



[About](#) 

About

Together with our partners, we advance social justice by shifting resources and power to historically excluded communities.

About

By Liah Carvalho May 25, 2023

[About](#)

[Mission](#)

[Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)

[Careers](#)

Building a Pro-Immigrant Future — Introducing Tides Foundation's I-Belong Fund



[Learn about Tides' mission to shift power](#)

[What We Do](#) 

What We Do

Photo from Comunidades Indigenas en Liderazgo, one of the I-Belong Fund's 2023 inaugural Community of Practice Power Builder grantees. We amplify the impact of our partners by providing philanthropic and capacity-building offerings centered in equity and justice.

What We Do

[Social Justice Philanthropy](#)

Tides Foundation launched the Immigrants Belong (I-Belong) Fund to provide frontline BIPOC and immigrant-led organizations with resources to develop innovative, pro-immigrant media and storytelling content. The new fund aims to disrupt harmful and false narratives about immigrants [We partner with mission-aligned funders to shift power to those working to advance social justice.](#); foster exclusion and fear. Alex Rojas, Paola Kim, Dawn Kwan, and Ashley Black, members of I-Belong's Independent Advisory Committee, share why I-Belong is critical to building a pro-immigrant future.

[Donor Advised Funds](#)

[Collective Action Funds](#)

[Social Change Leader Funds](#)

[Impact Investing](#)

[Strategic Advising & Consulting](#)

[Fiscal Sponsorship](#)

What sparked the vision for the Immigrants Belong (I-Belong) Fund?

Rojas: The vision for [Immigrants Belong \(I-Belong\)](#) began in 2019, when there was a new rise in xenophobic rhetoric about travel bans and border walls. That year, I participated in a learning delegation to San Salvador, El Salvador, Juárez, Mexico, and El Paso, Texas, to [Our unique fiscal sponsorship options help social change leaders fuel their mission-driven work.](#)

understand what was happening and participated in this delegation with other philanthropists. In Juárez and El Paso, understanding and empathy for the situation, corruption and gang strongholds, and translators were mistranslating messages, making life/death decisions based on fear, dismissed because there were no resources. I was a person who was formerly undocumented and recognized people's fear and anger.

I decided I needed to do something different, steeped in the immigration experience, and not duplicate efforts. During this time, I learned the role of technology in producing content.

It was my "aha moment" when I decided [Partners](#) ☐ propose a Tides-led fund focused on helping immigrants develop their own narratives to combat fear and exclusion.



Partners

People and organizations across the social sector partner with us to drive transformative and systemic change.

Why do you think this is particularly important at this moment in time?

Partners

Kim: I think immigration is a critical issue. As we near the 2024 presidential election, we are

Partners

likely to see a rise in vitriolic [social media messages](#) about immigrants, so this is the time for us to get ahead of disinformation and [support immigrant-led organizations](#) to develop messaging that accurately reflects their lived experiences and shows their humanity.

[Corporate Social Responsibility Foundations](#)

Kwan: The end of [Title 42](#) signals a shift on pro-immigrant messaging and away from anti-immigrant narratives. I-E is an immigrant story in mass media that reaches all people in America, which is a step toward the problems immigrants face.

Why is the fund focused on immigrant organizations?

Rojas: Tides is an organization that has taken a continued step toward uplifting the experiences of injustice, oppression, and the bridges that foster understand...



[Meet the changemakers partnering with Tides to realize a more just and equitable future.](#)

[Initiatives](#)

Our Funds & Initiatives

Tides-led initiatives harness the collective power of multiple donors and community leaders to fuel critical social justice work.

Initiatives

Initiatives

[Healthy Democracy Fund](#)

[Women's Environmental Leadership Fund](#)



Refugee community members
Fund's 2023 inaugural Commu
share their powerful stories w

[Immigrants Belong Fund](#)
[Advancing Girls Fund](#)
[Frontline Justice Fund](#)
[Just Health Fund](#)
[Stronger Together Fund](#)
[Crisis Response Fund](#)



**Tell us more about wh
was selected.**

[Learn how Tides is helping local
leaders confront big polluters](#)

Rojas: There has been substantive research and learning across the immigrant justice movement about the power of narrative fram ☐orks and communications strategies. For instance, [Reclaiming the Border Narrative](#) and Race Forward's [Butterfly Lab](#) provided key insights about the influence of narratives in shaping perceptions about immigrants and advancing freedom and justice for all. Narratives and storytelling help us combat what sometimes feels like an alternative reality. Narrative change and storytelling also help break down complex issues, and co ^{disinformation and misinformation.}

[News & Impact](#)

News & Impact

We work with partners far and wide every day to create a more just and equitable world.

[News & Impact](#)

[News & Impact](#)

Why is this fund personally meaningful to you?

[Tides Blog](#)

Kim: The immigrant experience is near and dear to my heart. I was an international relations

[Press](#)

major in college and worked at an immigration law firm out of college. I also later worked at UC Berkeley, where I processed and scholars. So, I have witnessed support. As the daughter of a Black man and who immigrated to the United States, my mother expressed how she felt in English and didn't feel connected for years. And she had to rely on

Black: I don't have a direct experience with forced immigration. My perspective is from the United States, but many people have that experience. There are different experiences depending on where you are. I think this fund is an opportunity to see how our nation has not lived up to its beliefs. I believe this fund will help create a more welcoming environment to make it easier for immigrants.

Kwan: I'm passionate about the journey from China to Hong Kong, and I see the need for a welcoming environment where they feel safe.



[Read the stories and hear the voices of social change leaders fighting for justice.](#)

[Donate](#)

Search by keyword(s)



Partner With Us

[FAQs](#) [Donate](#) [Contact](#) [Login](#)



Rio Grande Valley youth protesting in support of immigrants who qualify for DACA at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley – Edinburg campus. Photo from La Union del Pueblo Entero, one of the I-Belong Fund's 2023 inaugural Community of Practice Power Builder grantees.

How will the “Community of Practice” work?

Rojas: I-Belong is more than a fund, but rather a collaborative that is inclusive of the broader immigration movement. The lead facilitator, Define American, will co-design a rigorous narrative learning curriculum that will provide 10 BIPOC, immigrant-led organizations an opportunity to learn, create, and build new narratives targeting [movable middle](#) audiences. Each organization will be connected with experts to provide content creation and dissemination support.

What does I-Belong hope to accomplish, and by when?

Rojas: We hope to continue to build on this work and our own learnings for as long as it takes. Right now, it is a pilot two-year program. We were initially funded with funding from two anonymous donors. We are inviting others to join us.

How can funders support the fund?

Rojas: Our goal is to raise \$6 million over the next three years. Donors and funders can join us in building narrative power to help us counter fear and polarization. Immigration is often a triggering issue, especially before major elections, so support is needed now. We welcome donors who are interested in uplifting immigrant-led organizations and promoting a pro-immigrant future and shared values of belonging to connect with us at I-belong@tides.org and support the fund by donating [here](#).

More information about the I-Belong Independent Advisory Committee:



Alex Rojas [she/her/ella] is a senior philanthropic advisor at Tides. A proud immigrant from the Dominican Republic, she has demonstrated passionate leadership in creating strategic investments for community-led solutions over her almost 30-year career. Rojas is an accomplished professional in the areas of immigration, nonprofit administration, and civic participation. She currently serves as fund manager of Immigrants Belong at Tides, helping to build and leverage the narrative and storytelling power of immigrant communities.



Paola Kim [she/her] is a philanthropic advisor at Tides Foundation who is passionate about supporting social justice and equity on a range of issues and giving models. She works with philanthropic partners who seek to advance equitable access and who want to support advocacy and policy reforms that help create systemic changes and help marginalized communities thrive.



Dawn Kwan [she/her] is a senior advisor for Tides' Corporate Social Impact and Strategic Initiatives team who has worked on several immigration-related projects at Tides. She guided the employee pro bono consulting projects for GitHub's immigration social impact work with grassroots nonprofits, and led Tides' Immigration United Collaborative, which invested and built capacity for technology tools for the immigration sector.



Ashley Black [she/her] is an associate with Tides Foundation. She is an equity-centered researcher and project manager who specializes in translating research, data, and community expertise into contextualized learnings and strategies that support equitable and sustainable change. She is committed to shifting power and resources to historically resilient communities, and she's honored to offer her skills and positioning in support of changing the immigrant narrative.

Liah Caravalho

Liah Caravalho is a champion for social change and lifelong learning. For over a decade, she

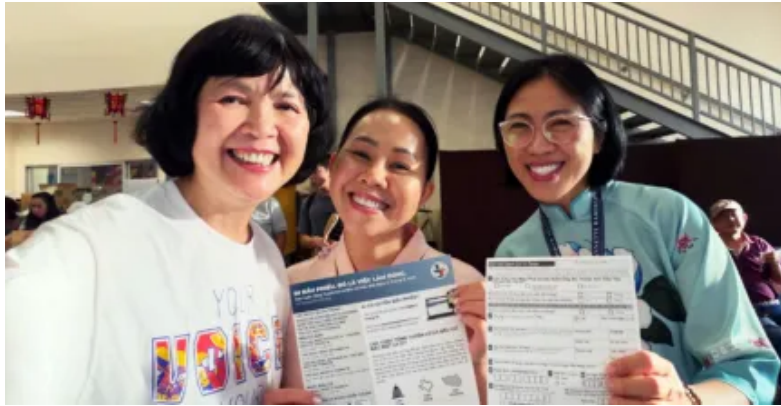
has applied her expertise in external communications, event management, and media relations to advance equity and economic opportunity. At Tides, she is the senior manager of external communications. In this role, she develops strategies to raise awareness of Tides' impact in the social sector and amplify the progress of our partners working on the frontlines of social justice.

[Read Liah Carvalho's other blogs.](#)

News & Press



WomenStrong International and the
Advancing Girls Fund at Tides Foundation
Launch \$10M Abundance Collective for Girls &
Women



HEALTHY DEMOCRACY FUND

The Healthy Democracy Fund Is Building Power That Lasts Beyond the 2026 Midterms



INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY DONORS

Giving Together: Inside One Family's Multigenerational Philanthropy Practice



Stay Up To Date With Tides

Read the stories and hear the voices of social change leaders fighting for justice.

Enter Your Email Address

Sign Up

View our [privacy policy](#) for more information.

ABOUT

Mission

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Careers

WHAT WE DO

Philanthropy

– Donor Advised Funds

– Collective Action Funds

– Social Change Leader Funds

– Impact Investing

– Strategic Advising & Consulting

Fiscal Sponsorship

PARTNERS

Social Change Leaders

Individual & Family Donors

Corporations

Foundations

TIDES INITIATIVES

Healthy Democracy Fund

Womens Environmental Leadership Fund

Immigrants Belong Fund

Advancing Girls Fund

Frontline Justice Fund

- Just Health Fund
- Stronger Together Fund
- Crisis Response Fund

NEWS & IMPACT

- Tides Blog
- Press
- Impact Reports



- Partner With Us
- Social Purpose Real Estate
- FAQs
- Contact
- Donate
- Login



© 1976-2026 Tides. All Rights Reserved.

- Terms and Conditions of Use
- Privacy Policy
- Financials
- Tides Center Nonprofit Annual Economic Statement
- Website Access Notice