Transitions Network Gathering

February 11-15, 2019

Hosted by
Movement Strategy Center
Santa Ana (Tamaya)
Pueblo, New Mexico
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Introduction

How do we transition from a world of domination, extraction and violence, to one of interdependence, regeneration and love?

- Transitions Initiative Guiding Question

2019-2021 is a crucial moment in our 100 year journey from a world of domination and extraction to a world of resilience, regeneration, and interdependence. Over the next three years, the residents of the United States—those who vote, those who don’t, those who can’t—will define the narrative, policies, and resources of governance that will impact this generation and beyond.

To seize this moment—grounded in our practices of bold, audacious vision, deep embodiment, radical connection and strategic navigation, MSC invited Transitions Community members to co-create and advance transformative experiments that would catalyze collective strategy for deep & broad impact over the next three years. Together we asked: “If we are serious about the Transitions Inquiry, let’s go big! What must our collective work might that look like in the next three years and beyond?”

This Transitions Network Gathering took place on February 2019, with 50 movement leaders from across the country coming together at the Tamaya (Santa Ana) Pueblo, New Mexico. Core to the Transitions Initiative is the centering of systems and culture change leaders whose history and present day experiences with race, gender and economic oppression offer insights and practices necessary for the future of the world. These movement leaders at the gathering were therefore predominantly people of color – Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Arab -- unleashing powerful transformative strategy in all sectors of social change.

This Gathering was a “homecoming” for many who have taken part in Transitions Community labs, gatherings, and collaborations over the past five years. And, as always, new friends were welcomed into the Transitions Community. Each came with their own hopes and intentions for what they would find in the Gathering:
Introduction

Through the beauty of the MSC spirit and the skilled facilitation that embodies love, I’m hoping to learn some ways to truly have a networked strategy for transformation led by the very groups whose histories and trauma and need for healing needs to be very carefully and intentionally navigated.

—Jacqui Patterson, Environmental and Climate Justice  NAACP

The process, relationships, conversations and explorations that happen in the Labs are incredibly meaningful and have over the last two years really helped me understand how to create conditions for transformation in my work.

—Nayantara Sen, Race Forward

Transitions Strategy Labs have been instrumental in our cultural shift work - from the We Choose All of Us to our youth organizing work to our storytelling strategies. The opportunity to build relationships with extraordinary leaders around the country as well as with the MSC staff has been so valuable in increasing the impact of our work in Idaho.

—Kelly Miller, We Choose All of Us (Idaho)

The Gathering grew from the many ways the Transitions Network is already awakening and galvanizing cultural and structural shifts towards real solutions that embody future vision and values. Transitions Community members are: building political power that centers young people and women of color...nurturing ancestral traditions in food, dance, and song...building the capacity for community-driven governance... engaging communities in producing art and poetry that generates vision... experimenting with new economic mechanisms for Just Transition... transforming the future of public education; building strategy through the entry point of popular culture...organizing towards a clean energy future ... and more. Through the Gathering these diverse movement leaders deepened their shared sense of purpose, vision, and strategy.
OBJECTIVES OF THE GATHERING

- Explore who and how we want to be together as a network
- Affirm the core DNA of our community
- Share Purpose: explore a North Star constellation to guide us
- Explore the Emergent Direction and Priorities of the Network
- To gather transitions learnings to maximize powerful collective purpose and experiments over the next 3 years.
### Gathering at a Glance

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The Transitions Community gathered at the Tamaya (Santa Ana) Pueblo at the feet of the sacred Sandia mountains, a stone’s throw from the vast Rio Grande. We were welcomed by Transitions Community members from local indigenous nations: Warren (from Tamaya/Kahpo Owingeh pueblos), Jacyln (Diné), Joseph (Hopi and Laguna), and Kathy (Tewa) with water, herbs, and blue corn bread.

We learned that there are 19 recognized Pueblos in New Mexico, and each Pueblo is a sovereign nation. Before colonization, their homelands reached much farther, into what is now Colorado and Arizona. Peoples from this region fought to preserve their cultural and spiritual identities and ways of being despite colonization by multiple forces, most prominently in the 1619 Pueblo Revolt.

We honor the peoples of this land and offer gratitude for their fierce stewardship of this place called home for thousands of years despite multiple colonizations. We honor the participation and support of the land itself in our gathering, thanking the earth, water, plants, elements, and animals that quietly supported us during this gathering.
By telling the story of seven generations before us and seven generations after us, we reclaim who we really are and what we can become. In the gathering Zen priest and political strategist Norma Wong shared a story on the first day of our gathering to help us remember our own ancestral ties that may have been cut. Through story we saw a glimpse of how it is possible to heal the traumas of the past by creating the future that we envision now.
NORMA’S STORY: FEBRUARY TRANSITIONS GATHERING

"Keapoa, Na pali! Hoa Haka! Aloha!
My people are of the soil of the land
of Hawaii of the wind of the sea.
I am of the generation for whom the
chord was language cut
and we learned to be sad for what we lost.

We, the generation who lost the language were the ones who
brought it back.

Except for in the songs she taught my father
until 2 weeks before she past, she did not speak
our native language.

Even in English, if you could think in the language of your people, you could bring out things in people.

Through organizing through politics

We had an instinct that within the language were ways of thinking and being

We were met by Desmond Tutu who welcomed us as the youngest indigenous people, by the oldest.

Through we may have placed by force in one place or another been
we have always

Though we may

I think of indigenous in this way: all people who live on this earth
people who called themselves that were only recently interrupted
3-Year Horizon

OUR DEEPEST LONGINGS IN THE NEXT 3 YEARS...

Taking in the breathtaking Sandia mountain horizon, we each contemplated the question: “Where do you long for us to be, 3 years from now?” “What is your wildest dream and secret desire?”

The following pages are our answered, clustered by theme. Feel free to reach into these as a beautiful bank of ideas for near-term experiments!
"We all will be empowered to make decisions for the collective good."

"Congress is \( \frac{2}{3} \) progressive women of color"

Network of 10 Freedom Cities and 20 liberated zones are refuge and living inspiration for honoring spirit and the sacred.

People across many states have co-created a people centered governance worldview laying out a 30 year path to power

Black and indigenous women are powerfully and visually leading the revolution in values
in the next 3 Years...

- 50% reduction in prison beds/prison population everywhere
- Strategic planning underway to decarcerate completely
- Full freedom of movement & open “borders”
- Full confidence in our joyful capacity to reclaim governance to be co-creators of our own destinies
- Reclaiming, resisting and remaining
VISIONS FOR WAY OF BEING in the next 3 Years...

Children reconnecting to our songs, chants, history and place

Every black child is able to express joy in public without fear

Every human has a baseline feeling of sustained joy fueled by love, community, self-determination, opportunity, wellness and unimaginable possibility

Collective humanity and relationship to earth re-membered by enough people [500,000] and connected to each other

More ethical, joyful, embodied expression/examples of gender + gender justice activism that is shifting power

in the next 3 Years...
VISIONS FOR WAY OF WORKING
in the next 3 Years...

People understand their value and strength and place within community

Community organizations truly stand in alignment of values and support of each other

*Indigenous* narrative at the forefront of all questions and solutions
VISIONS FOR HOW WE ORGANIZE

in the next 3 Years...

Transnational peer learning and support for q and trans human rights advances

Joint, collaboration visioning and action between q and tran rights work: Trust, mutual support, practice of leadership

Thousands of communities of purpose and practice embodying spirit and connection through stories and art
VISIONS FOR ECOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS in the next 3 Years...

Our waters and land will be free

We will create life in honor of spirit and the sacrifices of our ancestors

We will return to nature and live glocally = no fossil fuels and carbon emissions

People see past the fear of climate change to the possibility of creating new systems

The earth and all being will be tended to

People are building real connections to help weather the transition

Just Transition is on the lips of every leader. All arms and militaries will disappear, nobody will go hungry, prisons will sink into the earth

Our waters and land will be free
VI S I O N S  F O R  F O O D ,  W A T E R  A N D  L A N G U A G E

in the next 3 Years...

Thinking in Tewa speak from heartfelt messaging

Transportation without outside sourcing

Youth energetic energy to be sharing and caring and seed savers

Fluidity of Tewa language

I will be able to travel freely in mind, heart and spirit yet rooted in Tewa tradition of tele migration
Unbridled access to ceremonial knowledge for Dine youth

Values that connect mind, body, spirit and community/relationship are at the center of mainstream American culture

in the next 3 Years...
Communities engaged in conversations about the historical roots of extraction in the formation of racial monopoly capitalism.

Visions for Reparation and Sankofa in the next 3 Years...

Theories and practice on ecological and economic production that is sustainable, regenerative and resilient.
3 Year Horizon for... Reparations & Sankofa

CALVIN

SANKOFA RENAISSANCE

WHAT
A MOVEMENT OF "CULTURAL MEMORY CENTERS"
ACROSS THE DIASPORA THAT PROVIDE SPACE
AND RESOURCES AND RELATIONSHIPS
FOR AFRO FUTURISTS/CREATIVE WORLDBUILDERS

FOR WHOM

TO DESIGN IMMERSIVE "DREAM LABS"
FOR LIBERATION ACROSS THE DIASPORA
[OAKLAND, CARIBBEAN, BRAZIL, GHANA...]

TO DO WHAT

WHERE

WHY

THAT CREATES SOCIAL, POLITICAL, SPIRITUAL
AND ECONOMIC PLATFORMS FOR CULTURAL
POWERS TOWARD HEALING, LIBERATION & REPARATION

TAG LINE
"DREAM LABS AS A PORTAL FOR ALL A THOUSAND RETURNS"
[A PROJECT OF WAKANDA DREAMLAB]
VISIONS FOR NARRATIVE & STORYTELLING

in the next 3 Years...

7 generation stories of recovery and breakthrough

Community of purpose out into the world centering new ways of being and ways of knowing

Story hub with stories of our shared humanity

Pathways for recovering indigeneity, & right relationship
VISIONS FOR SACRED ECONOMY
in the next 3 Years...

⅓ of our constituents are operating new economy visions

Unified global resource sharing

100% free college & affordable tuition

Electric cars

⅓ of our constituents are actively working to deconstruct capitalism in some way

⅓ of our constituents are questioning capitalism

100+ foundation staff and 10 institutional philanthropies deploying more capital to movement controlled economic vehicles
Visions for Placed-Based Transition in the next 3 Years...

- Prisons shut down and repurposed as libraries.
- Growing our own sources of food from the seeds of our ancestors.
- Three regions would be in strategic alignment towards a holistic Just Transition vision in alignment with the priorities of those most marginalized.
- Collective community centers/healing centers for women/children.
- Serious move away from fossil fuels to renewable energy for our transportation and daily life.
- Regime falls in Syria. We return. We do sacred healing ceremonies on the land, start to rehabilitate and build from the destruction.
- Build my capacity and capacity of Syrian people to be healers in my community.
- Floating fantasy solutionatones are providing dreaming and scheming space in Bulbancha, Bengal and Bonken.
Each of us came in to this gathering in the midst of an “experiment” that is working towards the transition we wish to see, from culture shift to intergenerational healing to redefining philanthropy to freedom of migration to community-driven land stewardship and beyond. Throughout the course of the gathering, we took time and space to brainstorm new potential experiments and synergies that we might undertake together towards our North Stars.
“Purpose” is our motivating force and unique contribution towards Vision. “Vision” is where we want to go beyond the current horizon--it is the transformed world we want to create. Zen priest and political strategist Norma Wong uses the metaphor of the “North Star” to help us understand Purpose. Like a North Star, Purpose is directionally orienting. It guides us towards our Vision; if we are clear on our purpose, we can go back to it to guide us as we face choice points and crossroads on the journey toward our vision.

At this gathering, we invited the network to explore a purpose “constellation.” We don’t all need consensus on a singular purpose; instead, there may be multiple “stars” in relationship with each other, that together guide us towards our shared vision.
WE REMEMBER!
and listen to the old beings

Recognize the
SPIRIT, LIFE, and BEAUTY of ALL Things

From PEACE to PEACE

Follow the TRAIL of LIGHT

Center

Joy
Liberation
of Black & Indigenous Peoples

Balance

Right Relationship

between the peoples of the world

Listen to the
Gifts & Presence
of the most vulnerable people

Restoring Right Relationship to
MOTHER EARTH
and all beings

Restore the divine feminine

Acknowledging the
Inherent Wholeness of All People
CALVIN’S NORTH STAR SHARE

Towards what END? Purpose?

If you keep walking and you know where you’re going, you’ll get there eventually.

Centering the joy, harm + healing + reparations for Black + Indigenous people on this land.

thinking about the simultaneity of time. Facing the rising sun, our New Day’s begun.

This is a time of return for many diasporic Africans. (c.1619, earliest documented enslaving ships.) What’s the 400 year dream of liberation? If a dream is a portal to our ancestors + a portal for RETURN S
Prototyping Bold Action

The gathering was a space to create bold near-term action that accelerates Transition. In small teams we generated key design questions for the coming three years—such as “How might we inform the 2020 election narrative?”—and created “prototype” models for exciting experiments that address the questions with actionable vision. By using design thinking—a form of rapidly generating ideas that helps to unleash our imaginations and interrupt overthinking—we broke through current conditions to new possibilities. Guided by our long term purpose constellation we generated 3 year experiments that teams can move forward autonomously, in collective and impactful synergy.

We hope that people will continue to engage in their prototyped experiments and let us know how we might support their evolution. MSC staff is available to support in reconvening experiment groups and exploring with you the evolution of the experiments.
Best function of Transitions Community & Transitions Ecosystem → where are we experimenting with governing with sacred principles → develop online survey

- Let function define form
- Relationality → see what practice is underway ---> become connective tissue
- See what form is needed to accelerate etc.
- Give people the opportunity to define what sacred governance is
- Separate track for tribal governance
- Pooling/redistributing resources
- Having a seed fund that we can share
- Revolving resources
- Alternative method of resourcing
Design Question: How might we inform the 2020 election narrative?
Using the frame of Sacred Governance.
We believe all is sacred
A pop up art exhibit to invite people to engage in an immersive experience
Virtual elements
Physical elements
Guided story circle
Like a Transitions Pokemon using the Wallame App
The aim is to create portals between communities
- Request to resource a movement owned platform that has similar functions
Manifest & model:
- Grounding in place, youth & elders, the places that we are
- Create in those places cultural work, art → amplify what is coming from grounding and creating

Internal:
- Develop incubation membranes (Kathy) grounded in home, our communities etc.
- Transitions Community network & survey
- Online space for sharing

External:
- Stories share
- Vision-based hashtag
- Incubation share
- Seed trickster praxis
- Create opportunities/space for cross pollination between communities grounded in place - centering plant medicines and local cultures & community solutions
COMMUNITY OF PURPOSE & PRACTICE THROUGH STORYTELLING | PROTOTYPE

Group members: Mimi, Kelly, Tannia, Kristen, Malia, Estefania, Annika

- Poetry
- A guidebook of 20 - 30 practices for establishing a Community of Practice
  - Yearning: A platform/ways to share across the network - --> Mycelium
What if we resourced--centered--trusted local healing/liberation autonomous black & indigenous spaces already existing in the Transitions Community?

• Need to honor and center those places
• This is our North Star
• Menominee Nation - already deep wisdom and work on healing & liberation in place
• Need a shared commitment to that

Group members: Julie, Guy, Abby, Maxine, Anasa
Farasha Sisters

Group members: Weyam, Banah, Nadia

- Healing tribe of traveling bandits & witches
- Undercover healers
- Beads, beads & wings
- Curating spaces, archives, honoring creativity as sacred
- Digital community - Femmefesto
- Longer view
- Place-based, butterfly gardens for grieving and healing
- Save seeds, medicinal plants, connection to ancestors

“Farasha
sisters femmefesto

The Manifestation of Divine Attributes through the feminine form of humanity reached its culmination in the one who does not fit into any books or word; the majestic Fatima, may the secret of her union with Allah be revealed & replicated in all hearts”

“Wherein we honor mothers, the divine feminine & its attributes in all creation

Wherein we honor the wisdom of our ancestors & the earth & the cosmos

Wherein we believe in the inherent wholeness & oneness of all beings

Wherein we believe in the power of community to reflect wholeness back to itself & heal & remember”
Thank you, friends!