



The words *fellowship* and *community* have a common origin, and a beautiful one at that—the concept of union and something shared by many. The global Echoing Green community exemplifies this concept. The sense of belonging within our community actually increased and deepened over the past year, even as COVID-19 continued to devastate communities and growing political polarization sent many of us to our literal, virtual, and figurative corners. But it feels right to those of us who have been deeply moved by Echoing Green’s fierce commitment to community. The journey to justice, equity, and sustainability is truly a collective one. We all have a role to play—in helping and healing—as we move forward together.

We continue to marvel at the bold, unapologetic ideas of our most recent classes of social innovators, each of whom is working at the intersection of innovation and racial equity. They embody the spirit of the iconoclastic poet William Blake (Echoing Green is named after a Blake poem), who said, “I must create a system, or be enslaved by another man’s. I will not reason and compare; my business is to create.” They are doing the work, and it is magical to witness how they have forged such tight bonds to support and care for one another along the way.

We are deeply grateful for the unrelenting commitment and fearlessness of our entire Fellow community. They moved beyond immediate relief efforts in 2020, dealing with the multiple disasters of a global health pandemic, a wrenching racial reckoning, and a burgeoning economic crisis. Our Fellows are working to fight the structural racism that has claimed the aspirations and lives of far too many people of color around the world, undertaking the work of recovery and reimagining in 2021.

We so appreciate the deep investments in time and resources that our many friends, supporters, and partners have made in Echoing Green’s work over the past year. They have recognized the importance of our work by equipping us with the resources, through our new Racial Equity Philanthropic Fund, to leverage the potential of social innovation in the fight for racial equity.

The year 2022 marks the second year of programming fueled by the Fund. We look forward to learning alongside our community as we continue this work and drive more resources—and social impact—to social innovators of color. But 2022 also marks the 35th anniversary of Echoing Green’s founding. When Echoing Green was launched in 1987 by the leadership of General Atlantic, our founders saw the potential in supporting optimistic, resolute people willing to try new ways to create a better future for everyone.

While there are still many challenges and much work before us, we certainly can commit to living into that simple yet profound vision for the next 35 years! And given who this community is, we know that you’ll be right there with us on the journey.

Cheryl L. Dorsey

1992 FELLOW AND PRESIDENT, ECHOING GREEN