



# *Transitions Network Gathering*

**FEBRUARY 11-15, 2019**

Hosted by  
**Movement  
Strategy Center**

Santa Ana (Tamaya)  
Pueblo, New Mexico



# Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 3 **Gathering Objectives**
- 4 Gathering at a Glance
- 5 **Honoring People & Place**
- 6 **7 Generation Story Sharing**
- 10 **3 Year Horizon & Vision**
- 25 Transitions Experiments
- 27 **Purpose Constellation**
- 32 Prototyping
- 39 **List of Participants**



# 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

## DAY 1

### WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?

Connecting

Honoring land & people, honoring and inviting in the magic of New Mexico

Opening our Space

Touchstone Practices

Our Shared Story

Norma Wong 7 Generations Story

## DAY 2

### WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Assessing learning from Transitions Community experiments.

Landscaping current moment (now through the next 3 years)

3-year horizon: Where do we long to be, 3 years from now?

## DAY 3:

### WHERE MIGHT WE GO?

Collective purpose constellation for this Network

Ideation: design specific experiments that this network could undertake together in a distributed, self-activated way

Prototyping: Design of specific experiments that this network could undertake

## DAY 4:

### SO, WHAT?

Experiment Share and Resonance Check

Practice & Action Commitments

Closing Circle



## HONORING PEOPLE & LAND

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), Jaclyn (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.





## *7-Generation Story Sharing*

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

"Koopaa  
Na poai  
Inoa 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



my grandmother was the last to speak our native language - she had to give it up except

except for in the SONGS she taught my father



until 2 weeks before she passed, she did not speak her native language



and we learned to be SAD for what we lost

We, the generation who lost the language were the ones who BROUGHT IT BACK

We, the generation who was cut off could TIE the chord again



we had an INSTINCT that within the language were ways of thinking + being

so we REVIVED the language from 8,000 native speakers to 40,000 (half of whom were under 18)

Even in ENGLISH, if you could THINK in the language of your people, you could bring out things in



people from around the WORLD



our people are the world's YOUNGEST indigenous people

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

though we may have placed by forces in one place or another been we have always

MIGRANTS

think of Indigeneity in this way: all people who live on this EARTH are indigenous - those who call themselves that were only recently interrupted

for the people whose INDIGENITY was recently interrupted: we turn to the memory of our CELLS and ask: what does it mean to us?



if our indigeneity weren't interrupted, our people would have emerged from the forest + said "open the window in the steel cage you're in!"

even if you can't reclaim your indigeneity

you can still RECLAIM your original self

bringing back into reunion who you originally were

to know there were 7 generations before + 7 generations after that's only 140 years ago (that's not that long)

80 yrs, 60 yrs, 40 yrs, 20 yrs think of the decisions that people made years before



they are counting on us!

If we have a dream of an emergent world and we are connected to the earth + all its being then we have to OWN UP to reconnecting to an ancient wisdom

Not as a CONCEPT

but placed in the MIDDLE of the ARC

So, what do we do in the

PARADOX of TIME: SPACE





# *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!



# VISIONS FOR GOVERNANCE

*in the next 3 Years...*

"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

# VISIONS FOR SOVEREIGNTY

*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...*

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

Children reconnecting to our songs, chants, history and place

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

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

# 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

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

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

The earth and all being will be tended to

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

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

People are building real connections to help weather the transition

# VISIONS FOR FOOD, WATER AND LANGUAGE

*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

# VISIONS FOR CULTURE

*in the next 3 Years...*

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

Unbridled access to ceremonial knowledge for Dine youth

# VISIONS FOR REPARATION AND SANKOFA

*in the next 3 Years...*

Communities engaged in conversations about the historical roots of extraction in the formation of racial monopoly capitalism

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 WHOM → FOR AFRO FUTURISTS / CREATIVE WORLD BUILDERS
- TO DO → TO DESIGN IMMERSIVE "DREAM LABS"  
WHAT → FOR LIBERATION ACROSS THE DIASPORA  
[LOAKLAND, CARRIBEAN, BRAZIL, GHANA...]
- WHERE → THAT CREATES SOCIAL, POLITICAL, SPIRITUAL  
WHY → AND ECONOMIC PLATFORMS FOR CULTURAL  
POWERS TOWARD HEALING, LIBERATION & REPARATION

TAG LINE

"DREAM LABS AS A PORTAL FOR ~~A~~ 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...*

1/3 of our constituents are operating new economy visions

Unified global resource sharing

100% free college & affordable tuition

1/3 of our constituents are actively working to deconstruct capitalism in some way

Electric cars

100+ foundation staff and 10 institutional philanthropies deploying more capital to movement controlled economic vehicles

1/3 of our constituents are questioning capitalism

# VISIONS FOR PLACED-BASED TRANSITION

*in the next 3 Years...*

Floating fantasy solutionatones are providing dreaming and scheming space in Bulbancha, Bengal and Bonken

Build my capacity and capacity of Syrian people to be healers in my community

Regime falls in syria. We return. We do sacred healing ceremonies on the land, start to rehabilitate and build from the destruction

Prisons shut down and repurposed as libraries.

Growing our own sources of food from the seeds of our ancestors

Serious move away from fossil fuels to renewable energy for our transportation and daily life

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







# *Purpose Constellation*

## **WHAT IS THE CONSTELLATION OF RELATED PURPOSES THAT GUIDE US?**

“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.





# CALVIN'S NORTH STAR SHARE

Towards what?  
END?  
PURPOSE

centering joy + harm  
+ healing + reparations  
for BLACK  
+ INDEGENOUS  
people on this land

if you keep  
where you're  
walking and you know  
going, you'll get there  
eventually



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  
(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 1000  
**RETURNS**





# 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.





# INFORMING THE ELECTION NARRATIVE

## PROTOTYPE

*Group members: Terry, Calvin, Rufaro, Addison, Scott, Danita*

- 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



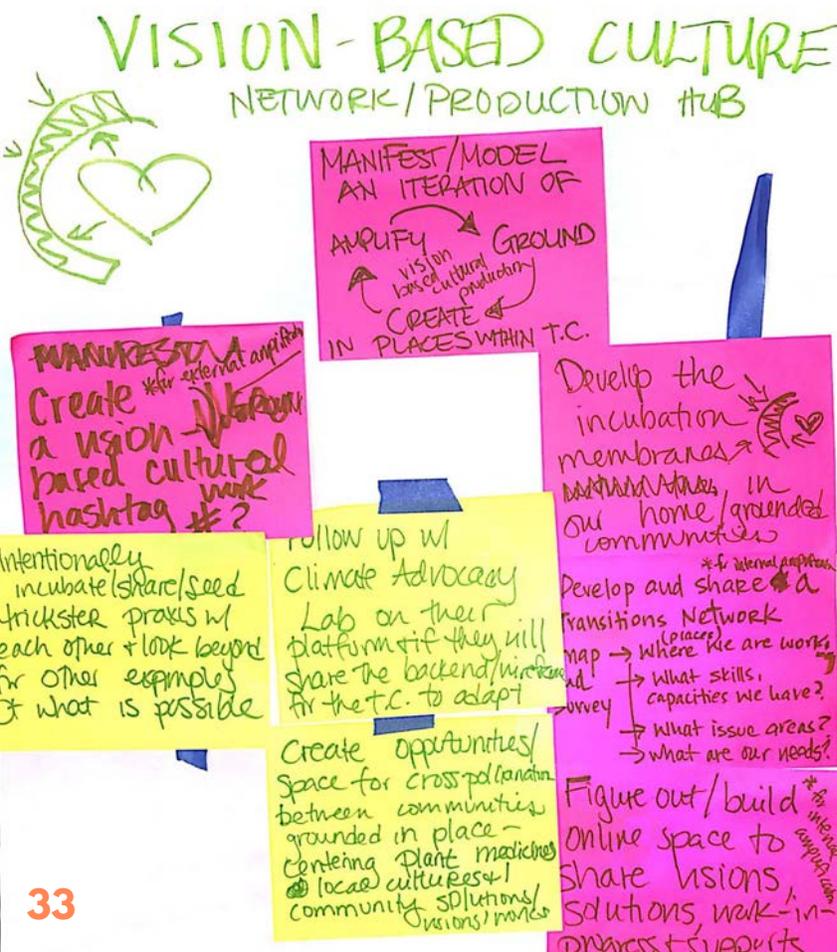
# VISION-BASED CULTURE

# PROTOTYPE



Group members: Jayeesha, Nayantara, Kathy, Jacqui

- 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



# LIBERATED PLACES

# PROTOTYPE

*Group members: Julie, Guy, Abby, Maxine, Anasa*

- 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



# FARASHA SISTERS

# PROTOTYPE



"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 words, 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

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





*Thank you, friends!*

Abby Reyes - Aisha Shillingford - Anasa Troutman - Annika Gifford - Aparna Shah - Banah Ghadbian - byron gudiel - Calvin Williams - Corinne Van Hook-Turner - Lance - Lynn - Dana Kawaoka-Chen - Danita Waller-Paige - Estefania Mondragon - Guy Reiter - Helen Kim - Hop Hopkins - Jaclyn Roessel - Jacqueline Patterson - Jayeesha Dutta - Joseph Stacey - Jovida Ross - Judith LeBlanc - Julie Quiroz - Julia Daniel - kathy sanchez - Kelly Miller - Kristen Zimmerman - Leena Odeh - Lemuel White - Mimi Ho - Addison Evans - Nadia barhoum - Nayantara Sen - Noel Didla - Norma Wong - Randle Charles - Rev. Maxine Allen - Rosa Gonzalez - Rufaro Gwarada - Sarah Quiroga - Sarah Matsumoto - Scott Nine - Malia Collins - Shawna Wakefield - Taj James - Tannia Esparza - Tufara Waller Muhammad - Vanessa Huang - Victoria Benson - Weyam Ghadbian