

2025

Los Angeles Megafires Recovery

Sarah Ali, Kayne Foundation

“After the Fire has become one of the most meaningful parts of our recovery here in Los Angeles. It's often said that this is the worst club with the best people, and that's exactly how it feels. I am so thankful to everyone in the After the Fire network who has been available to us to answer questions, provide guidance, give hugs when we needed it the most, and continue to be part of our recovery. Thank you so much.”



Jennifer Gray Thompson, MPA

After the Fire USA

12/9/2025

Abstract

This report provides a comprehensive overview of After the Fire USA's first year of engagement supporting community-led recovery after the 2025 Palisades and Eaton Fires in Los Angeles County. It documents the organization's high-touch, survivor-informed approach, including more than 1,000 meetings, nine delegations, extensive coaching for civic and grassroots leaders, and the strengthening of two major block captain networks—now core communication and advocacy systems for affected residents.

Through convenings, technical assistance, philanthropic briefings, and cross-community learning, After the Fire USA supported local leaders navigating the complex systems of insurance, permitting, finance, trauma, and long-term recovery governance. The report outlines key lessons from Year 1 and provides strategic recommendations for Year 2, when recovery becomes slower, more complex, and emotionally demanding. It emphasizes survivor leadership, long-term investment, cross-sector coordination, innovation, and continued gathering as essential pillars of effective megafire recovery.

Ultimately, the report captures how Los Angeles communities are transforming early crisis into durable recovery infrastructure and how After the Fire USA will continue to stand alongside them as they rebuild homes, restore neighborhoods, and shape a more resilient future.

Alex Athenson, Foothill Catalogue Foundation

"I wanted to say a huge thank you to the After the Fire team. We could not have made so much progress in our own disaster recovery without the support of this amazing organization. The expertise, the connections, and just the empathy they have for all of us going through this process for the first time is unparalleled. So thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts. Looking forward to the next year of collaboration."

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EIN/TAX ID: 82-3266893

Letter to the Los Angeles Community

On behalf of After the Fire USA—and as fellow survivors—we offer our deep respect to the communities navigating the aftermath of the Palisades and Eaton Fires. As the one-year mark arrives, the work of recovery remains as urgent and difficult as it was in the earliest days. Many communities enter the “disillusionment phase” around this time, when grief, frustration, and fatigue peak. For those affected by the January 7th fires, this winter may feel especially heavy.

Emotional lows and slower momentum are normal. This is not failure—it is a human stage of recovery. This moment calls for patience, clarity, and compassion. Everyone involved, including leaders and helpers, is carrying trauma. Understanding these cycles helps sustain your capacity to lead and care for your community.

As you move into Year Two, coordination, strategic investment, and impact measurement become even more crucial. Recovery often feels overwhelming, invisible, and lonely. Federal aid slows just as community needs intensify, long before programs like CDBG-DR arrive in 2027. Reach out to one another. Tap out when needed. The disaster will still be there tomorrow, next month, and next year. Sustained, steady leadership protects the knowledge earned through this difficult year.

Center equity, complement one another’s work, and invest in the strong local organizations that serve your communities daily—VOAD-supported LTRGs, mental-health collaboratives, and survivor-led rebuilding networks. Do not fear innovation; Los Angeles holds unparalleled talent and resources. We believe in your ability to shape the future. Draw on lessons from Sonoma, Butte, Maui, Paradise, and Boulder as you continue this work.

Uncertainty remains in the federal response, but local organizations persist. We are in the rooms with them—supporting advocacy, translating policy, advising on systems, and ensuring resident voices stay central. Our work does not end when we fly home; we continue providing coaching, webinars, policy guidance, and connections. Our team remains present and responsive.

In partnership with efforts such as the Department of Angels, the LA Delta Resilience Fund, Altadena Rising, Team Palisades, PostFire, PPRC, and grassroots leaders, we’ve been honored to support early recovery across Los Angeles. We will remain by your side.

Take care of one another as Year Two begins. Recovery is a group sport. We will continue responding to the needs of those leading on the ground.

After the Fire USA: Los Angeles Fires Y1

Over the past year, we have engaged deeply across Los Angeles. Our team held more than 1,000 meetings with public officials, residents, funders, and community groups. We coached and advised two major block-captain networks that now operate as trusted survivor-led systems for communication and advocacy, meeting monthly with the Palisades Block Captains and supporting the Altagether network.

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We delivered over 30 webinars; hosted two delegations to Sonoma County to study Tubbs Fire recovery; facilitated LA participation in our Wildfire Leadership Summit with 225 global leaders; and led nine in-person delegations with ~80 volunteers & team members providing direct support to civic leaders, NGOs, clergy, academics, and grassroots organizers.

We hosted four funder briefings, published ten guidance documents, and produced policy memos and rights-based materials. Our team advised on resilient infrastructure, state legislation, coastal rebuild barriers, tariff relief, and tax protections for Eaton Fire survivors. We translated complex finance systems into real-world tools and connected local leaders with partners who can help.

But the true progress lives with survivors: clearing lots, organizing meetings, advocating for neighbors, and showing up even when their own futures feel uncertain. Hope and hard work can coexist—and they do, every day.

Los Angeles is already demonstrating what it means to build forward: to advance equity, insurability, dignity, and community strength. We are honored to walk this path with you, now and in the years ahead.

With deep respect and partnership,

Jennifer Gray Thompson

Founder & CEO, After the Fire USA & Subject Matter Expert: Community Recovery Landscapes, Federal Legislation, Leadership Coaching
Origin: North Bay Fires, 2017-2020

Valerie Brown

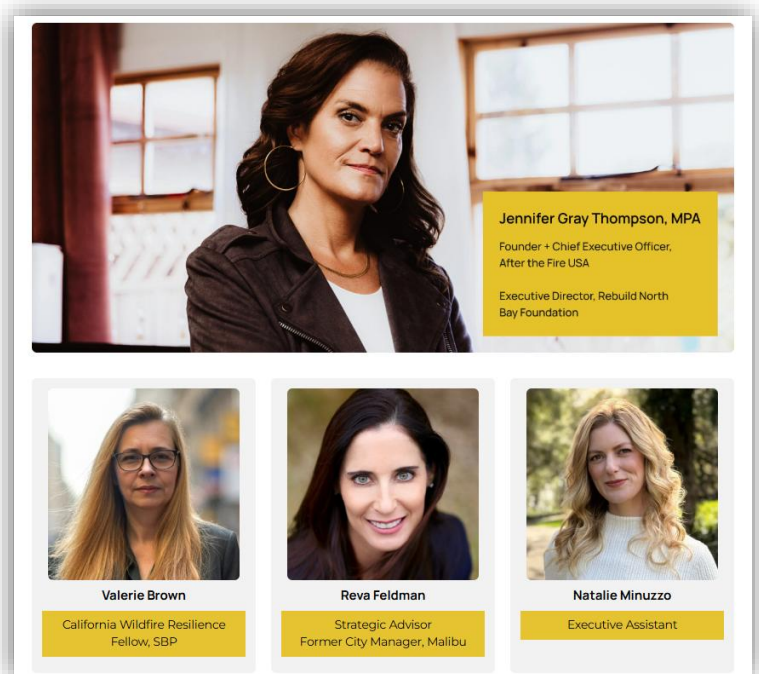
SBP Fellow & Subject Matter Expert: insurance, LTRG, VOAD, Long-Term Recovery, Disaster Case Management
Origin: Witch Creek Fire 2007

Reva Feldman

Strategic Advisor & Subject Matter Expert: Local Government, Emergency Operations, Long-Term Recovery, Coastal
Origin: Woolsey Fire 2018

Natalie Minuzzo

Coordinator & Executive Assistant
Origin: North Bay Complex Fire 2017



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After the Fire USA: Snapshot Impact

Community Engagement

- 1,000+ meetings with public officials, community groups, funders, and residents
- 1:1 support provided to civic leaders, elected officials, academics, NGOs, clergy, block captains, and grassroots leaders

Survivor Leadership & Networks

- Coached and advised 2 major block captain networks (Palisades and Eaton) that now serve as trusted, survivor-led communication and advocacy systems
- Monthly meetings with Palisades Block Captains
- Ongoing meetings with Altgether Block Captains

Education & Knowledge Sharing

- 30+ public and private webinars offering actionable recovery guidance
- 10 published guidance documents on smoke damage, housing, trauma, and advocacy
- Drafted and reviewed policy memos, white papers, and “Know Your Rights” briefs
- Facilitated and funded 20+ survivors from Eaton and Palisades to attend the 2025 After the Fire USA Wildfire Leadership Summit with 225 leaders and global experts

Delegations & Peer Learning

- Co-hosted 2 Los Angeles delegations to Santa Rosa to study Tubbs Fire (2017) recovery
- Led 9 in-person delegations with Survivors, Subject Matter Experts, and Recovery Leaders
- Ongoing Leadership Coaching & Peer Support for emergent and established Los Angeles leaders who know their communities and need support for learning the landscape of disaster

Philanthropy & Strategic Investment

- Delivered 4 large-scale funder briefings with top LA philanthropy to promote equitable, survivor-aligned recovery investments
- Ongoing 1:1 consultations with funders in disaster recovery, both locally and nationally

Policy & Systems Change

- Advised on fire-adapted infrastructure, AB 1253, and coastal rebuild barriers
- Advocated for tariff relief for disaster rebuilding communities
- Initiated an additional tax bill extension through 2030 to protect Eaton Fire survivors who may receive SoCal Edison settlements

Community Finance & Navigation

- Translated complex disaster finance language for real-world resident use
- Connected community leadership with partners who can assist across the recovery landscape

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Purpose of After the Fire USA Deployments to Los Angeles

Between January and December of 2025, After the Fire USA CEO Jennifer Gray Thompson led nine delegations to Los Angeles to discuss post-disaster recovery strategies and provide support to communities affected by the Palisades and Eaton Fires. These visits began in the crucial early months of recovery, offering expansive, high-touch, and deeply centered recovery guidance while allowing local communities space to assess immediate needs and priorities.

In 2025, we brought delegations to Los Angeles every month and will continue to regularly deploy in 2026. We are mindful to split our time and efforts between the fire communities and bridge relationships whenever possible. Indeed, these communities are sisters that will rise together. These structured and unstructured interventions have created ripple effects across both fire-affected zones – strengthening civic trust, improving information flow, and building durable community recovery infrastructure.

The goal of these deployments is to learn from survivors, share insights from previous megafires, and support residents, local leaders, and organizations as they navigate the complexities of rebuilding. By uniting technical experts, community leaders, and fire survivors from past disasters, After the Fire USA aims to foster cross-community leadership, build meaningful relationships, and offer models that help residents not just recover—but reimagine their future. Delegations are the single most important activity of our work. We build relationships and envelope newly megafire-affected communities into our terrible club full of the absolute best humans.

Disaster recovery is a multi-year process. The communities of Los Angeles face steep rebuilding challenges, and After the Fire USA is committed to walking beside them with long-term support and best practices earned through lived experience.

We are optimistic for the Megafire Communities, Eaton and Palisades, to not only recover, but also innovate in ways we have not seen in previous megafires. We expect these communities will showcase what is possible, what is insurable, what is beautiful, and what is equitable after disaster. Los Angeles is a land of doers, makers, creators, characters, and leaders.

We caution strongly to only compete against the disaster and not each other and indeed we are seeing progress here. Cooperation, collaboration, and communication are the foundational

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actions of every recovery. A final C? *Curiosity*. Imagine what is possible and aim for the absolute best outcome: neighborhoods and lives rebuilt; relationships thriving; resiliency built in and hard-won.

Our job is to teach you about megafire disasters as we walk alongside you for the long-term before we will ask you to come with us to the next fire. Unfortunately, there is always another one. We know firsthand you are never the same after a megafire. We also know from experience you can – and often are -- be better, stronger, safer, and closer than before the fire. We respect the local leadership and knowledge base. We provide recommendations, information, and case study examples. Adapt more often than adopt.



Delegations

Since the Camp and Woolsey Fires in 2018, we have paid our lessons forward. After the Fire USA provides comprehensive, trust-based support to local leaders and communities navigating the complex aftermath of simultaneous, high-impact disasters through our delegations. With the support of these fire survivors, subject matter experts, and partners, After the Fire USA advances its mission to accelerate community-led recovery by facilitating peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, survivor-informed coaching, and direct consultation with grassroots and civic leadership. This work is the heart of our organizational impact.

After the Fire USA Team Delegates

- Jennifer Gray Thompson – Founder & CEO (*North Bay Fires: Tubbs, Nuns 2017; Kincade 2019; Walbridge 2020*)
- Valerie Brown – Chair, California VOAD; SBP Fellow (*Witch Creek Fire 2007*)
- Reva Feldman – Strategic Advisor; Former Malibu City Manager (*Woolsey Fire 2018*)
- Natalie Minuzzo – Executive Assistant & Coordinator



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Delegates by Fire Event, Region & Expertise

Witch Creek Fire (2007) – San Diego County, CA

- Valerie Brown (*also ATF USA*) Chair, California VOAD; SBP Fellow (*Witch Creek Fire 2007*)

North Bay Fires (2017–2020) – Sonoma County, CA

Includes: Tubbs, Nuns, Kincade, Walbridge, and Glass Fires

- Jennifer Gray Thompson (*ATF USA*)
- Adrienne Heinz, Ph.D. (*VA National Center for PTSD and Stanford University's FAST Lab*)
- Lorez Bailey (*Consultant*)
- Tennis Wick – Director, Permit Sonoma
- Paul Lowenthal – Division Chief, Fire Marshal, City of Santa Rosa (*Tubbs – Total Loss, Nuns, Kincaide, Walbridge, Glass*)
- Jeff Okrepkie – Councilmember, Santa Rosa; Founder, Coffey Strong (*Tubbs – Total Loss*)
- Brad Sherwood – Assistant General Manager, Sonoma Water Agency; Founder, Larkfield Rising (*Tubbs – Total Loss*)
- Mike Holdner – Mechanical Engineer, Keysight Technologies (*Tubbs – Total Loss*)
- Steve Rahmn – COO, Firebrand Electric (*Tubbs – Total Loss*)
- Jennielynn Holmes – CEO, Catholic Charities of Northwest California, Co-Chair of ROC: Rebuilding Our Community, Sonoma County Long-Term Recovery Group

Woolsey Fire (2018) – Malibu, CA

- Reva Feldman (*ATF USA*)

Camp Fire (2018) – Paradise, CA

- Casey Taylor – Superintendent & Founder, Achieve Charter Schools (*Total Loss*)
- Jenni Goodlin – Executive Director, Rebuild Paradise Foundation

Rabbi Amy Bernstein, Kehillat Israel

“I want to thank After the Fire for absolutely every minute that you have brought us a sense of hope, a sense that we are not alone, a sense that there is a future after devastation and destruction and disorientation. That there are opportunities for us to grow in ways that we don't necessarily want to, but are now going to. That it's possible, that it's probable, and that you're going to be with us every step of the way. You were the first people that I believed when you said, there's life after this, because you meant it from a place of experience, having witnessed it, seen it, and having helped it happen so many times. Thank you, thank you, thank you for everything you're doing and everything you're going to do going forward. I promise, promise, we will pay it forward.”

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Santiam Canyon Fire (2020) – Oregon

- Melissa Baurer – Integrated Health & Outreach Director, Santiam Hospital, Long-Term Recovery Group, Disaster Case Management

Marshall Fire (2021) – Boulder County, Colorado

- Jenn Kaaoush – Co-Founder, Superior Rising; Trustee, Town of Superior (*Smoke Damage*)
- Reina Pomeroy – Founder, Community for Good Consulting (*Total Loss*)
- Katie Arrington – Resiliency & Recovery Program Manager, Boulder County

Maui Fires (2023) – County of Maui, Hawaii

- Josiah Nishita – Managing Director
- Mayor Richard Bissen – County of Maui
- Isabella Ka’ihikapulani Eleneki Bissen
- Laksmi Abraham – Director, Communications & Government Affairs
- John Smith – Office of Recovery Administrator
- Cynthia Lallo – Chief of Staff
- Nicole Huguenin – Co-Director & Founder, Maui Rapid Response

National Support Organizations

SBP (St. Bernard Project)

- Carol Ahn Markowitz – Chief Executive Officer
- Hannah Trautwein – Director, Fellows Program
- Valerie Brown – California Wildfire Resilience Fellow (see *Witch Creek Fire*)

Fannie Mae

- Tim Carpenter – Director, Disaster Recovery & Resilience
- Sidra Goldwater – Advisor, Disaster Recovery & Rebuilding
- Maria Evans – Vice President, Community Impact

Nina Revoy, Balmer Group

“On behalf of Balmer Group, I wanted to thank you and the entire team at After the Fire for all the time, expertise, help, and heart you've given to Los Angeles. Thank you for making it possible for us to be in conversation with people who have walked the same path that we're walking now. You and your delegations have been so generous with your time. talking to fire survivors and community leaders and public officials and philanthropy. You've been our guide, our mentor, our tough love truth teller, our big sister. You've given us what we've needed, whether that's information or a shoulder to lean on or a gentle, sometimes not so gentle, nudge. Meeting you, the team from after the fire, and fire survivors from other communities has been one of the unexpected blessings of this really tough year. Thank you for your guidance, for your leadership, and for your humanity. We have been truly, truly lucky to have worked with you.”

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Good360

- Jack Enzminge – Donation Intake & Placement Manager, (*Eaton Fire: Family Total Loss*)
- Maddie Pennie – Senior Manager of Development

Research, Rebuilding, Innovation, Federal

- Dr. Adrienne Heinz – VA, Stanford
- Jolie Wills – CEO, Hummingly Foundation
- Julie Shiyou-Woodard – President & CEO, Smart Home America
- David Venables – Technical Advisor, FLASH
- Chris Smith – Director, Individual Assistance & Disaster Housing, IEM
- Margaret Van Vliet – Principal, Trillium Advisors, LLC
- Laura Blaul – Senior Wildfire Fellow, Insurance Institute for Home & Business Safety
- David Westley – Residential Sales Manager, Schneider Electric
- Allison Block – Senior Company Giving & Industry Development Program Manager, Simpson Strong-Tie

Note: Many of our volunteers came to LA repeatedly and remained available remotely

John Mills, Watch Duty

“A heartfelt thank you to the men and women of After the Fire who support our communities after these devastating fires. From Sonoma County, where you started, to LA County, to Lahaina, you are there to support people in their times of need. Thank you.”

Who We've Met With

Government & Elected Officials

- Governor Newsom's Office of Data and Innovation
- Engaged California
- Altadena Town Council
- Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin
- Assemblymember John Harabedian
- Representative Judy Chu's Office
- Representative Brad Sherman's Office
- Councilwoman Tracy Park
- LA County Assessor Jeff Prang
- LA County Fire Department
- LA County Library
- LA Planning and Public Works
- LAUSD
- Los Angeles Police Department
- Mayor Karen Bass
 - Mayor Bass's Office: Deputy Mayors
- Senator Ben Allen
- Senator Adam Schiff's Office
- Supervisor Kathryn Barger



Community & Neighborhood Organizations

- Altadena Collective *(also listed under Eaton Fire Community Orgs)*
- Altadena Talks
- Black Resilience Network
- Community Action Plan
- Department of Angels
- Eaton Fire Community Orgs:
 - PostFire



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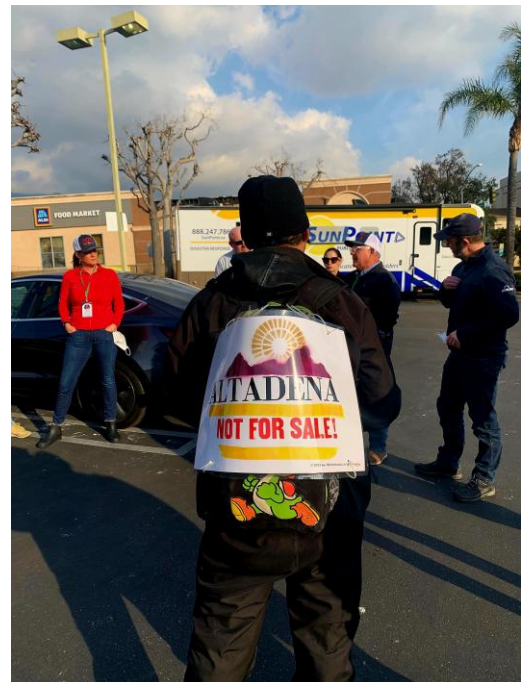
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- Altadena Rising
- HOLD Dena
- My Tribe Rise
- Altagether
- Eaton Fire Collaborative
- Altadena Collective
- Foothill Catalog Foundation
- Community Action Partnership of Los Angeles (CAP LA)
- Eaton Fire Collaboratory
- Palisades Fire Community Orgs:
 - Team Palisades
 - 1Pali
 - Boys & Girls Club of Malibu
 - PaliRising
 - Pacific Palisades Community Council
 - Palisades Community Recovery Center
 - Pali LTRG



Nonprofits & Support Services

- Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church
- Altadena Builds Back Foundation
- American Friends of Magen David Adom
- Black Freedom Fund
- Boys & Girls Club of Malibu
- Community United Methodist Church
- Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services
- Direct Relief
- Eames House (correct name)
- Essie Justice Group
- First Responders Children’s Foundation
- Hummingly Foundation
- Kehillat Israel
- Malibu Fire Brigade
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Los Angeles County
- NeighborWorks
- Project Hope
- Project:Camp
- My TRIBE Rise
- Community Action Partnership of Los Angeles (CAP LA)
- Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC)



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Foundations & Philanthropy

- Ahmanson Foundation
- Annenberg Foundation
- Broad Foundation
- Ballmer Group
- California Community Foundation
- The Wonderful Foundation
- Ethos Giving
- FireAid
- LA Delta Fund
- The R&S Kayne Foundation
- The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
- The Change Reaction
- The Builder Market



Resilience & Innovation

- NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)
- Snap Inc.
- The Resiliency Company
- SidePorch
- Bright Harbor
- Greenline Housing Foundation
- Institute for Building and Home Safety (IBHS)
 - Wildfire Prepared Home
- California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority
- The Reality Center



Scope of Support Provided by After the Fire USA

Since January 7, After the Fire USA has worked alongside residents and local leaders across the Palisades and Eaton Fire zones to strengthen community-led recovery. Our role has been to equip people with the tools, structures, and confidence to lead effectively—not to duplicate or direct their work.

Building Survivor-Led Infrastructure

Two resident-driven block captain networks have matured into strong, community-owned systems for neighborhood communication and advocacy. Experienced block captains from the

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2017 Tubbs Fire contributed lived-experience guidance across every delegation, helping Los Angeles survivors shorten a steep learning curve.

Cross-Sector Coordination and Trust

We supported alignment among clergy, nonprofit hubs, mental health providers, school district leaders, and emergent organizers—building a cohesive recovery ecosystem that reduces duplication and centers survivor experience in every decision.

Philanthropic & Technical Capacity

We regularly briefed philanthropic partners to ensure investments match evolving needs. Our delegations—made possible by philanthropic support—brought experts across housing, finance, trauma, insurance, equity, and governance. These relationships continued long after each visit, providing sustained coaching to local leaders.

Navigation of Complex Systems

We helped local leaders translate difficult recovery systems—permitting, insurance, policy, finance—into practical tools. Our guidance is grounded in lessons from more than 15 megafire recoveries and adapted to LA’s unique urban context.

Supporting the Department of Angels

- Strategic coaching on vision, mission, and structure
- Advising on block captain system development and sustainability
- Participation in Finance, Insurance, and Communications working groups
- Assistance with state and federal advocacy and cross-sector relationship-building

Community-Led Recovery as the Centerpiece

Our work is built on one principle: the people doing the hardest work—neighbors helping neighbors—should feel supported, seen, and sustained. Megafire recovery is still a young field; we help communities adapt proven approaches while shaping new ones for urban fire realities.

As described in *From Chaos to Community*, recovery accelerates when local skills, networks, and knowledge are mobilized for collective benefit. Los Angeles is demonstrating this truth daily, turning early chaos into coordinated leadership.

No one recovers alone, and no one leads alone. Together, Los Angeles is creating a recovery ecosystem stronger than the sum of its parts. We are honored to support this work.

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Webinars, Media Stories, and Forums (selected)

- Los Angeles wildfire survivors look to rebuild fire-resilient homes to increase insurability, [CBS News](#) (May 5, 2025)
- [Altadena's Future Recovery](#) (Eaton Fire Survivors Network, April 10, 2025)
- [Experts offer tips on resilience from Israel to Los Angeles in AFMDA](#) (American Friends of Magen David Adom, April 15, 2025)
- [Residents harden homes after wildfires](#) (On Your Side KCAL News)
- [Social Impact Power Chat with Jennifer Gray Thompson of After the Fire USA](#) (Ethos Giving, April 29, 2025)
- LA Fires: What Happened and Why? Rebuilding – Infrastructure, Technical, & Financial Issues (Counselors of Real Estate, June 11, 2025)
- [Insurance Claims: Valerie Brown Exposes the Post-Fire Insurance Maze](#) (Three Homeless Guys: The Palisades Fire by Joel Pollak Podcast, May 2025)
- Resilient LA Delta Fund Summit (June 2025)
- [As Long Angeles rebuilds, a fight is brewing over landscaping rules designed to prevent future fires](#), [Fast Company](#) (October 19, 2025)
- [This Club of Catastrophe Welcomes People Who Have Lost Everything](#), [The Washington Post](#), November 2, 2025)

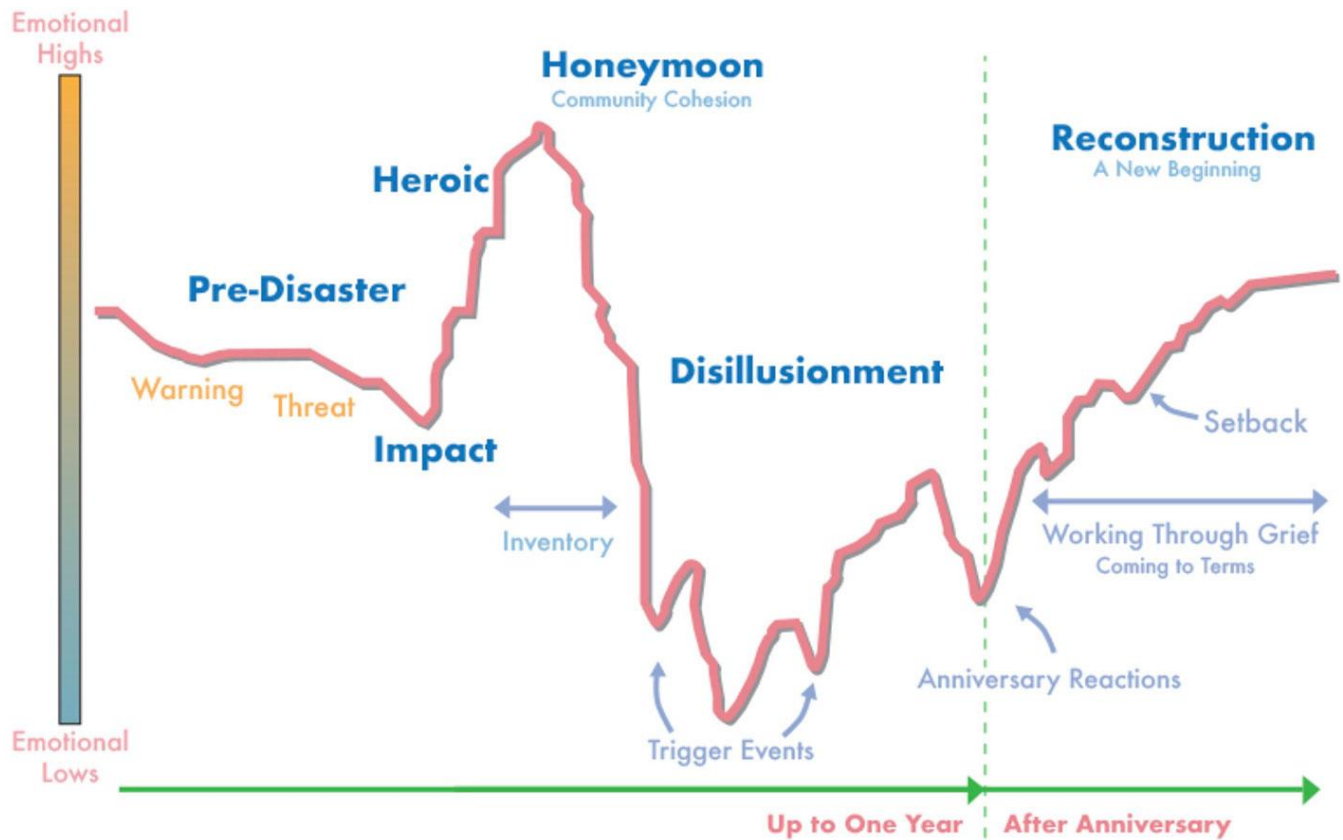


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So What Next?



Recommendations: Build upon Y1, Lean into Y2 Rebuilding + Individual Assistance

Year 2 is where recovery becomes harder, slower, and more emotionally taxing. Federal aid tapers, systems fatigue emerges, and community needs sharpen. What communities build now will determine whether recovery accelerates or stalls.

- Survivor leadership drives the most relevant and durable solutions.
- Equity-centered coordination eliminates silos and keeps the focus on the disaster—not on competition.
- Curiosity and humility strengthen leaders navigating uncertainty.
- Real-time communication loops and accurate landscape mapping ensure resources meet the people who need them most.

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Los Angeles' fire survivors are modeling what responsive, community-centered recovery can look like. Their determination is reshaping systems in ways that will reach far beyond these fires.

1. Embrace Relentless Imperfect Progress

- Reflect on how much you have learned about megafire recovery in Year 1.
- Look around at the rebuilding progress. Los Angeles is far ahead of every comparable fire recovery at this stage.
- Refuse paralysis. Do not let the lack of perfection in the recovery, in yourself, or in others slow the work.

2. Center Survivor Leadership

- Include survivors in governance, advisory roles, and strategy.
- Fund trusted local organizations already doing the work.
- Build co-designed systems with transparent, ongoing feedback.
- Use outside expertise without centering outside voices. Communities know themselves best.

3. Strengthen the Block Captain Model

- Block Captains must be residents navigating recovery firsthand. Invest in their success.
- Ensure diverse representation across neighborhoods and demographics.
- Maintain two-way communication that is accurate, verified, and timely.

4. Invest in Systems Built to Last

- Commit funding for at least three years. One-year cycles slow progress.
- Pair grants with technical assistance and trauma-informed coaching.
- Require true collaboration among grantees to reduce competition and fragmentation.

5. Support Innovation and Embrace Iteration

- Give community organizations room to test new ideas.
- Reward learning and normalize “I do not know” as a strength.
- Encourage curiosity in leadership to drive adaptation and creativity.
- Look to other post-megafire communities for ideas you can adapt to meet your local needs.

6. Build a Recovery Infrastructure Grounded in Real Needs

- Invest in filling individual rebuilding gaps so survivors stay on track to return home.
- Sustain the leaders who have carried the weight of Year 1. Burnout threatens recovery.

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After the Fire USA is an initiative of Rebuild Northbay Foundation, a registered nonprofit (501c3 & 501c4). We help communities navigate the Era of Megafire. We advocate and collaborate with public officials (regional, state and federal), private sector, nonprofit community to support community led and designed recovery.

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- Embrace Zone Zero principles to increase affordability and resilience in dense, urban fire corridors.
- Maximize the role of Long Term Recovery Groups to identify survivors who need additional support.
- Develop a Community Asset Map layered with a Community Needs Assessment to create a real-time picture of recovery capacity and gaps.

7. Continue to Gather

- You are each other's superpower. Recovery is a group project.
- Recognize what a privilege it is to do this very difficult work with your friends and neighbors.
- Your willingness to show up for one another is a powerful testament to your pre-fire community.
- Many people working incredibly hard to get everyone home again is one of the strongest indicators of long-term recovery success.
- Do not treat media narratives as gospel. Add them to your bank of information, but trust your lived experience and your community most.

Closing with Gratitude

The communities impacted by the Palisades and Eaton Fires have shown extraordinary strength, clarity, and commitment in the face of immense loss. It has been our honor to work alongside you. Our role was never to direct the path forward. It was to listen, to connect, and to share hard-earned lessons from other fires, always in service of the leaders and neighbors who carry the weight of recovery each day.

We offered strategic assistance, peer-to-peer learning, and survivor-informed guidance to help navigate complex systems and sustain momentum during a time when exhaustion and uncertainty often run high. Every step of this work was shaped by the voices of local residents who continue to show what compassionate, community-centered leadership looks like.

This effort was made possible through the generous partnership of FireAid, Ballmer Group, Snap Inc., Wonderful Foundation, Walmart, Parsons Foundation, United Airlines, Airlink, and many individual donors. Your investment allowed us to respond quickly, support community-led structures, and bring experienced recovery leaders to Los Angeles when their insight was needed most.

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To every survivor, leader, partner, and supporter, thank you. Your trust and collaboration made this work not only possible, but meaningful. We remain committed to standing with you as recovery continues and as Los Angeles builds forward with strength, equity, and care.

Together with community members, local leaders, and trusted partners, we helped connect people to tools, knowledge, and one another. Over the course of this engagement, we contributed to coaching, convening, training, and technical guidance—quiet work that supports strong local leadership over the long haul.

We remain deeply grateful to the extraordinary individuals in the Palisades and Eaton Fire zones who continue to show up for their neighbors every day. Their courage, compassion, and clarity of purpose drive this recovery—and we are honored to stand with them.

Thank you for your trust and partnership.

Our Mission



After the Fire USA is a leading nonprofit organization helping **megafire-affected communities** move from devastation to recovery, resilience, and growth.

RECOVER, REBUILD, REIMAGINE



Our Mission

is to guide communities through the complex journey of recovery in the Era of Megafires, fostering sustainable rebuilding and long-term preparedness.

VALUES

LISTEN: "What do you need and how can we help?"

SERVE the community in front of us

Lean into LEARNING, ADAPTING, INNOVATING

Act with INTEGRITY always

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