Greetings Beloved Community!!!

I am so happy (and a bit nervous!) to officially welcome you to the first ever Fierce Vulnerability Network 6-month cohort! As you will soon see, this is an AMAZING bunch of humans that we will be building with and I am so excited to be with you all in person!

This email should have all of the information you need to prepare for the launch of the cohort (except for the stuff I forgot of course!). **Please read through it all carefully**, and email us with any questions!!!

**Basic Info**

We’ve created a very basic website where we will be gathering important information. As the cohort moves forward, we will be adding more stuff here - readings, resources, etc. You can always access it at [www.eastpointpeace.org/fvncohort](https://www.eastpointpeace.org/fvncohort). This is an unlisted page, which means it is accessible to anyone with the URL, but is not linked from our website as it is meant to be an internal resource.

Our full calendar is available on this site, but please keep in mind our first few gatherings:

 **Fierce Vulnerability Opening Workshop (IN-PERSON)**

 **Location TBA**(most likely to be held entirely outdoors)

 Friday, September 9th from 6PM - 8PM

 Saturday, September 10th from 10AM - 6PM (please bring a packed lunch)

 Sunday, September 11th from 10AM - 6PM (please bring a packed lunch)

 **Workshop Debrief (VIRTUAL)**

 Tuesday, September 13th from 5PM - 6:30PM

 **Fierce Vulnerability Network 101 (IN-PERSON)**

 **Location TBA**

 Saturday, September 24th from 10AM - 6PM

**Who Are We?**

The cohort is made up of 31 amazing wise creative people!!! You can check out everyone’s photos and a quick message [here](https://www.eastpointpeace.org/cohortmembers). Take some time scrolling through. These are going to be the people you will be in this wild experiment with for the next 6 months, and hopefully beyond!

The 31 people include those of us on the East Point Core Team, the FVN Bay Area Stewardship Circle, and the Cohort Planning & Facilitation team.

For transparency, the East Point Core Team is made up of myself, Chris Moore-Backman, laura ann coelho and Vickie Chang. Leonie Smith and Luis Miranda are also on the Core Team, but are based outside of the Bay Area and will not be joining the cohort. The Core Team supports the programs and operations of the East Point Peace Academy, and will be supporting the cohort by holding a lot of the administrative pieces.

The Bay Area Stewardship Circle is made up of myself, Alvin Rosales, Sarah Herrera and Vickie Chang. This is the group that helps the guide the big picture vision of the FVN’s work in the Bay Area, and is also the group that read all of your beautiful applications and made the final selections for the cohort.

And finally, the Cohort Planning & Facilitation team is made up of myself, Chris Moore-Backman and Vickie Chang. We will at times bring in a few other people to support the facilitation, and may even call on some of you to step into more leadership roles!

We will be sharing everyone’s contact info with each other. If you do not want your contact info shared, please let me know in an email ASAP.

**Fierce Vulnerability Workshop #2!!!**

There will be two members of the cohort who cannot make our opening workshop. We have therefore scheduled [a SECOND workshop on the weekend of September 30th](https://www.eastpointpeace.org/fvbaysept2022) that those two members can attend, and will also be open to the public.

The dates are NOT OPTIONAL. We want as many members of the cohort to attend the first workshop, so we want to ask everyone else to plan to attend the workshop on the weekend of the 9th. However, we know that the Network is larger than the cohort, and many people want to be involved who cannot be in the cohort. So please help us out by spreading the word about this workshop.

While this workshop is open to anybody, we want to extend a special invitation to those who may want to learn more about, or engage with the Network. So please think about people who you may want to have on your future teams, people that may be a support to you, etc. and invite them to attend.

We are committed to making this workshop a BIPOC majority workshop.

**FVN Handbook**

Some of you have already seen the FVN Handbook. Some of you played an important role in creating it! The handbook will act as the guide for our time together. Each person will receive a copy of it when we meet, but you can also order a copy online [here](https://www.nomadicpress.org/store/p/thefvnhandbook) and get a head start!

**Gift Economy & Internal Reparations**

Our commitment to the Gift Economy and to the process of reparations goes hand-in-hand.

First, this means that nobody will be charged anything for participating in this cohort. At the same time, there are a lot of financial needs associated with this cohort that we will try to raise collectively. This includes hundreds and hundreds of hours of visioning, planning, administration and facilitation. We are currently in discussion to figure out what our needs are, and will be fully transparent about them with you when we figure it out. We will talk more about this on our opening weekend.

We also acknowledge that we are not the only one that may have financial needs that come up during this cohort. We are therefore starting the process of raising resources for our Internal Reparations Fund. This Fund is meant to support BIPOC people participate fully in the Network’s activities. This can mean lost wages for taking time off of work to participate in an event, needs that may surface for child support, transportation, etc.

This work is also difficult, challenging work. It is not something one can engage with unless you have the spaciousness in your life for it. We therefor want to encourage BIPOC members of our cohort - especially those that identify as Black or Indigenous - to seek support for therapists, a spa day, a nice meal. We need you here for the long term, and we are trying to create a community that values your physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health.

There are two ways to engage with the Internal Reparations Fund.

1. Help us raise resources for it. You can donate or share the fundraiser by [clicking here](https://fundrazr.com/422Vvc?ref=ab_eBFePf_ab_AxG8KVtem3ZAxG8KVtem3Z).
2. Request support. We’ve all grown up in a culture where asking for financial support is seen as shameful. We need to transform that message. Requesting support is what makes the gift of giving possible. Without someone to receive our gifts, the ecology breaks down. So consider asking for your needs to be met! Now, or anytime throughout the cohort. You can do so by reaching out to members of the FVN Bay Area Stewardship Circle - myself, Vickie Chang, Alvin Rosales or Sarah Herrera.

**See you soon!**

I think that’s all for now! Again I cannot wait until we are all together in person soon! Thank you all so much for what you’ve already done to make this such a special project!

On Behalf of the FVN Bay Area Stewardship Circle,

Kazu Haga