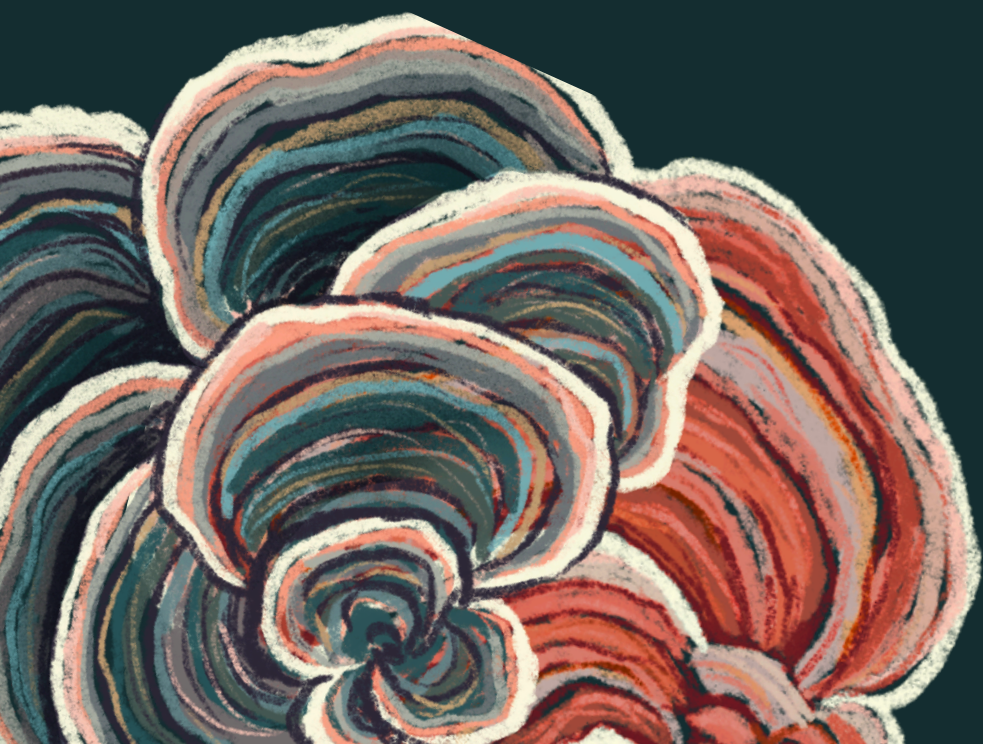




**15 YEARS OF
FRIDA**

**15 YEARS OF
IMPACT**



FRIDA

15 YEARS OF FRIDA

THIS YEAR MARKED 15 YEARS OF FRIDA! A YOUNG FEMINIST FUND CONCEIVED BY YOUNG FEMINISTS WHO BOLDLY ENVISIONED A DREAM AND BROUGHT IT TO FRUITION. WE DON'T USE THE WORD BOLDLY LIGHTLY. WHILE THE IDEAS AND VALUES - OF YOUNG FEMINIST LEADERSHIP, PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING, CO-LEADERSHIP MODELS, LETTING THE MOVEMENT DECIDE - THAT FRIDA WAS BUILT ON ARE COMMONPLACE IN SOME SPACES, 15 YEARS AGO THESE WERE REALLY PUSHING THE ENVELOPE. AND AS FRIDA CONTINUES TO DREAM RADICAL NOTIONS OF FEMINIST GRANTMAKING INTO THE FUTURE, THE VISION, BRAVERY AND OPEN-HEARTEDNESS OF THOSE WHO CREATED FRIDA REMAINS WITH US.

IN ITS 15TH YEAR OF EXISTENCE, FRIDA:

- WELCOMED, FOR THE 3RD TIME, TWO NEW COEXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
- IS SET TO WELCOME 24 NEW GRANTEE PARTNERS AMIDST RAPIDLY SHRINKING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES [FOR FRIDA AND FEMINIST FUNDERS AND ORGANIZERS ACROSS THE WORLD]
- LAUNCHED ITS NEW GRANTMAKING AND RENEWAL STRATEGY
- LAUNCHED ITS VERY FIRST REVERSE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

...AND SO MUCH MORE...



OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS FRIDA HAS DEVELOPED AN OUTSTANDING PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING MODEL THAT HAS, IN BOTH FORM AND FUNCTION, CENTERED YOUNG FEMINISTS AND THE VALUES OF INTERSECTIONALITY AT ITS CORE. A MODEL THAT HAS INSPIRED PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING THROUGHOUT THE SECTOR!

OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS FRIDA HAS AGITATED AND SPOKEN TRUTH TO POWER. FRIDA HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES IN NOT ONLY ADVOCATING FOR GREATER RESOURCES TO BE PROVIDED TO YOUNG FEMINIST ACTIVISTS, BUT ALSO IN CHALLENGING TRADITIONAL MODES OF PHILANTHROPY, AGITATING FOR A BETTER EMBODIMENT OF TRUE SOLIDARITY AND ALLIESHIP.

OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS FRIDA HAS PUT INNOVATION, BRAVERY AND EXPERIMENTATION AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO. FROM A TRULY RADICAL, TRANSPARENT AND PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING MODEL, TO YOUNG FEMINIST EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND A STAFF COMPLEMENT ALL UNDER THE AGE OF 35, TO CO-LEADERSHIP MODELS THROUGHOUT ALL FRIDA DEPARTMENTS AND A FULLY REMOTE ORGANIZATION WELL BEFORE REMOTE WAS A THING. FRIDA HAS CHARTED A UNIQUE PATH DEDICATED TO EMBODYING FEMINIST VALUES OF FREEDOM, CO-RESPONSIBILITY, EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY EVEN WHEN WE DID NOT HAVE A MODEL FOR WHAT THAT LOOKED LIKE.

OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS FRIDA HAS COMMITTED TO INTERSECTIONAL, RADICAL FEMINIST THOUGHT, CONTRIBUTING TO A WIDE ARRAY OF FEMINIST DISCOURSES SUCH AS: FEMINIST MOVEMENT BUILDING, QUEER AND TRANS RIGHTS, COLLECTIVE CARE, POWER, MONEY, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AUTONOMY, SOLIDARITY AND SO MUCH MORE.



15 YEARS OF IMPACT

15 YEARS OF FRIDA

15 YEARS LATER, THE DREAM AND CREATIVE VISION BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE ACTIVISTS WHO CREATED FRIDA IS STILL SO EVIDENT AND NECESSARY!

FRIDA IS THE CULMINATION OF YOUNG FEMINIST ACTIVISTS AND THEIR ALLIES WHO CREATED SOMETHING REVOLUTIONARY - A FEMINIST FUND DESIGNED BY AND FOR THEIR OWN MOVEMENTS. TODAY, FRIDA RESOURCES ACTIVISTS AND MOVEMENTS IN MORE THAN 100 COUNTRIES ACROSS THE GLOBAL MAJORITY - EMBODYING THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE VISION AND ACTION.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, YOUNG FEMINIST ACTIVISTS AND THEIR ALLIES CREATED SOMETHING REVOLUTIONARY - A FEMINIST FUND DESIGNED BY AND FOR THEIR OWN MOVEMENTS. TODAY, FRIDA RESOURCES ACTIVISTS AND MOVEMENTS IN MORE THAN 100 COUNTRIES ACROSS THE GLOBAL MAJORITY - EMBODYING THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE CARE, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOURNEY WITH US ONE MORE TIME AS WE REVISIT:

15 YEARS OF FRIDA
15 YEARS OF IMPACT

15 YEARS OF COLLECTIVE POWER

FROM A RADICAL IDEA IN 2010 TO A GLOBAL FEMINIST FUND IN
2025

YOUNG FEMINIST GROUPS ARE NOT ONLY PARTICIPATING IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF GRANTS, BUT ALSO HOW THE PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING PROCESS IS BUILT, IMPLEMENTED AND THEN REBUILT. THE VOICES, PERSPECTIVES, DREAMS AND CRITIQUE OF YOUNG FEMINISTS ACTIVISTS REMAIN OUR COMPASS OF HOW TO ENSURE OUR WORK IS RELEVANT TO THEIR STRUGGLE AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO GUIDE US IN ADJUSTING OUR GRANTMAKING MODEL TO RESPOND TO THEIR REALITIES" - LETTING THE MOVEMENT DECIDE, FRIDA'S GRANTMAKING REPORT 2017

IN ITS FIRST THREE GRANTMAKING CYCLES (2012-2014), FRIDA AWARDED \$437,000 IN GRANTS TO 57 YOUNG FEMINIST ORGANIZATIONS. IN THE 2014 FISCAL YEAR, FRIDA MADE NEW GRANTS TO 25 NEW GROUPS, AND RENEWED FUNDING TO 22 FORMER GRANTEES, REPRESENTING 46 COUNTRIES. IN THAT TIME PERIOD FRIDA RECEIVED OVER 2,000 APPLICATIONS, VASTLY OUTNUMBERING EARLY EXPECTATIONS. IN 2024 FRIDA SUPPORTED 203 GRANTEE PARTNERS ACROSS SIX REGIONS, SPANNING 103 COUNTRIES WITH A TOTAL DIRECT GRANTMAKING SUM OF \$ 2,972,071.30

FRIDA'S GROWTH HAS BEEN EXPONENTIAL - AND - FRIDA'S GROWTH HAS BEEN MEANINGFULLY LED BY YOUNG FEMINISTS WHO HAVE SO WILLINGLY AND OPEN-HEARTEDLY ENGAGED IN FRIDA'S PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING MODEL AND PRACTICE. CREATED BY YOUNG FEMINIST ACTIVISTS AND THEIR ALLIES TO FUND BRAVE ACTIVISM, , FRIDAS PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING FRAMEWORK - IN WHICH THE YOUNG FEMINIST ACTIVISTS WHO APPLY FOR GRANTS DECIDE TOGETHER WHO WILL RECEIVE FUNDING - WAS THE FIRST APPLICATION OF THIS KIND OF MODEL IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT.

FRIDA'S FUNDING MODEL PLACES DECISION-MAKING IN THE HANDS OF YOUNG FEMINISTS THEMSELVES AS AGENTS OF CHANGE WITH THE AIM OF SHIFTING TRADITIONAL POWER RELATIONS BETWEEN FUNDER AND GRANTEE. IT ALSO PLACES A HUGE EMPHASIS [AND LABOUR] ON ADAPTING AND GROWING TO REACH YOUNG FEMINISTS OUTSIDE THE MARGINS OF GEOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL AND DIGITAL PRIVILEGE.

15 YEARS OF COLLECTIVE POWER

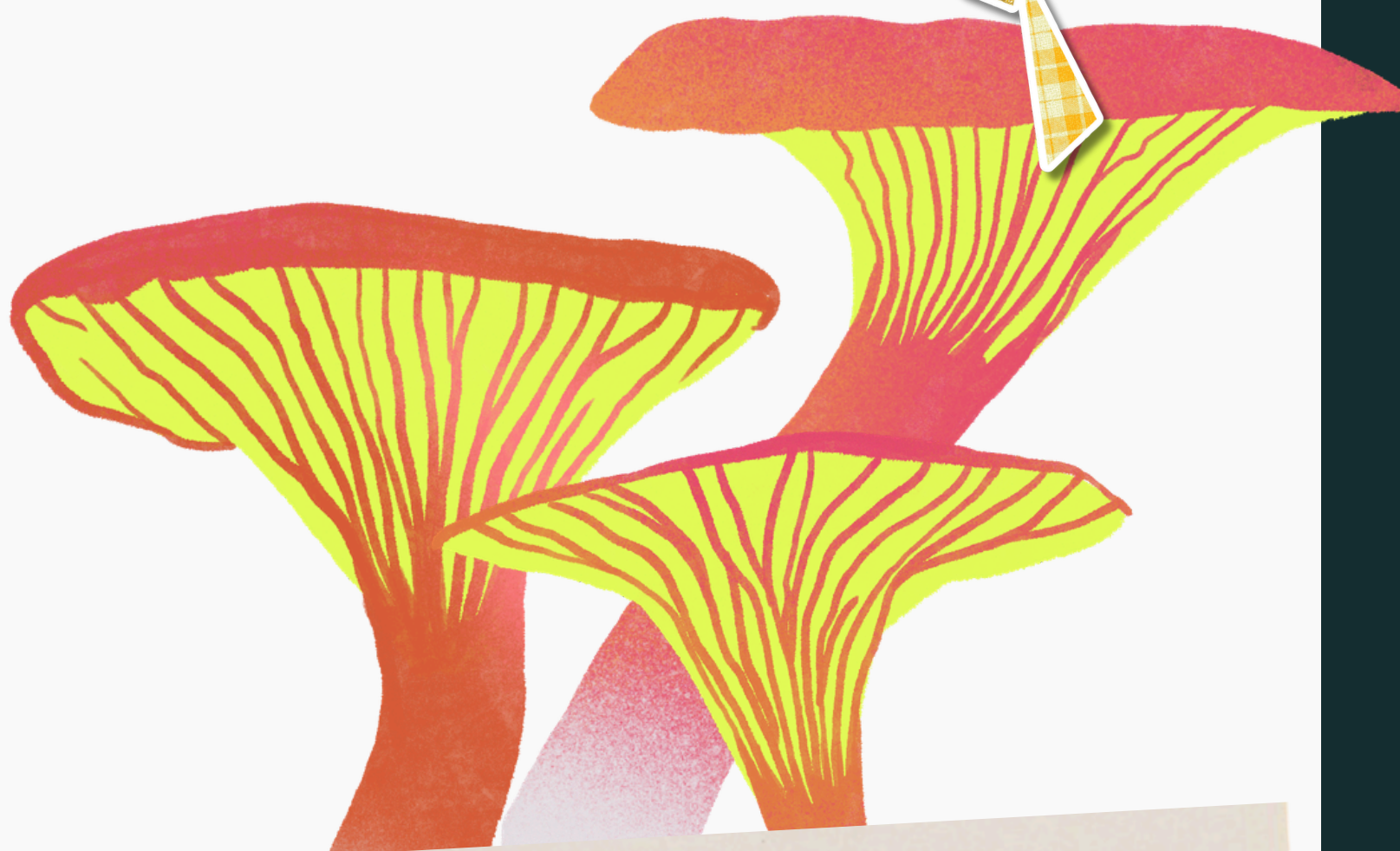
15 YEARS OF COLLECTIVE POWER

OVER THE YEARS, FRIDA HAS FOCUSED ON IMPROVING OUTREACH TO MAKE SURE THAT FRIDA GRANTMAKING STRATEGIES ARE ABLE TO REACH YOUNG FEMINISTS WHERE THEY ARE - GEOGRAPHICALLY, SOCIALLY AND POLITICALLY. ONE OF THE WAYS FRIDA HAS CONTINUED TO INVEST IN AND IMPROVE ITS DIVERSITY AND OUTREACH EFFORTS IS THROUGH THE CO-CREATION, WITH FRIDA'S ADVISORS, OF REGIONAL AND THEMATIC FUNDING STRATEGIES THAT GUIDE US IN FACILITATING AN INTERSECTIONAL PARTICIPATORY APPROACH FOR EACH OF THE REGIONS WHERE FRIDA FUNDS. THESE TAILORED STRATEGIES HELP US UNDERSTAND WHAT CONDITIONS WE NEED TO SET UP FOR CERTAIN COMMUNITIES TO ACCESS FRIDA'S APPLICATION PROCESS. WE HAVE SIMPLIFIED AND IMPROVED OUR GRANTMAKING, IDENTIFIED GAPS, AND HAVE BECOME MORE INTENTIONAL IN OUR COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH PROCESS. THIS HAS RESULTED IN LARGER NUMBERS OF RADICAL YOUNG FEMINIST ORGANIZERS RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM FRIDA AND RECOGNIZING FRIDA AS A POTENTIAL FUNDER THAT CAN SUPPORT THEIR WORK

IN 2022 FRIDA PUBLISHED RESOURCING CONNECTIONS: REFLECTIONS ON FEMINIST PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING PRACTICE - ITS SECOND ASSESSMENT AND INTERNAL REFLECTION ON ITS PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING MODEL. RESOURCING CONNECTIONS ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE ALL THE PIECES OF FRIDA'S PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING PROCESS AND THE VASTNESS OF THE EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG FEMINISTS IN THE FRIDAVERSE. BEYOND A PARTICIPATORY FUNDING TOOLKIT, IT MADE A DEEP DIVE INTO AN INTERNAL ORGANISATIONAL REFLECTION ABOUT THE POLITICS, PRINCIPLES, AND VALUES THAT ARE BUILT INTO FRIDA'S PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING PRACTICE.

A PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING PROCESS THAT INVOLVES YOUNG FEMINIST ORGANIZERS IN STAFF; ADVISORY, GRANTEE COMMUNITY, AND IN THE YOUNG FEMINIST COLLECTIVES THAT APPLY FOR FRIDA FUNDING, ALLOWS US TO LEARN, CO-CREATE KNOWLEDGE, AND BUILD ON EXPERTISE AND SOLUTIONS TOGETHER WITH FEMINIST MOVEMENTS. WE GET TO REFLECT AND LEARN DURING EACH STAGE OF THE PROCESS, AND THIS KNOWLEDGE SHAPES AND NOURISHES OUR PROGRAMMATIC WORK, HOW WE PLAN, DISTRIBUTE AND MOBILIZE RESOURCES, AND HOW WE COMMUNICATE OUR VISION, COMMITMENTS AND LEARNINGS WITH THE WORLD. FRIDA'S PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING PROCESS CREATES A SPACE FOR LEARNING, EXCHANGE AND FEMINIST MOVEMENT CONNECTION.

FRIDA EMERGED FROM THE COLLECTIVE VISION OF FEMINIST ACTIVISTS ACROSS GENERATIONS AND FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHO UNDERSTOOD THE URGENT NEED FOR A FUND THAT CENTRES ITS MISSION AROUND THE EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE AND NEEDS OF YOUNG FEMINIST ORGANIZERS. FRIDA EXISTS TODAY BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF FEMINIST ORGANIZERS TO DREAM UP POSSIBILITIES AND TRANSFORM THEM INTO BEING THROUGH COLLECTIVE VISIONING AND ACTION. THE FORMATION OF A YOUNG FEMINIST FUND LIKE FRIDA AS A MOVEMENT SOLUTION REMINDS US WHAT IS POSSIBLE WHEN FEMINIST MOVEMENTS HAVE THE RESOURCES TO LEAD, DREAM AND DECIDE ALONG THE MANY POSSIBLE PATHS TO LIBERATION AND JUSTICE.



15 YEARS OF COLLECTIVE POWER

**15 YEARS OF FEMINIST
KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION**

FRIDA'S COMMITMENT TO INTERSECTIONAL, RADICAL FEMINIST
THOUGHT

15 YEARS OF FEMINIST KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

AS A YOUTH-LED FUND FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON SUPPORTING YOUNG FEMINIST ORGANIZING ACROSS THE GLOBAL MAJORITY, FRIDA'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, STRATEGIC AND RESPONSIVE FUNDING FOR YOUNG FEMINIST-LED INITIATIVES. THE SUSTAINABILITY AND CONTINUOUS FLOURISHING OF YOUNG FEMINIST GROUPS, HOWEVER, ALSO REQUIRES ENGAGEMENT IN THE WIDER SOCIOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT TO WORK WITH OTHER FEMINIST FUNDS AND ALLIES TO CREATE A MORE EQUITABLE, FAIR AND CONDUCIVE SECTOR THAT CAN BE A TRUE ALLY TO SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENTS.

FRIDA HAS LOOKED AT OUR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS, PHILANTHROPIC ADVOCACY AND OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH SIBLING AND ALLIED PHILANTHROPY AS A POWERFUL WAY TO ADVANCE THE YOUNG FEMINIST MOVEMENT FORWARD. YOUNG FEMINISTS HAVE MUCH TO OFFER GLOBAL FEMINIST MOVEMENTS, AND AN INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT PART OF FRIDA'S WORK IS TO USE OUR VOICE TO CONTRIBUTE TO RADICAL FEMINIST THOUGHT. THE REALM OF THOUGHT, IDEAS AND MEANING MAKING IS A HEAVILY CONTESTED ONE AND HAS BEEN ACROSS HISTORY. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PERSON, A FAMILY, A CITIZEN, A WORKER, OR EVEN FREE ARE PIVOTAL CONCEPTS IN THE MAKINGS OF SOCIETIES. CURRENTLY, AS ACROSS TIME, WHITE-SUPREMACIST CIS-HETEROPATRIARCHAL CAPITALIST INSTITUTIONS ARE USING THEIR OWN MEANINGS AND NARRATIVES AROUND THESE CONCEPTS TO DENY THE PEOPLE OF SUDAN, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, PALESTINE, BLACK PEOPLE, BROWN PEOPLE, DISABLED PEOPLE, LGBTIQ PEOPLE AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE WORLD THEIR RIGHTS, THEIR LAND, THEIR HUMANITY, THEIR RESOURCES AND SO MUCH MORE. THIS MAKES THE LANGUAGE WE USE, THE DISCOURSES WE CONTRIBUTE TO, THE MEANING WE MAKE SO IMPORTANT IN THE SHARED STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION ACROSS SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND GEOGRAPHIES.

THE VOICES, INSIGHTS, AND LIVED REALITIES OF YOUNG FEMINISTS ARE TOO OFTEN OVERLOOKED AND OVERSHADOWED IN TRADITIONAL PHILANTHROPY, YET THEIR KNOWLEDGE IS RESHAPING HOW WE UNDERSTAND JUSTICE, CARE, AND SYSTEMIC CHANGE.

OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS, FRIDA HAS DOCUMENTED, AMPLIFIED, AND CELEBRATED THE KNOWLEDGE CREATED BY YOUNG FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD, CONTRIBUTING TO A WIDE ARRAY OF FEMINIST DISCOURSES SUCH AS FEMINIST MOVEMENT BUILDING, QUEER AND TRANS RIGHTS, COLLECTIVE CARE, POWER, MONEY, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AUTONOMY, SOLIDARITY AND SO MUCH MORE. THIS MAKES THE LANGUAGE WE USE, THE DISCOURSES WE CONTRIBUTE TO, THE MEANING WE MAKE SO IMPORTANT IN THE SHARED STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION ACROSS SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND GEOGRAPHIES.

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15 YEARS OF FEMINIST KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

15 YEARS OF FEMINIST KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

TAKE A LOOK THROUGH FRIDA'S FEMINIST LIBRARY...



RASILIMALI YA UONGOZI WA MFEMINISTI CHIPUKIZI [2022]

"RASILIMALI HII ILIUNDWA KWA AJILI YA WASIMAMIZI WA WATETEZI CHIPUKIZI WA HAKI ZA WANAWAKE KUTOKA WESCA (AFRIKA YA MAGHARIBI, MASHARIKI, KUSINI NA KATI) AMBAO WAPO KATIKA MSTARI WA MBELE WA KUFANYA KAZI BILA KUCHOKA ILI KUFANIKISHA MABADILIKO MAKALI YA KIMFUMO KWA AJILI YA WATU WA LGBTQI+ KATIKA JAMII ZAO"



GIRLS TO THE FRONT: A SNAPSHOT OF GIRL-LED ORGANISING [2018]

"GIRLS THE WORLD OVER ARE JOINING FORCES TO UNDO THE INJUSTICES THAT HAVE AFFECTED THEM, THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THEIR PEERS THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES. ONE THING IS FOR SURE, IN THE FACE OF ALL THESE CHALLENGES, THE MERE ACT OF ORGANISING IS IN ITSELF CAUSE TO CELEBRATE"



KIT DE HERRAMIENTAS DE MOVILIZACIÓN DE RECURSOS [2019]

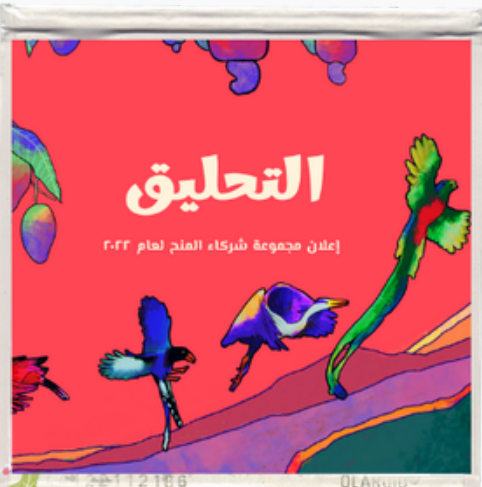
"EL OBJETIVO DE ESTE KIT DE HERRAMIENTAS ES APOYAR Y PROMOVER EL PENSAMIENTO CREATIVO Y PRÁCTICO SOBRE LA MOVILIZACIÓN DE RECURSOS PARA NIÑAS, MUJERES JÓVENES Y JUVENTUD TRANS, Y ESTÁ DESTINADO A ORGANIZACIONES Y PERSONAS CON DIFERENTES NIVELES DE HABILIDADES Y EXPERIENCIAS"

15 YEARS OF FEMINIST KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION



WHAT THE WATER BRINGS [2021]

"TO LOOK INTO THE FUTURE WE MUST LEARN FROM THE PAST. WHAT THE WATER BRINGS IS A REFLECTION ON HOW FRIDA FUNDS AND ACCOMPANIES YOUNG FEMINIST ACTIVISTS WHOSE WORK IS AT THE INTERSECTION OF GENDER, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE"



التحليق | إعلان مجموعة شركاء المنح لعام ٢٠٢٢

يسعد مجتمع فريدا بأن يرحب بـ ٩٨ شريك/ة منح جدد تم اختيارهم/ن من خلال عملية اختيار تشاركية أثناء دعوتنا لتقديم طلبات التقدم لمنح لعام ٢٠٢٢. تتطلب العملية التشاركية جهودا جماعية. الانخراط في الإبداع المشترك شيء معقد. إرادتنا الجماعية هي بناء عالم يشمل تنوعنا ويرتكز على الرعاية التي تلهمنا لحمل البذور حتى نتمكن من زرع عوالم جديدة.



FRIDA'S TECH AND DATA PRINCIPLES [2020]

"FRIDA IS COMMITTED TO THE USE OF SAFE AND OPEN TECHNOLOGIES, ENSURING THE TRANSPARENT MANAGEMENT OF USER DATA OF GRANTEE PARTNERS, DONORS AND FOLLOWERS. FRIDA IS OPEN TO THE USE OF FREE AND OPEN SOURCE TECH WHERE POSSIBLE, WITHOUT COMPROMISING ON USABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY."

15 YEARS OF FEMINIST KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION



РЕСУРСНЫЕ СВЯЗИ [2024]

"ЭТО РЕЗЮМЕ ОТЧЁТА О ПРЕДОСТАВЛЕНИИ РЕСУРСОВ ДЛЯ УКРЕПЛЕНИЯ СВЯЗЕЙ FRIDA, ПОСВЯЩЁННОГО НАШЕЙ СТРАТЕГИИ ПАРТИСИПАТОРНОГО ПРЕДОСТАВЛЕНИЯ ГРАНТОВ. ПОЛНЫЙ ОТЧЁТ ВОЗНИК КАК ЧАСТЬ ТРЁХЛЕТНЕГО ПРОЦЕССА ДОКУМЕНТИРОВАНИЯ ПАРТИСИПАТОРНОЙ МОДЕЛИ ВЫДАЧИ ГРАНТОВ FRIDA."



**VISIT OUR PUBLICATIONS AND
RESOURCES PAGE FOR MORE**



**15 YEARS OF INNOVATION AND
IMAGINATION**

WE'RE ALWAYS WILLING TO TRY SOMETHING NEW

“WHAT I LOVE THE MOST ABOUT FRIDA - HAVING BEEN PART OF FRIDA FROM ITS CONCEPTUALIZATION TO IT BEING AN ACTUAL FUND - IS THAT FRIDA IS WILLING TO TRY THINGS. IT'S WILLING TO DO THAT KIND OF REFLECTION AND SAY THIS DIDN'T WORK, THIS IS HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS PROCESS STRONGER. I THINK EVERY YEAR WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT HOW TO DO THINGS BETTER.” - (AMINA DOHERTY, FRIDA FOUNDING COORDINATOR)

OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS FRIDA HAS PUT INNOVATION, BRAVERY AND EXPERIMENTATION AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO. FROM A TRULY RADICAL, TRANSPARENT AND PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING MODEL, TO YOUNG FEMINIST EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND A STAFF COMPLEMENT ALL UNDER THE AGE OF 35, TO CO-LEADERSHIP MODELS THROUGHOUT ALL FRIDA DEPARTMENTS AND A FULLY REMOTE ORGANIZATION WELL BEFORE REMOTE WAS A THING, FRIDA HAS CHARTED A UNIQUE PATH DEDICATED TO EMBODYING FEMINIST VALUES OF FREEDOM, CO-RESPONSIBILITY, EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY, EVEN WHEN WE DID NOT HAVE A MODEL FOR WHAT THAT LOOKED LIKE.


IN SEPTEMBER 2025 FRIDA HELD ITS VERY FIRST REVERSE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - OUR LATEST OFFERING IN BOLD EXPERIMENTATION AND INNOVATION THAT AIMS TO REIMAGINE PHILANTHROPY AND GRANTMAKING MECHANISMS BY CHALLENGING UNEQUAL POWER DYNAMICS IN PHILANTHROPY, AND SIMPLIFYING RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR MOVEMENTS.

SECURING CORE, FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR FEMINIST ACTIVISM HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN CHALLENGING. BUT IN A GLOBAL STATE OF INCREASING FACIST-IMPERIALIST-CAPITALIST-PATRIARCHY, SECURING THE RESOURCES THAT FEMINIST ACTIVISTS AND MOVEMENTS NEED TO SURVIVE AND TO CHALLENGE THESE INSTITUTIONS OF OPPRESSION HAS BECOME EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. AND WHILE FRIDA HAS MADE IT A PRACTICE TO BUILD POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND GRANTMAKING METHODOLOGIES THAT ARE ADAPTABLE AND FLEXIBLE TO MEET YOUNG FEMINIST ACTIVISTS WHERE THEY ARE, THIS MOMENT HAS CALLED FOR A MORE BOLD AND PROACTIVE VEHICLE TO PLAY OUR ROLE IN SECURING THE FUTURE FOR YOUNG FEMINIST MOVEMENTS.

15 YEARS OF INNOVATION AND IMAGINATION

15 YEARS OF INNOVATION AND IMAGINATION

A PROTOTYPE ENVISIONED BY THE RINGO PROJECT AND THE WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE (WACSI), A REVERSE CALL FOR PROPOSALS, AS THEY TERMED IT, AIMS TO FLIP THE SCRIPT ON TRADITIONAL FUNDING MECHANISMS.



"IMAGINE THIS: LOCAL ORGANISATIONS ISSUE A 'CALL FOR PROPOSALS' TO INTERNATIONAL ACTORS (INGOs AND FUNDERS) TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR LOCALLY-DETERMINED ENDEAVOURS. THESE LOCAL ORGANISATIONS ASSESS THE POTENTIAL OF INTERNATIONAL ACTORS, EVALUATING HOW WELL THEY CAN SUPPORT LOCAL NEEDS. THEN, THE LOCAL ORGANISATIONS DECIDE WHO TO PARTNER WITH AND ON WHAT TERMS. CRAZY, RIGHT?" – RINGO

THE REVERSAL, CHALLENGING, AND REDISTRIBUTION OF POWER HAS BEEN A COMMITMENT TO FEMINIST MOVEMENTS BY FEMINIST FUNDS FOR AS LONG AS WE HAVE BEEN IN EXISTENCE. AS ONE SUCH COMMITMENT WITHIN THE FUNDING SECTOR TO TRANSFORM VERTICAL AND ASYMMETRICAL DECISION-MAKING PRACTICES, PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING MECHANISMS HAVE PLACED DECISION-MAKING WITHIN THE BROADER COMMUNITY OF APPLICANTS AND MOVEMENT REPRESENTATIVES. PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING, HOWEVER, HAS TO GO BEYOND A MECHANISM TO WELCOME NEW GRANTEE PARTNERS. IT HAS TO BE A POLITICAL COMMITMENT THAT SPEAKS TO THE CORE OF ACCOUNTABILITY, SYSTEMIC CHANGE, AND MOVEMENT AUTONOMY AS IT PROMOTES THE REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO THE TERRITORIES AND COMMUNITIES FROM WHICH THEY WERE INITIALLY EXTRACTED.

IT IS IN CONCERT WITH FRIDA'S COMMITMENT TO A RADICAL FEMINIST GRANTMAKING MECHANISM THAT WE PURSUE THIS FURTHER SPINNING OF PHILANTHROPY ON ITS HEAD BY CO-CREATING AND ENGAGING IN A REVERSE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS.

AT THE HEART OF IT, FRIDA'S REVERSE CALL IS AN ONGOING COMMITMENT TO GRANTEE PARTNERS TO CONTINUE TO SHIFT POWER FROM INSTITUTIONS BACK TO MOVEMENTS. BUT INCLUSIVE OF AND BEYOND THAT, THE REVERSE CALL OFFERS US ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY - COMMUNITY. WHETHER IT IS FRIDAS TRANSITION STRATEGY - WHICH AIMS TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONNECT GRANTEE PARTNERS TO LARGER POOLS OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES, OR THE REVERSE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS WHICH ASKS FUNDERS TO 'FLIP THE SCRIPT' - THE SUCCESS OF THESE TASKS IS DEPENDENT ON THE COMMITMENT AND BUY-IN OF THE PHILANTHROPIC SECTOR. THEREFORE, THE REVERSE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS ALSO INVITES US TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER FUNDS TO STRATEGIZE ON HOW TO CONTINUE TO SUSTAIN LIFE-AFFIRMING WORK. IN THIS WAY, THE REVERSE CALL ASKS FUNDERS TO MIRROR THE COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION WE OFTEN SEE IN MOVEMENT SPACES, AND PROVIDES THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE SECTOR TO BEND, STRETCH, AND HOLD WORK WE KNOW MATTERS EVEN IN THE MIDST OF SHIFTING PRIORITIES.

INNOVATION AND EXPERIMENTATION ARE AT THE HEART OF OUR FEMINIST PRACTICE, AND FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS, OUR DEDICATION TO LEARNING, FAILING, ADAPTING AND DARING TO DO DIFFERENTLY HAS ENABLED US TO PROVIDE YOUNG FEMINIST LEADERS WITH THE RESOURCES, GUIDANCE AND TRUST TO LEAD, CREATE AND TRANSFORM THEIR MOVEMENTS. EACH INNOVATION IS AN ACT OF SHARED POWER - DEMONSTRATING HOW REAL TRANSFORMATION CLOSELY FOLLOWS WHEN YOUNG FEMINISTS LEAD. AS WE ENTER OUR NEXT CHAPTER, WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO EXPANDING ALTERNATIVE RESOURCING PATHWAYS, TESTING BOLD IDEAS, AND BUILDING COLLECTIVE SOLUTIONS THAT STRENGTHEN A FEMINIST INFRASTRUCTURE - AND YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS POSSIBLE.

15 YEARS OF INNOVATION AND IMAGINATION

**FUNDING YOUNG FEMINIST
ORGANISING KEEPS OUR
MOVEMENTS ALIVE**

REFLECTIONS FROM FRIDA'S CO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

WHY WE SHOULD KEEP FOCUS ON YOUTH ORGANIZING

15 YEARS OF LESSONS, FRIDA'S CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REFLECT ON WHY PHILANTHROPY MUST SHOW UP FOR YOUTH ORGANISING.

YOUNG PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER HAVE EMERGED AS DECISIVE ACTORS IN THE FIGHT FOR AND IN DEFENSE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS. YOUNG ACTIVISTS HAVE LED – AND CONTINUE TO LEAD – SOME OF THE MOST TRANSFORMATIVE RIGHTS STRUGGLES OF THE PAST DECADES. FROM THE SOWETO UPRISINGS, ANTI-APARTHEID AND DISINVESTMENT STUDENT MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, TO THE MORE RECENT NEPALESE GEN Z PROTESTS AGAINST GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS, CORRUPTION AND POLITICAL EXCLUSION, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, YOUTH MOVEMENTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE NEED AND URGENCY OF YOUTH, AS AN ENGAGED AND CONSCIENTIOUS CITIZENRY, TO TAKE A DEFINING PART IN HOW SOCIETIES ARE SHAPED, AND ORGANISED FAIRLY AND JUSTLY.

YOUNG WOMEN, GIRLS, AND GENDER EXPANSIVE PEOPLE ARE OFTEN FOUND OPERATING AT THE CRUX OF YOUTH MOVEMENTS, AND ARE OFTEN FOUND AT THE FOREFRONT OF ORGANISING TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, DESPITE THE DISPROPORTIONATE RISK IN DOING SO. THEY HAVE REPEATEDLY CHALLENGED AND TRANSFORMED POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BY CIRCUMVENTING TRADITIONAL POWER STRUCTURES, AND INTRODUCING NEW, PARTICIPATORY, AND OFTEN DECENTRALISED METHODS OF POLITICAL AND CIVIC MOBILISATION THAT RELY ON COLLECTIVE CARE AND INTERSECTIONAL UNDERSTANDINGS OF OPPRESSION. THEY INNOVATE QUICKLY, ARE APT AT LEVERAGING DIGITAL ORGANIZING, AND MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES IN WAYS THAT MORE TRADITIONAL ACTORS CANNOT.

TOO OFTEN HOWEVER, THEIR LEADERSHIP IS UNDERVALUED, UNRECOGNIZED, AND UNTRUSTED, LEAVING THEM WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO DECISION-MAKING ROLES AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR THE SUCCESS OF THEIR EFFORTS AND MOVEMENTS. PATRIARCHAL SYSTEMS PLACE STRUCTURAL, CULTURAL, AND MATERIAL CONSTRAINTS ON YOUNG FEMINISTS THAT SHAPE WHO CAN ORGANISE, HOW THEY CAN ORGANISE, AND WHAT IMPACT THEY CAN HAVE.

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AWID'S 2020 RESEARCH, WHERE IS THE MONEY FOR FEMINIST ORGANIZING, CONFIRMED THAT WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE LESS THAN 1% OF BOTH PRIVATE FOUNDATION GRANTS AND GOVERNMENT AID DIRECTED TOWARD GENDER EQUALITY, DESPITE THEIR OUTSIZED ROLE IN ORGANISING AGAINST AUTHORITARIANISM, HARMFUL CORPORATIONS, GENDER BASED VIOLENCE, IN ADVANCING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS, AND DEFENDING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE RIGHTS. AWID'S NEW REPORT, WHERE IS THE MONEY, AN EVIDENCE DRIVEN CALL TO RESOURCE FEMINIST ORGANISING, DEMONSTRATES THAT IN 2023, THE MEDIAN ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FEMINIST AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS WAS JUST USD 22,000. FINDINGS SHOW LIMITED GROWTH IN ANNUAL BUDGETS IN OVER A DECADE, POINTING TO A PERSISTENT BUDGETARY GLASS CEILING THAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE STRUGGLING TO BREAK THROUGH. THE FUNDING AVAILABLE AND DIRECTED TOWARDS YOUNG FEMINIST-LED ORGANISATIONS IS EVEN MORE SCANT. THE BASELINE REALITY IS THAT YOUTH ORGANISING IS DRAMATICALLY UNDERFUNDED.

IT WAS PRECISELY IN RESPONSE TO THIS CHRONIC UNDER-RESOURCING AND EXCLUSION OF YOUNG FEMINIST ACTIVISTS THAT FRIDA WAS CREATED. YOUNG FEMINISTS HAVE BEEN MOBILIZING, INNOVATING, AND TAKING RISKS ACROSS MOVEMENTS FOR DECADES, YET THEY FACE SOME OF THE DEEPEST FUNDING GAPS FOR BEING TOO 'INFORMAL', TOO 'YOUNG', OR TOO 'POLITICAL' TO FIT TRADITIONAL DONOR FRAMEWORKS. FRIDA WAS BUILT TO CHALLENGE THESE DYNAMICS BY INTENTIONALLY RESOURCING YOUNG FEMINIST ORGANISERS WITH FLEXIBLE, LONG-TERM, TRUST-BASED FUNDING, BY SHIFTING POWER TO YOUNG PEOPLE AS DECISION-MAKERS, AND BY CREATING FUNDING MECHANISMS THAT RECOGNISE YOUNG FEMINISTS NOT AS BENEFICIARIES, BUT AS LEADERS SHAPING TRANSFORMATIVE SOCIAL CHANGE.


FIFTEEN YEARS LATER, FRIDA HAS NOT LOST SIGHT OF THE POWER, INNOVATION AND IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH ACTIVISM. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY CAPABLE OF TRANSFORMING THEIR COMMUNITIES, THEY ARE ALSO RESHAPING THE FUNDING LANDSCAPE ITSELF. THEIR PROXIMITY TO EMERGING MOVEMENTS MAKES THEM THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND VISIONARY STEWARDS OF RESOURCES.

15 YEARS OF INNOVATION AND IMAGINATION

WHY WE SHOULD KEEP FOCUS ON YOUTH ORGANIZING

YET, OUR ORGANISATIONAL JOURNEY HAS NOT BEEN LINEAR. OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE CO-CREATED AND EXPERIMENTED WITH DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO GRANTMAKING, ORGANISING AND LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING MOVING FROM A YOUTH-LED LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE TO AN INTERGENERATIONAL LEADERSHIP MODEL, AND EVENTUALLY RETURNING TO YOUTH-LED GOVERNANCE. THROUGH IT ALL, WE LEARNED, UNLEARNED, REFLECTED AND LISTENED TO THE YOUNG FEMINIST COMMUNITY. IN OUR FIFTEENTH YEAR, WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE MADE OUR WAY BACK TO YOUTH LEADERSHIP. THESE EXPERIENCES HAVE REAFFIRMED THE CENTRALITY OF YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND CEMENTED OUR COMMITMENT TO FULLY EMBODYING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GENUINELY YOUTH-LED FUND.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED IS THAT FRIDA IS A SPACE FOR VIGOROUS ENERGY, VIVID IMAGERY AND CREATIVITY AND ONE WHICH PUSHES THE BOUNDARIES, AND SPEAKS UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTHS TO POWER WITH THE AIM OF CHALLENGING AND DISRUPTING HARMFUL SYSTEMS. AND WHILE THE PAST 15 YEARS HAVE BEEN RICH WITH DREAMING, INNOVATION, DISRUPTION AND CO-CREATION, BEING YOUTH LED MEANS EMBRACING FRIDA AS A LIVING POLITICAL SPACE- A SPACE FOR MISTAKES, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND ONGOING TRANSFORMATION. THROUGH IT ALL, WE CHOOSE TO STAY ROOTED IN AND NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE BRILLIANCE AND VISION YOUNG PEOPLE BRING, AND REMAIN RESPONSIVE TO THE EVER-CHANGING NATURE OF YOUTH ACTIVISM.



AT A TIME WHEN THE PHILANTHROPIC SECTOR IS STEEPED IN FEAR, INSECURITY AND IN MANY WAYS FROZEN DUE TO UPHEAVAL AND EVER-CHANGING POLITICAL CONTEXTS, FRIDA REMAINS COMMITTED TO RESOURCING THE CHANGE WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE ARE CHAMPIONING GLOBALLY.

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WHY WE SHOULD KEEP FOCUS ON YOUTH ORGANIZING

RESOURCING YOUNG FEMINIST MOVEMENTS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF SUSTAINING THE EVOLUTION, CREATIVITY, AND RESILIENCE OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE ECOSYSTEM. THE FUTURE OF YOUNG FEMINIST ORGANIZING DEPENDS ON THE AUTONOMY, POWER, AND LEADERSHIP OF YOUNG PEOPLE, AND WHEN WE FUND YOUNG FEMINIST MOVEMENTS WE CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO KEEPING OUR MOVEMENTS ALIVE, AND RESPONSIVE TO THE WORLD AROUND US. IN THIS SPIRIT, FRIDA WILL CONTINUE TO FUND AND PLAY OUR ROLE AS AN INCUBATOR FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENTS.

FOR 15 YEARS, FRIDA HAS BEEN RESOURCING AND INCUBATING NASCENT, YOUNG FEMINIST MOVEMENTS IN MORE THAN 100 COUNTRIES ACROSS SIX REGIONS. WE HAVE FACED CHALLENGES AND LEARNED COUNTLESS LESSONS – EACH ONE SHAPING HOW WE GROW, ADAPT, AND SHOW UP FOR YOUNG FEMINISTS WITH CARE AND ACCOUNTABILITY. BY MAKING A CONTRIBUTION, YOU HELP ENSURE THAT YOUNG FEMINIST LEADERS HAVE THE RESOURCES, SAFETY, AND TRUST THEY NEED TO ORGANIZE BOLDLY AND SUSTAINABLY. *JOIN US IN RESOURCING THE NEXT 15 YEARS OF FEMINIST POWER.*

