



We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth.



DEMOCRACY IN ACTION



Rockefeller
Brothers Fund
Philanthropy for an Interdependent World

2008 Annual Review

TABLE OF CONTENTS



- Ideas
- Comments
- Suggestions

2 A Message from the Chair and the President

5 Democracy in Action

Election Reform: Historic Election Energizes Supporters, but Challenges Remain

Public Financing: A Moment of Real Opportunity for Reform

Shared Prosperity: The New Voices in Civic Engagement

18 Democracy in Action Podcasts

19 About the Rockefeller Brothers Fund

20 RBF Program Architecture

21 Overview of RBF Programs

22 Online Annual Review

24 Credits



RBF TRUSTEES (PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): NICHOLAS BURNS, ANNE BARTLEY, STEVEN C. ROCKEFELLER, VALI NASR, VALERIE R. WAYNE, NEVA R. GOODWIN, STEPHEN B. HEINTZ, RICHARD G. ROCKEFELLER, JOHN MORNING, MIRANDA M. KAISER, JOSEPH A. PIERSON, ABBY M. O NEILL, JAMES GUSTAVE SPETH, WENDY O NEILL WANG, AND JAMES E. MOLTZ

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND THE PRESIDENT

Our mission—to help build a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world—is reflected in our grantmaking activities. But we continue to explore ways to align our management practices more deeply with our mission. June 2009 will mark two opportunities for us to join our mission and our procedures.

Starting June 29, 2009, the Fund will be located at 475 Riverside Drive, a nonprofit building located in Manhattan's Morningside Heights neighborhood. The move provides us with a wonderful opportunity to build out a green space that is energy efficient and environmentally sensitive as possible, save money that will go toward grants, and reside in a nonprofit building that houses organizations of the community we serve. Plus, the environmentally sensitive design offers an open and inviting space that will enhance collaboration and provide more opportunities to convene grantees and other partners.

We have continued that theme of "environmentally sensitive design" with our 2008 annual review. In 2005, Stephen wrote in his President's Essay that "Printed annual reports are fast becoming obsolete. The immediacy and near-universal accessibility of web-based communications have made published annual reports anachronistic." That year marked our first substantial change to the annual review, as we now call it today. We developed a new conceptual direction, moving from a grant listing to creation of a cover story that focused on an issue central to the Fund's mission. We also moved toward eco-friendly printing with the selection of recycled paper and a printer with Forest

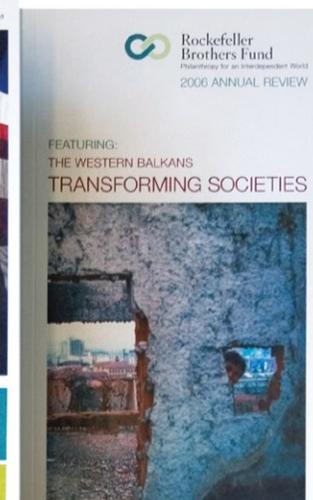
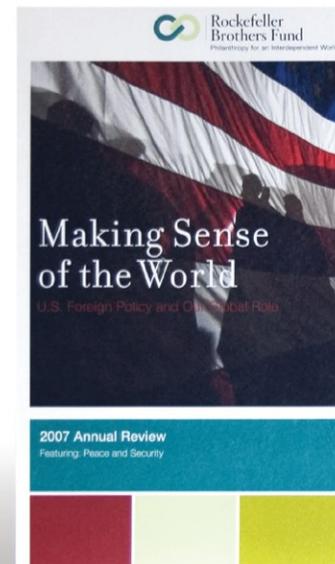
Stewardship Council certification. Information such as grants awarded and the audited financial statements were made available on our Web site. While we've managed to whittle down the page count since then, from 82 to 68, we want to do even better. This year, we continue our transition to what we hope will be an online annual review with an abbreviated printed version that is only 24 pages.

We hope you enjoy the cover story, "Democracy in Action," which centers on the Fund's Democratic Practice program and examines the issues of election reform, public financing, and immigration. We will continue this discussion online with the Democracy in Action podcast. We also will hear from four nonprofit leaders on democracy—in two additional podcasts on civic engagement and the influence of the arts on democracy. We hope you will tune in.

We welcome comments or questions you may have after going through either this annual review or the dynamic version, which is available at www.rbf.org.

Richard G. Rockefeller
CHAIR

Stephen B. Heintz
PRESIDENT





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
BIKO BAKER, ADONAL FOYLE,
LUZ SANTANA, CHUNG-WHA HONG,
LAURA MACCLEERY, MILES RAPOPORT



I think the biggest improvement in the health of democracy has been a surge in the desire of people to participate. It is time to raise our sights even further.”

MILES RAPOPORT, PRESIDENT OF DĒMOS

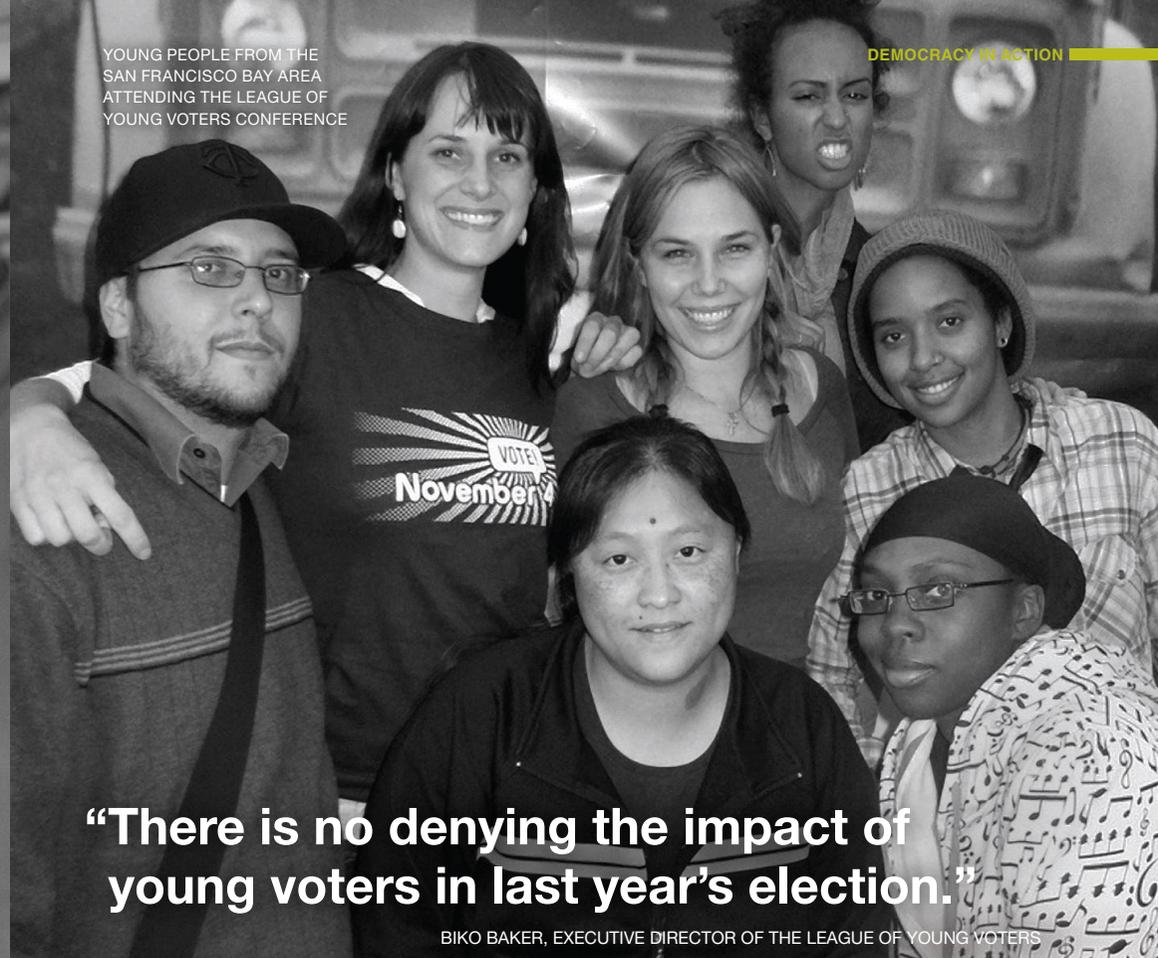
DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Each year, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund’s annual review focuses on an issue central to its mission. This year’s cover story centers on the RBF’s Democratic Practice program and covers several topics, including voting rights and election reform, public financing, and immigration. Join in as six of the Fund’s grantees go beyond the red and blue borders and speak about the health of democracy in America.

Please check page 18 for information on Democracy in Action podcasts.



YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA ATTENDING THE LEAGUE OF YOUNG VOTERS CONFERENCE



DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

“There is no denying the impact of young voters in last year’s election.”

BIKO BAKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LEAGUE OF YOUNG VOTERS

ELECTION REFORM

HISTORIC ELECTION ENERGIZES SUPPORTERS

BUT CHALLENGES REMAIN

BY LAUREN FOSTER

Biko Baker, executive director of the League of Young Voters, had not waved an American flag in his adulthood—until last year.

“It wasn’t because of Barack Obama,” he says. “It was from my seeing people who were disenfranchised and disengaged claiming their space in this country, and to me that is exciting.”

While the 2008 U.S. presidential election was hailed largely because it put an African American in the White House for the first time, what heartened Mr. Baker and many others was the explosion in civic participation: thousands of new voters registered for the first time, volunteered, and turned up at the polls to cast their ballots.

“There is no denying the impact of young voters in last year’s election,” says Mr. Baker.

Miles Rapoport, a former Connecticut secretary of state who is now president of Dēmos, a public policy and advocacy organization, says the election “was a surge of democratic enthusiasm that was historic in many respects.”

But as Daniel P. Tokaji noted in a recent *Harvard Law & Policy Review* article, “Voter Registration and Institutional Reform: Lessons from a Historic Election,” “A closer look reveals that serious problems with the infrastructure of American democracy remain.”

Mr. Rapoport agrees. “The number of voters and margin of victory obscured the fact that there are many, many aspects of our election processes that really still need a tremendous amount of improvement.”

One of the biggest issues is the voter registration system, an area where Dēmos has done a lot of work.

“Almost all of the states, save nine, have arbitrary election registration deadlines so that people need to get registered as many as 31 days in advance of the elections, and for many, many people who move, or young people, that’s a real barrier, so promoting the idea of Election Day voter registration, which allows people to register and vote up to and on Election Day, is one way of really facilitating people getting involved,” Mr. Rapoport says.

The League of Young Voters, which encourages young people—especially noncollege youth and youth from low-income communities and communities of color—to participate in the democratic process, is also pushing for reform in this area.

Mr. Baker says embracing same-day registration would be the biggest step states could take to make the electoral process more engaging, “particularly with a group of folks who aren’t used to using the mail system or who may not have the cultural or institutional practice of voting.”

Mr. Rapoport notes there have been both progress and setbacks on same-day registration. “The progress being that three new states have adopted Election Day registration: Iowa, Montana, and North Carolina; some states have opened up more access to voter registration by young people; and some states have improved their implementation of the National Voter Registration Act. So there have been improvements, but still, a fully facilitating system would have those things happening in all 50 states and maybe even by federal legislation.”

On the downside, he says, some states have adopted “overly stringent voter identification laws that prevent people not only from registering but also from voting even if they are registered. In many cases, registered voters have to bring a photo ID to the polls or they are not allowed to vote even if their names are on the polling list, so it’s both a voter registration and a voting issue.”

Indiana is one such state. In one of the most-awaited election-law cases in years, the U.S. Supreme Court in April 2008 upheld Indiana’s voter-identification law and rejected arguments that it imposed unjustified burdens on people who are old, poor, or members of minority groups and less likely to have driver’s licenses or other acceptable forms of identification.

Also on the reform agenda is making voting more convenient. “By having voting historically only in person and only on a non-holiday Tuesday, it does make it difficult for some people to vote who are working, have to travel to the polling places, or have a job where they can’t get off work. Now on this front there has been significant progress in two ways: more states are allowing increased use of mail-in voting. In addition, 33 states allow some form of early voting.”

Another step is eliminating exclusions that many deem unfair—in particular, reforming laws that bar citizens from voting because of prior felony convictions. Some 5.3 million Americans are disenfranchised because of felony convictions. Many of them work in their communities and have paid their debt to society

but are still denied the right to vote because of a conviction.

Mr. Rapoport says comprehensive federal election reform legislation is needed. “We are beyond amending the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). And now, as a result of the election of Barack Obama and a Democratic Congress, I think there is a real possibility that election reform that genuinely opens up the process can be passed that goes far beyond HAVA’s fixes to the election machinery.”

While reform is still needed on many fronts, important steps have been taken to reclaim democracy. “Last year was an important first or second step,” says Mr. Baker. “It’s not going to change overnight, as people are still just as skeptical and disconnected from the process. But there is a window of opportunity in this country for us to have a conversation about what it really means for young people or people of color to truly be involved because they are excited about it.”

He says the league is working “superhard to not lose any of the momentum” from the 2008 elections.

As for Mr. Rapoport, he is “much more optimistic” about the democratic process than he was seven or eight years ago, when Dēmos started this work. “I think the biggest improvement in the health of democracy has been a surge in the desire of people to participate,” he says. But he cautions now is not a time to sit back and reflect. Rather, it’s a time “to raise our sights even further.

“There have been major strides in making our democracy lively,” he adds. “But I think it would be a mistake to take that as a reason for complacency and to say the systems no longer need reform. They do need reform to give Americans the democracy they deserve and are asking for.”

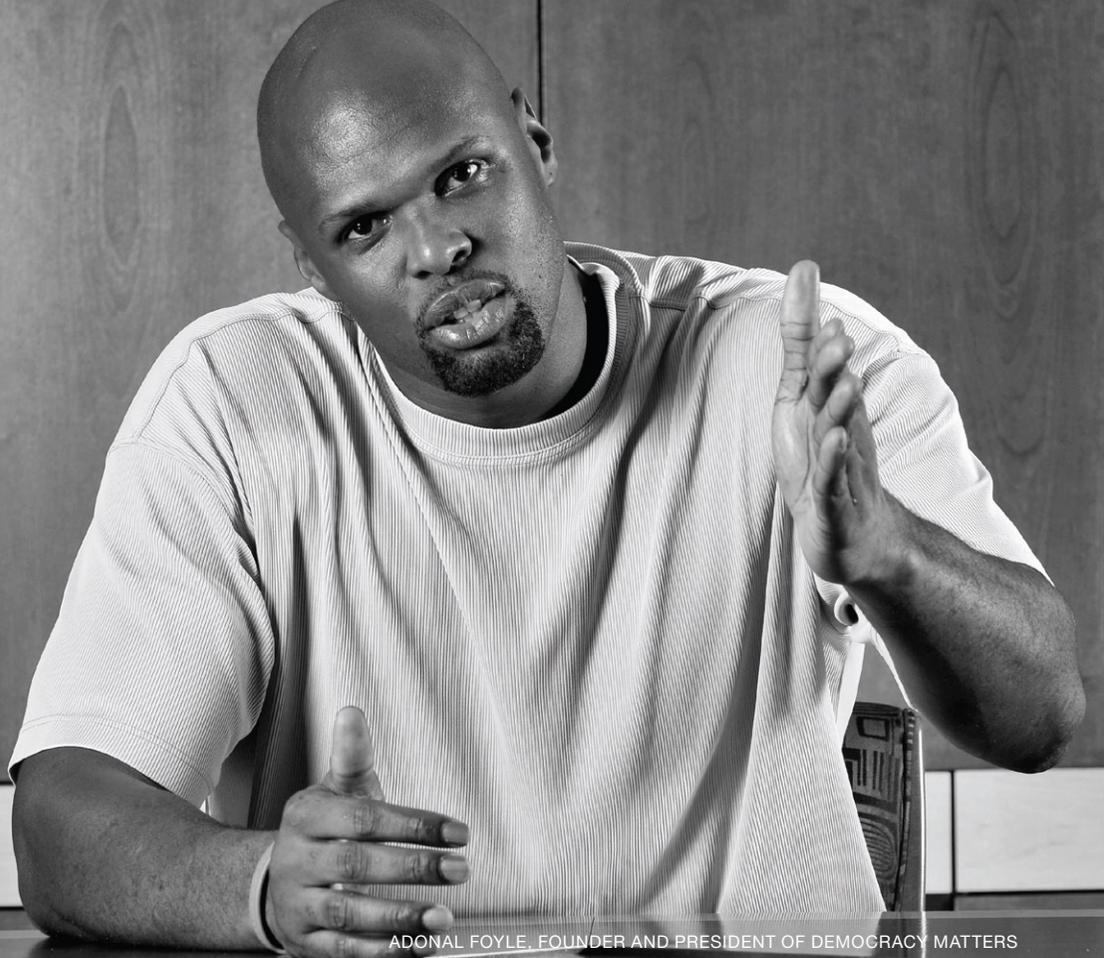


Log on to www.rbf.org for Democracy in Action podcasts.



“The number of voters and margin of victory obscured the fact that there are many, many aspects of our election processes that really still need a tremendous amount of improvement.”

MILES RAPOPORT, PRESIDENT OF DĒMOS



ADONAL FOYLE, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF DEMOCRACY MATTERS

“Overall, the issue is, How do you incentivize candidates? And that is what public financing speaks to.”

LAURA MACCLEERY, BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE AT NYU SCHOOL OF LAW



PUBLIC FINANCING A MOMENT OF REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR REFORM

BY LAUREN FOSTER

When Deborah Simpson decided to run for a seat in Maine’s House of Representatives in 2000, she was an unlikely candidate for elected office:

as a waitress and single mother, she lacked connections to deep-pocketed donors. She had, however, heard about the state’s new Clean Elections Act and figured she could campaign by talking about issues instead of asking people to write her checks. That year she won a seat representing the old mill town of Auburn and went on to serve four terms in the legislature. In 2008, she won a seat in the state Senate.

In many ways, Ms. Simpson is a poster child for the public financing of elections. Freed from having to fundraise, she could focus on the issues affecting her constituents.

“Public funding of elections, or clean elections, allows people who otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity to run to participate effectively in the political system, and that’s the way it ought to be,” says Adonal Foyle, founder and president of Democracy Matters, a nonpartisan student organization that works to get big private money out of politics and people back in.

“If you have a candidate who wants to run for office, the first thing she should be thinking about is ideas to respond to the needs of her

constituents. It shouldn’t be, ‘How much money can I raise?’ and ‘Who can I go to to raise that money?’ Usually, in America today, that’s the first question that is asked, and that seems so backward because we have so many issues, and if money becomes the determinant of whether you run, then we have so many people who don’t have the opportunity to participate effectively in the political system.”

Democracy Matters is one of many organizations fighting to reform the system of financing election campaigns. “Democracy is above all a process of citizen participation—but it is precisely that participation that has been weakened by private financing of campaigns,” says its Web site. “Private money in elections undermines a truly democratic political process.”

The problem with big money is that it skews politicians’ incentives: when political survival hinges on fundraising and keeping donors happy, not on addressing the needs of ordinary citizens, voters lose out.

“I believe there is room for people and companies to address their representatives, but



DISCUSSIONS DURING NATIONAL SUMMIT 09, DEMOCRACY MATTERS

when money becomes the determinant of who gets the ear of the politician, that has made for very bad policies that affect the overall population,” says Mr. Foyle.

Advocates of public funding say the system helps ensure that a person’s ability to run for public office and conduct a competitive campaign are determined more by ideas than by access to powerful donors or personal wealth. Reducing the impact of big contributions also lessens the risk of corruption and provides politicians more incentive to align their interests with voters, as opposed to special interests. It also frees politicians from the never-ending cycle of fund raising and chicken dinners—time that could be better spent on the people’s business—and makes them more accountable to voters.

“Public dollars mean that public officials will consider themselves public representatives and so they won’t have to cozy up to the banks, to the energy companies, to agribusiness in order to stay in office, and that means that they can vote their conscience rather than their own political survival,” says Laura MacCleery, deputy director of the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law.

Public financing is becoming more popular, but widespread reform is still needed at the state and federal levels.

The time may now be at hand: during his presidential campaign, Barack Obama raised millions of dollars from small donors and ignited debate about the power of small contributors. But he also raised some eyebrows when he declined public financing for the general election.

In a recent editorial, *The New York Times* said Mr. Obama’s decision to reject public financing in the presidential campaign “dealt a serious blow to the cause of reform.”

Ms. MacCleery doesn’t see it that way. President Obama’s decision not to take public financing is “an artifact of an outmoded system,” she says.

“Public financing and other systems’ reforms are the life support of democratic institutions. You have to come in and tinker and make sure the system’s incentives are aligned with the way people are doing modern campaigns. You have to make sure the money is the right amount of money,” she explains. “They require maintenance, and Congress didn’t do the maintenance on the presidential public financing system, and so by the time President Obama went to look at it there wasn’t enough money in the system, and he saw very clearly he could raise a lot more money outside the system than in it, and that means it’s the system’s fault for not being attractive enough to have participation.”

Moreover, she says, there is a “moment of real opportunity” for “major transformative reforms in the way we finance elections.” The Rod Blagojevich corruption scandal in Illinois and questions about whether the financial industry bought the votes for deregulation that led to the current economic crisis have put the spotlight on fraud and graft.

“Americans are disappointed with how government has been allowed to be unaccountable, has lacked transparency, and has exercised really unchecked forms of power. All of that plays into a public mood that is really ripe for fundamental reform. And I think we have a good shot at it,” Ms. MacCleery says.

While there may be, in her words, “a populist sentiment” driving reform, there is still the not insignificant challenge of changing decades of entrenched behavior.

“Overall, the issue is, How do you incentivize candidates? And that is what public financing speaks to,” Ms. MacCleery says.



Log on to www.rbf.org for Democracy in Action podcasts.

“

Public funding of elections, or clean elections, allows people who otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity to run to participate effectively in the political system, and that’s the way it ought to be.”

ADONAL FOYLE, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF DEMOCRACY MATTERS



LUZ SANTANA, CO FOUNDER OF THE RIGHT QUESTION PROJECT



“I think immigrant communities are developing a new model of civic engagement that goes beyond just voting.”

CHUNG WHA HONG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK IMMIGRATION COALITION

SHARED PROSPERITY

THE NEW VOICES IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

BY MATT SALDAÑA

On a cold day in January 2009, with the economy in freefall and the United States at war on two fronts in the Middle East, Barack Hussein Obama, a self-described “son of a black man from Kenya and a white woman from Kansas,” was inaugurated the country’s 44th president.

“We know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness,” he said to a crowd of nearly 2 million, huddled together on the National Mall. “We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus, and nonbelievers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth.”

To many, that declaration would have seemed impossible just one year ago. Anti-immigrant rhetoric filled the airwaves for much of 2008 and threatened to upend support for a candidate who had spent part of his childhood in Indonesia. Ultimately, Obama’s victory depended not only on the insolvency of such language but also on support by a new class of voters: a coalition of Asian Americans, Latinos, and so-called New Americans born to immigrants in the latter half of the 20th century. According to a study by Pew Hispanic Center, Latinos voted in unprecedented numbers in 2008, favoring Obama by a factor of two to one. Exit polls conducted by CNN show Asian Americans similarly favored Obama and suggest the Latino vote may have handed Obama a victory in several

critical swing states, including Indiana and North Carolina.

“We’ve shown that we have the numbers to really shift the political calculus that goes into election strategy for generations to come. There is no question about the power of the immigrant vote,” says Chung-Wha Hong, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC).

In New York, where more than 4 million foreign-born workers produce nearly a quarter of the state’s economic output, according to a recent study by the Fiscal Policy Institute, Ms. Hong’s organization has sought to implement a “community-based electoral machine.” So far, NYIC has had resounding success, registering a quarter million new immigrant voters over the past decade. But due to the many hurdles immigrants face, including popular resentment, a citizenship backlog, and what Ms. Hong deems the “immigration divide” of English language learners who graduate from high school at a rate far lower than their native-speaking peers (23 percent to 53 percent, in New York), voting is a linear solution to a multidimensional problem.

“Because they’re so marginalized, I think immigrant communities are developing a new model of civic engagement that goes beyond just voting,” Ms. Hong says.

Luz Santana, co-founder of the Right Question Project, says such comprehensive civic participation is critical. Her Cambridge, Massachusetts-based organization teaches low-income and disenfranchised adults—including immigrants—the skills of question formulation and self-advocacy and recently applied its hands-on curricula to a 10-state pilot program called Voter Engagement Strategy for Election Day and Beyond.

“The [prevailing] idea is that civic participation means going to the voting booth every two years in the local elections, and then every four years,” Ms. Santana says. “No. We need to help people see that decisions that affect them are being made all the time.”

Santana says those decisions range from a doctor’s diagnosis or a teacher’s classroom strategy to fundamental policy shifts in education, health care, and immigration. She says it will be “critical,” over the next four years, for policy conversations to be open and inclusive—and for immigrants to participate.

That might not sit well with those who favor an enforcement-only strategy for securing the country’s borders. But a broken immigration system—in which an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants remain in the shadow economy—affects all of us, says Ms. Hong.

“Immigrants are part of the economic engine, and we should capitalize on that instead of trying to exclude them from job training programs or education programs,” she says.

A recent editorial in *The New York Times*, about the appointment of U.S. labor secretary Hilda Solis—a prolabor descendant of Latino immigrants—echoes Ms. Hong’s argument for shared prosperity: “If you uphold workers’ rights, even for those here illegally, you uphold them for all working Americans.”

Ms. Santana says she is counting on the administration to address immigration policy “in a right and humane way” but that implementing real change will require a new perspective on the part of all Americans. “There needs to be this change in the way people see immigrants, the way they see that they bring value,” she says. “If I continue being fearful of the people

who are coming, nothing is going to help me support them.”

Ms. Santana and Ms. Hong know the benefit of firsthand knowledge. Ms. Santana arrived in Massachusetts as a 24-year-old single mother from Puerto Rico and made her way through unemployment and welfare to earn a master’s degree from Springfield College School of Human Services. She credits her success to the kindness of others who believed in her, and says she now strives to give back some of the things people gave her.

“I see that it is very important to invest in people, in helping them learn, so they can help themselves,” she says.

Meanwhile, Ms. Hong arrived with her parents from South Korea at the age of 11 and saw the “polar opposite sides of America.” In St. Louis, her family felt “strange and different” but was welcomed by the local community. Later, as her family struggled through poverty in the Boston area, Ms. Hong was made to feel like a “huge liability on the school system,” an experience she says is common among immigrant children today.

Like Ms. Santana, Ms. Hong learned English from Catholic nuns, and the opportunity eventually propelled her to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania and lead the NYIC.

Ms. Hong says we must harness the “generous volunteerism side of America” in order to develop meaningful solutions to the problem of immigration. While anti-immigrant strains remain—and the educational and immigration systems in America beg for reform—Ms. Hong and Ms. Santana say change is possible.

“I don’t think anti-immigrant scapegoating will die out very easily, but I think we have a stronger vision,” Ms. Hong says. “It’s a vision of shared prosperity and social harmony that capitalizes on diversity and talent and on the vibrancy that immigrants bring to this country—coming together with others who were here previously.”



Log on to www.rbf.org for *Democracy in Action* podcasts.



NEW CITIZENS FROM NUMEROUS COUNTRIES ARE SWORN IN DURING A CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

“We need to help people see that decisions that affect them are being made all the time.”

LUZ SANTANA, CO-FOUNDER OF THE RIGHT QUESTION PROJECT



DEMOCRACY IN ACTION PODCASTS

Be sure to log on to www.rbf.org for the Democracy in Action podcasts. Included is a discussion with Richard G. Rockefeller, chair, and Stephen B. Heintz, president, of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Plus, we've added two more podcasts, including "Defining Civic Engagement: Beyond the Feel Good to the Practical," featuring Rinku Sen, president of the Applied Research Center, and Martha McCoy, executive director of Everyday Democracy and president of The Paul J. Aicher Foundation. The final podcast features two RBF grantees—Sister Kwayera, founder of Ifetayo Cultural Arts Facility, Inc., and Melanie Joseph, founder and producing artistic director of The Foundry Theatre—discussing the influence of art on democracy.

ABOUT THE ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND



The Rockefeller Brothers Fund was founded in 1940 as a vehicle through which the five sons and daughter of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., could share a source of advice and research on charitable activities and coordinate their philanthropic efforts to better effect.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., made a substantial gift to the Fund in 1951, and in 1960 the Fund received a major bequest from his estate. Together these constitute the original endowment of the Fund.

In 1952, the founders began to include trustees on the Fund's board who were not members of the Rockefeller family. In 1958 the first of a number of daughters and sons of the founders joined the board, and the first of their children became trustees in 1992. Since the establishment of the Fund, three generations of family members have served as trustees. Beginning with John D. Rockefeller 3rd, who served as president from the inception of the Fund until 1956, seven presidents have distinguished the Fund with their vision and leadership. These presidents, along with the other trustees, officers, and staff, have ensured that the RBF remains dedicated to the philanthropic ideals of the Rockefeller family. The presidents include Nelson A. Rockefeller, 1956–1958; Laurance S. Rockefeller, 1958–1968; Dana S. Creel, 1968–1975; William M. Dietel, 1975–1987; Colin G. Campbell, 1988–2000; and the RBF's current president, Stephen B. Heintz, who assumed office in February 2001.

On July 1, 1999, the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation of Stamford, Connecticut, merged with the RBF, bringing the Fund's total assets to approximately \$670 million. Shortly after the merger, the Fund initiated a strategic review process designed to systematically evaluate all of its programs in light of the opportunities before humanity—both global and local—at the dawn of the 21st century. That extensive and complex process has led to the integration of some programs and the phasing out or scaling back of others. As part of the effort, the RBF's current program architecture came into effect on January 1, 2003.

RBF PROGRAM ARCHITECTURE*

RBF MISSION:
Helping to build a more just,
sustainable, and peaceful world

Democratic Practice	Sustainable Development	Peace and Security
WHAT	WHAT	WHAT
Civic Engagement	Global Warming	Responsible U.S. Global Engagement
Effective Governance	Sustainable Communities	Dialogue with Islam
Transparency and Accountability		
Access and Inclusion		
Cross-Programmatic Initiative: Energy		
Pocantico Center (Conferences and Meetings • Public Visitation • Stewardship of Pocantico Historic Area)		
WHERE	WHERE	WHERE
United States	United States	United States
Global	Global	Global
Pivotal Places New York City • South Africa • Western Balkans • Southern China		

* This chart reflects the 2008 program structure. For the current program architecture, please visit www.rbf.org.

OVERVIEW OF RBF PROGRAMS

Excluding expenditures for investment management and taxes, the Fund's philanthropic spending in 2008 totaled \$48,010,628. Core grantmaking operations accounted for 90 percent of total spending. The remaining 10 percent was devoted to activities at the historic Pocantico property, which the RBF manages. A breakdown appears in the accompanying chart.

For the complete Statistical Review of RBF Operations, visit www.rbf.org.

Total Program Spending, 2008¹		\$ 48,010,628	
Grantmaking Operations	\$ 43,362,743	Pocantico Operations	\$ 4,647,885
Share of Total Spending	90%	Share of Total Spending	10%
Grants	\$ 33,736,800	Core Operations	\$ 4,392,000
Program-Related Expenditures ²	\$ 844,911	Conference Expenditures	\$ 255,885
Magsaysay Awards + PAP ³	\$ 431,032		
Administration ⁴	\$ 8,350,000		

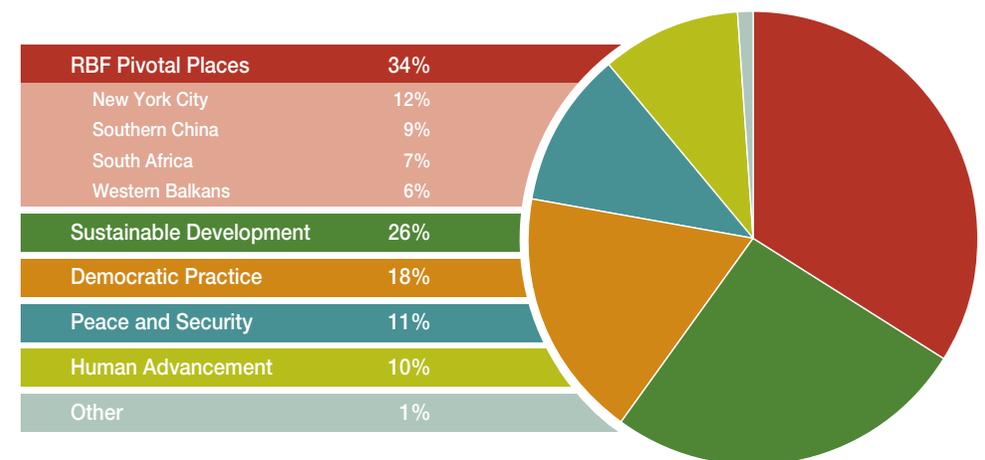
¹ Program spending = all expenditures that count toward satisfying the minimum distribution requirement.

² Expenditures that are funded from grant budgets but are not grants.

³ PAP = Program for Asian Projects.

⁴ Includes Direct Charitable Activity.

2008 Grantmaking Expenditures by Program Area



ONLINE ANNUAL REVIEW

This year's abbreviated printed annual review continues our transition to online publishing. Please visit the Fund's Web site at www.rbf.org to read the complete 2008 annual review and about our grantees' remarkable accomplishments during the past year.

Here's a glimpse of what's in store in the online version of the annual review.

DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE

The Fund's Democratic Practice program comprises two parts: the health of democracy in the United States and the strength of democracy in global governance. While the online feature touches on the program's election-specific work, the primary focus of this feature surrounds the issues of global governance with respect to climate change. Learn more about grantees' work to contribute to an equitable climate change agreement in 2009.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

What is the new vision of a sustainable energy future for the United States, and what does new leadership mean to the Fund's grantmaking? See how the Fund's grantees have built a growing climate change movement, and learn about the economic argument for climate prosperity.

PEACE AND SECURITY

Go inside the RBF's experience with the practice of unofficial or Track II dialogues¹ in this Peace and Security program feature. The Fund's experience with Track II is rooted in the seven-year Track II U.S.-Iran dialogue (2002-2008), which was coconvened with the United Nations Association of the United States of America. The dialogue process involved 14 international meetings and a series of New York- and Washington-based roundtables.

¹ A Track II dialogue is a policy-related, problem-solving dialogue in which influential citizens discuss elements of the relationship between their countries and/or solutions to specific problems in different areas of competition between their countries and societies.

PIVOTAL PLACES

Pivotal Place: New York City

Democratic practice (immigrant rights), sustainable communities, and arts and culture are the focal points of this feature as the Fund explores how each plays a pivotal role in creating and maintaining the vitality of New York City.

Pivotal Place: South Africa

With the Fund's phasing out of its current grantmaking in South Africa in March 2009, this feature explores how various efforts by organizational development groups have helped advance grantees' work. It also summarizes some of the preliminary findings of the program's evaluation. The final evaluation will be posted on the Fund's Web site at www.rbf.org.

Pivotal Place: Southern China

In the aftermath of the devastating May 12, 2008, earthquake, China's nongovernmental organizations relied on instinct to devise innovative ways of helping meet the needs of people in affected areas of Sichuan, Gansu, and Qinghai provinces. This feature explores the community leadership three RBF grantees displayed following the earthquake. Their work vividly illustrates how their capabilities have matured in recent years and gives a preview of how they might make greater contributions to resolving other social concerns in their communities.

Pivotal Place: Western Balkans

May 11, 2008, marked the victory of democratic forces in Serbia. During that critical time, Serbia's civil society played a tremendous role in fostering democratic debate and civic engagement. This feature highlights the efforts of civil society to support Serbia's move toward integration with the European Union.

BONUS PODCASTS



Be sure to log on to www.rbf.org for the Democracy in Action podcasts. Included is a discussion with Richard G. Rockefeller, chair, and Stephen B. Heintz, president, of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. You also will hear from Rinku Sen, president of the Applied Research Center; Martha McCoy, executive director of Everyday Democracy and president of The Paul J. Aicher Foundation; Sister Kwayera, founder of Ifetayo Cultural Arts Facility, Inc.; and Melanie Joseph, founder and producing artistic director of The Foundry Theatre.

Topics from the cover story—voting rights and election reform, public financing, and immigration—are explored further, along with civic engagement and the influence of the arts on democracy, in these Democracy in Action podcasts. So tune in, and give us your feedback.

OTHER INFORMATION

The online version of the annual review also includes the complete audited financial statements and information about the Fund's 2008 grants, trustees, and staff. It also highlights the activities and long-range planning of the Pocantico Center.

CREDITS

Contributing Writers – Printed Version

Lauren Foster
Gail Fuller
Stephen Heintz
Richard Rockefeller
Matt Saldaña

Contributing Writers – Online Version

Alyssa Battistoni
Debra Eisenman
Lauren Foster
Gail Fuller
Stephen Heintz
Heidi Karst
Betty Marton
Ariadne Papagapitos
Anne Phelan
Richard Rockefeller
Matt Saldaña
The Pocantico Staff

Podcast Producer

Selly Thiam

Photography

Cover Clockwise from left to right: Fernando Medina, Jeff Weiner (top middle and right, bottom left and middle), Maggie Hallahan
Inside Front Albert Yee
Page 2 Ben Asen
Page 5 Clockwise from left to right: Maggie Hallahan, Fernando Medina, and Jeff Weiner (top right and bottom row)
Page 6 Maggie Hallahan
Page 7 League of Young Voters
Page 9 Jeff Weiner
Page 10 Fernando Medina
Page 11 Jeff Weiner
Page 12 Democracy Matters
Page 14-15 Jeff Weiner
Page 17 Dan Pinard
Page 18 bojophoto
Page 19 Ezra Stoller © ESTO

Copyright © 2009, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Inc.

Design

on design, new york city, www.ond.com

Printing

Monroe Litho, Inc., Rochester, New York
Monroe Litho is certified as a Chain-of-Custody supplier by the Forest Stewardship Council and as an EPA Green Power Partner operating on 100% renewable, nonpolluting wind power.

Paper

Mohawk Options 100% PC

This year's Rockefeller Brothers Fund Annual Review was printed in a quantity of 3,000 on 100% recycled paper that is made with wind power from Mohawk Paper. The choice of paper allowed us to save 14 trees for the future. We also avoided generating 39 pounds of waterborne waste, 5,791 gallons of wastewater, 641 pounds of solid waste, 1,262 pounds of greenhouse gases, 9,656,000 BTUs of energy, 640 pounds of air emissions, and 5,332 cubic feet of natural gas, which was the equivalent of planting 44 trees. Values were derived from information publicly available at www.epa.gov/cleanrgy/egrid and www.environmentaldefense.org/documents/1687_figures.pdf.



Previous Annual Reviews

(available at www.rbf.org)

2007

Making Sense of the World:
U.S. Foreign Policy and Our Global Role

2006

The Western Balkans:
Pivotal Work in a Pivotal Place

2005

Solutions to Global Warming:
A National Conversation We Desperately Need to Have

Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Inc.

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 900

New York, NY 10115

www.rbf.org