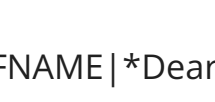


## Community Updates



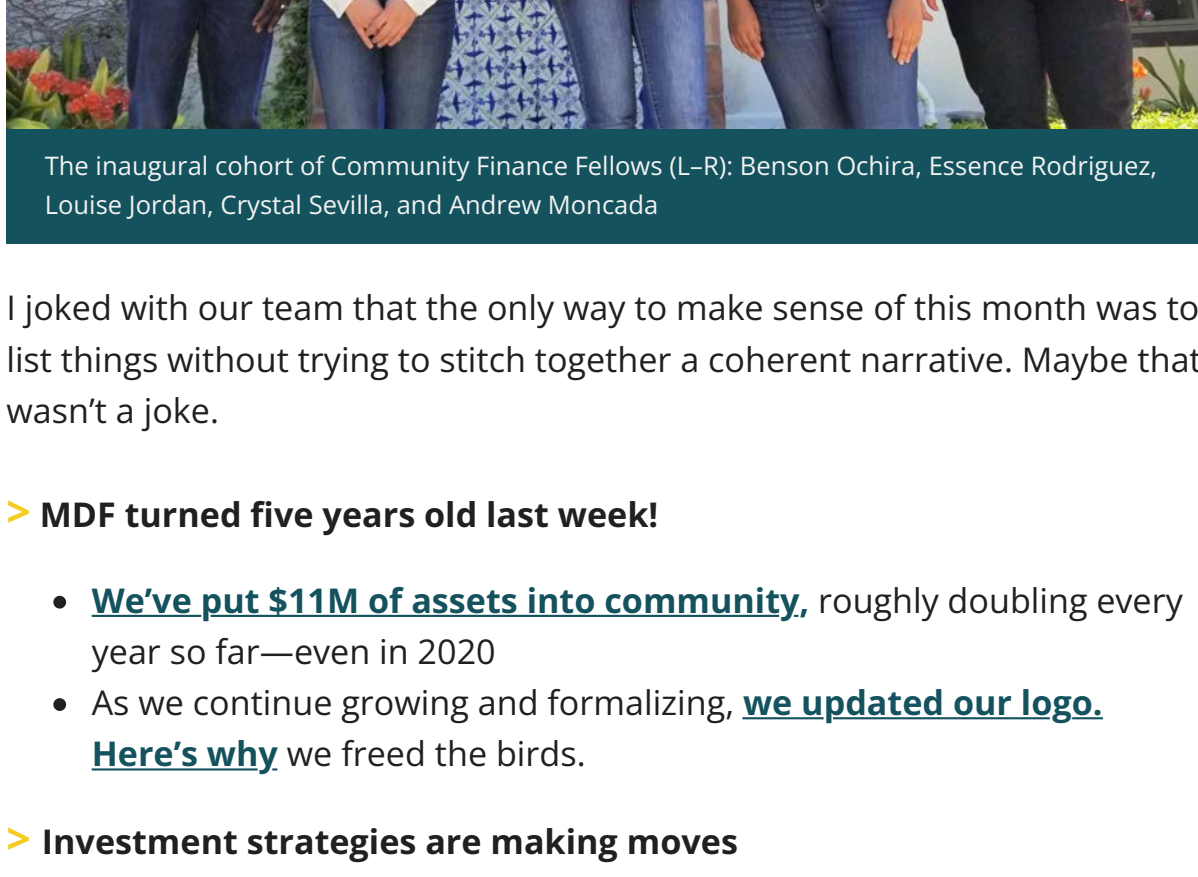
\*|IFNOT:ARCHIVE\_PAGE|\*\*|IF:FNAME|\*Dear \*|FNAME|\*,  
\*|END:IF|\* \*|END:IF|\*

To be completely frank with you, this letter has been one of the hardest to write. We have so many things we'd like to celebrate with you—and we will—but it's also been a trying time.

Our hearts ache for the lives and livelihoods lost in a year of this pandemic. Our team is majority people of color and one quarter identify as AAPI, so this month on top of this year on top of our whole lives experiencing various flavors of inequity and injustice—has been a lot.

While we're continuously processing individually and collectively, we can say with certainty that we're more committed than ever to building a world of inclusive opportunity, to co-creating impactful strategies with community leaders around the U.S., and to supporting our team wholeheartedly.

It's bittersweet that Mission Driven Finance has been growing like a wildflower through this time. I'm hopeful that our growth is due to more folks remembering our shared humanity and that there are better ways to operate together.



The inaugural cohort of Community Finance Fellows (L-R): Benson Ochira, Essence Rodriguez, Louise Jordan, Crystal Sevilla, and Andrew Moncada

I joked with our team that the only way to make sense of this month was to list things without trying to stitch together a coherent narrative. Maybe that wasn't a joke.

### > MDF turned five years old last week!

- **We've put \$11M of assets into community**, roughly doubling every year so far—even in 2020
- As we continue growing and formalizing, **[we updated our logo](#)**. **[Here's why](#)** we freed the birds.

### > Investment strategies are making moves

- National impact investor **[Living Cities recognized the power of Advance](#)**, our San Diego inclusive place-based strategy, with a \$2M commitment
- Launched national program lending to businesses and nonprofits supporting **[People on the Move](#)**: immigrants, refugees, and survivors of trafficking

### > At MDF, **every month is Black Futures Month, Women's History Month, Indigenous People's Month, AAPI Awareness Month, Latinx Heritage Month**, and many more, but in March we specifically recognized:

- Women's History Month with a look at the **[state of funding for women entrepreneurs](#)**
- Our community of Certified B Corporations during B Corp Month

### > The inaugural Community Finance Fellows graduated today!

- They've individually and collectively grown so much in our year together
- Helped move more than \$7M into the community
- And **[taught us](#)** a thing or two about changing the face of finance, access to finance, and our own understanding of finance
- Our goal is to launch the second cohort this summer. If you want to help make that happen, please **[consider making a donation via the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego](#)** (select designation of funds: *other* + enter MDF Impact Fund) or **[reach out](#)**.

[VIDEO] Fellows Reflect on Their Experiences

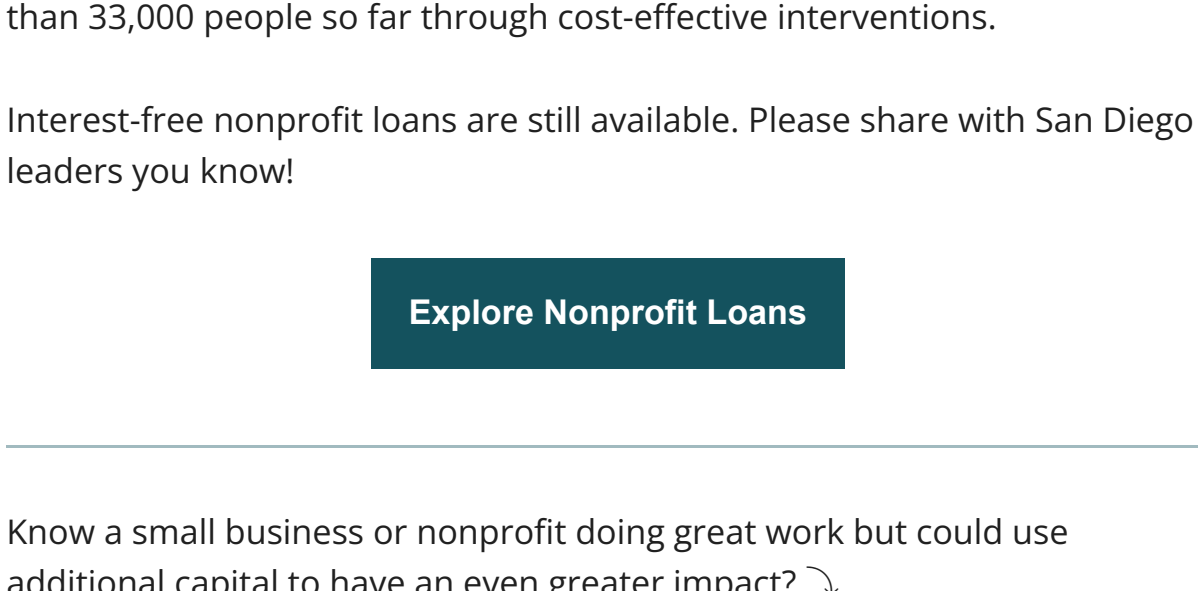
Stay well and take care of each other,

*Lauren*

Lauren Grattan  
Co-Founder & Chief Community Officer

## Borrower Central

### Loans for small businesses & nonprofits that support people on the move



The People on the Move program serves organizations that better the lives of immigrants, refugees, low-income economic migrants, and survivors of trafficking. **[Learn more and take the next steps for a loan here](#)**.

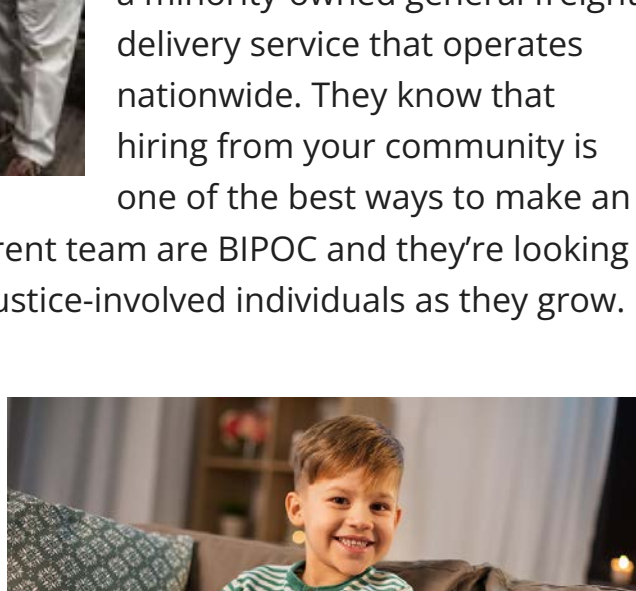
Quick links:

- **[See slides from our info session](#)**
- **[Watch the recording of the info session](#)**
- **[Learn more about People on the Move](#)**
- **[Mention in ImpactAlpha](#)**

Get Started

### COVID-19 loans for nonprofits

Congratulations to **[Dreams for Change](#)** for receiving a loan through the **[San Diego County COVID-19 Small Business & Nonprofit Loan Program!](#)**



Dreams for Change responds to the needs of communities by creating innovative and cost-effective programs to empower and stabilize the lives of underserved families and individuals, having supported more than 33,000 people so far through cost-effective interventions.

Interest-free nonprofit loans are still available. Please share with San Diego leaders you know!

Explore Nonprofit Loans

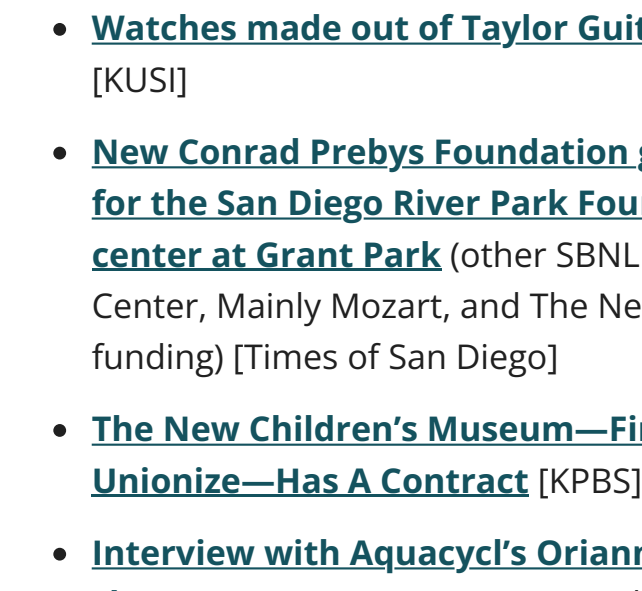
Know a small business or nonprofit doing great work but could use additional capital to have an even greater impact? ↴

Refer a Borrower

## Investor Central

### Advance Strategy

In case you missed it, **[Living Cities committed \\$2 million](#)** to Advance as part of their mission to close racial income and wealth gaps in the U.S. Communities across the country are curious about how we are shaking things up here in San Diego.

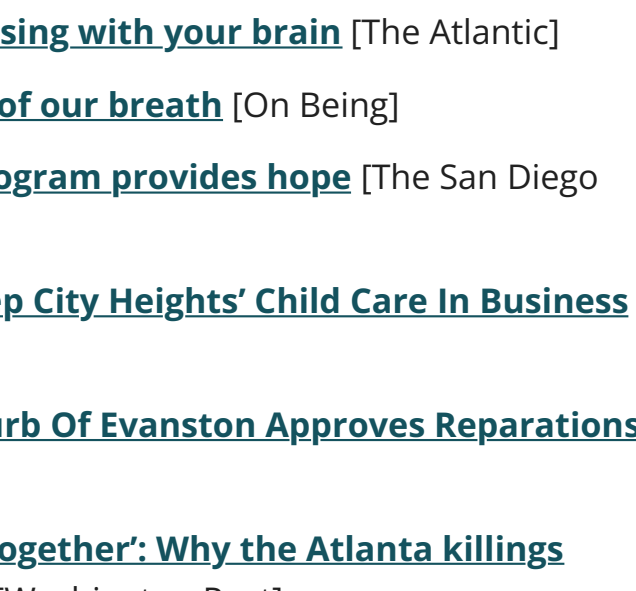


Congratulations to **[Carter Transportation Group](#)** on joining the Advance family.

Carter Transportation Group is a minority-owned general freight delivery service that operates nationwide. They know that hiring from your community is one of the best ways to make an

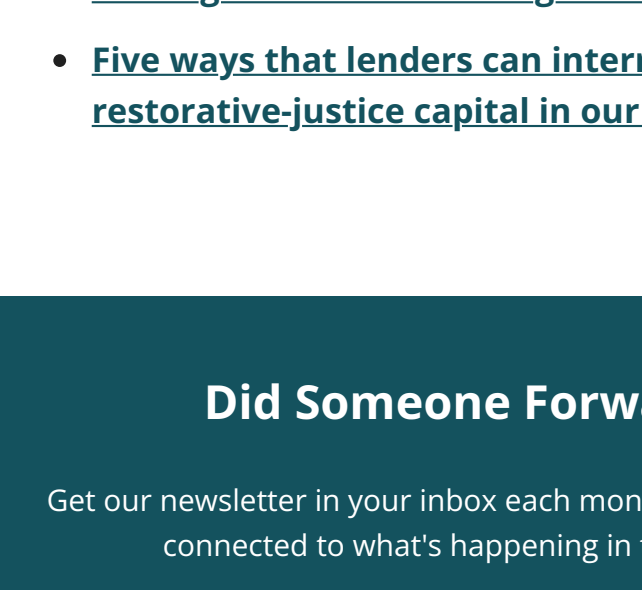
impact. Ninety percent of their current team are BIPOC and they're looking to hire formerly incarcerated and justice-involved individuals as they grow.

Congrats also to **[BrainLeap Technologies](#)** which creates assessment tools and video games to train attention skills in children.



We love the innovation we saw in BrainLeap in its approach to addressing attention challenges in children, and we recognize that the three co-founders—Jeff Coleman, Dr. Leanne Chukoskie, and Dr. Jeanne Townsend—all bring in diverse professional and industry experiences and connections.

### Freedom100 Fund



Last month, the Freedom100 Fund provided \$9,000 of a \$10,000 bond to free **[Okunlola](#)** (pictured here). Okunlola was **[immediately reunited with his family](#)**, thanks to the persistence of Freedom for Immigrants and the power of the Freedom100 Fund.

As of February 28, **seventy-nine people** have been freed from ICE jails and prisons thanks to our community of investors and donors.

See Our Impact Areas

## What We're Reading

### Updates from our portfolio:

- **[Somali Family Services of San Diego on XPRIZE shortlist solving workforce challenges](#)** [ImpactAlpha]
- **[Watches made out of Taylor Guitars help San Diego veterans](#)** [KUSI]
- **[New Conrad Prebys Foundation grants \\$1 million over two years for the San Diego River Park Foundation for a river education center at Grant Park](#)** (other SBNLP recipients Bayside Community Center, Mainly Mozart, and The New Children's Museum also got funding) [Times of San Diego]
- **[The New Children's Museum—First Museum In San Diego To Unionize—Has A Contract](#)** [KPBS]
- **[Interview with Aquacycl's Orianna Bretschger: A novel way to clean wastewater streams](#)** [Food Engineering]
- **[Distributing COVID-19 Vaccines Equitably](#)** [San Diego County News Center]

### What else we're reading:

- **[Changing the Face and the Flow of Finance](#)** [Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties]
- **[Our CIO Louie Nguyen joins Jacobs Center board, helps to strengthen commitment to serve Southeastern San Diego](#)** [KUSI]
- **[Late-stage pandemic is messing with your brain](#)** [The Atlantic]
- **[Ocean Vuong: a life worthy of our breath](#)** [On Being]
- **[Childcare provider grant program provides hope](#)** [The San Diego Observer]
- **[Training Program Helps Keep City Heights' Child Care In Business During Pandemic](#)** [KPBS]
- **[In Likely First, Chicago Suburb Of Evanston Approves Reparations For Black Residents](#)** [NPR]
- **['It's race, class and gender together': Why the Atlanta killings aren't just about one thing](#)** [Washington Post]
- **[Black Womenomics](#)** [Goldman Sachs]
- **[USD Partners With San Diego Leaders to Bring Mentorship to Women Innovators](#)** [USD News Center]
- **[Why real estate stakeholders should seize the opportunity of inclusion and diversity](#)** [GRESB]
- **[Hiring a Chief Diversity Officer Won't Fix Your Racist Company Culture | Nadia Owusu](#)** [Catapult]
- **[Tearing Down the Due Diligence Gates](#)** [LOCUS Impact Investing]
- **[Five ways that lenders can interrupt racism and provide restorative-justice capital in our communities](#)** [ImpactAlpha]

## Did Someone Forward This to You?

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2021

EMERGING

IMPACT MANAGER

Certified

B

This company meets the highest standards of social and environmental impact

Corporation

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