

The Monthly Voice

November 2015 - ONE DC Newsletter

"If we...want to map a different world, we have to use all our faculties to imagine life that is not beholden to the state and controlled through capitalism...Shapeshifters must always stay on the side of change, possibility, movement, and the future." -Aimee Meredith Cox, [Shapeshifters](#)

Working While Black: Reflections on the 2nd Annual Black Worker Center Convening

By Ben Woods



Jennifer Bryant, Ben Woods, Dominic Moulden, Shereigns Borntue travelled to Oakland for the National Black Worker Center Project Convening representing ONE DC & the DC Black Workers Center

Black workers are one of the primary social forces in the Black Liberation Movement in the US. Historically and today, they experience racism on the job, in labor unions, and the most negative effects of 'neoliberal globalization.' At several points throughout their history, Black workers have analyzed their own conditions and concluded self-organization was key to gaining power over their own lives. In the tradition of autonomous Black worker organizing, the 2nd annual Black Workers Center (BWC) National Convening met on November 12-14 in Oakland, CA to strategize for Black Workers Power. The theme of the convening was "Black Freedom Dreams."

The history and current conditions of Black people demonstrate the necessity of spaces like BWCs where Black workers can conduct popular education, organize campaigns, and create Black worker-owned cooperatives. The exploitation of Black workers and the ideological justification to maintain control of their labor is foundational to the US settler colonial project. In a workshop titled "Black Worker Centers Meet Organized Labor" respected labor organizer Bill Fletcher discussed how Black radicals and anti-racist Whites were excluded from the newly formed AFL-CIO in 1955 due to segregation in the labor movement and McCarthyism. Around the same time in 1951, Black

workers created the National Negro Labor Council to fight job discrimination, racism in labor unions, and build what we today call Black Workers Power.

BWCs are slowly proving themselves to be spaces where Black workers can organize for power to overcome structural inequalities such as having twice the white unemployment rate, receiving 60% the white income, and Black median wealth 20 times less than that of whites. For example, the inaugural BWC in Los Angeles, in coalition with community groups, organized to win a project labor agreement (PLA) that requires 40% of workers hired onto Metro Construction projects come from 'disadvantaged areas.' The convening allowed all of us to compare notes and learn from each other so that we can infuse the concerns of Black workers into the emergent Movement for Black Lives.

[Read Ben's full reflection here.](#)

[View more photos from the convening](#)

M4BL Convening Attendees Report Back to DC Community



By Lissette Miller

ONE DC members who attended the [Movement for Black Lives Convening](#) (M4BL) in Cleveland hosted a report-back at America's Islamic Heritage Museum to reflect on the Convening and discuss Black liberation work in DC. We know [Black-only spaces are necessary](#) in order for us to heal and strategize on ways to further our movement. But as we witnessed at M4BL and discussed in SE last week, our movement must be intersectional, centered and led by directly-affected communities. **When we say Black Lives Matter, we mean all Black lives – trans*, gender non-conforming, queer, women, undocumented, incarcerated, returning citizens, houseless, HIV-positive – all Black Lives Matter.**

Cooperation DC Kicks Off with Fall Trainings

In November, [Cooperation DC](#) hosted a series of trainings and workshops on worker cooperative development. Here are a few exciting highlights:

- 60+ residents attended Building DC's Movement for Economic Democracy through Worker Cooperatives community learning event
- 12 attended government stakeholders meeting w/ city council staff
- 15 attended small business development meeting
- 33 emerging worker-owners attended training on how to start a worker cooperative



Lawyer? Accountant? Interested in Coop Development?

The final event in the series will be a training geared towards lawyers and accountants who want to learn strategies and best practices for supporting worker-owned businesses and a cooperative DC economy.

[Click here for more details.](#)

[Space is limited. Click here to RSVP.](#)

Member Appreciation

Saturday, December 5th - 3:00 - 6:00 PM

African American Civil War Museum - 1925 Vermont Ave NW.

Join us in celebrating YOU! Calling all ONE DC members, volunteers, donors, and supporters to join us in celebrating our wins and recognition of the hard work of ONE DC members. This event will feature food, music, poetry, and a special awards ceremony! All ages are welcome. Let's celebrate 2015 and explore our vision for 2016 and beyond to create an equitable DC. **Please let us know if you need transportation or childcare by emailing organizer@onedconline.org or calling 202-232-2915.** Email ccook@onedconline.org if you would like to help set up or volunteer.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Upcoming Events

DC Fair Food Annual Fundraiser

Saturday, December 5 - 7 PM - 11 PM

Mike Golash's house – 5325 16th Street, NW

Join DC Fair Food for their annual fundraiser and fourth birthday party. Come eat and celebrate another year with this organization that fights for fair working conditions. Dinner starts at 7:00 PM and is followed by a party at 9:00 PM.

[RSVP Here](#)

***Building Co-operative Power* Author Talk**

Friday, December 11th - 7 PM

The Potter's House – 1658 Columbia Road, NW

Building Co-operative Power is a guide and inspiration for building worker co-operatives that tells the stories of worker co-operatives in the Connecticut River Valley. It offers practical insights on co-op governance, management, and communication. In its second half BCP directly addresses the obstacles and opportunities for building regional co-operative economies. This includes the regional strategies Valley Alliance of Worker Co-operatives developed, which

led to forming the Valley Co-operative Business Association with credit unions and food co-operatives.

[RSVP Here](#)

DC Black Workers Center Film Screening

Thursday, December 17 - 6 PM

The United Black Fund – 2500 Martin Luther King Jr Ave, SE

The DC Black Workers Center invites you to a film screening of the powerful documentary *Finally Got the News*. The film portrays the actions of The League of Revolutionary Black Workers in the auto factories of Detroit, along with the vital role of African American workers in the American economy. Stay for a discussion following the screening.

[RSVP Here](#)

#BlackFriday & #GivingTuesday

This year, the Resource Development committee has focused on grassroots fundraising strategies to ensure our financial sustainability. ONE DC supporters have stepped up by becoming sustaining donors, hosting house party fundraisers, and recruiting new donors from their social networks.

This #BlackFriday, we'll be asking people to donate to support Black organizing. And on #GivingTuesday, we hope to get closer to our goal of 100 sustaining donors. We hope that you'll [make a donation](#) and help spread the word by sharing on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Become a Member

Become a Sustaining Donor

Volunteer

Do you want to be a writer or editor for the *Monthly Voice*? Email organizer@onedconline.org

ONE DC · 614 S Street Northwest, Carriage House in Rear, Washington, DC 20001, United States
This email was sent to organizer@onedconline.org. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).
You can also keep up with ONE DC on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).