



**UnLocal**

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2022**

## MISSION STATEMENT

UnLocal aims to address the fundamental injustices and structural inequities that disproportionately impact immigrant communities. We are a community-centered non-profit organization that provides direct immigration legal representation, community education, outreach, and advocacy for New York's undocumented immigrants. UnLocal is dedicated to creating sustainable structures that build collective power and allow us to flourish.



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## OUR LEGAL TEAM

UnLocal's robust team of lawyers and advocates provide free legal advice and representation to New York's immigrant communities on immigration-related matters. This year we handled a total of 994 legal matters, including 261 asylum cases, 255 employment authorizations, 86 green cards, and 69 DACA applications. Through our tailored services such as the Post Order Defense (POD) Team, the Queer Immigrant Justice Project (QIJP), and the Immigrant Wellness Team (IWT), we addressed the needs of our diverse immigrant community.

### **POST ORDER DEFENSE (POD) TEAM**

The Post Order Defense (POD) team, part of the Rapid Response Legal Collaborative (RRLC), handled a total of 79 cases for people detained or at imminent risk of deportation in 2022. Recently, the POD launched The Kites Newsletter, a publication that is mailed to detention centers in New York. The newsletter provides information on Immigration Law, local news, and info about POD. We have received a positive response to the newsletter and people who read it have contacted UnLocal with their inquiries.

### **NON-DETAINED REMOVAL DEFENSE AND AFFIRMATIVE PRACTICE**

UnLocal's affirmative practice helps immigrants obtain asylum, lawful permanent residency, employment authorization, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), U & T Visas, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), and relief through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). In 2022, this team handled a total of 915 legal matters on behalf of their clients. The removal defense team litigated 22 trials before the Immigration Court, while also representing XXX applications for lawful permanent residency and XXX applications for employment authorization. The 25 Special Immigrant Juveniles, 33 temporary protected status, and 28 visas.

## QUEER IMMIGRANT JUSTICE PROJECT (QIJP)

In 2022, the Queer Immigrant Justice Project (QIJP) represented 44 clients in their asylum cases, filed 21 employment authorizations, and handled 16 adjustment of status. In total, they worked on 109 legal case matters. More recently, the QIJP team launched the Ambassador program to give LGBTQIA+ immigrants the opportunity to develop leadership skills via event planning and to connect with others who share similar experiences. The 2022 Ambassador cohort met from February through May to plan the UnLocal Pride event during which attendees engaged in conversations regarding queer and immigrant justice, issues affecting queer communities, and advocacy efforts for queer immigrants.

## THE IMMIGRANT WELLNESS TEAM

The Immigrant Wellness team (IWT) worked closely with staff attorneys to connect clients to supplemental resources and therapeutic services. In 2022, IWT assisted people in finding therapy, locating food pantries, applying for medical insurance, and connecting with community support groups. In total, they handled 73 social work cases.



## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



UnLocal values education as a tool for advocacy and strives to empower immigrant communities by connecting them with key resources. In 2022, the Education and Outreach (E+O) team organized 77 presentations, reaching 3,316 people, on the New York State Dream Act (NYSDA), the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Know Your Rights, how to file taxes, and much more! They held monthly clothing swaps at the office and invited community members to trade old items for new accessories and clothing. Additionally, they launched The UnLocal Student Hub with the intention to share resources with students who are undocumented or first- and second-generation immigrants. The newsletters have included scholarships, internships, and educational events offered by UnLocal and our partners. Our amazing E+O team has also piloted initiatives such as the Theater Circle and the Community and Connection Series.

### **THEATER CIRCLE**

Launched in 2021, The Theater Circle prioritizes undocumented immigrants and first-generation people by curating a space where they can connect through theater. The Education and Outreach team partnered with A Laboratory for Actors in Training on March 2022 to hold the first workshop series. Participants read the play *The African Company Presents Richard III* by Carlyle Brown and held discussions about the history of New York and the experience of being labeled in the 1820s. They ended the 5-week workshops with an open mic reading in April. The theater circle held a second workshop series in October. They focused on implementing theater practices and engaged in conversations about the importance of documenting and telling their stories of joy and the role it plays in building People Power.

### **THE COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION SERIES**

In 2022, we launched the Community and Connection (C+C) Series, a project centered around supporting undocumented youth interested in community building, resources for navigating career paths, skill-based educational opportunities, and/or higher education. We launched the C+C series by organizing a career pair and share where we invited attendees to learn about their field of interest from professionals. We hosted a resume and interview workshop where we invited community members to receive feedback on resumes and practice for upcoming interviews.

## COMMUNITY WINS

On January 20th, UnLocal and our clients had a huge victory. Four Venezuelan clients (who were evacuated from their home the night before due to a fire and got little sleep) appeared with Legal Director Rebecca Press at their immigration court trial. Despite all the odds stacked against them, they testified smoothly and the judge plans to grant their asylum applications. ICE agreed not to appeal.



In February, UnLocal represented a client who suffered from severe intimate partner violence in Ecuador. Thanks to UnLocal Staff Attorney Jessica Olive and the client's incredible efforts to clear numerous obstacles in their path, the immigration judge granted asylum on the basis of our client's political opinion that she should not have to be subjected to male domination. Their filing was more than 400 pages and was so well done that the judge praised the submission repeatedly, as well as acknowledged our well-argued brief, a detailed index of supporting documents, which he cited in his decision, and closing arguments.



Last year Jorge Torrealba, a formerly DACA-mented LGBTQ activist originally from Venezuela, was transferred to a detention center in Florida, where an Immigration Judge denied him all relief. In August, after months of waiting, the BIA granted Jorge's appeal and the same Immigrant Judge granted him a bond. Jorge was finally able to go home! In his words: "It's been an odyssey, but my liberation has finally come." This win couldn't have been possible without our extended community and allies who have helped Jorge, and the liberation he stands for, find hope. Thank you in particular for the extensive support from the @queerdep and @unitedwedream, who continue to help Jorge transition into his new free life.



## FUNDRAISING

### UNLOCAL RUNS NYC

Our runners crossed the finish line this November, raising \$14,165 during the Annual New York City Marathon to support UnLocal! This year's incredible participants were An Le, Pamela Hunter Reach, Marci Moore Connelley, Nicole Ramos, and Juliana Perez Calle! We are moved by their commitment and dedication to our mission, and after witnessing their inspirational performance, we eagerly await next year's race

### UNLOCAL ALLIES

UnLocal is fortunate to have a group of wonderful allies who donate monthly! This year, we raised \$4274.48 in recurring donations which was a 24% increase from last year. You can make a lasting impact by becoming an [UnLocal Ally](#) too!

### CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF UNLOCAL

We launched our 10-Year Campaign at the beginning of fall to celebrate our 10th anniversary! We raised a total of \$80,530.29 to support our next 10 years of advocacy, legal services and community education. During this time, we published a book, [A Decade of UnLocal: Stories and Recipes from Our Community](#), that features stories, recipes, poetry and art from our UnLocal family and community. We ended the campaign in December with a celebration and invited everyone who helped shaped UnLocal to spend an evening with us. Our founder Michele Lampach made a virtual appearance where she gave a heartwarming speech about UnLocal and its founding. UnLocal will continue to honor our founder's mission by building on her legacy. We will continue to be a free resource to immigrant communities and provide legal assistance and community education. Follow UnLocal's journey by watching this short [video](#).

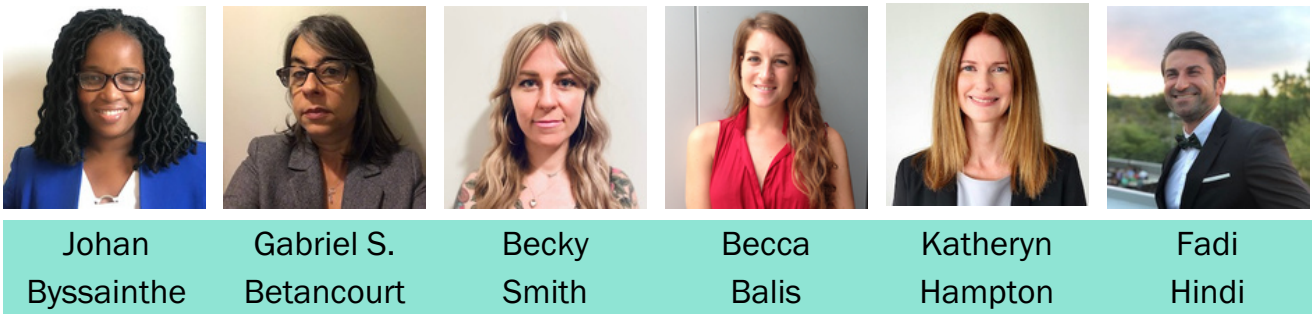




## WHATS NEW

### BOARD MEMBERS

We welcomed 6 new enthusiastic board members! Their combined skills and expertise will bolster our programming, fundraising, and overall success and, with their contributions, the UnLocal Board will soar to new heights in 2023.



### PSPP PROJECT

In response to the record numbers of new asylum-seekers arriving in New York, estimated to be over 40,000 to date, UnLocal has launched the Pro Se Plus Project (PSPP) with our partners at Masa, Venezuelans and Immigrants Aid, Inc. (VIA), Catholic Migration Services (CMS), Central American Legal Assistance (CALA), and New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG). Through PSPP, we are training community members, advocates, and volunteers on how to file for asylum, relief under the Convention Against Torture, employment authorization, and navigating immigration court and the asylum office. Through workshops, clinics, and pro se assistance, PSPP builds capacity to help people represent themselves or have community support to do so in an ever-changing legal landscape

### OPEN HEARTS OPEN ARTS

UnLocal launched the Open Heart, Open Arts initiative this year with the intention to amplify immigrant stories and culture through a series of creative workshops facilitated by Eva Mayhabal Davis, Intake Paralegal and Arts Liaison. Our first workshop took place in January. We invited Artist Odalys Burgoa to hold a discussion with attendees about joy, love, and cycles of life. You can find information about upcoming workshops by following us on [Instagram](#).

## FINANCIALS

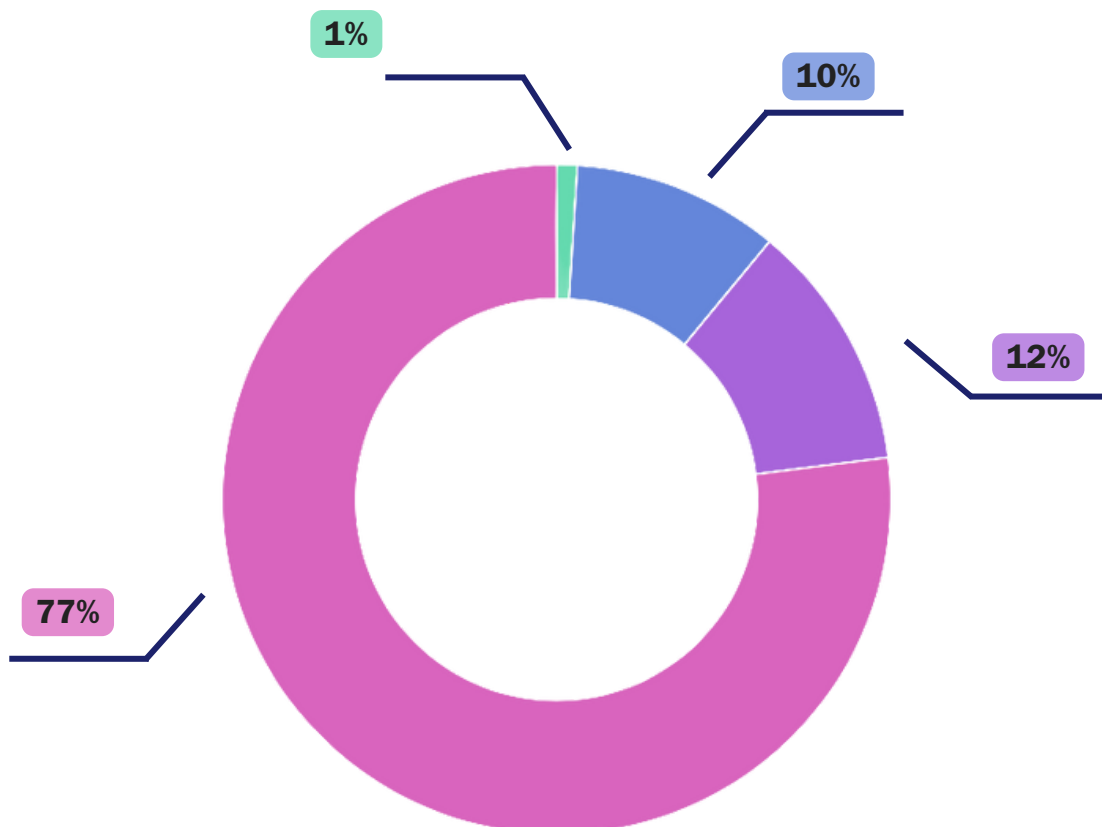
UnLocal had an operating budget of \$1,876,719.84 in 2022, with the following expenditure categories:

**Personnel (77%)** Personnel includes staff salaries, fringe benefits, and payroll.

**Operational Expenses (12%)** Operational expenses include training for staff, shipping and mailing case files, research on cases, translation services for clients, and office expenses.

**Contracting staff (10%)** Contracting independent contractors we hire to assist UnLocal with our work.

**Other (1%)** Other includes fundraising, travel expenses, community outreach events, and a one-time Covid-19 relief.



# FINANCIALS

UnLocal earned \$1.8M in revenue in 2022. We received funding through individual donations, government funding, private foundations and earned revenue.

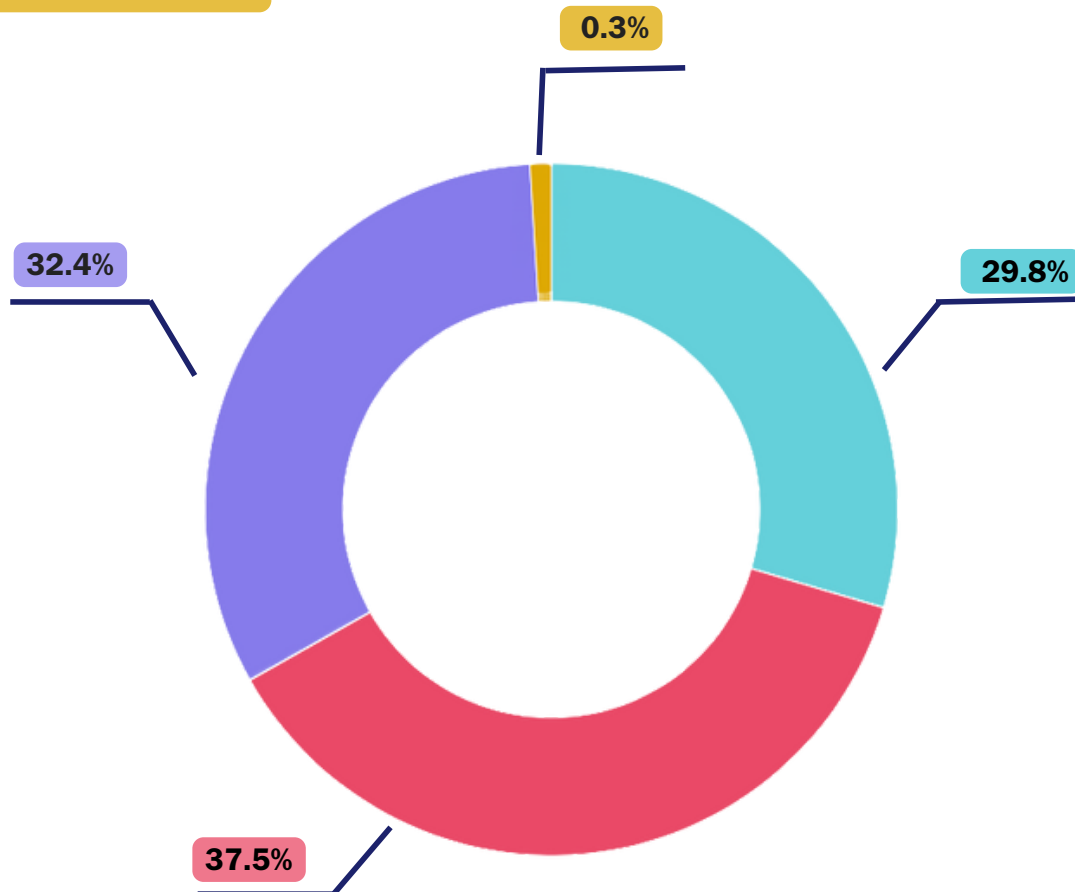
## Sources of Funding

Individual Donations - \$562,856.24

Municipal Awards and Contracts - \$707,276.75

Private Foundations - \$610,600.24

Earned Revenue - 0.3%



## SUPPORTERS

UnLocal is grateful for all the support we receive from our donors, partner organizations, and community members. We can only accomplish our work with your support. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our mission in 2022:

- *A&J Kay Family Foundation - \$50,000*
- *Brian A. McCarthy Foundation - \$30,000*
- *Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund - \$40,000*
- *Equal Justice Works - \$37,000*
- *Hyde and Watson Foundation - \$5,000*
- *Interest on Lawyer Account Fund (IOLA) - \$75,000*
- *Immigrant Justice Corps - \$145,000*
- *Joyce and Irving Goldman Family Foundation - \$25,000*
- *Judiciary Civil Legal Services (JCLS) - \$143,266*
- *New York City Council LGBT Caucus - \$25,000*
- *New York City Council Member Diana Ayala - \$5,000*
- *New York Bar Foundation - \$5,437*
- *New son Family Philanthropy- \$5,000*
- *The New York State Interest on Lawyer Account Fund (IOLA) - \$75,000*
- *The Wild Gifting Project - \$150,000*
- *New York University - \$2,000*
- *NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) - \$234,000*
- *Office for New Americans (ONA) - \$114,136*
- *The Nelson Family Philanthropy: \$5,000*