



Annual Report

2021

THIS IS *OUR* MOMENT

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FEDERAL
GUIDELINES
UPDATED TO AFFIRM
INTERSEX RIGHTS



49

ACTIVE YOUTH
ADVOCATES



131

iSPACE YOUTH

7

HISTORIC PIECES OF
INTERSEX-AFFIRMING
LEGISLATION INTRODUCED



17

INTERSEX LEADERS
INVITED TO THE FIRST-EVER
WHITE HOUSE INTERSEX
AWARENESS DAY LISTENING
SESSION



54

TALKS, PANELS, AND
PRESENTATIONS GIVEN
BY STAFF AND YOUTH
ADVOCATES



300+

MEDIA MENTIONS



679

DONORS



38,312

SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS



2021 at a Glance

JANUARY

interACT launches California's SB 225 to stop unnecessary surgeries on intersex children



interACT holds virtual staff & board retreat

FEBRUARY

interACT hosts community listening session to gather feedback on legislative efforts like SB 225 and other policy strategies

MARCH

Bills introduced in New Jersey and Rhode Island to protect intersex children from unnecessary surgery



interACT staff and community members testify at Rhode Island Senate hearing

interACT urges intersex-affirming changes within the US Department of Justice (civil rights and education divisions)

NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation adopts system-wide policy prohibiting unnecessary intersex surgery!



APRIL

Bria joins Equality NC panel to discuss how anti-trans sports bills impact the intersex community

2021 at a Glance

SB 225's cosponsors decide to delay the bill due to a lack of support in key Senate Committee



interACT and community members support Rhode Island bill at its Assembly hearing

NYC Council passes a first-of-its-kind education campaign bill to inform parents and medical professionals that intersex children are perfect just the way they are!



interACT staff present to NY Assembly Women's Caucus

Al and Kimberly attend Council for Global Equality meeting

MAY

We remind folks not to forget the "I" on 5/17, International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia, and Transphobia



New York Assemblywoman Rebecca Seawright introduces a companion state-level education bill to replicate the success of the NYC Council bill

JUNE

Bria testifies at the Department of Education's virtual Title IX hearing



Out and Equal Guide released



2021 at a Glance

Kimberly participates in Starbucks Pride Panel discussion



interACT staff give Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus briefing



Department of Education and Department of Justice release resources specifically including intersex students in Title IX anti-discrimination efforts

JULY

Annual interACT staff retreat in Boston



Second community listening session



HRC launches Healthcare Equality Index survey, including a question on hospitals' intersex-protective policies for the first time

AUGUST

Public announcement of KZ's departure as Executive Director



interACT, TGIJP, and Emancipate NC issue a demand letter on behalf of Ashlee Inscoe, an intersex woman wrongfully housed in a men's prison

2021 at a Glance

EEOC and Department of Labor host listening session on how to support intersex employees in the workforce

Department of Justice Civil Rights Division hosts LGBTQI+ Listening Session

SEPTEMBER

Bria, Hans, and Marissa join panel for New Haven Pride

KZ facilitates intersex focus group at Fenway Health



interACT joins NYC Zoom meeting on education bill implementation

interACT honored with GLMA Achievement Award

OCTOBER

First-ever intersex White House convening

Intersex Awareness Day



Intersex Inclusion in the Workplace training for Microsoft

interACT files amicus brief in Soule case (with pro bono assistance from Patterson Belknap)

NOVEMBER

Legislative Toolkit released with Harvard Law LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic!



DECEMBER

Kimberly's last month!

Comments submitted on the NIH's strategic plan to advance research on the health and well-being of sexual and gender minorities

THE 19th*

LGBTQ+

Will the Olympics ever truly welcome nonbinary athletes?

Many advocates say it's the binary that holds athletes of all gender minorities back, but few have solutions as sports grapple with increasing diversity.

Kate Sosin from *The 19th News* [interviews](#) interACT's Director of Engagement, Bria Brown-King, to bring attention to the discrimination faced by trans, intersex, and nonbinary athletes around the globe during the 2021 Olympics.

YouTube



interACT partnered with Writers Guild of America West to present a [groundbreaking panel](#) promoting authentic intersex representation in TV and film. Panelists included Kimberly, former interACT employee Emily Quinn, Youth Advocate River Gallo, and Seven Graham. The event was hosted by 2019 Anne Tamar-Mattis Award recipient Carter Covington.

ADVOCATE

COMMENTARY ▶

Biden's LGBTQ+ Efforts Disregard the 'I'



interACT's Executive Director, Kimberly Zieselman, and Law and Policy Director Alesdair Ittleleson call on the Biden administration to support intersex rights with concrete actions and not just words in [this piece in *The Advocate*](#).

Scary Mommy



Tales Of An Intersex Soccer Mom

PREVIEW

BY KIMBERLY ZIESELMAN

3.23.2021

Kimberly reminds us that intersex people can be parents too in [this article published in *Scary Mommy*](#).

THE 19th*

LGBTQ+

LGBTQ+ Americans greet the Biden-Harris era with hope, hesitancy

To many, the moment marks a new dawn, the end of deeply distressing four years. Others are simply exhausted.

In [this interview](#) with Kate Sosin from *The 19th News*, Kimberly expressed disappointment that President Biden's Executive Order on sexuality and gender non-discrimination didn't explicitly include intersex traits, but remained "cautiously optimistic."

stuff

life & style

gender & society

Queen's Birthday Honours: Intersex advocate Mani Bruce Mitchell on doing the mahi

Andre Chumko - 05:00, Jun 07 2021



interACT's founding board member Mani Mitchell has been made a [Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit](#) in honor of their 20-plus years of dedication and contributions to the intersex community in New Zealand and around the world.

THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENT

NATIONAL LOCAL ELECTIONS

OPINION

Intersex advocates call Equality Act a 'tremendous step forward'

By Casey Quinlan February 25, 2021 10:55 AM

Explicit protections for intersex people are included in the bill.

interACT staff Alesdair and Kimberly [interview with Casey Quinlan in *The American Independent*](#) to express excitement about the Equality Act being reintroduced with intersex included.

interACT
Advocates for Intersex Youth

Dr. Rachel Levine and her Colleagues at HHS Have a Big Opportunity the Media Isn't Talking About

Dr. Rachel Levine, President-elect Biden's nominee for Assistant Health Secretary, has been my professional mentor. I know she's a perfect choice for the job. She's also someone with unique opportunities to carry intersex communities' needs forward.

BY KATIE BARATZ DALKE, MD, MBE
FORMER INTERACT BOARD PRESIDENT



A mentee of Dr. Rachel Levine's, former interACT Board President Dr. Katie Baratz Dalke, [reflects](#) on some major opportunities.

A Look Back at Kimberly's Legacy



Though words could never fully capture our appreciation for having the incredible Kimberly Zieselman leading interACT for almost a decade, we couldn't have an annual report without at least trying to articulate the depth of her legacy. Kimberly not only played an integral role in almost every major step forward for intersex rights in this country (and beyond!) for almost the past ten years, but she also served as a friend and mentor for many members of the intersex community and those committed to intersex rights. And she did this only having learned about her variation at the age of 41!

Before interACT, Kimberly's involvement with the intersex community began with the support group InterConnect, then known as the AIS-DSD Support Group. After serving on their board, Kimberly became familiar with the advocacy efforts of interACT (then known as Advocates for Informed Choice), and we were lucky enough to have Kimberly join our staff in 2013. After an impressive professional career, having discovered her intersex variation in midlife, she brought years of experience in legislative work and nonprofit management, having worked at Boston Children's Hospital and a national infertility organization. She also became adept at understanding interACT's

unique needs and how to keep a small but mighty nonprofit running full speed ahead.

Without Kimberly's diligence, we could never have made our far-reaching impacts year after year, or grown the organization to its current footprint.

Through Kimberly's leadership, interACT has established itself as the go-to organization to address issues impacting not just intersex youth, but intersex people more generally and their allied communities.

We were lucky enough to have Kimberly join our staff in 2013. She brought years of experience in legislative work and nonprofit management. She became adept at understanding interACT's unique needs and how to keep a small but mighty nonprofit running full speed ahead.

A Look Back at Kimberly's Legacy

Kimberly worked tirelessly to ensure that a new generation of youth could live without shame about their intersex variations thanks to seeing themselves reflected in the world around them.

Perhaps most crucially, Kimberly worked tirelessly to ensure that a new generation of youth could live without shame about their intersex variations thanks to seeing themselves reflected in the world around them. She oversaw the first-ever celebrity coming out as intersex, plus the creation of the first-

ever intersex character to be thoughtfully represented on TV; she did countless media consults and constant reporter education; and she did it all while staying connected to her support group roots by engaging one-on-one with as many young intersex people as possible. By sharing her own story, she became a role model for intersex youth nationwide who were still learning how to tell theirs.

Everyone who has worked with Kimberly or experienced her mentorship knows she has dedicated the most recent decade of her life to interACT and to the cause of helping intersex young people thrive. We are so, so grateful for her legacy as a leader and cannot wait to see what she sets her mind to next!

Tributes to Kimberly from interACT Youth

"Kimberly is an amazing change maker, inspiration, and true friend. I am so thankful for all she has done for the intersex community. With Kimberly's leadership at interACT and with the guidance of interACT Youth I developed my own advocacy skills."

—Marissa, former interACT Youth member

"[Kimberly] helped me along my journey of being an advocate. I met Kimberly at my second InterConnect conference. She was always super friendly to me when I was a kid. And helped me become the advocate I am today when I wanted to. She helped my family and me understand my body to make sure we took the right steps for the best care. Thank you for everything Kimberly!"

—Banti, former interACT Youth member

Setting the Stage for Federal Rights

This year, interACT saw **unprecedented federal engagement** on intersex rights, reflected in a busy slate of meetings with the Departments of Justice and Health & Human Services in the first part of the year, a whole-staff briefing presented to the Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus in June, and participation in listening sessions hosted by the Department of Education, Department of Labor, and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission throughout the summer. Also in June, Bria delivered testimony at a virtual hearing on Title IX hosted by the Department of Education, during which they highlighted the need for intersex-inclusive sex discrimination protections in schools. (interACT also submitted [written testimony on the subject](#).)

Later that month, we received confirmation that our message was heard loud and clear when **the Departments of Education and Justice released resources that specifically included intersex students in their anti-discrimination efforts.**

On the 49th anniversary of Title IX, both departments affirmed in a [new fact sheet](#) that “bullying, harassment, and discrimination based on sex stereotypes and assumptions about what it means to be a boy or a girl” affect intersex students as well as LGBTQ+ students, and listed a hypothetical example of hurtful, discriminatory comments being directed at “an elementary school student with intersex traits” as the type of incident that the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights and the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division could investigate.

In light of the Supreme Court decision in *Bostock* that deemed Title VII to apply to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, the Department of Justice also updated its [Title IX Legal Manual](#) to note that “[t]he reasoning in these interpretations applies with equal force to discrimination against intersex people. ... Intersex traits, like gender identity and sexual orientation, are ‘inextricably bound up with’ sex.”

In July, interACT was invited to meet with the White House Office of Public Engagement, where we had the opportunity to educate key administration personnel on our policy priorities and specific steps they could take to advance intersex justice in every federal agency. In August, we were invited by the White House Gender Policy Council to join a stakeholder strategy meeting with other LGBTQ+ equality advocates to weigh in with recommendations for the White House’s first National Gender Strategy, and we attended an additional White House listening session on educational equity in September.

On October 26 (Intersex Awareness Day), President Biden convened the first-ever White House Roundtable on intersex issues. This Roundtable was organized in collaboration with interACT, and was hosted by Assistant Secretary of Health Admiral Rachel Levine, as well as Jennifer Klein, Deputy Assistant to the President and Executive Director of the Gender Policy Council, and Chiraag Bains, Deputy Assistant to the President for Racial Justice and Equity. These representatives of the Biden Administration, in a historic first, articulated their commitment to advancing justice, opportunity, and safety for intersex Americans, and recognized the harm that intersex people experience from unnecessary childhood

interACT Law & Policy

surgeries when they are unable to lead their own medical decisionmaking. Also in honor of Intersex Awareness Day, the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor highlighted Kimberly as an intersex human rights defender in a 4-part series.

Policy Buzz & Blueprints to DIY!

Parallel to this remarkable federal momentum, we saw continued progress at the state and local levels, as well as trend-setting hospital policy advancements that will result in greater numbers of intersex children being protected from early medical interventions that they may never want or need.

The **New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation**, the largest public health system in the US, implemented a policy that applies to all of its facilities and bans medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex youth without individual consent.

This spring, the **New York City Council** passed the first-of-its-kind educational campaign bill, Int. 1748, which directs the city's health department to design and disseminate materials to inform the public about the existence of intersex variations and the feasibility of delaying decisions regarding surgery to safeguard bodily autonomy and self-determination.

Austin, Texas passed its own resolution condemning unnecessary surgeries and recommending that the city adopt an educational campaign modeled on NYC's—thanks to the work of former

interACT Youth member and current Austin Human Rights Commissioner Alicia Roth Weigel.

Legislation to limit harmful and unnecessary surgeries also moved through **California, New Jersey, and Rhode Island**, led by interACT and coalition partners including ACLU California Action, Equality California, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and Garden State Equality.

In recognition of the growing interest in pursuing intersex-affirming state and local legislation, and the comparatively limited person-power that interACT is able to contribute to these efforts, we also launched **a legislative advocacy toolkit in collaboration with Harvard Law School's LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic**.

Making its debut in November, the toolkit was developed in order to share the knowledge and experience that we have accumulated through our legislative work, including model language for different types of bills, tips on finding a sponsor, building a coalition of on-the-ground advocates, and developing strong talking points that center personal stories and lived experience while respecting the emotional boundaries of individuals who have volunteered to speak on issues that directly impact them.

interACT shares our deep gratitude to Professor Alex Chen and the students involved with the Harvard Clinic; videographer Liv Parriott; featured advocates Bria Brown-King, Mari Wrobi, Stephani Lohman, Dr. Ilene Wong, Dr. Oxiris Barbot, and Senator Tiara Mack; as well as the long list of intersex community members who took the time to share feedback on the toolkit resources during their development.

Intersex Awareness Day 2021

For Intersex Awareness Day this year, we invited intersex people to submit their selfies as a part of our campaign to highlight and celebrate the many faces of the intersex community. We wanted to remind everyone that the intersex community is comprised of a diverse array of people with different variations, experiences, and backgrounds within the intersex community and there isn't just one way to look or be intersex.



interACT Youth

interACT Youth is our intersex youth advocacy group, providing young intersex peers with connection, leadership skills, and a platform to raise their voices. This is the heart and soul of our mission to honor intersex bodily integrity and autonomy in decision-making.

In the past few years, Youth members in their teens and twenties have spread their wings, pursuing independent advocacy projects and even starting organizations in their own communities. Our collective provides support, training, social activities, and a space for these voices to join together. Below we have highlighted 3 out of our **many** rockstar Youth Advocates.

Ori Turner



Ori is a phenomenal intersex advocate who reminds us all that we're never too young to make a difference in the world. In 2018, at just 11 years old, Ori and their parent and interACT board member, Kristina Turner, [graced the TedX stage](#) with their luminous personality, where they used their platform to raise awareness about intersex issues. In 2021, Ori and Kristina sat down for interviews with [France 24](#) to remind us that there's beauty in being intersex and with [PFLAG National](#) to discuss how anti-trans legislation also affects intersex people too.

Nik Lampe



Nik is a PhD candidate at the University of South Carolina in the Sociology Department where they are conducting research that seeks to better understand the health needs of and healthcare experiences of intersex adults ages 65 and older. There is a huge gap when it comes to intersex research and data collection. Luckily, intersex advocates like Nik are working to help close that gap.

Irene Kuzemko



Irene is a longtime intersex activist working with [Intersex Russia](#) to fight for intersex rights in Russia, Ukraine, and worldwide. In [this video](#), Irene shares how it's possible to be intersex and not know it because some intersex traits don't become apparent until a person reaches puberty. Read more about Irene's story in [this personal essay](#) Irene published on interACT's blog in 2016.

Anne Tamar-Mattis Award: Kyle Knight



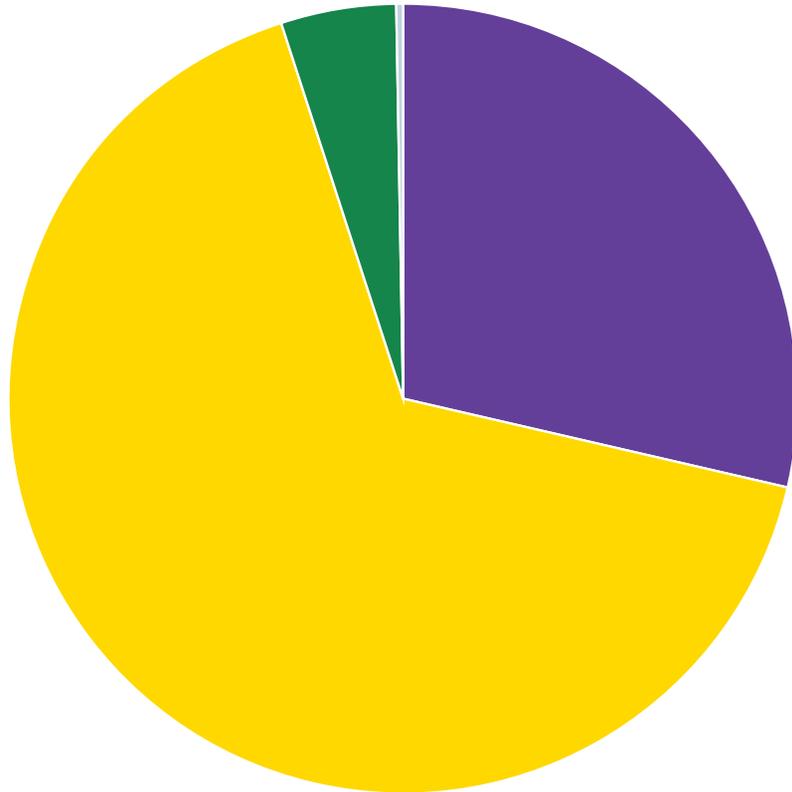
The Anne Tamar-Mattis Advocacy Award sets the bar for intersex allyship. Established in 2017 in recognition of interACT's founder, Anne Tamar-Mattis, the award is intended to recognize and honor outstanding allies of the intersex community for their support and advocacy on behalf of intersex youth. Support from a variety of fields and perspectives is integral to the success of the intersex movement. Award nominations are made by interACT as appropriate in recognition of tremendous contribution to the fight for intersex rights.

Our 2021 awardee was Kyle Knight of Human Rights Watch. Kyle has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing intersex rights and at many moments Kyle has greatly strengthened interACT by lending us his many skills and talents. For the past five years, Human Rights Watch has partnered with interACT to document harms intersex people face when they are subjected to medically unnecessary surgeries. Kyle has continued to be a major ally, continuing to advocate for intersex bodily autonomy and informed consent whether it be directly advocating with interACT in government, healthcare and other settings, or informing and educating media.

Kyle is a tireless advocate for intersex people and one of our staunchest allies at interACT. We can't think of anyone more deserving of this award in this monumental year than him. We are seeing huge shifts around the country (and the world) in standards related to unnecessary and harmful intersex surgeries. Kyle, and Human Rights Watch, have been incredible partners and leaders in this work.

Financials

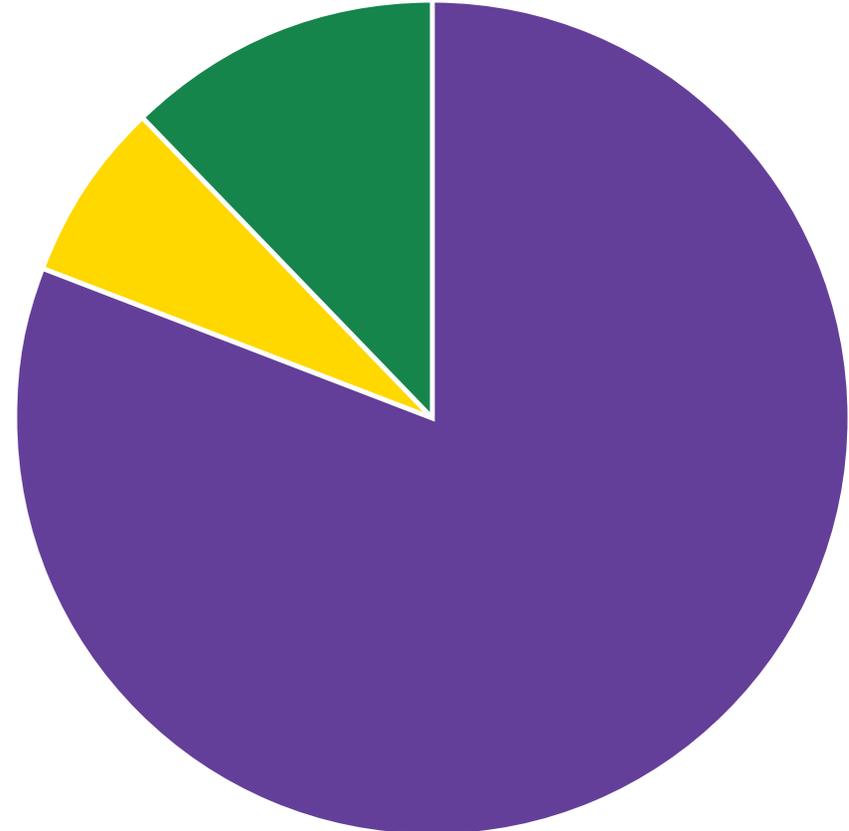
Total 2021 Operating Revenue
\$709,340



- 29% Individual Donors
- 66% Grants (Unrestricted)
- 5% Program
- 0.2% Miscellaneous

Note: interACT also received \$215,000 in multi-year time-restricted grants in 2021. This amount is not included above.

Total 2021 Expenses
\$527,589



- 81% Program
- 12% Admin
- 7% Fundraising

Fundraising Highlight: Carter Covington

Every year, a group of dedicated interACT supporters reach out to their friends and family in December to ask them to support our critical work. This year, we're highlighting **Carter Covington**. Carter is an American television writer/creator/showrunner who has been a supporter of interACT for almost a decade and who led a smash of a success fundraiser this year. We asked Carter some questions about fundraising with the organization, highlighted below!



What inspired you to get involved with interACT and hold a fundraiser?

I've been a friend and ally of interACT since 2013, when we worked together to shape an intersex character's journey on my MTV series *Faking It*. I continue to be in awe of the amazing work interACT is doing to make the world more accepting and supportive of intersex youth—especially with their comparatively small size and limited resources. I know that every dollar donated to interACT has a huge impact.

What was your experience fundraising?

My fundraiser was an email request I made to friends and colleagues at the end of the year. I feared that my email would get lost, or that people would be too inundated with requests from other nonprofits to respond. The opposite proved to be true. People were moved by my personal request, and inspired by the highlights I gave of interACT's many successes in 2021. Many people not only donated, but shared with me that my email had opened their eyes to intersex issues they'd been completely unaware of.

What's the thing you love most about interACT's work?

I love the passionate activism of intersex youth as they push to be seen and heard. I love the way interACT uses smart legal and political strategies to bring about much needed change. And I love how interACT provides a space for both community and activism.

Any advice you would give to someone doing a fundraiser for the first time?

Be yourself, and make sure your request comes from the heart. People don't want to give money out of obligation to a friend, they want to make a difference in the world. Share your passion for interACT and their mission and people will want to help.

To get involved in our fundraising efforts, email fundraising@interactadvocates.org.

Thanks to Our Donors

* = Has given for the last 5+ years

† = Board member

Champions (\$1,000+)

Our Champion Donors make a fantastic commitment to interACT. Their gifts are \$1,000 or more each year and the difference that they make is immeasurable. Our sincerest gratitude goes out to our 2021 donors at this level.

Anonymous • Arlene Baratz* • Elizabeth Boskey • Mona Breed • Aaron Breslow† • Frank Brown • Carter Covington
Mary Fenton • Richard Ferraro • Carly Floyd • Janet Green • Ariella Guttman • Mary Ittelson • Bo Laurent
Rebecca Mascott* • Noberto Eduardo Priu • Elizabeth “Lizzie” Reis • Meg Robertson* • Matt Shack
Anne Tamar-Mattis • Amy Tryon • Wazir Woods

Guardians (\$250 - \$999)

Our Guardian Donors give at a level which keeps our work going. We are thankful every day for those who put their trust, and their gifts, in our hands so that interACT can work toward making the changes we want to see for intersex children.

Tamika Addison-Watkins • Marleen & Kenny Alhadeff • Deborah Banta • Mills Barbeau • Tamara Beck*
Deborah Benson • Fanny Beyeler-Vazquez • Dana Beyer • Wendy Blair • Brady Borcharding • Keely Bosn
Bettina Brown • Daniel Bruner • Vivian Cannon • Christopher Carl • Catherine Clune-Taylor† • Georgiann Davis*
Tiger Devore* • Debora Domass • Emily Doskow* • Lauren Gardner • Cj Giovingo • Stephen Greenberg
Isaac Guttman • Lynn Hunt • Theodore Isoz • Axel Keating† • Jae Lin • Bill Lorenz* • Alina Lundry
Charles Mascott • Ted & Mary Mascott • Molly McGlynn • Emily Mode • Asieh Nariman • Aishath Nasir
Susan Plum • Jacob Richards* • Ryan Scadding • Katherine Scott • Bonnie Scranton† • Adina Shanholtz
Benjamin Shartsis • Shaina Siber-Sanderowitz • David J. Staats • Susan Stred • Rachel Strickler • Peter Trinkl
Jesse Vernon* • Michelle Wolff • Sophia Yang • Kris Young • Kimberly Zieselman

Thanks to Our Donors

Sustaining Donors

Sustaining donors give on a consistent basis, understanding that interACT can achieve more if we know what funding we can depend upon. Most give monthly, and knowing that this funding is around the corner helps to keep our programs active and on track. A special thank you goes out to these 2021 donors and their planned, recurring gifts.

Arlene Baratz* • Tamara Beck* • Brady Borcharding • Madison Cantrell • Catherine Clune-Taylor†
Georgiann Davis* • Tiger Devore* • Emily Doskow* • Carly Floyd • Lourdes Follins • Lauren Gill* • Cj Giovingo
Andrew Gnias • Wym Greene • Bridget Halfaker • Arin Hilton* • Katherine Ingersoll* • Octavian Ion
Theodore Isoz • Diane Japadjief • Kyle Johnson* • Rebecca Jordan-Young • Eric Lohman*† • Bill Lorenz*
Rebecca Mascott* • Amanda Meegan* • Annie Menzel • Natalie Miles • Michelle Moore • Asieh Nariman
Aishath Nasir • Hannah Paessel • Eliana Peck* • Rebecca Philio • Jacob Richards* • Meg Robertson*
Katherine Scott • Shaina Siber-Sanderowitz • Courtney Skaggs • Brynn StarDew • Cynthia Stefenoni
Carl Streed, MD • Christina Tricou* • Amy Tryon • Ivan Velkovsky • Jesse Vernon* • Alexandra Von Klan
Paul Waltman* • Ali Webster* • Sophia Yang • David Youngblood*

2021 Grantors

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
Arcus Foundation
James Hormel—Small Change Foundation
Society for Community Works
Open Society Foundations
Tides Kicking Assets Fund
van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation
Wild Geese Foundation

2021 Staff & Board of Directors

Staff



KIMBERLY ZIESELMAN
she/her
Executive Director



ALESDAIR ITTELSON
he/him
Law & Policy Director



BRIA BROWN-KING
they/she
Director of Engagement



HANS LINDAHL
no pronouns
Director of Communications & Outreach



SYLVAN FRASER
they/them
Senior Staff Attorney

Board of Directors



AARON BRESLOW, PHD
he/him



CATHERINE CLUNE-TAYLOR, PHD
she/her



JULIE GREENBERG, JD
she/her



AXEL KEATING
they/them



NIKI KHANNA, MA, MFT
she/her



ERIC LOHMAN
he/him



BONNIE SCRANTON, LCSW, CST, CSE
she/her



KRISTINA TURNER
she/her



ILENE WONG, MD
she/her

Board Highlight: Niki Khanna

interACT is proud to announce that Niki Khanna, MA, MFT (she/her) has been elected co-president of the Board of Directors, along with Julie Greenberg.

Julie shared:

“I am so excited to be able to serve as co-president with Niki. Niki’s work for the intersex community has been amazing. She will be a thoughtful, dynamic, and inspirational leader.”

Before joining our board last year, Niki had previously been involved with interACT as a Mental Health consultant and wanted to be able to add her voice to the organization in a broader way. She thought it was important for a person like herself, who is intersex, queer, POC and a mental health professional, someone with her specific perspectives, to contribute to this movement in a meaningful way. We were so happy to welcome her to the board and in her time since joining, she has been on the Executive Committee, Transition Committee and the DEIBAC Committee and has shown up for interACT in bold and inspiring ways.

We asked Niki what it meant for her to become a co-chair. She said:

“I think it can be so impactful for a young person, particularly a young, queer, intersex person of color to see a leader that might look like them. interACT has gone through some big changes recently and I am very excited to see the organization not only further the objectives of our amazing previous leadership, but also to see how we can adapt to meet the needs of intersex youth the best ways possible going forward. Intersex folks, especially youth, out there: I see YOU and you are amazing.”

Niki’s hopes for interACT in 2022 are that we can really build on some of the relationships fostered with our current government’s administration to push for the rights of intersex bodily autonomy and that we can foster stronger relationships with the other remarkable intersex organizations, support groups and activists out there so we work more collaboratively. You can read her bio below.

Niki Khanna is a psychotherapist and educator in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her focus is working within the Queer, Trans and Intersex communities. She is also a certified Sexual Health Educator and has spent over 20 years working in Sex Education, Sexual Assault and Rape Prevention Education as well as Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Education. She identifies as a Femme, Intersex, and POC. She is passionate about finding ways to use the skills she has developed to contribute to the Intersex community. She provides workshops and mental health support to the AIS-DSD Support Group/InterConnect. Before joining the board, she also provided mental health consultation to interACT. Her current projects are developing practical training modules for mental health providers working with intersex clients and their families and writing/editing a chapter focused on Intersex for a forthcoming textbook on trauma within the LGBTIAQ+ communities.

Thanks to Our Allies & Partners

2021 Medical Advisory Group

Arlene B. Baratz, MD (Chair)

Student Volunteers

Mackenzie Concepcion
Sarah Dupree
Elana Muroff
Chuanyi Qi
Jordanne Stobbs-Vergara
Fran Swanson

Nonprofit Partners

Berkeley Law Reproductive Justice Project
Harvard Law LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic
Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund
National Center for Lesbian Rights
American Civil Liberties Union & state affiliates
Equality California
Human Rights Campaign
Lambda Legal
Human Rights Watch
Garden State Equality
Equality NC
Emancipate NC
TGI Justice Project

Pro Bono Legal Partners

Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler

How You Can Get Involved

Join our Facebook Ambassador Program and raise funds for our work with your friends and family. Email fundraising@interactadvocates.org to join.

Join [iSpace](#) if you are an intersex youth between the ages of 13-29 and looking for peer connections.

Give! Go to interactadvocates.org/donate to give now.



Get in Touch

interACTadvocates.org

 [/interactadvocates](https://www.facebook.com/interactadvocates)

 [@interact_adv](https://twitter.com/interact_adv)

 [@interact_adv](https://www.instagram.com/interact_adv)

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