Beyond the Bars

Women Transcending Collective Leadership Celebration

Honoring the Leadership of Women Impacted by Incarceration

Thursday, April 4, 2024
The Schomburg Center, New York City
About the Women Transcending Collective Leadership Institute (CLI)

The Women Transcending Collective Leadership Institute is a one year leadership development program for formerly incarcerated and directly impacted women across the nation. CLI offers leadership development that includes: capacity building, legislative and advocacy tools, community organizing, and communication skills. We also include sessions on connecting the history of different women’s movements, healing practices, and participatory action research throughout the year. It is inspired by our radical hope to strengthen and expand our leadership and capacity that contributes to the growing women’s justice movement.

About Right/Write to Heal (RWH)

The Right/Write to Heal: Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women in Their Own Voices is an initiative with the Center for Justice at Columbia University and incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women in New York and Maine where we encourage women to write and share their own stories. RWH aims to humanize the individual and collective experiences of women, share how incarceration has impacted lives, families, and communities, and change the narrative on how people understand the impact of criminalization on women. We see art as a form of activism to grow and solidify our collective imagination for a more just world.
Program:

Welcome

Batalá New York and CLI Procession

Opening: Land Acknowledgment

Tribute and Legacy: Chesa Boudin

Celebrate the Life of Judith Johnson: Tammara McCoy

Call to Action #1: Fox Rich

Performance by Right/Write to Heal: Why Women, Why Now

WTCLI Cohort 5 Graduation

The Tree of Life Ceremony

Performance by Kierah “Kiki” King: Black Women Why?

Call to Action #2: National Council March on Washington - Andrea James

Welcome and Introduction of Incoming CLI Cohort 6

Closing Performance Batalá New York
Graduating Cohort:

Abigail Cook, Georgia
Anita Robinson, Arkansas
Ayana Thomas, New Jersey
Carla Taylor, Georgia
Danielle Donaphin, New York
Dijon McCoy, New York
Ghania Miller, New York
Kimberly Woodson, Michigan
Latanya Pierce, New Jersey
Lauren Johnson, Texas
Leah Faria, New York
Linda Small, Maine
Marquitta Rucker, Georgia
Minerva Pasqual, New York
Naquasia Pollard, New York
Natatasha White, Virginia
Patricia Berger, Missouri
Ruby Welch, Arkansas
Sharon McKinney, Texas
Vanessa Garrett, Georgia
Incoming Cohort:

Barbara Ornelas, Texas
Chermaine Black, Pennsylvania
Dara Baldwin, Washington D.C.
India Johnson, Maryland
Janet Hughes, California
Jessica Drew Umberger, Georgia
Justine Taz Moore, New York
Katrina Butler, Georgia
Lisa Guss, Alabama
Maria Morris, Oklahoma
Marion Rodriguez, Texas
Marsha King, Virginia
Melinda Johnson, California
Michelle Daniel Jones, Indiana
Noreen Mcclendon, California
Sannecia Davis, Arkansas
Sappho Fulton, Pennsylvania
Susannah Bannon, Texas
Tammara McCoy, New York
Traletta Banks, North Carolina
Virginia Douglas, New Jersey
Special Thanks To:

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Center for Justice Advisory Board
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Special thanks and appreciation to all of the people who participated in making our Collective Leadership Institute and our 14th Annual Beyond the Bars Conference possible.