



ABOUT ART FOR JUSTICE FUND

The Art for Justice (A4J) Fund aligned artists, advocates, and allied donors to transform the criminal legal system, envisioning a future where shared safety is available to all. Through the work of its grantees, the Fund sought to end mass incarceration and shift the narrative around criminal justice reform through art.

Inaugurated in 2017 under the unprecedented philanthropic vision of Agnes Gund, A4J launched with \$100M generated from the sale of Gund's favorite painting, Roy Lichtenstein's *Masterpiece* (1962). This spurred artists, collectors, and supporters to donate an additional \$27+ M in support of the Fund's mission to advance policy reform, shift public narratives on criminal justice, and promote the leadership of formerly incarcerated people while centering art as a catalyst to propel change.

The Fund concentrated on three major policy areas: bail reform that reduced the number of people needlessly detained in jail; sentencing reform that eliminated the excessive and disproportionate punishment of young people and people of color; and the creation of meaningful reentry opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals to support themselves and their families.

A4J believed those with lived experience of the criminal legal system are often best positioned to imagine a justice system that ensures accountability while treating people with dignity and compassion. Therefore, formerly incarcerated and directly impacted artists and advocates must have the support and allyship they need to lead this movement.

With the institutional support of the Ford Foundation and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, A4J leveraged its agility and momentum as a time-limited fund to support 200+ allied artists and arts and advocacy organizations (450+ grants in total). Before A4J sunset as planned after six years, on June 30, 2023, it allocated over \$127 M to the field and inspired other funders to join this movement.

Leaving behind a legacy of powerful policy, practice and narrative change outcomes, A4J embodied a model wherein art becomes the very means by which justice is secured. By leveraging partnerships and impact, A4J elevated the power of art to interrupt mass incarceration, inspiring future reform efforts and building a future with shared safety for all.