



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



A WIDER BRIDGE





## A WIDER BRIDGE

Dear Friends,

This **Annual Report** tells a story of **resilience**. The pandemic may have curtailed us from gathering in person, but it didn't stop us from expanding our reach and impact.

AWB's beautiful **Jewish Inclusive Pride Flag** places our identity in the center. You cannot remove the star and still be inclusive!

Our **We Refuse to Choose** campaign took this flag to Pride celebrations from coast to coast, with a message that we will not be forced into any closets because of our support for LGBTQ or Jewish rights, including Israel.

More than 100 people participated in our **Virtual Missions**— and we didn't stop there. We launched **A Wider Lens** — reaching huge audiences with discussions about films, books, and food all at the nexus of LGBTQ, Jewish, and Israeli culture. And **10,000** of you joined us for **Virtual Tel Aviv Pride** in June!

The growing **AWB network** made its voice heard in 2021 when LGBTQ people faced hate including transphobia, when Jews faced violence, and when Israel was attacked from **Gaza**. Our alumni spoke out in social media, rallies, and op-eds.

Throughout, we helped share the voices of **LGBTQ Israelis** — as they navigated the pandemic, took cover from rockets, and showed us all what resilience really means. We are especially proud that we were able to expand the **AWB Impact Grants Program** — giving over \$180,000 to 17 Israeli LGBTQ organizations.

AWB's **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** was a great success. We welcome you to watch it.

**THANK YOU** to our board, donors, alumni, partners, and participants who have helped AWB grow to have international reach.

You make all this possible.

B'Shalom

Alan Schwartz  
Chair of the Board



Ethan Felson  
Executive Director



Inspired by  
our work?  
Please Donate Today.  
Thank you

# 2021 IMPACT



**100** LGBTQ  
leaders on  
A Wider Bridge  
Virtual Missions



**250** Beyond the  
Bridge alumni



Facebook posts  
reach more than  
**250,000** people



**1,500** participants  
from **40** US States  
and more than  
**10** countries



**17** new Impact Grants,  
over **50** since program  
inception — helping  
tens of thousands



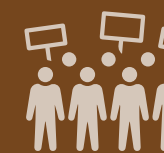
Over **100,000**  
views of Tel Aviv  
Pride program



Over  
**30,000** views  
of A Wider Bridge  
programs



**1** new inclusive  
Jewish Pride Flag



Over **100**  
participants in A  
Wider Bridge "Proud  
and" Virtual Rally

“Every day, there are people who seek to force us into closets – because of who we are - our LGBT identity, our connection to Israel, or our Jewish faith. A Wider Bridge builds relationships, educates, advocates, and demands that this will never happen!”

*Dr. Dana Beyer*



“When A Wider Bridge advocates for equality in Israel and equality for Israel, it is translating *Tikkun Olam* from a general slogan into a practical call of action.”

*Israeli President Isaac Herzog*



“Without A Wider Bridge there wouldn't be a safe space where people can be out, proud, and comfortable in supporting Israel.”

*Jeff Farber*



“In a world where pro-Israel LGBTQ folks are silenced and aren't welcome in many queer spaces, it's crucial to have an organization like A Wider Bridge that proudly states “We Refuse to Choose.”

*Liz Schwartz*



“A Wider Bridge is the organization I want to devote my time and attention to. This is the organization that stands for the most important value: equality for all.”

*Dr. Anita Friedman*



“I am LGBTQ, progressive, and pro-Israel, and I came to discover that the leading organization at the intersection of LGBTQ and progressive and pro-Israel politics is A Wider Bridge.”

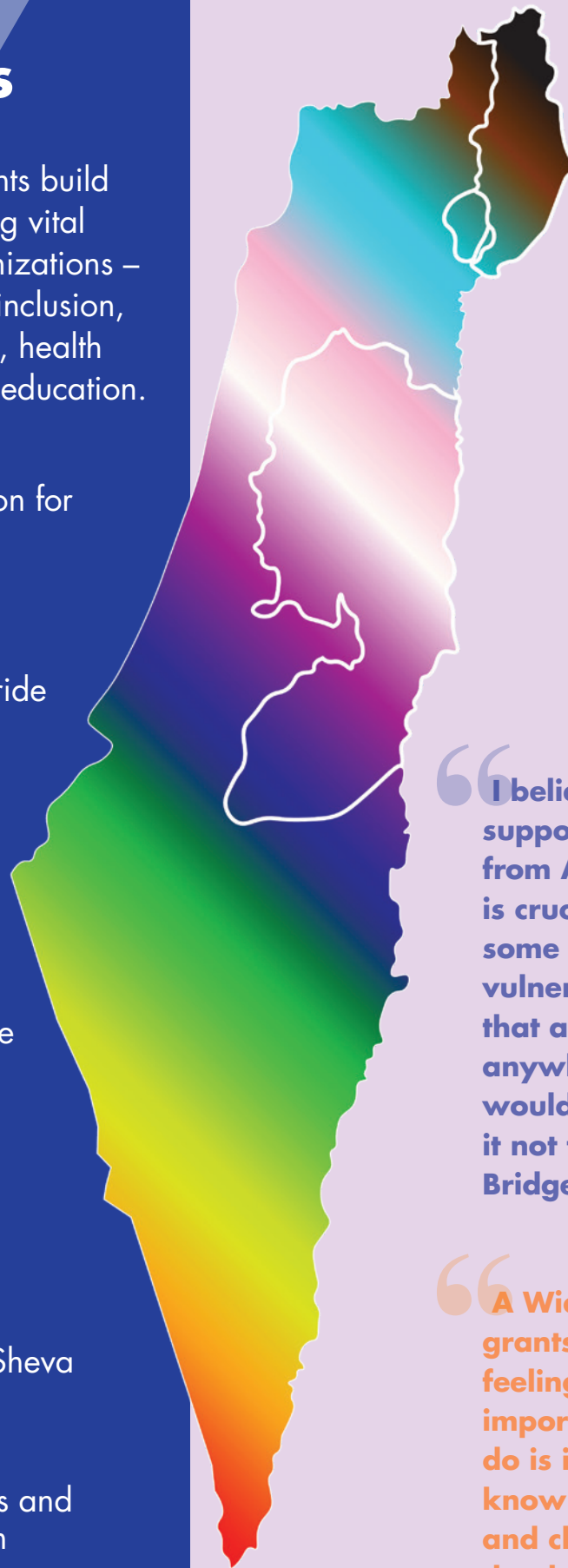
*U.S. Rep. Ritchie Torres*



# Impact Grants

A Wider Bridge Impact Grants build Equality in Israel by providing vital funds to Israeli LGBTQ organizations – advancing civil rights, trans inclusion, community centers, helplines, health care, housing, families, and education.

- The Aguda ,The Association for LGBTQ Equality in Israel
- Aron HaKodesh
- Bat-Kol
- Communities' House for Pride and Tolerance, Haifa
- Havruta - Religious Gays
- Hoshen
- IGY
- Israel Aids Task Force
- Israel Medical Association
- The Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance
- LGBT Sports Club, Israel
- LGBTech
- Ma'avarim - Israeli Trans Community
- OTOT LGBTQ
- The Pride House of Be'er Sheva and the South
- Shoval
- Tehila - Support for parents and families of LGBTQ children



**“I believe that the support that we get from A Wider Bridge is crucial in continuing some of the most vulnerable programs that are not funded anywhere else and would not exist where it not for A Wider Bridge”**

**Nurit Shein**

**“A Wider Bridge’s grants give us the feeling that we’re important and what we do is important.. We know that we can go and change things, so thank you for that”**

**Elisha Alexander**

# Virtual Missions

2021 wasn't easy for anyone. To thrive, A Wider Bridge had to adapt and continue to up our game. Travel restrictions didn't stop A Wider Bridge from doing our critical work. Our missions to Israel continued because we went virtual. We showed Israel to 100 top influencers, legislators, mayors, LGBTQ organization leaders and more.

**“The opportunity to learn about Israel and to hear the challenges and concerns that my fellow American elected officials face was really rewarding for me. I don't often get a chance to connect with other LGBTQ+ doing such impactful work.”**  
**Mayor James Campbell, City of Belvedere, California**

**“As someone with an interest, but not a lot of knowledge, this really helped me start forming a deeper perspective. The conversations we had are critical to learning and sharing ideas to move us closer to achieving our goals of equality.”**  
**Rep. Briana Titone, Colorado**





## We are Proud And...

Last June, A Wider Bridge hosted an online rally that allowed members of our community to showcase who they are and how they live out the values that shape their lives.

Pride rallies are for everyone, but not all feel welcome. Many people are forced to choose between identities.

This virtual rally celebrated our pluralistic identities. We are proud and so many other great things.

## Why did we create a new flag?



During Pride rallies and marches, we at A Wider Bridge have proudly used a rainbow pride flag with a white Star of David. The pride flag has evolved to include inclusive colors. We didn't want just to add on those missing colors and the star in a way that they could be removed, either practically and symbolically. So, we came up with our new inclusive Jewish pride flag. The original pride flag, the inclusive colors, and the star each stand for inseparable parts of our identities. We cannot allow one to be removed just as we won't be excluded from either the LGBTQ community or the Jewish community.

For A Wider Bridge, our support for Israel is central to our Jewish identity and our LGBTQ identity. We believe that when one part of the community is excluded, we are all left weaker and less vibrant. Doing so contradicts the very idea of inclusivity.

We Refuse To Choose. We refuse to prioritize and rank the multifaceted components of our identities. Here is our new flag, and we invite you to wave it proudly with us.





A WIDER BRIDGE

# We Refuse To Choose

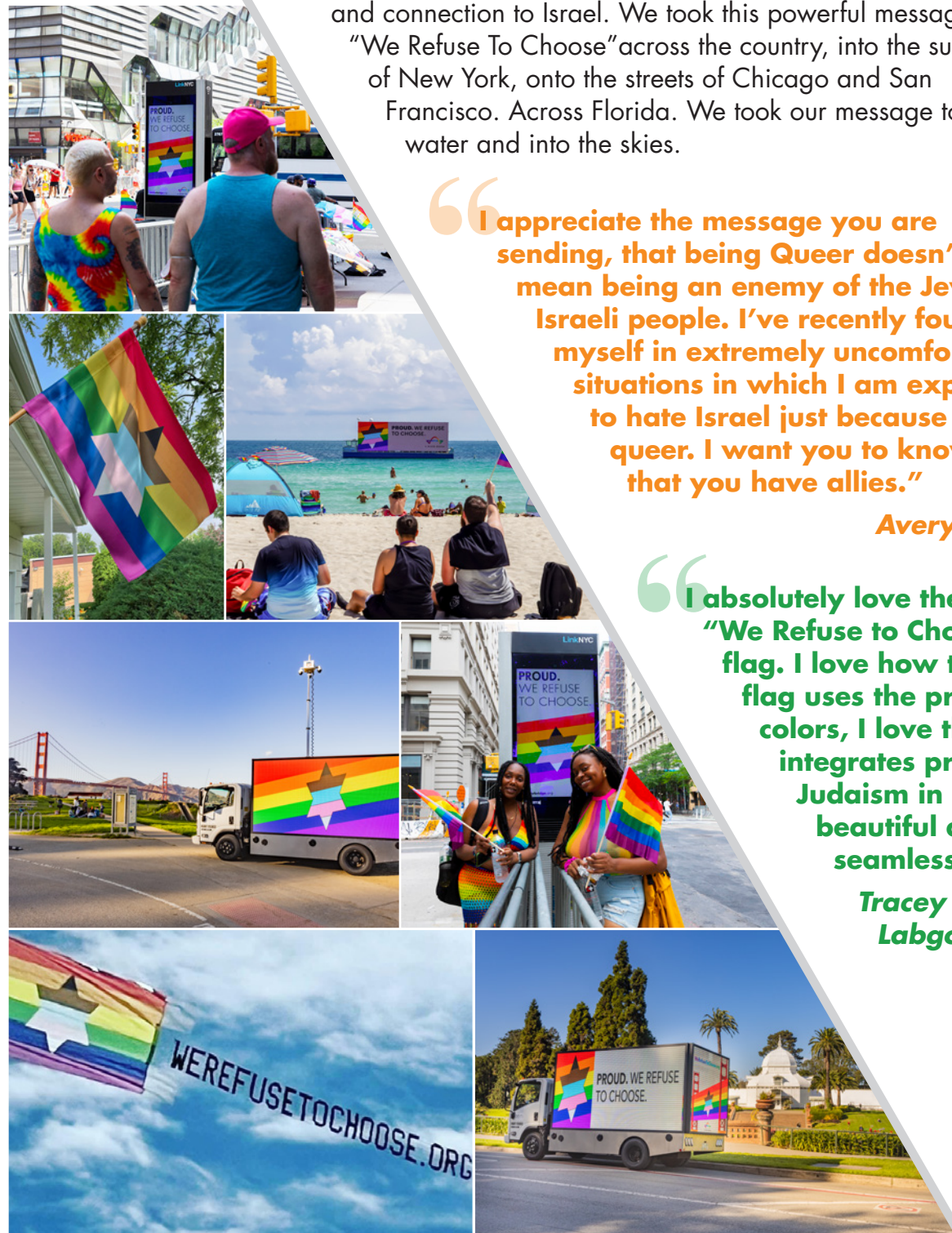
In 2021, we're united under a new flag of Inclusive Jewish Pride. We pushed back against those who've been trying to define us, and we celebrated all of our identities, including our Judaism and connection to Israel. We took this powerful message "We Refuse To Choose" across the country, into the subways of New York, onto the streets of Chicago and San Francisco. Across Florida. We took our message to the water and into the skies.

**"I appreciate the message you are sending, that being Queer doesn't mean being an enemy of the Jewish/Israeli people. I've recently found myself in extremely uncomfortable situations in which I am expected to hate Israel just because I'm queer. I want you to know that you have allies."**

**Avery**

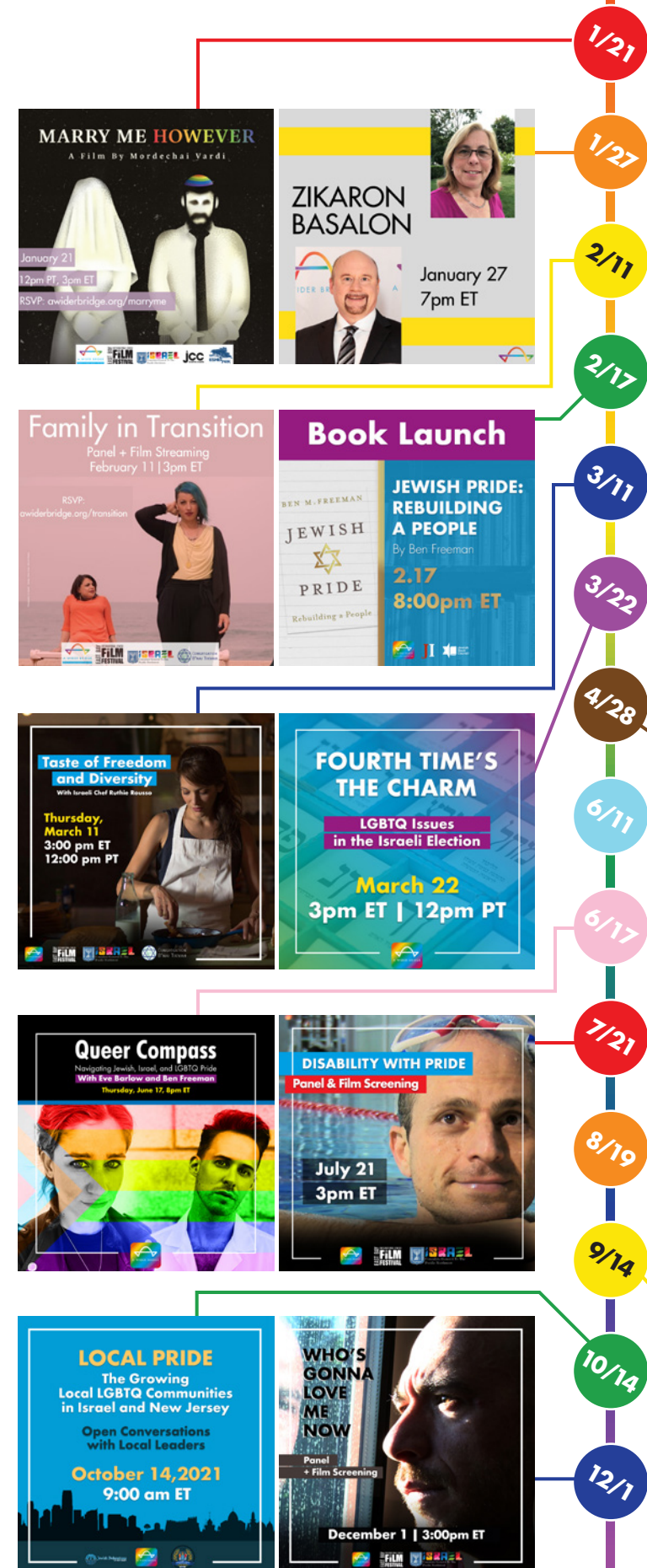
**"I absolutely love the new "We Refuse to Choose" flag. I love how the flag uses the progress colors, I love that it integrates pride and Judaism in a really beautiful and seamless way"**

**Tracey Labgold**



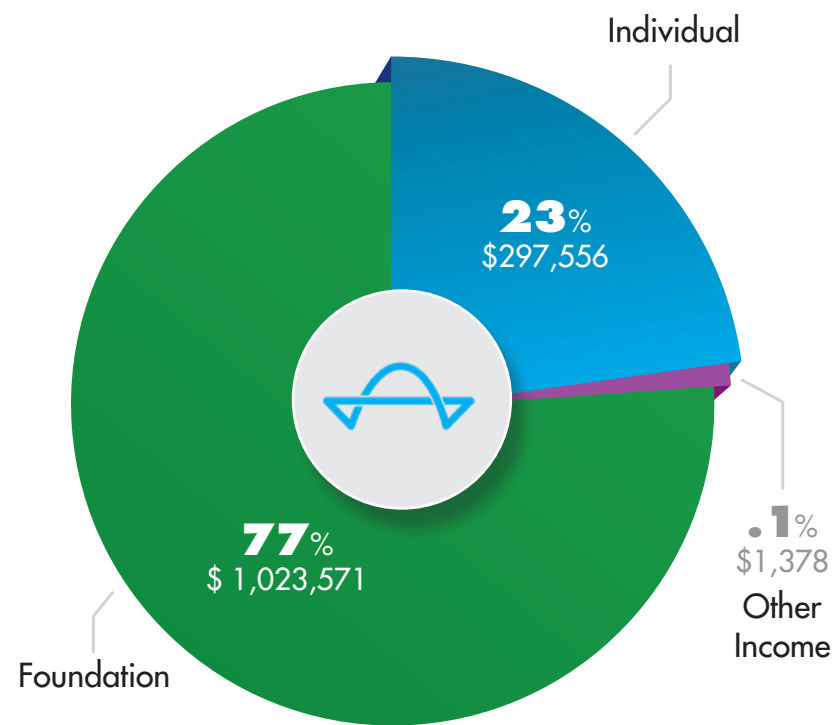
# Programs

Through our A Wider Lens series, with films, books and cooking classes, we showed the world the nexus of Jewish Israeli and LGBTQ culture. And despite us being apart physically, over 10,000 people joined us for virtual pride in Tel Aviv.



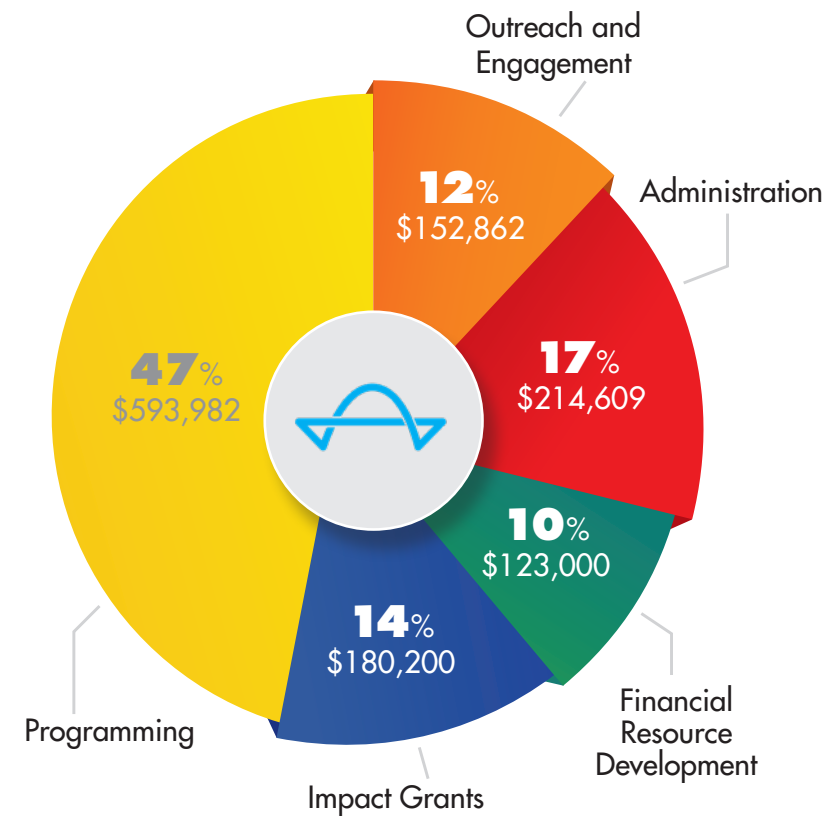
Scan the code to buy our Inclusive Jewish Pride flag and more!

# Social Media



# 2021 REVENUE AND EXPENSES

**Total Revenue \$1,322,506\***



**Total Expenses \$1,264,653**

*\*There is a \$57,853 surplus in a reserve fund that will be fully utilized in 2022 for additional in-person missions to Israel and \$332,500 in grant funding to be released from restriction in 2022.*



# The History of A Wider Bridge



2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021



Arthur Slepian forms A Wider Bridge in response to fatal shooting at LGBTQ youth club in Tel Aviv

First A Wider Bridge Mission to Israel

A Wider Bridge responds to "pinkwashing" effort to silence pro-Israel LGBTQ voices in Seattle

A Wider Bridge selected for Slingshot Award for second year in a row

First event with Israeli Transgender leaders

A Wider Bridge responds to the murder of Shira Banki at Jerusalem Pride March

A Wider Bridge program with Jerusalem Open House disrupted at Creating Change conference

A Wider Bridge staff person with Jewish star pride flag ejected from Chicago Dyke March

First A Wider Bridge Impact Grants awarded to Israeli LGBTQ NGOs

A Wider Bridge Leadership Mission to US for Israeli LGBTQ leaders

A Wider Bridge reaches wide audience virtually after Covid changes plans

New Jewish Inclusive Pride Flag and We Refuse to Choose campaign



Scan the QR code to watch our 10th anniversary celebration

# OUR DONORS



## A WIDER BRIDGE

### Institutional Support

#### \$100,000+

Anonymous (NYC Area)  
Koret Foundation  
Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies  
One8 Foundation  
Paul E. Singer Foundation

#### \$50,000 – \$99,999

Anonymous (Bay Area)  
Anonymous (NYC Area)  
Jewish Federations of North America  
Klarman Family Foundation  
Koret Foundation  
Morningstar Fund  
Senser Family Foundation

#### \$25,000 – \$49,999

Margaret and Daniel Loeb Family Foundation

#### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Chaiken Family Foundation  
Jewish Federation of Broward County  
The Lisa and Michael Leffell Foundation  
Libitzky Family Foundation

#### Under \$10,000

Greater Miami Jewish Federation

### Individual Support

#### Gesher Platina (\$25K-\$49.9K)

Alan Schwartz and Michael Sarid

#### Gesher Zahav (\$10K-\$24.9K)

Andrew Austin and Michael Sonberg  
Barry Blecher  
The Friend Family Foundation  
Jeffrey Schoenfeld and Matt Holbein  
Jane Weitzman

#### Gesher Adom (\$5K-\$9.9K)

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Barry Finestone  
Amy and Mort Friedkin  
Lee Jason Goldberg  
David Hochberg  
Bruce Maxwell  
James Rushing  
Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado

#### Gesher Katom (\$2.5K-\$4.9K)

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## A WIDER BRIDGE

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[www.awiderbridge.org](http://www.awiderbridge.org)

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our work?  
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Thank you



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