

2021



ANNUAL  
REPORT



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Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy this report on America's Future's activities in 2021, where we continued to build on the pivots we made in 2020. These pivots include; deepening our roots in local communities through our On the Ground efforts, building up young leaders through our expanded Leadership Development programming and inspiring new audiences through our Outreach efforts.

America's Future remains committed to empowering the next generation of freedom's leaders, and these last few years have filled us with a renewed sense of urgency. Young people see the challenges ahead clearly, and they are searching for solutions.



**"Through our work,  
we are making a space  
for young people to  
learn, to get inspired,  
and to take action  
wherever they are."**

Through our work, we are making a space for them to learn, to get inspired, and to take action wherever they are.

Covid-19 and the mitigation response took so much from us, from family members, to livelihoods to trust in our neighbors. For younger professionals, it also took away the opportunity to build networks with colleagues and to develop the vital relationships that would carry them through their lives and careers. As restrictions slowly lifted, America's Future knew there was important work to do; not just to support these young people as they began their professional lives but to help their towns and cities to rebuild. Through

online learning & networking opportunities, engaging events in our Chapters and Hubs we're rebuilding those bonds. I hope you'll enjoy seeing some of that work in the pages to follow.

Thanks to you, young people across the country are rising to the challenges our nation faces. They are committed, principled and ready to do the work to learn how to lead. Your investments in America's Future have helped equip tens of thousands of young leaders, and with your continued support we can continue this vital work.

Thank you for your partnership,  
Cindy Cerquitella

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Cerquitella".

# FROM THE CEO





# A LITTLE ABOUT US

## **America's Future Recruits And Cultivates Young Professionals To Become Lifelong, Effective Advocates for Freedom**

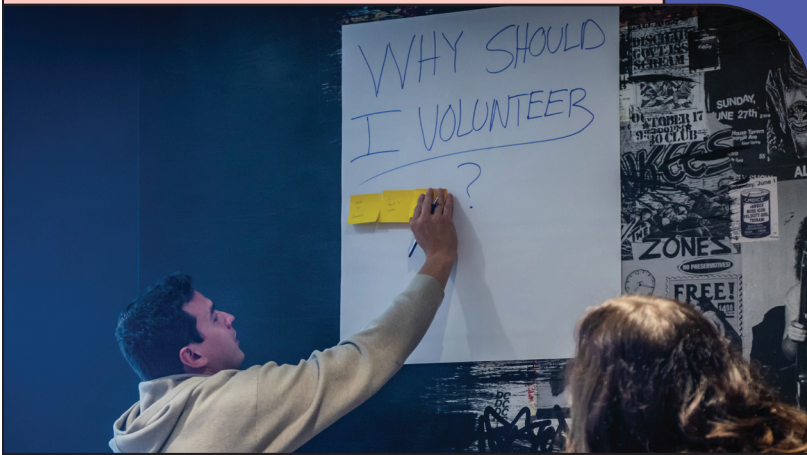
**HOW:** America's Future offers rising generations opportunities for networking, mentoring, leadership, and community engagement through our national network of 10 city-based chapters, five regional hubs, and a nationwide membership. We offer an extensive array of opportunities for young people in their 20s and 30s to expand their skills, understand the values of liberty more deeply, and build a support network as they rise to positions of leadership.

Founded in 1995 by a group of aspiring young advocates, America's Future quickly grew to be "the place" for rising young leaders in Washington, DC. In 2011, we took the show on the road, launching chapters in cities across the country. In 2020, Talent Market, the freedom movement's premier talent agency, joined the team.





# Get to know the people of America's Future



**53%**

want more civic engagement opportunities

**60%**

have never previously been involved with a liberty movement organization

Our members' top 5 biggest challenges in America:

- 1. THE ECONOMY**
- 2. EDUCATION**
- 3. THE MEDIA**
- 4. CANCEL CULTURE**
- 5. BIG GOVERNMENT**



**TOTAL EVENTS  
HOSTED IN 2021:  
190**



# ON THE GROUND

## Chapters

**A selection of topics, events, and anecdotes from 10 city-based chapters.**



### ATLANTA:

After a three year hiatus AF-Atlanta relaunched in the fall of 2021. Nicholas Zviovich, Kennedy Atkins, and Grace Fendrick took the helm as co-Chapter Leaders and put on events with speakers like AF Chairman Richard Lorenc and Hannah Cox.



### DALLAS:

Business ownership during lockdown was a challenge for Will Douglas, owner of local Crimson Care Pharmacy Group. This event highlighted the ingenuity of Dallas entrepreneurs and business owners, as well as the challenges of over-regulation.

### CHICAGO:

Before he moved to Grand Rapids to become the Acton Institute's new Director of Communications, Eric Kohn hosted Chicago events on topics like religious freedom, educational opportunity, and government regulations. Eric served as chapter leader for more than 10 years, growing a thriving community of young leaders in the city.



### COLUMBUS:

Esther Bardo, chapter leader of AF Columbus hosted an election integrity dinner discussion designed to explore not just challenges, but solutions.



## RALEIGH:

A Fourth of July Party, themed “Red, Wine, and Brews,” brought together local entrepreneurs and AF members to celebrate Independence Day with a classic all-American summer party.

## INDIANAPOLIS:

Through their Learning Local Series, AF-Indianapolis hosted a panel of local government officials, auditors, and accountants to shine light on how local funds are collected, budgeted, and distributed.

## DETROIT:

Although the pandemic restrictions kept them from meeting in person, Chapter Leader Brandon Brice made sure they continued to engage our Detroit community virtually. We addressed such hot topics like Socialism vs. Capitalism and human trafficking.

**“I am calling on a whole new generation of solutionists.”**

*-Kay Cole James*



## JACKSON:

AF-Jackson hosted the exclusive opportunity to discuss leadership, the future of freedom in the United States, and what young leaders can do to make a difference with Kay Cole James.

## MILWAUKEE:

In the age of “canceling,” free speech is more important than ever. AF-Milwaukee hosted former Wisconsin Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch to discuss free speech, media “wokeism,” and cancel culture.



## NASHVILLE:

Grover Norquist, founding President of Americans for Tax Reform, joined AF-Nashville to highlight the importance of limited government, opposing higher taxes at the federal, state, and local levels, and supporting tax reform.

**CHAPTERS HOSTED 95 EVENTS BOTH VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON AS CITIES REOPENED**

# Hubs

AF established Regional Hubs in late 2020 to amplify the work of some of our top performing chapters and young leaders. Hubs are charged with both building deep roots within their communities as well as expanding AF's reach to surrounding cities and states, becoming a central gathering place for nearby eager young leaders. Regional Hubs hosted 65 events both virtually and in person.

## NORTHEAST HUB:

Northeast Hub Director Larry Gillheeny is a lifelong resident of Cranston, Rhode Island and helped launch the Rhode Island AF chapter in 2018. In his full-time capacity, he is the Advocacy Manager for the Rhode Island Center for Freedom & Prosperity. Regional Hubs are charged with expanding their reach beyond their home city or state, into surrounding areas. AF Northeast did just that by hosting AF's first ever event in Portland, Maine, in collaboration with the Maine Heritage Policy Center. In Portland, AF found an audience of young friends of freedom eager to be connected to a national network of other young leaders.

**"There are too many places here that have been failed by big government intervention, both before and during the COVID crisis."**

*-Larry Gillheeny*



### The Northeast Hub held events like

- Virtual trivia on current events and regional networking (hub wide)
- How to recruit new attendees and volunteers
- Blockchain and digital currencies
- Annual polo match
- Boat tour of Rhode Island







## SOUTHWEST HUB:

Austin Jack launched the AF-Phoenix chapter in 2019. He has managed fundraising and development efforts for non-profit organizations, large and small, as well as political campaigns throughout the Southwest region of the United States – all of this through his company, Jack Development Strategies, LLC where he serves as the President and CEO. Austin also served as the Chief Development Officer for the Goldwater Institute, and he is the founder of the non-profit organization Mindful U which aims to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental and behavioral health at the post-secondary level.



### The Southwest Hub held events like

- Jeffersonian Dinners that foster civil discourse on topics like Peaceful Protests vs. Riots, Congressional Term Limits, the future of the GOP, and the future of the Democratic Party.
- Garden Talks offered businesses and professional development guidance on topics like securing a second job, financial management, occupational licensing and personal branding.

**"We're providing a platform for young leaders to profess their philosophical and political beliefs in an environment where "cancel culture" does not exist, helping them become pioneers for positive change in America."**

*- Austin Jack*





**"Now is the perfect time to highlight and preserve the individual rights that lead to increased opportunities and happier, freer communities."**

**- Sarah Silberstein**

#### **The Texas Hub held events like**

- COVID and government spending
- Educating on Constitutional Carry
- Discussions on climate change
- A happy hour sponsored by DISCUS on liquor licensing
- #FreeBritney event on Conservatorship

## **TEXAS HUB:**

Sarah Silberstein is the Texas Hub Director for America's Future, based in Austin, TX. Born and raised in Northern California, Sarah's family moved their small business to Texas following the state's economic downturn in 2008. Sarah left her role as Director of Media Relations at TPPF in 2021 to join the Associated General Contractors of Texas as Director of Marketing and Communications.



## **Story of Impact**

The fight for constitutional carry in Texas was difficult. At the forefront of that fight was Felisha Bull, Interim Texas Director at Gun Owners of America. She was instrumental in getting the constitutional carry passed. Felisha is on the Council of the Texas Hub and AF events, where she connects with other like-minded individuals who are also fighting for liberty.





## DC HUB:

Lydia Pitea leads the AF-DC Hub. In her full-time capacity, Lydia is the Marketing and Events Manager at DonorsTrust and the Program Coordinator for its young givers project, Novus Society. Lydia joined DonorsTrust in 2016 as a participant in the Koch Associate Program and has since participated in the Atlas Network Academy and Leader Lab, as well as the America's Future Writing Fellows Program.



"The DC Hub is a community for young professionals of all backgrounds, ideologies, and passions to join together to learn more about ways to make the world a freer and happier place all while growing alongside each other in the skills they need to excel in their careers."

*-Lydia Pitea*



### The DC Hub held events like

- Summer picnic series (while indoor gathering was still restricted)
- Book launch party with author Stephen Kent on his new book, "How the Force Can Fix the World"
- Socratic Dinner series covering "Vices"
- Career Kickstarter virtual event

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The next generation of freedom's leaders will need to stand up for freedom both in the halls of government and in the public square. They will need a firm grounding in effective and ethical leadership in order to ensure our nation moves in the right direction. To meet this need, America's Future continues to expand its offerings, from digital courses to working closely with Talent Market to keep the freedom movement strong.

## Membership

In 2020, AF launched a brand new membership program designed to connect and support freedom-minded leaders across the country, not just where we have a physical presence. Through regular online meetings, exclusive workshops and small group mentorship, AF is meeting and developing a new slate of young leaders. In 2021, we hosted special member events virtually on topics like conservative and libertarian fusionism, how to pitch and get published, educational freedom with Corey DeAngelis, how to navigate year end reviews, and how to share your personal story to influence others towards liberty.





# SHIP MENT

**Meet some of our newest members:**

## **AARON WHITE**

**LOS ANGELES, CA**



I am the Director of Individual Giving for The Forward, and I run a consulting company. Other groups I'm a part of or work with include: GaymerX, FEE, C4SS, Young Voices, Qweerty Gamers, Der Nister, and the Israel Policy Forum's IPF Atid (youth group).

**What role do you want to play in making your community free?**

I would like to educate and inspire my community about the opportunities freedom affords more so than command it. I recognize that in the marketplace of ideas there are many concepts of what it means to be free and that to best advocate for freedom, I imagine, we must clearly define it with a focus on: individual liberties and economic opportunity.

**Why does it matter to be a part of a like-minded organization like AF?**

It's important to be a part of an organization like AF in order to network with like-minded individuals, in order to find opportunities to discuss ideas, coordinate more effectively, and build those things we hope to accomplish - together.

## KATHERINE REVELLO

NEWPORT, RI



I'm a freelance journalist, currently working primarily for The Maine Wire, a project of Maine Policy Institute. I'm also the communications director for and sit on the executive board of the Libertarian Party of Rhode Island.

### What role do you want to play in making your community free?

The more work I do in the news and media world, the more concerned I become with transparency and accountability. These are important values in a democratic society and media, though it likes to paint itself as speaking truth to power, frequently doesn't go in depth into actions taken by government and other influential public actors that impact peoples' lives. I want to play a role in making sure this information is accessible and understandable in my community.

### Why does it matter to be a part of a like-minded organization like AF?

Being part of a like-minded organization like AF is a good reminder that other people with like minds do exist in the community around me. It's also a great reminder that like-minded people are not same-minded people. There are a wealth of different approaches and attitudes towards issues, even among people who generally agree on the big picture. AF frequently facilitates respectful debate and that's valuable to me.

## AARON MILLER

COLUMBIA, TN



My current professional role is as an administrator for a conservative social media startup, and I am a member of the Air National Guard, specializing in Cyber Systems Operations. In addition to America's Future, I'm a member of Young Americans for Liberty's Legacy Society, Students for Liberty, my local County Republican Party, and Vets2Vets, a nationwide veteran advocacy and support organization.

### What role do you want to play in making your community free?

At the moment, I'm seeking to keep my community free through service, activism, and running for public office. Service in things like trash pickup, assisting community members in need, and supporting local organizations. Activism in educating my community on pressing issues that we face today. Running for public office





as I am currently on the ballot for the County Commissioner seat in my District.

**Why does it matter to be a part of a like-minded organization like AF?**

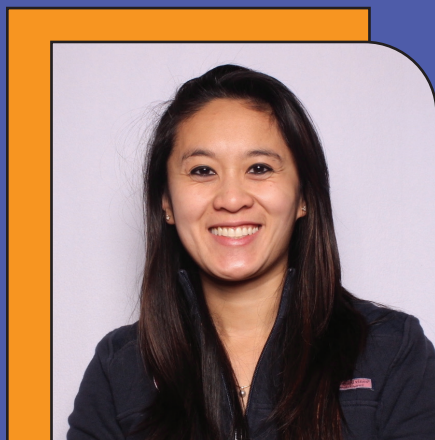
Being a part of a like-minded organization like AF is invaluable to broadening my scope of experience and ideas, in that I have folks that share

my values across the country, with a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and fields of expertise. Networking with these individuals allows me access to their knowledge and wisdom, to help me in my own missions to support freedom in my community. It is also a vital support base for morale and confidence-building. Especially in these times, when it seems like almost every major social

**"...it is deeply refreshing to be able to have fellowship with members that share my values."**

institution is leaning into authoritarianism, it is deeply refreshing to be able to have fellowship with members that share my values.

**NATALIE LE**  
**BOSTON**



Natalie Le is an MLA student in government at Harvard University. Her research interests include comparative politics and human rights, with particular emphasis on free speech and women's rights in Saudi Arabia. Natalie earned a BA in political science and another BA in philosophy at the College of Charleston. She was a Mercatus Center Frédéric Bastiat fellow for the 2019-20

academic year and a Don Lavoie fellow during the spring 2021 semester. Full-time, she works as a communications and policy assistant for the Independent Women's Forum.

**What role do you want to play in making your community free?**

I have been taking an active role in engaging with my representatives to ensure that my community is freer than it was before. For example, I have been partaking in initiatives, where I've been writing to my city council, to push for policies that would make our public infrastructure safer and accessible for everyone. These implementations would not only promote safety and accessibility but also improve commerce for small businesses and consumers.

**Why does it matter to be a part of a like-minded organization like AF?**

Because they empower young people to tap into their potential and make a difference within their community. AF has been hosting several workshops and events, where I had an opportunity to listen to top-notch speakers and interact with those who care about the same issues as I do. Because of AF, I was inspired to be more involved in my community by attending city council meetings, where I spoke in front of the mayor and council members about matters that are important to me and my neighbors.

# Writing Fellows

The Writing Fellows program offers aspiring young writers six weeks of digital or in-person training on effective communication, drafting great headlines, policy writing, and successfully pitching Op-Eds. In addition, alumni of the program return each session to mentor current students, helping to build a deep and growing network of effective and skilled communicators of liberty.

## MATT PURPLE

### WRITING FELLOWS TRAINING COORDINATOR

Matt Purple is the digital editor at The Spectator World. Prior to that, he served as an editor at The American Conservative, Rare Politics, and The American Spectator. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia. He has lead lead the curriculum development for the Writing Fellows program since 2020.

“Training young writers through the America’s Future writing fellowship is one of the most important things I do. It ensures that younger conservatives and libertarians not just understand how to write, but are able to spread their message throughout the larger media ecosystem. At a time when so much of youth culture is monolithically left-wing, young people need to know there’s an alternative. Offering that alternative is what America’s Future does best.”







## Notable Alumni:

### **GABBY ORR**

White House reporter at Politico and now CNN

### **HUNTER ESTES**

Director of Communications for the Mississippi Center for Public Policy

### **JARED MEYER**

Economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisers and now senior fellow and director of advocacy at the Cicero Institute

### **JOE CHALFANT**

President at Lone Conservative

### **JASON RUSSELL**

Hired as Deputy Managing Editor of Reason Magazine

### **CARLOS ROA**

Senior editor at The National Interest

In 2018, with the help of the Rising Tide Foundation, America's Future sought to dramatically increased participation and outcomes of the Writing Fellowship Program. Between 2018 and 2021, enrollment increased 256 percent and the alumni publishing rate increased 26 percent. A total of **454** participants completed the program, exceeding the goal of 360 completed. In addition, by the end of 2021, alumni had published more than **11,000 pieces** that year alone, with the number increasing to **22,000 total** over the entire course of the grant.

## Writing Fellows in 2021 by the Numbers

**104**

Participants

**11,039**

Articles published  
by Alumni

**22%**

of alumni are  
published regularly

### **Impressive Publications:**

Writing Fellows alumni have been published in more than 430 media sources, including: Forbes, Fast Company, Orange County Register, FOX News, The Atlantic, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, New York Post, CNN, and Politico.

# Talent Market

## TALENT IS THE FUTURE:

### AMERICA'S FUTURE AND TALENT MARKET JOIN FORCES

As you know, the liberty movement will only ever be as strong as the people driving it. At America's Future, we have always prided ourselves on

raising up and training the next generation of advocates for liberty; and in 2020 we expanded that impact by officially acquiring Talent Market. For 13 years Talent Market has provided recruiting and hiring services for critical roles within the nonprofit sector. This partnership

between America's Future and Talent Market ensures the freedom movement has a steady stream of talented, passionate, and driven young people for decades to come.



### Talent Market by the Numbers

200+	800+	\$13M+	66%	70+
Free-market organizations assisted	Placements	Total Private Sector Value of Talent Market's Placements	Are New to the Free-Market Movement	Nonprofit Executives Placed

## TALENT MARKET FULL TIME STAFF AS OF APRIL 2022

<b>KATELYNN BARBOSA</b> Director of Talent Engagement Chicago, IL	<b>CLAIRE DIXON</b> Executive Director Charleston, SC	<b>KATY GAMBELLA</b> Director of Network Engagement Charlotte, NC	<b>STEPHANIE KEAVENEY</b> Network Engagement Manager Pittsburgh, PA	<b>LYDIA SCHWERTFEGER</b> Network Engagement Specialist Ripon, WI



# OUTREACH INITIATIVES

Young people are constantly bombarded with anti-freedom messages in the media. Whether it's through music, film or the news, it can be difficult to find information from a pro-liberty perspective. America's Future's outreach products offer young people the chance to write and consume advice, news, and cultural commentary from a freedom based perspective, offering a vital alternative to mainstream media sources.



## Blog

The AF blog is the ideal place for young writers to hone their craft while also contributing to the national discourse in areas such as free speech, school choice, economics, pop culture, social media, professional development, and job hunting. Some of our best blog posts come from even more niche topics, like a piece by Carolyn

Bolton about managing grief during the holiday season. Brittany Hunter, another superb regular contributor, had a **heavy-hitting piece** about comedian Dave Chapelle and cancel culture. These are just two examples of many that showcase our young writers as masters of their craft and voices to watch in the future.

## REGULAR WRITERS:

### Alexandra Syrah

Free speech, books

### Brittany Hunter

Free speech, social media, economics

### Carolyn Bolton

Fundraising, philanthropy, millennial

### Chris West

Civility, engagement, volunteering

### Cooper Conway

Education

### David Collins

Education, school choice

### Ericka Anderson

Religion, parenting, free speech

### Jack Langley

Military, free speech, daily politics

### Justin Tucker

Pop culture

### Kelvey Vander Hart

Environmental policy

### Krista Mitchell

Professional Development

### Lane Koch

Free speech, grassroots activism, local politics

### Leah Nalepa

Professional development

### Louis Damani Jones

Racial issues, politics, free speech

### Lydia Switzer

Social media, free speech, daily politics

### Matt Hampton

Popular culture, foreign policy

### Matthew Robin

Philosophy

### Meg Tuszynski

Parenting, economics, philosophy

### Patrick Nalepa

Financial literacy

### Peyton Holliday

Current Events

### Samuel Mangold-Lennet

Popular culture

### Tanner Aliff

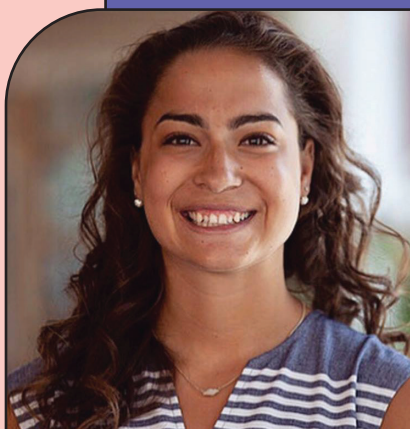
Healthcare

### Thomas Savidge

Fiscal policy

## MEET THE EDITOR:

**Natalie Dowzicky** works full-time as a digital editor at Reason Magazine, previously serving as editor of [Libertarianism.org](http://Libertarianism.org). She is an alumna of the Writing Fellows program and serves as editor for both the AF blog and Brewing Business podcast.



**"AF provides the guidance and support that many young writers desperately need!"**





# Podcast



## MEET THE HOST

### Austin Jack

Serving as the Chief Development Officer to one of the nation's leading public policy and litigation centers for the last five years, the Goldwater Institute, while simultaneously serving as the Regional hub Director for America's Future, a leading independent grassroots organization advocating for policy changes at the local level, Austin Jack comes with well over a decade of executive leadership experience in the business and public policy world. Austin has served and is serving in dozens of founder and owner capacities.

## OVERVIEW

America's Future's newest podcast, Brewing Business, launched in 2021 as a platform for young entrepreneurs to share compelling stories of how they rose to the occasion and advanced their businesses by embracing free market principles. Business leaders from the restaurant industry to the non-profit space (and even a successful realtor) shared their ideas and visions. By offering the perspectives of these young entrepreneurs, we seek to provide inspiration and encouragement to others hoping to walk in their footsteps.

Scan to listen to Season One on Ricochet! →



### MEGAN GREENWOOD

Owner of Greenwood Brewing

### SENTARI MINOR

Social Impact Advocate and Executive at Evolve MD

### ERICA SANCHEZ

Owner of Franchise Creator

### MORGAN ZEGERS

Founder and CEO at Young Americans Against Socialism

### ROLANDO AGUILAR

Owner of Yard Service on Demand

### CHRISTINE ONG

Realtor

### CHRIS RONZIO

Founder and Owner of Trainual

### JOE MITCHELL

President of RunGenZ

### QUENTIN MCCAIN

Career Coach

### OZZY PEREZ

Owner of Señor Ozzy's Tacos y Mariscos

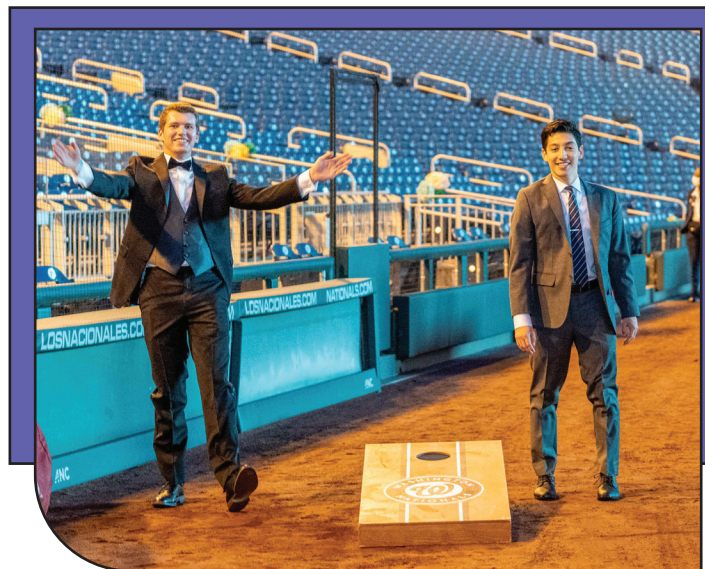


# Events

## AF GALA

For more than two decades, the AF Annual Gala has been an opportunity for freedom fans and liberty lovers across the country to come together to celebrate and look forward to another exciting year. In addition to a night out on the town, the Gala is also where AF gives out our annual Writing Fellows Awards, honoring our Writing Fellows and the fantastic work they're doing to communicate the ideas of liberty.

In 2021, our Annual Gala & Awards Showcase made its triumphant return to Nationals Park, offering a vital outlet for young people to meet and expand their networks after over a year of lockdowns in Washington, D.C.







# & Awards

## WRITING AWARDS

The America's Future Writing Fellowship program helps aspiring writers hone their skills, learn the ins and outs of getting published, and make connections with nationally known writers and editors, giving them a vital "leg up" in the industry. Each year we give out several awards to recognize the outstanding work our past and present Fellows are doing, awarded in-person at our Annual Gala.

First, the Op-Ed of the Year, given to the writer of the op-ed that best embodies the principles taught in the Writing Fellows Program. Second, the Rising Star Award, recognizing those who are early in their career yet already doing amazing work. Finally, the Career Achievement Award, honoring the total body of work of a former Fellow and the ways they have furthered the cause of liberty.



The winner of **Op-Ed of the Year** was Elizabeth Held, for her USA Today piece "Capitol Hill is my Neighborhood, not a Militarized Zone. Tear Down Oppressive Fencing." Elizabeth reminded us all that for many people Capitol Hill is home, and for even more it stands as a symbol of a government designed to be accessible to the people it represents.



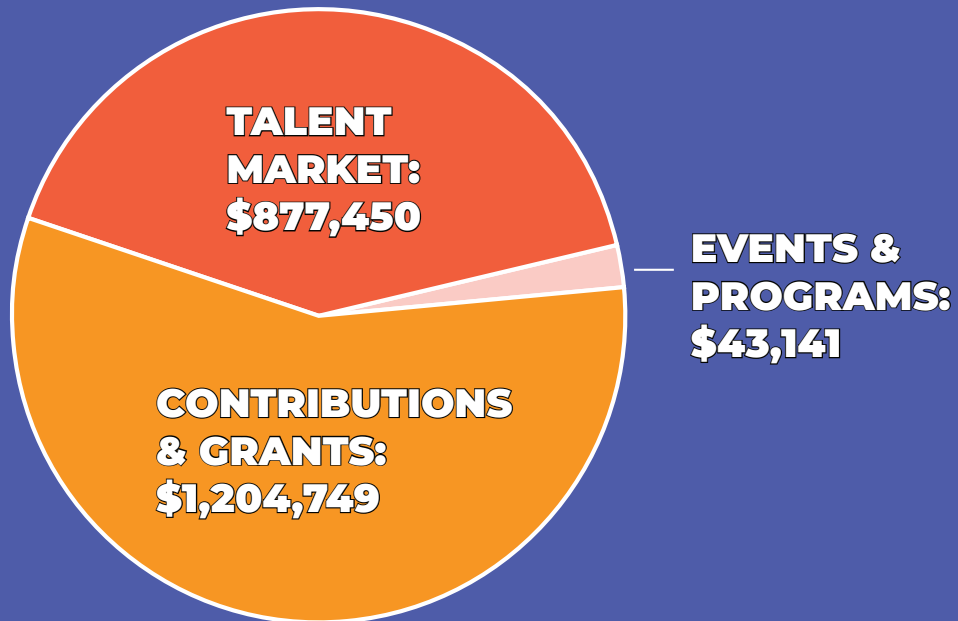
Amanda Kieffer won the **Rising Star Award** for her work as the Communications Director at the Cardinal Institute of West Virginia. Amanda led a major campaign that led to the passage of legislation greatly expanding educational opportunities for West Virginia students.

The **Career Achievement Award** went to Gabby Orr, in recognition of her career covering the ins and outs of conservatism and Republican politics, at places like the Washington Examiner, Politico, and CNN. During her acceptance speech, Gabby spoke about her time as a Writing Fellow, and the impact it had on her career, saying

"I learned so much about what it means to be a truth seeking and truth telling journalist and those are lessons that have carried me far in my career. Had I not been a Writing Fellow, I would never have learned them."

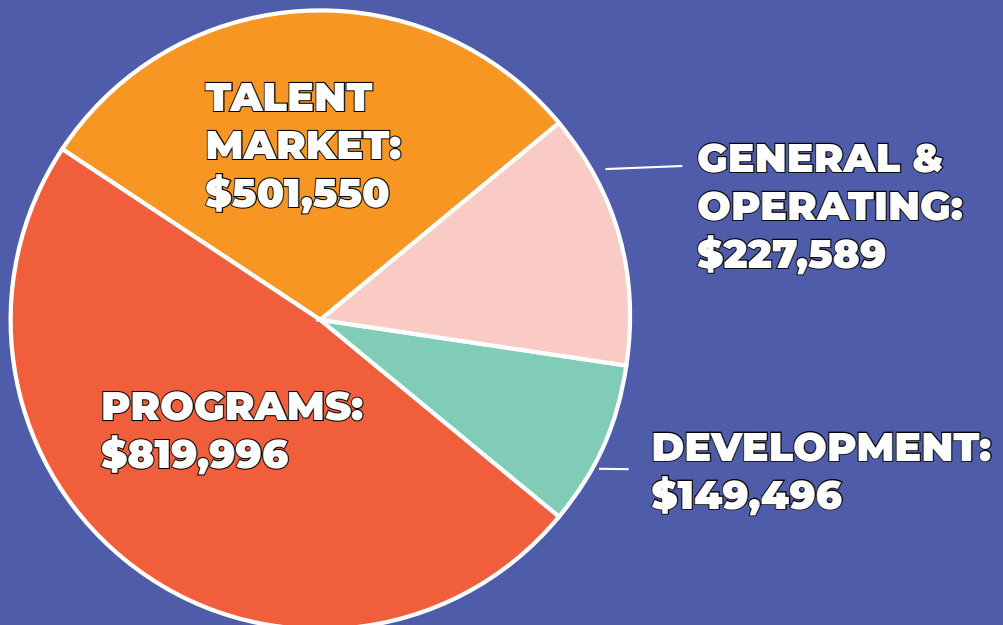
## Revenue:

**TOTAL: \$2,125,340**



## Expenses:

**TOTAL: \$1,698,631**



# FINANCIALS



# OUR TEAM

## FULL TIME STAFF



**CHLOE ANAGNOS**

Director of Marketing  
and Communications



**PHILLIP BADER**

Communications &  
Social Media Manager



**CINDY  
CERQUITELA**

Executive Director



**EMMA  
ERFOURTH**

Office & Development  
Manager



**CHARLES  
ROELOFS**

Director of  
Development



**AYANA THOMAS**

Community Programs  
Associate



**RHACHEL  
TOOMBS**

Director of Community

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**JEFF  
BERKOWITZ**

Founder and Chief  
Executive Officer,  
Delve



**ROMINA  
BOCCIA,  
*Secretary***

Managing Director,  
Stonebrick, LLC



**CHAZ CIRAME,  
*Treasurer***

Founder: Big Fish



**BEVERLY  
HALLBERG**

Founder & President,  
District Media Group



**PETER LIPSETT**

Vice President, Donors  
Trust



**RICHARD LORENC,  
*Chairman***

Chief Growth Officer,  
Iron Light



**KATHLEEN O'HEARN,  
*Vice Chair***

Director of Economic Progress,  
Stand Together



America's future is bright, but you wouldn't know it from doom-scrolling on Twitter or listening to partisan news.

You know it by your everyday experiences and interactions with other people, very few of whom are lightning quick to be insulted or call you a name for having differing opinions.

Living in the middle of Atlanta (a mile from a major university), I don't usually expect to meet people who see things my way. Yet we live together peaceably, and even talk about the issues of the day: free markets

versus controlled markets; open speech versus censorship, or educational choice versus one-size-fits-all schooling.

I've also enjoyed diving into and discussing issues at gatherings of the Atlanta chapter of America's Future. Roughly every six weeks, AF-Atlanta gathers at a trendy brewery to enjoy drinks and snacks while talking about issues ranging from food truck freedom, to loosening regulations for brewpubs, to the urgent need for meaningful criminal justice reform.

There is nothing quite so refreshing these days as being inside a packed room of young professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds, all discussing the need to expand freedom in so many different dimensions of life.

These gatherings remind me of the events my friends and I used to organize in Chicago over ten years ago, back when I was the leader of the local

America's Future chapter. Those experiences of leadership, planning, and negotiation were pivotal to setting me on my current career path, and I treasure and maintain my relationships from those experiences to this day.

America's Future brings freedom-minded people together in meaningful ways that energize them for the discussions and debates that we must have in the coming decades if we are to remain free. I thank you for your support of our work and ask you to dig deeply so that we may bring these experiences to a new generation moving from college to the professional world.

-Richard Lorenc

# FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION  
OF FREEDOM'S LEADERS SINCE 1995.**





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