

# PEOPLE'S PROGRESS REPORT 2006-2016

ONE DC 10th Anniversary Dreambook



# DEN OF DREAMERS

## *Shared Leadership Team*

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## ***Consultants***

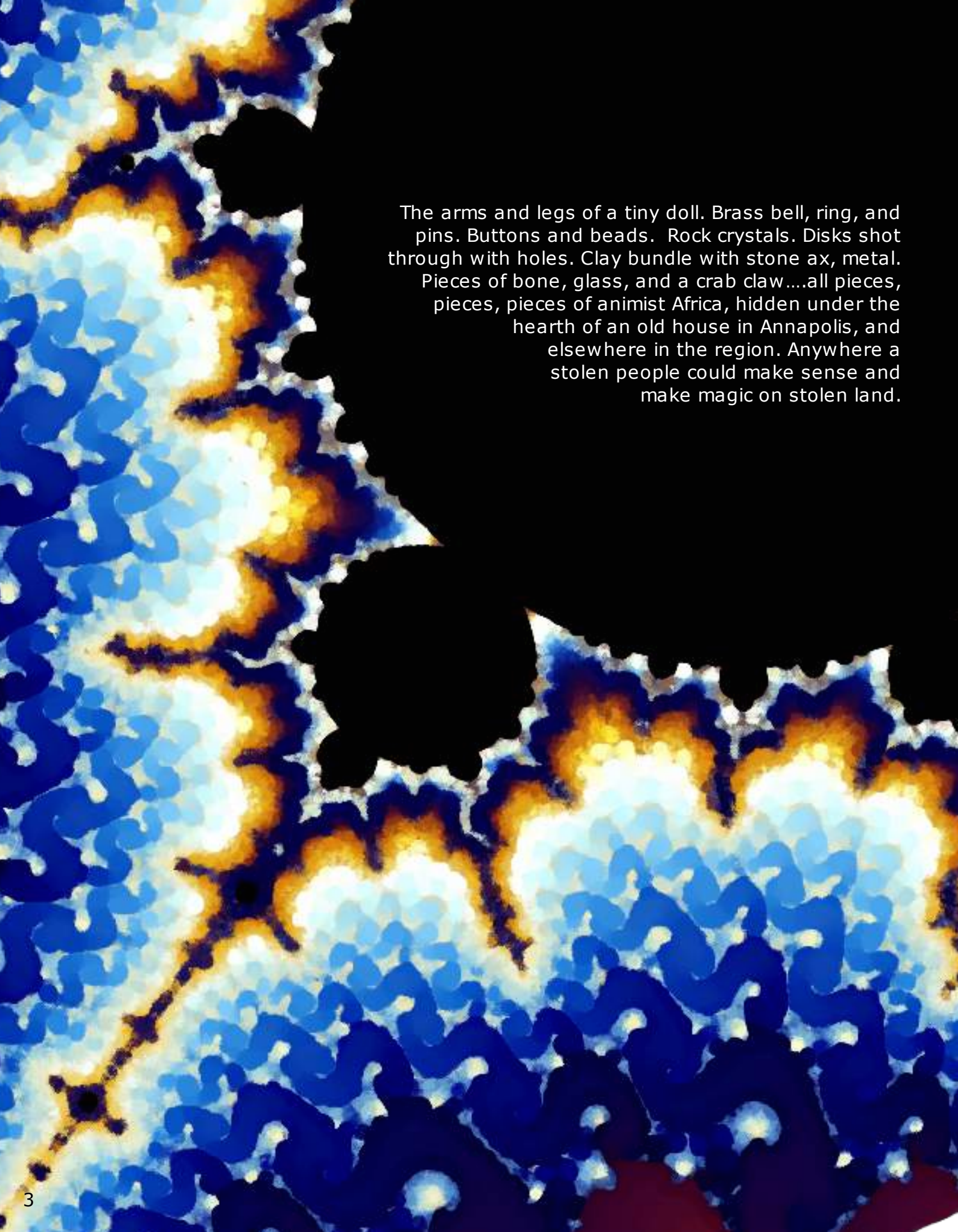
Almah LaVon Rice, Harriett "Bunny" Jackson

## ***10th Anniversary Dreambook Credits***

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Esmeralda Huerta, Graphic Designer

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The background of the page is an abstract, high-contrast pattern. It features a dense, swirling texture of bright blue and yellow, resembling a microscopic view of a mineral or a close-up of a certain fabric. Overlaid on this pattern are large, irregular, solid black shapes that create a sense of depth and shadow. The overall effect is one of complex, organic movement and stark contrast.

The arms and legs of a tiny doll. Brass bell, ring, and pins. Buttons and beads. Rock crystals. Disks shot through with holes. Clay bundle with stone ax, metal. Pieces of bone, glass, and a crab claw....all pieces, pieces, pieces of animist Africa, hidden under the hearth of an old house in Annapolis, and elsewhere in the region. Anywhere a stolen people could make sense and make magic on stolen land.

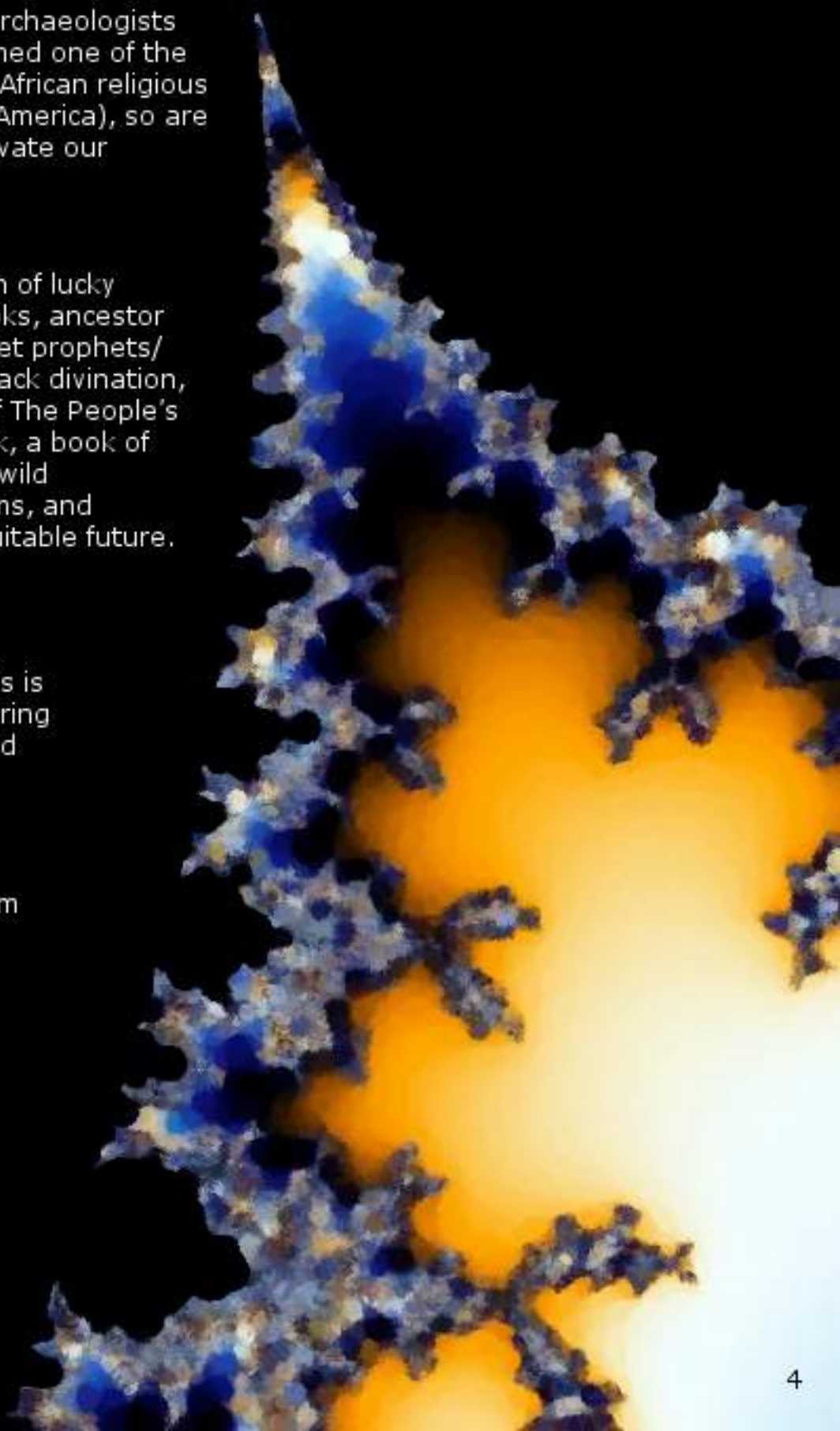


Just as University of Maryland archaeologists excavated what has been deemed one of the earliest examples of traditional African religious artifacts in Turtle Island (North America), so are we called to unearth and reactivate our legacies of magical resistance.

In the African-American tradition of lucky dream books/ lottery/policy books, ancestor dream visitations, hoodoo, street prophets/ prophecy, 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 visioning 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  
Amy Cohen  
Angela Davis  
Barbara Ransby  
BeSteadwell  
Beth Sadler  
Brook Hill  
Caroline Hennessey  
Citlalli Velasquez  
Colleen Roberts  
Dan Spika  
Delonte Wilkins  
Dorothy Davis  
Elijah Joy  
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Hayley Mulhern  
Howard Lee  
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Jenny Xia  
Jessica Gordon Nembhard  
Jo'von Jameson  
Kathryn Harris  
Kirk Gaddy  
Larry Kressley  
Lasitha Ranatunga  
Lucas Turner-Owens  
Michael Leslie  
Nadia Johnson  
Naima Campbell  
Nawal Rajeh  
Nicholas DiRago  
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Nicole Newman  
Paul Abowd  
Phyllissa Bilal  
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Nadia Shebaro  
Nathalie Miravel  
Nell Bayliss  
Patricia Penny  
Rosemary Ndubizu  
Sarah Klotz  
Brigette Rouson

## ***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***

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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 Ciphared by them.

But afrofuturenauts are an intrepid tribe. We know that ancestors beforeandcomingandnotgone have dreamed us up (are still dreaming us up), and that the future is  $\langle \text{---} \infty \text{---} \rangle$ .

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*





# **Why ONE DC must continue: EXISTENCE IS RESISTANCE!**

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.



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





## DREAM DIARY:

### DOCUMENTING MORE THAN A DECADE OF DREAMS REALIZED

- 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 join 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 Wood Johnson Foundation commits to funding 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.





**LIBERATION!** Kenneth Yates



**TRIUMPHANT!** Brandi HM Brooks



**COURAGE!** Reverend Arthur S. Brown Jr.



**RESILIENCE!** Yasmina Mrabet



**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.

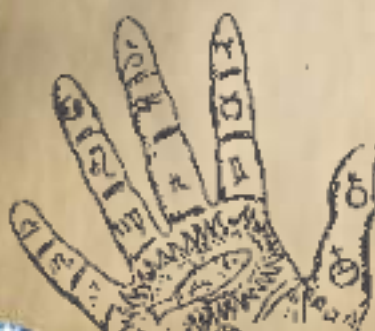


**Yasmina Mrabet:** Full community control over land and labor! Universal Housing - a public housing option for all DC residents. All public funding currently spent on job training programs in DC redirected to fund worker-owned alternatives, including worker-owned cooperatives. All power to the people! 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://blogalaffia.com/2014/03/olowondjos-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 to 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.



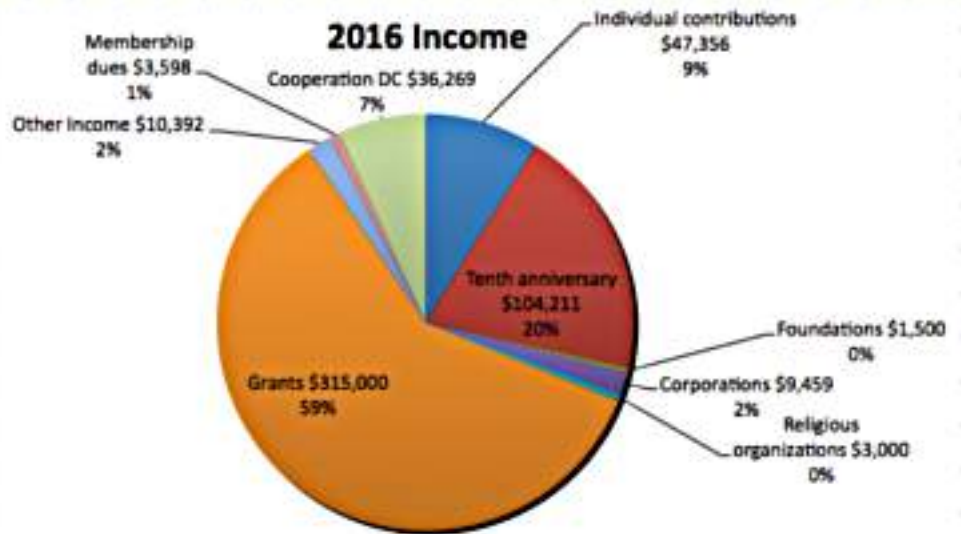
## PROPHECIES, cont.

- \$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.



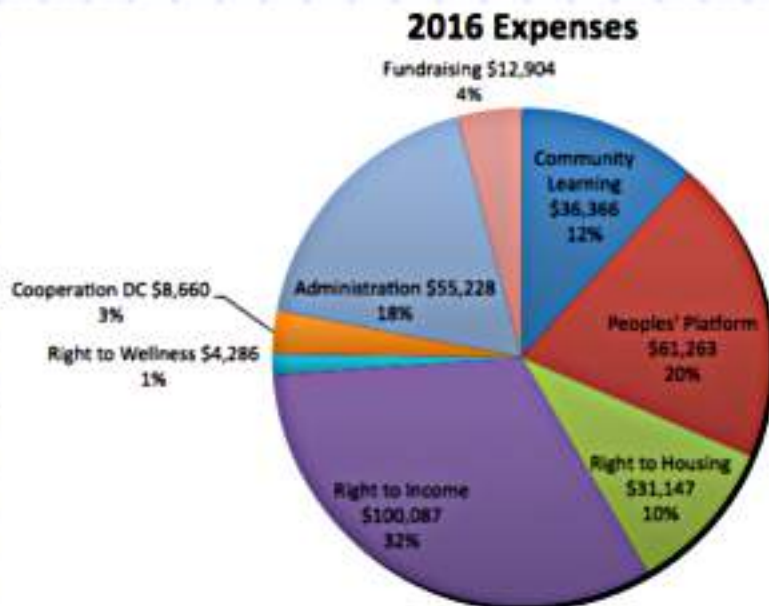
# Lucky Numbers

Individual contributions	\$47,356
Tenth anniversary	\$104,211
Foundations	\$1,500
Corporations	\$9,459
Religious Organizatinos	\$3,000
Grants	\$315,000
Other Income	\$10,392
Membership Dues	\$3,598
Cooperation DC	\$36,269
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$530,785</b>



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.

Community Learning	\$36,366
Peoples' Platform	\$61,263
Right to Housing	\$31,147
Right to Income	\$100,087
Right to Wellness	\$4,286
Cooperation DC	\$8,660
Administration	\$55,228
Fundraising	\$12,904
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$309,941</b>



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 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Angela Davis  
& Barbara  
Ransby



THEN

**\$20  
ENTRY**

Can't pay for a ticket?  
Call us at 202-232-2915 to find out how to get a sponsored ticket.

**SAT. JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> 2016**

**GO-GO PARTY**



hosted by ONE DC



**DAVIS & RANSBY**

1-4PM // 805 21<sup>ST</sup> ST. NW  
JACK MORTON AUDITORIUM, GWU

**GO-GO PARTY**

5-11PM // 2445 MASSACHUSETTS AVE NW  
BOLIVARIAN HALL



onedcorganizing

RSVP onedc10thanniversary.org



@\_ONEDC



## 10th Anniversary Celebration

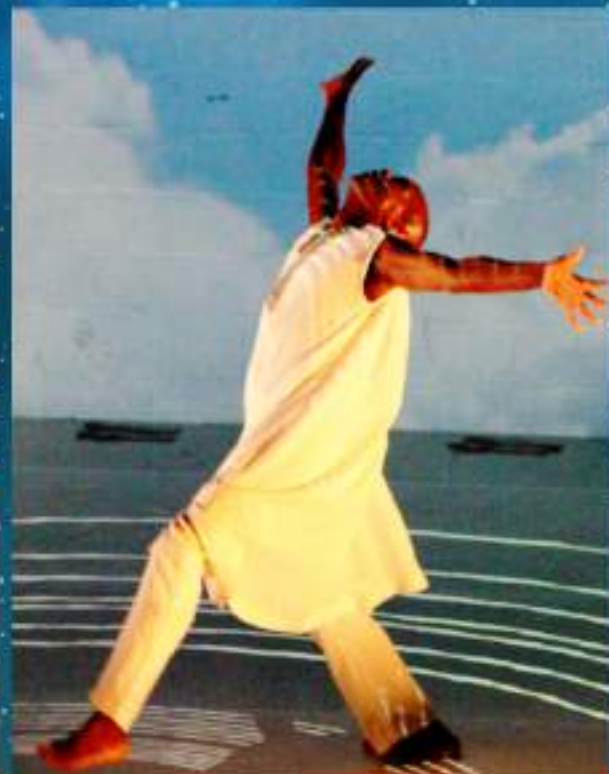


**Top:** Dr. Barbara Ransby and Dr. Angela Davis speak at ONE'S 10th Anniversary Celebration.

**Bottom (from L-R):** Michael Leslie, Nawal Rajeh, Clara Lincoln and Pat Penny.



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



## What's Going On?



# Black Workers Center



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.



# Life, Liberty, & Social Justice





## 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



# Member Appreciation Awards



**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!



Our members sustain us every step of the way—leading our gentrification tours, buying membership t-shirts, and attending community meetings!





## ONE DC in the News

"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 Moulden, 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.'"

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- "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  
that shawled 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,  
stove-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...

**People's Platform:** Akosua Dosu, Allison Basile, Art Brown, Austin Frizzell, Brandy Brooks, Caroline Hennessey, Charles Turner, Claire Cook, Delonte Wilkins, Dominic Moulden, Dorothy Davis, Eugene Puryear, Gloria Ward, Gwendolyn Johnson, Jabari Zakiya, Jenn Hosler, Jennifer Bryant, John Tuzcu, K Me, Kenan Tukes, Kristi Mathews, Lissette Miller, Madeline Hernandez, Marybeth Onyeukwu, Michael Leslie, Mina Itabashi-Fraga, Mitch Ellmauer, Nicole Newman, Patricia Penny, Ray Jose, Robert Green, Ronald Grey, Rosemary Ndubuizu, Ruth Barnwell, Virginia Leavell, Walda Katz-Fishman, Will Merrifield, Yasmina Mrabet

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