



## ***Movement Strategy Center's March 2024 Community News***



*Happy Women's History Month! Explore our partners focused on [gender justice](#) and the leadership development of [women](#). Artwork by [Resonance Network](#) from [the Reverb](#).*

**Hello Friends,**

These days, at least here at MSC, we've been talking a lot about [Deep Democracy](#). Our [glossary](#) defines it as "an innovative facilitation and governance approach that emphasizes inclusive dialogue and collective decision-making, ensuring that often unheard voices from the global majority are included." It touches on "deep listening and shared wisdom" and "the holistic wellbeing of the group," **Deep Democracy ensures that "every participant's voice is crucial."**

Deep Democracy engages with "emotions, intuitions, and underlying issues, bringing a level of authenticity and depth" to "meaningful and resonant outcomes." It isn't a leap to say that Deep Democracy feels key to [Beloved Community](#) — where "everyone is cared for." Or that Deep Democracy and Beloved Community are the very foundation of the [Just Transition](#) our whole ecosystem is working towards.

You can find the ideas of Deep Democracy in the roots of so many of our movements — even generations ago. Consider March 25, the anniversary of the 1911 [Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire](#), when 146 garment workers perished. The tragedy "[forced a reckoning over building codes and workplace safety in New York and elsewhere](#)," and buoyed grassroots support for unions, including the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU).

The [origins of a holiday honoring women](#) — at least in New York City — can be traced to [a garment workers' strike](#) led by the ILGWU just before the fire. And, the origins of **Women's History Month** are

[National Women's History Alliance](#) — began lobbying for a national Women's History Month in 1980, and in 1987 Congress finally passed a law designating March as Women's History Month. Unlike our current ecosystems and frameworks, these movements were historically centered on the White, the heteronormative, and the able-bodied — and yet, even the working class and immigrant women who stepped up in 1911 were far from the dominant voices in their communities.

The [Sandbranch Revitalization Fund](#) — a special interest fund held by MSC — is a true example of Deep Democracy. Residents of Sandbranch, a Freedman's Settlement outside Dallas, TX, are working together to determine just how to improve their community's access and future. The project was brought to MSC by **Jacqui Patterson**, one of our board members and a leader at [the Chisholm Legacy Project](#), an organization working to end systemic environmental injustices. We are thrilled to share that Patterson was just named one of [Time's Women of the Year](#) for her work in Texas. **A huge congratulations to Patterson and to Sandbranch**, and to all the [Time Women of the Year](#) — you can read more on [the Move Blog](#) and contribute to the Sandbranch Revitalization Fund [here](#).

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

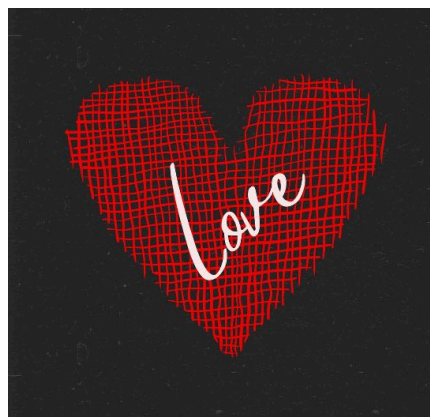


#### Prom Dreams Come True with The Neighb!

In Saginaw, MI, [the Neighb](#) is making prom dreams a reality through their [Prom Dress Donation Drive](#). By repurposing gently used prom dresses and formal footwear, they're ensuring that every high school student in the local community has the chance to experience an unforgettable prom night. Donations are being accepted until April 1 at their Saginaw location on 3145 Russell Street, from Monday to Thursday, 12pm to 6pm. For additional details or to contribute to this cause, reach out [here](#).

#### Harmony in Community with Thrive Network

Mark your calendars for an intimate song circle with the [Thrive Street Choir](#) in Berkeley, CA, scheduled for Tuesday, March 19. Find all the details [here](#). And, if you're seeking a deeper sense of community, consider ["Rooted in Love."](#) Thrive Network's answer for those who might miss an event or reside outside the Bay Area. This forward thinking program aims to foster a sense of belonging and prosperity, enriching members with monthly resources and insights from distinguished visionaries, alongside the chance to participate in both in-person and virtual community gatherings. Discover more [here](#).





Andrea Granda, Sophie Hou, and Daniel Parada — all from our Movement Infrastructure Innovation Center (MIIC) team — found themselves dressed in strikingly similar outfits for our first MIIC leadership team visionary session. This unexpected #TripletsMoment underscored the strong, informal connections within our team. These moments of spontaneous style harmony do more than just bring smiles; they highlight the deep sense of belonging that defines our work environment. As Psychologist Dr. Sarah Jane Khalid [points out](#), an instance such as this “builds rapport and makes us feel safe.” At MSC, we value individuality, yet it’s these serendipitous convergences that embody our collective spirit and make our space unique.

#ICYMI: MSC’s 2022–2023 Annual Report is Live! Read it [here](#). And read about MSC’s new Donor Advised Fund (DAF) program on [the blog](#).

**Help Wanted!** Join [Thrive Network](#) in nurturing community and driving social change by volunteering as a grant writer. Your expertise can help sustain their impactful work. [Reach out](#) to contribute or share funding opportunities.

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