

# PLACE C RPS

know. love. serve



2022  
YEAR END REPORT



# PLACE CORPS

know. love. serve



**We are Place Corps:** a decentralized Hudson Valley organization on a mission to cultivate the calling to Know, Love, and Serve our Places by facilitating transformational learning opportunities for young people.

We understand Place as the spaces where we live, the economies to which we contribute, and the communities in which we grow. We learn to serve our Places by investing in them: through supporting existing local opportunities for mutual benefit, by developing innovative entrepreneurial understandings of how to build regenerative systems, and inspiring radical imagination to envision and enact a more just, healthy, and joyful world for all to belong.

**Our Values:** We use shared values to guide our actions, decisions, and the work we do in our place.



**Good Work** - We work to create positive changes for mutual benefit and a healthy planet framed within the Just Transition.



**Open Mindset** - We seek integrity, courage, and openness personally and professionally.



**Oikos** - We embrace home-based solutions with local communities to activate change in our places



**Joyful Spirit** - We uplift truth, beauty, goodness, and creativity in our approach to work

**What We Do:** Place Corps develops and facilitates fellowships, residencies, semester programs, and community learning opportunities designed to support young people in exploring and building integrated personal, professional, and practical skills. We aim to incubate the next generation of changemakers in the Hudson Valley. We believe that the most sustainable solutions are home-grown, and that engaged communities must be empowered to develop localized solutions that speak directly to the needs of their Places.

**Our Board:** Dawn Breeze, Co-Founder and Chair | Martin Ping, Co-Founder and Secretary | Matthew Stinchcomb, Co-Founder | Greg Watson | Isabel Sheinman, Treasurer



## ***Dear Friends of Place Corps,***

This past year has been magnificent and bouncing with possibility! It is with tremendous joy that we opened our doors to a new fellowship program in 2022, the Kingston Place Corps namesake Fellowship!

We launched our inaugural Kingston Fellowship program with a cohort of 9 courageous local youth. We are halfway through the 10-month program having bound through new paradigms and built new possibilities! We are witnessing the power of the Place Corps' curriculum in bringing young people together to build sustainable livelihoods with their community and develop a sense of belonging. We are immensely proud of the commitment, openness, and fortitude of our fellows!

With this new chapter, the Place Corps team expanded and evolved in significant ways. We went from a small team of contractors to a diverse team of salaried FT and PT employees and contracted artists and experts, as well as, support from our alumni. Onboarding and launching the fellowship presented new opportunities for refinement and collaboration. We continue to respond to emergence and a growing understanding of how to best support our fellows and the organization's mission.

In the spirit of community development, our team and fellows have been building relationships of care throughout Kingston through Service Study; our unique community service program, as well as place project partnerships and community conversations—all to more deeply know, love, and serve in our places. We are delighted to share some of these program highlights in the pages that follow.

We celebrate the learning that has happened and embrace the growth to come. Our gratitude for our community partners, friends, and supporters is immense and we know these partnerships will thrive in 2023. This year, your generous support of Place Corps will serve scholarships and stipends for 2023 Kingston fellows, fund crucial learning materials and transportation costs, and help bolster the fellowship staff. We hope you consider supporting the work of Place Corps to know, love, and serve our places.

*Dawn Breeze || Co-Founder, Executive Director*





Place Corps Kingston Fellows supporting Community Soil Building Day with Kan Landscape at the Good Work Institute.



# History of Place Corps

## 2018

Place Corps begins as an initiative between Hawthorne Valley Association, a nonprofit made up of diverse initiatives in Ghent, NY and Good Work Institute, a worker self-directed nonprofit organization in Kingston, NY.



## 2019

Place Corps grows a team of progressive educators, creating an interdisciplinary curriculum focused on communications, regenerative agriculture, design/build, and somatics. Place Corps' pilot fellowship program launches in Ghent, NY, and attracts a diverse cohort of young people.



## 2020

Pilot fellowship sees a 100% graduation rate with the addition of an independent summer residency in response to needs of the cohort during peak COVID-19 pandemic. Fellows advanced pursuing: Environmental Law, Social Work, Outdoor Education, Food Industry, Urban Design, and Community Organizing.



## 2021

Place Corps officially becomes a 501(c)3 and continues developing roots in Kingston and the greater Hudson Valley. The organization experiences deepening partnerships and the joyful co-creation of upcoming programs.



## 2022

With support from the NOVO Foundation, the Place Corps Kingston Fellowship launches successfully attracting a diverse cohort of local young people, operating from the Greenhouse at the Good Work Institute in Midtown Kingston, NY.



Place Corps Fellows create at the Kingston Ceramics Studio during Personal Praxis: a time set aside in weekly programming for the development of personal practices of resilience and self care. Fellows use this time to deepen creative pursuits, explore local hiking trails, or practice somatics at the YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County.





# 2022

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW



### KINGSTON FELLOWSHIP

In August of 2022, after two years of strategic development and outreach, Place Corps launched the inaugural Kingston Fellowship. This program is designed to be a 10 month fellowship for high school graduates between the ages of 18-21 living in Kingston, NY or surrounding areas. The goal of the Fellowship is to expose participants to a transformative curriculum that guides them to build a solid framework of personal, professional, and practical skills in support of a strong sense of belonging and a joyful, sustainable life

### FELLOW SUCCESSES

Fellows in the Kingston cohort have proven to be remarkably adaptive and resilient learners. Facing upheavals in schedule due to weather, health, attendance, and staffing, the Place Corps fellows persisted in curiosity, and finished the first trimester with significant success. The cohort has developed into a close-knit team, learning the value of interdependence and community, while simultaneously gaining a deeper understanding of themselves: their needs, strengths, and goals. The majority of this year's cohort began the Place Corps program feeling hesitant and uncertain about the future. Many had spent the last two years attending virtual school, and experienced a disconnect from community. Nobody knew what to expect from Place Corps, and there was some initial skepticism.



Place Corps fellow crafting vibrant ferments with community partner, Woodland Pantry.

### 2022 FELLOWSHIP OUTCOMES

Place Corps celebrates the 2022-2023 Kingston Fellowship cohort's triumphs this year so far!

- 5 fellows successfully applied & have been accepted at SUNY colleges, supported in their application process by our staff and partnership with the college
- 1 fellow has been hired by a Curriculum Partner after completing the Service Study program
- Fellows created, planned and publicly executed a successful Expo event at the Greenhouse. Over 50 community members listened as fellows proudly shared their Place Corps learning experience.
- Fellows independently stewarded their food program: cooking, collaborating, budgeting, and feeding one another throughout the fellowship. Most fellows did not have cooking skills when they entered the program, and are now comfortable with preparing and planning nourishing meals, and utilizing unfamiliar ingredients.
- Fellows are using advanced interpersonal communication skills with each other and with the Place Corps team.
- In Design/Build fellows researched, planned, designed and built personal carpentry projects: ranging from making dining tables to crafting inlaid, oil-finished cutting boards



Kingston Fellows getting familiar with Hawthorne Valley Farms dairy herd during Oikos.

### OIKOS RESIDENCY

The 2022 Fellowship began with OIKOS at the Hawthorne Valley Farm campus in Ghent, NY, 45 minutes north of Kingston.' "Oikos" (meaning "household" in Greek) was a three-week immersive program where Fellows lived, worked, studied, and shared meals communally in a historic farm house adjacent to Hawthorne Valley's commercial farming operation, and home of the original Place Corps residency in 2020.

The majority of the cohort had never experienced a farm before, or spent an extended period of time away from their homes and families of origin, but were quickly able to meet challenges related to the unknown with curiosity and resilience.



Fellow, Konnor, at his Service Study, Radio Kingston, where he produced his own radio episode.

### PLACE PARTNERSHIPS

Place Corps honors collaboration as a core value, and in 2022 partnered closely with Kingston organizations across industries in the stewardship of Service Study, Personal Praxis, and field trip programs, as well as a monthly Seminar Series.

### SERVICE STUDY

Service Study is a weekly program linking Place Corps fellows with Kingston businesses, studios, nonprofits, and other local organizations to encourage opportunities for connection, service, and career development. Fellows receive one-on-one guidance from their Service Study partners, teaching them how to contribute to the function of a business while learning new skills in real time.

Place Corps believes that providing Service within our Places is vital to building a healthy community; acknowledging the importance of hands-on workforce development and the power of mentorship to transform the understanding many young people have of their place in the world. In 2022, fellows gained direct experience in fabrication, food & medicine preparation, nonprofit outreach, community organizing, marketing, sustainable foraging, radio broadcasting, law, mutual aid, teaching, and more.



Fellows creating a nourishing meal with locally sourced ingredients for daily shared lunch.

### FOOD PROGRAM & SUSTAINABILITY

Place Corps' Food Program is designed to be an integral portion of the fellowship experience, and relies on partnership with Farm Hub, the YMCA Farm Project in Kingston, and the Food Pantry of the Hudson Valley. Place Corps is able to source fresh, local food year round, and Fellows get the opportunity to deeper their understanding of food systems, regenerative agriculture, mutual aid, cooking and nutrition.

### SUNY SCHOOLS

The Strategic Circle maintains a meaningful relationship with the SUNY colleges, specifically SUNY Ulster. These partnerships have connected Place Corps to guest educators, college counselors, financial aid specialists, and are vital to the success rate of our cohort's 2022 college applicants in further pursuing their professional goals.

### KAN LANDSCAPE DESIGN & CITY OF KINGSTON

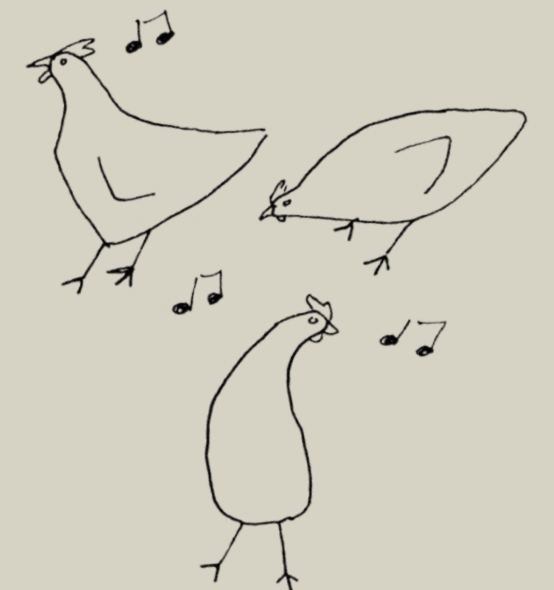
Place Corps is in partnership with Kan Landscape Design, and their founder, landscape architect Karine Dutiel. The cohort worked directly with Karine and her team, in partnership with the City of Kingston, to design a new green space in Midtown for public use. The fellows are actively involved in the design and community engagement process, and are learning how to think about nature in urban spaces and experiencing civic involvement first hand.



Place Corps Team members with Soul Fire Farm farmers during Community Work Day!

### TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Place Corps has hired a committed team with many diverse skills and talents. A standard of honesty was set around emerging needs and strengths, allowing the Strategic Circle to take an experiential approach to restructuring roles and identifying areas requiring additional support when necessary. Without expanding the total number of full-time staff, the organization collaborated to reshape and redefine how to best steward the Place Corps programming for everyone.







Seminar speaker Keyvious Avery, president of the Kingston Co-Op, shares his story of good work in the Kingston, NY community with the Place Corps 2022 cohort at the Good Work Institute.



# Fellow Testimonials



*"My experience has been really different - different from where I came from and the things that my family has done. I am pretty sure I am the first family member that has been on a farm for a month! Some highlights were learning how to make a fire with Luke, woodworking, and really learning how to build all kinds of things."*

**- Reylynn, Kingston Fellow 2022**



*"Before Place Corps I didn't know learning could be fun! Last year I passed by testing out, but every day I would drive to school, park my car and sleep in the parking lot because I didn't feel like there was any reason for me to be there. But at Place Corps I am showing up and I love learning!"*

**-Konnor Stella, Kingston Fellow 2022**



*"There is a lot of transition happening right now. Place Corps 'speaks to my condition:' It's about guiding young people through the transition between adolescence and adulthood, from one identity to another, from an old view of the world to a new one, from self-doubt to self-possession. Just as for the fellows, it's a part of my transition to adulthood. "*

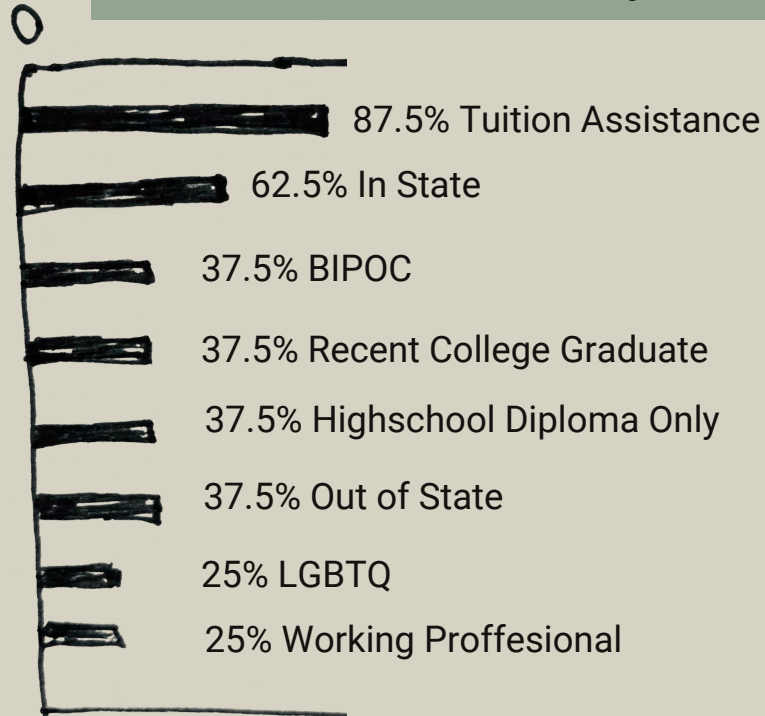
**-Laura DePasquale, Intern 2023**



# Growing Fellowship Diversity

## 2020 Pilot Year

### 2020 Cohort Diversity



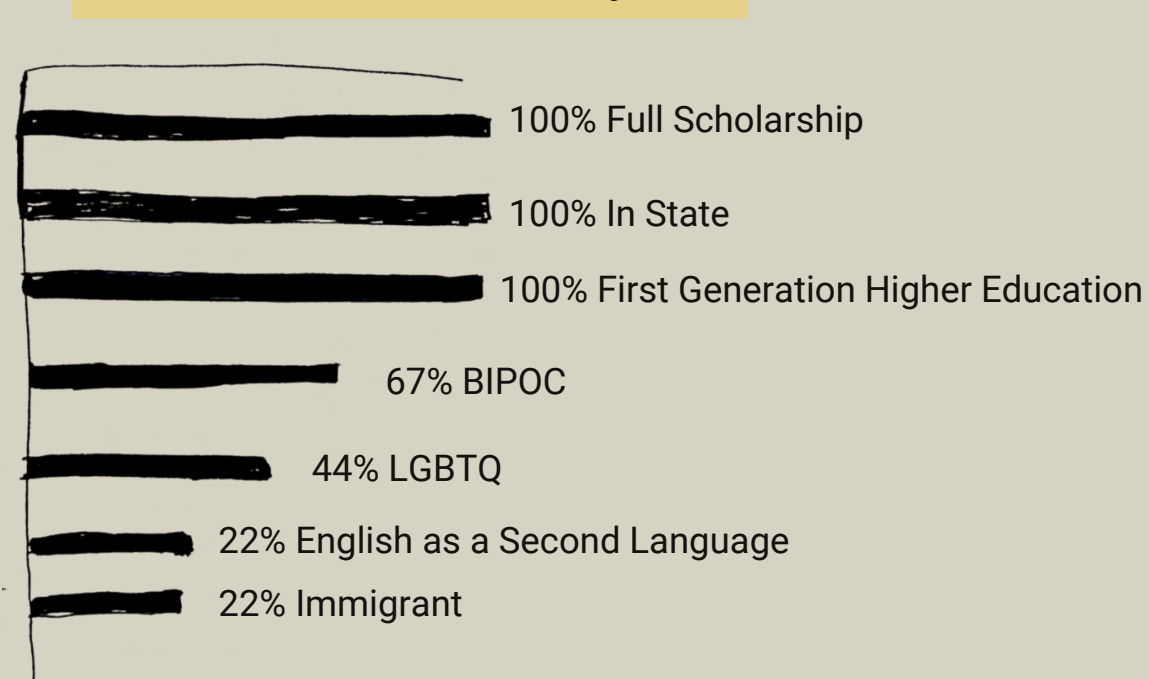
**8** students **18-27** years old **20+** Educators

**3:1** Teachers to Student Ratio

**5:3** Female/Nonbinary to Male Identifying Ratio

## 2022 Kingston Fellowship

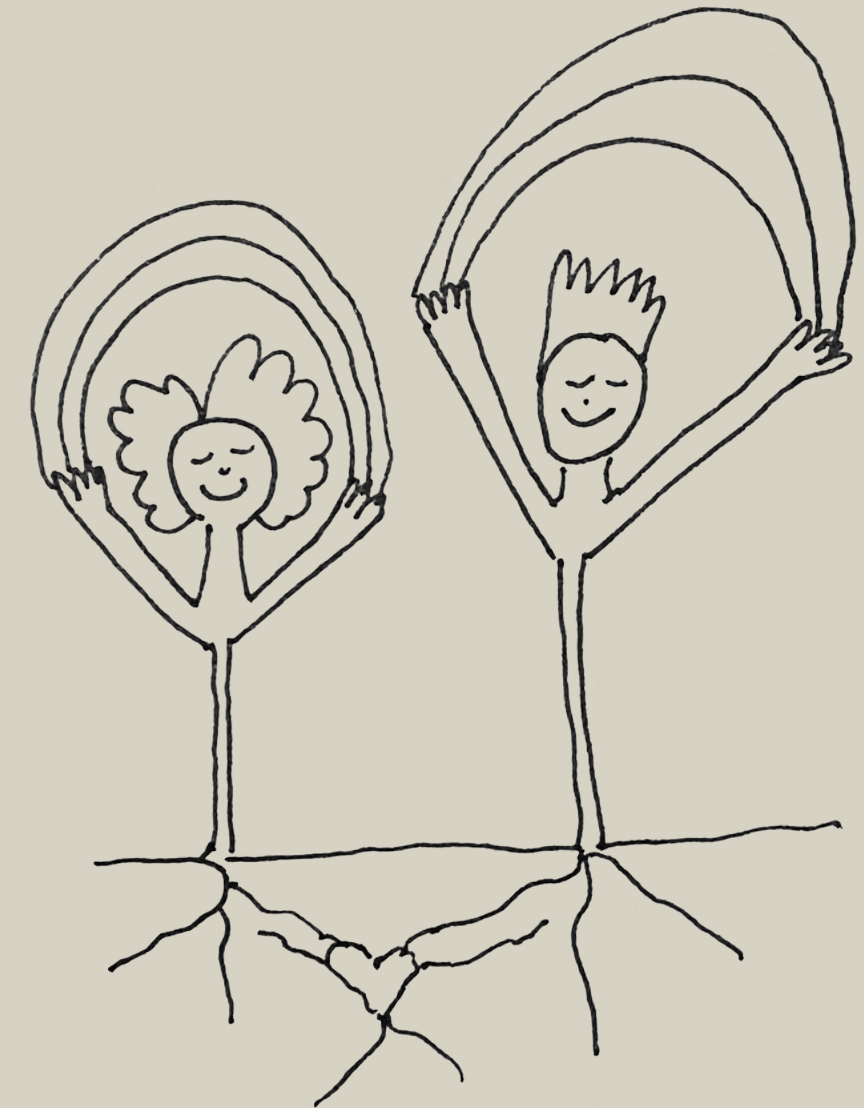
### 2022 Cohort Diversity



**9** students **17-19** years old **20+** Educators

**3:1** Teachers to Student Ratio

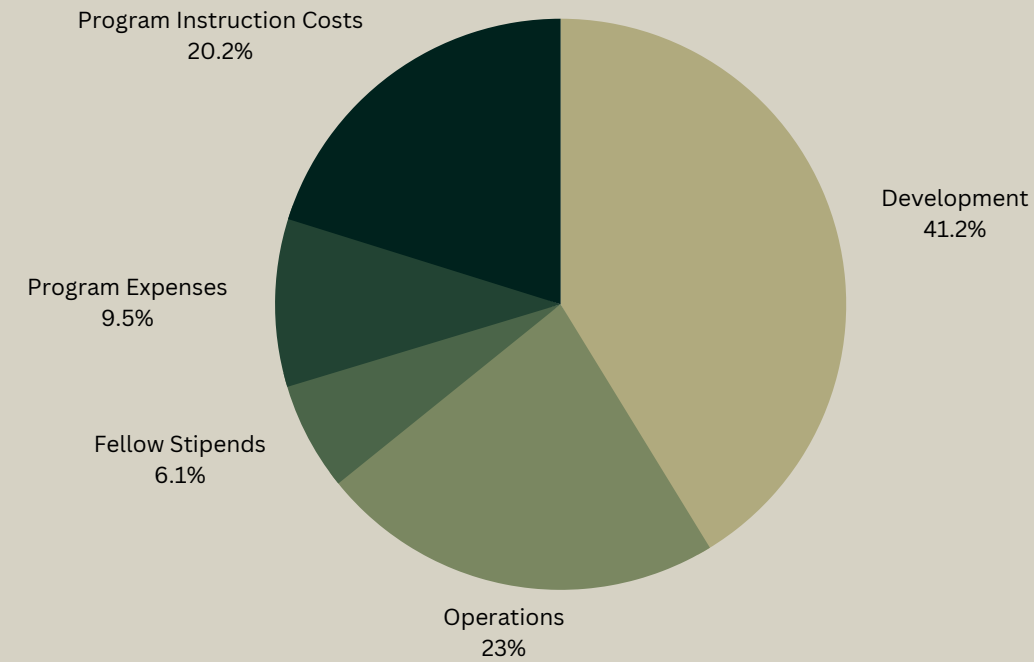
**5:3** Female/Nonbinary to Male Identifying Ratio





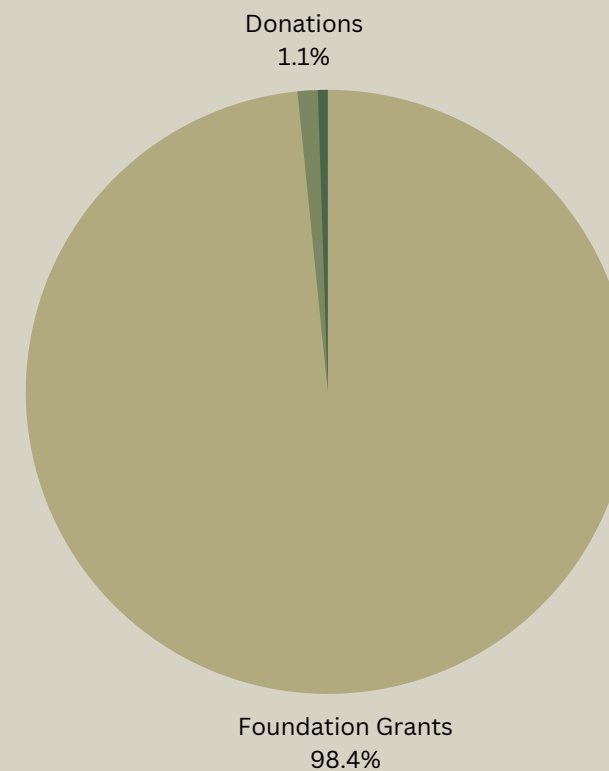
# Fiscal Year 2022 Overview

Place Corps is on track with its financial strategy for 2022-2023; focusing on increasing private donors and individual donations through cultivating home-base funding circles. This was successfully demonstrated during Place Corps' first fundraising dinner in November of 2022, which raised over \$5,000 in donations and secured several pledges from attendees to host future fundraising events for Place Corps in 2023.



## 2022 EXPENSES

- Program Instruction Costs: \$60,093
- Program Facilities & Utilities: \$5,550
- Program Supplies / Tools / Equipment: \$16,328
- Field Trip & Travel: \$4,555
- Food Program: \$5,582
- Marketing Materials: \$1,819
- Fellow Stipends: \$18,250
- Operations: \$68,376
- Development: \$122,835
- Total Expenses: \$301,518**



## REVENUE

- Foundation Grants: \$650,000
- Donations: \$7,110
- Fellowship Tuition: \$3,500.00
- Total Revenue: \$660,610**



# Looking Forward



## HOUSING

The first four months of the Kingston Fellowship exposed realities of the Hudson Valley's housing crisis, and how lack of housing security directly impacts the fellow's participation in Place Corps programming. Many fellows experienced housing instability, and some faced becoming unhoused in 2022. The impact of this inequity is profound, and Place Corps recognizes it's crucial for the program to respond effectively. Secure housing for all is a human right, and Place Corps's goal is to work towards that in all possible ways.

### HOUSING PARTNERSHIP(S)

Place Corps is working towards providing optional and/or transitional housing opportunities for fellows. While recognizing that achieving this goal will be a long process with financial implications, the game plan is to lay the financial and operational foundation, building toward action in 2024.

## TRANSPORTATION

This year it became clear that Place Corps fellows and some staff members did not have access to reliable transportation, and local public transport is not a consistent or efficient way to commute to our Homeroom or Service Study locations for many. Place Corps' goal is to ensure programming is accessible to all, and no fellows are unable to participate due to lack of transport. Place Corps aims to continue planning field trips and off-site experiences, but acknowledge that our collective needs involve a dedicated Place Corps vehicle.

### PLACE CORPS FELLOWSHIP VAN

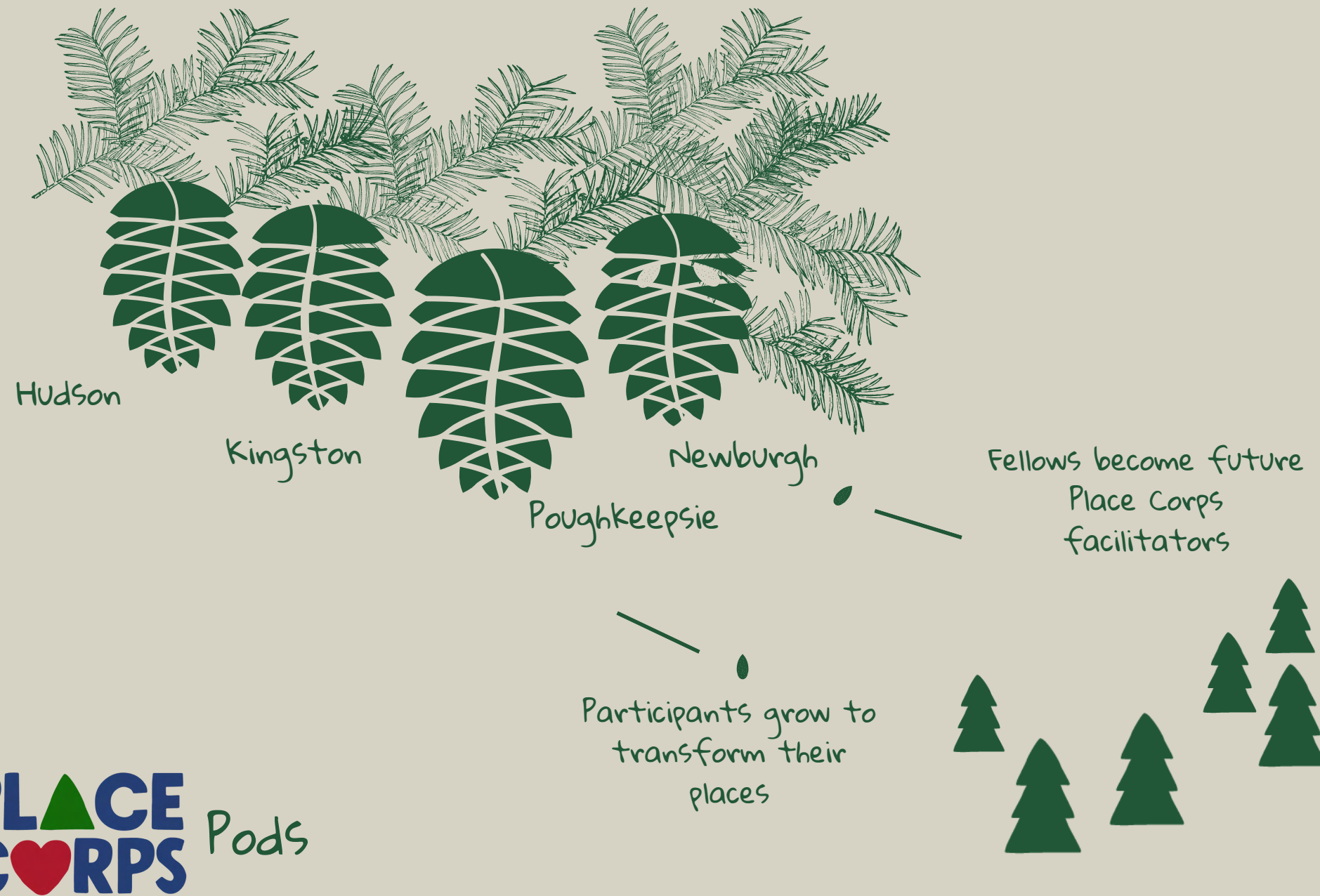
A big goal of 2023 is to purchase a 12-15 passenger van, ensuring the fellowship has transport to all planned events and experiences. It's important that Place Corps is able to provide safe and consistent transportation for fellows and educators to have access to nature, off-site enriching field trips, and reliable transit to Place Corps Homeroom.

## FARM RESIDENCY (OIKOS) EXTENDED

Before jumping into 10 months of skill building fellows launch their learning with an experience outside of the city of Kingston on a regenerative farm. During this orientation to self, each other, and the region, fellows get to know the folks they'll be spending a year with and begin to develop the foundation that the coming months will build on. We hope to extend and increase residential and experiential learning opportunities for the 2023 fellowship to allow more time for fellows to bond, learn in nature, and orient to the fellowship program, and staff.

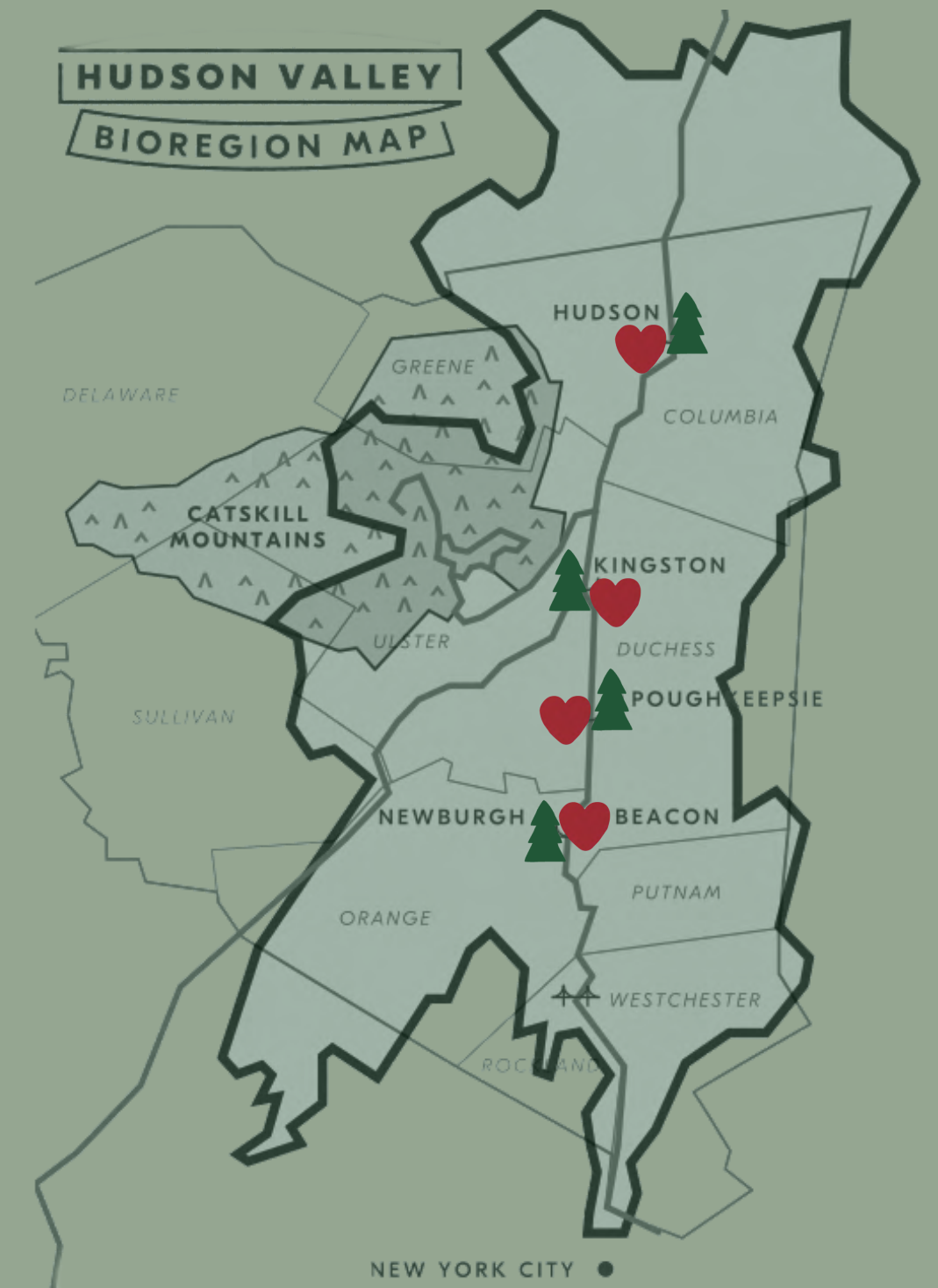
## ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance was a challenge for some of the Place Corps fellows this year; the root causes being primarily housing instability, family responsibilities, lack of transportation, mental health struggles, and the need to work multiple jobs due to financial obligations. Place Corps sees the value of determining expectations in consideration of these factors, while creating system for accountability regarding participation.



### Seeding Place Corps Fellowship

Place Corps' long term goal is to operate as an agent of change in many Places throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond. Over the next five years, Place Corps aims to grow from one active program into multiple place-specific programs in the Hudson Valley bioregion, serving hundreds of youth annually. Several river cities in the Mid Hudson Valley have been identified as potential next locations for the Place Corps fellowship: the plan in 2023 is to begin working with community members in these areas to seed the idea, receive input, and better know the landscape for possible successful integration.



Map Credit: Collaboration between Good Work Institute & Place Corps



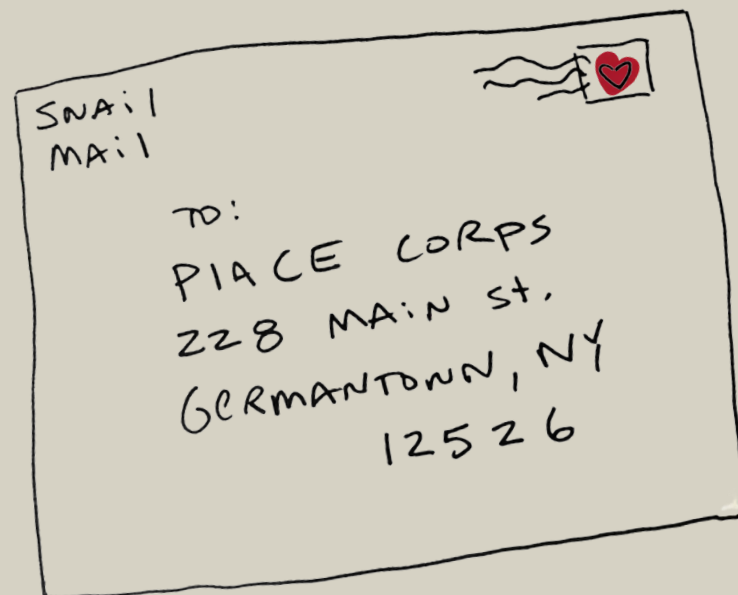
# Thank You!

Place Corps is very grateful for the contributions of our educators, staff, and partners that directly support young people in building sustainable livelihoods. We are excited to witness the 2022-2023 fellows make plans for their future, grow as individuals, and deepen their relationships in the community. We know that 2023 holds boundless possibilities for this year's fellowship, as well as for the new cohort coming on board in August.

The crucial role Place Corps is able to play in the lives of young people throughout the Kingston and Hudson Valley region is made possible by a community of generous and visionary supporters. We thank you, our donors, partners, and friends, for believing in our collective power to make an impact on our Places.

It is our hope that you consider pledging ongoing support for Place Corps as we continue learning, growing, and adapting to best serve our future, together.

*Deep gratitude to Jessica Giacobbe for making the pictures included in this report; to Hawthorne Valley for partnering with Place Corps on Oikos; and to Good Work Institute for providing the fellowship with a safe, well appointed Homeroom space.*





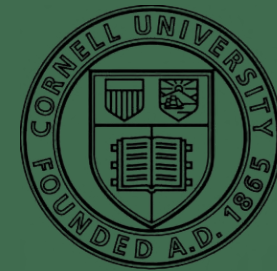
# Program Partners & Friends:

Kan Landscaping & Design  
 SUNY Ulster  
 TrustHub  
 Cornell Cooperative Extension  
 MyKingstonKids  
 Land To Learn  
 Radio Kingston  
 Ragues Law Firm  
 Co-op Fabrication  
 Woodland Pantry  
 The Reher Center  
 The YCMA Farm Project  
 The Food Bank of the Hudson Valley  
 Kingston High School  
 The Ulster County YMCA  
 Ulster Literacy  
 Kingston Ceramics Studio  
 The Omega Institute,  
 Soil to Soul  
 Holistic Health Community  
 Seed Song Farm  
 Broadway Bubble  
 Good Work Institute  
 Hawthorne Valley Association  
 Kingston Live Well  
 Kingston Library  
 Sky High Farm  
 Soul Fire Farm

Aja Schmeltz, Micah Blumenthal,  
 Ronnette Parker, Mark Ressel, Mary G.  
 Campbell, Betsy Brennan, Elizabeth  
 Cuthbert, Tina Dierna, Karine Duteil, Dr.  
 Mindy Kole, Rob Jameson, Shalawn  
 Brown, Keyvious Avery, Jonathan  
 Gonzalez, Tanya Himeji Romero, Rich  
 Bonasera, Mara Estes, Sarah Litvin,  
 Melanie Gonzalez, Frank Waters, Amy  
 Lenard, Teresa Detweiler, Charlie Pane,  
 Lex Feldheim, Lilli Helling, Jordan  
 Scruggs, Jillian Pacheco, Raymond  
 Ragues, Kristen Kessler, Martha Snow,  
 Luke Vanhorn, Lila Glenn, Alessia  
 Cutogno, Jordan Williams, Grace Lodge,  
 Marysa Sacerdote, Leslie Wibel, Melora  
 Kuhn, Brooke Lehman, Corinna Parker,  
 Tricia & Foster Reed, Mrig Mehra, Diana  
 Brenes, Seller, Joe Kaczorowski, Kaycee  
 Wimbish, Martina Arfwidson, Rachel  
 Ephraim, Darian Alexis



**LAND to LEARN**



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension



**Food Bank of the Hudson Valley**

**sunyUlster**  
**OMEGA**







# Land Acknowledgement

Place Corps is often operating on land that belongs to the Mohican People and Munsee Lenape people. We acknowledge the deep history of colonialism that has allowed for land to be stolen from the original stewards. We strive to educate ourselves of the continued marginalization and dispossession of various Indigenous tribes throughout our region.



# PLACE C♥RPS

[@place\\_corps](https://www.instagram.com/place_corps) | [info@placecorps.org](mailto:info@placecorps.org) | [placecorps.org](https://www.placecorps.org)