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Movement Strategy Center's September 2023 Community News



MSC staffers Daniel, Karmella, and Lauren pose inside Oakland City Hall as community advocates rally to safeguard funding for the Department of Violence Prevention mini grants program.

Hello Friends,

Our newsletter is going out a week late this month for good reason: our whole staff — from the Bay Area and beyond in California, from Arizona, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Texas — **convened in our Oakland office last week for norm-setting, culture-building, and community.** If you can believe it, some of us met each other in person for the very first time.

Even better: the afternoon before we got to work, a number of MSC staffers — **Daniel Parada, Jamillah Renard, Karmella Green, Lauren Wheat, Lidia Alvarez, and Marcus Cunningham** — were able to join [Urban Peace Movement \(UPM\)](#), at Oakland City Hall for a **rally against budget cuts to Department of Violence Prevention's funding.** UPM, a fiscally sponsored project of MSC, was joined by over 50

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advocates including folks from community organizations [Black Organizing Project](#), [Asian Prisoners Support Committee](#), and [Young Women's Freedom Center](#). Together, they succeeded in securing a pivotal

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\$2,375,000 funding allocation that safeguards previously at risk employment services. UPM remains vigilant against potential cuts to the Department of Violence Prevention's mini grants program, but **this victory serves as a beacon of hope**. Check out [how you can help](#) protect and expand violence prevention services in Oakland.

We also wanted to ask: **what are you reading?** September marks [National Read a Book Day](#), [National Read an Ebook Day](#), and [International Literacy Day](#). To celebrate, we asked our staff to share some recent favorites that celebrate the spirit of activism, of diversity, and of learning. We invite you to check out those compelling selections over and across our social media channels — and add a book that recently inspired you in the comments section. We are always looking for recommendations!

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



Raising the Alarm

In an increasingly divisive society, Black women and girls in the United States are in crisis. Too many people are unaware of misogynoir and how it manifests to collectively harm Black women. In this new report, three anonymous Black women leaders fighting for climate, racial, and economic justice, share personal accounts of the harsh realities they face, including violence against them, their families, and their organizations, as a result of the outward-facing justice work that they do. Titled "We All Deserve Safety and Peace," the report offers stories and solutions, and it calls on all of us to protect and support Black women on the frontlines. Download the report, sign the petition, and share your stories [here](#).


A Deep Dive into Somatic Social Justice

Embark on a journey of healing and transformation with our partners [Beloved Communities Network \(BCN\)](#) — a member organization of the Movement Strategy Network, and [Healing Embodied White Supremacy](#). Their hybrid virtual workshop explores politicized somatic methods to foster embodied leadership, heal trauma, and fuel social justice movements. The work will embrace theory and practice, and participants will engage in Q&A sessions. Bay Area participants can register [here](#) and virtual participants can register [here](#). Applications are due Sunday, October 8.



A Decade of Communal Healing with HCC

Mark your calendars for October 14, 4pm PST at the Humanist Hall in Oakland — [Healing Clinic Collective \(HCC\)](#), an FSP of MSC, is celebrating 10 Years of Healing With the People. This celebration promises to be a soulful blend of gratitude prayers, ceremonial moments, sumptuous feasting, lively music, and invigorating dance. Plus, special surprises await all attendees! Follow HCC on [Instagram](#) for more details, including announcements on the event host and music. To join the celebration, RSVP [here](#).

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design the solution." Dive into the #1545Paper from our friends at [the Chisholm Legacy Project](#). This insightful narrative highlights the distinct challenges Black communities confront, from environmental threats to unsafe living conditions. Amidst these challenges, they're pioneering solutions, spearheading local food systems and energy projects, and fortifying social resilience. As we journey towards a regenerative economy, it's pivotal to recognize our historical wrongs, from stolen Indigenous lands to enslaved labor. Yet, in today's world, transformative leaders are not just dreaming of solutions; they're actively crafting them. Discover more [here](#).



Help Wanted! MSC is searching for a [Payroll Manager](#) to steer our payroll functions and operations. Join MSC's tapestry of activists, academics, and movement allies working to embody the values and philosophies of the ecosystem.

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