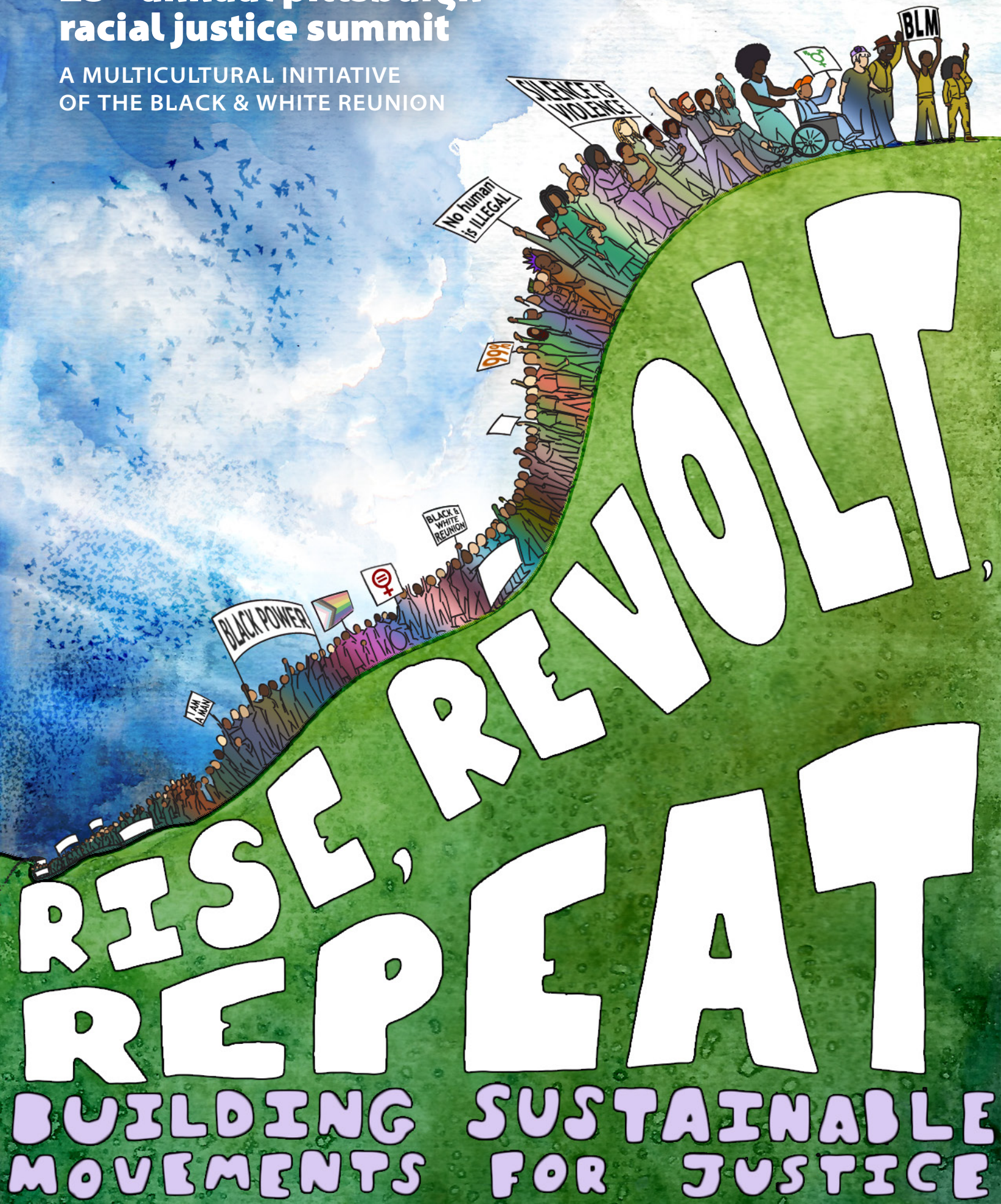


# 23<sup>rd</sup> annual pittsburgh racial justice summit

A MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVE  
OF THE BLACK & WHITE REUNION





# Welcome to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual



As I begin to write these remarks to welcome each of you to the Black & White Reunion's 23rd Annual Racial Justice Summit (formerly the Summit Against Racism), I am watching a historic moment for our nation: the vote on the second impeachment of Donald J. Trump—the 45th President of the United States—charged with sedition and insurrection against this nation. What happened to our U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 sadly demonstrates the wide gap that exists between many of us in this nation based on our political, racial, religious and ethnic differences. In many cases we have totally different views of “reality”! The impact of White racists, White supremacists and domestic terrorists on this nation was boldly on display and continues to fuel our need to charge our nation to live up to its platitudes, and for each of us to do the work necessary to help bring about the results we seek, and to do so ongoingly. Many of us could not help but wonder what would have happened if the majority of those invading the Capitol of the United States had been Black and Brown!

After the death of 31 year old Black motorist Jonny E. Gammage on October 12, 1995 we began to bring about primarily Black and White people to discuss the ongoing disparities of the treatment of Black people by police. We were called by our collective need to build bridges between those of different races and perspectives and to seek justice and equal treatment. During this past summer many of us were glued to our televisions following the horrific death of George Floyd, on Memorial Day, May 25, 2020 and the deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Jacob Blake and others. Memories echoed in our minds of the deaths of Philando Castile, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice and Antwon Michael Rose, II. We watched the passionate protests that followed in

every state in the nation rebelling against deaths of Black people at the hands of police, including numerous protests that many of us participated in and around the City of Pittsburgh. The initial call to justice of the Black & White Reunion continues. The commitment to fairness and justice must remain. With the media coverage of COVID-19 over the months, it has also become clear that there are significant gaps on how Blacks and People of Color are treated with regard to health when compared to Whites. Race matters! COVID-19 has exposed the need to seriously look at how the vaccines are distributed, and how the coronavirus has devastated the lives of essential workers, service industry workers, sex workers, undocumented immigrants and the low to moderate income people in general. The rollback of regulations meant to protect our environment, remain a challenge. As do the challenges to honest and fair elections—the full 1965 Voting Rights Act must be restored. The good news to many of us are the results of the special election, which took place in Georgia on January 5, 2021. The election of the state's first African American and Jewish U.S. Senator!

Over the years, our Summits have expanded significantly to include a much wider agenda of workshops to impact justice and equity from many perspectives. This year includes some 32 workshops, including “Imagining a Racially Just Future”, “Police Free Schools”, “Ending the Criminalization of Black & Brown Youth”, “The Importance of Youth Voices in Human Rights Works”, “Black Neighborhoods Matter” and many more.

We thank our wonderful Black & White Reunion Racial Justice Summit Planning Committee for their huge commitment—since this past summer—to bring us our first virtual summit. Thank you also to our many sponsors, presenters, panelists, keynoters, and for all of you for being with us. ENJOY AND EMPOWER!

**Tim Stevens**

*Founder of the Black & White Reunion*





# Community Agreements

In order for the conversation to be meaningful, it needs to come from everyone! Here are some guidelines for Summit sessions:

## ACKNOWLEDGE EVERYONE'S A HUMAN BEING

We encourage that you create space within yourself to engage with presenters and participants who do not share your perspective. Disagreement is not expressing one's disapproval of something or expressing that something makes you feel bad. To really disagree with someone's idea or opinion, you must first understand that idea or opinion. Another person's perspective is not automatically a personal attack on you and your values. Differences are not the grounds to attack another person's character and reputation. Seek within yourself the possibility to listen to, engage with and learn from other perspectives.

**I commit** to listen to, engage with and learn from other perspectives.

## ONE PERSON, ONE MIC, ONE FOCUS

We ask that one person speak at a time and leave a few moments in between speakers for those who might need more time to process or

are less comfortable interjecting in conversation. Keep your speaking and contributions focused on embodiment topics. Other topics like conspiracy theories, political news, gossip and zombie apocalypse belong in other forums.

**I commit** to contributing to embodiment related discussions in ways that include space for others.

## CALL IN, NOT CALL OUT

As an embodiment community, one way we can walk the talk of embodied ethics is to acknowledge that we are all a work in progress. Notice when you feel a need to call someone out for not saying something exactly right. Challenge yourself to shift your desire to correct someone into a question of how to inform and educate – how can you call the person into a conversation rather than call them out for their "error"?

**I commit** to calling others into conversation before I call them out for behavior that I find challenging.

## NO ONE KNOWS EVERYTHING; TOGETHER WE KNOW A LOT

We believe that each person has something to contribute to the conversation. We ask that you practice being humble, share what you know and look for what you can learn from each person in the session.

**I commit** to sharing what I know and leaving space for others to share what they know.

## EMBRACE CURIOSITY

We make better decisions when we approach our problems and challenges with questions ("What if we...?") and curiosity. Allow space for play, curiosity and creative thinking.

**I commit** to being curious when I encounter a perspective or situation that challenges me.

## ACKNOWLEDGE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INTENT AND IMPACT

Sometimes people say or do things that cause harm, even when it is not their intention to do so. But when we use our good intentions to deny (or avoid being accountable), more harm can be caused. In a global conference, it may happen that something we say can be misunderstood or misconstrued by someone from a different social, cultural or political context. By acknowledging that intent and impact of our actions are two different things,

a simple apology can take away any negative impact we may create.

**I commit** to acknowledging the gap between intent and impact.

## MOVE UP, MOVE UP

If you're someone who tends to not speak a lot, please move up into a role of speaking more. If you tend to speak a lot, please move up into a role of listening more. In both cases, growth is happening!

**I commit** to expanding my comfort zone in how I participate.

## WE CAN'T BE ARTICULATE ALL THE TIME

Often, we hesitate to participate for fear of "messaging up" or stumbling over words. We want everyone to feel comfortable participating, even if you don't feel you have the perfect words to express your thoughts. Here is the place to try things out. Even if you "mess up", we can work on the language together.

**I commit** to participating with acceptance of my own imperfections and the imperfections of others.

## BE AWARE OF TIME

Please respect everyone's time commitment, and refrain from speaking in long monologues.

**I commit** to focusing my comments to avoid long monologues.



# Summit Schedule

## Friday, January 22, 2021

Opening Session	5:30 pm – 6:00 pm EST
Keynote Address with Rev. angel Kyodo williams, Jasmine Syedullah, PhD, and Aqeela Sherrills	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm EST
Break	7:00 pm – 7:15 pm EST
Panel 1 – Youth Activism Panel	7:15 pm – 8:30 pm EST

## Saturday, January 23, 2021

Session Block 1	9:00 am – 10:30 am EST
Break	10:30 am – 10:45 am EST
Session Block 2	10:45 am – 12:15 pm EST
Lunch break	12:15 pm – 12:45 pm EST
Wellness Block	12:45 pm – 1:15 pm EST
Break	1:15 pm – 1:30 pm EST
Session Block 3	1:30 pm – 3:00 pm EST
Break	3:00 pm – 3:15 pm EST
Panel 2 – Radical Artist Panel	3:15 pm – 4:30 pm EST
Closing Session	4:30 pm – 5:00 pm EST

**We acknowledge** that we are gathered on the stolen land of the Lenape, Munsee, Susquehannock, Shawnee, Iroquois and many more known and unnamed, which we now call Pittsburgh. This land was founded upon the erasures and exploitation of many non-European people. It is our duty to protect and honor the history and people of these places.

**We pay respect** to the Black indigenous People of Color who were stolen from their land in Africa and brought to the Indian subcontinent, North America, South America, the Caribbean Islands, the Middle East, and throughout the world. We acknowledge the suffering endured from the cruelty of the horrible institution of genocide, slavery, racism, segregation and the continued oppression of Black and Brown people throughout the world. Together, we acknowledge the memory of our ancestors.

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# Virtual Summit FAQ

## Can I listen to the Zoom sessions on my phone?

Yes. The email sent out with Zoom links will also contain the dial-in information you need to join a session (audio only) from your phone.

## Will the sessions have ASL interpreters?

Some of the sessions will have interpreters. Currently, the sessions that will have ASL interpreters are the Friday evening opening and the two main panels on Saturday. Based on attendee requests, we may provide ASL interpreters to additional sessions.

## Can I watch the Summit on YouTube?

PRJS has a YouTube channel, and you can find our December 2020 Town Hall video there. Some of the January 2021 Summit sessions will be livestreamed to YouTube, but most will be added later, after the Summit ends.

## How do I use Zoom?

Please check out the FAQ page published by Zoom to familiarize yourself with the different functions and capabilities of this video conferencing app. You can use Zoom to watch events for free. You do

not need to create a Zoom account in order to watch events. You can use Zoom on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. You can also listen to just the audio of a Zoom event on a phone.

## Why can't I hear the audio?

Please check the volume setting on your device, in case it is turned down too low. If you are using headphones that have a mute button, please turn that off. The Zoom application lets you choose your audio settings: the speaker built into your device or headphones. In the Zoom app, go to Preferences > Speaker, and see where it is sending the audio. There's a "Test Speaker" button there, too. For more information, see the Zoom Help.

## Why can't I share my video, unmute my microphone, or chat?

Some of the Summit sessions will be for a small group of attendees and will include audience participation. However, for the sessions with large audiences, the focus will be on the presenter and the session will be conducted without attendee participation. In those cases, there may be a Question and Answer (Q&A)

pane in Zoom where you can type in questions. A moderator will review the questions submitted and share questions with the speaker to answer if there is a live Q&A period.

## How can I give the Pittsburgh Racial Justice Summit feedback on sessions?

We welcome your feedback! At the end of each session, a link to an online survey will be displayed in the Zoom chat. Please click on that link and fill out the survey with your feedback on that session. At the end of the Summit, we'll also email you a link to a survey about the overall Summit.

Please help us make each year's Summit better than the last!

## Can I volunteer with The Summit?

Yes! We are always looking for more help. Some help we need on the day of The Summit and some in planning The Summit. If you are interested in volunteering please fill out [this form](#).

## Is there a Community Resource Room this year?

You can visit a virtual version of the Community Resource Room on [our YouTube page](#).

## ~ Code of Conduct ~

Our conference is dedicated to providing a harassment-free conference experience for everyone.

Anyone engaging in offensive behavior or harassment will be dropped from Summit Zoom sessions. Harassment is any unwelcome conduct that might reasonably be perceived to cause offense or humiliation to another person.

Harassment includes personally abusive verbal or written

comments related to a person's identity (gender, age, sexual orientation, abilities, appearance, race, ethnicity, religion or lack of religion, technology choices, etc.) and behaviors that demonstrate deliberate intimidation, unwelcome sexual attention, following/stalking or sustained disruption of activity.

Harassment does not include disagreements on ideas, practices or frank discussion of controversial topics.



# Lift Every Voice and Sing

*By James Weldon Johnson*

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won.



## Talha Barberousse

will be leading us in Lift Every Voice and Sing. She is a second-generation Haitian-American studying musical theater at the University of Southern California in the inaugural class. She is an alumnus of the Voice of Chicago, a traveling performance ensemble dedicated to peace and positive change, and a trained dancer from the Chicago Multicultural Dance Center. Her passion for the arts is her vehicle for change; her dream is to create a more just, equitable, and beautiful world for all.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

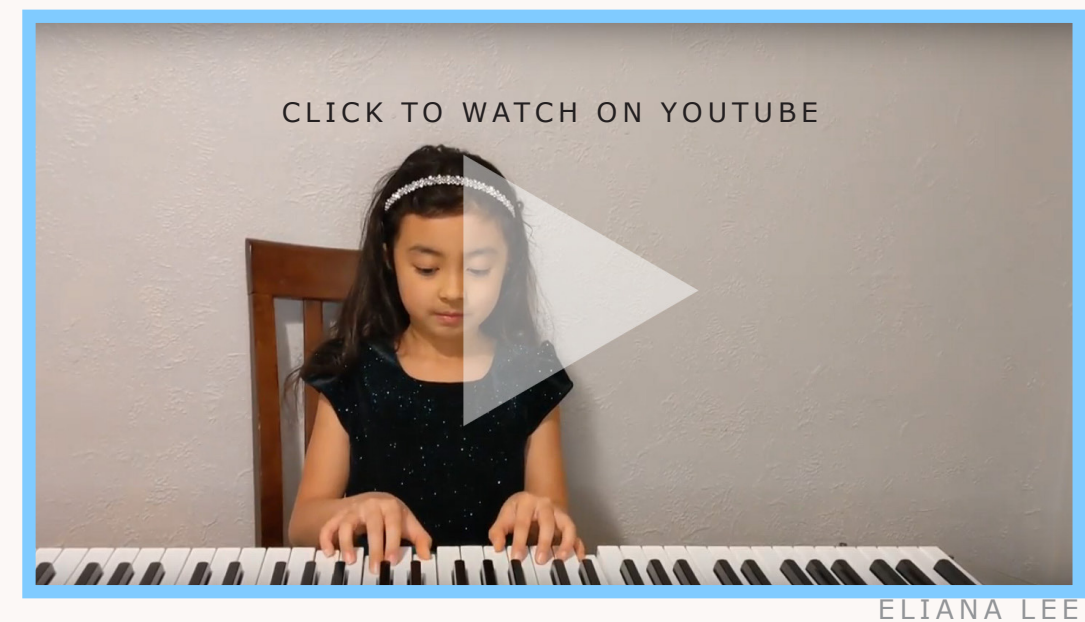
God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand.  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.

# Angelic Troublemakers

Youth from grades K-12 were asked by the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations to use art to express their answer to this question:

*Legendary civil rights activist Bayard Rustin proclaimed, "We need in every community a group of angelic troublemakers." What is an angelic troublemaker and what does that quote mean to you regarding human rights?*

Displayed are the winning submissions.





**"We need in every community  
a group of angelic troublemakers."**

i. Mischief of the Ant

Ants can escape from the empty faults  
when the moths cannot,  
for the light cannot draw trouble,  
only who wallow in the shadows.

Even on the earth,  
as ants escape a cracked cup,  
when hands form the flame,  
look to the sky and speak:  
the lesson of the moth  
and the mischief of the ant.

Even when you look to the lantern,  
you will only seek the light.  
Do not see the fluttering moths  
in the flickering night.  
So, when the moths are all but trapped  
beneath a cracking cup,  
the ants will run and laugh and do  
as an angelic troublemaker does.

Moths: trapped beneath the ceramic.  
Ants: somewhere outside the laws.  
Buildup, break down, shatter,  
it'll work someday.

So, when you look up  
and see the moths,  
and see how the ants do crawl,  
remember shattered cups,  
and broken darkness  
remember it all.

ii. To Spirit, it's all the same

They emerged from the killing fields,  
and there was naught a sound.  
No one did expect how  
the water ran aground.

Yet how wax did fall, still hot  
(still burning)  
on dead skin and fingernails,  
pain far too soon forgot.

Even when trouble rises,  
and laws fall like pellet riddled birds,  
still among the killing ground  
was spoken not a word.

Still, maybe that's the point,  
that law and truth will never be one,  
through ages and lives that go,  
even below, point to the sun.

Somewhere farther than melted snow,  
and beyond contradiction and days,  
like the silence in the trees,  
among the night blue haze.

True spirit, night spirit, broken spirit, here,  
call, call (*please spirit... save us*).  
Once here among the stars,  
lying, still here, in the rust.

Beneath the moonlight sky,  
beyond the midnight sunbeams,  
here does form as trouble goes,  
cutting along the seams.

Broken world and breaking bark,  
peeling, scraping hands,  
fly, lonely, among the branches,

golden silk strands.

Little spirit, little sister, little brother, here,  
with gold fill the veins of a shattered cup.  
From among the starlight,  
farther looking up.

Spirit of the broken glass,  
of cracking ice and asphalt,  
break apart and build back up  
beyond those of smaller faults.

Spirit of the ant and flame,  
trapped within the chaos singing,  
listen Spirit, to those calls  
when the blades go swinging.

Spirit of an unknown place,  
forgotten here without a name,  
salt littering cracked ground  
to them, it's all the same.

iii. Potholes and cities, made beautiful

Among chaos trouble sings,  
flowers: scream.  
O' how a painter brushes over the world,  
see, yes see how it works.  
Watch how the ants drown and latch together,  
how they cling to the walls and dirt and chose to climb  
through the crack of a broken glass.  
Look at how the pencil sketches the  
bloodied ground. Watch  
how the Spirits whisper-dance over the silence. Watch  
how the killing fields draw nothing, declared lifeless  
by blood and salt spilled so callously.

Flowers: scream.  
So run, child, run.  
From the serpentine roots hidden in the ground,  
bright red, orange mushrooms.  
Hear the screaming, scream  
with the flowers. Kneel before  
the unmarked grave. Incense smoke  
on the wind.  
Do you see how the silent screaming comes?  
from the brimstone and red, always red,  
on the ground?  
Silence on the killing ground,  
bloodied sunrise again.

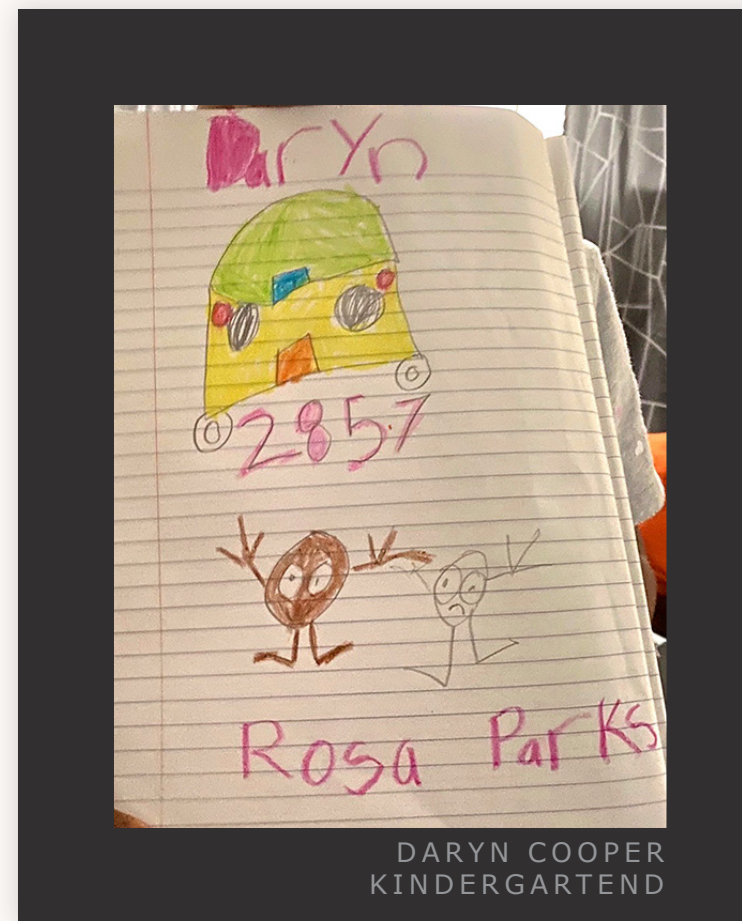
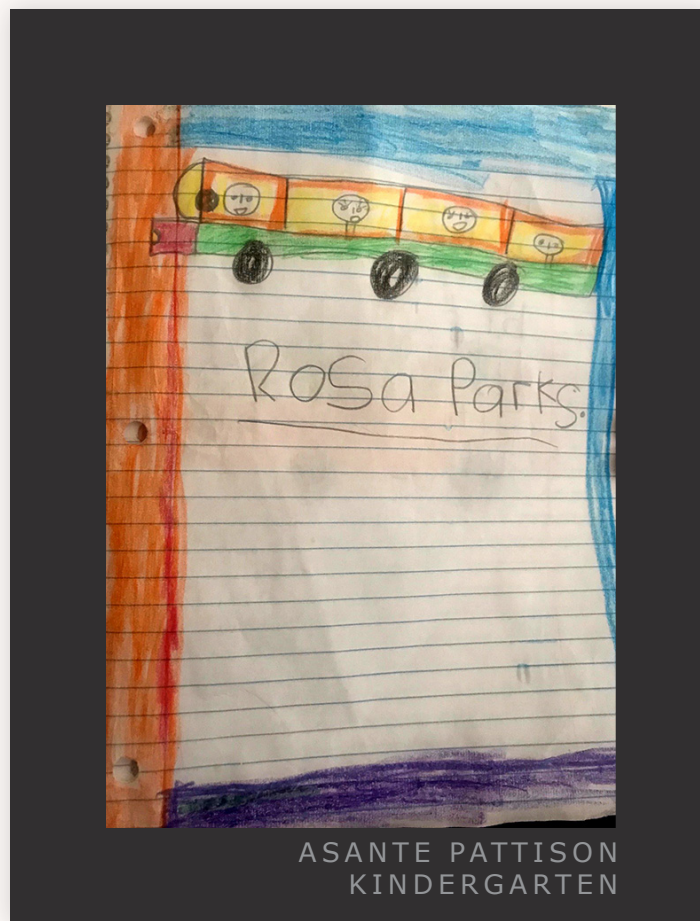
Where the wind wings among the trees  
and still, still; silence. Remains among  
the city of stone, stolen moments freeze.  
Somewhere here on the earth  
deeper than below we.  
Watch the moths around a candle  
and the ants on the ground. Watch  
how the rights written in blood and gas  
formed and fell among these bridges.  
Still.  
I live among the city of bridges,  
stained by curses and spraypaint:  
Made beautiful.  
Listen.

Do you understand now  
why they had to fall?  
The spirits dancing in the trees,  
river runs its course.  
Broken on the dirt and leaves,  
snapping in the snow,  
shattered ice and broken bones,  
do you understand?

(This Is what the ghost sung to me.)  
True spirit, night spirit, broken spirit, here  
Spirit, Spirit in the sky,  
grant this boon.  
To the ants in the soil,  
to the ashes in the wind,  
to the candle and the moth,  
(hear this—  
do you understand?)

To how the keening of river, ice threatens.  
Cracking, paper thin. When nothing does remain  
here are those tiny drops of water forced  
through the smallest of holes. Water turns  
to ice, expands. Cracking concrete, cracking earth.  
Splitting apart, digging.  
Freeze, expand, unfreeze  
When there is the smallest of cracks and  
something smaller than a world that fits  
in the palm of a hand. There, the frozen water thrives,  
expands onto the concrete built from pain and screams,  
expands to the sky. Look up,  
turn your face to the sun. Sunbeams to the face.  
Turn and pray to the unnamed spirit, whisper.  
Between the color, the world, the water  
Speak where truth does not,  
the pyres, ashes, coffins, bones,  
spread among rivers thrice.  
Watch the potholes spread across the streets,  
ants who wallow below,  
listen to the Spirits creed,  
angelic troublemakers indeed.





## What It Means To Me To Be An Angelic Troublemaker

By Talia G. Sampson - 4th Grade

An "angelic" troublemaker is someone who does not do bad in the world. It is someone who will fight for others and be good. Someone who has passion and love. Someone who cares and feels for others, and can put themselves in someone else's shoes and feel what they are feeling and make them feel happy again. They are always there for you when you need it. They also try to make the world a better place. They also stick up to bullies when needed. They want everyone to be happy. No matter what, they will be there, and they want peace in the world. They also feel for you, and they have a big heart and want to spread love in the world.

An angelic "troublemaker" is someone who will be difficult for a good reason. It is a good reason to protest to support Black Lives Matter, human rights and when girls do not get paid and treated the same as boys. They would make trouble in a good way for a good cause to help others.

There should be an angelic troublemaker everywhere. Everyone deep down below has a little bit of kindness in them, and by watching an angelic troublemaker maybe they will see that they could try to bring some kind out in them and everyone. It would be good if there was one everywhere because if not it might not always feel like a safe place. Or if there is anyone you have a fight with and they are bullying you, you might want an angelic troublemaker to help. You want someone who is a troublemaker because they can cause a little mischief and to help there sometimes needs a little mischief in the world.





SAMUEL KELLY  
10TH GRADE



MARISSA STEIMAN  
4TH GRADE

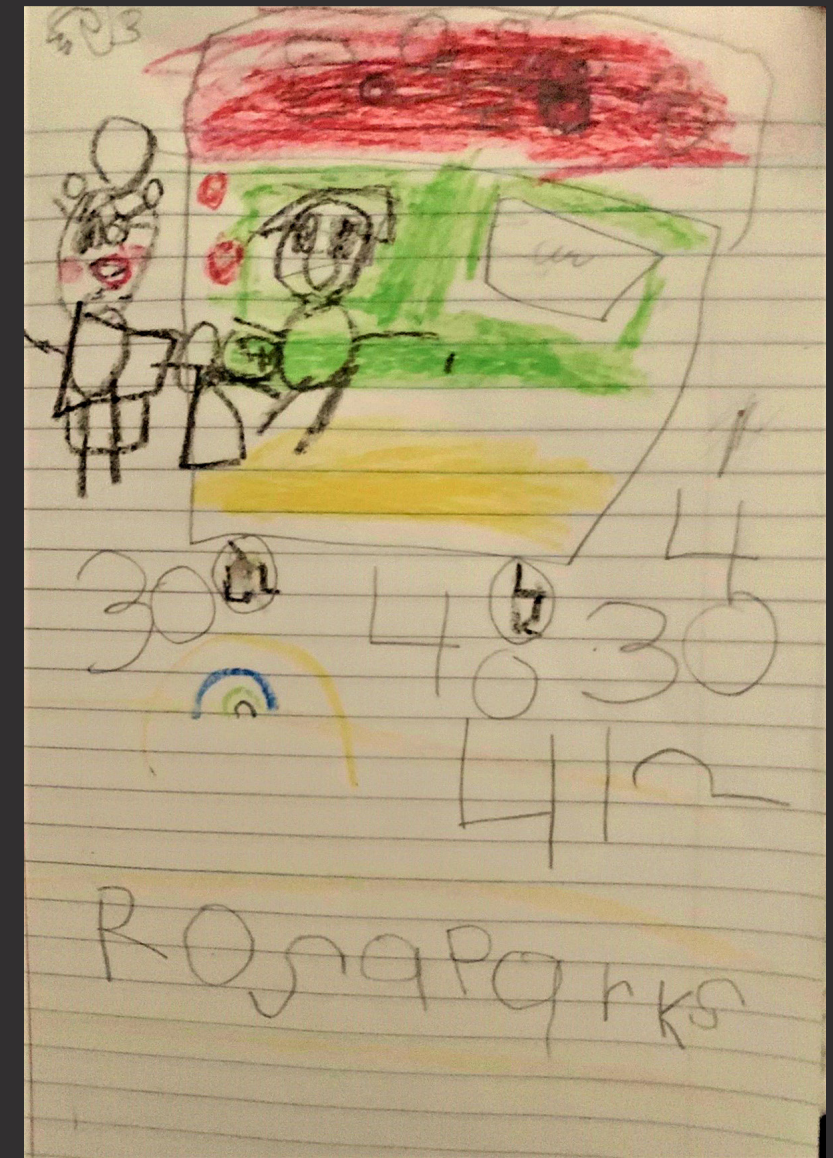


JULIA CHAPMAN  
5TH GRADE





MAYA GIURGI  
11TH GRADE



CEREZA BUTCHER  
KINDERGARTEN



# Keynote Speakers



## Jasmine Syedullah, PhD

Jasmine Syedullah is a black feminist political theorist of abolition, as well as co-author of *Radical Dharma: Talking Race, Love, and Liberation* (North Atlantic Books, 2016). She holds the first Assistant Professor line in Vassar College’s Africana Studies Program, celebrating its 51st anniversary this year. Her current research centers the fugitive writings of formerly enslaved mother Harriet Jacobs’s and her abolitionist vision of freedom. Before joining the faculty at Vassar, Syedullah taught at the University of San Francisco and the University of California Santa Cruz where she completed her PhD in Politics with a designated emphasis in Feminist Studies and History of Consciousness. Out in the world, Jasmine is a core member of the Radical Dharma Movement Project bringing embodied practices of liberation to spaces of social justice, community organizing, and institutional change.



## Aqeela Sherrills

Aqeela Sherrills is a spirit-centered activist, working to promote healing in marginalized communities and community ownership of public safety. Aqeela Sherrills grew up in the Jordan Downs Housing Project in Watts, Los Angeles. A member of the Grape Street Crips, he fled the devastating violence in his community for college. At 19 he began working with football star Jim Brown and co-founded the Amer-I-Can Program, Inc. to heal gang violence around the country by negotiating peace treaties in those cities. In 1992 he brought his message home

to Watts itself, and with his brother Daude and a few other key players in the community, forged a historic truce between the Crips and the Bloods in Watts. When the ceasefire began to fray, the Sherrills brothers created the Community Self-Determination Institute in 1999 to tackle the overwhelming personal and social issues that underlie crime, drugs, and violence, and to draw attention to communities’ Post (and present) Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

On January 10, 2004, Sherrills’ 18-year-old son, Terrell, home from studying theater arts in college, was shot in the back at close range. Determined that Terrell’s death not be in vain, Aqeela embarked on a new phase of work and activism, launching The Reverence Project (“TRP”). TRP work has been to create intentional space for individual healing and to develop comprehensive wellness centers in urban war zones to introduce those who suffer from high levels of trauma to alternative

## Rev. angel Kyodo williams

Called “the most intriguing African-American Buddhist” by Library Journal, Rev. angel Kyodo williams was made for these times. She has been bridging the worlds of transformation and justice since her critically acclaimed book, *Being Black: Zen and the Art of Living With Fearlessness and Grace* was hailed as “an act of love” by Pulitzer Prize winner Alice Walker, and “a classic” by Buddhist pioneer Jack Kornfield.

Her work, *Radical Dharma: Talking Race, Love & Liberation*, is igniting communities to have conversations necessary to become more awake and aware of what hinders liberation of self and society. Rev. angel applies wisdom teachings, embodied practice, and is a leading voice for Transformative Social Change. Known for her willingness to sit with and speak uncomfortable truths with love. Rev. angel notes, “Love and Justice are not two. Without inner change, there can be no outer change. Without collective change, no change matters”.



healing technologies to support our respective healing journeys. In 2014, Aqeela was tapped by Newark, NJ Mayor Ras J Baraka to build out his community based public safety initiative. In the 5 years that he’s led the Newark Community Street Team, Newark homicide rate went from 104 in 2015 to 51 in 2019 respectfully. Aqeela also serves as the Senior Advisor to the Alliance for Safety and Justice’s Shared Safety Initiative—a national nonprofit working to replace justice and prison system waste with common sense solutions that create safe neighborhoods and save taxpayer dollars. In addition to co-founding Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice—the largest survivor network in the country, he’s also a subject matter expert on victim service and community based public safety providing consulting services to The International Association of Chief of Police. His primary focus with Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice is meeting the unmet needs of victims of crime, which includes healing, recovery and prevention.

# Youth Activist Panel

Jan 22, 7:15 pm EST

Young people have never been—and cannot be—mere passive observers of the world. As the Youth Activism Panel will show, young people are always actively building their networks and communities, gathering resources and discovering new ways of knowing and being, and helping to envision the future of the collective. What role do young people hold in not only sustaining but also transforming (and perhaps building new) movements for justice? What challenges do young people face in their organizing efforts, and how can we collectively support them and their work?

How do we move toward synergy between existing efforts and new efforts? In this 75-minute panel, we will learn about organizing and movement building in the here and now through the lenses of five young activists and community organizers.

## Auja Diggs

Auja Diggs, 19, is a fellow executive member within Black Young and Educated. She is a youth activist and artist as well. Auja is involved with organizations such as Gwen's Girls, Planned Parenthood, and many more.

## Priscilla Ortiz Rincon

INDIAN EDUCATION CENTER/HASKELL UNIVERSITY

Priscilla Ortiz is Kumeyaay from the Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel and Payomkawichum from the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians, both tribes located in Southern California near San Diego. She has been mentored by the Rincon Indian Education since her early years in 2009 and molded into the youth advocate she is today through the opportunities given to her by numerous Native Youth organizations like U.N.I.T.Y., the Native Wellness Institute, and the Rincon Youth Storytelling Program. Along with her coworkers, Priscilla strives to see Indigenous people rise and become the healthy communities they strive to be through youth advocacy and education.

## Anthony Hurtado

RINCON EDUCATION CENTER/SDSU

Míiyuyum, notúung Anthony Hurtado yaqá'. Nóon Payómkawichum pi Tohono O'odham. Hello everyone, my name is Anthony Hurtado and I am Payómkawichum and Tohono O'odham. I attend UC San Diego studying Public Health, tutor youth in my community, and I am part of a group whose focus is to improve our local school district's education system by providing equitable resources and academics for our Native youth.

## Chrissy Carter

Chrissy Carter is a black trans queer organizer from Pittsburgh. In 2017 Chrissy took on One PA's summer internship where she and Nia Arrington co-founded Youth Power Collective—a multi-issue based student-led collective which has organized around Gun Legislation, School To Prison Pipeline, Public Education, and more recently the death of Antwon Rose II. Chrissy began working at the Alliance Police Accountability in 2019 and organized closely with others around the police acquittal in the Antwon Rose II case. During summer 2019, Chrissy was a part of the All Star internship at Foster Club in Seaside, Oregon—a National based organization that advocates for youth in the foster system. Chrissy has sat on the board of The Youth Advisory Board at Carnegie Museum of Art, SisTers PGH, and is a part of the Black organizer and Activist collective of Allegheny County. Chrissy and Nia received The Thomas Merton Center New Person of the Year award in November 2020.

## Jalina McClarin (moderator)

My name is Jalina McClarin, and my activism is rooted in abolition. I'm biracial and recognize my relative proximity to whiteness is a privilege, and I do my best to uplift the voices and work of fold not afforded that privilege. I organize primarily independently, forming affinity groups with trusted people as needs arise (the Stop The Station Pittsburgh Coalition being a current example). I believe that we must embody the world we want to create, and that building networks of trust and sincere accountability are the most important steps we can take right now.

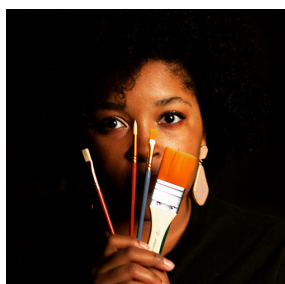


# Radical Artist Panel

Jan 23, 3:15pm EST

When Bessie Smith—the Empress of the Blues—recorded “Back-Water Blues”, she did not have just any flood in mind. It was the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 about which she sang and the Black residents of Tennessee who withstood the heaviest damage from where the flood started whose experiences she immortalized. When Octavia Butler wrote the duology “Parable of the Sowers” and “Parable of the Talents”, she did not have just any apocalyptic society in mind. It was the institution

of American democracy gone awry with fascism and modern slavery that she envisioned vividly as a warning sign; the people’s efforts in the novels were her blueprint for how communities could resist, reshape, survive. What is the role of the arts—especially intentional, critical, radical art—in a time of collective turmoil and grief? How might the arts and the artists spark transformation and carry movements? Our panel of radical artists and activists will explore these critical questions in our last 75-minute panel of the Summit.



## Jasmine Green

Jasmine Green is a Black visual artist born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Growing up in Pittsburgh, a city known for both being one of the most segregated major cities in the country as well as a city with the worst overall outcomes for Black Women in terms of health, happiness, and success, positive representations of Black Women were few and far in between. In unlearning the indoctrination of white supremacy within her school district that was only officially desegregated in 1981, Jasmine strove to create artwork that could tell the story of black women in as bold and creative ways as possible.



## Christina Acuna Castillo

Christina Acuna Castillo (they/them) is a Peruvian cultural worker in Pittsburgh, creating art as an organizing/ accessibility tool to help people imagine what change can look and feel like. Previously, they organized with Spanish-speaking immigrants, providing urgent support and resources — especially to families targeted by ICE.

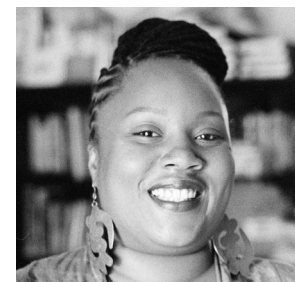
Currently, Christina is the Communications Specialist for the Alliance for Police Accountability, works for Sisters PGH, and Pgh United.



## D.S. Kinsel

D.S. Kinsel is an award winning creative entrepreneur and cultural agitator. He expresses his creativity through the mediums of painting, installation, curating, action-painting, non-traditional performance and #HASHTAGS. Kinsel’s work puts focus on themes of space keeping, urban tradition, hip-hop, informalism and Cultural Re-Appropriation. D.S. has

served creative residencies at Most Wanted Fine Art, Artist Image Resource, The Homewood Residency Program, Kelly Strayhorn Theater, Pittsburgh Public Schools Carnegie Mellon University Digital Arts Studio, AS220, the Pittsburgh Glass Center and the Sedona Summer Artist Colony. He also served as the curator of #ACTIVISTprint, a collaborative public art program of The Andy Warhol Museum and recently served as the Senior Producer at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater.



## Bekezela Mguni (moderator)

Bekezela Mguni is a queer Trinidadian artist and independent librarian. She is the founder of the Black Unicorn Library and Archives Project, a Black queer feminist library & archive.

Bekezela is also a studio member of BOOM Concepts, which is community space and gallery dedicated to the development of artists and creative entrepreneurs. She also serves as the Education Program Director at Dreams of Hope.

# Community Resource “Room”

**For those who want to act**, the best way is to join a group. Our work for change must be supported by healthy community for our movements to be impactful and sustained. The Community Resource Room can help you explore a group or initiative that interests you. In this [virtual Community Resource “Room”](#), organizations and groups introduce themselves to you via a short video. Click on any video in the Community Resource “Room” YouTube playlist to watch. Below are the organizations and groups featured in our Community Resource “Room”.



[Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations](#)

*Investigating Discrimination*



[Giving2Grow](#)

*Hunger Relief*



[Immigrant Services and Connections](#)

*Immigrant & Refugee Services*

[The Center for Relational Change](#)

*Mental Health*



*The Center for Relational Change*

*Healing Hearts | Empowering Minds | Restoring Spirits*

[Coalition Against Violence](#)

*Investigating Discrimination*



**CAV**

*Coalition Against Violence*

[Homeless Children's Education Fund](#)

*Education & Homelessness*



**HOMELESS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND**



[Socialist Alternative](#)  
*Socialism & Activism*



[Three Rivers Community Foundation](#)  
*Social Change*



[PGH Equality Center](#)  
*LGBTQIA+*



[Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh](#)  
*Learning*



[The Oasis Project](#)  
*Faith & Economic Opportunity*

[Gateway Health\\*](#)  
*Healthcare*



[Chemistry\\*](#)  
*Adverstising*



[Pittsburgh for CEDAW](#)  
*Discrimination Against Women*



[Black Political Empowerment Project](#)

*African American Enfranchisement*



[A+ Schools](#)  
*Education*





## Other Organizations in Pittsburgh to Get Involved With

\*This is by no means an exhaustive list. Just a starting point.

### AGRICULTURE + FOOD

[Black Urban Gardeners + Farmers of Pittsburgh Co-Op](#)

[Discerning Eye Community Agriculture \(DECA\)](#)

[Pittsburgh Greater Food Bank](#)

### ORGANIZING

[One PA](#)

[Thomas Merton Center](#)  
[Put People First PA](#)

### BOOKS + EDUCATION

[Carlow University - Social Justice Institutes](#)

[The Big Idea Bookstore](#)  
[Black, Young, & Educated](#)  
[YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh](#)

### PERFORMANCE + ART

[Greater Pittsburgh Art Council](#)  
[City Theatre](#)  
[MLK Mural Project](#)  
[Hiawatha Project](#)  
[Kelly Strayhorn Theatre](#)  
[August Wilson African American Cultural Center](#)  
[Boom Concepts](#)

### SOCIAL SERVICES

[Fair Housing Authority](#)  
[Just Harvest](#)

### ENVIRONMENTAL

[Pittsburgh Parks Conservatory](#)  
[Allegheny Group of Sierra Club](#)

[Grow Pittsburgh](#)  
[Grounded Strategies](#)

### SINGLE MOMS

[When She Thrives](#)  
[Single Mom Defined](#)  
[Brown Mamas](#)

### HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

[B3N](#)  
[Birmingham Free Clinic](#)  
[Inside our Minds](#)  
[Be well PGH](#)

**NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION**  
[Compassionate Pittsburgh](#)

**MIGRANT SUPPORT**  
[Latino Community Center](#)

[Hello Neighbor](#)  
[Casa San José](#)

### SERVICE YEAR

[Public Allies - Pgh](#)  
[PULSE](#)

### WOMEN + GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

[Gwen's Girls](#)  
[Women's International League for Peace & Justice](#)  
[Girl Scouts of Western PA](#)

### FAITH-BASED

[Race & Reconciliation Dialogue Group of St. Paul's Cathedral](#)  
[Metro-Urban Institute](#)  
[First Unitarian Church of PGH](#)

[Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network](#)

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

[Abolitionist Law Center](#)  
[Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty](#)  
[Alliance for Police Accountability](#)  
[Let's Get Free](#)  
[Book Em](#)

### LEGAL SERVICES

[Neighborhood Legal Services](#)  
[ACLU](#)

### WORKPLACE JUSTICE

[Coalition of Black Trade Unionists](#)  
[The Pittsburgh Branch of The Industrial Workers of the World](#)  
[The Pittsburgh General Defense Committee Local 5](#)

### TRANSPORTATION

[Pittsburghers for Public Transit](#)

### GUN VIOLENCE

[Cease Fire PA](#)  
[Squirrel Hill Stands Against Gun Violence](#)

### LGBTQIA+

[SistersPgh](#)  
[PERSAD](#)  
[Proud Haven](#)  
[Central Outreach](#)

# Workshop Descriptions

## Session Block 1

Saturday, January 23, 2021, 9:00 am - 10:30 am EST

[Another Childhood IS Possible](#)

[Anti-racism and Allyship in Academia](#)

[breathe, move, listen](#)

[Everyday Antiracism and the Overlooked Relationships Between Play, Creative Liberation, and Media Literacy](#)

[Imagining Racially-Just Futures: Design methods for creating long-term visions](#)

[Intersectionality on the Mend](#)

[Oppressive Systems Workshop](#)

[Police Free Schools: Ending the criminalization of Black and Brown youth](#)

[The Importance of Youth Voices in Human Rights Work](#)

[Enough is Enough: The Jonny Gammage Movie and 2021 Response Panel](#)

## Workshops come in a number of formats:

**TALK** - Lecture-style presentation with Q&A

**MINI-PANEL** - Moderated panel discussion, not to be confused with the main Summit panels

**WORKSHOP** - Presentation with active participation from attendees

**AFFINITY GROUP** - Dialogue/discussion for attendees of a specific identity group

**ROUNDABLE CONVERSATION** - Close-up conversation among panelists with opportunities for audience participation

# Another Childhood IS Possible

## TALK

In this talk, we will explore how we can develop an alternative future for Childhood. We will critique the education system. Answer the questions: what is learning? What is play? What is Childhood? We will compare and contrast how Childhood differs when looking at race and socioeconomic class. And finally, we will discuss the importance of Children’s literature and media in shaping the purview of young children. Another Childhood is Possible! An anti-capitalist childhood is possible.

## FACILITATORS

### Lark Sontag

I am an independent scholar and theorist focusing on the topics of Childhood, economics, race, and family in North America. For over ten years, I have worked with school districts, colleges, and universities to support them on their paths to develop a liberating curriculum for classrooms and beginning teacher programs. My independent research focus is young Black Childhood within the African Diaspora in the Global North and

South. BA Philosophy, MA Sociology, MA Early Childhood Education. California teacher credential. I’m African American raised in an African American community in Los Angeles, currently living in NY.



# Anti-racism and Allyship in Academia Workshop

## WORKSHOP

In this workshop, attendees will be invited to engage in practical and experiential learning on racism within higher education. After defining key terms, facilitators will lead attendees through a series of activities in which multiple solutions can be explored for hypothetical or personal experiences. Attendees will gain an understanding of the ways that structural racism affects institutional spaces, and hopefully be better equipped to enter dialogues within structurally racist spaces. This workshop allows for a potential network of allyship to be created across attendees and higher education institutions (HEIs). This can provide a sense

of accountability that can continue beyond the summit. Although the research for this workshop is framed within the academic setting, the tools and strategies can be applied to any space in which structural racism occurs. Anyone interested in exploring emotional labor, structural racism, and intersectionality are welcome to attend the workshop.

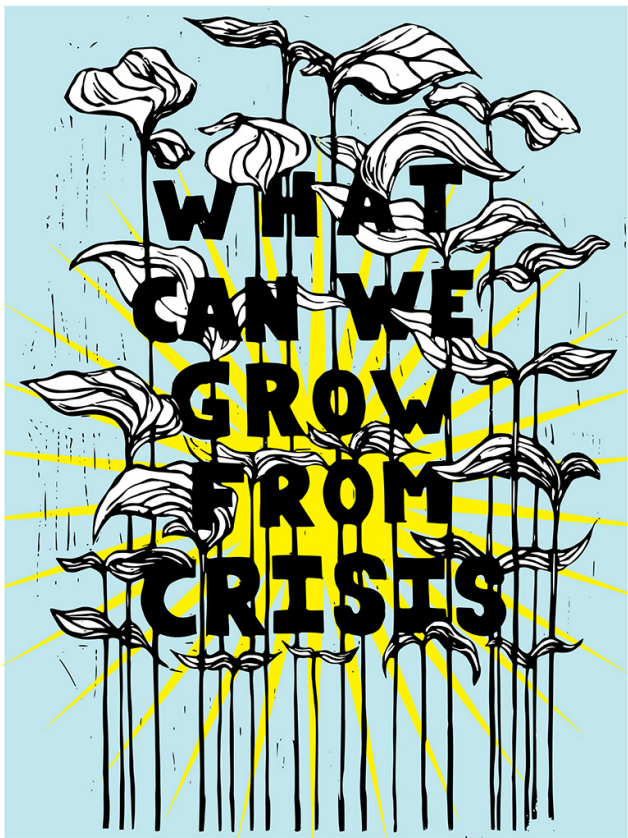
## FACILITATORS

**Mary C. Parker** (she/her) and **Anna Claire Walker** (she/her) began researching race and representation in the arts in 2019 as a part of their Master’s courses at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (RCSSD). Mary C. Parker is an African-American dialogue facilitator and comedic actor with a BA in Sociology from Emory University, and an MA in Applied Theatre from RCSSD, where she researched how stand-up comedy can increase visibility of Black women. She is a Certified Professional Coach through Duquesne University. Currently, she works with individuals and institutions, dismantling oppression through her business, Just Collaboration. Anna Claire Walker is a white American performer who holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Auburn University and an MA in Applied Theatre from RCSSD where she researched capitalism

in children’s theatre. She currently works with a community arts center in Washington, DC, providing virtual workshops. Together, they’ve facilitated workshops as a part of their research in racism in higher education. Their research was recently published in the Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Equality and Diversity journal.

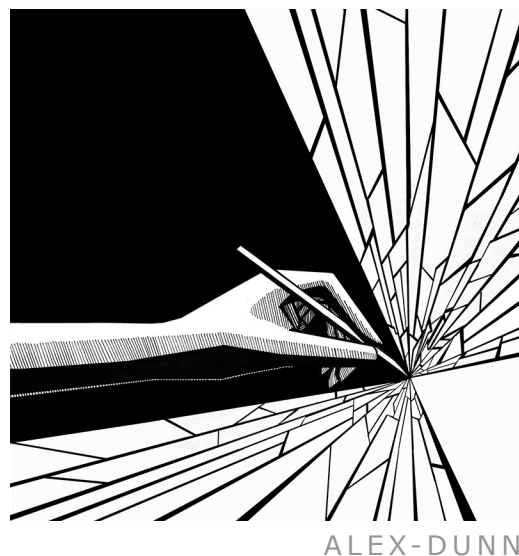
Anna Claire Walker -   

Mary C. Parker -   



PETE RAILAND





## breathe, move, listen

### YOGA-INSPIRED, VISUALIZATION, AND MEDITATION PRACTICE

in this centering/grounding practice we will explore our bodies, our breath, and our imaginations to deepen our listening. our time together will include breath exercise, yoga-inspired movement, visualization, and walking meditation. making space for ourselves creates space for others.

please have water to drink and access to a chair, pen and paper.

### FACILITATORS

**yvette shipman** and **Linda Meacci** are friends and spirit sisters who met 20+ years ago in the aisles of the East End Food Coop. they've been practicing yoga for longer than they've known each other. Linda loves sharing

yoga that is therapeutic for the body, mind, and spirit. yvette enjoys facilitating processes that probe us to explore what gets in the way of what no longer serves us.

## Everyday Antiracism and the Overlooked Relationships Between Play, Creative Liberation, and Media Literacy

### ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATION

How do play, creative liberation, and media literacy relate to sustainable anti-racism practices? How can we use them everyday to disrupt and combat oppression? And why are these tools critical now more than ever?

This roundtable discussion is centered around the often unrealized missing pieces of most of our anti-oppression practices. We'll discuss how these three things support a necessary paradigm shift in how we have

historically practiced anti-racism and anti-oppression in the U.S and how these missing pieces are extremely powerful and critical parts of creating more humane, sustainable, and authentic ways of being anti-racist.

### FACILITATORS

**Ariel Barlow** (she/her) is a teacher, community organizer, an anti-oppression and humanism consultant, & strategist, and the founder of The Joyful Squatter LLC, a humanity conservation organization. Her practices stem from her experience as:

- an anti-racist organizer as a part of Y.U.I.R Pittsburgh.
- a receiver of formal education in American Economics and Capitalism.
- a teacher who centers self-empowerment, creative liberation, liberated learning, and community care above all else.

**Khadija-Awa Diop** (she/her) is a Senegalese-American who did her undergraduate studies at The University of Pittsburgh in Film Studies and Africana studies. She has a Masters of Science in Journalism from West Virginia University and is a PhD student in the Media Studies discipline in the School of Communications and Information at Rutgers University. Throughout her education she has

studied film and documentaries, media's effects on the way we understand our historical reality, media as a political tool, documentaries as a tool to disseminate misinformation and disinformation, and media in relation to Africa and the diaspora.

**Ariana Brazier** (she/her, they/them) is a play-driven community-organizer and educator. She is an Critical & Cultural Studies, Doctoral Candidate at the University of Pittsburgh. Ari conducts community-based ethnographic research with Black students and families living in poverty in the southeast United States in order to document how Black child play functions as a grassroots praxis. Read more about Ariel [here](#).

## Imagining Racially- Just Futures: Design Methods for Creating Long-term Visions

### WORKSHOP

Visions of better futures are powerful in motivating people. They can ease

fears about change, highlighting benefits rather than losses. However, it can be tough to imagine achieving racial justice, because racism is so deeply embedded in society. This workshop explores strategic futuring tools, such as backcasting, to reveal new paths forward. We will first brainstorm artifacts from possible futures. Then work individually on our own ideal maps. Participants will leave with two activities to try with their teams, or personally, to define the world they are working toward and how to get there.

**FACILITATORS**

**Hillary Carey** is a Designer and Ph.D. researcher. She studies how the wisdom of anti-oppression work can inform new approaches in design, and how designing can support the work of anti-racism. Recent publications include two conference papers: Anti-Oppression Mindsets for Collaborative Design (2020) and Fictional, Interactive Narrative as a Foundation to Talk about Racism (2020). With 15 years of experience teaching both in

business and college classrooms, Hillary loves to work alongside people who are engaging with creative challenges. As a white, cis-gendered woman working in topics around racism, Hillary is always practicing ways to de-center whiteness, learn from different standpoints, and create spaces for all participants to share their perspectives.

**Rachel Arredondo** is currently a Masters student at Carnegie Mellon University. As a first-generation Mexican-American, she is creating equitable and inclusive design futures. She participates in the Anti-Bias Learning Committee and has worked with the Actional Futures Toolkit in her previous work.

Rachel completed a degree in Digital Arts and Professional Writing from the University of North Carolina. After graduating, she lived in rural Japan for three years, teaching English. As one of the founding members of the design team at Calendly, she led talks and workshops on creating inclusive design and team culture. In her



ERIC-GARCIA

professional and academic work, she blends these experiences into actionable methods and practices.

# Intersectionality on the Mend




**WORKSHOP**

Participants will come up with words typically accompanying ten intersections of the black community and critically investigate them. The different intersections that we will work on are: black and incarcerated, black and mentally ill, black and mother, black and father, black and deaf and non-hearing, black and disabled, black and homeless, black and trans, black and biracial, black and adopted. Throughout our discussion, we will tie in black feminist thought from multiple women who could be said to have practiced the discipline of and and spoken through an intersectional lens even before Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term. We will end with a listing of organizations that participants can donate to, volunteer for, or get involved with. After this workshop, participants will be more prepared to challenge negative or unjust language about the various

intersections of black identity, and to spread awareness about the positive associations with each intersection in the black community.

**FACILITATORS**

**Daeja Baker** (she/her) Other than studying African American studies in college, along with creative writing, I run an intersectional feminist group that provides an intersectional platform to our most vulnerable population: black women and femmes.

Pittsburgh Feminists for Intersectionality   

# Oppressive Systems Workshop

**WORKSHOP**

The Oppressive Systems Workshop is designed to help participants understand how systems affect both society and the individual. The workshop will introduce participants to the ways in which oppression has been designed and institutionalized historically, and how these systems continue to be perpetuated today. Participants will



then be guided through an exercise in Systems Mapping, which moves this understanding of systems from theory into practice by identifying how these systems actually operate, how marginalization occurs, and empowered to dismantle these Oppressive Systems

**FACILITATORS**

**Amber Thompson** (she/her) & **Kim Kaplan** (she/her)

We are both underrepresented and marginalized women in our fields of change management and process improvement and working towards increasing equity in the industry. Amber has over 10 years working with and for marginalized communities in non-profits, for-profits, and the public Sector. She founded Leaders of Change, company that provides organization development through a race, gender, and lens that focuses on equitable service design, for institutions, to address systemic discrimination.

We have presented this workshop at University of Pitt’s Diversity Forum. You can watch it [here](#). And we are presenting it at the Nonprofit Partnership’s - Nonprofit Reinvention Summit on October 28th.

Leaders of Change LLC-  

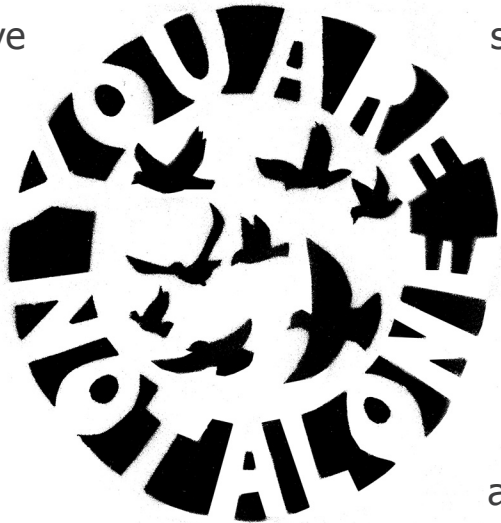
# Police Free Schools: Ending the Criminalization of Black and Brown Youth

**WORKSHOP**

The consequences of excessive discipline extend far beyond the classroom, perpetuating cycles of poverty, low-education attainment, and structural inequalities that span generations. We will look at how School policies and practices as well as a system of white supremacy has led to high and disproportionate rates of suspensions, arrests, and referrals of Black and Brown youth. We will discuss the trauma caused to children as a result of exclusionary school discipline, overpolicing, and criminalization of typical youth behavior; and what we can do to end the criminalization of youth.

**FACILITATORS**

**Dr. Claire Cohen** (she/her) is a



KEVIN  
CAPLICKI

Black child and adolescent psychiatrist who has been a community activist in Pittsburgh for over thirty years. Currently, her two areas of focus are educational justice and Medicare for All.

**Ghadah Makoshi** (she/her) is a community advocate with the ACLU working on School Policing issues within Allegheny County. She has over 5 years of experience advocating for inclusive, quality education for all students; as well as an end to overly punitive discipline practices that push students out of school and into the juvenile justice system.

**Angel Gober** (she/her) started 15 years ago building a tenants’ union in public housing where she lived with her daughter. Since then she has been a fearless Community Organizer, working on Housing, and Education Justice. She has been a winning Campaign Manager for local School Board campaigns and co-authored policy to stop the school-to-prison-pipeline. Angel envisions and strategically works towards a world resourced and beautiful for Black children. She is dedicated to state-wide and national coalitions to make change.

# The Importance of Youth Voices in Human Rights Work

**MINI-PANEL**

The main topic will be about the importance of listening to and understanding the voices, ideas, and opinions of youth in human rights work, viewed through the lens of artistic expression. We will also discuss the importance of creating a safe space for people, particularly BIPOC youth, to freely express and share their ideas about human rights, equity, and how to work for positive, meaningful, and actual change to or dismantling of the systems that embody, replicate, and reinforce discrimination and injustice.

**FACILITATORS**

**Wesley S. Speary** (he/him) & **Will Tolliver**

**Maisha Baton** & **Morgan Overton**

**Tracy Baton** (moderator)  
We have experience working and engaging with youth in various capacities, as well as conducting community outreach and education. In addition, we both have masters

degrees in public administration and work in local government, both of which give us an inside view and understanding of how government works and how to engage with local government. Additionally, our government work is in civil rights enforcement and outreach.

# Enough is Enough: The Jonny Gammage Movie and 2021 Response Panel

## MINI-PANEL

In this panel, we will be responding to the Billy Jackson documentary. This past October 12, 2020 was the TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY of the death of Jonny E. Gammage, so this summit is an appropriate time to commemorate Jonny’s death with a powerful discussion on the issues around police brutality, police misconduct, and police reform, as well as the ongoing disparities around how Black people and people of color are treated by the police. The documentary will be available for you

DARRELL KINSEL

to review approximately two days before the 23rd Annual Black & White Reunion Summit, formerly called the Summit Against Racism, now called The Racial Justice Summit. We wish to bridge the time of activism with regard to these important issues from 1995 through today. One of our panelists will be Kyna James of the Alliance For Police Accountability (APA) who was involved in some of the protests this past year. Khalid Raheem led protests in Brentwood, while Tim Stevens led the protests in Pittsburgh back in 1995. The (CPRB) Citizen Police Review Board’s existence was created in response to the death of Jonny E. Gammage. The CRPB, with a yes vote on the referendum on the November 3rd ballot, was strengthened. Dr. Cyril Wecht was the Allegheny County Coroner at the time of the death of Jonny Gammage and spoke out powerfully on his death and the deaths of other Black men at the hands of police. Dr. Wecht introduced most of us locally, to the term positional asphyxiation or asphyxia, which killed Jonny E. Gammage, and twenty-five years later, killed George Floyd. Billy Jackson produced “Enough is Enough: The Jonny Gammage Movie”. Long time media host Lynne Hayes Freeland of KDKA Radio and TV, will facilitate this powerful conversation.

The death of Jonny E. Gammage led to the creation of the Black & White Reunion during Tim Steven’s first year as President of the NAACP Pittsburgh Branch, the CPRB, the Jonny E. Gammage Scholarship Fund, and the first consent decree in the nation (which provided oversight to the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police).



DARRELL KINSEL

## FACILITATORS

**Tim Stevens** founded the Black & White Reunion during his first term as President of the NAACP Pittsburgh Branch in 1996. Tim launched the

Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP) on May 21, 1986, and Co-chairs B-PEP’s Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence (CAV) and facilitates B-PEP’s Corporate Equity & Inclusion Roundtable (CEIR). He brokered the meeting with then Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy in 1996 which led to the commitment of the City of Pittsburgh to provide research funding which led to what is now a \$40 million dollar August Wilson African American Cultural Center.

**Billy Jackson** is a broadcast media producer, developer, and educator for [NOMMO Productions](#) since 1971.

**Khalid Raheem** is a community activist and organizer living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is the founder and chairman of the New Afrikan Independence Party ([www.newafrikan.org](#)) and a former member of the Black Panther Party. He is also the author of ‘Toward a New Afrikan Revolution: Volume I’ and ‘Dare to Struggle! Dare to Win! (1981-2010): A Personal Memoir’. Check out [urban-activist.com](#) for additional information.

**Kyna James** is the Coalition Organizer for The Alliance for Police Accountability (A.P.A.). A.P.A. is a grassroots organization dedicated to criminal justice reconstruction.



Bringing the community, institution stakeholders, and government officials to a working relationship. Putting an end to racial profiling, police brutality, and injustice within the criminal legal system through advocacy, education, and policy.

**Dr. Cyril H. Wecht** is a medical-legal consultant and forensic pathologist, author and lecturer who served the people of Allegheny County as their elected coroner for 20 years. He has performed approximately 21,000 autopsies and reviewed or been consulted on approximately 40,000 additional postmortem examinations, including cases in several foreign countries. Dr. Wecht holds various faculty positions at the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University and Carlow University, and serves as chairman of the Advisory Board of The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law. He is the author or co-author of more than 625 professional publications and editor or co-editor of 46 books, as well as co-author of the popular non-fiction books *Cause of Death*, *Grave Secrets*, *Who Killed JonBenet Ramsey?*, *Mortal Evidence* and *Tales from the Morgue*. Dr. Wecht frequently appears as a guest on national TV and radio shows to discuss various medical-legal and scientific subjects. He has served as

president of the American College of Legal Medicine and the American Academy of Forensic Science, as well as chairman of the boards of trustees of both the American Board of Legal Medicine and the American College of Legal Medicine Foundation.

**Elizabeth C. Pittinger** since January 1999, has served as the Executive Director of Pittsburgh's Independent Citizen Police Review Board. She is an inaugural member of the PA State Law Enforcement Citizen Advisory Commission and a former Chair of the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations. Pittinger is a graduate of Marywood College and the School of Urban and Public Affairs, Carnegie-Mellon University.

**Lynne Hayes-Freeland** has been a talk show host and news reporter for more than 40 years on both KDKA-TV and KDKA-Radio. She covered many angles of the Johnny Gammage story when it occurred.

# Session Block 2

Saturday, January 23, 2021, 10:45 am - 12:15 pm EST

- ["Where are you from?; No, where are you really from?": Recentering Anti-Racism Work in South Asian American Identity Formation](#)
- [Black Neighborhoods Matter](#)
- [Building Movements for Health, Human Rights, and Racial Justice](#)
- [Critical Race Theory & Technology](#)
- [Dismantling Our Weapons of White Supremacy](#)
- [From Restoration to Transformation: Dismantling White Supremacy Within School Discipline Reform](#)
- [Happy Birthday Avis Lee](#)
- [Sustaining Movements for Change through Government](#)
- [It Takes More Than a Day: Creating Sustainable Change Within Organizations](#)



JANE NORLING

# “Where are you from?; No, where are you really from?”: Recentering Anti-Racism Work in South Asian American Identity Formation

## WORKSHOP

South Asians Building Bridges was founded to facilitate a “network of organizations” promoting collaboration, dialogue, and accountability within and beyond South Asian American (SAA) communities around racial justice and equity. In this session, we will use popular media references as discussion starters to understand how South Asian community dynamics influence anti-Blackness and other forms of marginalization in our identity formation and how we can combat these harmful processes. We hope to empower the community with tools and resources to think critically and confront our part in perpetuating biases and racism.

## FACILITATORS

Our facilitators, the founders of South Asians Building Bridges, come to the summit with a range of interdisciplinary degrees and work in racial and social justice. Among facilitators, we have backgrounds in diversity and inclusion work and education in schools, refugee/immigrant populations, public health, and medicine. This work is deeply personal to us as South Asian Americans taking a stand against systemic complacency in the facet of racial injustice. We are built by and for our community and value the role of community building to enhance the reach of sustained movements.

Given our South Asian backgrounds and the fact that this work is personal to us, we recognize the importance of being self-reflexive and acknowledge the potential biases and benefits that may accompany our standpoint epistemology. We are grateful for the efforts of our predecessors and by initiating these conversations, we hope to continue learning and building our knowledge base while empowering our



NL / justseeds.org

NICOLAS LAMPERT

community members to do the same.

**Madhumita Mahesh** (she/her) works at a Pittsburgh based non-profit and has experience leading social emotional learning sessions and dialogue around identity formation with elementary and middle school students in the Pittsburgh Public School District. They have worked with the City of Pittsburgh’s Gender Equity Commission to facilitate Youth Listening Tour conversations around gender, race, ability and equity. They have a background in psychology, education, disability studies, gender sexuality and women’s studies, and specific research background in popular media representation of marginalized youth and its impact on youth identity formation.

**Prachi Patel** (she/her) is a communications consultant for the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the Alliance for Refugee Youth Support and Education (ARYSE). She has led participatory photography workshops with middle and high school students of immigrant

and refugee background in Pittsburgh, facilitating dialogue around ideas of community, identity and belonging in the city. She has a background in cultural anthropology, science and nonprofit communications, community-based research and youth engagement.

**Raashmi Krishnasamy** (she/her) has experience leading health education sessions in communities made vulnerable by systemic injustices within Pittsburgh and Washington, DC. She has undergone community based research training to aid in conducting ethical social and behavioral research to address health care disparities. Raashmi also has experience working with facilitating community-building sessions and activities with youth both domestically and abroad. With a background in psychology and as a current MPH candidate, her interests primarily lie at the intersections of cultural sensitivity, mental health, social justice, public health, community engagement, and health policy and advocacy.

**Esha Khurana MD**, (she/her) MPH is a PGY3 Family Medicine/Psychiatry resident at UPMC McKeesport. A child of first generation immigrants and the granddaughter of refugees, she grew up hearing narratives about SA



issues and embedded in diverse SA communities. She has a background in community-based participatory public health interventions as well as culturally sensitive and trauma-informed care of marginalized populations throughout Pittsburgh and internationally (India, Botswana, Guatemala). As a result of her time spent between cultures and people witnessing disparities, she is particularly interested in issues of economic, environmental and health justice. She is currently designing a racial justice curriculum for integration into residency medical education at UPMC McKeesport.

**Varsha Ramasubramanian** (they/ them) has a Bachelor’s degree in social work and has worked with refugee and immigrant communities for the past three years. They have a degree in social work and through the program, conducted community-based research focusing on youth well-being. They are also passionate about labor organizing, having been involved in economic justice initiatives in college, and have facilitated club meetings about organizing and community care.

South Asians Building Bridges



# Black Neighborhoods Matter

## TALK

Grounded Strategies is a Pittsburgh-based environmental justice organization working with communities to return vacant and abandoned land to productive use. This workshop will describe the current state of vacant land in Pittsburgh, particularly in Black and low-income communities, and share how structural inequities have perpetuated Black land loss and environmental racism. To counter these injustices, Grounded will share



KAITLYNN RADLOFF

how to adopt an approach to land restoration projects that are initiated, led, and stewarded by community members in order to achieve equitable outcomes. In particular, Grounded will describe advocacy tools that attendees can utilize to promote vacant land justice in Pittsburgh and put out a call to action to sign onto a land justice policy platform.

## FACILITATORS

**jah watson** (she/they) serves as the Policy Coordinator for Grounded Strategies. Originally from Cleveland, OH, jah graduated from The College of Wooster with a B.A. in Africana Studies. Their interests include poetry, art, Black queer and trans spiritualities, and the artist Noname.

**Anna Archer** (she/her) has an MPA from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs and a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Studies and Public Policy. Anna’s research has focused on civic engagement, community development, and program evaluation. Her background in environmental conservation and community organizing fosters her passion for addressing environmental justice issues at a grassroots level.

**Khadijah Bey** (she/her) is proud to

call the Homewood neighborhood of Pittsburgh her home. Since she has been living in Homewood, Khadijah has reclaimed several vacant lots near her home to extend a beautiful green space that is a treasure to her and her community. Khadijah is a member of Grounded’s CommunityCare program and has invested hundreds of hours in stabilizing and beautifying vacant properties. She was featured on WESA’s The Confluence [describing her experience with this work](#).

Grounded Strategies -   

# Building Movements for Health, Human Rights, and Racial Justice

## MINI-PANEL

This panel brings together diverse groups who were part of the webinar series, Learning from COVID-19: Shaping a Health and Human Rights Agenda for our Region to explore how human rights can offer a framework for intersectional coalition building

that promotes racial equity, justice and human rights. We center the need to re-orient policymaking and culture to prioritize human rights, dignity and well-being for all—including future generations. Recognizing that this work requires long-term movement-building, breakout sessions will consider strategies for advancing racial equity and prioritizing health, housing, and restorative justice.

intersections of various human rights and racial equity/justice.

**FACILITATORS**

**Monica Ruiz**

Executive Director, Casa San Jose

**Benjamin Gutschow** - Casa San Jose, Future Latinx Youth (FLY)

**Randall Taylor** - Penn Plaza Support and Action Coalition

**Marcia Bandes** - Pittsburgh for CEDAW Coalition

**Jackie Smith** - Co-coordinator, Pittsburgh Human Rights City Alliance

# Critical Race Theory & Technology


**TALK**

The human-computer interaction and technology communities have made some efforts toward racial diversity, but the outcomes remain meager. In this talk I present a paper that introduces critical race theory and adapts it for technologists to lay a theoretical basis for race-conscious efforts, in research, development, and within our broader professional

community. Afterwards we will engage in a discussion that guides towards adapting CRT tenets to your own work. This session is aimed at those in the tech sector, but will be broadly applicable to anyone.

**FACILITATORS**

**Alexandra To** (she/her) I have been an organizer of the PRJS for the past two years. I am a faculty in the Art + Design department and the Khoury College of Computer Science at Northeastern University whose work focuses on human-computer interaction, games, and racial justice. I have won multiple Best Paper Awards for my research on HCI, race, and racial justice. I have a PhD in HCI from Carnegie Mellon and a B.S. and M.S. in Symbolic Systems with a minor in Asian American Studies from Stanford University.

You can download a recent copy of my CV at my personal website [here](#). 

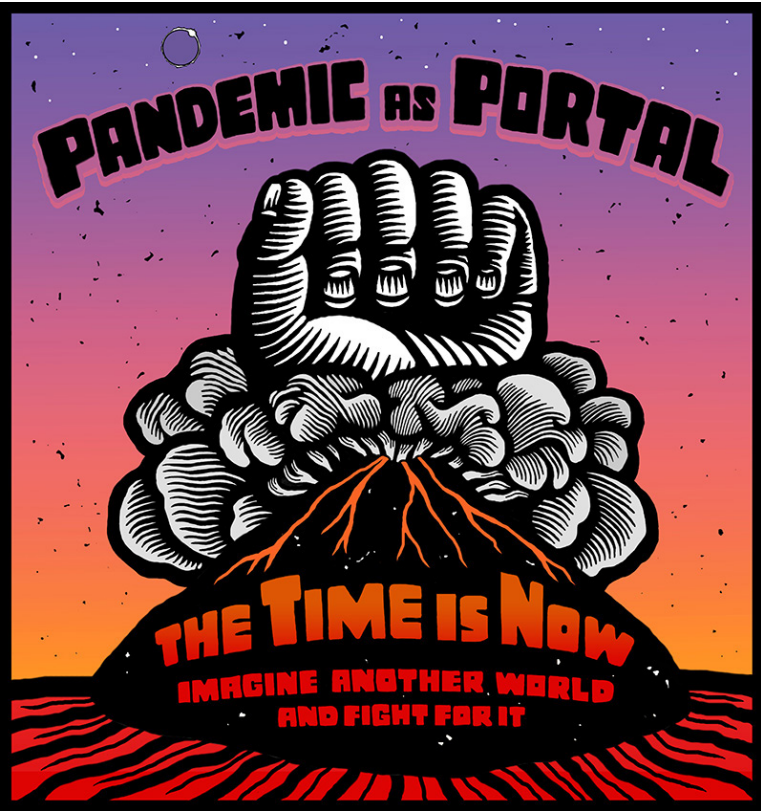


DARRELL KINSEL

# Dismantling Our Weapons of White Supremacy

**BIPOC AFFINITY WORKSHOP**

This workshop is designed specifically for BIPOC folx interested in exploring how we too utilize the weapons of white supremacy to harm ourselves and each other. We will identify white supremacy tenants as we see them within ourselves: how we judge based on skin color, hair texture, education levels, and economics, etc. We'll use a series of embodied images and role play to support awareness of how these messages are stored in our bodies. We will hold space



KILL JOY

Ideas developed in this Racial Justice Summit session will shape a follow-up (online) meeting on Feb. 5-6 that will continue a process of building connections, planning joint actions, and deepening our analyses of the



while witnessing each other's stories, allowing us to identify what we need to transform within ourselves in order to lay down our own weapons of whiteness. Our personal healing and liberation is crucial in the movement towards racial and social justice.

**IMPORTANT:** This space is reserved solely for attendees who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color). Because this is a highly participatory session, the presenters also request that attendees who join this space enable their camera.

**FACILITATORS**

**Cheryl Harrison** (she/her) and **Ashnie Butler** (she/her) have over 30 combined years of experience in workshop facilitation and organizing, and have been co-facilitating workshops using Theater of the Oppressed for Black, Indigenous and People of Color for over 4 years. Together we bring that wealth of experience, knowledge and insight into holding space for looking at and dismantling internalized racial oppression and anti-Blackness. Together we help folxs navigate where they are in the moment to support the inner changes that leads to outer transformation.

**From Restoration to Transformation: Dismantling White Supremacy Within School Discipline Reform**

**TALK**

Current popular school discipline efforts often promote systemic racism because they focus on individuals instead of the policies that reinforce racial disparities. As such, this session examines prominent school interventions, provides suggestions on how to meaningfully integrate anti-racism within school discipline reform, and discusses where and how to get involved. First, we address restorative justice, a form of discipline that focuses on rehabilitation and reconciling relationships after someone is harmed. Second, we address trauma-informed care, a program focused on providing services at an organizational level that support individuals who have experienced traumatic events. We critique these programs, not to eliminate them




entirely, but to reimagine how we integrate intersectional and anti-racist policies into schools for meaningful change in our communities, both locally and nationally. Through lecture and discussion, we intend to collaborate within our session on paths forward to fight for equity, justice, and healing within our schools.

**FACILITATORS**

**Christopher Thyberg** (he/him), **Dashawna Fussell-Ware** (she/her), and **Cecily Dyan Davis** (she/her) are all doctoral students at the University

of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Each holds a master's degree in social work though each has their own area of expertise that they bring to the table. Christopher has years of experience as a therapist working with adolescents that informs his research interests on trauma services and intersectional collective empowerment interventions that address structural oppression for adolescents--including his work on a trauma-intervention designed for a school using restorative justice in Pittsburgh. Dashawna has taught high school students in addition to her years of experience as a therapist and community support worker. Dashawna's research expertise includes mental health disparities among and treatment of racial/ethnic minority youth in addition to community empowerment and service provision for racial/ethnic minorities living in urban, underserved neighborhoods. Finally, with over 10 years of practice experience in the Pittsburgh/Pennsylvania region, the hallmark of Cecily's experience is collaborative partnership with for-profit organizations, schools/ government agencies, nonprofit organizations and nationally funded research projects. She currently works on the Just Discipline Project and her practice focus on children, youth and families has resulted in her engaging

the educational system on the behalf of those she served for her entire career.

Christopher Thyberg - 

Dashawna Fussell-Ware - 

Cecily Dyan Davis - 

# Happy Birthday Avis Lee

## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Avis Lee has survived over 40 years in prison and January 23 - the day of the summit is her 59th birthday! Co-founder of Let’s Get Free: The Women and Trans Prisoner Defense Committee, Avis has been community organizing from the inside for years.



ESTEFANIA RIVERA

Help us welcome her home to Pittsburgh into her new role on the outside as reentry coordinator and learn about the struggles faced when one attempts to extract themselves from a life sentence in PA. Avis will share some of her story and there will be plenty of time for questions and conversation.

## PANELISTS

**Avis Lee** will be joined by **Paulette Carrington**, **Mageline Stewart**, **Debbie Africa** and **Naomi Blount** who were all incarcerated in PA’s women prisons over the last 3 decades. Many members of Let’s Get Free will also be in attendance.

[Let’s Get Free’s Website](#)

# Sustaining Movements for Change through Government

## WORKSHOP

Civil rights movements require both community organizing and structural change. Despite a perception of local government as an unmoving

entity, the government works together with citizens to bring about legislative and policy change. In this workshop, members of Pittsburgh City government outline ways that Pittsburghers can use the government to achieve the change they would like to see. After reviewing case studies of the Crown Act and Citizenship Status and Preferred Language protections (i.e., recent legislations that added new protected classes regarding natural hair type, citizenship status, and preferred language to the City’s anti-discrimination code), participants will identify a problem and work through it using government as a tool toward change.

## FACILITATORS

**Jam Hammond** (he/him) Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations is the civil rights enforcement agency for the City of Pittsburgh. In addition to enforcing civil rights, the Commission has the power to write and recommend legislation to Pittsburgh City Council.

**Alaa Mohamed** (she/her) Welcoming PGH is an immigrant and refugee inclusion initiative in the Office of the Mayor. Welcoming PGH supports community led initiatives that empower community leaders to work across organizations, sectors,



NICOLAS LAMPERT

and cultures to promote equal opportunities in our City.

**Jordan Fields** (she/her) The Mayor’s Office of Equity supports the administration’s priorities to make Pittsburgh a livable city for all. The Office of Equity conducts continuous in-depth analysis of outcomes, services and best practices of city departments to examine how they are contributing to inequity around the City of Pittsburgh. They provide recommendations on policies and national best practices to address systemic inequities in government and cities.

**Erika Strassburger** (she/her) has proposed and passed trailblazing legislation to guard against employment discrimination for



pregnant workers and their partners throughout Pittsburgh; led the charge to overhaul and modernize Pittsburgh’s municipal waste and recycling code; and passed policies to prevent against discrimination based on gender identity and expression, citizenship status, and preferred language citywide.

# It Takes More Than a Day: Creating Sustainable Change Within Organizations

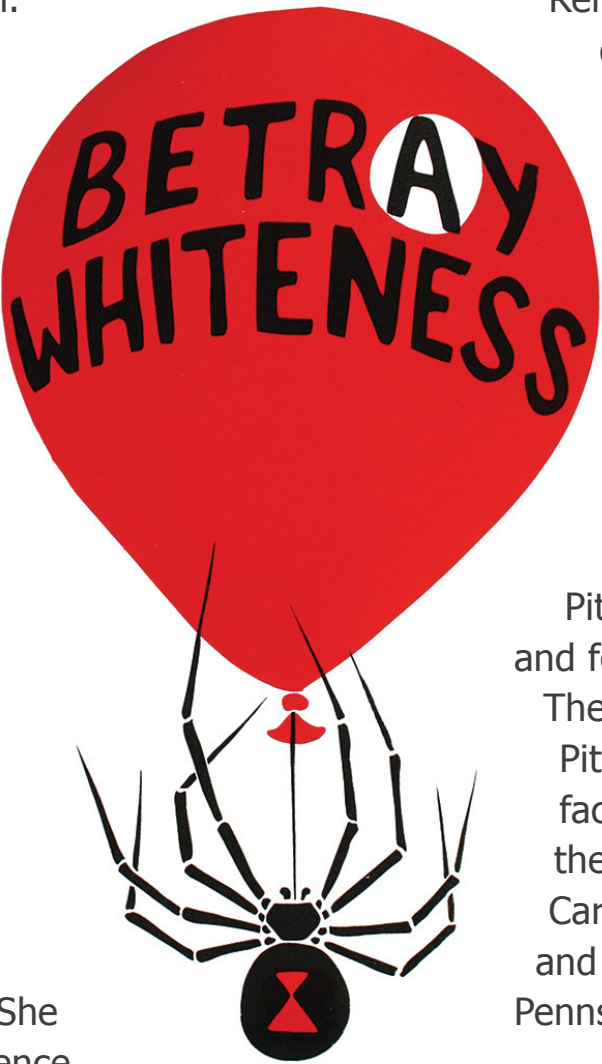
## WORKSHOP

This workshop is for orgs and individuals who want to be more actively anti-oppressive but are stuck. Maybe you hired a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant for a few trainings but the work ended there. Or, you’ve attended a few workshops but don’t know what to do now. We’ve developed a holistic process to address systemic oppression for orgs and individuals. We’ll share case studies from our experiences as DE&I consultants and you’ll have a chance to reflect on which phase(s) you are currently in, walking away with ideas

to enact transformational change that lasts beyond a day.

## FACILITATORS

**Mary C. Parker** (she/her) identifies as an African-American cis-gender woman and is an international applied theatre practitioner, dialogue facilitator, and comedic actor. She holds a MA in Applied Theatre from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, a BA in Sociology from Emory University, and is a Certified Professional Coach through Duquesne University’s Palumbo Donahue School of Business. Mary has worked with community based organizations to create diversity, equity, and inclusion statements, address inclusion with boards of directors for nonprofits, and led several workshops on implicit bias. She also has seven years experience virtually facilitating dialogue sessions so folx can learn how to approach differences constructively and lead with empathy, to thrive in an interconnected world.



ROGER PEET

**Liz Foster-Shaner** (she/her) is a White, cis-gendered woman, educator and civic artist. She holds a PhD in Theatre Research from UW-Madison where she studied applied theatre for social change. With funding from Heinz Endowments, the Three Rivers Community Foundation, and Remake Learning, Liz is developing programs that reimagine our opportunities for change as active citizens of our communities and places of practice. Liz is a DE&I consultant for Inclusant, a Teaching Artist with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, and founding member of Theatre of the Oppressed Pittsburgh. Recently, Liz facilitated workshops for the URA, Carlow University, Carnegie Mellon University, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

# Wellness Block

Saturday, January 23, 2021, 12:45 pm - 1:15 pm EST

[Transforming Stress into Strength for Social Justice Advocates](#)

[What makes a liberated childhood?](#)

[Yin Yoga for the Love of You](#)

[Community Self-Defense](#)

[tonglen: sharpening liberatory praxis and what to do with the poison](#)

## Transforming Stress into Strength for Social Justice Advocates

As warriors for Racial Justice, self-care is essential to maintain our health as we struggle against all forms of injustice & create a world that is equitable & sustainable.

Utilizing techniques from ancient Doaist QiGong, this workshop provides accessible self-care techniques that assist the body in transforming stress into strength. Both sitting & standing practices will be explored including learning an acupressure point you can use on yourself. Synchronizing our movements with our breath assists us in synchronizing our actions with our intentions, as we embody social justice

in our personal lives.

Small acts of kindness towards ourselves create profound shifts in our personal well being & empowerment!

This workshop is suitable for all physical abilities.

Participants are welcome to wear any type of clothing & no equipment is required

### INSTRUCTOR

**Moshe Sherman**

(he/him/his) Moshe Sherman is a Qigong Instructor & Medical Qigong Healer with over a decade of experience.

QiGong (Chee Gong) originates from Classical Chinese

Medicine, dating back thousands of years. By using intentional movements synchronized with our breathing, Qigong impacts our life force energy (Qi). As we release unneeded energy & bring in fresh energy, our innate healing abilities are boosted. The impacts of practice include: finding greater balance, flexibility & strength while improving the quantity & quality of energy within us. Bringing us a mind set that is open & aware.

Moshe's practice is grounded in his background in education, art, political activism & love of nature. He works with individuals, couples & groups (online during Covid) In addition to

teaching classes & providing healing sessions, he also leads meditative walks in city parks, called Forest Bathing.

You can contact Moshe to discuss how Qigong & energy work can benefit you & your network at 412-327-5719 or [Cloudgatepgh@gmail.com](mailto:Cloudgatepgh@gmail.com) [Follow him on Facebook](#) for Live classes & updates.

## What makes a liberated childhood?

Reading and discussion of What You Don't Know: A Story of Liberated Childhood, Dottir Press, pub date 1-26-21 To make this book, I put a child at the intersection of queerness, Blackness and whiteness, then surrounded them with loving and accountable, caring people—just to envision what that could be like. When I sat down to write, I asked the child: What do you want me to know? The story that came is about a child who knows his own worth and divinity. His people circle round him, beholding and affirming him in a culture that they all know is f\*\*\*\*d up. The book challenges stereotypes about race, gender, age and the shape of a family, and goes directly to the heart of God's love for gay kids and everybody else, for that matter. We'll talk about what makes a liberated childhood and our own efforts to get as close as possible to providing that for the children we are blessed to know.

### PRESENTER

**Anastasia Higginbotham** is a queer, white author and artist whose books about childhood subvert systems of domination, such as patriarchy and



PETE RAILAND

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white supremacy. She works in collage on grocery bag paper, using only recycled materials. Each book centers a child in the unfolding of their own lives and her titles include, Divorce Is the Worst, Death Is Stupid, Tell Me About Sex, Grandma and Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness.

## Yin Yoga for the Love of You

In this 30-minute yin yoga class we will slow down, connect mind, body, and spirit to rejuvenate our passion for life and a purpose and wrap ourselves in love. Be prepared to embrace self-love and self-care.

Bring water and comfort supplies such as a yoga mat or towel, pillows, blankets.

**INSTRUCTOR**

**Lovie Jackson-Foster, PhD, MSW** (she/her/hers) is a wellness practitioner coordinating staff wellness for Allegheny County Children, Youth, and Families. She has worked as a community based social worker and researcher for more than 25 years and has a passion for teaching yoga,

wellness workshops and mindfulness to address generational trauma.

She’s a loving wife, and a mother of twin six-year old boys. Lovie’s primary purpose in life is to love, inspire, empower, and to see to it that all the children everywhere are well.

## Community Self-Defense

Join us for this 30-minute community self-defense class. Our goal is to create an exploratory learning environment where we can all begin healing from violence.

What is self-defense in the world we are living in today? What does it mean to assert ourselves, set clear boundaries, and protect ourselves in current conditions?

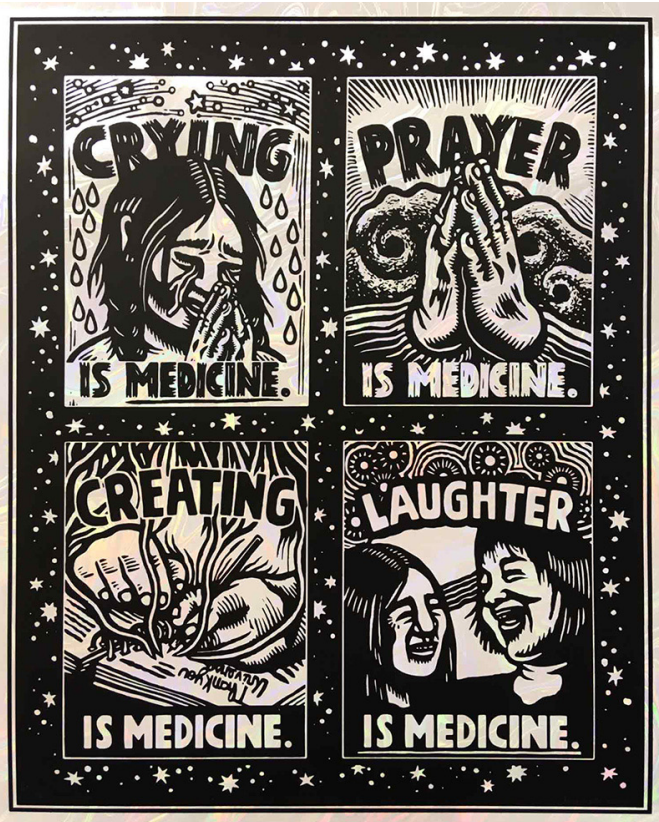
We will begin with a brief meditation; Identifying the links between personal safety and community wellness. We will then learn and practice together a few simple moves and phrases we can use to empower and defend ourselves.

Please come wearing comfortable

clothing you can move in.

**INSTRUCTOR**

**Aminta Steinbach** is co-director of the self defense program at Hand to Hand Kajukenbo Self Defense Center and facilitates workshops on Antiracism with Be The Change Consulting in Oakland, CA. Aminta has a third degree black belt in Kajukenbo, and when not working you can usually find her kicking and punching her way to a more peaceful world.



KILL JOY

## tonglen: sharpening liberatory praxis and what to do with the poison

‘love and justice are not two. without inner change, there can be no outer change. without collective change, no change matters.’

-Rev. angel Kyodo williams

true justice requires shedding the violent tools and frameworks we’ve inherited. it requires ‘disarming’ the white supremacy and coloniocalism within ourselves so our effort does not replicate any structural piece where othering, violence, and oppression can continue/grow anew. understanding the mechanisms of oppression is not enough; we must also embody a praxis of non-othering, of restorative justice, by moving \*from\* the interconnectedness that has been denied and violated but nevertheless remains as fundamental truth.

at the limits of our open-mindedness- when feeling lost, terrified, violent, self-loathing, hateful- tonglen offers a doorway to immediate connection with

our shared humanity and fundamental truth. here, we find access to innate wisdom to more skillfully engage ourselves and the challenges of our world and to embody healing change.

**INSTRUCTOR**  
willi is committed to various studies and practices of liberation. currently, he is paid for his work in the fitness industry and for his work as a somatic psychotherapist. he is living on unceded ramaytush ohlone land- sf, ca.



KUWA JASIRI INDOMELA

## Session Block 3

Saturday, January 23, 2021, 10:45 am - 12:15 pm EST

- [Absolute Justice, Kindness, and Kinship:  
A New Approach to Criminal Justice Reform](#)
- [Black Equity Coalition - Moving from Crisis Response to Proactivity](#)
- [Combating New Forms of Oppression  
Lessons Learned from Passing Pittsburgh's Anti-Policing Tech Bill](#)
- [Demilitarize PGH: Ending the Exchange of Violent Police Practices from  
Pittsburgh to Palestine](#)
- [Imagining Post-abolition Food Futures:  
An Emergent and Immersive Collective Visioning Experience](#)
- [Rise, Revolt, Rest, Refresh:  
Reclaiming Sustainable Self-care for Activists](#)
- [Solitary Confinement:  
Oppression and Racial Disparities in the Prison Within a Prison](#)
- [The Breathing Room Affinity Group](#)
- [Understanding and Dismantling White Supremacy Culture](#)

## “Absolute Justice, Kindness, and Kinship: A New Approach to Criminal Justice Reform”

Criminal justice reform requires purposeful addition and focus of “kindness” and “kinship” (alongside justice) as determinative factors in gauging efficacy and success. Absolute justice requires the dismantling of structural racism, after which kindness and kinship begin to

arise. Based on a deeply pernicious notion of racial superiority, a system of racial advantage for whites has been long established in America. But we stress that only adl (justice) (not color) is supreme and is a minimum safeguard. Ihsan (kindness) and ita’i dhil-qurba (kinship) are the ideals



which lead to the highest stages of human relations. Though these three concepts are Islamic precepts derived from the Qur'an, they are values accepted universally by all religions. Using this framework, we seek to discuss the roots of oppression and systemic racism by exploring the construction of racial categories, their global adoption, their influence in supporting racial violence, and the need for their deconstruction and elimination. Here, we will discuss the crucial historical context of how the European colonial expansion and its exploitation of the African continent



ROGER PEET

led to the dehumanization of black bodies, and how slave codes and slave patrols enforced racially fueled violence.

From a practical standpoint, we also seek to address police violence and judicial system inequities as perpetuating racism and the oppression of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color. We will articulate reasonable solutions based on proven models of social justice advocacy at local and federal government. Finally, we will share an experience of working with an organization using the public health model for violence prevention in an urban setting.

**FACILITATORS**

**Imam Azhar Haneef, Chairman**  
Alliance for Absolute Justice (AAJ),  
National Vice President Ahmadiyya  
Muslim Community, USA, Washington,  
D.C.

**Dr. Basiyr Desmond Rodney, PhD**  
Professor of Education, Webster  
University, President of the Pan-African  
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, St.  
Louis, Missouri

**Dr. Rasheeda Ahmad**  
EdD, Assistant Professor of Education,  
Cabrini University; author, speaker;

academic interest: oppressive barriers to academic achievement; 20 years of social justice work, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Saif H. Rahman, Esq.**  
Criminal Defense Lawyer (former  
Public Defender); 15 years of  
experience, Los Angeles, California

**Abdul Lateef Balanta, Esq.**  
Civil Rights Legal Advisor, Author,  
Speaker, Consultant, Baltimore,  
Maryland

# Black Equity Coalition - moving from crisis response to proactivity

**MINI-PANEL**

The Black Equity Coalition (BEC) is a group of physicians, researchers, epidemiologists, public health and health care practitioners, social scientists, community funders, and government officials. The BEC supports the creation of equitable systems through collaborations,



DARRELL KINSEL

networks, and policymaking. The BEC panel discussion will discuss its formation in response to the pandemic, how issue areas were identified, and responding to the pandemic's varied needs. The panel will also discuss its focus on addressing needs beyond the pandemic and transitioning from crisis mode to a sustained movement for justice.

**FACILITATORS**

**Dr. Tiffany Gary-Webb** is currently Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion and a tenured Associate Professor in the Departments of Epidemiology and Behavioral and Community Health Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health. She is an accomplished researcher and her

current research agenda is working to understand the social/environmental determinants of chronic disease and implementing interventions to improve prevention and control. She is now expanding her national and international reach to work on larger structural issues that will affect the nation's progress toward understanding and eliminating health disparities.

**Dr. Tracey Conti** is an Assistant Professor and Executive Vice Chair in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She also serves as the Program Director of the UPMC McKeesport Family Medicine Residency and Co-director of the University of Pittsburgh Family Medicine and Psychiatry Residency. Her clinical and advocacy interests include health disparities and healthcare delivery to underserved communities, medical education, and women's health.

**Fred Brown** is President & CEO of The Forbes Funds, a philanthropic organization focused on strengthening the management capacity and impact of community nonprofits in the Pittsburgh area. Previously, Mr. Brown served as the President & CEO of the Homewood Children's Village, a non-profit that takes a multi-generational

approach to improving quality of life in Pittsburgh's Homewood neighborhood; previously he worked for the Kingsley Association developing green/



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sustainable communities through holistic visioning, resident capacity building, community empowerment, micro/macro planning, and sustainable redevelopment implementation. Mr. Brown has been a climate justice trainer, environmental justice leader, policy analyst, adjunct professor, dean of students, teacher, coach, mentor, certified Juvenile Justice Judge's trainer (TOT), certified conflict mediation and resolution trainer

(TOT), master consultant, supervisor, director, and executive director of non-profit organizations since 1987.

**Kellie Ware-Seabron**

is an East Liberty native, a product of Pittsburgh Public Schools, and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. After starting her family, working in community development, and as a tipstaff, she attended Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, earning concentrations in Poverty Law and Economic Justice as well as in Law and Development.

Upon returning to Pittsburgh, Kellie worked as a staff attorney focusing on tenants' rights at Neighborhood Legal Services, as the inaugural Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Analyst for the City of Pittsburgh and served as Executive Director of the NAACP's Pittsburgh Branch before joining The Forbes Funds as its Director of Community Partnerships and Sustainability.

# Combating New Forms of Oppression - Lessons Learned from Passing Pittsburgh's Anti-Policing Tech Bill

## WORKSHOP

Our session tackles how surveillance tech affects the current movement for Black Lives, drawing from the history of tech deployment since the slave revolt, and the strength of intersectional movements against protest surveillance. We share different paths taken to end predictive policing & facial recognition in Pittsburgh, drawing lessons from movements against police tech in other cities, along with the crucial role of supporting Black-led activism. We end by sharing lessons from pursuing denizen power over police tech and inviting participants to join the work against oppressive surveillance.

## FACILITATORS

The Coalition Against Predictive Policing (CAPP-PGH) has campaigned against predictive policing in Pittsburgh, first halting such work





PAUL KJELLAND

at CMU and pushing for a ban on predictive policing and other harmful surveillance tech.

The coveillance collective has collaborated on many community resources against pervasive surveillance, including a “Spotting Surveillance” field guide, surveillance walking tour, and more.

**Emily Black** (she/her) and **Josh Williams** (he/him) from CAPP-PGH are both PhD students specializing in how machine learning algorithms impact different populations and

communities, focusing on the impacts of data-driven decision making systems.

**Katherine Ye** (they/them) is a co-creator of the coveillance collective and has facilitated multiple coveillance workshops with the Tech Fairness Collective for the ACLU-WA. They also lead the Affecting Technologies group at the Center for Arts, Design + Social Research (CAD+SR). They are also a PhD student in CS.

**Bonnie Fan** (she/her, they/them) works on grassroots-centered community proposals against high-tech gentrification & displacement. They are currently a PhD student at CMU and a Heinz College grad .They helped create coveillance and co-organizes a #NoTechForICE campaign.


**Brandi Fischer** (she/her) needs no introduction. She represents the Alliance for Police Accountability (APA), which has been working towards racial justice against police brutality since the brutalization of Jordan Miles. APA will be present to speak to their role in the campaign, facilitate discussion, and Q&A.

## Demilitarize PGH: Ending the Exchange of Violent Police Practices from Pittsburgh to Palestine

### TALK

This is a teach-in about police militarization and the training exchanges between U.S. police departments and the Israeli military. The Pittsburgh Coalition to End the Deadly Exchange will share research on these exchanges of “worst practices” including mass surveillance, brutal suppression of dissent, and racial profiling. Coalition members will explain the extent of local, regional, and national law enforcement participation in Israeli-run training exchanges, parallels in police brutality, and the campaign to end these exchanges. We will share examples of how the US-Israel relationship reinforces racist surveillance and policing, which permeate different facets of civic life—such as criminal justice and education—in both

countries. We will share our strategies and efforts aimed at dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline in Allegheny County by removing police officers from local schools. Our Demilitarize PGH campaign was created to end local participation in these law enforcement training exchanges.

More information at [deadlyexchange.org](https://deadlyexchange.org) or 

### FACILITATORS

**Darnika Reed** (she/her) is a member of the Pittsburgh Coalition to End the Deadly Exchange, community organizer, and an education rights



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advocate. Darnika works with children with special needs in the schools and she led a successful campaign with the Coalition to remove abusive school staff and cancel police contracts in the Woodland Hills School District.

**Daniel Klein** (he/him) is a member of the Pittsburgh Coalition to End the Deadly Exchange, and long-time member and co-founder of the Jewish Voice for Peace Pittsburgh Chapter. Daniel works as a designer and is EcoDistricts Accredited.

**Daniel Galvin** (he/him) is a member of the Pittsburgh Coalition to End the Deadly Exchange, and organizer with Vets for Peace. Daniel is a veteran who discusses his personal experience

seeing the impact of militarization on the human psyche.

**Krystle MG Knight** works as the Community Organizer for the Thomas Merton Center, a peace and social justice center of Pittsburgh. The Thomas Merton Center is a member organization of the Pittsburgh Coalition to End the Deadly Exchange. Krystle works with coalition partners to advance the goals of ending the deadly exchange. Krystle holds a bachelor's degree in sociology, minor in social work from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. Krystle is also the secretary of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement of Pittsburgh and serves on the coordinating committee of the PA Poor People's Campaign. The PA Poor People's Campaign's demands includes the ending of these deadly exchanges across the state.



NICOLAS LAMPERT

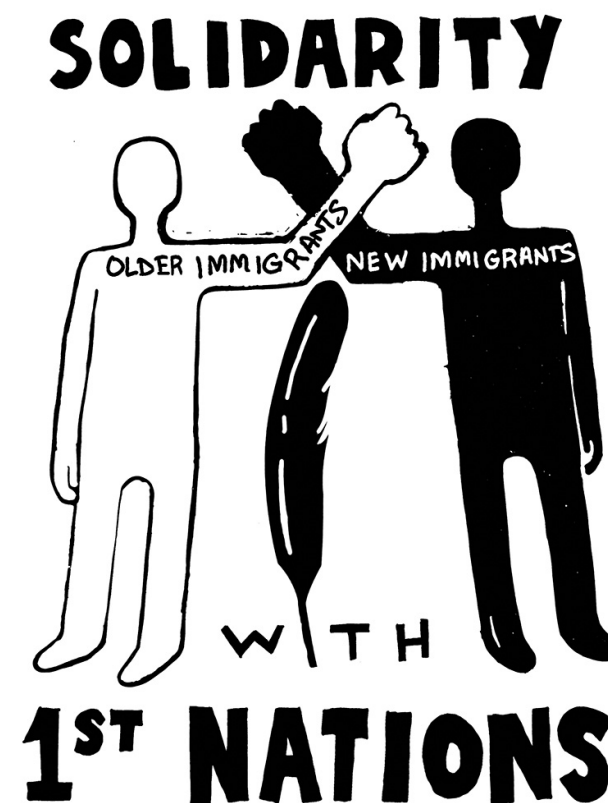
## Imagining Post-abolition Food Futures: An Emergent and Immersive Collective Visioning Experience

### WORKSHOP

The "Imagining Post-abolition Food Futures" ("Food Futures" for short) workshop will be a space for exploring beyond our current frames of reference to future(s) where food is a basis of freedom, rather than a basis of oppression. "Food futures" is an emergent and immersive collective visioning experience. More than anything, we hope that it will be fun. Together the participants will build a shared future based on the things that they bring back from it. In our game, we'll be bringing back food-things from the future(s) where food systems are just and equitable.

### FACILITATORS

**Tacumba Turner** (he/him) has a diploma in Horticulture with several other credentials related to agriculture



JOSH MACPHEE

and ecological landscaping. For the last 6 years Tacumba has worked as an Environmental Educator with multiple Environmental non-profits and farmers.

**Fitzhugh Shaw** (he/him) has years of experience bartering and farming in community, having a formal background a M.A in food studies From Chatham. Fitzhugh has a blog called [Foodpower](#).



# Rise, Revolt, Rest, Refresh: Reclaiming Sustainable Self-care for Activists

## WORKSHOP

This workshop is designed for activists to reclaim self-care’s collective and radical roots. This session will deconstruct how modern self-care is appropriated by white supremacy culture, and attend to ways one can re-engage in it as a liberatory practice. Participants will identify ways to align reclaimed self-care practices that are consistent with their values and participate in the practice of rise, revolt, rest, and refresh to reclaim self-care as part of sustainable activism towards social justice.

## FACILITATORS

In addition to the more than 45 years of combined experiences in the field of mental health services and extensive postgraduate education and training, the presenters are a collective with shared passion for social justice, community mental health and well-being, community organizing, and activism.

**Dareen Basma** (she/her) is an Arab clinician and educator who specializes in multicultural pedagogy, psychotherapy and research, with a specific interest in immigrant identity


**Sara Mark** (she/her) is an avid advocate and supporter for racial justice in the greater Pittsburgh region. She has more than 12 years of experience in the community of mental health that integrates physical and mental well-being

**Shubhara Bhattacharjee** (he/him) identifies as a Pittsburgh-based British Indian mental health clinician who has extensive training background and clinical attunement to factors related to spirituality, psychological well-being, and cultural identity

**Kym Jordan-Simmons** (she/her) identifies as a Black therapist who has extensive clinical and training experience in the field of mental health with dedication to supporting Black and/or underserved students, survivors of sexual violence, and/or trauma

**Mengchun Chiang** (she/her) is an active Taiwanese American community member/organizer at transnational communities serving Asian/Asian American Pacific Islanders, in addition

to a life-long learner about the intersection between mental health training, research, and racial justice.

 Counseling and Psychological Services at CMU (This presentation does not represent CaPS)

# Solitary Confinement: Oppression and Racial Disparities in the Prison Within a Prison

## MINI-PANEL

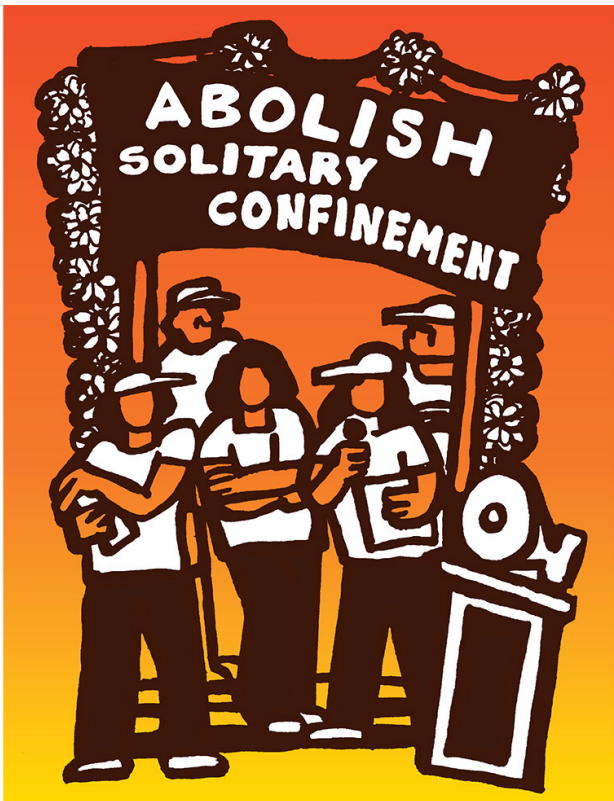
Solitary Confinement is a prison within a prison that mirrors society. There are racial disparities. There is rampant state-sanctioned violence and murder by guards with impunity. It is filled with political and politicized prisoners. The Mandela rules and the United Nations call it illegal. Hear from solitary survivors about their experiences and how they overcame them. Pennsylvania prisoners, activists, and legislators created a bill to end long term solitary confinement.

Hear about our fight and how you can help end solitary in county jails, state and federal prisons, and immigrant detention centers.

## FACILITATORS

Everyone on the panel is directly impacted by solitary confinement and have actively organized for that cause. The facilitator and panelists all have experience doing public speaking and presentations.

The moderator **Shandre Delaney** (she/her) is a 15-year advocate for the human and civil rights of prisoners. She is the Director of Human Rights



ART BY RINI TEMPLETON • IN SOLIDARITY WITH PRISONERS WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO ABOLISH SOLITARY CONFINEMENT  
RINI TEMPLETON &  
MELANIE CERVANTES

Coalition Fed-Up! and co-founder of a project that supports jailhouse lawyers and prisoner whistleblowers. She is also a writer for Law at the Margins.



KATE MORALES

**Carrington Keys** (he/him) is a formerly incarcerated activist and jailhouse lawyer who now works as a paralegal. They say the pen is mightier than the sword. He used the pen and the law to free himself and others. He was released from prison after 19 years, 11 of which were in solitary confinement. He is a published author on his experiences in

prison and solitary.

**Dana Lomax** (she/her) is a Wife, Mother, Advocate, Organizer, Motivational Speaker, Educator and a formerly impacted woman. She believes in and advocates for second chances and speaks about the injustices in the judicial, penal and PRISON systems. She is a woman who survived solitary confinement.

**Rev. Dr. Chris Kimmenez** (he/him) is an ordained Baptist minister, pastor, chaplain, psychologist, trainer, public speaker, consultant and a medically retired marine combat veteran. He is also a solitary survivor. He founded the Pastor's & Preacher's Support Network and is a chair or fellow on a countless number

of faith based and criminal justice organizations.

Human Rights Coalition Fed-Up! - 

# The Breathing Room: An Affinity Group for Black Womxn

## AFFINITY GROUP

The Breathing Room Affinity Group is a space created by black womxn for black womxn to breathe, heal, create, & affirm. Using Theater of the Oppressed & Playback Theater skills we will counter the harm that the session facilitators have experienced in white-led spaces, & together we will affirm one another's experiences, perspectives, concerns and observations. This space will foster community & healing during the summit & beyond, as members return to the exhausting work of dismantling, resisting, & activating in their own communities.

**IMPORTANT:** This space is reserved solely for attendees who identify as Black womxn.

## FACILITATORS

Lalenja Harrington -  

Sisi Reid -    

Mary C. Parker -    

**Sisi Reid** (she/her) is a vibrant Black and Queer theater artist from Wheaton, Maryland who practices theatre as a tool for joy, healing, youth empowerment, and collective liberation. She embodies creation through many roles; as an actor, writer, playwright, director, spoken word poet, facilitator, teaching artist, arts administrator, and applied theater practitioner. She currently serves as a Producing Playwright with The Welders and was recently awarded a 2020 Maryland State's Arts Council Independent Artist Award.

**Dr. Lalenja Harrington** has been involved in the movement for access to higher education through inclusive academic program development and advocacy since 2007, & has been actively using arts-based approaches (including applied theatre) to community engaged/participatory research for the past 5 years.. She is a performer with 20 years experience in spoken word, collective poetry facilitation, & devised works, & she is a teaching artist who incorporates TO/ Playback practice into her work with youth.

**Mary C. Parker** combines dialogue facilitation with applied improvisation to facilitate workshops addressing everyday oppression through comedy.



Mary collaborates with individuals, educational institutions, and corporations who are ready to deepen their self-awareness, interrupt bias, and actively engage in dismantling oppression through services of playshops and coaching sessions informed by Theatre of the Oppressed and Playback Theatre.

# Understanding and Dismantling White Supremacy Culture

## WORKSHOP

In “Understanding and Dismantling White Supremacy Culture,” we will discuss the tenets of white supremacy culture: what it is and how it shows up in our world and what steps we can take to dismantle it. Conversations will focus on three characteristics: Paternalism, Power Hoarding, and Sense of Urgency. Before we can implement strategies to dismantle white supremacy culture, we first need to be able to recognize it within our organizations and ourselves and find the language to talk about it. We will break

down each of the characteristics by examining the harm that it causes through contextualized examples and then look at small steps we can take to start shifting and dismantling them. This workshop will include small group discussions in breakout rooms, where attendees will have the opportunity to apply workshop content to their

individual context, and end with a group discussion on how to move this knowledge into action.

## FACILITATORS

**Meena Malik** (she/her)

I am a highly experienced arts administrator, musician, consultant, and cultural organizer, deeply

committed to anti-racism and anti-oppression as the core value and guiding principle of all work both personal and professional. Last year, I was selected to be part of the 2019 cohort of the artEquity National Facilitator Training, and since then I have been presenting and facilitating workshops and trainings for arts leaders throughout the country, both in-person and virtually. In January, I facilitated the Women of Color in the Arts Womxn’s Leadership Forum: Positioning Power, which was offered as a pre-conference workshop during the Association of Performing Arts Professionals National Conference. Since the pandemic, I have virtually facilitated a workshop

on understanding and dismantling white supremacy culture for Latinx dance leaders and presented a three-part workshop on activism for Asian classical musicians. As part of the Cultural Equity Learning Community facilitation team, I have developed and presented an eight-week curriculum on building anti-racist arts and culture organizations, which has been shared with approximately 1,000 national arts and culture leaders. At my current position at the New England Foundation for the Arts, I act as a key thought leader in organizational equity initiatives and is the Co-Chair of the Equity, Diversity, Intersectionality, and Accessibility (EDI&A) Working Group.

**Deidra Montgomery** (she/they) is a New England-based musician, arts and culture consultant, anti-oppression educator, and movement facilitator. With a professional and educational background in the arts and a personal investment in intersectional racial justice, Deidra’s approach to art, consulting, and facilitation is collaborative and iterative and promotes creativity, integrity, compassion, and joy. More info: [deidramontgomery.com](http://deidramontgomery.com)



DARRELL KINSEL

Illustrations in this book and the artists who made them can be found at



[Justseeds Artists' Cooperative](#) is a decentralized network of 41 artists committed to social, environmental, and political engagement.

**JUSTSEEDS.ORG**

COVER ILLUSTRATION  
Matthew Phillips

COVER PROGRAM BOOK DESIGN  
Isaac Beachy

Special thanks to Derrel kinsel and kuwa jasiri Indomela for submitting illustrations for the program book.



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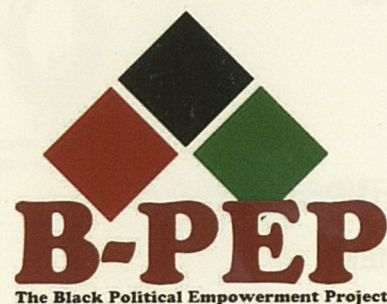
Structural racism is a root cause of hunger and poverty. Up to 21.5% of all Black, Indigenous, and People of Color households in the United States experience food insecurity: double the rate of white households.

Bread for the World ([bread.org](http://bread.org)) is a non-partisan, Christian organization which urges our nation's leaders to end hunger at home and abroad. We can end hunger in our time. Everyone, including our government, must do their part. Together, we can build the political commitment needed to overcome hunger and poverty. Our team meets regularly with members of Congress to advocate for just hunger policy. To support or get information about the SW PA Bread Team, call 412-271-8414 or email [rothermeljoyce@gmail.com](mailto:rothermeljoyce@gmail.com)

WE CONGRATULATE THE  
BLACK AND WHITE REUNION  
AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE  
MADE THE SUMMIT POSSIBLE.  
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## Social & Economic Justice with a focus on Racial Justice

- Black-Led Movement Work
- Civil Liberties
- Civil Rights, with special interest in Black and LGBTQ+ people, and other groups impacted by social injustice
- Human Rights
- Reproductive Freedom
- Safety Net Resources for people in need, including social services, economic independence, housing, tangible aid, transportation, healthcare

[www.theopportunityfund.org](http://www.theopportunityfund.org)

Racial Justice Commitment: [bit.ly/oppfundrj](http://bit.ly/oppfundrj)

Letter of Inquiry Deadlines  
Jan 15 and Jul 15

## CONGRATULATIONS

### TO THE BLACK & WHITE REUNION'S

Racial Justice Summit Planning Committee & Attendees  
Thanks for your commitment to empower the Pittsburgh  
Region with an ongoing commitment to civil rights, human  
rights, equity, equality and justice!

Tim Stevens, Founder of the Black & White Reunion  
Chairman of the Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP)





**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION** is fully integrated  
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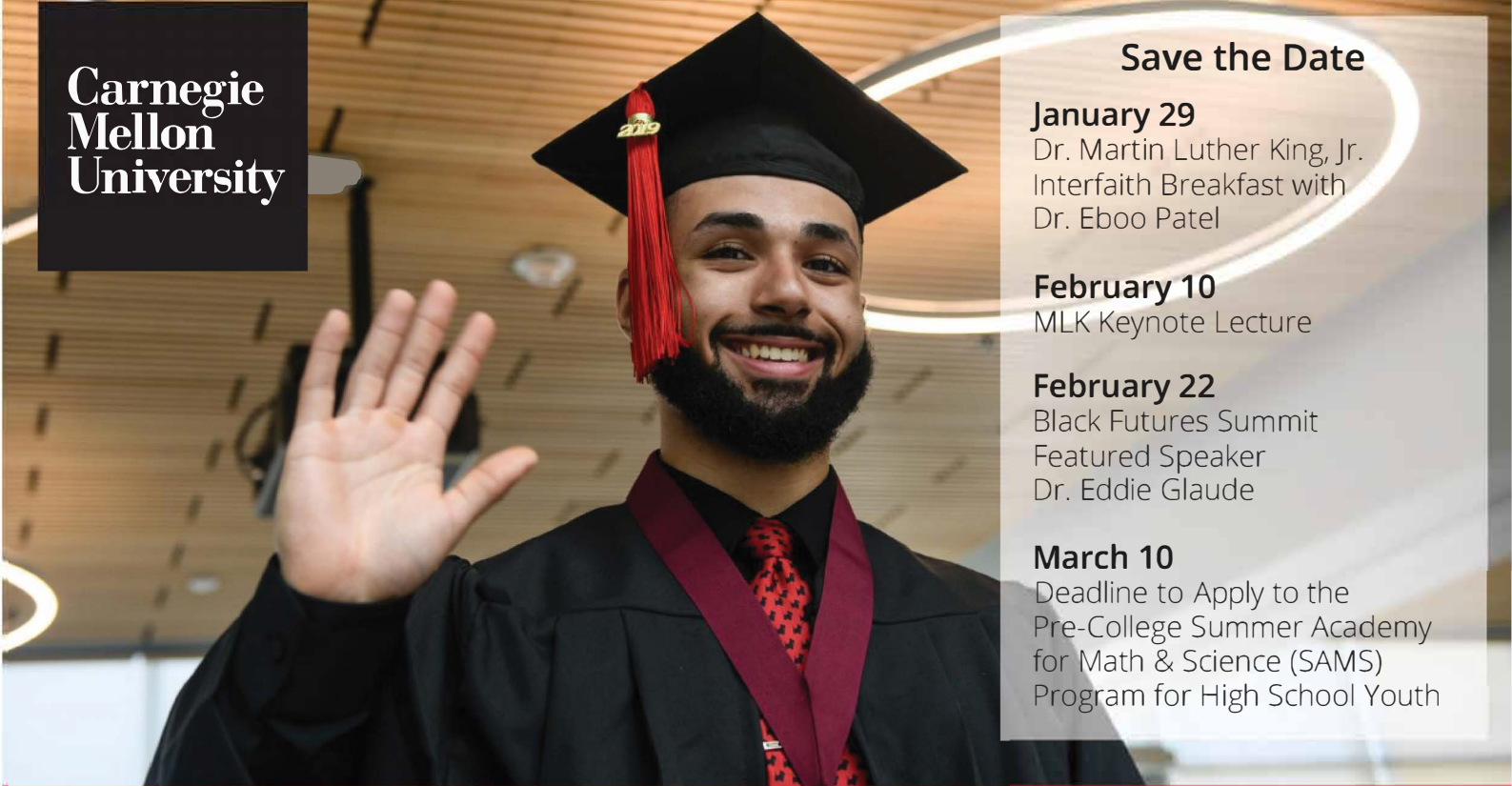
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## Save the Date

**January 29**  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Interfaith Breakfast with  
Dr. Eboo Patel

**February 10**  
MLK Keynote Lecture

**February 22**  
Black Futures Summit  
Featured Speaker  
Dr. Eddie Glaude

**March 10**  
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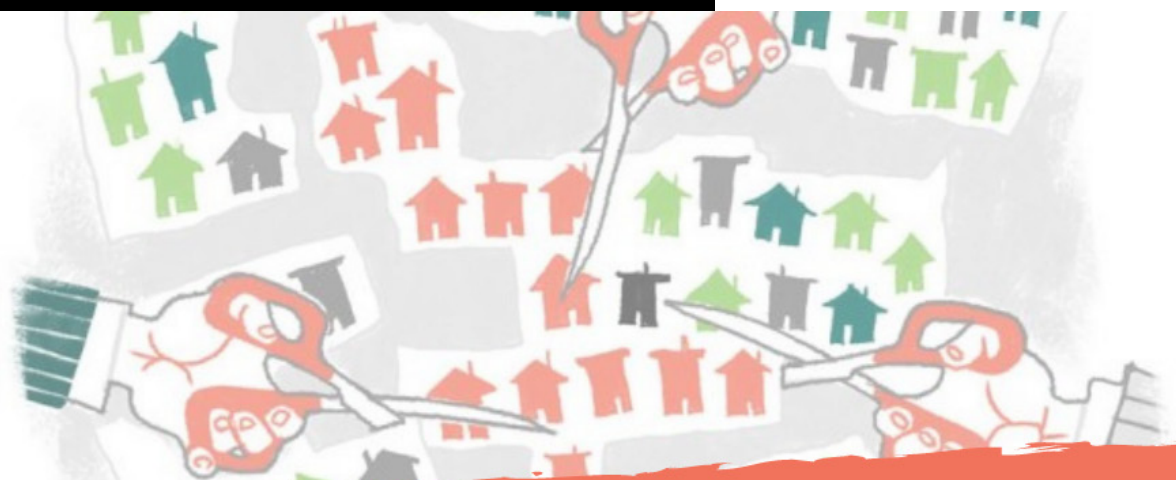
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*This event is supported by the James A. Kelso Endowment and co-sponsored by Pittsburgh Seminary's Office of Continuing Education and Metro-Urban Institute.*

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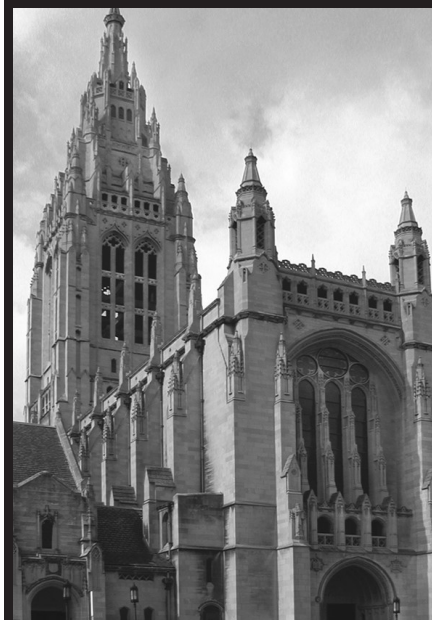


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### VIRTUAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE



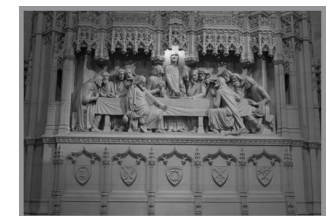
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