

The Monthly Voice

April 2015 - ONE DC Newsletter

"The leadership is there. If you go out and work with your people, then the leadership will emerge... We don't know who they are now; we don't need to know. But the leadership will emerge from the movement that emerges." -Bob Moses, SNCC Civil Rights Organizer

Greetings from ONE DC, Friend

ONE DC Stands with the People of Baltimore

ONE DC joins in solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter and #BaltimoreUprising as we heard clearly the cries of the oppressed in Baltimore. It is NOT a riot. The oppressed are REBELLING and UPRISING!



#BlackOrganizingMatters: Why?

Washington, DC is a city being acted on by powerful forces - not all of which are looking out for our best interests. Therefore, it is up to us and other fierce community organizations to ensure that there is opportunity in DC for Black residents. To challenge the forces that threaten the sustenance of Black life in DC, we need independence.

Thus, we are building a member-led, member-financed movement. We seek the support of members and allies in ensuring that ONE DC will sustain, and that opportunity in DC for Black People will remain.

Stand with ONE DC. Become a sustaining donor at www.onedconline.org/sustainingdonor.

In the words of member and donor, Chioma Iwuoha, "I have no other option but to support you alls efforts...Thanks!" Thank you, Chioma!

Why Does DC Need a Black Workers Center?

By Jennifer Bryant, Right to Income Organizer

The Black Workers Center is a resident-led space whose mission is to create and maintain racial and economic justice through popular education, policy campaigns, direct action and the creation of worker-owned coops and other worker-owned alternatives. I want to highlight the fact that this is a Black worker-led space. We're very intentional about centering the leadership of Black Workers, especially Black women who are so often minimized in conversations about Black employment. I think it's important to make the distinction between organizing Black workers and Black workers shaping and guiding the policies that directly impact our lives.

[Read Jennifer's full reflection here](#)

[Join us at the next Black Workers Center Meeting!](#)

May 14th - 6pm - United Black Fund, 2500 MLK Jr Ave SE

The Black Workers Center Will Incubate Worker Co-ops

The Black Workers Center will be an incubator for worker-owned cooperative enterprises. ONE DC members and supporters have travelled on two learning journeys to Baltimore and NYC to visit and learn more from existing co-ops.

Red Emma's, A Workers' Co-Op in Baltimore

"It was humbling and inspiring to hear the case study - how hard and rewarding it can be to create an alternative kind of company and navigate the pressures of capitalism; how humanizing it can be to engage in a truly democratic workplace and grow a radical vision. Below you can find some collaborative notes we took throughout the day that go into more detail."

[Read the full reflection and watch a video from the trip!](#)

Co-op Financing, Construction Co-ops, Participatory Budgeting, & More in NYC



This photo is from our visit to meet with worker owners from Build with Prospect construction coop at their work site in Brooklyn. In this photo are: Junior C., Stackhouse; (Middle worker owner row) Karen Haskins, at Build with Allison Basile, Juan Prospect Reid, Leon Jackson; construction coop, and Jemaire Steward, Steve Jemaire Wong. Steward, DC Black Workers Center leader.

Up Next: Learning Journey to Philadelphia June 25-28

In Philadelphia, June 25-28, we will engage in peer-to-peer learning and build relationships with workers who have started or are in the process of starting worker-owned cooperatives in Philadelphia. We will discuss cooperative models, cooperative training and popular education, best practices, challenges and successes. We will share our stories and experiences of organizing Black workers in Washington, DC to co-create, plan and launch the DC Black Workers Center.

[Help Make it Happen!](#)

Contact Jennifer Bryant at jbryant@onedconline.org or 202-232-2915 to join us on this FREE journey to Philadelphia!

#BlackHomesMatter

ONE DC joined with DC Ferguson, Empower DC, Barry Farm Study Circle, Barry Farm Tenants and Allies Association, Fair Budget Coalition, and Jews United for Justice to express to Mayor Bowser that **#BlackLivesMatter is about anti-displacement and anti-racist actions in DC where long-time residents are becoming homeless, public housing units are scheduled to be torn-down, and rents are skyrocketing and displacing thousands of people.**



We took to the streets during the Mayor's State of the District address to show solidarity with the displaced and dispossessed. We shut down 13th and U Streets and raised our demands in front of the Lincoln Theater.

The Cost of Urban Redevelopment

Second annual Equitable Development Conference addresses gentrification, housing rights.

By Ruth Steinhardt

Phyllissa Bilal lives in public housing in the historic Barry Farm community in Southeast Washington, D.C. She remembers walking her three sons past a new playground in their neighborhood, which is a site for proposed redevelopment. The boys were eager to try out the new equipment—but were stopped at the gate. She said many residents thought the playground would be for all Barry Farm residents. But the entrance was padlocked.



Local artist Jess Solomon created visual notes throughout the second annual Equitable Development Conference.

“These are children who have been deprived of a playground for two or three years,” she said. “I have to explain to my children that they can’t play at an empty playground that’s less than 100 feet from their house.”

Ms. Bilal, who is the cofounder of neighborhood group the Barry Farm Study Circle, spoke at the second annual Equitable Development Conference Thursday. Hosted by the George Washington University, the symposium, “Sustainability from Below,”

brought together community activists, neighborhood residents, government representatives and academics for an electric, participatory discussion on issues of sustainability and gentrification. It was co-sponsored by the university’s [Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service](#) and by ONE DC.

“[At GW] we want to increase the capacity for individuals and institutions to solve difficult social environmental and economic problems that are impacting our communities and neighborhoods,” said Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion Terri Harris Reed in introductory remarks. “Hosting today’s forum is an indication of the role we hope to play as a convener of thought and debate about issues of citizenship and leadership.”

[Continue reading here](#)

Upcoming Events

[People's Platform General Body Meeting](#)

Wed, May 6 - 6:00 PM - New Community Church, 614 S St NW

The [People's Platform](#) is a platform that reflects the legislative and political priorities of long-time, low-income D.C. residents. It is a multi-year, multi-generation, and multi-organizational effort to fight for a city that actually meets the needs of all residents, not just the select residents our current politicians and developers want to cater to.

The People's Platform is building a movement for:

- Community control over land use
- Equitable development without displacement
- Permanent housing affordability
- Community and family wealth creation

[We need YOU to help us grow this movement and create a grassroots force that can no longer be ignored.](#)

Play/Ground For the Spirit: Creative Altar-Making & Everyday Majik May 2 - 5pm - 733 Euclid Street NW 1st Floor

This playshop will explore how to make majikally maverick altars to help connect you with your wonder and creativity. We'll also discover how nurturing a majikal orientation can help soften stress, boost zeal, and increase possibilities everywhere. Let's build sacred ground through altars and ground majik in our daily lives to transform the routine.

Please bring a fun object for our temporary collaborative altar! Playshop will last 90 minutes (including a short intermission). All playshoppers are invited to co-create an altar for community leader, Sylvia Robinson, for the remaining half-hour. Light food-stuffs will be provided.

[More info here & RSVP](#)

Calling all DC Workers Who Have Been Terminated

The **Employment Justice Center** is interested in learning more about DC workers' experiences of being fired for any reason or no reason. They're surveying throughout the community, and have also created a digital version

which they would appreciate your support with. **Please take the survey by clicking the links below and share** to help guide a potential campaign on this issue!

[Encuesta: Ha sido victima de un despido?](#)

[Survey: Have you ever been fired?](#)

ONE Bit of Good News

Inspiration from a Member: Shelley Jeanne Marcus

"I was energized by the Emancipation Day program on Thursday, and really celebrate the leadership of the strong black women who facilitated it. Then over the weekend, I read the [People's Progress Report](#), and I found it totally amazing/inspiring/energizing. Today, I'm gonna read the [People's Platform](#)—I'm really resonating to the strength and depth of the ONE DC vision. You have been on a powerful journey, and I really appreciate you."

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