As the Public Outreach for the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), I am proud to report on the progress that we have made in the past year. In particular, I am pleased to announce that we have received a grant of over £70,000 from the British foundation Lankelly Chase, which will allow us to pursue our strategic goals of developing regional BIEN hubs in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

This is a significant milestone for BIEN, as it is the first time in our history that we have received funding from an external source. We are grateful to Lankelly Chase for their support and for their commitment to human liberation and flourishing from a grassroots perspective. We are also mindful of their decision to self-abolish, as they see current philanthropy as perpetrating colonial capitalism. We share their vision of a world that is more just and equitable, and we believe that basic income can play a critical role in achieving this goal.

With the support of Lankelly Chase and other donors, we are now fully focused on establishing regional BIEN hubs in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. These hubs will serve as centers of excellence for basic income research, advocacy, and implementation. They will also provide a platform for collaboration between BIEN members and other organizations working towards similar goals in a trans-territorial way.

As part of our outreach efforts, we have also hired our first regional hub coordinator for Latin America. This person is called José and comes from Brasil. He was recommended to apply to the position by the Brasilean network and supported by our already established Latin American Basic Income Network (LABIN), and has a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the region. We believe that this appointment will help us to build stronger relationships with our partners in Latin America and to better understand the unique needs of the region.

In addition to these efforts, we are also supporting the planning and organization of the first Latin American Congress, which will take place in Costa Rica in March 2024. Our coordinator is playing a key role in supporting these efforts and in weaving social relationships that will help to ensure the success of the event.

Finally, I would like to note that I have taken a short pause from the BIEN Executive Committee for six months to focus on writing my first book, tentatively titled Decolonizing Money. As someone who is not employed in an academic institution, I needed this time to be able to write and to contribute to the ongoing conversation around basic income and economic justice.

In conclusion, I am proud of the progress that we have made in the past year and grateful for the support of our partners and donors. We believe that basic income has the potential to transform our world and create a more just and equitable society. With the continued support of our members and partners, we are confident that we can make this vision a reality.

Unconditionally,

Julio Linares Public Outreach BIEN