

Metta Fund

2020 – YEAR IN REVIEW



ANNUAL REPORT

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A Year to Rise to the Occasion



Dear Friends,

In these uncertain times, we want to take a moment to reflect on 2020, an extraordinary year. We are refocusing our annual report on the stories that show how our community came together, with images that speak to our universal experience. In addition to celebrating successes, we want to bring greater focus to the remarkable efforts by community partners, who stepped in as early responders to provide resources and relief to our City's elders. It seems only right to tell our story through these shared experiences.

In 2020, we were faced not only with the pandemic but also with a civil uprising, followed by a divisive and truly unprecedented election cycle. Long-standing racial inequities and health disparities were exposed, and our nation's history of systemic racism and police violence uncovered. At the same time, nonprofits were stretched to find the resources and volunteers needed to provide essential services.

It's times like these when foundations like ours are positioned to act swiftly. On the following pages you will receive a snapshot of how Metta Fund and our grant partners came together to support our community — a community that has been resilient in the face of tremendous challenges and inequities, and **will continue to be resilient.**

In partnership,
Janet Y. Spears, CEO



Covid-19 Response

WHEN THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY EVOLVE, SO MUST PHILANTHROPY

In March 2020, during the first week of the stay-at-home order, Metta Fund launched a rapid response fund to swiftly deploy resources to community-based grant partners serving San Francisco's older adults. Grants supported the immediate needs of the City's older adult-serving organizations and were made to existing grant partners with deep roots in community and strong experience working directly with older San Franciscans – particularly those furthest from access, who have been historically marginalized, with limited access to healthcare or social services, and those with limited English language proficiency, among others.



Covid-19 Response

SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY THROUGH CRISIS



Community partners such as Dr. George W. Davis Senior Center and Self-Help for the Elderly stepped in straightaway to meet the most pressing needs of San Francisco elders.

From March through December, when COVID-19 was tearing through big cities and vulnerable populations around the world, Dr. George W. Davis Senior Center prepared and delivered over 190,000 meals to its community of elders sheltering in place.



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*They knew they could call us when they needed to,
when they couldn't count on anyone else.*

ANNI CHUNG, SELF-HELP FOR THE ELDERLY



Civil Uprising



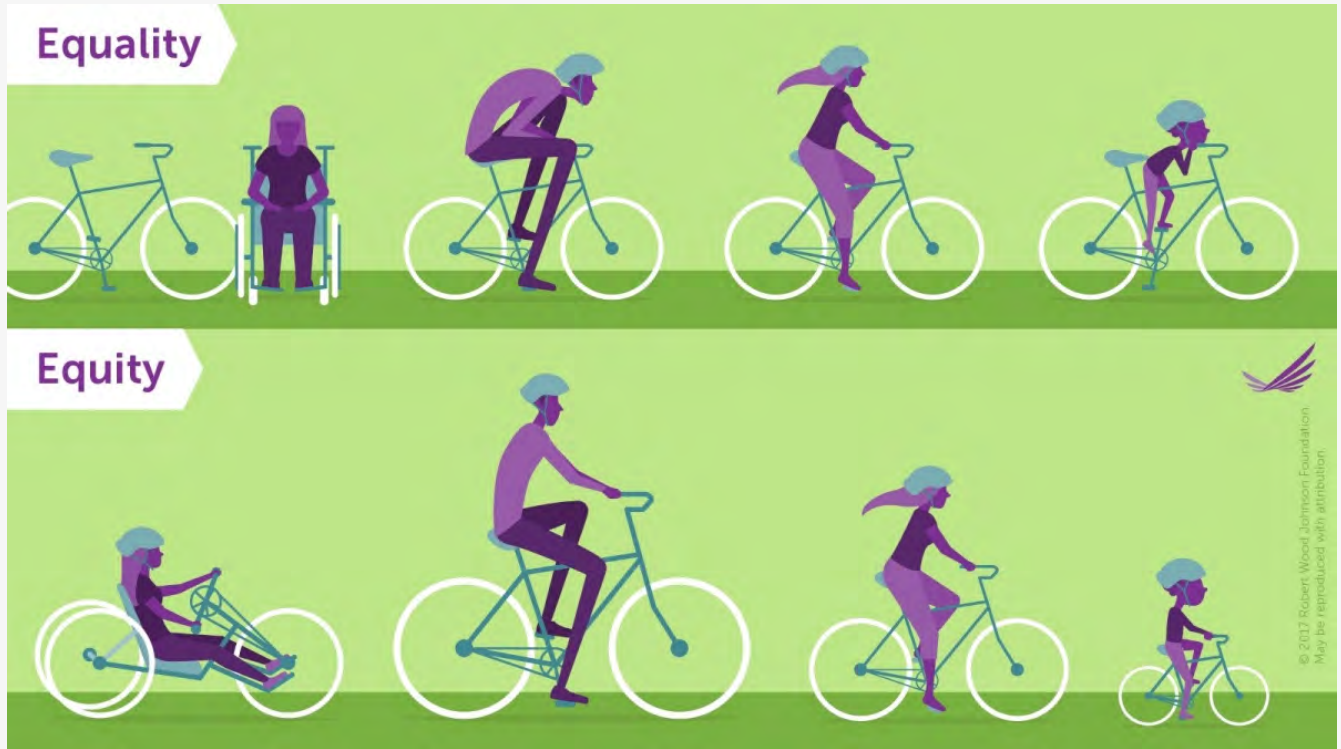
In the summer of 2020, we witnessed a national civil uprising. George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery all became part of a rallying cry across the country, forcing us to confront the racism of the past and present.

In the wake of these highly publicized incidents of racist police violence, the Black Lives Matter movement drew mass mobilizations across the world — leading to calls to action across numerous sectors, including philanthropy.

The moment felt like a national inflection point, shining a critical light on several dimensions of systemic racism, especially as it impacts Black communities.

Racial Equity

MOVING FROM PRINCIPLE TO PRACTICE



In 2019, we made plans for an organization-wide process to examine equity, diversity, and inclusion at Metta Fund. The events of 2020 further prompted us to more deeply examine racism and equity as an institution. We engaged racial equity consultant Greg Hodge to begin to guide Metta Fund's equity journey. We will continue this ongoing learning throughout 2021 and beyond, with the intention of shifting from principle to practice — across the organization.

*To achieve
equity, we must
focus our efforts*

Grantmaking

ADVANCING HEALTH AND EQUITY IN AGING



\$2.4M granted

PURPOSE	# OF GRANTS	AMOUNT
COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE	31	\$210,500
AGING & OLDER ADULT PORTFOLIO	31	\$1,512,500
SOCIAL ISOLATION & LONELINESS (25)		
CAREGIVING	6	\$500,000
HEALTH EQUITY/MASTER PLAN FOR AGING	3	\$200,000

New Portfolio: Caregiving



In November 2020, Metta Fund announced a significant strategic evolution — prioritizing older adults and aging across all of our grantmaking — with the addition of our second focus area of caregiving. Elder caregiving is one of the most overlooked issues facing our nation, and Metta Fund is committed to elevating equity in caregiving so that all elders can age with health and dignity, and that family and paid caregivers can be supported, paid a living wage, and valued for their work.

An initial round of six grants was made to:

- Caring Across Generations*
- Diverse Elders Coalition*
- Family Caregiver Alliance
- Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network*
- Homebridge
- Self-Help for the Elderly

**Fiscally Sponsored*

Social Connectedness

In 2020, the whole world came to recognize the importance of social connection.

Now more than ever, close connections and social relationships are fundamental to our health and wellbeing. Particularly in older adults, the effects of social isolation can be harmful, compromising both physical and mental health. In 2017, Metta Fund made a 10-year commitment to reducing isolation and loneliness via interventions and programs that strengthen meaningful social connections in later life.

This past year, our grant partners coordinated broad efforts and shifted priorities and programming to continue to support older adults in fostering connections. Amidst the ongoing trials facing the region, we find inspiration in how organizations across San Francisco are working tirelessly to address the intersectional challenges of isolation, food security, housing, and a shortage of caregivers.





Community Advocacy

ADVANCING EQUITY IN AGING

We believe elders and their families should have the power to influence systems, policies, and issues that affect them. Metta Fund supports community advocacy and civic engagement to make San Francisco an equitable, compassionate, and inclusive place for all of us.

Bridging the digital divide

The digital divide — the gulf between those who have ready access to computers and the internet, and those who do not — is a public health and social justice crisis.

Nearly one third of San Francisco's older adults and people with disabilities lacked broadband access or connection before the pandemic, revealing the true extent of its impact on underserved elders.

To fill the gap, nonprofits and older adults have mobilized to advocate for City funding beyond the current baseline allocation.

The ongoing [Keep Us Connected](#) campaign, organized by the [Community Living Campaign](#) in collaboration with the SF Tech Council, SteppingStone, and other organizations, calls for increased investment in existing programs to ensure access and connection for all.



[MORE ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN](#)

Keep Us
Connected...



PROVIDING
SENIOR
EMPOWERMENT

Storytelling



At Metta Fund, we are striving to shift the public discourse around older adults.

We know behavioral change starts with shifts in thinking, so we seek to harness the power of narrative as a tool for social change. Narrative change requires we tell a *new* tale, a new vision of later life.

As such, storytelling continues to be a central component of our organizational strategy since stories have the unique ability to inspire and bring awareness to the issues affecting elders – as a means of creating the change we seek in the world. In 2020, we published [Black Leader Profile Series](#), [Elder Stories](#), [Grantee Stories](#), as well as [Stories of Resilience](#).





Elder Stories

In early 2020, Metta Fund published a [photo story collection](#) spotlighting twelve San Francisco elders. We sought to bring lesser-told stories about aging, equity, and communities striving for health and justice.

[Their stories](#) show extraordinary strength despite great adversity, and remind us that elders contribute to our communities every day.

As the coronavirus pandemic began to upend our lives, we reached out to five of the elders to see how they were doing. [These are their updated stories.](#) They are truly heartening, honest narratives which speak truth to what it means to live — and grow old — amidst the most challenging circumstances; we hope you take a moment to read them.





Partnerships & Collaborations



In addition to Metta Fund's grant and community partnerships, we engage in external collaborations with key stakeholders to further our impact and build the movement for equity in aging.

In 2020, we launched the [Aging Intersections Funder Network](#), the first California collaborative focused on equity in elderhood. Metta Fund also participated in an eight-member collaborative of funders (with The SCAN Foundation, Archstone Foundation, Gary and Mary West Foundation, Irvine Health Foundation, Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, The San Diego Foundation, and the May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust) to support the development of California's first [Master Plan for Aging](#).

Aging Intersections Funder Network

Aging Intersections is a growing new funder network formed out of a recognition that philanthropy can do more to erase the disadvantages that older adults — both from communities of color, and those who are economically insecure — face in our society.

In partnership with Northern California Grantmakers, the Network is composed of a group of veteran funders including Metta Fund, the May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, Hirsch Philanthropy Partners, and the Walter and Elise Haas Fund among others.

“

*There is no thing as a
single-issue struggle
because we do not
live single-issue lives.*

AUDRE LORDE



[LEARN MORE](#)

California's Master Plan for Aging



California's demographics are shifting, and older adults are the fastest-growing population group. We all share a stake in planning for our future.

California's much anticipated [Master Plan for Aging](#), provides a critical template for all Californians to age in dignity and with justice. Released following a 14-month planning process, it is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for coordinated, system-wide change that equitably uplifts older adults, people with disabilities, and their family caregivers.

With an emphasis on equity and inclusion, the Master Plan outlines five goals with 23 strategies, and over 100 initiatives for action in the first two years of implementation.

Visit the Master Plan for Aging website [here](#).



Our Board

Metta Fund is governed by a seven member board of directors, chaired by civic leader Ms. Kimberly Brandon.



Kimberly K. Brandon,
Chair



Joseph Hafey,
Vice Chair



Roma Guy



James Loyce



Sonia Melara



John Woodward



Dr. Jarmin Yeh

**MORE ABOUT
OUR BOARD**

Grant Partners

We gratefully acknowledge the following 2020 grant partners.

Bayview Hunters Point Multipurpose Senior Services
Bayview Hunters Point YMCA
Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
Booker T. Washington Community Service Center
CARA Education Fund
Caring Across Generations*
Catholic Charities of San Francisco
Chinatown YMCA
Community Living Campaign
Community Tech Network
Covia Foundation
Curry Senior Center
Diverse Elders Coalition*
Donaldina Cameron House
Family Caregiver Alliance
Felton Institute
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network*
Homebridge
Institute on Aging
Justice in Aging
Kimochi, Inc
Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly
Meals on Wheels of San Francisco
Mission YMCA
Openhouse
Richmond District Neighborhood Center
San Francisco Interfaith Council
San Francisco Senior and Disability Action
Self-Help for the Elderly
Shanti Project
Southwest Community Corporation (dba IT Bookman)
Stepping Stone Adult Day Health Center
Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center
The SCAN Foundation (The Master Plan for Aging Planning)
Walk San Francisco Foundation

**Fiscally Sponsored*

What's Ahead

WE ARE RESILIENT



When the unexpected becomes the norm, when people seek new ways to help one another, when our comfort zones shift, we adapt to keep going. The full scale of the pandemic will only be known in years to come, but we will adapt, evolve, and remain in steady partnership with the community to serve those furthest from access and opportunity.

***We will
meet the
challenge***

We are strong
We are resilient
We will adapt
We will rebuild
We will continue to elevate aging issues

On Aging

BY MAYA ANGELOU

When you see me sitting quietly,
Like a sack left on the shelf,
Don't think I need your chattering.
I'm listening to myself.
Hold! Stop! Don't pity me!
Hold! Stop your sympathy!
Understanding if you got it,
Otherwise I'll do without it!
When my bones are stiff and aching,
And my feet won't climb the stair,
I will only ask one favor:
Don't bring me no rocking chair.
When you see me walking, stumbling,
Don't study and get it wrong.
'Cause tired don't mean lazy
And every goodbye ain't gone.
I'm the same person I was back then,
A little less hair, a little less chin,
A lot less lungs and much less wind.
But ain't I lucky I can still breathe in.



Credits

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Janet Y. Spears

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Anna Karrer Manley

PHOTOS

Sahara M. Borja
Hasain Rasheed

Patti Spaniak-Davidson of CLC
(photo of Anna Potamousi)

FEATURED ELDERS

Mr. Ira Watkins
Ms. Gwen Thomas
Ms. Marlene Tran
Ms. Marie Luna
Ms. Rosa Magaña

Ms. Ezperanza Lalazar
Ms. Anna Potamousi (with daughter, Maria)
Mr. Chester Williams
Mr. Fred Townsend

FEATURED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Community Living Campaign
Dr. George Davis Senior Center
Homebridge

Self-Help for the Elderly
Tel Hi Neighborhood Center

POEM "ON AGING" FROM STILL I RISE

Dr. Maya Angelou
With permission from Penguin Random House

EQUITY ILLUSTRATION

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

DESIGN EDITS

Maria Bee

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