Movement for a Just World
Agenda

Welcome
Introductions
How We Approach This Work
Video Premiere

Curriculum Activity
The Resources
Ways To Use The Resources
Close
Welcome
Tamisha Torres-Walker

Tamisha Walker is a founding member and Executive Director of the Safe Return Project, a campaign to secure the freedom and liberation of formerly incarcerated individuals. She has been a Richmond-based community organizer and well-respected advocate on issues related to mass incarceration and racial disparity in the criminal justice system since her release from incarceration in 2009. Tamisha organizes and coordinates the Safe Return Project and its campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels.

As a formerly incarcerated woman, she shares a powerful personal story about the journey to healing and successful reentry into society. Tamisha has years of community organizing experience in a city impacted by trauma and economic inequality, including her own personal experience with trauma and poverty growing up in Richmond, California. Her educational credentials include professional training in research and advocacy for the formerly incarcerated and their families, violence prevention strategies, and conflict mediation to reduce urban gun violence.
Eli Moore

Eli has facilitated numerous participatory action research processes and published various reports and strategy papers that have been cited by local, national, and international media outlets and policy-making bodies. His research focuses broadly on urban planning and policy, political economy, race, and human geography. Eli draws on training and experience with geographic information systems, qualitative and mixed methods research, policy analysis, conflict mediation and negotiation, and popular education to facilitate participatory processes that allow those most affected by injustice to lead decision making and advance transformative change. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Eli holds a Bachelors degree from University of California at Santa Cruz and dual master’s degrees in Geography and International Relations from the Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

Eli co-authored Ending Legal Bias Against Formerly Incarcerated People, which looks at strategies for establishing protected class status for people with past criminal convictions. This is part of long-time collaboration with the Safe Return Project, an organization Eli co-founded as a participatory action research project with the late Richard Boyd.
Thank you to our Collaborators

- Be The Change
- Sharp As Knives
- Sagaree Jain
- Adey Teshager
- Antoine Watt, Sr.
- Aaron Williams, Sr.
- Evan Bissell
- Dorsey Dunn
- Daryn Rockett
- Monica Akins
- Oscar Flores
- George Galvis
- Valerie Jameson
- John Jones
- Jay Jordan
- Ke Lam
- Ny Nourn
- Katt Ramos
- Sandy Saeturn
- David Sharples
- Katrina Swenson
- Amy Vanderwarker
- Mylanah Yolango
- Eddy Zheng
Why are you here? What calls you to the topic of connecting the climate crisis and mass incarceration through narratives?

574 responses
Why Narrative Strategies

1. Humans best remember and live by stories

2. A narrative limited to a single issue and/or single community limits long-term transformation

3. A strategic narrative that links together various issues & communities can help build bridges across differences, and align toward a bigger, bolder vision for transformation
Strategic Narrative

1. Cross-issue, cross-community, to be used as meta narrative across campaigns/projects

2. Does not repeat the big lies, the assumptions that undermine our long-term progress

3. Articulates shared vision for the future, analysis of the past and forces shaping current situation, shared values, and shared identity

4. Resonates and provides north star for transformation
“Values”
How we relate to each other
Principles and Commitments
What is OK

“Analysis”
Story of the past
Where we come from
What happened and why
The forces shaping society

“Vision”
The future we seek
What we deserve
What the “good life” looks like

“Identity”
Who is the ‘we’
Who we are
Who we came from
Who we are becoming
Process of creating the work

Building Connective Narratives
In Fall of 2018, Our Power, Safe Return Project, and OBI started meeting to hold generative and critical discussions to give birth to a strategic narrative. How do we all get aligned with a shared vision and task? So that we can’t be conquered. So that when something heavy comes up we aren’t questioning each other. So our missions are aligned and we don’t get distracted.

2020
Introduce Concepts to our community
We hosted community workshops focused on exposing movement partners to tools that were created to connect our movements. During this time we continued our research.

2022-2023
Share Narrative project
Widely distribute Transformative Narrative framework and tools across movement spaces in need of collective visioning options for concrete wins over the BIG LIES.

2018-2019
Statement on Mass Liberation and Just Transition
We developed what we have so far through a series of about six in-depth, semi-structured discussions. These discussions focused primarily on these core questions: What is our analysis of the root causes of the struggles caused by mass incarceration and climate change? What are the values that guide our work? What is the vision we have for the world that gives us a north star for where we want to go? What is the shared identity of us and our people that holds our values, vision, and analysis?

2020-2021
Finalized research
Completed research on current movement, historical movements, interviews with environmental and decarceration leaders, the development of our report, and the toolkit.
Just World Report

Introduction

A Just World

A Short History of the Prison Industrial Complex

- The Challenge
- An Extractive and Corporate Economy
- A Government Unresponsive to People of Color and Poor People

How We Built a Transformative Narrative

Our Transformative Narratives

- What Isn't Working for Us?
- Visions We Cannot Accept
- What Stories Do We Need?

Our Vision
Just World Toolkit

A set of activities for facilitators to use to lead interactive workshops and strategy sessions

Activity 1: Connect to Your Personal Why in the Work 5

Activity 2: Building an Intersectional Analysis 7

Activity 3: Uncover the Big Lies about Our Communities 11

Activity 4: Develop a Shared Vision for the Future 15

Activity 5: Unleash the Power of Intersectional Movements 19

Activity 6: Analyzing Your Demands to Create Real Solutions 23

Activity 7: Advance Transformative Narratives 27

Additional Resources 31
Movement for a More Just World

Narrated by Sagaree Jain
Moment for Reflection

- What felt like truth in the video?
- What made you angry and why?
- What made you curious or inspired?
Curriculum Activity
Uncovering the Big Lies about Our Communities (Toolkit page 11)

Breakout group discussions will be self-facilitated, so let’s agree on a few things:

- Start by going around and each person having one minute or so to share thoughts.
- This is a safe space to share in confidentiality, what’s said here stays here.
- Please speak from your own experience, using “I” statements.

The big lies that the video described:
- Some places must be treated as sacrifice zones.
- Incarceration makes our communities safer.
- You have to make tradeoffs between jobs and climate for people to be well.
- We have to spend billions on extractive industries.
- The future we imagine is impossible.

Questions for discussion:
- Which of these big lies resonated most with you?
- What are some things that happen or that we do when we believe in this big lie?
- Who benefits from this lie? Who is harmed?
- How does breaking down this big lie help advance climate justice and mass liberation?
Ways To Use The Materials

- Series of workshops with community members
- Coalition process
- Study group
- Artistic creative process
- What else?
How could you use the curriculum/video/report in your community context?
71 responses

Keywords:
- compassionate inquiry
- changing org values
- development of alliances
- anti-oppression issues
- breaking boundaries
- connectivity
- change narrative
- built environment
- resist
- dream bigger
- raising voices
- reverent curiosity
- break boundaries
- educate others
- sharing
- nonviolent options
- truth telling
- dismantling the lies
- connecting
- disrupting systems
- open dialogues
- conversation starter
- disruption
- community engagement
- challenging narratives
- build understanding
- generate long-lasting cha
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