



Learn. Share. Lead.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Maine Women's Lobby
Maine Women's Lobby Education Fund

Learn. Share. Lead.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Table of Contents

5	Letter from the Chair
7	2020 Organization Staff
8	2020 Maine Women's Lobby Education Fund <i>Board of Directors</i> <i>Accomplishments</i> <i>Financials</i> <i>Supporters</i>
13	2020 Maine Women's Lobby <i>Board of Directors</i> <i>Accomplishments</i> <i>Financials</i> <i>Supporters</i>
22	Looking Ahead

Letter from the Chair

2020 rocked our world and organizations, as we witnessed the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and racism in our communities. This was a year of publicly unveiling and understanding what had already been clear to so many: we have inadequate social safety nets that put women, caregivers, essential workers, families, and marginalized communities at risk; and racism systematically harms and excludes Black, brown, Indigenous, and people of color from the opportunities that others enjoy.

Our response to the pandemic included work to ensure that our organizations continued to grow and thrive, despite the closure or cancellation of virtually all our year's programming, as well as continuing to advocate for policy solutions (that would have reduced the harm of the pandemic), such as paid family and medical leave, livable wages, workers' rights and protections, and access to affordable healthcare. Our work to respond to racism included our ongoing commitment to center the experiences and voices of those most affected by harmful public policy. We created new organizational policies to center equity and to align with our policy values; updated our strategic plan to explicitly state our intention to engage in work that centers the needs and experiences of those most affected by harmful policies or left out of the policy making process; modernized our Board nomination process to welcome the leadership of those communities, including Black, brown, Indigenous, trans women and gender non-conforming people, and differently-abled and formerly incarcerated women. As a result, the Board seated in January 2021 represents more of Maine's counties, communities, and experiences than ever before.

Finally, we were pleased to welcome our new Executive Director, Destie Hohman Sprague, in January, and a new Development and Communications Coordinator, Dania Feleo, in September. With our expanded Board, energized new staff, and revitalized programming, we look forward to focusing 2021 on the heart of our mission: engaging Mainers and policymakers in advancing feminist, anti-racist, and equitable policy solutions, so that every Mainer lives with dignity, safety, and justice. We have ambitious goals, but our work is more critical than ever. I want to thank each of our staff and board members, partners, supporters, and volunteers for helping us work towards creating a more feminist future.

ELIZABETH RIOTTE

Maine Women's Lobby and MWL Education Fund Chair





COVID-safe staff annual retreat with Destie, Logan, & Dania.

2020 Organization Staff

Destie Hohman Sprague

Executive Director

Logan Mills

Community Organizer and Office Coordinator

Dania Feleo

Development and Communications Coordinator

Kelli Musick

2020 Linda Smith Dyer Fellow

Special thanks to Caroline Baldacci, our 2020 summer policy intern.

2020 MWL EDUCATION FUND

Board of Directors

Elizabeth Riotte, Chair
Lucia Chomeau Hunt, Vice Chair
Erin Cinelli, Treasurer
Lauren Sterling, Secretary
Lauren Jacobs
Gretchen Johnson

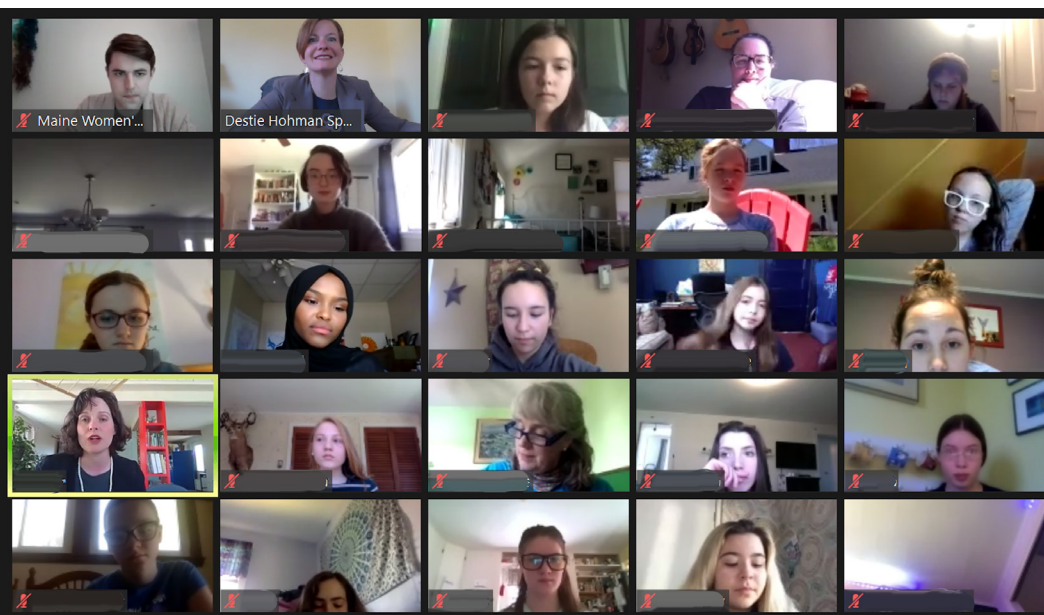
Accomplishments

Girls' Day: The 24th Girls' Day at the Statehouse was cancelled the day before one hundred eighth grade girls were due in Augusta, but in May our team pulled together the first Virtual Girls' Day. Participants heard from women in Maine's leadership, spent time with a panel of younger elected leaders, and heard from legislators, lobbyists, legislative staffers, and more.

"I learned that I am worthy and able to make a change in the world."

- GIRLS' DAY PARTICIPANT

First annual Virtual Girls' Day, May 2020.

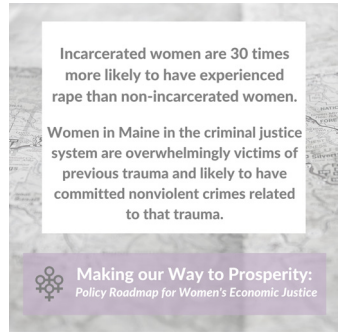


Policy Roadmap: With the help of our Linda Smith Dyer Fellow, we conducted interviews with 35 program partners in Maine for our biennial Policy Roadmap. With the voices of groups like Wabanaki Public Health, In Her Presence, and the Maine Council on Aging, “Making our Way to Prosperity: Policy Roadmap for Economic Justice,” addresses data, observations, and recommendations across a range of areas that affect gender and racial equity and justice. The Roadmap also addresses the overarching themes of COVID-19, racism, physical infrastructure, fragmented and siloed resources, and the need for more disaggregated data to inform decision making.

Healthcare Justice Art Installation:

The Courts Matter to Maine Coalition, which we lead, mobilized to oppose the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett.

This work culminated with an activist art installation in Portland featuring signs representing Mainers who would lose their healthcare if the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was repealed. Despite the outcome of the confirmation, our members organized and brought Mainers together to understand the role and effect of federal courts on the lives of Mainers and are reenergized to work for a judiciary which is fair, just, independent, qualified, and representative of our communities.

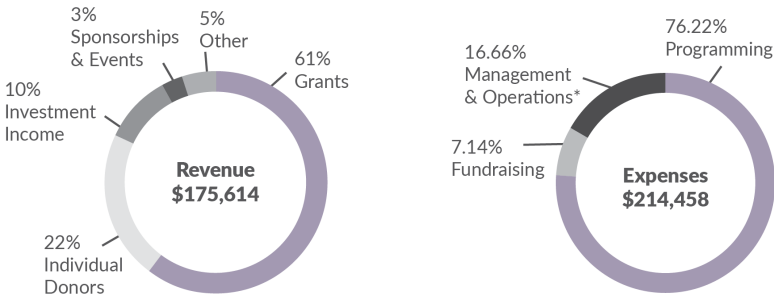


Our social media campaign with data from the Roadmap.

Art installation about healthcare access in Lincoln Park, Portland.



Financials



Not reflected here is a Paycheck Protection Act loan of \$26,000, received in June 2020, and forgiven in January 2021.

**Management and Operations includes Board and staff support and development, agency infrastructure and policies, overhead, and other efforts to ensure the organization is well-organized, informed, and effective.*

Note from Our Leadership

2020 was a challenging year for many nonprofits, including ours. As with many organizations, we faced the cancellation of most of our programmatic and fundraising events (while expenses remained the same or higher); and many donors and funders were appropriately focused on meeting our communities' basic needs. As an organization focused on systemic change, we applaud those decisions, while acknowledging that the combined effects of the pandemic mean that we operated at a loss in 2020 and had higher than expected management and administrative expenses. We expect that as more typical operations resume in 2021, we will be able to ensure a more typical financial outlook.



Supporters

Donors & Members

Amanda Beckwith
Barbara Keppel
Betsy Biemann
Brittany Landry
Cara Pavlak
Carla Gill
Catherine Fisher
Catherine Kidman
Cathryn Falwell
Clara Porter
Delene Perley
Diana Lee
Ellen Ridley
Evelyn Landry
Gilda Nardone
Gillian Schair
Gregory Moore
Hilda Chow
Janet Mills
Joan Sturmthal
Joshua Edwards
Joy Intriago
Karen McGrady
Karla Black
Katherine Leblanc
Kathleen Flory
Kathryn Ainsworth
Kimberly Simmons
Kristin Valdmanis
Laura Fortman
Laura Jackson
Lee Webb
Linda Berger
Linda Ray

Margaret Boyle
Mary Dunn
Megan Hull
Michael Stern
Patricia House
Sandra Butler
Sarah Standiford
Shari Broder
Stephanie Eglinton
Susan Feiner
Tobi Schneider
Valerie Todd
Wendy Ross

Foundation & Grant Partners

Abbagadasset
Foundation, Inc.
Avangrid Foundation
Elmina B. Sewall
Foundation
Family Values @ Work
Gill Foundation
Harry T. Wilks
Maine Education
Association
MaineShare
Maine Voices Network
National Council
of Jewish Women
The Triton Foundation

Business Partners

Bangor Savings Bank
BerryDunn
Broadturn Farm
Charter
Communications
Cornerstone Financial
Planning, LLC
Cross Insurance
Lee Auto Malls
Law Offices of
Joe Bornstein
Red House Studios



Action at Monument Square in Portland.

2020 MAINE WOMEN'S LOBBY

Board of Directors

Elizabeth Riotte, Chair
Lucia Chomeau Hunt, Vice Chair
Erin Cinelli, Treasurer
Lauren Sterling, Secretary
Deb Burd
Layne Gregory
Lisa Miller
Emily Parker
Malory Otteson Shaughnessy
Sally Struever

Accomplishments

The Legislature adjourned in March and did not reconvene to take up bills that had been underway. We worked on a number of bills before the adjournment and continued to champion them through the summer and plan for their re-introduction. The following bills were 2020 priorities that will be addressed in the 130th Legislature in 2021:

Freedom from Discrimination:

- LD 433; RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Explicitly Prohibit Discrimination Based on the Sex of an Individual. This bill would ensure Constitutional protection from discrimination based on gender. (Sponsor: Reckitt)
- LD 1693; An Act To Enhance Enforcement of Employment Laws (AKA ‘The Whistleblower Act’). This bill would create a mechanism to allow more people to pursue their claims of workplace gender or race discrimination or sexual harassment and helps circumvent the barriers to justice created by forced arbitration. (Sponsor: Jackson)

Health, Wellness, and Reproductive Justice:

- LD 1948; An Act To Prohibit, Except in Emergency Situations, the Performance without Consent of Pelvic Examinations on Unconscious or Anesthetized Patients. (Sponsor: Doudera). This bill did pass and was signed into law.

Economic Security:

- LD 1919; An Act To Provide a Tax Credit for Family Caregivers. This bill would provide up to \$2,000 in a tax credit to people who provide caregiver services to a family member (who is over 18). The majority of family caregivers are women, and women experience greater loss of income when they step into these roles. (Sponsor: Cloutier)



- LD 1410; An Act to Establish Paid Family and Medical Leave. This bill would establish a commission to develop a proposal for implementing comprehensive family and medical leave system for Maine. (Sponsor: Gideon)
- LD 1760; An Act To Support Children’s Healthy Development and School Readiness. This is a significant proposal, created by the Right From the Start Coalition which includes Legislators, early education advocates, child and family advocates, and the Chamber of Commerce. The proposal will offer workforce development for early educators; expand access to early education and childcare; and offer economic supports to some families who are accessing early education. (Sponsor: Jackson)

Freedom from Violence:

- LD 1422; An Act Regarding Conditions in Correctional Facilities for Female Prisoners. This bill includes several proposals: it adds standards for women’s health services to the standards for prisons and jails; it adds someone with an understanding of incarcerated women’s issues to the Board of Visitors for each jail; it establishes a board of visitors for women’s services; it aligns Department of

Talk to policy-makers about...

PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE



Corrections standards for parental visitation with Child Protective Services standards; and it adds incarcerated parents to the monthly report to the Legislature from the Dept. Of Health and Human Services. (Sponsor: Talbot Ross).

As the conveners of the Maine Paid Leave Coalition, we developed and launched #CareWorkCounts, an initiative to focus on the value of essential care-work in our communities, and to

help Mainers connect with candidates and policymakers to discuss the importance of policies that support both paid and unpaid caregiving labor.

Ahead of the 2020 election season, we convened 10 Candidate & Community Conversations, featuring regional panels of female candidates and voters, discussing topics such as affordable housing, the tax on period products, paid leave, climate justice, the

incarceration of women, and much more. We continue to look for ways to support feminist candidates at all levels, which provide the community tools and opportunities to learn about and engage in policy and civic life.



“Thank you for hosting the candidate conversations. [Gender equity] is such an important focus of our work in Augusta, and I’m honored to have participated.”

- A CANDIDATE FROM OUR CANDIDATE & COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Supporters

Donors & Members

Abigail Maynard	Betty-Jane Meader	Diane Hastings
Adair DeLamater	Bonnie Ginger	Donna Conkling
Adalgisa Holtrop	Brigid Delvecchio	Donna Yellen
Aileen Fortune	Brittany Landry	Dorothy McKenna
Alison Mizner	Brownie Carson	Dr. Norma Dreyfus
Alison Smith	Caitlin Brooke	Elaine Joya
Amy Dieterich	Caitlin Gutheil	Eleanor Goldberg
Amy Enos	Candace Walworth	Eleanor Sears
Andrea Berry	Cara Courchesne	Elizabeth Jacobson
Andrea Irwin	Carissa Hanratty	Elizabeth Powers
Andrea Summers	Carla Gill	Elizabeth Rettenmaier
Andrew Leblanc	Carol Coles	Elizabeth Riotte
Andrew Roth-Wells	Carol Nelson	Elizabeth Saxl
Anita St Onge	Carol Wishcamper	Elizabeth Trice
Ann Almeida	Carolyn Hardman	Elizabeth Whitman
Ann Kahwaty	Carolyn MacRae	Ellen Crocker
Anne Belden	Cary Slocum	Ellen Freed
Anne Curry	Catherine Lee	Ellen Golden
Anne Gass	Charles Jacobs	Ellen Grant
Anne Hallward	Charlotte Warren	Ellen Grunblatt
Anne Zill	Christina Riotte	Ellen Jankowski
Annemieke Schair	Christine Hastedt	Emily Parker
Annette Hatch-Clein	Christine Holden	Erica Schair-Cardona
Annie Levine	Christine LeGore	Erin Cinelli
Antoinette Mercadante	Claire Oppenheim	Erin Guay
Ariel Kernis	Claudia Pachios	Eva Downs
Ashleigh Kahrl	Colleen Finnell	Evelyn Dearborn
Ashley Pullen	Constance Adler	Gail Cinelli
Audrey Leland	Dale Lewis	George Shaler
Barbara Alexander	Danica Schroth	Gilda Nardone
Barbara Brooks	Danielle Blackwell	Gladys Benschimol
Barbara Ginley	Deb Burd	Grace Leavitt
Barbara Jessen	Deborah Friedman	Heather Dunbar
Becky Anderson	Deborah Yule	Henry Hagenbach
Benjamin Bonam	Deirdre Finney Boylan	Irv Faunce
Beth Franklin	Destie Hohman Sprague	James Kachmar

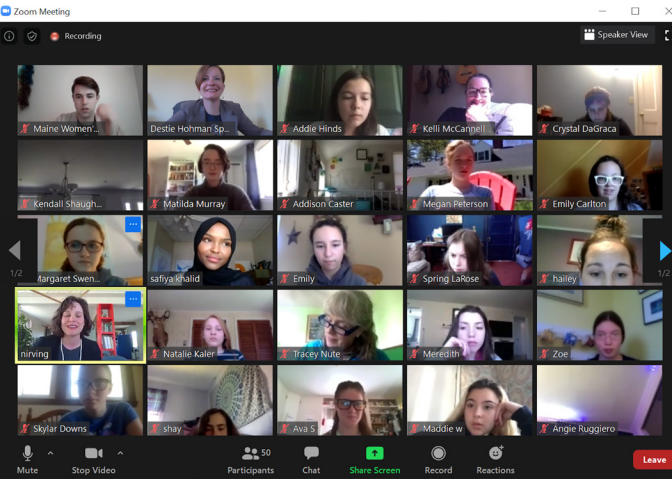
Jamie Morin
 Jane Mills
 Janet Edwards
 Janet House
 Janet Kuech
 Janet Raffel
 Janet Sawyer

Joan Sturmthal
 Joanna Jones
 Jody Sataloff
 John McCurry
 Joseph Appel
 Juanita Dunn
 Judith Chamberlain

Karen Vitelli
 Kate Manahan
 Kate McQueen
 Kate Rush
 Katharine Ayer
 Katherine Leblanc
 Katherine Or Branch
 Katherine Pease
 Katherine Pelletreau
 Kathleen MacPherson

Kathryn A Yates
 Kathryn Ainsworth
 Kathryn Byrnes
 Katie Greenman
 Kim Matthews
 Kristen Farnham
 Kristin Isfeld
 Kristin Sweeney
 Kristina Yurko
 Krystal Williams
 Laura Bellas
 Laura Fortman

Laura Mazikowski
 Lauren Dietlin
 Lauren Hastings Genova
 Lauren Jacobs
 Lauren Sterling
 Lauri Boxer-Macomber
 Laurie Curtis
 Layne Gregory
 Leora Mosston
 Leslie Benson
 Leslie Hill
 Linda Henderson
 Lisa and James Heyman
 Lisa Belanger



Girls' Day 2020.

Janet Smith
 Janice Cohen
 Janis Petzel
 Jared Bowie
 Jean Principe
 Janelle Demers
 Jeffrey Young
 Jenifer Stewart
 Jennifer Dimond
 Jennifer Jones
 Jerry Yoder
 Jessie Alberding

Judith Dinmore
 Judith Long
 Judy Whiting
 Julie Marchese
 Julie Motherwell
 Julie Schirmer
 Karen Farber
 Karen Heck
 Karen Massey
 Karen McGrady
 Karen Mignone
 Karen Suva

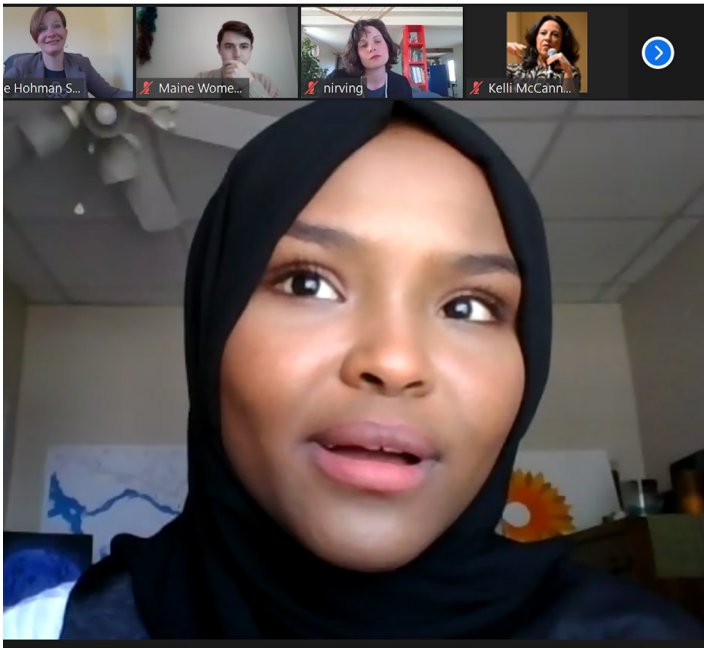
Lisa Bloss
Lisa Gordon
Lorilea McLean
Louise Tate
Lucia Hunt
Lucinda Coombs
Lucky Hollander
Lucy Flight
Lucy Stinson
Lynn Bromley
Malory Shaughnessy
Margaret LeBlanc
Margaret Warren
Maria Fox
Mariellen Whelan
Marilyn Bronzi
Marjorie Hall
Marsha Greenberg
Martha Mixon
Mary Bonauto
Mary Dunn
Mary Hiers
Mary Hillery
Mary Hough
Mary Lou Michael
Mary Schendel
Maryanne Ward
Melanie Sturm
Merle Nelson
Michael Archibald
Mikki Jones-Little
Miriam Johnson
Nancy Dodge
Nancy Kelleher
Nancy Rogers
Nancy Wanderer
Nancy Weiland

Nancy Ziegler
Nanette Dyer Blake
Naomi Jacobs
Naomi King
Neil Shankman
Nickole Wesley
Pamela Wheeler
Pat Clark
Patricia Ritzo
Patricia Robinson
Patrick Sanders
Paul Burgess
Peggy Golden
Peggy Shapiro
Penny Morris
Peter Bowman
Peter Girard
Phyllis Jalbert
Rebecca Leamon
Renee Schwalberg
Roberta De Araujo
Robin Haywood
Robin Snyder-Drummond
Rose Bensen
Russell Rascati
Sadhbh Neilan
Sally Wagley
Sarah Firth
Sarah Grant
Sarah Higdon-Sudow
Shana Goodall
Shareen Palmacci
Shari Broder
Sharon Barker
Sharon Treat
Sharon Vandermay
Sheldon Tepler

Sherri Smith
Sheryl Ritchie
Shirley and Ronald Davis
Stacy Brenner
Steve Sandau
Steven Urkowitz
Sue MacKey Andrews
Sue Stableford
Susan Bassi Brown
Susan Burgess
Susan Burroughs
Susan Faunce
Susan Landry
Susan Lieberman
Susan Potter
Susan Sidel
Susan Snider
Susan Sokol
Susan Stedman
Susan Tardie
Susan Wind
Suzannah Heard
Tobi Schneider
Toby Riotte
Trudy Ferland
Vendean Vafiades
Wendy Kellett
Wendy Rapaport

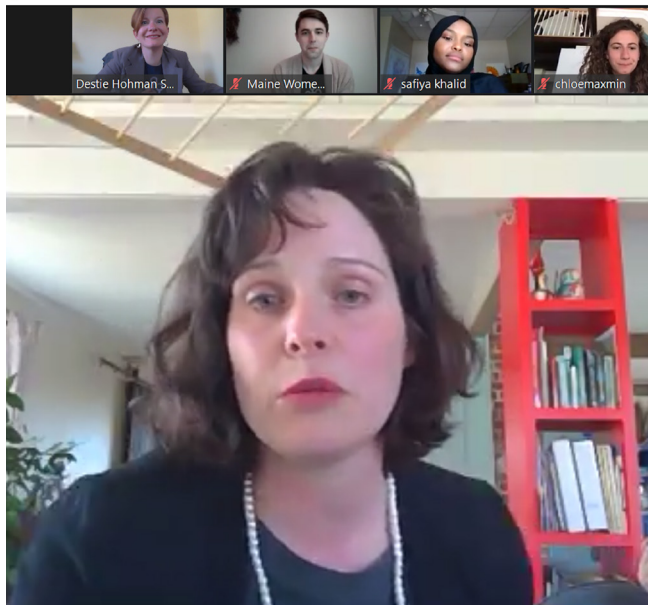
Grant Partners

The Bingham Program



*City Councilor
Safiya Khalid at
Girls' Day 2020.*

*District Attorney
Natasha Irving at
Girls' Day 2020.*



MWL Education Fund
Board of Directors



welcomes:



**Quinn
Gormley**

Maine TransNet
Auburn

MWL Education Fund
Board of Directors



welcomes:



**Rachel
Talbot
Ross**

Maine Representative
Portland

MWL Education Fund
Board of Directors



welcomes:



**Rebecca
Petrie**

Wabanaki Public
Health
Oakland

Maine Women's Lobby
Board of Directors



welcomes:



**Meghan
Gardner**

Maine writer, business
owner, and Town
Councilor
Orono

Maine Women's Lobby
Board of Directors



welcomes:



**Ann
Danforth**

Maine Equal Justice
Portland

Maine Women's Lobby
Board of Directors



welcomes:



**René
Goddess
Johnson**

Embodied Equity
Consulting
Portland

New board members in 2020.

LOOKING AHEAD

If 2020 was an opportunity to unveil some of the structural challenges in our systems and communities, we look forward to 2021 as an opportunity to address those challenges with renewed commitment. Strategic goals and programs that give us hope include:

- Welcoming our **new Boards of Directors** in January, with the introduction of Ann Danforth, Meghan Gardner, Quinn Gormley, René Goddess Johnson, Rebecca Petrie, and Rachel Talbot Ross.
- **Launching a comprehensive series of advocacy tools** to help Mainers have the skills and confidence to engage in policy change, including a public bill tracking document, a how-to series of mini videos, and weekly educational sessions.
- Hosting the fourth biennial **Maine Summit on Women's Economic Security** in October, featuring keynote speaker LaTosha Brown, co-founder of Black Voters Matter. The summit will focus on civic engagement, and its role in gender and economic justice. We hope to inspire and create space for dialogue, as well as give people concrete tools for how to participate in our democracy – and encourage our policymakers to create new pathways to participation.

As a feminist, anti-racist organization, we know that our work is as important as ever. We are focusing 2021 on building (and rebuilding) systems that ensure a more gender-equitable Maine; that pull down white supremacist structures and barriers that have excluded and marginalized Black, brown, Indigenous, and communities of color; and that reimagine a more feminist future for all of us.