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## ***Movement Strategy Center's July 2023 Community News***




Artwork by [Titus Kaphar](#), "Shifting the Gaze" (2017), oil on canvas, 83 x 103 1/4 inches (image courtesy Jack Shainman Gallery and the Brooklyn Museum), as shared by [Hyperallergic](#) in a piece about how the Supreme Court's Affirmative Action decision is indicative of problems also plaguing the art world.

Hello Friends,

**It's still July but Independence Day is in the rear view mirror, along with Juneteenth and Pride.**

Nonetheless, we wanted to take the month to consider freedom — what freedom means now and how so many of us still aren't free from violence, from discrimination, from poor health or toxic surroundings or a lack of access. Fireworks and cookouts are a good time — and we must allow ourselves space to have a good time. But, there is so much work to do and so much to consider. Taj James, one of MSC's co-founders, shared [this message](#) on the Fourth of July: **"Let us commit to the work of making this place a true one person, one vote democracy. Let us commit to stewardship of the majority, for the thriving of all beings."**

One only needs to look at the Supreme Court and its continuing reign of terror to see how much needs to be done. James, who [called](#) it "an illegitimate [majority] installed by an illegitimate president," is one of

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many folks within the ecosystem that have a lot to say about the Court and Affirmative Action.

[Democracy at Home](#), a youth-led project that aims to get young people more involved in lawmaking and one of MSC's newest fiscally sponsored projects, shared via [Instagram](#):

*"Democracy at Home is disappointed with the Supreme Court's decision and fully supports any and all attempts at ensuring America's universities continue to be places of diversity. Affirmative action did not unequally give BIPOC [students] an advantage over others. Affirmative action ensured America's universities would reflect our diversity."*

Movement Strategy Network partners [People's Climate Innovation Center](#) also took to [Instagram](#):

*"We've been following all the recent discourse around the Supreme Court's recent ruling on affirmative action and the potential disruption it may bring to diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts nationwide, and we have this to say: we are here to stay. We remain firmly committed to supporting community-driven solutions to climate change that advance racial justice, and we will continue to lead with a bold vision of Black liberation toward collective liberation and intentionality in our internal and external work."*

We also consider freedom in terms of the **landback movement** with a recent [blog post](#) about our tour of Felix Cove and the Point Reyes National Seashore with [Alliance for Felix Cove](#) — a fiscally sponsored project led by the inspiring Theresa Harlan.

We consider freedom from **environmental injustice** in the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood of San Francisco — where a vibrant Black community suffers the toxic fallout of the neighboring naval shipyard. [Breathe](#), a fiscally sponsored project, partnered with an activist-journalist to release a podcast on the crisis. It's called [Sandblasted at the Shipyard](#), and we recently published [an illuminating Q&A](#) on the project.

Finally, we consider freedom from **police brutality** with Tansy Hall McNulty who leads [One Million Madly Motivated Moms \(1M4\)](#), another fiscally sponsored project. July is [Minority Mental Health Month](#) and we invite you to [revisit a Q&A](#) we shared last year when 988 launched. Stay tuned for a new check-in with McNulty as this nationwide emergency hotline — for suicidal thoughts, emotional distress, and mental health or substance abuse emergencies — celebrates its first birthday.

Now, read on for some happenings from the MSC ecosystem:



#### She is Leading the Way

Join a community of Black, Indigenous, Latine/a, multiracial, and API/AAPI girls and femme-identifying youth to participate in a youth leadership council at the [BIG We Foundation](#) through their [Shelectricity](#) program. Gain leadership skills, create impactful content, and uplift the Shelectricity community — participants receive a \$100 stipend each month. [Apply here](#) by July 21 to join the movement!

was only formed this year and since the spring has added ten new members who bring diversity, leadership, and a range of new skills to the table. They are paving the way for future collaborations with a number of partners and groups. And founder Sam Draisen recently testified at the D.C. State Board of Education, where he introduced both the organization and its first project, the Youth Power Coalition. Discover their remarkable progress [here](#).



**Calling Young Climate Leaders of Color**  
 The latest application for the [Young Climate Leaders of Color \(YCLC\)](#) program drops on August 8. Led by Movement Strategy Network partner [People's Climate Innovation Center \(PCIC\)](#), YCLC supports young leaders of color ages 18 to 28 through \$5,000 in funding to support a climate justice project, mentoring, professional development, resource-sharing, and more! Be sure to follow PCIC on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#) so you don't miss that application.

**Help Wanted!** MSC is searching for a [Grant Writer](#) and an [Individual Giving Consultant](#) to support our fiscally sponsored projects' fundraising efforts.

***Want to share an event or job in an e-newsletter or on MSC social media?  
 Request a submission form by emailing  
[communications@movementstrategy.org](mailto:communications@movementstrategy.org).***


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