



## OUR ROLE IN THE REPARATIONS ECOSYSTEM: A FIELD CATALYST

Field catalysts sit at the crossroads of a movement ecosystem. With the opportunity to survey a complex field from above, they can identify the gaps – where resources and assistance are most needed. Field catalysts then deploy a wide range of capabilities to help fill those gaps, like technical assistance for movement organizations, research, and fundraising. Often, they lead field-wide coordination efforts that promote collaboration and alignment around shared goals.

Liberation Ventures aims to serve the movement as a field catalyst, helping to unlock the field's full potential and achieve our collective goal: comprehensive federal reparations.

Read more about the role of field catalysts from the [Stanford Social Innovation Review](#) and [The Bridgespan Group](#)

# KEY FUNCTIONS OF FIELD CATALYSTS



## Clearly define the problem and mobilize stakeholders around a measurable vision

Field catalysts study the wider problem and ultimately define a vision that is “bold enough for stakeholders to rally around, yet specific enough to make a measurable difference.”



## Elevate partners, not themselves

Field catalysts tend not to seek the spotlight for themselves, as this can threaten their position as a supporter of the entire field. Instead, they uplift partners and their work wherever possible – keeping attention on the issue at hand.



## Delineate the ecosystem of key players & strengthen connections

Field catalysts study the landscape of funders, nonprofits, academics, governments, corporations, and other institutions that play a role in the space to understand progress toward promising solutions, facilitate connections, and build community.



## Develop a shared roadmap for change

Field catalysts bring together a wide range of organizations to articulate a shared vision and the intermediate steps required to achieve that vision. The collaborative process strengthens the end product and builds buy-in from the field.



## Build the tools that shift incentives and practices

Field catalysts ask what information, resources, and tools the movement is asking for, and then build them. Critically, these are made accessible to and adaptable by anyone in the field, allowing organizations to use them to their own needs.



## Translate knowledge across contexts

Field catalysts facilitate knowledge sharing across contexts and geographies; over time, they come to serve an advisory or even founding role in new campaigns and initiatives

# LESSONS FROM OTHER FIELD CATALYSTS

## FLEXIBLE ROLES MEET EVOLVING NEEDS

As movement ecosystems evolve, new needs emerge – often suddenly. Field catalysts are well positioned to both identify these needs and address them by multiple means: conducting research, bringing in new partners, building new tools, helping to educate the public, coordinating new funding, supporting policy advocacy, and providing technical support.

## COORDINATING FUNDING FACILITATES ABUNDANCE

Movement organizations often compete for scarce philanthropic resources. Field catalysts can be instrumental in flipping this dynamic. First, they can help coordinate funders to give in complementary ways. Second, they expand the pool of available dollars by appealing to a wide range of new funders, with the added impact of strengthening the perception of the movement as a formal, collective endeavor rather than separate, disparate projects.

## PRACTICAL EXPERTISE IS CRITICAL

Movement organizations and local campaigns, especially nascent ones, benefit immensely from advice from leaders with both practical knowledge and a deep understanding of the movement’s context. Especially as local and state efforts proliferate, knowledge sharing is critical to enable a movement to learn from its past mistakes, and translate learnings from one context into another.

# IMPLICATIONS FOR LV

## DON'T WAIT; PARTNER AND ACT

When we perceive a gap – knowledge, resource, relationship, or otherwise – work with the most relevant organizations to design the solution rather than assume someone else will solve the problem.

## ALIGN FUNDERS ON A SHARED PLAN

We are positioned to synthesize and codify perspectives from movement leaders on the pathway to achieving reparations, and to share that thinking with new funders to inform and expand their giving.

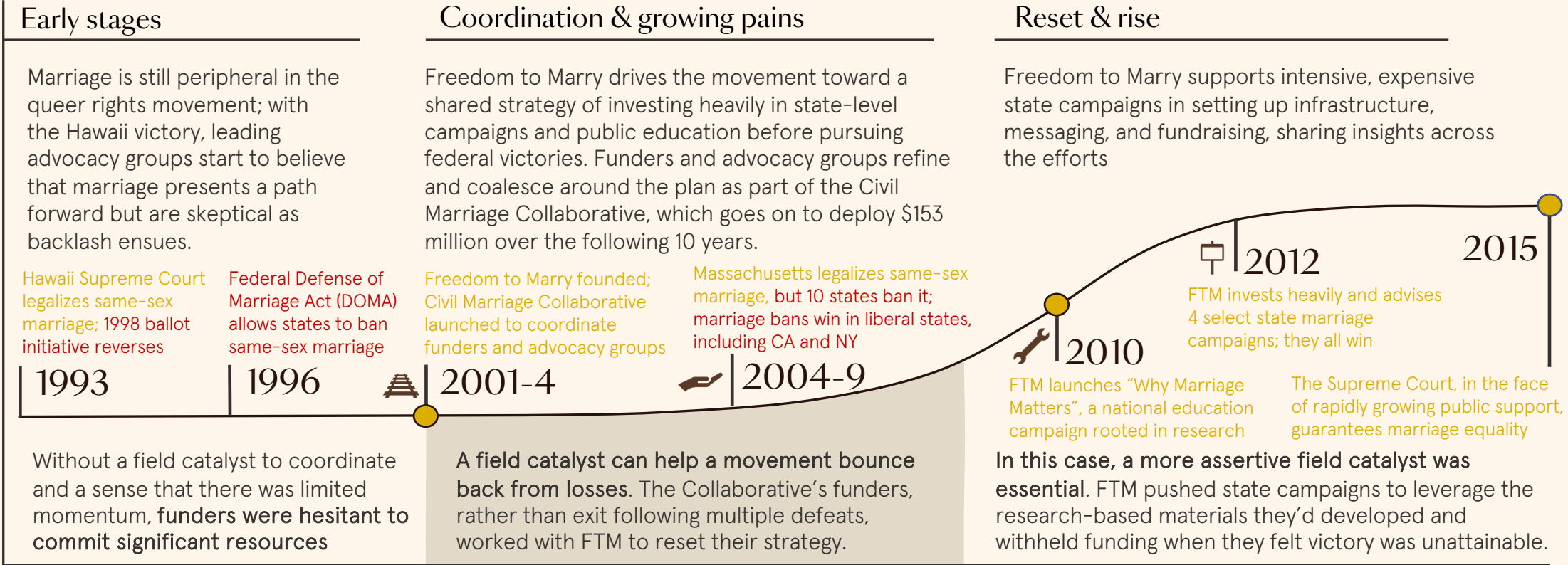
## BUILD OUR ASSISTANCE CAPACITY

As the movement’s political and advocacy strategy become more defined, we can resource a group of advisors who can provide targeted assistance to new endeavors.

# CASE STUDIES



# FREEDOM TO MARRY (FTM): COORDINATING THE MARRIAGE EQUALITY MOVEMENT



How LV will apply the lesson

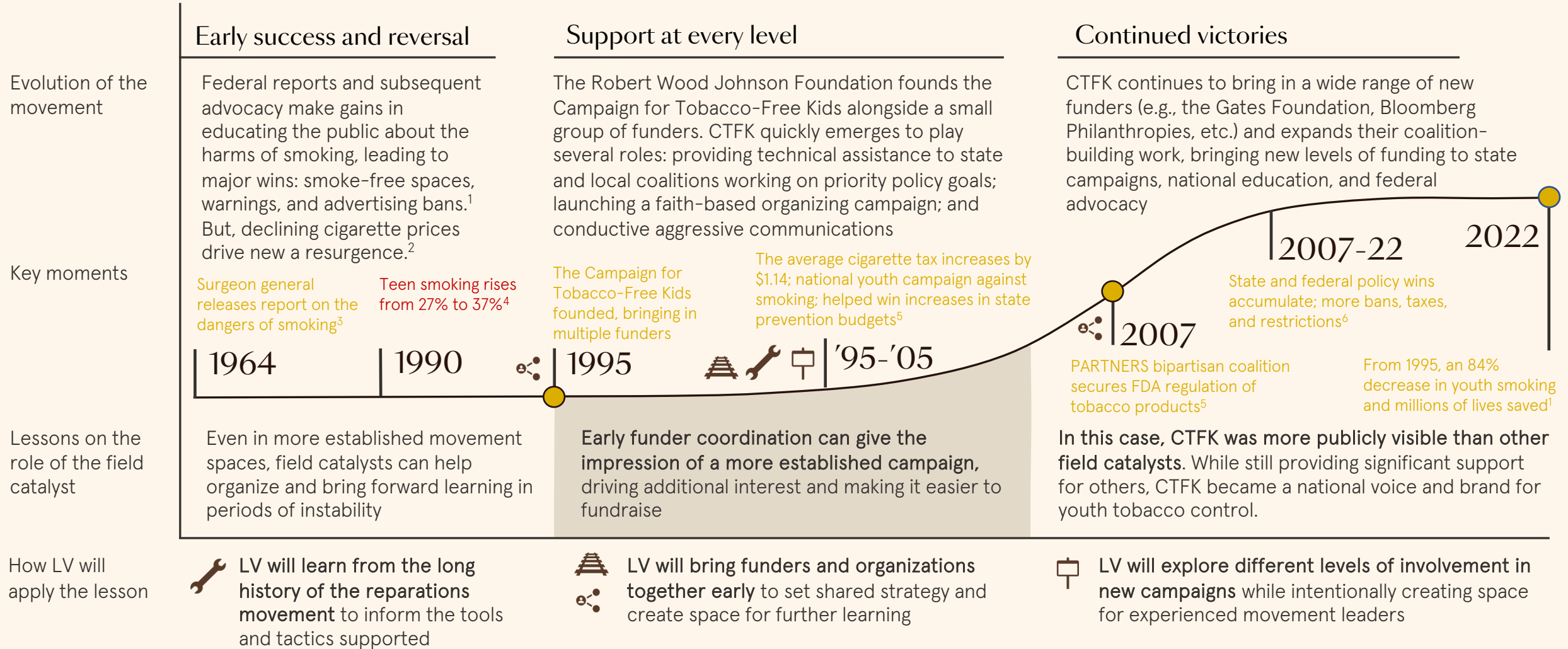
LV will bring together funders around a shared strategy – one developed by movement leaders

LV will tell a unified story about the movement's wins, losses, and trajectory, helping funders grapple with the ups and downs of social movements while remaining committed

LV will build and deploy research-based tools and will advise local campaigns; but, we won't be as prescriptive about tactics, given the wider variation in the goals, demands, and leaders of different campaigns

Sources: [OpenPhilanthropy](#), [Freedom to Marry](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), [The Guardian](#),

# CAMPAIGN FOR TOBACCO-FREE KIDS (CTFK): DEPLOYING RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE AT SCALE



<sup>1</sup> Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids <sup>2</sup> NBER <sup>3</sup> Department of Health and Human Services <sup>4</sup> SSIR <sup>5</sup> RWJF <sup>6</sup> CTFK 2014 Annual Report