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State of the Center Report

March 17, 2017

From Development Director, Cassandra Shaylor

Dearest Sangha,

Much gratitude for your continuing support of EBMC, making our radical model of Gift Economics at EBMC work as it continues to manifest the resources we need to keep our doors open and to inspire other organizations to consider our approach for their own communities.

Some recent highlights and news about what is coming soon:

- **In 2017 we are celebrating 10 years of EBMC!** What a tremendous accomplishment for an organization that is **almost entirely run on the generosity of its members** to have continued to grow and thrive for a decade! In honor of our 10 year anniversary we are asking everyone to think about how you could increase your support of EBMC tenfold in 2017. This could take many forms, so stay tuned for **Ten Ways to Give to Celebrate 10 Years**, a guide to support EBMC.
- During our Season of Gratitude at the end of 2016 we featured powerful stories from members of our Sangha about their experiences finding much-needed refuge in challenging times, improving their skills in mindfulness practice and understanding of the dharma, and deepening their connection to like-minded community at EBMC. We raised \$18,000, exceeding our fundraising goal by \$1,000, through that campaign and we extend deep appreciation for your generous support!
- **Please save the date for our 10 Year Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, November 18,** which will feature beloved dharma teachers Tara Brach and Larry Yang. In addition to a rich program of dharma talks, music, and storytelling, we will honor our founders, and celebrate our teachers, volunteers, and supporters. Mark your calendars; you won't want to miss it!

From Program and Finances Director, Xiaojing Wang

Finance Update

For 2016, EBMC's Leadership Sangha (Board) approved a budget that included \$420,000 in expected income and \$414,107 in expenses. Thanks to the generous giving of our community, by year-end, EBMC had raised \$425,500, slightly exceeding our goal. Our expenses came under budget by about \$70,000 (we ended the year spending \$346,000). This means that EBMC currently has 4 months of operating reserves, which exceeds our mid-year goal of having 3 months of reserves by the end of 2016.

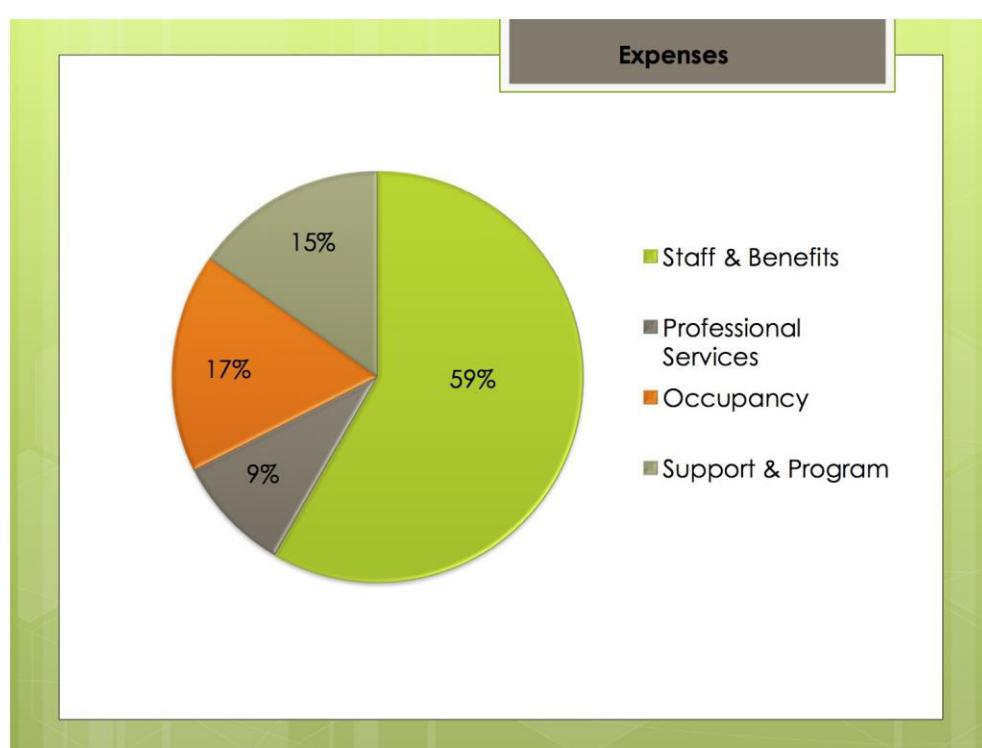
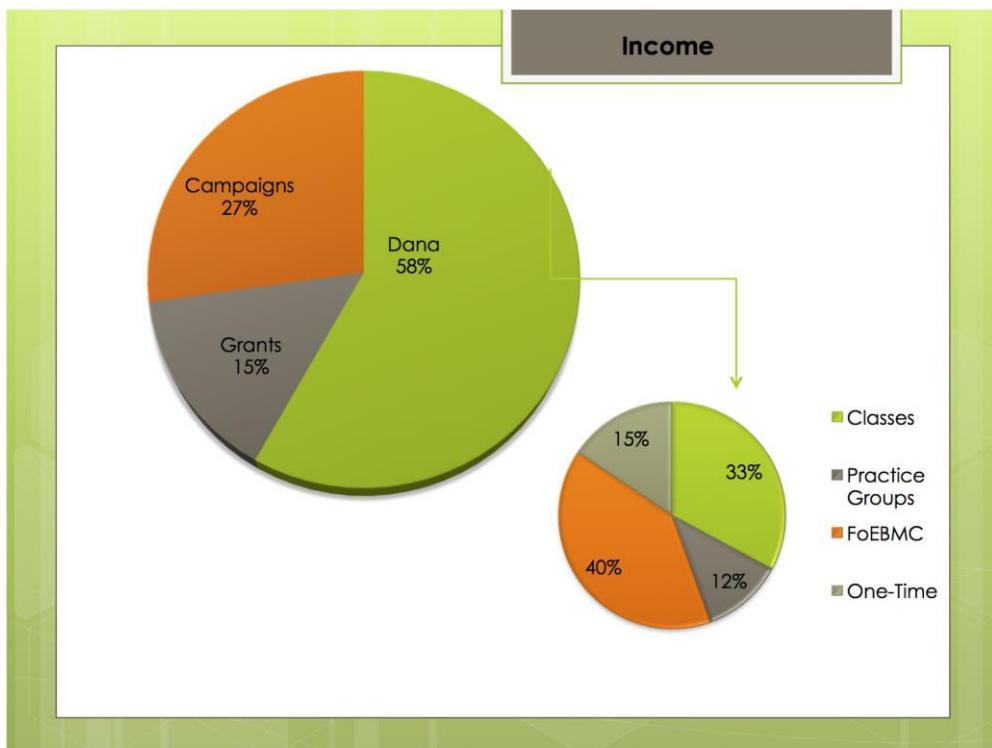
EBMC's 2017 budget is balanced at \$405,000 projected for income and for expenses. (See the pie charts on next page for more info.)

Program Update

Many of you who've been to EBMC recently on a weekday evening, weekend or midday Wednesday have seen how our space is being increasingly used to its full capacity. It's not uncommon for there to be classes or practice groups in the main temple, and Teen Sangha, Deep Refuge groups, and mindful movement in the Compassion Room. To top it off, the Library hosts many small groups and meetings throughout the week.

EBMC's practice groups continue to grow and provide refuge for several hundred people every week. Practice group volunteer coordinators and teachers work incredibly hard to create these spaces – thank you!

In 2016, EBMC hosted 90 classes and weekend retreats, more than we've ever had, with 3,700 attendees, 56% of whom self-identify as people of color. In 2017, we continue to offer a combination of core Buddhist classes, programming to fulfill EBMC's mission, and new classes proposed by our teachers. In fall 2017, we will offer for the first time a 3-month curriculum on the Path of the Bodhisattva. Stay tuned!



Founded to provide a welcoming environment for people of color, members of the LGBTQI community, people with disabilities, and other underrepresented communities, the East Bay Meditation Center welcomes everyone seeking to end suffering and cultivate happiness.

Our mission is to foster liberation, personal and interpersonal healing, social action, and inclusive community building. We offer mindfulness practices and teachings on wisdom and compassion from Buddhist and other spiritual traditions. Rooted in our commitment to diversity, we operate with transparent democratic governance, generosity-based economics, and environmental sustainability.