

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

NC3

NATIONAL COALITION
for COMMUNITY CAPITAL



[NC3NOW.ORG](https://nc3now.org)

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A LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

2021 was a challenging year in many respects, but NC3 carried the belief that adversity creates opportunity. As organizations and individuals across the county encountered hardships due to COVID and other, older hurts became more visible and painful, visionaries sought solutions.

NC3 stepped into that space with an intensified commitment to improving the capital systems that negatively impact so many, as well as a recognition that we needed to accelerate our work. To this end, we doubled down on our commitment to advocating for a new type of pooled investment vehicle – our 21st Century Community Investment Fund – that is scalable down to any and every community. That full proposal is being reviewed by the SEC now, and we are eager to see it move forward in the coming year.

In addition, we initiated a significant project around improving our Local Investing Resource Center website; moved boldly into the housing crisis; and moved ahead on partnerships, board diversity, and fiscal responsibility. Finally and most significantly, we conducted a nation-wide search and winnowed through 51 applicants before joyfully hiring Mica Fisher as our first-full time Director.

The support provided by our donors was critical to these efforts, and in fact they could not have happened without you. You have our deepest thanks and gratitude for helping us help others.



CHRIS MILLER
BOARD CHAIR



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021

ADVANCING THE FIELD

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDS

Following up on the interest generated by the CIF Handbook, NC3 created a new set of resources to demystify the Community Investment Fund model. The CIF Toolkit is an engaging and approachable resource that will help new funds consider the most important aspects of starting a new fund. With your support, we made the Toolkit available to the public at no charge. It has also spurred the development of a new listserv for CIF Practitioners managed by NC3.

85 *CIF Toolkit Webinar Registrants*

32 *Members of the CIF Practitioners Listserv*

"Thank you NC3 - the webinar today was AWESOME! You facilitated all the dots to start lining up as you explained the process involved for starting and implementing a local CIF with such clear descriptions, worksheets, and case studies presented by webinar invited participants. Thank you."

- Webinar Participant



"I was really captivated by the concept of people coming together, outside of our established institutions, to celebrate the stories of their community, and support projects they believe in and trust, with little accountability after the funding is distributed. I believe the future will be so reliant upon the agreements rooted in trust, first and foremost. I love that HI SOUP is experimenting with trust as a contract in present day."

- Samantha Ruiz, HI SOUP
Coordinator

SUPPORTING NEW COMMUNITY CAPITAL VENTURES

HI SOUP

In 2021, NC3 became the Fiscal Sponsor for HI SOUP, a micro-granting dinner celebrating and supporting creative projects in Hawai'i. Throughout the course of the grant, we have supported HI SOUP with thought partnership on the direction of their project as well as connections to outside contractors and technical assistance providers.

We hope our status as an independent 501(c)3 can continue to benefit smaller or burgeoning community capital projects that do not have the legal or administrative capacity to become an independent entity. Fiscal Sponsorships help NC3 stay sustainable while seeding a diverse community capital movement.



GROWING SUSTAINABLY

NC3'S FIRST FULL-TIME STAFF

In August 2021, Mica Fisher joined the NC3 team as the organization's first full-time staff member. This hire represents an important milestone in NC3's journey towards sustainability and longevity. We are thrilled to have a dedicated team member to coordinate our programmatic efforts and build out efficient internal systems.

CENTRALIZING INFORMATION

LOCAL INVESTING RESOURCE CENTER (LIRC)

This year brought exciting possibilities for the Local Investing Resource Center. After securing additional funding from the Adrian Dominican Sisters, we are engaging in a year-long process of improving the site to make it the go-to repository for community capital education. While it is already a valuable resource for local investors and wealth advisors, we are using our membership network and advisory board to identify gaps and develop more comprehensive resources, particularly for legal advisors and businesses.



LEARNINGS

A REPRESENTATIVE BOARD

NC3 is committed to the intentional inclusion of communities and entrepreneurs historically excluded due to class, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. The movement for community capital should intentionally seek to disrupt the unequal patterns of wealth accumulation across race, gender, and other marginalized identities. As an organization, we need to be more representative of the voices we want to elevate, and we are working hard to build a larger, more diverse Board. With this in mind, we have recently recruited two new Board members: a woman and Person of Color who have deep connections to equitable economic development and BIPOC communities.

We are also working towards a more inclusive membership model where members are active participants in Board committees and projects, further increasing the diversity of perspectives reflected in our programming.

EXPANDING OUR REACH IN THE ECOSYSTEM

NC3 is not alone in the fight for a local, democratic economy. There is a range of organizations touching the work of community capital, with a slightly different lens and mission than NC3. Because our goals are lofty (build a new, democratic economy), we can only win through collaboration and cooperation. With our new staff capacity, NC3 hopes to better connect and collaborate with other nonprofits that are advancing a similar vision.

CLEARER MESSAGING ON OUR MISSION

While NC3 has a passionate and loyal membership base that really understands the power of community capital, our messaging is not yet clear enough to inspire wide participation. We are honing in on our definitions and bite-sized education about the power of community capital.

LOOKING FORWARD

EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. CONNECT

ADVOCACY FOR A FAVORABLE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

NC3 is already in conversation with the SEC and legislators to expand retail investor access to funds through appropriately structured and professionally managed local, in-state regulated investment vehicles that are exempt from registration under the 1940 Act and are able to raise capital in exempt securities offerings. We hope to continue and expand our advocacy efforts in the coming year, including state-level community capital policy advocacy.

DEMOCRATIZING INFORMATION TO DEMOCRATIZE CAPITAL

Information about community capital is difficult to find and disaggregated across the web.

NC3 would like to make our website and the LIRC the go-to spot for high quality, up-to-date, and free information about community capital for people who want to become local investors, community builders who want to start a CIF, investment advisors, and attorneys. If we are successful, this resource will both increase coordination within the movement and invite new actors into the movement.

CONNECTING AND SEEDING NEW PROJECTS

NC3 already has a successful track record holding conferences and roundtables in areas that are on the cusp of growing a diverse community capital ecosystem. We hope to hold 2-4 roundtable events in 2022-23 to accelerate promising community capital projects.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

We are planning to develop additional program areas, such as: building on the success of donation crowdfunding government match programs, pairing impact investors with local investment projects, engaging existing successful businesses in community capital raises, and addressing community capital's role in the affordable housing crisis.

*Your support allows us to build momentum as
an organization and movement.*

*Thank you for a powerful 2021, and we look
forward to making even more impact in 2022.*