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Movement Strategy Center's August 2023 Community News



*"Guides I Divinely Guided" (2023) by Aisha Shillingford of Intelligent Mischief.
Follow Shillingford on [Instagram](#).*

Hello Friends,

It's the middle of August — **Black August**.

acknowledgment and commemoration of the countless organizers, activists, and freedom fighters who sacrificed their freedom and lives in the struggle for Black liberation.” The movement began in the 1970s, within California prisons, “to honor the lives and deaths of Black political prisoners killed by the state, bring awareness to prison conditions, and to honor the radical tradition of Black resistance against anti-Black state violence and systemic oppression.”

But Black August is even more — “revolutionary moments such as the **Watts Uprising, Haitian Revolution, Nat Turner Rebellion, Fugitive Slave Law Convention, and March on Washington** all happened in August.” MB4L also notes that Marcus Garvey, Marsha P. Johnson, and Fred Hampton were all August babies — and we’d like to add James Baldwin to that incredible list.

To commemorate Black August, you can [sign a petition](#) supporting frontline freedom fighters, reach out to your representative in support of the [People’s Response Act](#), fundraise and friendraise on behalf of [political prisoners](#) like [Mumia Abu-Jamal](#), or simply bone up on Black [radical history and culture](#) (there’s [James Baldwin](#) again).

With justice and power in mind, **we wanted to uplift some recent stories** on [the Move Blog](#). We recently checked in with FSP One Million Madly Motivated Moms (1M4), who [shared the triumphs and challenges of 988](#) one year after the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline officially launched. We continue to revisit blog posts from our archive with a recent repost centered on [reflections after Ferguson](#). If you want to just read about flowers — check out our [unofficial field guide](#) to the flora of Felix Cove, a collaborative effort with FSP Alliance for Felix Cove.

Or, read about fruit! [The latest blog](#) from Julie Quiroz at New Moon Collaborations, a member of the Movement Strategy Network, explores the natural abundance of islands like Puerto Rico and Maui. It’s a call to action: consider supporting the [Maui Food Bank](#) or the [Maui Mutual Aid Fund](#) in the wake of unprecedented wildfires.

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



Celebrate Trailblazing Black Women
Join our long time partners, [Positive Women’s Network - USA \(PWN\)](#), for their third annual [Celebrate and Honor Black Women in the HIV Movement!](#) This time around, PWN is honoring Black women trailblazers who forged a path forward for themselves and many to follow. It’s the final stop on their Liberation Way series: House Ball: Celebrating Our Trailblazers, taking place August 18 at 4:00pm EST. Register [here](#) via Zoom and show unwavering support and appreciation for the resilience and contributions of Black women.

Black Philanthropy Month
August is [Black Philanthropy Month!](#) Anasa Troutman, our Board President, will be teaming up with the [Community Foundation for Greater Memphis](#) for a panel conversation called [Acknowledging and Celebrating the Power of Black Philanthropy](#). This event will take place on August 31 at the National Civil Rights Museum. You can register [here](#). We’d also like to draw your attention to MSC’s efforts at [Shifting Philanthropy](#) towards equity and inclusivity — our essay series lives on the Move Blog.

This promotional graphic has a black background with white and gold text. The main title "ACKNOWLEDGING AND CELEBRATING THE POWER OF BLACK PHILANTHROPY" is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, "A PANEL CONVERSATION" is in a smaller white font with gold arrows pointing right. The date and time "THURSDAY, AUGUST 31 6:00-8:00 P.M." are at the bottom left. The logos for the Community Foundation for Greater Memphis and Love Memphis are at the bottom right.



coalition of local community-based organizations committed to ending mass incarceration including longtime FSP [Urban Peace Movement](#), is hosting an important discussion on mental health services as key solutions in violence prevention and intervention. Featuring issue experts and community members with lived experience, the gathering takes place on August 17 at 5pm PST at the [Oakland Asian Cultural Center](#) in Downtown Oakland, and food and refreshments will be provided for the first 150 attendees. Register [here](#).



Sandbranch Newsletter Alert!

Water is more than just a right; it's a need. And, against all odds, the resilient community of Sandbranch, Texas is finally drinking clean water from solar-powered Hydropanels. The planning committee now shifts to its second phase: addressing food scarcity. [Read more](#) about updates in Sandbranch and how residents are preparing for a transformative community food garden project. And, [sign up](#) for our new Sandbranch Newsletter for regular updates from the Sandbranch Revitalization Fund and news about water equity and environmental justice.

Help Wanted! MSC is searching for a [Grantmaking Program Manager](#), and [Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer](#). Join MSC's tapestry of activists, academics, and movement allies working to embody the values and philosophies of the ecosystem.

**Want to share an event or job in an e-newsletter or on MSC social media?
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