



2016



Year In Review



The James Irvine
Foundation



Letter from Don Howard, our President and CEO

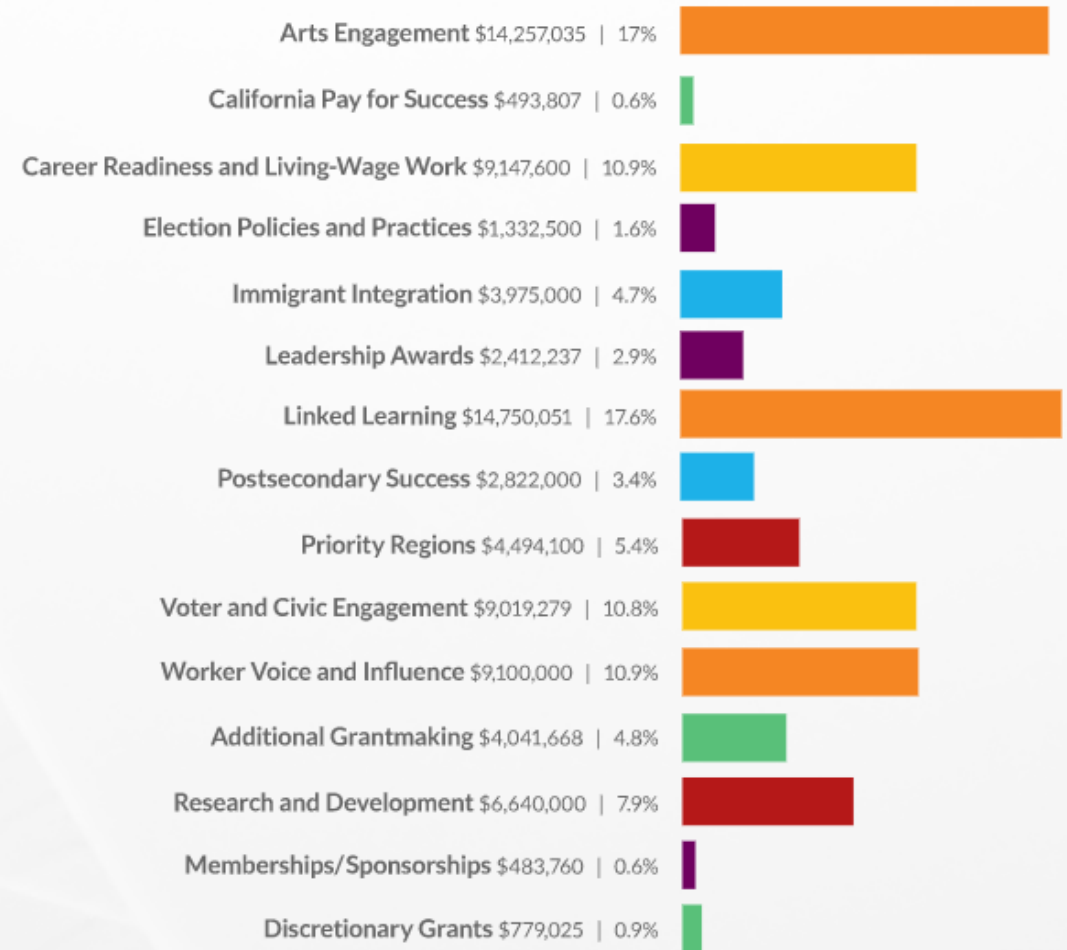
 **Our hope** is that listening to the community will ground our work, leading to better decisions about our future strategy and, ultimately, more impact. 

2016 was certainly a year of transition. The year ended with a major change for the country and a new political reality for our grantees and the people we seek to serve. Here at Irvine, this only underscored the importance of the transitions we made over the course of the year.

At the start of 2016 we announced our strategic shift to focus on expanding economic and political opportunity for Californian families and young adults who are working but struggling with poverty.

[Read full letter](#) 

In 2016, we gave \$83,748,065 to **332 organizations**



Our New Focus

In January 2016, we announced a new strategic direction: **expanding opportunity for Californians who are working but struggling with poverty.**

We aim to:

- Expand **economic opportunity** so more California families and young adults can cover basic needs in a state with an increasingly high cost of living.
- Expand **political opportunity** so more low-wage Californians are engaged and have influence in decisions that impact their jobs, communities, and lives.

[Learn More](#)



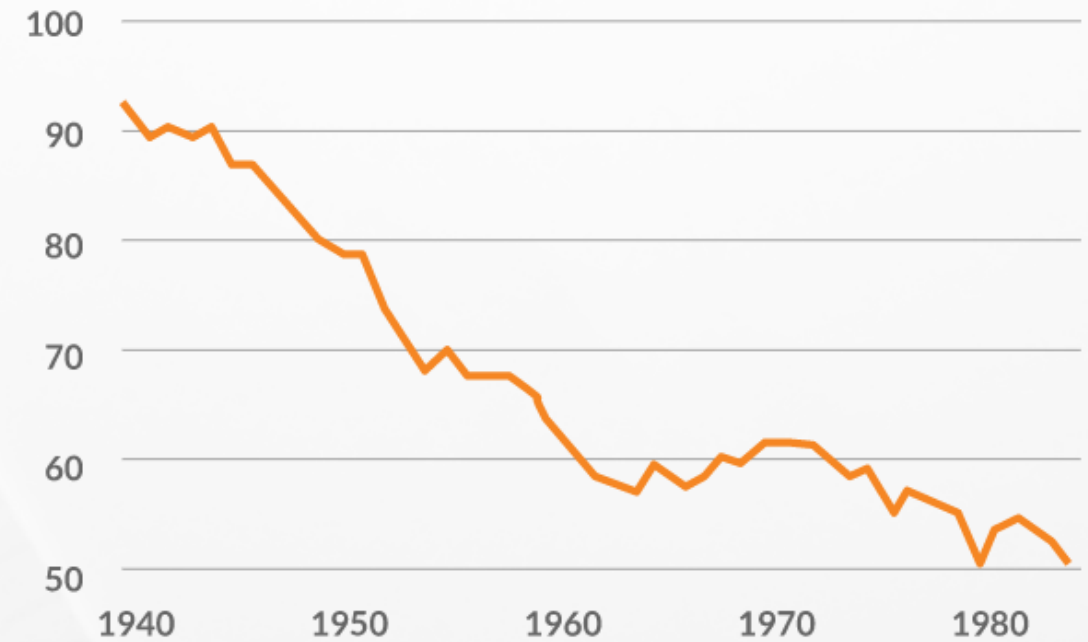
Why We Changed Our Focus

We took this new direction after assessing the pressing problems — and opportunity for change — in California: disparities in employment, income, and upward mobility, and low levels of civic participation among certain populations.

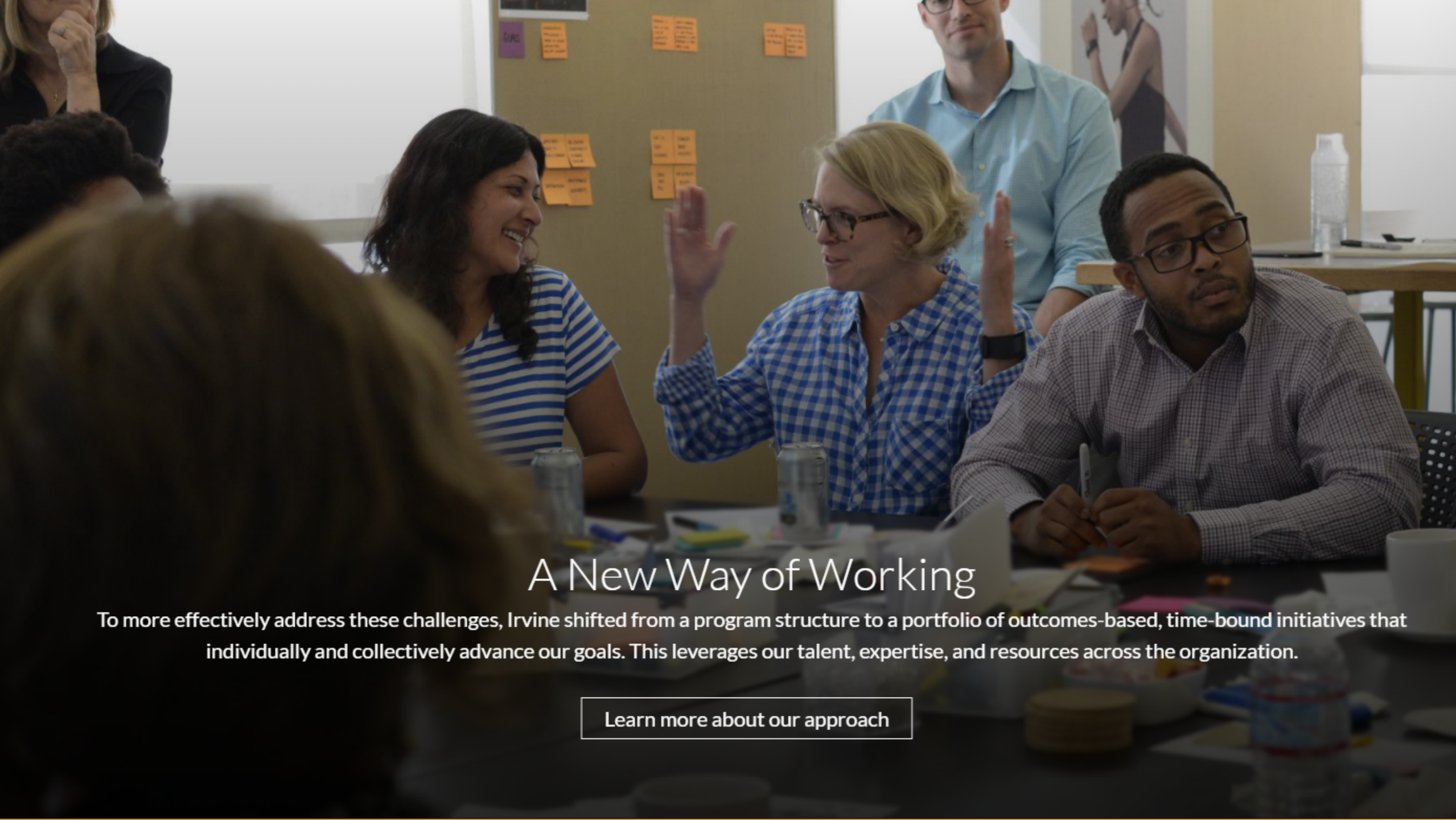
[Learn more about the reasons for our shift](#)

The Fading American Dream

Percent of children earning more than their parents by year of birth



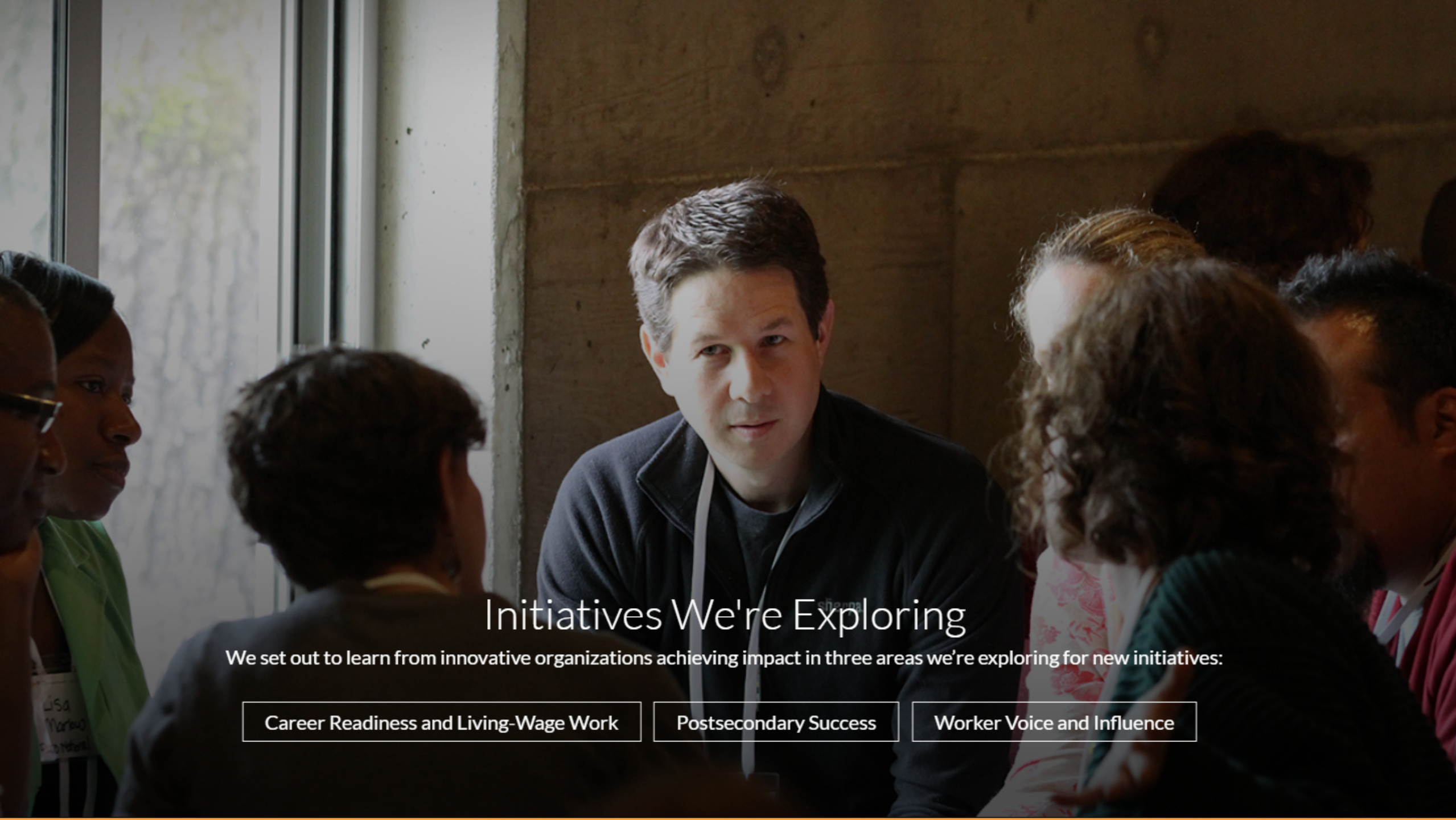
SOURCE: Raj Chetty. *The Fading American Dream*. Dec. 2016



A New Way of Working

To more effectively address these challenges, Irvine shifted from a program structure to a portfolio of outcomes-based, time-bound initiatives that individually and collectively advance our goals. This leverages our talent, expertise, and resources across the organization.

[Learn more about our approach](#)



Initiatives We're Exploring

We set out to learn from innovative organizations achieving impact in three areas we're exploring for new initiatives:

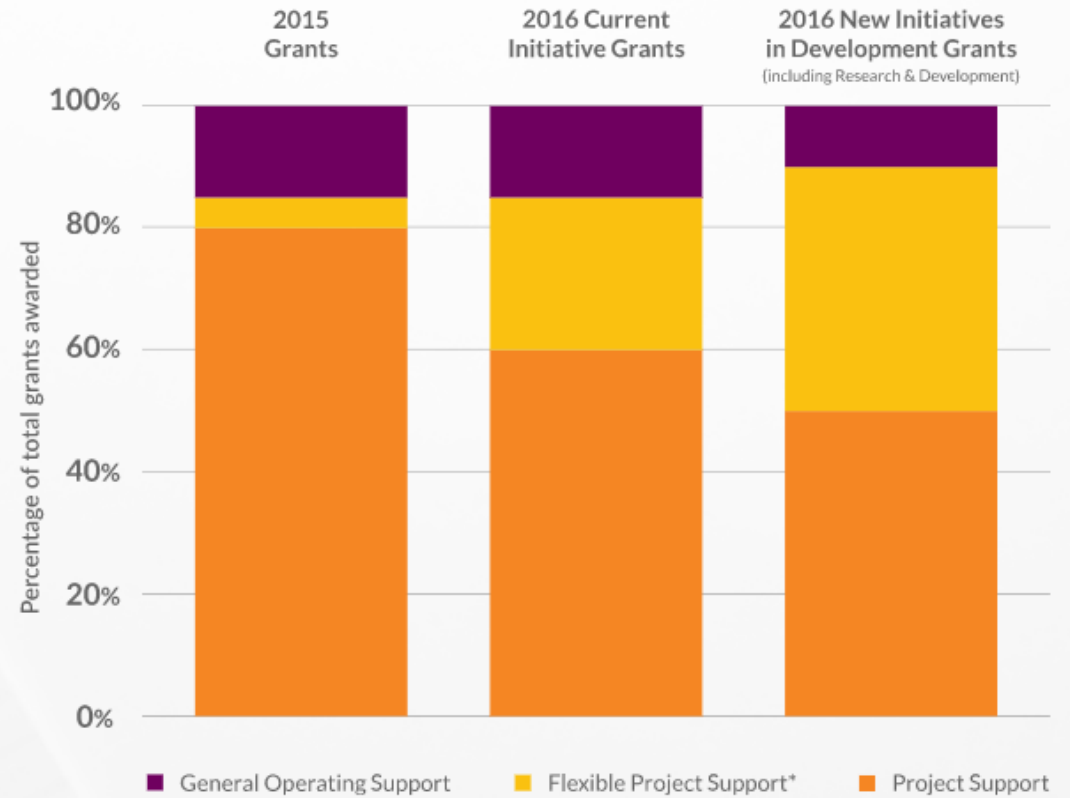
Career Readiness and Living-Wage Work

Postsecondary Success

Worker Voice and Influence

Grant Flexibility in New Initiatives

In response to feedback from grantees, we are working to provide more flexibility in how new initiative grantees are able to use funds, and we've increased support for grantees' core operations.



*Much like general operating support, flexible project support is funding that provides organizations with wide-ranging flexibility to meet a set of goals and expected outcomes agreed upon during the proposals process.

A photograph of two young girls in hijabs running on a school playground. The girl in the foreground is wearing a beige hijab, a maroon long-sleeved shirt, and a blue patterned skirt. The girl behind her is wearing a red hijab, a white long-sleeved shirt, and a red patterned skirt. They are running towards the right. In the background, other children and adults are visible on the playground, which has a blue and grey surface. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Portfolio Review

We have updated our annual performance reporting to now also include information about plans for the future. Our Portfolio Review includes Irvine's impact goals, allocations by different categories, feedback from the field, staff and board statistics, and more.

[Read our Portfolio Review](#)

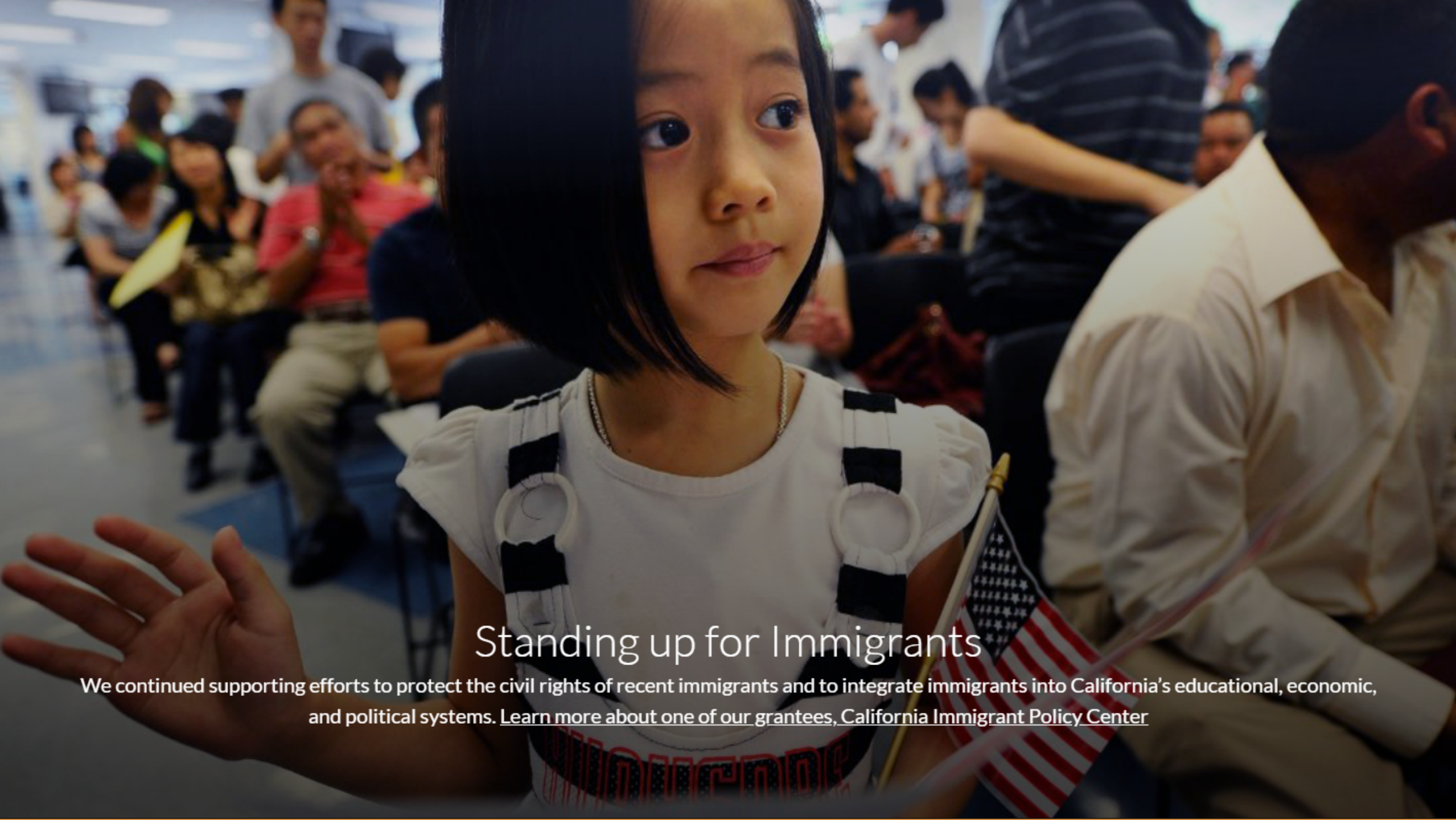
Get Adobe® Reader®

What's your dream for the future?
Draw a picture of it.

Community Listening Sessions

We held 14 listening sessions with Californians across the state who are working but struggling with poverty to hear their stories and learn about their hopes and challenges. We're using their perspectives to inform our work and grantmaking.

[Learn more](#)



Standing up for Immigrants

We continued supporting efforts to protect the civil rights of recent immigrants and to integrate immigrants into California's educational, economic, and political systems. [Learn more about one of our grantees, California Immigrant Policy Center](#)

A photograph of four people in a greenhouse. On the left, a woman in a grey jacket is smiling and holding a small green plant. Next to her is a man in a blue shirt, also smiling. In the center, a woman in a red patterned top is holding a green tool and smiling broadly. On the right, another woman in a light-colored top is smiling and looking at a notebook. The background shows the structure of the greenhouse and other plants.

Linked Learning

A seven-year evaluation revealed that Linked Learning students earn more credits in high school, are less likely to drop out, and are more likely to graduate. [See the evaluation](#)

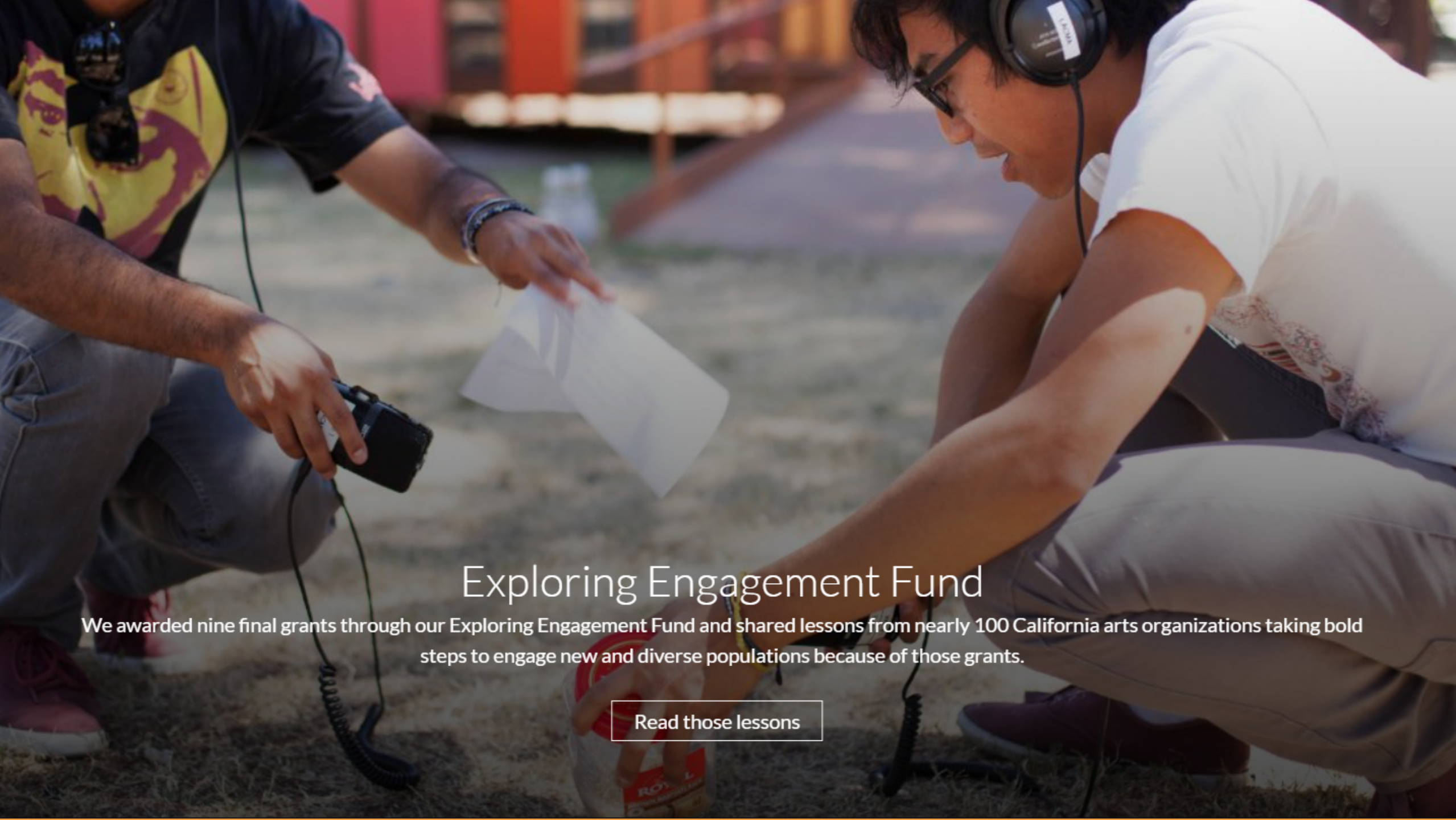
The evaluation also revealed strategies supporting successful Linked Learning implementation by school districts and pathway teams. [See the report](#)

Expanding Voting and Voter Information

The Million Voters Project made significant gains toward its goal of having 1 million Californians (primarily low-income people of color) vote by 2018. [Learn more about The Million Voters Project](#)

[The League of Women Voters of California](#) and [Maplight](#) partnered on [Voter's Edge California](#), an online tool offering personalized, nonpartisan ballot information about candidates and ballot measures in English and Spanish. One in 12 California voters used the site in the 2016 general election.

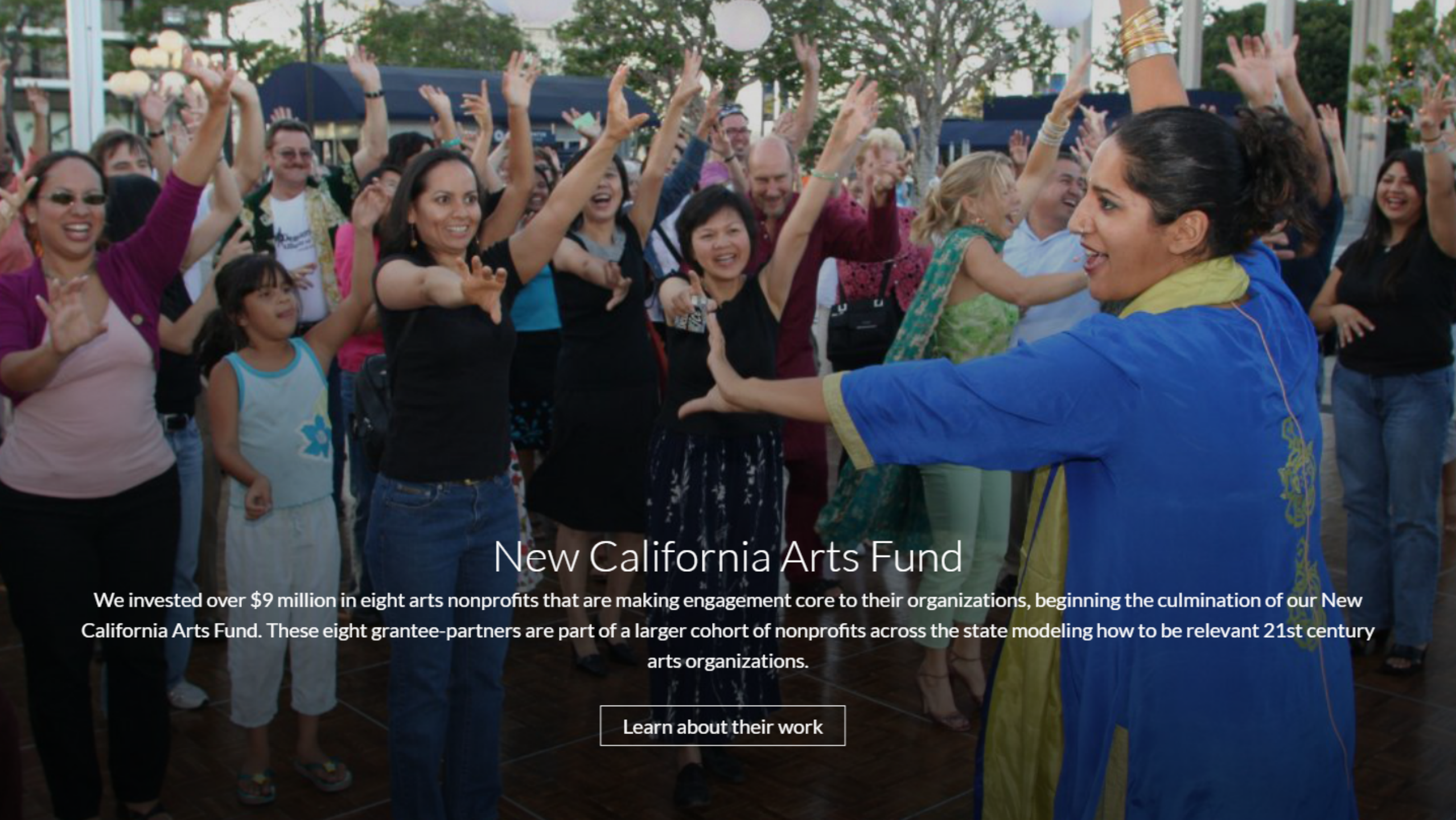




Exploring Engagement Fund

We awarded nine final grants through our Exploring Engagement Fund and shared lessons from nearly 100 California arts organizations taking bold steps to engage new and diverse populations because of those grants.

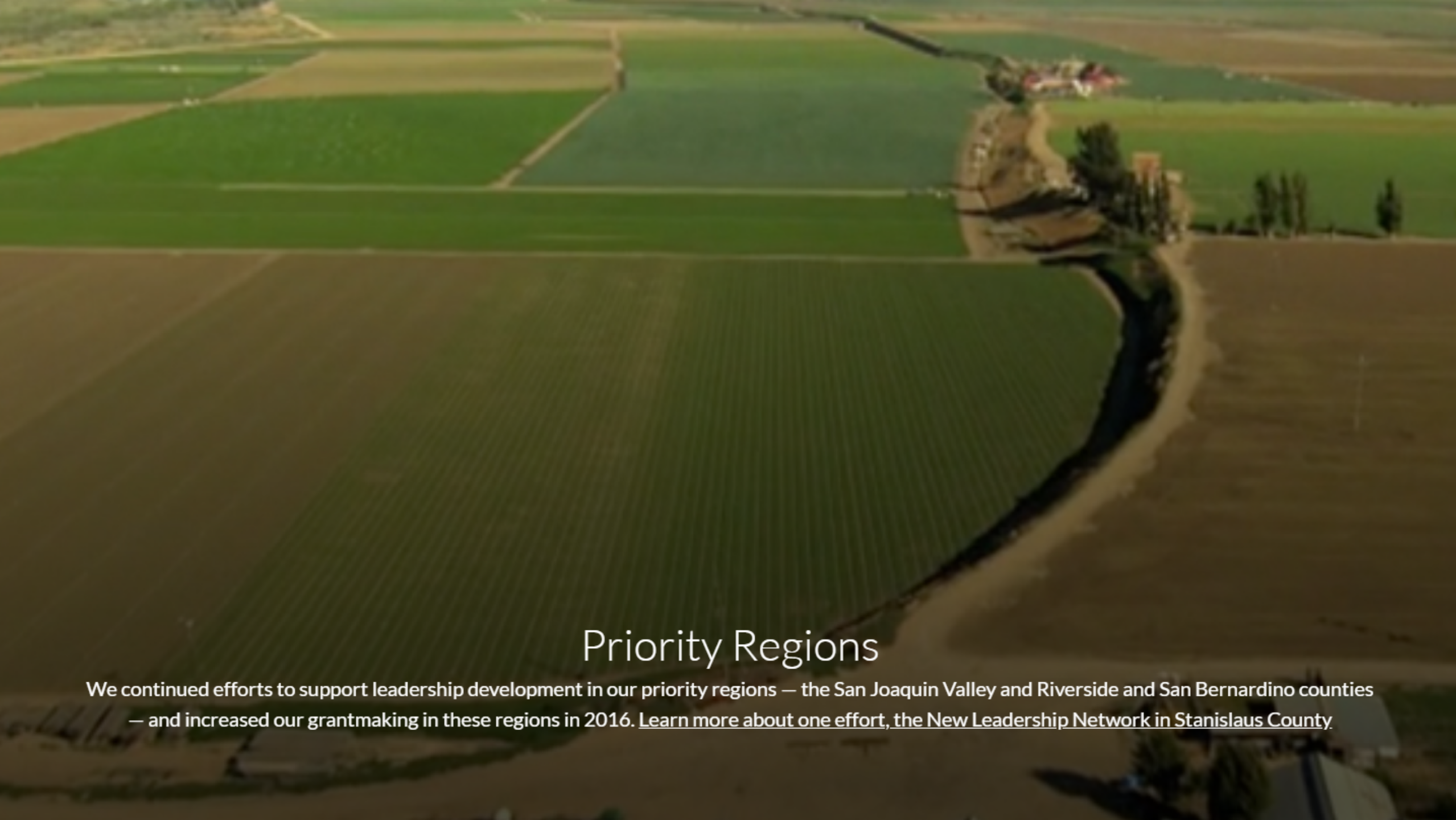
[Read those lessons](#)



New California Arts Fund

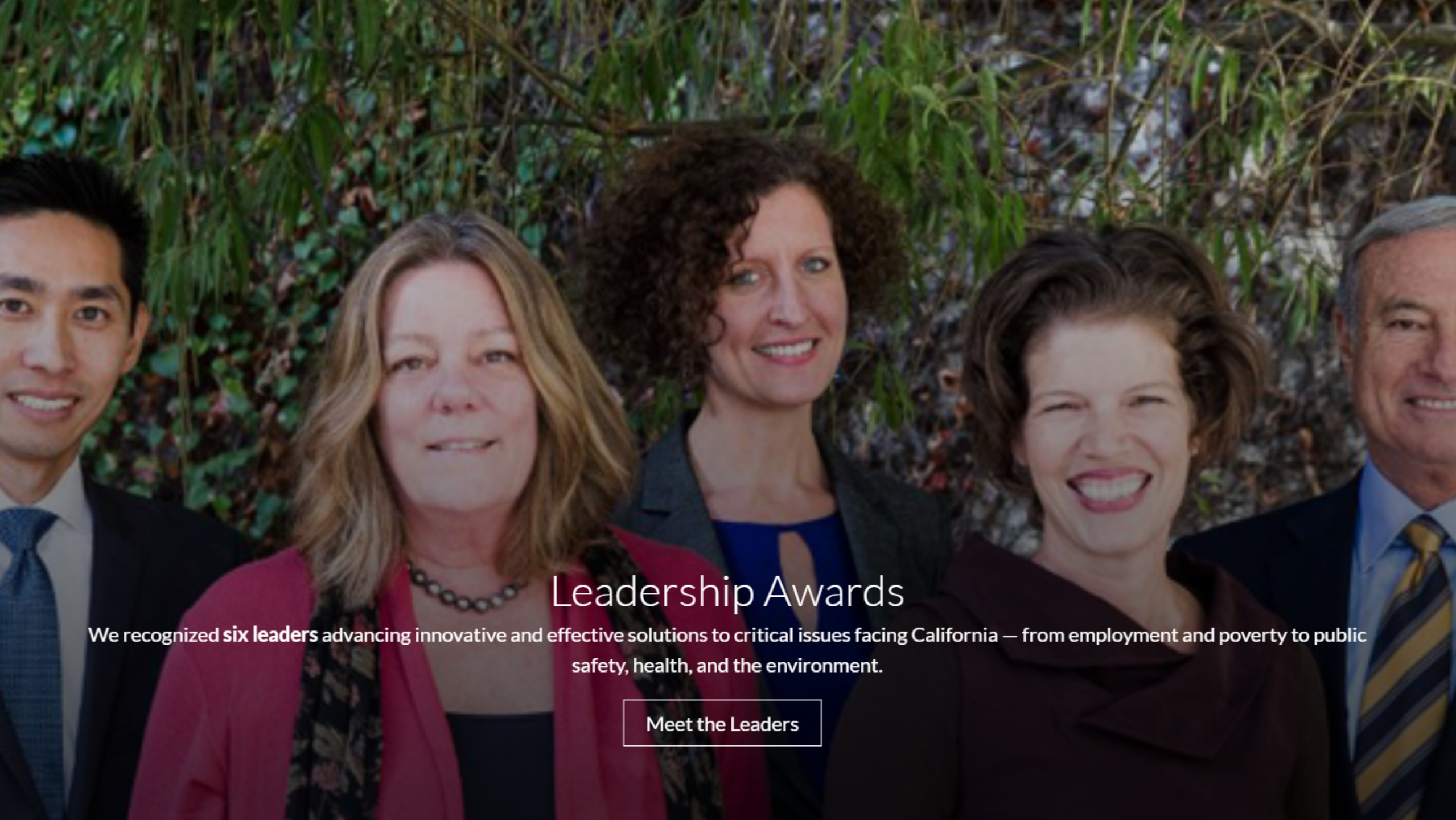
We invested over \$9 million in eight arts nonprofits that are making engagement core to their organizations, beginning the culmination of our New California Arts Fund. These eight grantee-partners are part of a larger cohort of nonprofits across the state modeling how to be relevant 21st century arts organizations.

[Learn about their work](#)



Priority Regions

We continued efforts to support leadership development in our priority regions — the San Joaquin Valley and Riverside and San Bernardino counties — and increased our grantmaking in these regions in 2016. [Learn more about one effort, the New Leadership Network in Stanislaus County.](#)

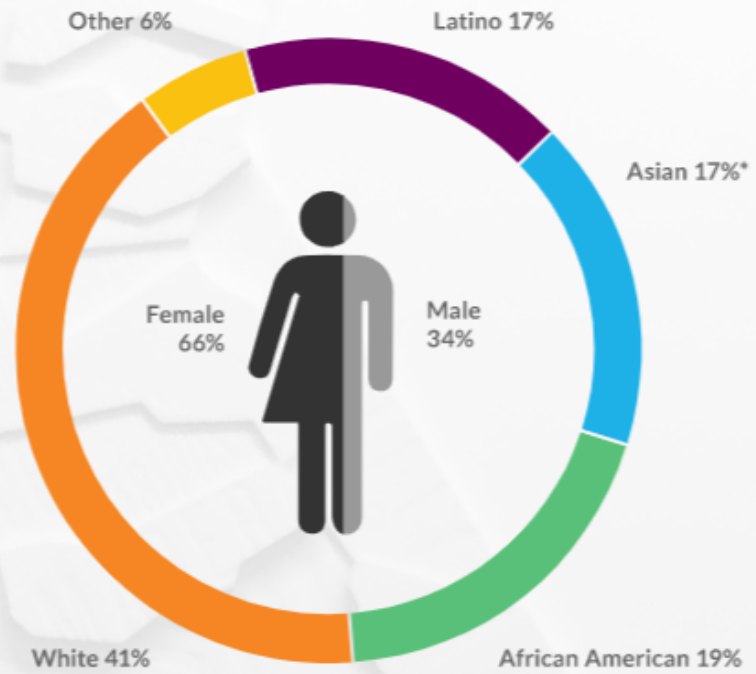


Leadership Awards

We recognized **six leaders** advancing innovative and effective solutions to critical issues facing California — from employment and poverty to public safety, health, and the environment.

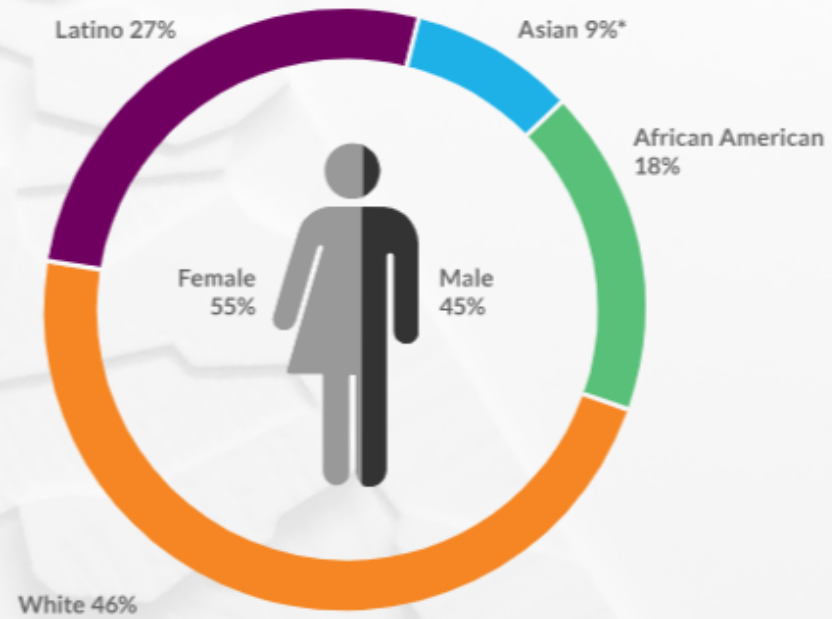
[Meet the Leaders](#)

STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS



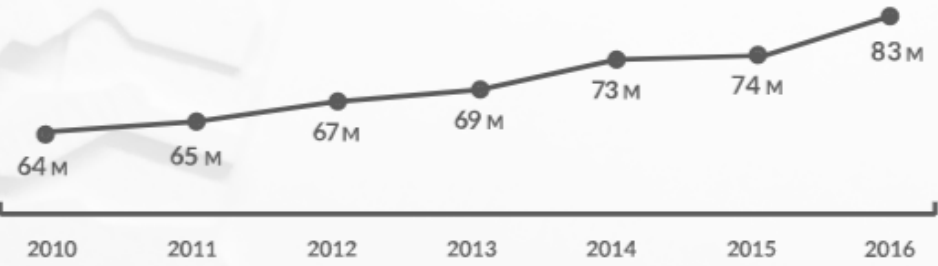
*includes Asian, Asian Indian, Asian Pacific, or Pacific Islander

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DEMOGRAPHICS

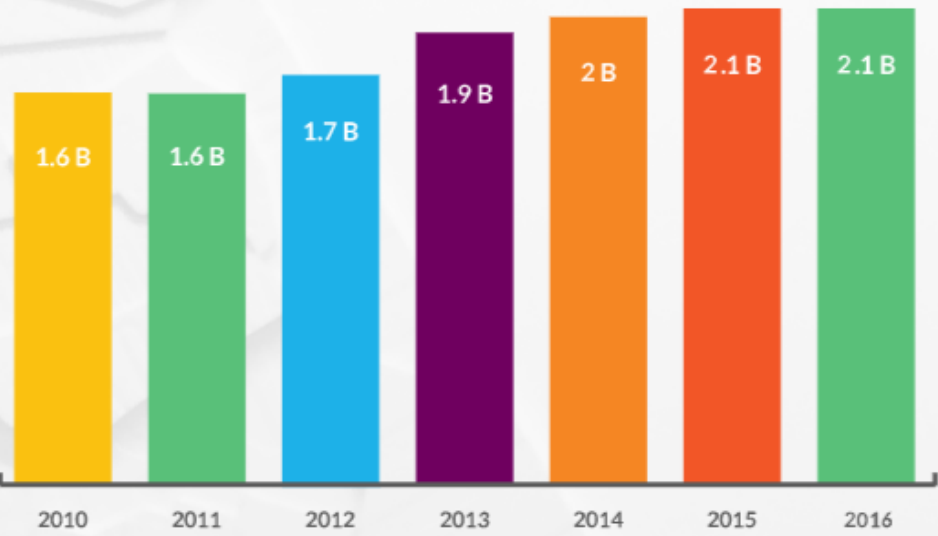



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GRANTMAKING



ASSETS



A photograph of five vibrant orange poppies with dark centers, set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others partially unfurling. The lighting is bright, creating a high-contrast scene with some lens flare effects.

Our endowment remained steady, and our grantmaking grew again.

[Read our 2016 financial statements](#)



Letter from Tim Recker, our CIO and Treasurer

“ We will continue to evolve Irvine’s strong investment platform to support our financial success amid dynamic financial markets. ”

The year marked an important milestone for The James Irvine Foundation’s investment portfolio. After almost 15 years of service and strong portfolio results, Chief Investment Officer John Jenks retired at the end of 2016.

John’s investment outcomes helped the Foundation make significant strides in its programmatic work to expand opportunity for the people of California. I joined the Foundation at the end of 2016

[Read full letter](#) ▼

 The James Irvine Foundation

Thanks to all our grantees and other partners for your work
to expand opportunity for the people of California.