ABOUT THE DEMOCRACY FUND

The Democracy Fund is a bipartisan foundation established by eBay founder and philanthropist Pierre Omidyar to help ensure that the American people come first in our democracy.

Pierre Omidyar created the Democracy Fund out of deep respect for the U.S. Constitution and our nation's core democratic values. While no democracy is perfect, the American system has endured through times of severe stress and dramatic social change. This system has proven its value and continues to hold the promise of effective, representative governance. Today, technologies and innovations offer new opportunities for public engagement in a more vibrant democracy — even as serious challenges including hyper-partisanship, money in politics, and struggling media threaten the health of our political system.

We believe the best days of American democracy lie ahead. Bipartisan solutions can modernize our elections. Digital advances can help people engage in civic life. New incentives can encourage political leaders to find principled compromise and address our country’s greatest challenges.

The Democracy Fund is a resource for those who want to strengthen our nation’s democracy. We invest in change makers whose ideas and energy can make a difference. We advocate for solutions that can bring lasting improvement to our political system. We build bridges that help people come together to serve the nation, moving us closer to the ideal of a government of, by, and for the people.

INVESTMENT CRITERIA AND GRANTMAKING

The Democracy Fund aims to play a catalytic role in improving our political system through grantmaking. We typically make a substantial investment in the success of our grantee organizations. The Democracy Fund does not accept unsolicited proposals, nor do we proactively seek new grantees based on strategic priorities and typically identify new grantees partners from within our network of allies and contacts. We work closely with grantees to help them achieve their goals. To have the greatest impact, we invest according to the following criteria:

- **Alignment**: We look for organizations aligned with our mission of making democracy work better. We seek nonprofit organizations that use innovative approaches that are in keeping with our three programs and strategic priorities.
- **Impact**: We identify organizations that produce significant outcomes by influencing practices among existing institutions, shifting incentives and behavior of political leaders, building effective sectors, and altering public attitudes and behavior.
- **Potential for Scale**: We look for organizations with significant growth potential and the ability to scale operations to influence the lives of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people. We prefer to work with nonprofits that are on a path toward operational sustainability, where possible.
- **Leadership**: We invest in management teams with a proven track record in their field of operation and an ability to articulate a clear vision and strategy, supported by a viable business plan. The organization must practice exemplary governance with operational efficiency and controls, transparent practices, and disciplined financial planning.
- **Innovation**: We seek organizations that employ creative, entrepreneurial strategies to accomplish their goals. Organizations may disrupt the status quo, establish a new paradigm, or pioneer services for underserved markets.

Please note that Democracy Fund policy allows up to 10 percent of university project expenses to be for indirect costs.

THE DEMOCRACY FUND TEAM

Staff

- **Joe Goldman**: President
- **Natalie Adona**: Senior Research and Learning Associate
- **Adam Ambroggi**: Program Director, Elections
- **Meredith Bird**: Communications Coordinator
- **Adile Cameron**: Operations Assistant
THE DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD

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Founder and Chairman

Pat Christen  
Board Member

Sarah Stiven  
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Devin Ysaguirre  
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Nina Zenni  
Grants Associate
OUR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Democracy Fund has committed more than $30 million to support healthy democracies. Established by philanthropist and T. Elvey Foundation President Otto E. Hasenfeld in 2001 and incorporated in 2006, the Democracy Fund launched as an independent foundation in July 2014 and is a member of The Omidyar Group. These are our third financial documents as an independent organization. We also support and make our grantmaking data available to the Foundation Center’s Foundation Atlas.

We take seriously our commitment to transparency and will continue to share additional financial information as it becomes available.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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The Democracy Fund does not accept unsolicited business plans, proposals, or personal requests. Any materials marked proprietary or confidential will be discarded.

Employment
Please visit our Job Opportunities page. No phone calls, please.