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2023 Annual Report

Year in Review

2023 marked a significant change for Fertile Ground. In February, the Board of Directors met in Union City, CA and decided to become a conservation land trust so that we can protect land by holding conservation easements or acquiring fee title. This decision came after a several-year period of relatively low activity and a desire from the Board to start having a direct and tangible impact on ecologically and culturally significant areas. We saw this as an exciting and strategic move for us because of several factors:

- More land trusts are working with indigenous communities to acquire and protect areas that are culturally significant to those communities. Becoming a land trust would open us up to the possibility of becoming a tool for Tribes to potentially use in this manner.
- Funding for land conservation appears to be growing, in part because of the increasing awareness of the relationship between preserving habitat and mitigating climate change (especially via carbon sequestration in ecosystems such as old-growth forest, wetlands, peatlands, etc.). Additionally, President Biden issued an executive order in 2022 calling for the conservation of mature and old-growth forests on federal lands. Land trusts can supplement this work in the private sector.

Current Board Members

We are excited to announce that we have a new board member! Rahman Malik joins us from Redwood City, CA, bringing a fresh, youthful, and entrepreneurial spirit to Fertile Ground.

Financial Summary

Income: \$104,964

Expenses: \$20,347

Assets: \$7,085