

# OUR EARTH IS WORTH *MOBILIZING* FOR



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIR

**The need to address climate change has never been more urgent.** People, communities, and our planet are increasingly threatened by the impacts of the climate crisis. Meanwhile, polluters and their allies continue to oppose action on climate to protect their profits — increasing the scale and severity of the crisis.

At the same time, our nation's democracy — its institutions and processes — has been overtaken by interests that benefit from laws that suppress voting rights and subvert our core election systems, making it harder for people to vote for leaders who will address the climate crisis.

The communities who are most often disenfranchised by voter suppression laws — Black, Indigenous, Latine, and other communities of color, as well as immigrants, young people, and people with disabilities — are the same communities who bear the brunt of climate change and polluters' unchecked actions. These same communities are also more likely to care about climate and environmental justice and engage civically to advance these issues.

**Threats to our climate and democracy are inextricably linked**, and addressing both requires greater civic participation. To address these interconnected challenges, the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund (LCVEF):

- ✓ Expands voter participation
- ✓ Organizes and mobilizes for better policies
- ✓ Educates the public
- ✓ Builds grassroots power in communities
- ✓ Partners with and supports our 30+ state affiliates and other allies

LCVEF and our partners do this work — to strengthen our democracy, address the climate crisis, and advance environmental justice — because we envision a world with cleaner and healthier communities, informed and engaged voters, and a more just, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

**We're glad you're here, and we hope you'll join us in this work.**

Onward,



*Gene Karpinski*

Gene Karpinski  
LCVEF President



*Carol M. Browner*

Carol M. Browner  
LCVEF Board Chair

# WHAT WE WORK FOR



Civic Participation  
& Democracy



Long-Term  
Power Building



Equitable & Just  
Climate Progress



Healthy Communities  
& Public Lands

# WHO WE WORK ALONGSIDE

In addition to running our own programs — including one of the largest nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote efforts in the country — LCVEF is also a large grantmaker to partners in support of their critical work on issues of climate, democracy, conservation, and more. Partners include our 30+ state affiliated entities and our sister organization, the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), collectively known as the **Conservation Voters Movement**, or **CVM**. Examples of this work include:

- ✓ Educating the public and decision-makers on the importance of strong environmental and democracy policies
- ✓ Engaging with state and federal executive branch officials on rulemakings and the implementation of environmental and democracy laws
- ✓ Training the next generation of environmental activists and leaders in communities across the country



LCVEF supports our partners' and state affiliates' work to generate powerful, visible support for climate action in key locations around the country. We engage the public and demand action from leaders to tackle climate change, create good-paying clean energy jobs, and invest in communities that bear the brunt of environmental injustice.

Throughout this brochure, we will be referring to the work that we — LCVEF, LCV, and our CVM state affiliates — do together, in adherence with LCVEF's status as a 501(c)(3) organization. **Collectively, we are one of the most effective networks in the environmental and democracy spaces in the nation.**

# FOCUS AREA 1

## CIVIC PARTICIPATION & DEMOCRACY

Without a healthy democracy, we cannot have a healthy environment. To address the climate crisis, constituents must be able to participate fully in our democracy, and those who are facing the worst climate risks are most often also facing the greatest challenges casting their ballots. That's why LCVEF works to build a more just and equitable democracy that is responsive to all people and their will to protect the planet.

Our programs significantly increase participation in our nation's democracy by bringing new voters — especially from groups historically underrepresented in the electorate, including people of color and young people — into the electoral process. We also collaborate with state affiliates and national coalitions to advance policy solutions that increase people's ability to participate in elections, safeguard voters' access to the ballot box, and strengthen the freedom to vote.



# NONPARTISAN CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Our organization runs one of the largest and most dynamic nonpartisan civic engagement efforts in the nation and the largest, most impactful program within the environmental movement.

Since 2012, LCVEF has:

- ✓ Collected more than 1.7 million voter registration forms through mail, site-based, and online voter registration.
- ✓ Mobilized millions of low-propensity voters to turn out to the polls with door knocks, phone calls, text messages, and community events.
- ✓ Collaborated with artists and cultural strategy influencers to shape public narratives around civic engagement.



*The Independent Voter Registration Report has ranked LCV Education Fund among the most efficient large registration programs in the nation for the last four election cycles.*

# VOTING RIGHTS

In addition to voter registration and mobilization, LCVEF organizes community-driven campaigns that educate and move people to take collective action to protect the freedom to vote. We mobilize people to push back against attacks on voting rights and support state grassroots movements that work to advance state-specific voting rights, increase ballot access, and enact policies that make registering and voting safe and secure.



## JUDICIARY

The courts play a central role in enforcing, interpreting, upholding, and striking down the laws and regulations that protect our environment, climate, and voting rights. LCVEF works to educate and engage the public about the importance of the courts, including the process of appointing qualified, diverse judicial nominees with strong public-interest legal backgrounds to federal and state courts.



## DEMOCRACY FOR ALL

LCVEF's signature civic engagement initiative, Democracy for All, operates at the nexus of large-scale voter mobilization, transformational community engagement, and structural democracy reform to ensure that all communities have an equitable say in their elected representation. We make a special commitment to work in collaboration with the communities most impacted by democracy inequities and injustices, i.e., Black, Indigenous, Latine, and other communities of color, youth communities, and immigrant communities.

**MORE THAN 75% OF VOTERS  
REGISTERED THROUGH OUR DEMOCRACY FOR ALL  
PROGRAMS ARE PEOPLE OF COLOR**

## LONG-TERM POWER BUILDING

# FOCUS AREA 2

Communities of color and young people are among the first and worst affected by climate change — and have been too often left out of mainstream environmental organizations. Yet these same communities are also among the most committed to supporting strong government action to curb pollution and confront climate change.

To tackle climate change, restore democracy, and ensure the long-term health of all communities, LCVEF's community organizing programs focus on building a more powerful, cohesive, active, and racially inclusive CVM that engages Black, Indigenous, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Latine, and other communities of color, as well as immigrant, youth, and low-wealth communities, around federal, state, and local issues. Growing the power of these communities means advocating for solutions that are centered on the needs of and led by those most impacted.



# CHISPA

Chispa (Spanish for “spark”) builds the power of Latine communities and boosts local communities' civic participation with the single aim of creating healthier environments in communities of color who are too often disproportionately impacted by harmful environmental policies. Chispa wields the power of people to rally and engage grassroots advocates and leaders, drive awareness of policies and inclusiveness in representation, and boost local communities' participation in governance and democracy to secure people's right to clean air, clean water, clean energy, and a healthy environment.

With more than 20,000 volunteers and 950 *promotorxs* (community leaders), Chispa has a robust presence in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Nevada, and Texas.



## CLEAN BUSES FOR HEALTHY NIÑOS

A co-founder and convener of the Alliance for Electric School Buses, Chispa has been a leader in working with local, state, and federal decision-makers to commit to electrifying our nation's school bus fleets. Chispa community leaders have been at the forefront of this work since 2017, raising awareness around the connection between dirty diesel school buses and childhood asthma rates that disproportionately impact Latine communities and other communities of color. To date, Chispa's Clean Buses for Healthy Niños campaign has been leading the effort to procure federal investments for clean rides for kids, securing **\$5 billion in federal funding to replace dirty diesel buses — doubling the number of electric buses in use since 2022**, decreasing toxic diesel exposure for millions of children, and reducing CO2 emissions.

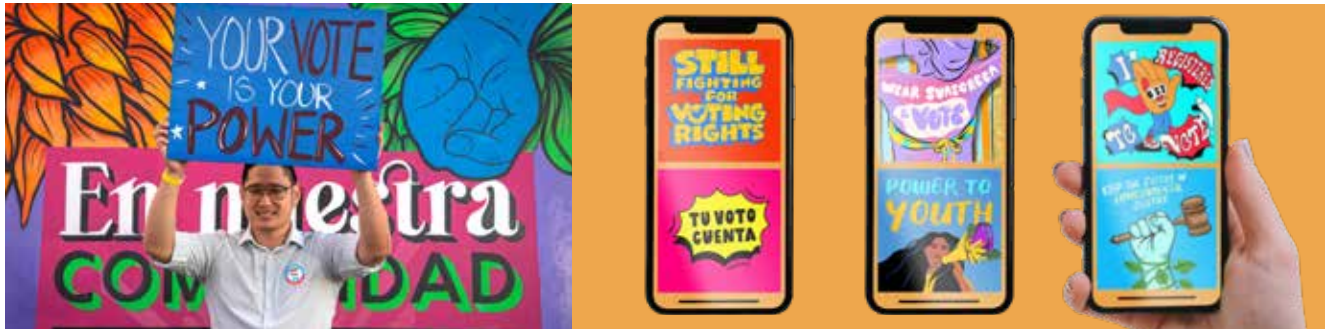


Photo by Deanna Dent



# CULTURAL & DIGITAL ORGANIZING

LCVEF coordinates nonpartisan cultural organizing efforts to help shape civic narratives among people traditionally excluded from the political process, especially young people and people of color. On the ground, we engage in unique “Artivism” installations — public exhibitions of LCVEF-commissioned artwork that provide opportunities for public engagement and media coverage. Online, we use digital tools, including digital parties via social media platforms, educational webinars, and shareable graphics (e.g., GIFs and memes) to generate interest and debate. These tactics are symbiotic: Our digital work complements and bolsters our in-person organizing and engagement, while our in-person work drives organic online participation.



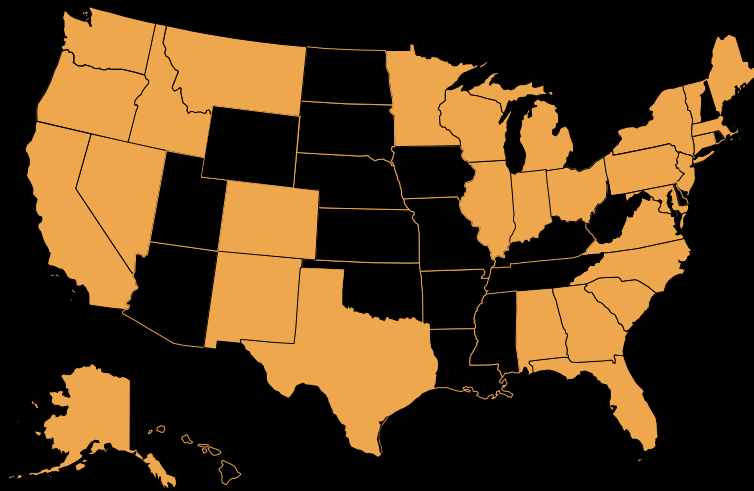
# LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

LCVEF provides training programs to prepare climate action leaders for success. To date, we have trained more than 160 people across the country:

- ✓ Through our Leadership & Elected Official Development programs, LCVEF provides newly elected environmental leaders with opportunities to improve their governance skills and become the strong policy leaders our movement needs.
- ✓ Our Boards and Commissions Fellowship supports the development of leaders from historically underrepresented communities and prepares them to serve on state and local boards. To date, we have trained 50+ leaders who are actively supporting sound environmental policies on boards across the country.



# THE COLLECTIVE POWER OF THE CONSERVATION VOTERS MOVEMENT



■ STATE AFFILIATES

The Conservation Voters Movement (**CVM**) is a powerful network of 30+ state organizations that work in partnership with LCVEF. Together, we use grassroots activism to increase civic participation, elevate climate action in the public debate, and build long-term power for our communities and our movement.

Now, more than ever, the CVM's ability to push for state and local progress, while also driving federal action, is vital to the future of our climate and democracy.

## The CVM sets LCVEF apart from other organizations in our ability to:

- ✓ Educate and mobilize the public on state and federal opportunities and threats around issues of climate, environmental justice, clean energy, and democracy.
- ✓ Quickly scale our grassroots organizing efforts by leveraging existing infrastructure and staff, partnerships with communities and coalitions, and on-the-ground knowledge of state and local realities.
- ✓ Utilize the expertise of highly skilled staff to train new staff and replicate organizing and mobilization tactics that have been successful in other states.
- ✓ Partner with state coalitions on voting rights and ballot access issues, and work at the local level to build community support and increase civic participation.
- ✓ Work collectively to advance state and local solutions on climate, clean energy, and environmental justice, which add up to lower emissions and healthier communities across the country.

Thanks to years of investment by partners like you, this is the collective power of the CVM.

## EQUITABLE & JUST CLIMATE PROGRESS

# FOCUS 3 AREA 3

Climate impacts — from severe storms to heat waves to wildfires — are affecting the safety, health, and livelihoods of people across the country at unprecedented levels, with people in low-wealth communities harmed disproportionately. Those who live near oil and gas wells and coal-fired power plants — often people of color — suffer additional pollution and associated health burdens.

As a result of unjust policies, these communities' environments have deteriorated, and residents are more often exposed to harmful chemicals and contaminated soil and water that cause serious health conditions, including birth defects, cancer, and respiratory problems such as asthma. These devastating impacts will continue to worsen unless our nation equitably transitions from toxic fossil fuels to a clean energy future at the speed that science and justice demand.



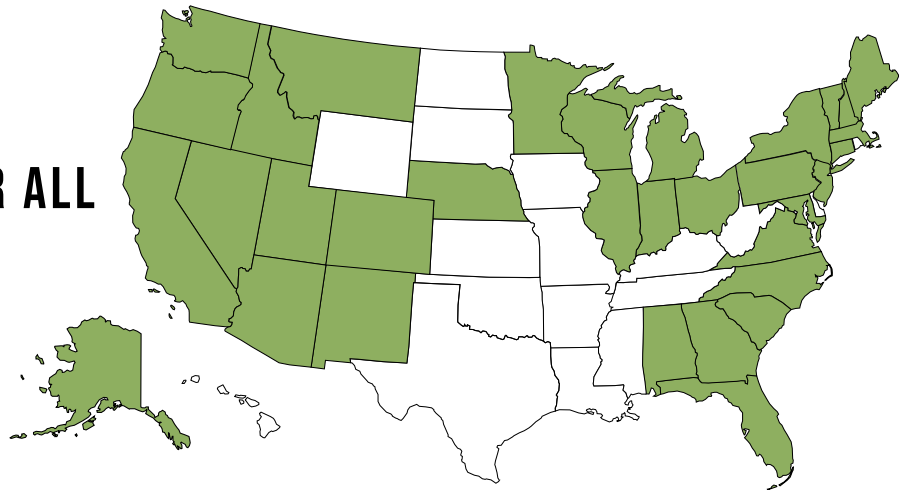
# CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL

In 2018, in the absence of federal leadership on climate and clean energy, we launched a nationwide grassroots movement to reject dirty fossil fuels and embrace clean energy through action at the state and local levels: the Clean Energy for All (CEFA) campaign. Over the last six years, the CEFA campaign has had a significant impact on clean energy policies, and it continues to result in new progress with every passing month through the coordinated work of the CVM.

The CEFA campaign works at the state and local levels to:

- ✓ Demonstrate grassroots demand for clean energy and pollution-free communities.
- ✓ Educate the public and decision-makers on the benefits of 100% clean energy.
- ✓ Encourage state and local lawmakers to take swift action to end fossil fuel dependence and break down barriers to clean energy.
- ✓ Push for smart investments that reduce air pollution, combat the climate crisis, and promote environmental justice.
- ✓ Secure strong, equitable implementation of statewide climate and 100% clean energy legislation.

**33 STATES WITH  
CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL  
CAMPAIGNS**



**MORE THAN 40% OF PEOPLE IN THE U.S.  
LIVE IN A PLACE THAT HAS COMMITTED  
TO 100% CLEAN ENERGY**





Photo by Jay Chen, Unsplash

## WHAT IS EQUITABLE & JUST CLIMATE PROGRESS?

Systemic racism and injustice have exposed economically disadvantaged communities, Tribal communities, and communities of color to the highest levels of toxic pollution and environmental degradation, and to disproportionate effects of climate change. To address these realities, LCVEF and its sister organization, LCV, were proud to be supportive of the development of the Equitable & Just National Climate Platform, a historic, bold set of principles that advance a shared vision in which national climate action confronts racial, economic, and environmental injustice and enacts deep cuts in climate pollution, while accelerating a pollution-free energy future that benefits all communities.

## CLIMATE ACTION ORGANIZING

Science-based actions to tackle climate change and advance environmental justice are widely supported by the public. LCVEF plays a critical role in ensuring that climate action remains at the center of public debate, and that pro-environment decision-makers deliver on their commitments to cut U.S. climate pollution and meet the environmental justice goal — known as Justice40 — to direct at least 40% of benefits to reduce pollution, advance clean energy solutions, and create jobs to low-wealth communities and communities of color.



LCVEF has supported the work of our partners and state affiliates to help demonstrate the strength of public support for climate action through powerful organizing, mobilizing, and consistent earned and paid media, and we've engaged at an unprecedented scale to generate visible support for climate action in more states than ever before.



LCVEF, in collaboration with our partners, has supported field-based Climate Action programs in various states since 2014. These programs — with ongoing operations in Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia — have generated more than 75,000 volunteers who have made phone calls, collected signatures, attended events, and advocated on behalf of climate action.

*LCVEF's support has helped to make climate action a unifying priority for local, state, and federal decision-makers, with leaders across the country echoing our calls to seize this historic and narrow opportunity to tackle the climate crisis.*



## YOUTH ORGANIZING

Younger generations will experience the impacts of climate change more acutely, yet their perspectives are often excluded from debates about climate policies. Our organizing programs, including Climate Action and Chispa, are focused on creating an expansive pool of volunteers between the ages of 18 and 35, who organize to build pressure for climate progress. For this reason, college and high school campuses continue to be a central focus in our organizing efforts.

**40%** OF OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 35

# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES & PUBLIC LANDS

# FOCUS AREA 4

Due to systemic racism and unjust policies, low-wealth communities, Indigenous communities, and communities of color often experience the highest pollution burdens and are disproportionately impacted by environmental health issues, including lead poisoning from paint and drinking water, failing water infrastructure, unaffordable water rates, proximity to highly polluted Superfund sites, toxic landfills and dangerous industrial facilities, and more.

As our nation moves away from fossil fuels and works to clean up industrial activities that pollute our air and water, it is critical that we address this legacy pollution and ensure that every community can live in a healthy, safe environment.

Similarly, safeguarding our nation's public lands and oceans is essential to fostering a healthy, sustainable environment for all and to addressing the climate and biodiversity crises through nature-based solutions.



# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

LCVEF's Healthy Communities program works at the intersection of human health and the environment, focusing on eliminating pollution in air, water, soil, and food that jeopardizes the health of families and communities. We work to:

- ✓ Ensure that new investments in water infrastructure are directed to low-income communities and communities of color, who bear a disproportionate share of the water pollution burden and have been unfairly excluded from infrastructure investments.
- ✓ Educate lawmakers about the need to make further investments in crumbling water infrastructure, especially by replacing 100% of toxic lead service lines across the country and tackling the water affordability crisis.
- ✓ Push for strengthening federal regulations to protect clean air and water, and advocate for badly needed environmental protections to improve public health.



Photo by Monstera, Pexels

## ELIMINATING THE USE OF “FOREVER CHEMICALS”

LCVEF engages federal policymakers around the need to ban the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), known as “forever chemicals” because they do not break down in the environment or human body. Despite the harmful health impacts of PFAS — including developmental issues, cancer, and hormonal issues — companies are still using PFAS in everyday household products, from food packaging to dental floss, and dumping PFAS into our water and air. After years of engagement and education, LCVEF was instrumental in getting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to create and launch its EPA Roadmap to Combat PFAS Pollution, an all-of-government approach to tackling the growing PFAS crisis. Still, there is much more to do to eliminate the use of these dangerous chemicals, and we continue to engage and educate leaders on the need to deliver the protections our communities need.



*Our nation has an opportunity to fundamentally change how conservation is pursued as we increase the pace and scale of nature protection and make access to nature more equitable.*

## 30x30

The U.S. loses a football field of natural area every 30 seconds to development, and the world is at risk of losing 1 million plant and wildlife species to extinction, including over 1,600 species in the U.S. These losses hasten and worsen the impacts of climate change. LCVEF is part of a coalition of conservation organizations campaigning to permanently protect 30% of our nation's lands and oceans by 2030, and to do so in a way that makes access to nature more equitable. By reaching this critical goal, known as 30x30, our nation can ensure that all people have access to nature and its benefits and help meet greenhouse gas reduction targets.



Photo by Juliane Liebermann, Unsplash

## ENDING FOSSIL FUEL DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS

LCVEF has and continues to push for a transition away from fossil fuel development on the public estate, with a focus on ending offshore and onshore drilling, protecting sensitive landscapes such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and preserving those lands as areas that safely sequester carbon. We build public support for policies that harness the power of our public lands in the fight against climate change and preserve our majestic landscapes by ending drilling and mining on public lands.



Photo by Sara Wolman, USFWS

# CROSS-CUTTING STRATEGIES

## DEEP COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Through long-term, culturally competent community organizing, LCVEF and the CVM meet communities where they are and form lasting relationships to help engage and mobilize people around the issues that impact them most.

## AUTHENTIC PARTNERSHIPS

While LCVEF is more powerful than ever before, we alone cannot achieve meaningful progress on our priorities. We work to forge genuine, authentic partnerships with climate, democracy, and environmental justice organizations, organizations led by people of color, labor unions, and our partners in the states.

## INTEGRATED STATE & FEDERAL STRATEGIES

Together, LCVEF and the CVM have the power and expertise to execute sophisticated and dynamic large-scale programs that engage and mobilize people around local, state, and national issues.

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING

LCVEF and the CVM are cultivating the next generation of pro-environment, pro-democracy leaders through education and training, and fostering a racially and geographically diverse set of candidates and elected officials who will enact and implement pro-environment policies at the local level.

## POWERFUL, CULTURALLY RELEVANT STORYTELLING

Through digital content and in-person experiences that tell powerful stories and authentically engage in art, music, and popular culture, we connect with communities and inspire emotion around democracy and climate to shape public narratives, educate audiences, and engage voters.



# YOUR INVESTMENT HAS IMPACT

As a funding partner of LCVEF, you play a critical role in our success. The generosity of partners like you has helped us build a powerful movement and advance important progress on climate, democracy, environmental justice, and more. To continue this urgent work, we need your investment. **Here are some examples of what this work costs:**

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**\$5,000,000** Fund nonpartisan voter registration programs directed at low-propensity voters in traditionally underrepresented communities in five states.

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**\$2,000,000** Support state-level public education programs driving equitable policies to eliminate fossil fuels and advance 100% clean energy.

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**\$1,000,000** Help expand operations of our newest Chispa state programs, Chispa Texas and Chispa Florida, for a full year.

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**\$500,000** Supercharge our efforts to drive 250,000 public comments that push for White House and/or executive agency actions to reduce unhealthy pollution and tackle climate change.

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**\$250,000** Build a ladder of volunteer engagement in a state to drive new voters into long-term organizing efforts.

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**\$100,000** Support policy research that informs how state and local decision-makers can implement federal clean energy investments to advance equitable clean energy policies.

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**\$50,000** Train a new class of local leaders to serve on appointed boards and commissions, developing the skills and knowledge needed to drive bold environmental action.

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**\$25,000** Develop 50 Latine community members as *promotorxs* (leaders) to organize locally for climate justice and a strong democracy.

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**\$10,000** Launch a local art activation to drive public and media attention to the need for action on climate and/or democracy issues.

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**\$5,000** Run a monthlong online public education campaign around priority democracy, climate, and environmental health issues.



Our Earth Is Worth Mobilizing For

**For more information or to get involved, visit [lcvef.org](http://lcvef.org)**

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