

BEYOND THE BARS

13TH ANNUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Plenaries and Breakout Sessions

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Columbia School of Social Work

Welcome to Beyond the Bars 2023 Seeding Justice

A note on Covid and masking:

To be in solidarity with our elders, immunocompromised attendees, and our broader sick and disabled kin, we ask that masks be worn at the conference except when eating.

Conference Schedule

FRIDAY NIGHT

Women Transcending Collective Leadership Celebration

The Forum (601 W 125th St)

Doors at 5:30 pm, Event Starts at 6:00 pm

SATURDAY

Seeding Justice Plenaries and Workshops

Columbia School of Social Work (1255 Amsterdam Ave)

9:15–10:00 am: Registration and Light Breakfast

10:00 am–1:15 pm: Morning Plenaries

1:15–2:15 pm: Lunch

2:15–3:45 pm: Afternoon Plenary

4:00–5:15 pm: Breakout Sessions

SUNDAY

Seeding Justice Plenaries and Workshops

Columbia School of Social Work (1255 Amsterdam Ave)

8:45–10:00 am: Registration and Light Breakfast

9:00 am: Tree Planting Ceremony for Kathy Boudin

10:00–11:30 am: Morning Plenary

11:45 am–1:00 pm: Breakout Sessions

1:00–2:00 pm: Lunch

2:00–3:15 pm: Breakout Sessions

3:30–4:45 pm: Breakout Sessions

SEEDING JUSTICE

Plenaries and Breakout Sessions
Saturday, March 25th

SATURDAY MORNING PLENARIES

10:00am – 1:15pm

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INDIGENOUS PEACEMAKING AND INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEWS (10:00 – 11:30 AM)

Room 311 / 312 (Overflow in the Concourse and 4th floor)

Panelists:

Judge Abby Abinanti, Yurok Tribal Court

Fania Davis, Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth

Dr. Manulani Meyer, University of Hawaii West Oahu /
Pu'uhonua Society

Rae Nell Vaughn, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

Moderator:

Cheryl Demmert Fairbanks, Tlingit and Haida Supreme
Court / Sovereignty 360 / Life Comes From It

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LEARNING THE LINEAGES: INDIGENOUS PEACEMAKING, RESTORATIVE, TRANSFORMATIVE AND HEALING JUSTICE (11:45 AM – 1:15 PM)

Room 311 / 312 (Overflow in the Concourse and 4th floor)

Panelists:

Cara Page, Changing Frequencies

Christy Chapman, Pueblo of Zuni

Mike Milton, Freedom Community Center

Armand Coleman, Transformational Prison Project

Moderator:

Sethu Nair, Center for Creative Conflict Resolution /
Hidden Water



Scan QR code to view all plenary speaker bios

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PLENARY

2:15 – 3:45pm

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SEEDING JUSTICE: POSSIBILITIES, TENSIONS AND CONTRADICTIONS

Room 311 / 312 (Overflow in the Concourse and 4th floor)

Panelists:

Robert Yazzie, Navajo Nation

Mimi Kim, Creative Interventions

Kumi Akua Owusu, How Our Lives Link Altogether!
(H.O.L.L.A!)

Danielle Sered, Common Justice

Moderator:

Martina Kartman, Collective Justice



*Scan QR
code to view
all plenary
speaker bios*

SATURDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

4:00 – 5:15pm

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WOMEN WITH INCARCERATED LOVED ONES: THE BLUEPRINT OF COMMUNITY CARE

Room 311/312

As the blueprint of community care, women with incarcerated loved ones are often the first and primary pillars in supporting their loved ones' reentry into society. Join Essie Justice Group for a roundtable discussion that engages the expertise of women with incarcerated loved ones in navigating the reentry process and how their solutions can have large scale implications for an abolitionist future.

Presenters: Betty McKay, Maya Merriweather, Wynter Daggs, plus four Essie member leaders

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ECOSYSTEMS OF CARE

Room 301

We will share how the Insight Garden Program, for 20 years, utilized the natural world to bring access to healing, transformation, and liberation to people currently incarcerated

and transitioning in reentry. During the workshop we will explore and model our mindfulness practices, share the overview and purpose of our curriculum, illustrate through videos and PowerPoints what the program and process looks like, and encourage interactions from people in attendance. Our main focus is to share our practices on how an ecosystem of care allows for personal transformation, self-determination, restoration, developing an environmental stewardship framework, and supporting healthier communities in prisons and beyond.

Presenters: Andrew Winn and Jamala Taylor

REWRITING PRISON HISTORY FROM PRISON

Room 302

This session features members of the Indiana Women's Prison History Project, a group that is set to publish an edited collection titled *"But Who Would Believe a Prisoner? Women's Carceral Institutions in Indiana, 1860-1920"* (Michelle Daniel Jones and Elizabeth Nelson, eds.) with the New Press in March 2023. This initiatives demonstrate the possibilities for history when subjugated knowledge is centered, and they provide models of prison education programs that center humanities research. Such prison-based history collectives have pioneered a unique perspective on histories of violence and captivity in the US., that of the "confined observer or embodied observer that views the archive from the position of the captive, from the 'inside.'"

Presenters: Michelle Daniel Jones, Anastazia Schmid, and Elizabeth Nelson

CALL AND RESPONSE: WRITING EXCHANGES BETWEEN PEOPLE INSIDE AND OUT

Room 304

This hands-on writing workshop will be led by three people who have all facilitated prison arts workshops. They will share writing processes that they are exploring in pairs towards the creation of a book. The facilitators will provide structures for writing honest "call and response" between people inside and out regarding their experiences together and apart. The goal is an experience of writing to enhance communication, reflection, and exchange between people whose lives are impacted by the criminal justice system.

Presenters: Jan Cohen-Cruz, Haja Worley, and Kathy Randels

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STORY BY STORY: BUILDING A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF RIKERS ISLAND THROUGH PEER-TO-PEER INTERVIEWS

Room C02

This workshop is exclusively for individuals who were previously detained at Rikers Island and their family members and loved ones. This oral history workshop will document the experiences of those who have been directly impacted by Rikers. By preserving a history told through the voices of directly impacted people, we prevent racial disparities in who owns narratives about Rikers, including who educates the larger public, and who analyzes its lessons for future policy. This helps prevent abuses and racial disparity from recurring, and promotes a new system that is based on restorative justice, community care, and healing. Participants will have an opportunity to participate in a round-table community conversation, facilitated by the Rikers Public Memory Project, and have their story added to our public archive on the impact of Rikers. Upon consent, the oral histories recorded at this workshop will become part of the growing RPMP archive and may be incorporated later into elements of our Exhibit, which will have digital and physical components that can travel around NYC.

Presenters: Piper Anderson, Regina Campbell, and Darren Mack

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ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION: STORIES FROM INSIDE

Room C03

Restorative and Transformative Justice shift the onus of accountability from being rooted in carceral punishment, to an internal process that we choose to engage in. Yet, even within our movements, accountability can be either elusive or mimic the punitive logic of the state. In prison and community based collectives in Washington, we have been building our community's capacity to name this dynamic and move toward building grounded accountability skills.

As a collaboration between Collective Justice and Accountable Communities Consortium this skills-based workshop will explore self-accountability as a building-block to accountability in interpersonal relationships and for harm we have done to others. Through the use of the "0-1,000" accountability tool, an accountability letter writing assignment and personal stories, we will create a space where grounded, "right sized" accountability is possible.

Presenters: Shannon Perez-Darby, Brandon Pedro, Derrick Martin-Armstead, and Martina Kartman

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RECONSTRUINDO CAMINHOS - SEGURANÇA MENTAL, ALIMENTAR E PROFISSIONAL / REBUILDING PATHS - MENTAL, FOOD, AND PROFESSIONAL SECURITY

Room C05

The Association Elas Existem Women Incarcerated, emerged inside the prisons in the State of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) 2016, with the purpose of giving visibility to the theme of women and adolescents inside the prison. It currently operates in 4 other states and more than 20 prison units, receiving these women at its headquarters. It began with debates in society and soon after in the professionalization, reception and care of women inside and outside the prison system. The objective is to demonstrate how active listening and care for food safety, combined with self-care and welcoming, can reduce the return of these women within the prison system, as well as being possible to apply in other places and countries. As penal abolitionists, we believe that the main factor to end prisons is to bring in strategies to remove women prepared for life, preventing them from returning.

Presenters: Caroline Bispo

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HEALING HEARTS, MINDS, AND SYSTEMS

Room C06

In 2023 Collective Justice held its first Healing Education for Accountability and Liberation (HEAL) circle for Formerly Incarcerated Persons (FIP). HEAL is a restorative + healing justice centered curriculum and workbook intended to assist us to (1) unearth root causes of harms we have been responsible for and harms we have experienced, (2) explore the impacts of harm on ourselves, individuals and communities, (3) grow our collective resilience and, (4) build our skills for thriving, equitable relationships.

The goal of our FIP HEAL circle facilitators and participants is to model and embody the powerful impact of HEAL in our healing from incarceration. We do this by developing everyday practices in a space that supports truth, vulnerability, and deep relationship with one another - as we continue on our healing journey.

Presenters: Dolphy Jordan, Grady Mitchell, Orlando Ames, Aaron Faletogo, Lupe Vidaurri, Marcus Price, and Derrick Martin-Armstead

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GIMMIE SOME DAP

Room 404

In this workshop we will explore Dialogue Accountability Processes aka DAPs, a circle process that cultivates healing with support from the community through vulnerable face to face conversations. It is not an easy process, but it is worth it. DAPs promote owning your truths and sharing your truths by allowing opportunities for clarity and understanding, and HEALING. We will hear from a participant who lost a loved one to violence, the person responsible for the harm and the DAPs facilitator who accompanied each of them, as they share their experience navigating the process. Through a circle workshop, we will learn the ingredients of a DAP, how to create opportunities for each person to voluntarily participate and be willing to trust the process. We will demystify circle processes for serious violence - share the anatomy of a process, tools for accompanying participants, and hear examples of mistakes we made, and a call to action.

Presenters: Tyra Griffith, Matthew Murphy, and Aaron Faletogo

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TRAINING A CIRCLE KEEPER: BUILDING ABOLITIONISTS, BELOVED AND CARING COMMUNITIES THROUGH RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICE

Room 405

Restorative Justice is all about relationship building! Come build connections and community through this hands-on workshop, fully led by 11th grade students by Harvest Collegiate High School, a Title 1 public school in NYC!

Presenters: Martin Urbach, Ryan Clayton, Mbathio Mbaye, Amber Colon, Daniela De La Rosa, Tasneem Obad, Drew Horsford, Tyla Davis, Jonaaron Arnell, Henny Collado, Nicholas Romalewski, and Nico Verene

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AFFINITY HEALING CIRCLE FOR BLACK WOMEN AND BLACK MEN

Room 406

The Black Women and Black Men's Healing Circle will be an affinity space and a fish bowl circle where Black men and women (including black youth) will discuss challenges black men and women face and healing practices that strengthen affinity group members individually and collectively. Black men are invited to participate in the outer fishbowl circle to listen and respond to what comes up for them while listening to black women answer prompted questions. Black women are invited to participate in the outer fishbowl circle to listen and respond to what comes up for them while listening to black men answer prompted questions.

Presenters: Malachi Scott, Rahkii Holman, and Teiahsha Bankhead

SEEDING JUSTICE

Plenaries and Breakout Sessions

Sunday, March 26th

TREE PLANTING CEREMONY FOR KATHY BOUDIN

9:00 am
3rd Floor Patio

Please join us for a tree planting ceremony to honor Kathy's legacy at Beyond the Bars and beyond. Kathy found peace and joy in nature; let's celebrate her memory by bringing a piece of the natural world to a place so powerfully impacted by her wisdom, love labor and revolutionary zeal.

SUNDAY MORNING PLENARY

10:00 – 11:30 am

ADDRESSING CONFLICT AND HARM IN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Room 311 / 312 (Overflow in the Concourse and 4th floor)

Panelists:

Shannon Perez-Darby, Building Accountable
Communities Consortium / Just Beginnings Collaborative

John Page, Black Prisoners Caucus / The Village of Hope



Scan QR code to view all plenary speaker bios

SUNDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS: BLOCK #1

11:45 am – 1:00 pm

REFUSING THE LOGIC OF DEATH BY INCARCERATION

Room 311/312

This workshop will challenge the logic of life and long-term sentencing practices. Each workshop facilitator will share

reflections on their work and experience resisting death by incarceration. Renaldo Hudson will consider what we as a society owe the “guilty”, what the “guilty” owe society, and how we can come together to mobilize against death by incarceration. Alice Kim will discuss shifting/disrupting dominant narratives of incarceration by reflecting on the Humans of Life Row project, a collaboration with people serving life sentences in Illinois. Erica Meiners will examine registration as another form of lifetime capture for increasing numbers and the fight against registries as part of dismantling the PIC.

Presenters: Alice Kim, Renaldo Hudson, and Erica Meiners

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BUILDING YOUTH POWER ZONE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO YOUTH INCARCERATION

Room 301

To demonstrate restorative justice models for youth accountability, healing, and restoration as a way to provide real alternatives to youth incarceration and probation, while utilizing best practices and doing so in a more cost effective way than the juvenile carceral system. We recognize that incarceration perpetuates trauma on a young person, thus hindering their growth, accountability, and healing. This workshop describes healing-centered and culturally-influenced modalities with the mission of developing young leaders in their respective communities, providing a realistic alternative to youth incarceration, and eventually ending youth incarceration in California and beyond as we know it. We will share about our boldest initiative yet, the creation of the Oscar Grant Youth Power Zone that will serve as a model for other counties aiming to end youth incarceration.

Presenters: John Vasquez and Mikaela Galvis-Venegas

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LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD-NAVIGATING SPACES OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY THROUGH FELLOWSHIP AND INDIGENOUS HEALING PRACTICES

Room 302

Project Rebound uses credible messengers to assist in the transformation from pain to purpose through education as a source of healing. Project rebound students from Cal State Fullerton will model how their healing practices and approaches work toward actualization of purpose through intentional mentorship, identifying needs, and participating alongside a fellow traveler on the journey. In utilizing

indigenous approaches, we will show how and why the program works. This workshop will include: Ho'oponopono, a native Hawaiian approach to resolving conflict for collective action to support ongoing campaigns in California. Talking circle, Native American wisdom for challenging conversations, and ways to work actively and intentionally towards change for the next generation of students. The mentorship program provides regular support and fosters a healing space for students while transitioning both to California State University, Fullerton, and towards purposeful and intentional healing.

Presenters: Nohealani Casperson, Susan Owens, Gregory Richmond, and Matthew Macias

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HEALING ACROSS PRISON WALLS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE INSIDE-OUTSIDE ORGANIZING OF THE #STOPSANQUENTINOUTBREAK COALITION

Room 304

The workshop focuses on the inside-outside organizing that happened in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 inside of San Quentin State Prison, which was the largest in the US at the time and claimed the lives of 28 incarcerated people and infected over 2200 more. The film *What These Walls Won't Hold*, produced by Adamu and Rahsaan, and as a partnership across prison walls, explores not only the story of the #stopsanquentin coalition from the varying perspectives of its members, but also the possibilities of abolitionist frameworks in organizing projects that would not traditionally be thought of as abolition-centered. The film and subsequent discussion will illustrate the essential nature of relationships in abolitionist organizing, and how building solidarity across walls is key to undoing the harms of the carceral system, and nurturing sites of resistance, radical change, and collective healing.

Presenters: Adamu Chan and Rahsaan Thomas

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CHALLENGING CARCERAL REENTRY HOUSING SYSTEM AND THINKING

Room C03

This panel discussion will share about creating People First Reentry Homes that are communities of trust, vulnerability, accountability, support and autonomy. We will share our first hand experience with carceral reentry housing systems, its barriers and the learnings of how we are building reentry homes, communities, and programs that prioritize the

nurturing of human connections, based on relationships rooted in trust. These include: carceral housing and agency valued housing; building community in the home; power with/equality; management of everyday interactions; collective community, reimagined housing, ownership and stewardship of land; challenges with college; employment skills learned in prison groups are valuable; and reentry for-profit and how it is a barrier.

Presenters: Richard Cruz, Rasheed Lockheart, June Lee, David Caranza, William Lancaster, Parker Chamberlin, and Steve Hua

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SOMETHING ELSE IS POSSIBLE: RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE THAT DO NOT RELY ON POLICE AND INCARCERATION

Room C05

We know incarceration can never produce safety, causes irrevocable harm to people incarcerated and their loved ones, and does not heal survivors. We therefore see that survivors, incarcerated people and their loved ones, and communities impacted by violence have a shared stake in ending mass incarceration. Join Common Justice staff members in an interactive activity and discussion about operating an alternative to incarceration for serious and violent felonies and building the conditions to shift policy and power to genuinely foster safety, accountability, and healing.

Presenters: Tylynn Preston, Jessica Penaranda, Marquis Jenkins, Donnell Penny, and Malika Lubell-Doughtie

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SUPPORTING RIGHTEOUS ANGER!

Room C06

Participants will begin with a transformative listening experience centering the stories of mothers impacted by state violence, focusing on their journeys, managing mass media exposure, and navigating an unjust system while grieving the murder of a loved one. Then, participants will engage in an interactive activity asking them to discuss and co-create conduits of healing in alignment with the stories shared. Participants should be prepared to flex their active listening and collaboration skills.

Presenters: Jo Hanna “J” Thompson, Quincie Doucet, Emerald Garner, Darlene McDay, Tamara Carter, and Dianne Waterman

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CRAFTING COMMUNITY COURSES FOR ENVISIONING ABOLITION

Room 404

We will workshop our collaborative process for creating and teaching three courses from the Freedom & Captivity abolitionist visioning project. Our workshop offers a model for how to create community-building pedagogies of inclusivity, care, and learning. The Freedom & Captivity courses are designed by our team of incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, justice-impacted and other folks, and are taught by incarcerated facilitators to community groups. The three courses are 'Loss, Repair, and Transformation'; 'Journeys of Trauma, Healing, and Forgiveness'; and 'What is Liberation?'. Each course engages with the themes of accountability in the wake of harm, community safety, radical love, transformative justice, and abolition. We will cover the project's goals, divide into small groups to workshop the courses, and discuss challenges with this form of community outreach and organizing.

Presenters: Catherine Besteman, Erica King, Linda Small, Leo Hylton, and Brandon Brown

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BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF TJ PRAXIS

Room 405

Our workshop on building accountable community aims to explore some of the relational and collective accountability practices we developed in time practicing transformative justice. Our respective experiences practicing transformative justice in community have left us with a couple of resources that we hope will be useful to others interested in building or sustaining community grounded in accountability and abolitionist values. This workshop explores values alignment, punitive vs restorative vs transformative justice, and the distinctions between transformative conflict and punishment. This will be a highly interactive workshop that encourages participants to explore individual and collective approaches to accountability that can strengthen our communities and movements.

Presenters: Camila Pelsinger and Priya Nair

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REIMAGINING COMMUNITIES

Room 406

Reimagining Communities: Hyper local organizing within the neighborhoods most entangled in the criminal legal system. Reimagining Communities organizes in small, manageable sections of neighborhoods, that are then re-merged to build politicized, healthy, thriving neighborhoods. This hyper-local organizing serves as the infrastructure we use to also identify the women and girls in the neighborhoods and engage and organize with them to achieve the goal of healing and ending incarceration of women and girls.

Presenters: Taz Moore, Virginia Douglas, Danielle Metz, and Sharon Smith

SUNDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS: BLOCK #2

2:00 – 3:15 pm

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INDIGENOUS DISPUTE RESOLUTION- PASSING THE BASKET

Room 311/312

Indigenous dispute resolution, including peacemaking, will be shared from a diverse unique tribal perspective. The importance of using core values, indigenous language, the power of the circle and customary law in a contemporary context will set the foundation for this session. Also, an overview of a “gentle action” theory as an option to be used with the prison population and re/entry will be woven into the presentation.

Presenters: Christy Chapman, Esq. (Zuni Pueblo), Rainey Enjady, MA (Mescalero Apache), Carma Cocoran, PhD. (Chippewa-Cree)

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MAMA GLO’S HEALING CIRCLE

Room 301

Gloria “Mama Glo” Williams, was the longest incarcerated woman in Louisiana’s history (52 years). Released in January, 2022, through huge support from multiple realms, including her family, PDMNOLA, VOTE, The Graduates, PJI, and individuals at LCIW, she has found her first year of re-entry very challenging. Using her life’s journey with Louisiana’s criminal

legal system as a way to talk about her own relationship to healing and justice, we invite people into a conversation about what “old school” looks like in “Seeding Justice.” “I would like to bring awareness to what our organizations are trying to achieve; to how incarceration can destroy or build; and how that person will use that incarceration to improve themselves and help others, through listening and problem solving.”--MamaGlo

Presenters: Gloria Dean “Mama Glo” Williams, Kathy Randels, Mary Smith-Moore, and members of The Graduates

PRACTICING WITH CARE: NAVIGATING THROUGH TRAUMA, THE LAW AND OURSELVES

Room 302

Legal tools have proven themselves to be vastly inadequate when attempting to educate and shift broader consciousness about the historical and structural inequities faced by Black and brown people. Additionally, the tools needed for addressing and healing from the traumas caused by the dissonance between legal theory and the individual and collective lived experience of oppressed peoples are often not part of a lawyer’s practice. In this workshop, we will address how lawyers can use the tools of their practice, in addition to restorative justice and other trauma-informed frameworks, to better support the communities and people that they work with.

Presenters: Denise Gharthey

LIBERATORY AND HEALING PRACTICES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF CARCERAL FACILITIES

Room 304

An experiential workshop that explores the various practical applications of mindfulness and Buddhist practices in the incarceration system, and an overview of how and why the transformative and healing practices can contribute to greater systemic change. Boundless Freedom Project staff and facilitators offer insight from their direct experiences with incarceration, finding liberation, and creating a wave of transformation and healing justice. The main goal of this workshop is to share about the transformative experience of learning about Buddhism, meditation, and mindfulness while being incarcerated. Our team has direct experience of incarceration, liberation, and Buddhist practitioners and facilitators, how a spiritual path was practiced with life sentences, and the necessary and unique benefits of having

formerly incarcerated community members facilitating programs on mindfulness inside carceral facilities.

Presenters: Tony Wallin-Sato, Ayla Benjamin, Eric Clark, Edwin Paragas, and Nhut Vo

FUMBLING TOWARDS REPAIR - A SKILL-SHARE

Room C03

Fumbling Toward Repair is a workbook by Mariame Kaba and Shira Hassan that includes reflection questions, skill assessments, facilitation tips, helpful definitions, activities, and hard-learned lessons intended to support people who have taken on the coordination and facilitation of formal community accountability (CA) processes to address interpersonal harm and violence. If you have used the workbook in your CA work, join co-author Mariame Kaba who will offer a couple of resources to add to your facilitator toolkit. Mariame will guide participants through these tools which are not included in the workbook and that she has found useful in her practice. Participants are invited to bring their own resources, tools, and skills to share as well.

Presenters: Mariame Kaba

HUMAN AND HEALING JUSTICE APPROACH TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Room C05

This workshop will enable the audience to identify systematic racism crossing multiple sectors while providing a historical lens into the current conditions that underserved marginalized communities currently face.

Presenters: K. Bain

BLACK BENJIE VIVE

Room C06

We are a group of Bronx middle school students dedicated to learning and teaching others about Cornell “Black Benjie” Benjamin, the martyred peace ambassador for The Ghetto Brothers street gang. In this workshop, we share the story and lessons of “Black Benjie” life and death. While exploring the history of young Black and Brown Bronx residents as peacemakers, we claim our right to their legacy and consider how to build peace and justice in the Bronx today. Participants

will also learn about our successful campaign to get the street Black Benjie was killed on co-named for him and participate in a community art project for the inauguration event.

Presenters: Bonnie Massey and middle school students from the Black Benjie Legacy Project

EMBRACING TENSION: SCALING SYSTEM AND COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

Room 404

The work of scaling and sustaining viable community justice strategies demands that we interface with systems, which is fraught with challenges. Join Yolanda Johnson Peterkin, longtime Beyond the Bars emcee and her colleagues from the Center for Effective Public Policy to acknowledge tensions of working in and with systems and lean into possibilities of developing shared strategies to accelerate change. This session will focus on identifying strategies that advance racial, gender and class equity in the pretrial, community supervision, and reentry space. This roundtable session will inform the creation of practical tools and resources to improve safety and well-being.

Presenters: Erica King, Keilah Joyner, and Yolanda Johnson Peterkin

SHUT DOWN ATTICA

Room 405

This workshop will focus on full closure of Attica Correctional Facility and the path to this victorious outcome. In the form of an interactive panel discussion with directly impacted panelists and activists, participants will learn about the traumatic and horrific past of Attica, the current punitive and unacceptable conditions, the overall path and extensive plans for the successful closure of the facility, and local community impact and future projections. This movement to indefinitely close Attica is a preliminary step to cultivating healing, holding the NYSDOCCS and NYS government accountable, and to begin a process of transformation for the people and families directly impacted by the harmful carceral system. Workshop participants will have an overall opportunity to take action and get involved.

Presenters: Aqirah Stanley, Lumumba Akinwole-Bande, Tyrrell Muhammad, and Tyrone Larkins

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BEYOND MANDATED REPORTING: KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE

Room 406

Mandated reporting is a legal requirement imposed on most social service, medical, and education professionals who work with children and families, with the stated intention of identifying, treating, and preventing child abuse or neglect. Decades of research, as well as narratives by impacted individuals, have demonstrated that mandated reporting disproportionately impacts Black and Indigenous families, policing and funneling them into a punitive and traumatic system. Through an abolitionist and community-centered framework, this workshop encourages attendees to grapple with the harms of mandated reporting. Using large and small group discussions and reflective exercises, participants will develop a toolbox of skills, resources, and strategies needed to push against harmful reporting norms and organizational policies and instead build anti-carceral family safety and stability practices.

Presenters: Ayla Gelsing, Talia Gruber, Jasmine Wali, and Eleni Zimiles

SUNDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS: BLOCK #3

3:30 – 4:45 pm

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SERUDJ MA'AT (RESTORE HEALING AND BALANCE) WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

Room 311/312

As HOLLA! and NHC have journeyed, in this movement, we have seen where harm, within the movement, goes unaddressed, unresolved and have detrimental impact on individuals, organizations and the movement itself. We recognize the need for a pedagogy of healing within the current social justice movement. This circle will focus on the need to build a collective, within the movement, focused on healing within and across organizations and the country.

Presenters: H.O.L.L.A! And the National Healing Collective

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SEEDING RESTORATIVE COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Room 301

Since 2015, RJJ has been convening diverse stakeholders in order to foster collaboration and collective action across sectors to end mass incarceration, disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, and create a more just and equitable city. In 2022 we began piloting a Cohort-based Learning Model based on the understanding that restorative justice is a holistic practice, rather than a set of tools used to build a program. In this workshop we will share the origins and current iterations of this model. We will explore what we have learned about how to move individuals and organizations from interest in restorative justice to readiness to practice. We will discuss how to sustain ongoing communities of practice through peer support and mentorship. And we will invite participants to envision their own restorative communities of practice where they live, work and play.

Presenters: Anooj Bhandari and Melissa Centeno

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ENGAGING MEN WHO HAVE CAUSED HARM

Room 302

This workshop builds off a series of workshops that were developed in and around Boston starting in 2018 to support people who want to do community accountability/TJ work with men who have caused harm. We'll engage participants in reflective elements of the workshop, teach core skills, and share frameworks as well as lessons learned from the workshops we facilitated.

Presenters: Martin Henson and Michael Martin

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LIBERATION MUSIC THERAPY: AN EMANCIPATORY PRACTICE TO COMMUNITY MUSIC-MAKING, HEALING, AND REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE

Room 304

We developed this work while serving the people in custody at Rikers Island, where we became acutely aware of the difficulties of connecting with underserved communities, especially youth, and how the system did not meet their needs. We identified a need to offer culturally relevant programming for the people we served, applying music as a technology to communicate with their deeper unconscious and mend unresolved trauma repressed within the psyche. This workshop explores the

fundamentals of liberation music therapy--a philosophical orientation that integrates indigenous traditions, music therapy pedagogy, and liberation psychological theory to challenge the status quo. Building on the interconnectedness of culture, psyche, self, community, and art, workshop participants of all ages will employ music to build meaningful relationships, addressing relational, experiential, and generational trauma from living under oppressive societal conditions.

Presenters: DeMarisa Steeley and Dorian Wallace

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JUSTICE AND HEALING WILL GROW FROM THE ASHES OF THE PRISONS

Room C03

We will analyze ways to move from punishment to healing using community outreach and support strategies to undermine key pillars of the racist punishment system. We aim to organize participants to join us in our work against mass incarceration and towards healing, and support groups using other strategies that support our collective goals. We will discuss how on-the-ground organizing and building power from the ground up is key to attacking parts of the racist power system.

Presenters: Jose Saldana and TeAna Taylor

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HEALING MENTAL HEALTH IS HEALING COMMUNITIES

Room C05

Addressing mental health concerns in justice impacted people is a movement and should be highlighted as one way to seed justice. One approach is mental health justice as a vehicle for healing communities. The conference theme's guiding questions reflect the need for individuals to take up approaches in their own communities and evaluate what is working and what else is needed. This workshop will focus on how Hour Children inside and in the community is working for women and hear from a participant about how communities like Hour Children can better serve. We will also review how these approaches help to address conflict and harm.

Presenters: Alethea Taylor and Rubernette Chavis

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THE POWER OF POLICY BY PROXIMITY AN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP WITH THE JUSTICE AMBASSADORS YOUTH COUNCIL

Room C06

Modern approaches to system reform and community change have traditionally functioned in silos: government agencies don't involve community members in policy development and community organizations and many Non-Profits rarely work with government agencies because of their histories of displacement, marginalization, and racially disparate outcomes. Justice Ambassadors bridges this divide between government and communities through our model of 'policy-by-proximity' which centers the voices, experiences, and expertise of historically oppressed communities while allowing Black and Brown folks from New York Cities' most underrepresented communities to directly advise policy change in the city.

Project Restore Bedstuy is a youth-led community-focused initiative that originated from the 2nd cohort of the Justice Ambassadors that aims to address gun violence in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn, NY with young men who are a part of a street formation and/or street crew. This interactive workshop will offer lessons and practices we have learned in developing and realizing both the Justice Ambassadors and Project Restore Bedstuy.

Presenters: UniQue Starks and Tyler Campbell

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RESTORATIVE AND HEALING-CENTERED PRACTICES IN BUILDING COMMUNITY

Room 404

Our workshop will provide an overview of Restorative Response Baltimore's approach to restorative practices, healing-centered engagement, and conflict resolution as tools for liberation and community building. The main goal of this session is to provide a foundational understanding of what a shift away from traditional and punitive models of community towards a restorative practices model of community actually looks like, and to identify the practical skills we need in order to build relationships that sustain that kind of community. This will be a space for folks to take a personal inventory of their own approaches to conflict and relationships, and how they can play a role in system transformation.

Presenters: Aazia-Marie Ross and Maisie Forland

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PROSECUTORS AND PRISONS AREN'T FEMINIST: LESSONS FROM CRIMINALIZED SURVIVOR SUPPORT AND DEFENSE ORGANIZING

Room 405

While carceral feminism promotes the dangerous idea that “reformed” courtrooms, jails and prisons are the solutions to keep survivors and communities safe, thousands of survivors are trapped and retraumatized in these institutions everyday. Many more people are made survivors by the violence experienced while incarcerated. Using an abolitionist lens, this workshop will uplift the lived-experiences and lessons learned from formerly-incarcerated survivors and inside/outside organizers on community defense and support teams. Organizers from #StandWithTracy, #FreeAssia and other support teams will explore the intersections of criminalization, racialized and gendered violence, and how criminal legal and immigration systems make everyone less safe. Participants will explore tips to push back on copaganda and survivor-blaming and strategies for being in solidarity with survivors and criminalized people in their own communities.

Presenters: Samah Sisay plus members of Survived and Punished

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JUSTICE FROM WITHIN: PRACTICES FOR MINDFULNESS AND EMBODIMENT

Room 406

Please join us for a healing centered session of mindfulness practices (body movement, pranayama/breathwork, and meditation) to ground ourselves. Leading this session remotely from the Maine State Prison, Lalee will create a space where we connect other mission (s) and within ourselves through our utmost teacher for struggles and success we encounter; that is our inner teacher. This session will focus on mindfully healing ourselves and communities through our stories: the ones we tell ourselves and those implied about us by others.

Presenters: Abdi (Lalee) Awad, Swathi Sivasubramanian, and Erica King

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