

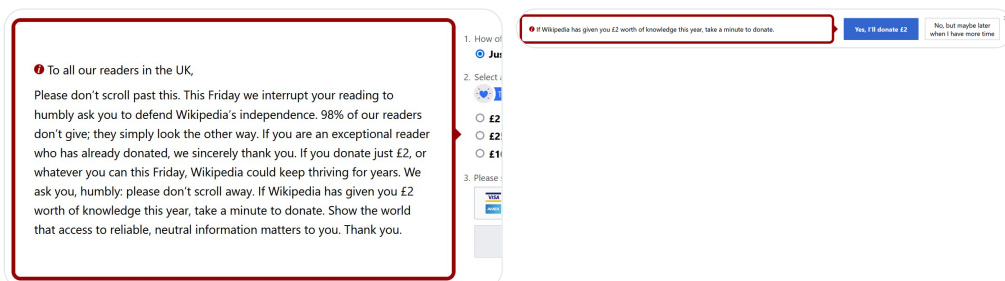


Je suis Bernardini @echetus

Oct 11, 2022 · 20 tweets · [echetus/status/1579776106034757633](https://twitter.com/echetus/status/1579776106034757633)

If you use Wikipedia, you've seen pop-ups like this. If you're like me, you may have donated as a result.

Wikipedia is an amazing website, and the appeals seem heartfelt. But I've now learnt the money isn't going where I thought...



The organisation which administers Wikipedia - to whom the money goes - is the Wikimedia Foundation Inc. Wikimedia is a San Francisco non-profit with 400 employees - which has exploded in size in recent years.



Bear in mind - Wikipedia used to be an incredibly cheap, volunteer run website. Watch a minute of this video of Jimmy Wales talking about how Wikipedia operated back in 2005:



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/WQR0gx0QBZ4>

So where is the money going? Well, a lot of it Wikimedia gives away to other organisations. And a significant portion of their staff are employed in that process. From 2012 to 2020, the spending on salaries increased fivefold, and \$22.9 million was given in grants.

At this point, you should know that while Wikipedia emphasises a "Neutral Point of View", Wikimedia is openly politicized. It is a full participant in America's culture wars, and this helps us understand how they spend the donations.

What we mean by racial equity [\[edit \]](#)

The Wikimedia Foundation defines racial equity as shifting away from Eurocentricity, White-male-imperialist-patriarchal supremacy, superiority, power and privilege to create an environment that is inclusive and reflects the experiences of communities of color worldwide. These modes of privilege mentioned above function as setting the dominant social, political, legal, policy-oriented, and cultural norms around the world.

Racial equity means acknowledging explicit and implicit affirmative actions for White people and groups with privilege related to skin color are created systemically through institutional power, dominance, and control.

Racial equity aims to promote consistent and sustained repair for non-White, non-US and Eurocentric communities and communities that continue to experience harm due to racism and caste-based upon colorism.



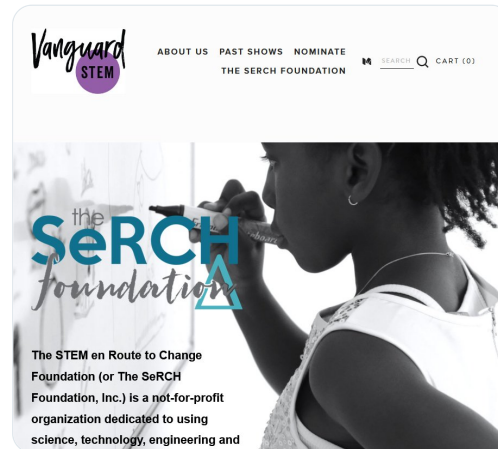
We call upon governments to:

- **Deescalate police standoffs.** Recognize the right and legitimacy of public protest. Deescalate tensions, reduce police mobilization, and end the use of weapons in crowd control during such legitimate public protests.
- **Protect freedom of expression.** Safeguard protesters' fundamental human [rights](#) to freedom of assembly and freedom of speech. Respect and enable the right of the press to move and report freely and without intimidation.
- **Affirm fundamental and equal rights.** Everyone is endowed with fundamental human rights. Affirm our equality and disavow divisive, hateful, and white supremacist ideologies and their enablers.
- **Reform criminal justice systems.** Support efforts to increase community oversight, limit use of force, reform prosecutorial overreach and sentencing, and (re)introduce vigorous and independent accountability mechanisms.

Let's take a look at two big recipients.

The SeRCH Foundation received a quarter million dollars of donor cash. Glancing at the website, you could assume it was about the admirable goal of minority representation in STEM

• **STEM en Route to Change (SeRCH) Foundation, United States (\$250,000):** To provide a two-year investment to the SeRCH Foundation to support the expansion of their signature program, #VanguardSTEM, which amplifies the voices of Black, Indigenous, women of color and non-binary people of color in STEM fields. The SeRCH Foundation will leverage cultural production, including multimedia storytelling, to advance non-traditional forms of knowledge creation, to build freely licensed and open rich media content about STEM leaders of color, and address inequitable representation throughout scientific fields.



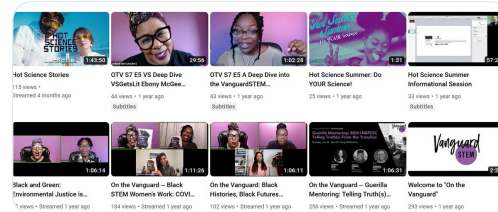
However on closer inspection, it turns out to be a bit more unusual than that. They're proponents of an "Intersectional Scientific Method" involving "hyperspace" (?)

Their output is extremely long YouTube videos which get about 50 views a time

Abstract

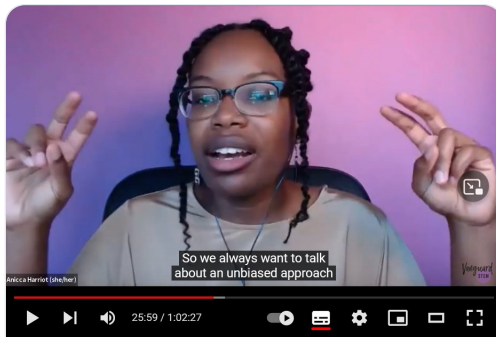
#VanguardSTEM is an online community and platform that centers the experiences of women, girls, and non-binary people of color in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. We publish original and curated content, using cultural production, to include a multiplicity of identities as worthy of recognition and thus redefine STEM identity and belonging. #VanguardSTEM is rooted firmly in Queer, Black feminisms which delineate that the experiences and critiques of Black women matter and that these insights can foster a restorative and regenerative construction of the cultures in which we exist.

In describing how #VanguardSTEM descended from counterspaces, we draw on speculative fiction to define a #VanguardSTEM hyperspace as a fluid "place-time" that is born digital and enabled by social media, but materializes in the physical world for specific purposes. As Black women in STEM, we consider how our situated knowledges and scientific expertise inform our process. We propose an intersectional scientific methodology to address the influence of embodied observation, embedded context and collective impact on scientific inquiry. Through #VanguardSTEM, we assert, without apology, the right of Black, Indigenous, women of color and non-binary people of color to self-advocate by fully representing ourselves and our STEM identities and interests, without assimilation.

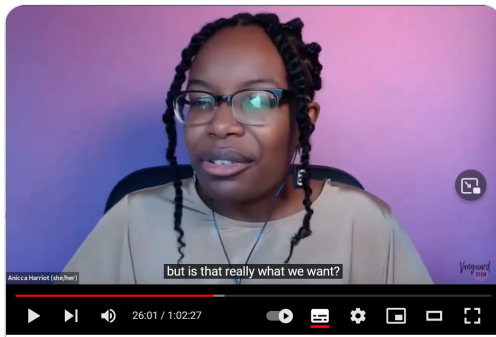


In the videos they discuss issues in science like objectivity (they're against it) and bias (they're in favour).

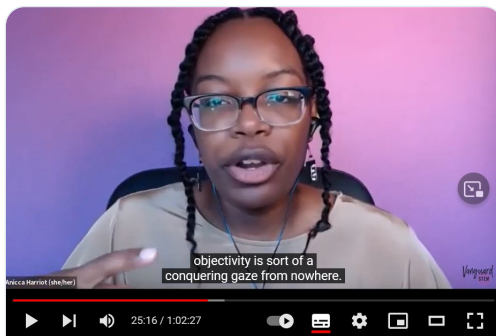
There's been one new video in the last year.



Show chat replay
OTV S7 E5 A Deep Dive into the VanguardSTEM Hyperspace 6:5:21



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Also enjoying Wikimedia's largesse was Borealis Philanthropy. Borealis is yet another grant giving organisation: They're even more political, and fully committed to driving America's cultural revolution.



Free the Future: The ELLC Fund Celebrates Visionary LGBTQ Leaders of Color
KEY TAKEAWAY: Long-term investment from funders like the ELLC Fund is why young queer and trans movement leaders have been able to make **unprecedented strides in the fight for abolishing policing systems, such as the closure of immigrant detention centers and city jails**, and the removal of cops from schools.

5 UNDERSTAND THE KEY QUESTIONS & TALKING POINTS FROM *The Demand is Still Defund*
AND *What's Next? Safer and More Justice Communities Without Policing.*

What Have Organizers Accomplished Since the 2020 Uprisings?

From the Summer of 2020 to early 2021, organizers have:

- Extracted over \$840 million dollars from police departments
- Secured investments of at least \$160 million dollars in communities.
- Removed cops from schools in 25 cities saving an additional \$34 million.

What Does Police Abolition Mean?

are best equipped to deal with those crises. Mental health service providers, social workers, violence interventionists, victim/survivor advocates, religious leaders, neighbors, family members and friends—all of the people who really make up the fabric of a community—are better equipped to respond to crises than armed strangers who are statistically unlikely to live in the neighborhoods they patrol.

But Without Police, Who Will Protect Us from Robbers & Murderers?

In this transition process, we may need a small, specialized class of public servants whose job it is to respond to violent crimes. We also know that some of our community members building

Wikimedia gave \$250,000 to Borealis's Racial Equity in Journalism Fund. That money was then cascaded down to a dozens of ideologically aligned news outlets across the US.

Racial Equity in Journalism Fund Moves \$4.9 million to BIPOC Newsrooms and Field Building Partners

Oct 4, 2022 | Borealis News & Updates, News & Updates



Racial Equity in Journalism Fund Moves \$4.9 Million to 38 BIPOC Organizations, Including 11 New Grantees

Borealis PHILANTHROPY

Established in October 2021, Borealis Philanthropy's Racial Equity in Journalism (REJ) Fund proudly builds and nourishes the capacity and sustainability of news organizations and journalism ecosystem partners led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), in pursuit of a future where communities of color are powerful as a result of the cultural change created from thriving BIPOC journalism. This month, the REJ Fund announced awards of \$4.9 million to 38 organizations, as well as \$225,000 in research project grants, representing its largest annual grantmaking budget to date.

Borealis Philanthropy's Racial Equity in Journalism Fund, United States (\$250,000): To provide a one-year investment to support US-based journalism organizations led by and for people of color, helping expand news and public affairs coverage in communities of color. Through the Racial Justice in Journalism fund, we will seek to increase media coverage and, subsequently, source citations for Wikimedia projects about issues and leaders that impact diverse communities.

Thus, the money you give to keep Wikipedia online is diverted to bankroll the inescapable American culture war.

Back in 2017, a Wikipedian called Guy Macon wrote a strident article entitled "Wikipedia has a Cancer". He predicted Wikimedia's runaway spending would bankrupt Wikipedia, resulting in its takeover by Facebook or Google.

Since then, Wikimedia's budget has almost doubled.



The Signpost

[TO CONTENTS](#) 27 February 2017

Op-ed

Wikipedia has cancer

By [Guy Macon](#)

NOTE: THIS OP-ED IS FROM 2016. THERE IS AN UPDATED VERSION AT [WP:CANCER](#)

Guy Macon has been a Wikipedian since 2005, has more than 30,000 edits to his name, and is the author of the Wikipedia essay [WP:1AM](#). He runs a consulting business, rescuing engineering projects that have gone seriously wrong.

In biology, the hallmarks of an aggressive cancer include limitless and exponential multiplication of ordinarily beneficial cells, even when the body signals that further multiplication is no longer needed. The Wikipedia page on the [wheat and chessboard problem](#) explains that nothing can keep growing exponentially forever. In biology, the unwanted growth usually terminates with the death of the host. Exponential spending increases can often lead to the same undesirable result in organizations.

What Macon misunderstood is that orgs like Wikimedia are not cancers. They are parasites that cannot survive outside their host. Almost nobody would donate to Wikimedia so it could spend money on these causes - without Wikipedia, Wikimedia would starve.

In the west, an advanced industry of NGOs, charities, and foundations has evolved which funds so much of the weirdness in our daily lives. A caste of activist-professionals have emerged, which inevitably capture any non-profit with spare cash.

This is what is sometimes called The Blob: a powerful but inconspicuous force that has given us the dysfunction of the 21st century.

Wikipedia is an amazing and important website. But it doesn't need your money. It has enough to stay online, improve and grown.

What it needs more donations for is to fund one side in the United States' culture war.

A sad footnote to this: In 2021 SeRCH ran their own funding programme, "Hot Science Summer".

In deciding who to fund, the key criteria was use of the Intersectional Scientific method.

Everything else - a scientific background, data - was optional. What could possibly go wrong?

Through #HotScienceSummer we want to re-imagine what science research looks like and redefine what it means to be a scientist. Do YOUR science, YOUR way.



So, we put together a frequently asked questions sheet because we want as many of you STEM creatives out there to LAUNCH A PROJECT! Putting your idea out into the world can be...intimidating, daunting, or straight up nerve-racking. But we want to encourage you — your idea is a GOOD one!

...

Here are answers to a bunch of frequently asked questions to help you along your #HotScienceSummer project launch:

Do I need to be a scientist to launch a Hot Science Summer project?

• NO! We invite STEM creatives of ALL backgrounds, of ALL stages and ages to launch #HotScienceSummer projects. We're not looking to fund just 'professionals', we want to fund ANYONE with a hot idea!

Do I need to have any data to launch a project?

• NO! This is not a typical research grant where you have to prove that your idea works. This is the proof of concept project that WE want to support and amplify — that project you've been chewing on but didn't necessarily have anywhere to get the schmoneyyyy to actually try it.

- Set your research project to last through July 31, 2021 to qualify for a #HotScienceSummer boost.
- Post at least 1 lab note and 1 project update to your experiment.com project, between June 14-25.
- Post at least 3 times to your social media accounts about your project, using #HotScienceSummer, between June 14-25.



SeRCH and VS waiting for you to answer this call.

- Present at the Hot Science Symposium at the end of the summer and "publish" your results. (We broadly interpret what publish means; basically we want you to share your findings publicly, just like the rest of your project!)

One of the projects was into spatial learning in the California Two-Spot Octopus, for which the researcher got 12 hatchling octopuses.

Unfortunately, the lab experiment went horribly wrong, killing the poor creatures before the research could be concluded.

