those that do not have a CNPJ number were organized as funds within the structure of a sponsoring or supporting organization, which, besides acting as the tax-responsible entity, also contributes institutionally to the maintenance of the organizations, which,

however, are free to act independently and assured their own governance structure.

- 52% of the mapped organizations have a budget between R\$2 million and R\$25 million; 32% have a budget under R\$1 million.
- Among the sources of funding for these organizations, donations from international philanthropy organizations are more frequent (87%), although the contributions from Brazilian philanthropic organizations and other domestic sources are also relevant.
- 68% of the mapped funds and foundations assure that the funders have no influence over use of the resources, their decision-making processes, and governance.
- Among the focus areas covered by the mapped organizations, the primary one is institutional strengthening (74%), followed by gender and women's rights (48%) and culture (48%); topics relating to communities, local development and traditional peoples are also relevant, such as community development (42%), family farming, urban agriculture, agroecology and agroforestry (39%), and indigenous, "quilombola", riverside and traditional communities (35%).

### more:

- » [Access the article by ponteAponte about the mapping](#) (available in Portuguese)
- » [Access the key facts identified by the study](#)





# acknowledgments

**philanthropy, social justice, civil society and democracy**  
celebrating ten years of the comuá network  
transforming philanthropy

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## institutional support



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