

CAGE-FREE IMPACT REPORT 2022

BACK TO THE COUNTY JAIL I WENT
SUPPOSED TO GO TO PRISON BUT I

YOU HAVE BLACK AND BROWN FOLKS OR LOW
INCOME FAMILIES + GOVERNMENT OPPRESSION AND
CORRUPTION SUCH AS THE WAR ON DRUGS



Cage-Free
Cannabis



Cage-Free
Repair

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Acknowledgements

Cover Art: Excerpts from a letter by Cage-Free Advisory Board member Jose Gallegos, sent from L.A. County Jail

OUR STORY SO FAR

OUR MISSION

Our mission remains the same:
*We help the cannabis industry
and its consumers to repair
harms of the War on Drugs.*

After the murder of George Floyd in 2020, many cannabis companies suggested they would invest in Black and Brown communities that have been, and still are, disproportionately harmed by the War on Drugs.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion officers were hired, internal anti-bias trainings booked, and press releases issued.

Now, three years later, little of those efforts remain. **The industry's promises have once again rung hollow**, and Cage-Free has chosen to move toward self-sufficiency, in the form of a worker-owned cooperative.

And you can help!

**Donate today at
cagefreerepair.org/donate**

Our work in 2022 focused on:

- CONVERTING Cage-Free Cannabis into a WORKER-OWNED Cooperative
- YOUTH-POWERED Advocacy for Equity, Justice, & Repair
- INVESTIGATING the practices of 20 of the largest cannabis companies in North America

IN 2023

We'll release a first-of-its-kind report that measures 20 of the largest cannabis companies in North America on their corporate social responsibility, *or lack thereof*.

We'll complete our conversion into Cage-Free Cannabis Cooperative.

If you'd like to learn more, please contact us at
info@cagefreecannabis.com

CUMULATIVE IMPACT

Since launching in 2017, we have assisted in record clearance, youth job development, reentry programs, cannabis industry research, and other aspects of repairing harms of the War on Drugs.

We've done so with the guidance and participation of directly-impacted individuals and communities, often through organizations like these:



BY THE NUMBERS

- 60,000+ records cleared or sealed
- \$670 million public benefit created
- Over 8,400 people served in person
- 3 reports co-authored
- 1 worker-owned cooperative developed

CO-OPERATIVE TRANSFORMATION

Since late 2021, Cage-Free Cannabis has been working with the L.A. Co-op Lab as we convert our for-profit side into a worker-owned co-operative.

In 2022, we refined our business model, budget, and pitch with the help of our Advisory Board.

In 2023, our conversion will be completed. All of Cage-Free's staff and advisory board will become co-owners – and we will establish a pathway for community members to become co-owners as well.



L.A.
Co-op
Lab

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Since our launch in 2017, we have centered the voices and needs of young people because they are still most at risk of being criminalized for cannabis use.



CROSS-COUNTRY CONVERSATION

In 2022, we began an online dialogue between young people in Los Angeles and the Bronx. At the time, the State of New York was legalizing adult-use cannabis, and we wanted young people in California to be able to share their experiences of a regulated industry.

Participating organizations included Youth Justice Coalition, Blue Dream Radio, and All The Jive NYC.

YALE UNDERGRADUATE PRISON PROJECT (YUPP)

Our Collaboration (2020–present)



Our 2022 Virtual Speaker Series Events:

- **BIPOC in the Cannabis Industry**
 - Freedom, SEAmarron Farms
 - Gia Morón, Women Grow
- **What Does Legalization Mean in the Real World?**
 - Aaron Romano, NORML
 - Anh–Thu Nguyen, Democracy at Work Institute
- **Sustainability in Cannabis Agriculture**
 - Freedom from SEAmarron Farms
 - Luis Vega from ¡Wepa! Farms

Our Speaker Series will return for a third consecutive year in Spring 2023, with events focused on social responsibility in the cannabis industry and the history of the War on Drugs.

LIVE CONVERSATIONS

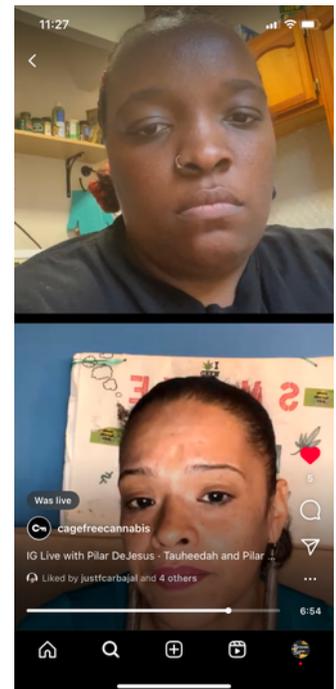
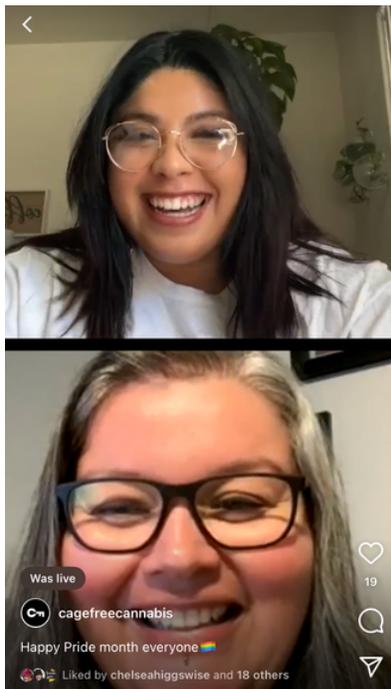
In 2022, we cemented Instagram Live conversations as a central part of our advocacy.

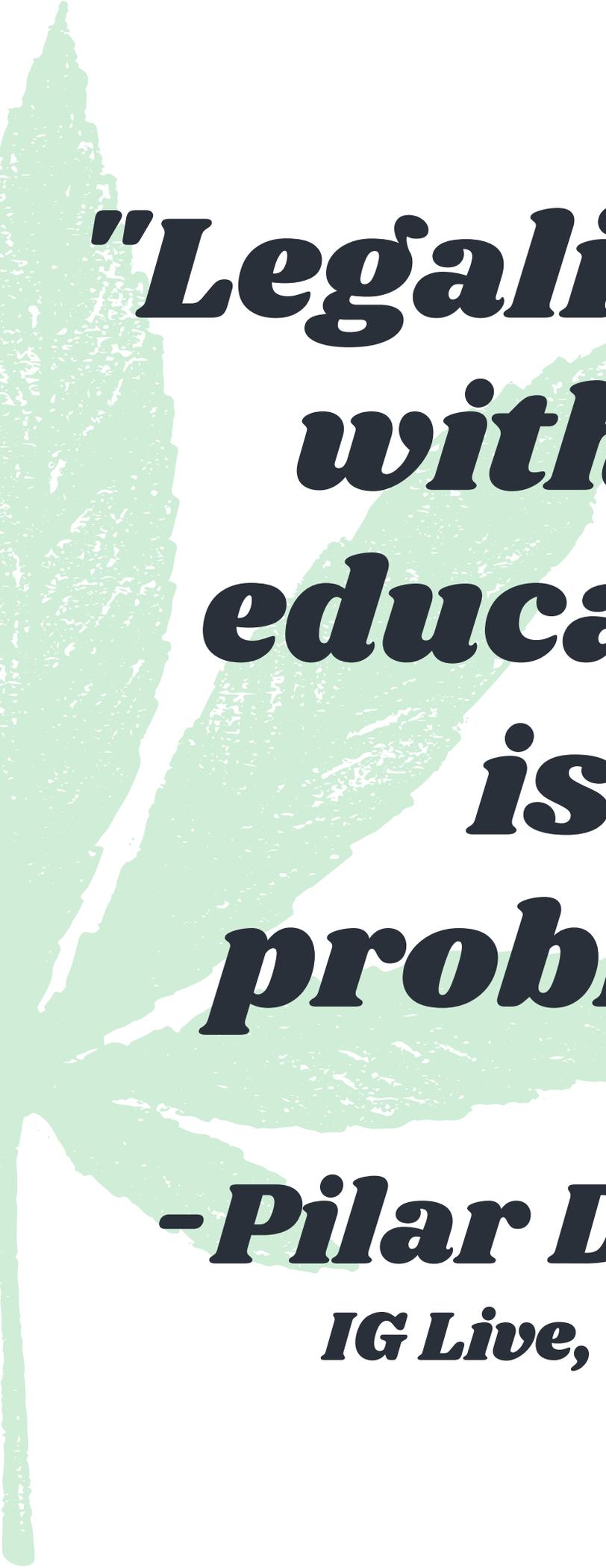
These events were hosted by Faith Garcia and Tauheedah Shakur – and they allowed us to amplify the voices and work of organizers around the U.S.

Our live conversations examine the intersections between cannabis and other aspects of people's lives.

Some of our 2022 Conversation Themes:

- Anxiety & Trauma
- Policy: East Coast x West Coast
- Worker-Owned Cooperatives
- LGBTQI+ Community & Cannabis





***"Legalization
without
education
is a
problem."***

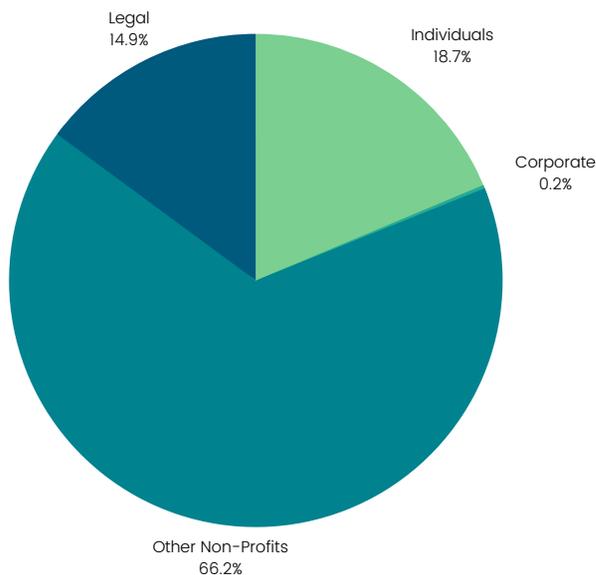
***-Pilar DeJesus
IG Live, 11/2/22***



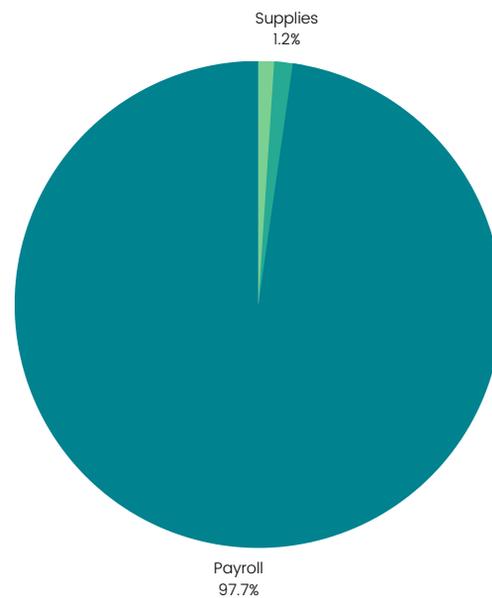
FINANCIALS

CAGE-FREE REPAIR

Donations \$37,608



Expenses \$40,457



Cannabis companies are squandering billions of dollars in pursuit of growth, rather than helping repair decades of damage borne by the people who made this industry possible.

Meanwhile, most foundations and institutional donors continue to avoid cannabis, despite its intersections with other facets of their work.

Our strategy of converting into a co-op that creates its own revenue offers the best path forward.

You can help us make that transition!

To donate: visit www.cagefreerepair.org/donate

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report would not be possible without the support of our donors, our workers, our collaborators, and our community. Special thanks to the LA Co-Op Lab, Yale Undergraduate Prison Project, Youth Justice Coalition, FREE LA High School, Social Impact Center, The Big House, All That Jive Events, Expunge Colorado, and Lutzker & Lutzker, LLP.

Cage-Free Staff

Adam Vine
Tauheedah Shakur
Andrew Epstein

Advisory Board

Rosalie Flores
Jose Gallegos
Felicia Carbajal
Adam Vine
Tauheedah Shakur
Andrew Epstein



Cage-Free Repair
a fiscally sponsored project of
Social Good Fund
www.cagefreerepair.org

Cage-Free Cannabis
www.cagefreecannabis.com

Contact us at:
info@cagefreecannabis.com

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT OF OUR WORK