

## THIRD WAVE FUND

### English Transcript

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#### **Mic Check! Podcast**

**Episode 01:** Abolishing Police and ICE, and the Myth of Separate Movements

**Guests:** Hannah Baptiste of Assata's Daughters and Yessica Gonzalez of Immigrant Youth Coalition

**Total Run Time:** 39:07

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#### **Intro:**

Can you say mic check? *[Various voices saying "Mic Check"]* You're listening to Mic Check!, a podcast featuring conversations with young women, intersex, queer, and trans folks of color about what it's really like on the frontlines and backlines of the fight for gender justice, and how listeners can best support grassroots movements.

*[music interludes: "Nina and the Moon" by DJ Tikka Masala]*

#### **Tara Tabassi:**

For over 20 years, Third Wave has funded youth-led activism & organizing across the United States. And has supported emerging organizations that lack access to philanthropy. We believe that young women, intersex, queer, and trans youth of color are vital to all movements for justice. Third Wave Fund exists because the precise communities who experience the bulk of oppression still exist at the margins of philanthropy.

#### **Monica Trinidad:**

Alright, everybody ready?

#### **Tara Tabassi:**

*[makes warming up sound followed by laughter from everyone]*

#### **Monica Trinidad:**

I'm Monica Trinidad.

#### **Tara Tabassi:**

And I'm Tara Tabassi. and we're so excited that you're listening to our podcast! In this inaugural episode, we chat with LA-based organizer Yessica Gonzalez of Immigrant Youth Coalition, and Chicago-based organizer Hannah Baptiste of Assata's Daughters. Both organizations receive multi-year support through Third Wave's Grow Power Fund and have also been grantees of the Mobilize Power Fund for urgent activist and organizing needs in their communities.

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### **Hannah Baptiste:**

My name is Hannah Baptiste, I am a DC, born and raised, first-generation person whose parents are from Trinidad. And that's very close to my heart. I'm a queer person who grew up in queer radical theater nerd community, and that's also part of my political home. I organize with Assata's Daughters, and I also build software that helps people manage wind farms. And I just am a person of many contradictions, and that's how I prefer to live my life.

### **Tara Tabassi:**

Assata's Daughters is an intergenerational collective of radical Black girls, women, and gender non-conforming people located in Chicago's Washington Park neighborhood. Their organization provides young people with political education and leadership development that is necessary for them to achieve the things they want to see in their community.

### **Yessica Gonzalez:**

So I'm Yessica Gonzalez, I'm queer, illegal as fuck, femme, um, yeah I was born in Mexico, Tijuana, but like my family has been migrating all over the place. Grew up in the Inland Empire in like, this little city. But lived in San Diego somewhere in high school, up until like two years ago. So now I'm in Los Angeles, and so constantly migrating. I have a puppy who I love very much. It's national puppy day, so if we wanna talk about puppies, we can talk about puppies later. I love animals. I also organize with the Immigrant Youth Coalition and I started organizing since I was 17. And it's been such a big part of who I am, and my close family as well.

### **Monica Trinidad:**

Immigrant Youth Coalition is an undocumented and queer & trans youth-led organization based in California. Their mission is to mobilize youth, families, and incarcerated people to end the criminalization of immigrants and people of color. From rapid-response, deportation defense work, packing the courts, and youth organizing leadership programs, Immigrant Youth Coalition pushes for the voices of those most directly impacted to be at the forefront of our movements.

### **Tara Tabassi:**

I guess we should introduce ourselves, right?

### **Monica Trinidad:**

Yes definitely, so my name is Monica Trinidad, I'm a queer, Latinx artist and organizer based in Chicago, and I'm also the Communications Officer for Third Wave Fund. In Chicago, I'm part of this collective called For the People Artists Collective, there's about 17 of us, all Black artists and artists of color, and we work to make the radical power of art accessible to organizations and

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efforts in our city. The philanthropy world is super new to me, even with over 10 years of community organizing experience, but I'm really excited that I get to enter this world with Third Wave Fund.

**Tara Tabassi:**

My name is Tara Tabassi, I'm a queer Iranian-American activist living in New York City. I am an anti-militarist organizer at the War Resisters League, and besides tearing down the arms trade, I like to build up community gardens, plant-based healing and telling stories through illustration. I also really love when activists have spaces to talk through our visions for collective liberation, so big love and gratitude to my co-host Monica for dreaming up this podcast!

**Tara Tabassi:**

Hey Monica, you wanna hear a joke?

**Monica Trinidad:**

Sure why not.

**Tara Tabassi:**

What did one shepherd say to the other during a lightning storm?

**Monica Trinidad:**

I don't know.

**Tara Tabassi:**

Let's get the flock outta here.

**Tara Tabassi:**

So let's just jump in, ya'll! Yessica, and then Hannah, what's a day in the life of an Immigrant Youth Coalitioner and a day in the life of an Assata's Daughter?

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

Yeah, I think that it's ever-evolving. I think that for a long time, we were doing a lot of reactionary work, or having to do a lot of reactionary mobilizing, organizing, "Oh, shit somebody from our family has been taken, somebody from our community has been taken," how do you do this work, right? Because a lot of the times IYC has created these models that haven't been replicated in a lot of different places, or like, we're usually the ones to get called on in terms of doing deportation defense.

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

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And so then that has really made us shift into like, doing a lot of reactionary work to now, the average day looks like organizing a lot of internal spaces, a lot of more so rebuilding who we are, but that doesn't mean we don't have to reactionary work. Yesterday, the past two days, I went on a 24-hour trip to Las Vegas to do a court support. And so then it's still like, on the clock. It's work that I hold close to my heart, so it's not bad, right? But, yeah.

### **Hannah Baptiste:**

Word. Yeah, I would say like, similarly that the work looks different for different members of Assata's Daughters, and it has evolved over time. When we started, we were sort of like a group, a collective of many Black women and children. And it looked like spending days organizing actions, developing curriculum, bringing young people together for dinner before programming, taking them on field trips, visiting other radical Chicago organizations so that they could get exposure to like, what our communities that we're in solidarity with are doing. And growing our programs to, working with five year olds, six year olds, eight year olds, and then working with teenagers. That was sort of in our beginning.

### **Hannah Baptiste:**

And now, day to day looks like creating a space, like an actual physical space where young people can come in and drop in whenever they want and get access to resources. Being more specifically embedded in our Washington Park community. Just providing more of a space for folks to kind of be in community with each other, but also be brought up in a specific tradition of Black radical resistance.

### **Monica Trinidad:**

Both Hannah and Yessica came into this work as youth organizers, and so we asked them how their organizations actively build up the leadership of young people. Turns out, the main advice they give is to listen, and build close, authentic relationships.

### **Yessica Gonzalez:**

There's this model that we've been trying to implement, or like, we implemented without even thinking that we were implementing it of leadership development. It's like you see one, or you kinda get involved with a workshop let's say for this instance, and then you co-lead a workshop, and then you're able to lead a workshop yourself, and support the leadership development of other folks, and then for the purpose of a workshop, right?

### **Yessica Gonzalez:**

And it's always really rewarding seeing somebody who you co-led one, and be able to branch off and be able to support other youth, that has been a really big model for us.

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### **Hannah Baptiste:**

Yeah, yeah, I would say that's definitely an overlap. Just creating an environment where young people who are getting more engaged in the work can take on more and more leadership roles, in whatever capacity. So maybe for instance with our teen program, or with the young people that we're organizing who are teenagers, we started out with small cohorts of young people who are getting trained in like Organizing 101, Black Feminism 101, like, What is Abolition, What is the PIC, and then over time they started to develop their own programming scopes and sequences. They started wanting to lead workshops.

### **Hannah Baptiste:**

Now, things have evolved to the point where we have multiple cohorts, and we have a leaders' circle. And they're really informing the shape and direction of what we're doing, what campaigns we're leading, they're on the front lines. But not just as tokens or as people who are just like, the face, but actually taking direction and leadership from them. And I think the way that that's developed is a lot just by listening. Organizers are not just supposed to be there, having all the ideas and saying this is what we're doing, but more so trying to facilitate other people coming out and finding what their special way of contributing is gonna look like. So I feel like it just looks different case to case, and I think it looks like having, building close enough relationships with young people where you can like, figure out how to facilitate them coming into their own.

### **Tara Tabassi:**

What comes hand-in-hand with youth organizing is many -isms, but most particularly....ageism. We asked Hannah and Yessica if they wanted to share any experiences they've had with ageism and adultism in their organizations.

### **Hannah Baptiste:**

I think speaking with my fundraising hat on, a lot of times I feel like funders wanna hear like ... they need evidence that you are effective. And as a youth-led organization, or a youth organizing group, I feel like a lot of times that's represented as like, "Put your young people on a stage for us, and perform how amazing your young people are."

### **Hannah Baptiste:**

And I feel like that's a form of ageism in the sense that it's like, I don't know, it just feels sometimes like a little bit disingenuous, just to assume that like, by picking a few representatives to speak on an issue, that that's gonna represent what your organization effectiveness is?

### **Yessica Gonzalez:**

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Yeah, ageism is such a like, controlled environment especially, it makes a big play especially in the immigrant rights' movement. Particularly one because the idea of youth work has been so overpowered by DACA, Dreamers, Dream Act, right? So how do you push and make a change or impact in trying to go beyond that, and say how criminalizing that is for our communities, right?

### **Yessica Gonzalez:**

And so then that's I think one of the ways, at least when I was younger or like coming into this work younger, in my teens, seeing how like, it was all respectability politics. Especially being in these funder meetings, I was like, "What the fuck are these people talking about? I don't understand." But then having that debrief at the end and I was like, "Oh, okay, okay." Right? And I think that a lot of the times, yeah, they want to either see results but they don't, in terms of you were saying Hannah, like, funders want to see results, but funders aren't investing in our own leadership growth as young people. So then that's like the part where like, "Yeah, you want us to have all of these built structures, but at the same time, you're not implementing the work that," or like, "Investing in us to create those structures." But then you want us to have the same outcomes with these non-profits that have like, years of experience, they have people, millions and millions of dollars, but at the same time, right?

### **Hannah Baptiste:**

Yeah, I think that's an excellent point too, like the point about how even the radical politics of younger organizers, the fact that that will be totally disregarded until it becomes trendy, that is another form of ageism. It's like, young people have been out here saying like, "fuck the police," right? But now that there's more of this acceptable way of talking about, not even abolition, but like prison reform, it's like, "Oh, there's some credibility to what Black young people have been saying literally forever." So yeah, that's definitely an aspect of ageism showing up there.

### **Monica Trinidad:**

One of the things that both Assata's Daughters and Immigrant Youth Coalition have in common is that abolition is a framework that is centered in their vision. We thought this conversation on youth-led strategies around dismantling ICE, and dismantling police would be really important to listen to.

### **Hannah Baptiste:**

I would say like, abolition is, like you said, it's the vision that frames our work. And it's also a practice, right? There's way that, specifically like, what is abolition, right? It's this belief that we have to totally abolish all of the systems and structures that support not just the ability for prisons

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and punishment to exist, but also specifically the system of anti-Blackness to exist, which is one of the foundations for prisons and incarceration to begin with.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

So our work is framed around the idea that like, Black young people are going to be the specific rift that will shift that structure. Because Black young people are specifically able to organize around this issue as people who are directly impacted by it in so many facets. Not just materially, but also culturally, emotionally, mentally. So organizing young Black people who face this specific historical legacy of anti-Blackness and prisons is really, really powerful, because we can start to create a sense of political consciousness to be aware of what is the history of... Here's this condition that we are in, right? That you are in, that young Black people are in, like how we can start to put an analytical lens on why do those conditions exist? What are the root causes of those things, right? And you peel back those layers and the answer is if we abolish these systems, we wouldn't face these conditions.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

So that's why our work is driven around that, because there's really no other way of trying to address the problems that we see in our communities without really getting at the thing that makes it all possible, right?

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

Yeah, thank you Hannah for that. I think that like, similarly, like I said, immigrant work or in a sphere of immigrant justice, the mainstream has continued to tell us that citizenship is the answer, right? "We need reform, we need immigration reform." And so then being younger, or like, being like, "Well, what does that mean to have immigration reform for this generation of people? Does that mean that like immigration is automatically solved?"

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

I think that was a really big breakthrough for me to understand, "Nah, we need to tackle the root causes of immigration. Why are people migrating?" Right? And at the end of the day, it's all of these -isms. And in order to be really be able to get immigration, immigrant justice, and for our people to continue to see a better world, we need to abolish the systems at play, right?

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

But I think that abolition, larger in IYC, it looks a lot like re-seeing, or re-envisioning where our work is currently aligned with. And I think that in the past few months, we have been looking at like, "Is our work more aligned with folks who center immigration, or folks who center, and do we wanna be the prison abolition lens to the immigration focus, or is it more around the prison



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abolition and folks who center prison abolition, and we can be the immigration lens?" And I think we're veering more towards the latter at this point, 'cause like, yeah, people got work to do.

### **Hannah Baptiste:**

Yes. Yeah, and there's a lot of solidarity across that, right? To your point, like, the ways that immigration laws work are ... Like, the root reasons that they're there are the same root, or similar root reasons why anti-Blackness exists, right? So being able to forge that solidarity around the concept of like, "Fuck the reformist aspect of it," like, "Sure, we can have dreamers and have more programs to keep people here," but how do we question the whole concept of the border itself? How do we question the whole concept of citizenship itself? And this whole humanitarian lens that we talk a lot about a lot of social issues through, right? Like, Black people in the states and immigrants basically I think are swept under the bus under both of those frameworks, right? And I think abolition gives us something to work together under to question the whole root reason why both those structures exist.

### **Yessica Gonzalez:**

Yeah, and I think that it's like, even though it's hella interconnected, right? Folks like, especially for Black immigrants, when you get citizenship you're still gonna be a target for the police. It doesn't absolve anything, right? Like, we're still functioning under this system that is perpetually harming us, and its end-goal is to kill us, right? And so at the end of the day, and I mean kill us as people of color, but at the end of the day me getting citizenship isn't gonna stop me from still being a target for the police.

### **Tara Tabassi:**

Yessica and Hannah have been dropping all the abolitionist brilliance on this podcast, so we asked them how they could better support each other's work. And then they went in, landing us in the biggest abolitionist question of the day: Do we even share the same vision for liberation?

### **Yessica Gonzalez:**

I think that for me, or like, in the immigrant scope, it's just like really understanding the way that different narratives painted by mainstream and being critical on how that further pushes folks into the carceral system, right?

### **Yessica Gonzalez:**

I'll make this comparison, 'cause it really is something that really frustrates me. So a lot of folks in Los Angeles, let me center this in Los Angeles, have been saying, "Stop the 3.5 billion jail expansion," right? And so that's been really big, and it's been like, "Yeah, fuck that shit. Let's shut down prisons."



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**Yessica Gonzalez:**

But then right away, turn the other side, and they're like, "Yeah, let's support DACA," or like, "Let's support," and they centralize these frameworks, and this messaging of model minority youth, right? And so if you think about it, who's DACA protecting? It's protecting folks who are contributing to this country, you can't have any interactions with the law, you can't have any record, and you literally have to be this model minority idea of a young person who's gonna be continuing to contribute to society.

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

And so then, right? And so then you think about like, "Yeah, we wanna end the jails," but then who are you pushing into the same jail system by saying, "Defend DACA," or only upholding DACA, right?

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

And so then really talking about how we need to continue to uplift narratives like Not One More deportation.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

Yeah. I totally agree with you about kind of breaking down what's underneath different messages, right?

**Hannah Baptiste:**

I think that there's so many folks working across different ideological landscapes around these issues that I think it's really important to figure out like, "Do we have the same vision for liberation?" You know? To your point Yessica about folks who are like, "Yeah, let's shut down these prisons," but like, "Let's still support DACA." Are we really thinking about the world in the same ways? Do we want the same world?

**Hannah Baptiste:**

Because those two things don't make sense together, right? If you're against prisons and police and you understand why we're fighting for a world without them, it doesn't make sense that we would support a vision for the world where only some people are granted humanity in this state. So I think there's a lot of work that we could do around coming up with creative ways to totally re-frame the ways that there can be unity across these issues. Around the specific manifestations that come up in different communities.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

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But like, more specifically, "Are we gonna be able to have a sustained relationship in solidarity with each other, because we love each other, we actually want the same thing for our people."

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

Right, and going off of that, I think that a lot of the times, right now we're having a conversation but I'm also thinking of all the other young folks in IYC or all the other young folks in Assata's Daughters, when do we have time to strategically plan like, "Are we going for the same vision? Does our liberation look the same?" Right?

**Tara Tabassi:**

For real. 'Cause if we're trying to do like, no cops, no ICE, no armies, we need to coordinate so hard. [laughter]

**Hannah Baptiste:**

Could it just be a Twitter chat?

**Monica Trinidad:**

Hey, there's a comms person here that's pro-Twitter chats, but I hear you.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

Yes, and. Yes, and.

**Monica Trinidad:**

There you go.

**Tara Tabassi:**

Yeah, I feel like y'all are holding so much abolitionist bad-assery down on your work, and I'm just curious like, do you talk about that in your grant applications or with funders?

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

I think that for IYC, I'm not sure, I'm not the development person entirely, but I think that even if we don't say abolitionist, a lot of our work says it, right? And we don't necessarily have to say this, or like a word, to say what we are. But I think that later on when folks do come to do site visits or anything, we're like "Nah, we're abolitionists."

**Hannah Baptiste:**

For Assata's, since I putting my fundraiser hat on, yeah, we always talk about that shit. For us, we don't really try to get into partnerships with funders, 'cause honestly if you're taking a grant

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from a funder it's some kind of partnership. And I say that reluctantly, because you're not always gonna have perfect funders. There's no such thing as that.

### **Hannah Baptiste:**

And yeah, that's why grassroots fundraising is so important to our work, because if it's dependent on some nice rich people, that's never... you know what I mean? I mean we can get into like, “what’s the vision for funding the revolution?”, but, the way that I’ve helped to shape the fundraising at Assata’s, if we can’t put that forward, it’s probably not going to work out.

### **Monica Trinidad:**

This podcast has so many different goals, but one in particular is hearing directly from organizers on their experiences with the philanthropy field so that we can fundamentally change it to better serve activism and organizing across the country. So we asked Hannah and Yessica, how can funders be better about respecting organizer’s time and priorities?

### **Hannah Baptiste:**

Yeah I think, you know, this is a big question. So the philanthropy world I think has a lot of humbling to do, right? You think about, how does philanthropy exist? Our country is a capitalist country, so all these rich people make excess money and then the work that can be funded is just whether or not a rich person decides they care about an issue. Honestly that's how it works.

### **Hannah Baptiste:**

And then they set up organizations that are named after them, and they set up these staffs of people to go out and create programs to give that money into those worlds. And I think what can happen is that those programs become like, fiefdoms inside these philanthropic organizations. Where the people who manage giving away all this money start to feel like they're the leader of the field. And I think that's a fundamental dynamic that is super problematic that results in a lot of the weird dynamics between organizers and funders, because program officers, and I'm saying this as a former grant-maker, they get really excited about their ideas and forget that the work is about supporting people who are actually out there with their skin in the game, and not about propping up yourself, or creating this cool area of funding. Right?

### **Hannah Baptiste:**

So something like really egregious that happened once was that we didn't know that we owed this super long report after we got this grant that was like, through multiple different organizations. And we like, found out that we were late on this report that was like, 40 pages. And it just was really stressful, 'cause like I said, we were staffed at that point like a volunteer collective. So that meant that like, a ton of us had to put in a lot of extra time to quickly get it

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done, and it was... Actually, when we got into it, it wasn't even a report, it was almost like a research study on Assata's, and like our work, and all of these things that... I wish that it had been approached differently, right? Like, ask for my consent to do research on us. Don't frame it as a report.

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

Yeah I think that Hannah mentioned this really good, like the communication aspect of it, of checking in with youth organizations, right? 'Cause again, there's this big expectation that at the end of funding cycle, you're supposed to submit the same level of report back that these other organizations with years of experience, five staff per, right? Are supposed to submit back.

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

And I think that the communication piece has been something that's like, lacking really significantly. Especially when it's like, "Oh, hey here's the money." And then you don't hear from funders again. Like, "Nah, check in with me. This is a partnership," you know? Like, "Yeah, you're giving us money, but at the end of the day, I need like, 'Oh, hey are you doing well? Is there any resources we can provide?'"

**Tara Tabassi:**

We really heard what Yessica and Hannah were saying about the fundamental, problematic dynamics that can occur between funders and grassroots organizers, and we really hope folks in the philanthropy field that are listening will sit with these messages. As two amazing youth-led, abolitionist organizations fighting for gender, racial, and immigrant justice, we wanted to hear from Hannah and Yessica on not only the struggles of youth organizing, but the magic of it, too.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

I think the struggle with youth organizing is that if you're doing it with heart, the basis of it is building relationships. And so, I mean that's the struggle and the magic, because the closer you get to someone, and the closer you get to people, the more you love them and the more it hurts when they go through pain and when they struggle. And being in that collective struggle is both beautiful, and also a struggle.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

So I'll just say that's it. The messiness of relationships and the beauty of those relationships, and how transformative they are.

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

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Dang, that was beautiful. Yeah, I think that part of it is also, as young people the expectations of having to have your life together, having to keep everything in, right? Is a struggle, but then at the same time, yeah those relationships built, and just seeing young people flourish and change, and have these dope-ass analysis, and I'm just like, "Hell yeah, you didn't even, you had that in you all along," right? "And you just needed some extra access to these spaces."

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

Like, seeing young people flourish is the most beautiful thing.

**Monica Trinidad:**

And speaking of flourishing, if you could imagine a time where your work is completely 100% funded, in a future that is abundant, what would your work look like? What would be possible?

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

Let me tell you. First of all, everybody would be getting stipends, everybody would be like, "Hell yeah, that's labor." Second of all, we would have healthcare, up to this point none of us are able to afford healthcare. First of all, we don't have access to anything as folks who don't have papers, but second of all, we don't have money for healthcare. Like mental health treatment. Just like, if we were to get injured or anything, we don't have access to that.

**Monica Trinidad:**

You already knew. There was not a second.

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

I know. I was like, "Let me tell you. If anybody listening to this wants to drop some coin for our healthcare, let me tell you."

**Hannah Baptiste:**

Word. Yo, we could talk offline about that. I can, I mean Assata's just recently set some stuff up and your situation's probably different, but let's talk.

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

Let's talk.

**Monica Trinidad:**

Yes, this is the magic.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

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Yeah. If our work was completely funded, like I was thinking about this question in two ways, and I know this has to be short, but I was thinking about the version where the world is abundant, so everything's been abolished, we're in this post-whatever future, everything's beautiful.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

But okay, if our work was funded completely, we would have four different sites in Chicago. Like, we have this space in Washington Park on the South Side, but it would be really dope if we could actually start rooting ourselves in more communities. Like on the West Side, and a little bit farther south, like closer to Indiana. Because that's where, there's so much push-out happening with schools closing, and Black people not being able to live in Chicago anymore, there's so much need to start building with folks that are other places around the city. So I think that would be a huge priority for us.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

And just way more youth resource folks to work with us. Like right now we have a full-time organizer, and a full-time ED, and then we have a lot of volunteers, but we need somebody who can daily be there, just like connecting young people to resources. Like, it's so critical.

**Tara Tabassi:**

Yeah, for real. And I feel like as organizers we're always working on this scarcity model, you know? Where like, having the space to talk about what our work would look like if we were funded, I mean we need more spaces like this. And I really appreciate y'all getting into it. And I hope that funders and philanthropists are listening and they pay up, 'cause it's time for us to be able to organize under abundant funding circumstances. Speaking of abundant resources, we'll return to this conversation after a short Public Service Announcement from our Program Staff who make our grants!

**mai doan:**

Hey Joy, what's the Mobilize Power Fund?

**Joy Messinger:**

That's a great question, Mai. The Mobilize Power Fund is a monthly, rapid response fund for direct action, community mobilizing, and healing justice. We launched this fund in 2015 so that powerful movements can respond to and heal from immediate threats and opportunities with flexible and responsive funding opportunities.

**mai doan:**

Whoa, that's so cool. Who can apply?

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**Joy Messinger:**

The Mobilize Power Fund supports groups led by and for young women of color, and queer and trans young people of color organizing in their communities around gender justice. Groups don't even need a 501(c)3 status or a fiscal sponsor, and can even apply via phone or using a selfie video.

**mai doan:**

That sounds amazing! How do folks get more info?

**Joy Messinger:**

That's easy! Just visit our website at [thirdwavefund.org](http://thirdwavefund.org) and find more information under 'grants' by clicking the 'Mobilize Power Fund' tab. You can also reach out to us at [programs@thirdwavefund.org](mailto:programs@thirdwavefund.org).

**Tara Tabassi:**

I love being able to learn more about y'all's work, and I'm just like, fanboy over here with all the things that you both were saying today. I feel like the thing that really hit me was, you know, as an organizer, I feel like I also get stuck in silos, or what you were saying earlier in focusing on the needs of my communities, or ending war, and I'm curious when, and I always think, "Oh, when will that moment be when we actually come together across our communities, and across our short-term campaigns," and say that question you asked. Which was like, "Are our vision for liberation lining up with each other?" And we have to make that happen. And so I just loved that y'all brought that, and you brought ways that you can stand with each other in solidarity more, or ways that the work is intersecting. And I'm just craving more of that in my life, so thank you very much for bringing that.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

Word. Yessica, I just actually really appreciated...First of all, I'm so happy that we met, 'cause you just said some, you brought so much to the space when I met you at the Third Wave convening, and also I wanted to say that I just appreciated you for being on this call right now. You just got back from a 24-hour trip, to like go and do court work support for your people. So I was very moved by that. That just shows how dedicated and how much love you have for your people, and I feel like that's the most important thing.

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

Monica and Tara, yeah, thank you both for taking initiative and doing this. I strongly believe in like, organizers in philanthropic roles and communications roles, and a lot of these other roles



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that aren't necessarily built or meant for folks with organizing experience, but rather with institutional experience, right? So I hella see the organizers in y'all, and thank y'all for being present and for bringing all your brilliance to this space this morning.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

Yes, I am so moved by y'all doing this. It's so brilliant and smart, thank you for organizing this.

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

Hell yeah.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

Back-end people to the front.

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

Hell yeah. I see y'all.

**Rye Young:**

Hey Nicole, can you tell me about donor organizing?

**Nicole Myles:**

It's not gonna shock anyone that philanthropy has been a home for the most wealthy & privileged. Third Wave is a home in philanthropy for people of color, women, queer, and low-income folks who are consistently the first to throw down for social justice movements.

**Rye Young:**

You're so right. From house parties to selling art, our communities have used their talent and magic to support Third Wave Fund and our brilliant grantees.

**Nicole Myles:**

Yes, exactly! Folks can head to our website at [thirdwavefund.org](http://thirdwavefund.org) and become a monthly sustainer today! Woo!

**Monica Trinidad:**

Okay, so on the note of hearing more, if you can just end with what is one ask from your organization right now, or what is something that y'all are working on right now that folks that are listening could support y'all in doing?

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

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So one of the things that we're getting ready to launch right now is a bail fund, and so it's gonna have three components. One to post bail, one to support folks who need money for commissary, which we don't see a lot of commissary funds, and then the third component is gonna be a post-detention fund. And so if you're listening, stay tuned through theIYC.org, we're gonna be launching our bail fund and then feel free to donate, and then that is always super appreciated.

**Hannah Baptiste:**

Word, I'm bout to get my coins ready. As I mentioned before, Assata's, we just opened a space, we wanna open so many more. Right now we're on our way to having most of the funding we've put out there, but we still need half of it left. So if you go to [donorbox.org/ad-space](https://donorbox.org/ad-space), you can put some coins towards us getting more couches, and books, and furniture, and keeping the heat on. That would be much appreciated. Thanks, y'all.

**Tara Tabassi:**

All right. Cha- ching. The coins are flowing. [sound of coins]

**Monica Trinidad:**

I hear them already. All right, y'all. Thank you so much for being with us today, and we'll be following up with you

**Tara Tabassi:**

I hope you all have good sleep, and good family times, and appreciate you making the time to talk today.

**Yessica Gonzalez:**

I'ma go hop back in my bed. [laughter]

**Monica Trinidad:**

Third Wave Fund is a feminist activist fund led by and for young women of color, intersex, queer, and trans folks of color and low-income youth under 35 years old. We work toward a vision of philanthropic justice in which those who have the least economic and political power have the most access to philanthropy. Third Wave strives to ensure that funding is accessible to new and emerging work at the intersections of gender, racial, and economic justice. We provide community-led organizations with both rapid response and multi-year grants, as well as training and relationship-building opportunities. Third Wave works to eliminate barriers to philanthropy in order to re-distribute power, allow transformative justice approaches to take root, and support healing from oppression.

## THIRD WAVE FUND

**Tara Tabassi:**

Thanks so much to Ana Conner, DJ Tikka Masala, Jhaleh Akhavan, and Sarah Lu for helping us bring this podcast to fruition!

**Monica Trinidad:**

Yes! And also thanks to Debbie Southorn, Rye Young, Nicole Myles, Joy Messinger, mai doan, and many more for making this podcast happen. Stay tuned for our next episode in June! Be sure to subscribe to our podcast on Soundcloud and Apple podcasts, and be sure to follow Third Wave Fund on Twitter at the number 3 followed by Wave, on Instagram at @3WaveFund, and on Facebook. You can also sign up for our monthly newsletter on our website at [thirdwavefund.org](http://thirdwavefund.org).