

The Monthly Voice

October 2015 - ONE DC Newsletter

*"I think we have to rethink the concept of "leader." 'Cause "leader" implies "follower." And, so many-- not so many, but I think we need to appropriate, embrace the idea that **we are the leaders we've been looking for.**" -Grace Lee Boggs, 1915-2015.*

Greetings from ONE DC, Friend--

Mount Vernon Plaza Tenants Refuse to Be Displaced



On October 26th, Mount Vernon Plaza Tenant Association, ONE DC People's Platform, Justice First, and Black Lives Matter DMV held a vigil in support of the Mount Vernon Plaza tenants fighting exorbitant rent increases. The vigil featured tenants, representatives from the Black Lives Matter movement and other community members sharing stories of displacement and making their demands to the Bowser administration. This vigil culminated a week of action demanding the Mayor shift priorities from policing to reinvestment in Black communities.

[Click here for highlights from the vigil.](#)

Racial Equity and Climate Change: Save the Planet, Save the People!

At the September 23 Climate Change Rally on the National Mall, ONE DC organizer Jennifer Bryant spoke of the lack of sustainability of current economic policies -- both to the global climate and the people of Washington, DC:

In our work organizing long-time DC residents of color I've gotten to see first-hand the effects of gentrification. Washington, DC's unsustainable

system of destructive development uproots families and displaces entire Black and Brown communities.

Climate change and gentrification have a lot in common. As we fight in DC to save communities like Barry Farms, Brookland Manor, Mount Vernon Plaza, Museum Square and so many others we recognize that what we are fighting is not just greedy developers and the local politicians that they've bought. We're fighting an entire system that is harmful and unsustainable.

The fight for equitable development in DC and the fight to save the planet from climate change are the same fight. At the root of both struggles is an acknowledgment that our current global economic system is destructive and must be transformed.

The earth is not for sale, just like our communities are not for sale. We have to bring to an end the privatization and devastation of resources that should be shared among all people. We believe that this transformation will emerge from the place that all great movements have emerged: the grassroots.

ONE DC will continue to build grassroots power and grassroots leadership in communities that are on the front lines of these struggles. And we'll continue to connect local issues of housing and jobs to the climate justice movement.

Why a Solidarity Economy?



ONE DC members who traveled on coop learning journeys to Philadelphia are building a solidarity economy movement in DC.

"Why remain subordinated to the will of transnational corporations, States, and international institutions that identify themselves with exclusionary interests, if together, with our collective force, we can create public spaces, states, and new organizations that serve society's empowerment, so that it becomes the leading subject of its own development in an autonomous and self-reliant way?"

Why not become subjects of a creative and satisfactory work, free from oppression and exploitation, and which produces what we lack in order to meet our needs—cultural, physical, spiritual, emotional, and relational?

Our proposal is a socioeconomy of solidarity as a way of life that encompasses the totality of the human being, that announces a new culture and a new form of producing to fulfill the needs of each human being and of the entire humanity."

-The Latin Meeting on a Culture and Socioeconomy of Solidarity, Porto Alegre, Brazil, August 1998

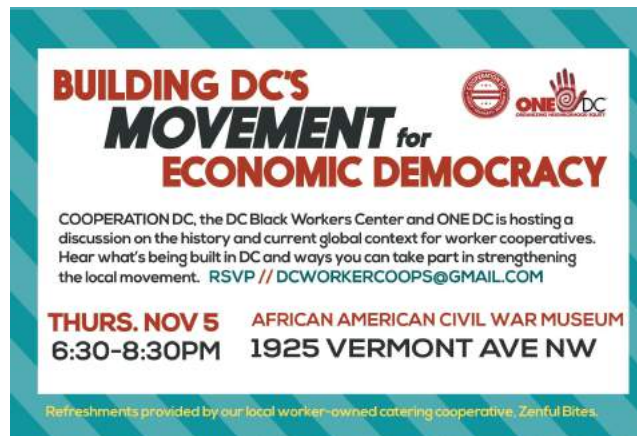
Sustaining the Movement for Equity

Earlier this year, we set a goal of recruiting 100 sustaining donors by the end of 2015. In order to be financially healthy, ONE DC needs the support of people just like you. We ended 2014 with 5 sustaining donors. With your help, we are now up to 22! [Friend, can you help us reach our goal of 100 sustaining donors by giving \\$5, \\$10, or \\$20 each month?](#)

Working while Black: The Goals of the Black Workers Center

The Black Workers Center will build power with Black workers in DC. One of the major goals of the Black Workers Center is to **provide an incubation space for alternatives to low-wage work, such as worker cooperatives and collectives**. The Black Workers Center is co-organizing two upcoming key events this month to connect DC residents to worker cooperatives:

- **Building DC's Movement for Economic Democracy through Worker Cooperatives** - Thursday, November 5 - 6:00 PM - ONE DC, Black Workers Center, and Cooperation DC will host a discussion on the history and current global context for worker cooperatives. **African American Civil War Museum & Memorial, 1925 Vermont Ave NW.** [RSVP and more info here](#)



- **How to Start a Worker Cooperative** - Saturday, November 7 - Workshop designed for those actively interested in starting a cooperative and will provide participants with tools and support to defining democratic business models. The workshop will be hosted at the Hive in Southeast DC. **Email DCWorkerCoops@gmail.com or call 443-562-5856 to RSVP and for more information.**

Interested in Worker Coop Development?

The Democracy at Work Institute is recruiting a diverse group of 8-10 dynamic worker cooperative developers for their 2016, 6-month Fellowship Program. This Program takes place between January – June 2016 and offers peer networking, tools development, and action learning to worker cooperative developers interested in exploring the question of scale for worker cooperatives

in low-income communities.

Applications are due Friday, November 13th, 2015. [For more information and to apply, click here.](#)

Upcoming Events

Let's Get Free DC: Report Back. Turn Up.

Thursday, November 12th - 6:00 PM

Join DC residents who attended the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) convening as they offer reflections on what they experienced in Cleveland - the facilitated sessions, the importance of all-Black spaces, the transphobic incidents and subsequent calling in of cis folk by trans* and gender non-conforming people, the overall feeling of a family reunion, and much more.

Please note this will be a Black-only space.

[RSVP Here](#)

***Shapeshifters* Book Event & Author Talk w/ Aimee Meredith Cox**

Saturday, November 21 - 1:00PM

The Potter's House - 1658 Columbia Road Northwest

In *Shapeshifters*, Aimee Meredith Cox explores how young Black women in a Detroit homeless shelter contest stereotypes, critique their status as partial citizens, and negotiate poverty, racism, and gender violence to create and imagine lives for themselves. With *Shapeshifters*, Cox gives a voice to young Black women who find creative and non-normative solutions to the problems that come with being young, Black, and female in America.

[RSVP here](#)

Save the Date! ONE DC Member Appreciation

Saturday, December 5th - 3-6 PM

A celebratory event to recognize the leadership of ONE DC members and our wins in 2015. [Have you paid your 2015 membership dues yet?](#)

[RSVP here](#)

ONE Bit of Good News



Thank you [Black Benefactors](#) for selecting ONE DC as your first grantee for grassroots organizing in DC!

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