DEN OF DREAMERS

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10th Anniversary Dreambook Credits
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Interns
Just as University of Maryland archaeologists excavated what has been deemed one of the earliest examples of traditional African religious artifacts in Turtle Island (North America), so are we called to unearth and reactivate our legacies of magical resistance.

In the African-American tradition of lucky dream books/lottery/policy books, ancestor dream visitations, hoodoo, street prophets/prophesy, and other forms of Black divination, the tenth anniversary edition of The People’s Progress Report is a dreambook, a book of prophecy, a codex full of signs, wild imaginings, intuitions, daydreams, and visioneering toward a more equitable future. An almanac for rainmakers.

This is not an annual report--this is a repository of dreams, a gathering of recipes for conjuring the world we long for from scratch.

Your Dream Weavers,
ONE DC Shared Leadership Team
10th Anniversary Special Thanks

Allison Lewis
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Vendors
By Peaceful Means
DC Industrial Workers of the World
Friends of McMillan Park
Liberation D.C.
SURJ DC
The Potter’s House
Veterans for Peace
Washington Peace Center

Sponsors
Black Benefactors
Brett Williams
Bunny Jackson
Daniel Ehrenberg
Larry Kressley
Mackenzie Baris
Maria Barker
Maryann Moulden Ferguson
Melissa Jones
Somerset Development Co., LLC
Sonya Hochevar
Dreams are often oracles dismissed. We may not recall our dreams, or shrug off their messages, or feel out Ciphered by them.

But afrofuturists are an intrepid tribe. We know that ancestors beforeandcomingandnotgone have dreamed us up (are still dreaming us up), and that the future is \( \cdots \infty \cdots \).

Welcome to sleep, your chamber of oracles: oraculum. For the Black future: afroraculum.

*The future is dark, which is the best thing the future can be, I think.*

- Virginia Woolf

- Almah LaVon Rice

in *Black Quantum Futurism: Theory and Practice*
ONE DC’s history of organizing for racial and economic equity, especially in the areas of employment and housing as human rights, is unique in the District of Columbia.

That such disparity exists in the nation’s capital, a nation that boasts about its wealth and political leadership of the world’s democracies, is reason enough for ONE DC to persist in its struggle. For this historical moment, as well as the foreseeable future. ONE DC must continue to stand against the domination of privilege and for the rights of the poor and oppressed. This fight is at the core of its identity as an organization of the people and led by them.

Capitalism as realized by the rise of commercial and residential real estate development is among the clearest examples of the lines drawn between the affluent and the impoverished.

Why ONE DC must continue:
EXISTENE IS RESISTANCE!
This gap is where ONE DC has existed since 2006, and where it must continue to be the voice of the silenced, the invisible and those who resist.

ONE DC must be kept alive and vital in this life-and-death effort in the District as part of a local, national, and global battle against wealth and power in cities for as long as it takes to win by any effective means.

- Khalid Moussa Foster, ONE DC Member, Organizer and Independent Scholar, Black Land Movement in Shaw, 1970

"In sum, we are an army of dreamers, and therefore invincible. How can we fail to win, with this imagination overturning everything? Or rather, we do not deserve to lose."

- Subcomandante Marcos
What's your magical or spiritual offering/tradition for serving this Moment?

In terms of traditions, I practice Conjure/Hoodoo. An old style of majick that is of the people, meaning poor people, people who lived on the soil, people who maybe lived outside cities in the country. There is a lot of ancestor veneration, and regular communication with those that have passed on. I also commune with, make offerings to and evoke/invoke various Divine energies (like Oshun, Erzulie Dantor, Yemaya, Papa Legba, Baron Samedi, etc). I use a lot of herbs--from which I make candles, herbal blends, incense and oils for my own practice and sometimes for clients and loved ones. This is important in this particular Moment because the 'people' are so often pushed aside. Pushed out of the “dream” we are still being sold about America and its place in the rest of the world.

We "the People" have power, we have access to energies we can manipulate and shape to aid us in our daily lives. We have knowledge that the “other” so-called powerful people want to forget and discredit. It happens all the time that science or academia will reveal the results of this or that study and so many times it's something you already knew. Like ancestral trauma. Meaning that horrible things your parents and grandparents went through is passed down to the subsequent generations.

I knew that. I feel like a lot of us Black and poor and Queer people knew that, "already ago" as a good friend of mine says. Trauma is not the only thing we have as our inheritance; these ways of using the earth and what it has to give to sustain ourselves is incredibly powerful. Things are going in a direction where this kind of knowledge will be key to staying alive. You can say it already has done, so perhaps what I mean is the cycle will come back again. It feels important in this moment to prepare. Be ready for more scarcity, psychically, mentally and physically.
As a seer, have you caught any glimmerings of anything hopeful on the equity and justice front?

For me, the presence of loving ancestors and friends who have passed on is the most hopeful thing I have experienced in general. They are with us. They still love us, they want to help and guide us and they are past so much of the pain and suffering and ego we experience as corporeal beings. That’s about equity and justice ultimately because it starts with us. If we feel more supported and loved individually, we tend to be more supporting and loving to the ones around us. If we know that some of the folks who have gone before us are here, with support, with advice, with love, witnessing--then it hopefully makes us stronger.

So many times I called on the strength of my grandmother, once I knew that she was right there and ready to help me and it got me through. We can also pull from the strength and love of ancestors in the diaspora generally. In this time of BLM, and AntiFa we can look to Fannie Lou, or Fred, or whomever has gone before us to find the wisdom and the fire to speak and fight and disrupt. In other words "we all we got." But also we are all we got, which is a huge, beautiful inheritance.

-Lisa Swinney
AfroMajick.com
2003: Helped residents of 1330 7th Street NW buy their building and ensure its future affordability (as Manna CDC).

2007: Supported Ward 8 Anacostia residents who halted the development of a new sports stadium at Poplar Point.

2007: Assisted residents of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Latino Co-op and Duncan Co-op in securing over $23 million to purchase and renovate their buildings as permanently affordable housing.

2008: Initiated the Combahee Drylongso Organizing School, which brought together emerging and established organizers for a week-long intensive to develop and deepen their skills and included year-round check-ins, technical assistance, and mentorship.

2010: Erected Tent City, a direct action land liberation to hold city officials accountable to develop Parcel 42 for low-income rental housing and to dramatize the city’s affordable housing crisis.

2013: Supported Kelsey Garden Tenants through their legal case and as they returned to their affordable rental units in the new Jefferson at Market Square development.

2014: Hosted the People’s Platform Mayoral Forum in which 250 attendees asked candidates about their stances on equitable development, fair housing and jobs, and the principles established in our People’s Platform.

2015: Established the Black Workers Center, a member-led space that builds racial and economic justice through popular education, direct action, and worker-owned alternatives.

2015: Became the fiscal and organizational home for Cooperation DC, a distinct program focused on providing technical assistance to worker cooperatives, with a focus on low-income communities of color.
2016 Wins

Mt Vernon Plaza - Tenants from Mount Vernon Plaza & Museum Square hold a joint action against Bush Companies with ONE DC members & supporters. 20 Mount Vernon Plaza tenants fought for and won refunds for two years worth of rent overpayment.

Brookland Manor residents & ONE DC announce a lawsuit represented by Covington & Burling challenging the planned discriminatory redevelopment of the property, which seeks to displace tenants on the basis of their family status.

Black Workers Center & Cooperation DC - Solidified partnership between the BWC & LiUNA Mid-Atlantic, holding two construction job intakes with workers hired on St. Elizabeth’s project. Cooperation DC supports group of Latina women developing worker-owned childcare cooperative and a women-owned catering business looking to transition into a worker coop model. Worked with Georgetown students to develop Wage Theft, Racial Discrimination, and Worker’s Compensation Intake app.

Recording Our History - ONE DC finds future home in the Anacostia Community Museum which will be the official custodian archiving the history of ONE DC and our predecessor Manna CDC.

Making the Just City - Robert Woods Johnson Foundation commits to funding a 3-year project to focus on gentrification & displacement in two communities, and the community-level initiatives being implemented to improve wellness among long-time residents facing displacement.

Hosted Third Annual Equitable Development Conference, "A Moment or a Movement? Why Black Lives Matter on the Path to Equitable Development in Washington, DC." With over 225 attendees, the event included three community walking tours in Shaw, Logan Circle, & Congress Heights.

Participated in Nation-Wide Renters Day of Action with Justice First, tenants of Congress Heights, Brookland Manor, Museum Square, and members and supporters in demand of a national rent freeze, an end to unjust evictions, community control over land & housing, and the right to organize.

On Juneteenth weekend, ONE DC celebrated 10 years of fighting for equity in the District with a special program featuring speakers Angela Y. Davis and Barbara Ransby, followed by a celebration, raising over $20,000 to kick off our 10th Anniversary capital fundraising campaign.
Collective Spells:
One Word to Bless and Guide
ONE DC's Next Decade.
What is your wildest vision for DC moving forward?

**Pat Penny:** I would like to see wellness programs for displaced DC tenants. The wellness programs for low-income tenants is very important to meet the challenge of the rising illness related to the displacement of DC tenants from their home.

**Yasmina Mrabet:** Full community control over land and labor! Universal Housing - a public housing option for all DC residents. All public funding currently spent on job training programs in DC redirected to fund worker-owned alternatives, including worker-owned cooperatives. All power to the people! We dream of equality for all and the supremacy for none!

**Jourgette E. Reid-Sillah:** If I were to ask a female deity (Agbanga)* to grant my wishes for the District of Columbia (DC) it would be like this. The District of Columbia would fully acknowledge the power of the female and eliminate gender inequality. This would also apply to the gender in which an individual identifies.

*The Agbanga deity is known in central Togo as the woman’s deity, existing for the happiness and protection of women. This deity is also known to grant women their greatest wish. ([http://blog.alaffia.com/2014/03/olowo-ndjos-update-womens-history-month.html](http://blog.alaffia.com/2014/03/olowo-ndjos-update-womens-history-month.html))
Marisela Gomez: My wildest vision for DC moving forward is the vision of ONEDC. That all people, especially those who have historically been abandoned and not listened to, participate and decide along with planning and whoever else, what kind of change happens in their neighborhoods. That once these decisions are made, the funding is there to support an equitable rebuilding of neighborhoods. That the violent/unhealthy activity, like drug dealing, police violence, domestic abuse and others are addressed in community change, not only housing and business. That the Black Workers Center plays a role in co-creating a pedagogy of liberation for Black people in DC, one that empowers folks who are employed, underemployed, or not employed to find liberation externally through economic sustainability and internal liberation. I would like see a redistribution of resources into our low income/no income black and brown communities.

Brandy H. M. Brooks: I dream of DC as the heart and embodiment of a nation that has made new choices for its political economy. Rejecting the long and devastating legacy of racial capitalism, DC has chosen equity and justice as the fundamental core of its public policy. This means that DC has chosen to materially address and repair—with real financial and physical resources—the damage done to individuals and communities through theft of land, theft of labor and wages, state violence, environmental degradation and neglect, and other injustices. From this foundation, DC policies treat people with equity rather than fairness, recognizing that distinct situations cannot all be addressed by a one-size-fits-all approach, building the capacity to adequately serve all residents, and understanding that in cases of conflicting priorities, the needs of those who are most vulnerable take precedence. DC elected officials and government staff are selected to make and carry out these policies by a politically educated, highly engaged resident population that is diverse in race and ethnicity, age and gender, native language and national origin, and educational and vocational background and skills.
"We can impose beauty on our future."

- Lorraine Hansberry

PROPHECIES: By 2025...

• A People’s Platform candidate is elected.

• Organizing groups in the city are aligned and actively working together on actions and strategy.

• Accomplished at least 1/3 of our legislative demands under the People’s Platform – 27 parcels being auctioned off, some of them going into a community land trust.

• Become a household name for political organizing. people in DC, DMV, and nationally know we will push the most radical policies in jobs and housing.

• Major protests in coalition with other groups with turnout of 1,000+.

• Be a leader in bringing participatory budgeting process to the District of Columbia.

• Black Workers Center exists as a physical space in Ward 7 or 8 for Black worker co-op development, job placement, job training, organizer training, and direct action.

• Create or support a member-led worker co-op or job referral agency.

• Convert 10 properties into Limited Equity Housing Cooperatives.

• Place 2-3 parcels of land at Poplar Point into a community land trust.
• $1 million budget

• Be “self-sufficient” by starting our own worker cooperative that helps fund the organizing work.

• Combahee Drylongso School is a physical place that organizers travel to from around the world and we send DC residents around the world to study organizing and movement building.

• DC-based conference/meeting at least once a year of scholars, organizers, activists to talk about alternatives, theory, political analysis (but also in a popularized way).

• Be published frequently in the media with an alternative message. For example: debunking public housing myths, equitable development, truly affordable housing.

• 500 members per year; 2,500 paid members by the end of 5 years.

• Have a strong middle and high school presence with youth volunteers/internships.

• Publish a book about ONE DC – our history, our organizing, our campaigns.

• We will have maintained up-to-date technology (computers, wifi) and office furniture/space.

• Black Workers Center or satellite office in Ward 7 or 8, which would serve as a space for the Black Worker’s Center and/or Combahee Drylongso Organizing School.

• We will have five coterminous full-time staff w/ benefits who stay on at least two years.

• We will have a Shared Leadership Team at capacity with 11 members.
In 2016, Organizing Neighborhood Equity (ONE DC) celebrated its ten-year anniversary. Several events were held throughout the year to share the organization's mission and programs. As a result, donations increased in several categories. From 2015 to 2016, grants increased by 76%, individual donations increased by 99%, and tenth-anniversary donations increased by 49%. The majority of income for 2016 was derived from grants (59%) and tenth anniversary donations.

Overall, expenses decreased by 4% from 2015 to 2016. The majority of the expenses were for work done in the Right to Income (32%) and People's Platform (20% areas. Programs at the Black Workers Center in Southeast Washington, DC accounted for the majority of the expenses in Right to Income.
A numbers runner was a street diviner - choreographer of "the people's lottery" - conveyor of bets (dreams) from poor and low-income community members, often Black - and thus, an outlaw figure.

Dreambook Numbers...
Running Towards Sustainability

Over the past decade ONE DC struggled to raise money and resources to support our dreams for a better DC. Sustaining the work of resistance, resilience, and rebellion comes down to our creative hustle. The next ten years will require the same effort and more--to conjure numbers to set us free instead of the capital that binds us. All money is BLOOD MONEY and we are not above this system of extracted capital. But we are trying to create a new relationship with money and resources, all the while personally challenging ourselves and ONE DC to be ever moving towards a more just and equitable society. Let's risk with bold imagination to generate resources to sustain people and planet.
ONEDC 10th Anniversary

Angela Davis & Barbara Ransby

$20 Entry

Sat. June 18th, 2016

GO-GO PARTY

Hosted by ONE DC

Davis & Ransby
1-4PM // 805 21st St. NW
Jack Morton Auditorium, GWU

GO-GO PARTY
5-11PM // 2445 Massachusetts Ave NW
Bolivarian Hall

RSVP onedc10thanniversary.org

@ ONE DC
10th Anniversary Celebration

Top: Dr. Barbara Ransby and Dr. Angela Davis speak at ONE’S 10th Anniversary Celebration.


Dance Place performers dancing to a Marvin Gaye-inspired production at ONE DC’s performance and reception fundraiser.

What's Going On?
After organizing and fundraising ONE DC was able to buy a building for our Black Workers Center in 2017.

**Top Left:** Joseph Green of Split This Rock performs at the Black Workers Center Launch.

**Top Right:** Resource Generation and the Black Workers Center hold a Black Labor event.

**Bottom:** Artist Edgar Reyes leads a group of members in painting a community mural.
ONE DC's Renter's Day of Action!

Right to Housing Campaigns

ONE DC stands with residents fighting displacement in the District. **Left:** Congress Heights March Against Slumlords. **Middle:** A press conference to announce a lawsuit by Brookland Manor residents (top); Brookland Manor residents at a tenant meeting (bottom). **Right:** Mt. Vernon Plaza/ Museum Square solidarity action
Our members sustain us every step of the way—leading our gentrification tours, buying membership t-shirts, and attending community meetings!

Above: Our yearly member appreciation awards ceremony thanks outstanding members and volunteers. Right: Member Angelica Lopez sells her embroidery and work at the event.

Thank you!
"The purpose of the Black Worker Center is to create a space where people build power and understand the politics of their work, where they build skills to enhance their opportunity to get good work, and where, through co-ops organizing, we can control and create our own labor," says Dominic Mouliden, a resource organizer at the D.C. center.

- "8 Cities Have New Co-op Style Black Worker Centers- And They're Tackling Unemployment" by Melissa Hellmann in Yes! Magazine

"Adriann Borum says that losing her four-bedroom apartment would change the character of their community and make it impossible for large families to stay. "They say it takes a village to raise a child. I was raised at Brookland Manor, and having raised 5 children here," she said in a statement, "Brookland Manor is our village, and our village is being torn apart."

- "Brookland Residents Sue Owner of Massive Complex Over Redevelopment Plans" by Rachel Sadon in DCist.

"Adriann Borum urges the community to unite and fight to preserve the well-earned presence of their neighborhood. "We've got to come together as a community to fight for what we want," she said. "Our voices have to be heard. But in numbers."

- "Brookland Manor V. Gentrification" by Alexa Imani Spencer in The Hilltop

"Washington Clinic for the Homeless Staff Attorney Will Merrifield notes, the large share of seniors who reside with other relatives at Brookland Manor could have to choose between kicking their families off future leases for smaller units (if they opt to stay) and leaving the property. "The tenants association is in full support of the lawsuit being filed," Merrifield says. "We stand in solidarity with the families who are threatened with displacement by this redevelopment."

- "Northeast Tenants Sue Owner for Alleged Discrimination" by Andrew Giambrone in Washington City Paper
Imagine the Angels of Bread
by Martín Espada

This is the year that squatters evict landlords,
gazing like admirals from the rail
of the roofdeck;
or levitating hands in praise
of steam in the shower;
this is the year
thatshawled refugees deport judges
who stare at the floor
and their swollen feet
as files are stamped
with their destination;
this is the year that police revolvers,
stohe-hot, blister the fingers
of raging cops,
and nightsticks splinter
in their palms;
this is the year that darkskinned men
lynched a century ago
return to sip coffee quietly
with the apologizing descendants
of their executioners.

This is the year that those
who swim the border’s undertow
and shiver in boxcars
are greeted with trumpets and drums
at the first railroad crossing
on the other side;
this is the year that the hands
pulling tomatoes from the vine
uproot the deed to the earth that sprouts
the vine,
the hands canning tomatoes
are named in the will
that owns the bedlam of the cannery;
this is the year that the eyes stinging
from the poison that purifies toilets
awaken at last to the sight
of a rooster-loud hillside,
pilgrimage of immigrant birth; this is the
year that cockroaches
become extinct, that no doctor
finds a roach embedded
in the ear of an infant;
this is the year that the food stamps
of adolescent mothers
are auctioned like gold doubloons,
and no coin is given to buy machetes
for the next bouquet of severed heads
in coffee plantation country.

If the abolition of slave-manacles
began as a vision of hands without
manacles, then this is the year;
if the shutdown of extermination camps
began as imagination of a land
without barbed wire or the crematorium,
then this is the year;
if every rebellion begins with the idea
that conquerors on horseback are not
many-legged gods, that they too drown
if plunged in the river,
then this is the year.

So may every humiliated mouth,
teeth like desecrated headstones,
fill with the angels of bread.
Our Gratitude To...


Cooperation DC: Adwoa Masozi, Allison Basile, Brandy Brooks, Eva Seidelman, Jennifer Bryant, Jerome Hughes, Juan Reid, Lucas Turner-Owens, Melody Webb, Silvia Salazar, Tracy McCurty

Administration & Organizational Management: Brandi Geurkink, Christine Gray, Claire Cook, Colin Stragar-Rice, Dee Pha, Gwendolyn Johnson, Helen Wix, Jessica Gordon Nembhard, John Zottoli, Julia Thome, Kristi Matthews, Luci Murphy, Matt Bowen, Michael Leslie, Mitch Ellmauer, Nora Jacques, Samir Maghelli, Samantha Lemieux


Organizational Donors: Georgetown CSJ/KI, Jerome and Jainey Fund, Open Society Institute Matching Gift Program, UNITE Here Local 25


Walking Tours: American University - “Who is DC?” Course, American University Alternative Spring Break, Amizade Global Service-Learning, Buxton School, Catholic University Alternative Spring Break; Institute for Policy Studies; Johns Hopkins; Lebanon Valley College, National Cathedral School, Pleasant Plains Workshop, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, UMass Amherst, United Methodist Church Seminars DC, Urban Leaders Fellowship, Washington College, Western New England University, World Learning, Yale University

Please charge our head and not our heart for any omissions or misspellings!
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