

DARK ENERGY: THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESS REPORT 2014





# THE COSMONAUTS

## Shared Leadership Team

**Allison Basile** - Secretary

**Jessica Gordon Nembhard** - President

**Pat Penny** - Vice President

**Rosemary Ndubuizu** - Treasurer

**Dewayne Brown**

**Tim Kumfer**

**Charles Turner**

## Apprentice Organizers

**Phyllissa Bilal** - Barry Farm Study Circle

**Kimberly Butts** - Lincoln-Westmoreland II

**Wayside Fellows** - Center for Popular Education

**Maria Laughinghouse**

**Maria Padilla**

## Interns

**Georgetown University - Kalmanovitz Initiative:**

**Nicholas DiRago**

**Diondra K. Hicks**

**Andrea E. Guerrero**

**Candace L. Milner**

**Carly Rosenfield**

**Sidney Wells**

**Benedict Nguyen** - Vassar College

**Sylvie Lerner** - American University

## Staff

**Jennifer Bryant** - Community Organizer

**Claire Cook** - Administrative Organizer

**Myron Reece Chenault** - Community Organizer

**Dan Ehrenberg** - Pro Bono Counsel

**Aiyi'nah Ford** - Community Organizer

**Nkechi Feaster** - Community Organizer

**Ka Flewellen** - Kelsey Gardens Organizer

**Harriet "Bunny" Jackson** - Accountant

**Dominic T. Moulden** - Resource Organizer

**Rosemary Ndubuizu** - Pro Bono Community Organizer

**Marybeth Onyeukwu** - Community Organizer

**Linette Robinson** - Administrative Organizer

## People's Progress Report - Credits

**Almah LaVon Rice** - Editorial Choreography

**Michael Swartzbeck** - Layout and Design

Dedicated to  
**LINETTE ROBINSON**  
a beloved and bright member of the  
ONE DC constellation.





**2014 was a stellar year for ONE DC.** Our outreach throughout the city was outstanding – through our Right to Income, Right to Housing, and People's Platform campaigns we touched many lives and helped raise many issues. At our Mayoral Forum we issued our demands – for truly affordable housing (for families making under \$50,000 and \$25,000), living-wage jobs and local hiring, and support for economic alternatives such as cooperatives – to the mayoral candidates and will continue our campaign with the new mayor. We increased the number of our members and the



number of paid staff. In addition, we met our fundraising goals, diversified our funders, and ended the year with a surplus! All increasingly difficult accomplishments because we challenge the status quo, develop resident leadership, and organize people's power – while many would prefer we not. Our thanks to everyone who helped make this another great year!

We asked one of our members, Ms. Phyllissa Bilal, to welcome you and introduce our 2014 People's Progress Report.

**Jessica Gordon Nembhard**

Coordinator, ONE DC Shared Leadership Team

## Welcome to the ONE DC People's Progress Report

**Organizing neighborhood equity may seem easy enough to do.** But in fact it is a long, exhausting process made worthwhile by the well-deserved return. This is what happens when you put people over profit. If self-preservation is the first rule of nature then I'd say that we are right on track. We are all connected and it is our duty to look out for one another. We can't do that if we ignore problems in our society that affect our neighbors.

An organizer's experience is full of highs and lows. We collect stories that become fuel for the hours, weeks, days, and sometimes years it takes to seek a fair and equitable outcome.

As an accidental activist, I am just one person who questioned the development process at Barry Farm. That led to the activism because there were more questions than answers. Alarm bells started to go off; something was not right. I was witnessing my own rights and those of my neighbors being railroaded over.

During the early process I began to research issues relating to my community and then other development programs that had come to the city. I was shocked at what I found. Countless hours spent researching and looking at council hearings related to housing would strengthen my resolve that if something were to change, it would have to start now. I would begin to research activists and scholars to design a dream team to examine and help to solve the critical issue of the removal of myself and other Barry Farm residents from the community I had come to love. Thus the study circle was born.



Mayor Muriel Bowser visits Barry Farms residents.

My solutions for Barry Farm – such as a grocery store co-op, an entrepreneur training program like Women Entrepreneurs of Baltimore, and a consignment or thrift store – were some of the ideas I shared with my circle and met with Marion Barry and other city officials to discuss. City official meetings, city council hearings, radio shows, and panel discussions were all met with the same opposi-

tion from the city. It seemed that the city government just wanted Barry Farm, DC General, and the homeless problem in DC to go away quietly. But the problem is that we are talking about people, families, and children! This problem was not created by the residents of the city but by poor city management and neglect. And as a military brat who lived in military housing, I know what suitable family accommodations are supposed to look like. And Barry Farm or any other public housing community that I have seen since coming to the District in 1990 is not suitable. If there is to be a change we will have to demand that our poorest residents' needs are met with some dignity and these residents be given a proper opportunity to engage in meaningful solutions.

In closing I will not leave you without mentioning the solidarity we've found within the Barry Farm Study Circle and the Barry Farm Tenants and Allies Association, and with People's Platform alliance members Our DC, Restaurant Opportunity Center DC, DC Jobs with Justice, and Empower DC.



Together we can preserve the rich history of family and togetherness that has become the culture of the District of Columbia. If the relocation of 50,000 people of color who have been priced out of our city since 2001 continues, we all lose. This is our DC, our city. We are one. We are ONE DC and we stand together in solidarity with human kind for an all-inclusive city that celebrates and seeks to preserve the existing culture that makes DC unique – and keeps power in our hands.

Respectfully,

**Phyllissa Bilal**

President, Barry Farm Study Circle



**dark energy:** In physical cosmology and astronomy, dark energy is an unknown form of energy which permeates all of space and tends to accelerate the expansion of the universe.

**Afrofuturism** is a literary and cultural aesthetic that combines elements of science fiction, historical fiction, fantasy, Afrocentricity, and magic realism with non-Western cosmologies in order to critique not only the present-day dilemmas of people of color, but also to revise, interrogate, and re-examine the historical events of the past. Afrofuturism addresses themes and concerns of the African Diaspora through a technoculture and science fiction lens, encompassing a range of media and artists with a shared interest in envisioning black futures that stem from Afrodiasporic experiences.

From Wikipedia.

**ONE DC's vision for the future is usually placed at the end of the report.** But in honor of this year's Afrofuturist theme, we begin with what's ahead – because Afrofuturism collapses past ↔ present ↔ future into one black (w)hole. Our future is present.

And our present is built on the desecration of black space(s) and black bodies. All of us are implicated. Structural transformation is a must. So we begin with the structure of the People's Progress Report itself, interrupting "business as usual" in just one small way. We gather courage here.

So, teleport yourself to DC four years forward. **Black to the future.**

## ONE DC: A TIME CAPSULE FOR 2019

- ★ 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.
- ★ We host a 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).
- ★ We are published frequently in the media with an alternative message. For example: debunking public housing myths, promoting equitable development and truly affordable housing.
- ★ We have 500 members per year, 2,500 paid members by the end of five years.
- ★ We have volunteers and interns from middle school and high school revolutionizing ONE DC with their ideas and creativity.



- ★ We have published a book about ONE DC – our history, our organizing, our campaigns.
- ★ We are a citywide movement presence for political organizing. People in DC, DMV, and nationally know we will push the most radical policies in jobs and housing.
- ★ We unleash major protests in coalition with other groups of 1,000+.
- ★ The Black Worker Center is open, and we have created or support a member-led worker coop.
- ★ We are a leader in bringing participatory budgeting process to the District of Columbia.
- ★ Enterprising Staffing Solutions is re-opened!
- ★ Poplar Point or some other parcel is in a community land trust.
- ★ We have accomplished at least 1/3 of our legislative victories for the People's Platform – 27 parcels have been auctioned off, and some of these have gone into a community land trust.
- ★ We support 10 building/housing cooperatives.
- ★ We have a \$1 million budget.
- ★ We are "self-sufficient" by starting our own worker cooperative that funds the organizing work.
- ★ A People's Platform candidate is elected.

**Dear Future, hold us to this vision.**

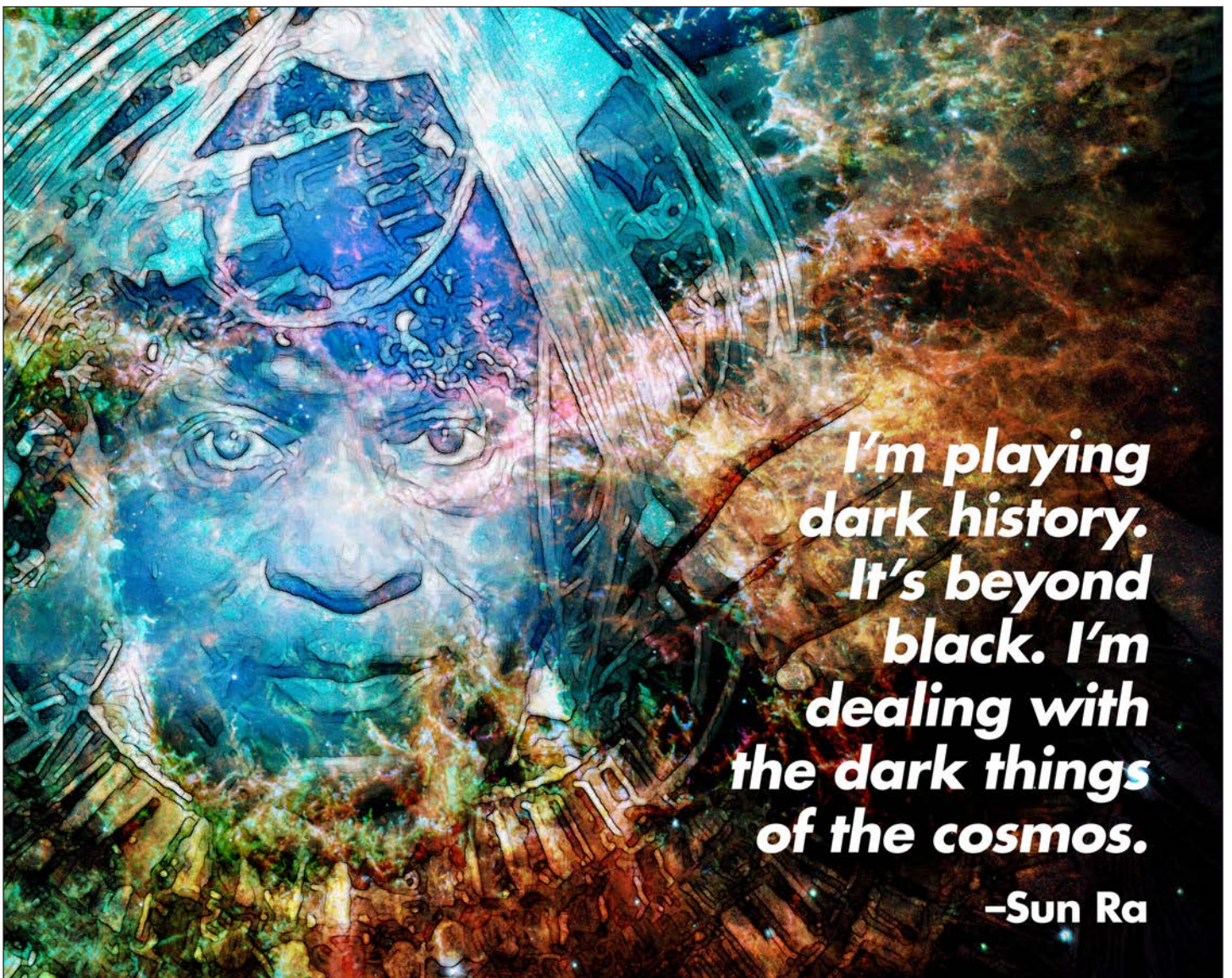






*Normally when we go to organizations and we say we want to go to the court building, they say, "Okay, we'll go get some people and we'll come with you." ONE DC will say, "Okay, we'll take what you just told us, take it to our community, and see what they want to do. We'll be in touch." I thought that was great, because that's how I believe it should be done.*

*– Nkechi Feaster*



***I'm playing  
dark history.  
It's beyond  
black. I'm  
dealing with  
the dark things  
of the cosmos.***

***–Sun Ra***



## **"Afro-Surrealism**

**is drifting into contemporary culture on a rowboat with no oars,** entering the city to hunt down clues for the cure to this ancient, incurable disease called 'western civilization.' Or, as Ishmael Reed states, 'We are mystical detectives about to make an arrest.'"

– from D. Scot Miller's **Afro-Surreal Manifesto**



Photo by POCStudios, [behance.net/pocstudios](http://behance.net/pocstudios)

**ONE DC's organizing model is realistic.** Given the violence that longtime DC residents face on a daily basis, it is **REALISTIC** to dream an alternative dream rather than be beaten on the head and body with the batons of western civilization. It is **REALISTIC** to take back the commons, the land, and the communities stolen from us by wage labor, wage theft, and wars on poverty, crime, and drugs enacted on our bodies by the capitalist state.

ONE DC organizing will make an arrest of the state, government, and politicians who criminalize **BLACK** bodies but refuse to outlaw **POVERTY, WAR, WHITE SUPREMACY, DISPLACEMENT, and CAPITALISM** as crimes against humanity, especially Black humanity.

– Dominic T. Moulden, *Mystical Detective*



## Committees

### Streets to the Rooftops

Lasitha Ranatunga

Rebecca Mintz

Ka Flewellen

Dominic Moulden

BJ Joseph

Sian OFaolain

Tim Kumfer

Rob Wohl

Maria Laughinghouse

Akosua Dosu

Kalfani Turé

Can Tuzcu

Paul Abowd

### People's Platform

Allison Basile

Dewayne Brown

Will Merrifield

Andrew Feierman

Pete Rodrigue

Caroline Hennessy

Mohammed Jamal

Linda Leaks

Venus Little

Marybeth Onyeukwu

Patricia Penny

Sylvie Lerner

Kimberly Butts

Phylissa Bilal

Walda Katz-Fishman

LaKethia (KeKe) McCoy

Jabari Zakiya

Bob Schlehuber

Andrea Mack

Can Tuzcu

Virginia Leavell

Gwen Johnson

Patricia Trim

Jennifer Bryant

Rosemary Ndubuizu



## Committees

### Equitable Development Conference

Kalfani Turé

Allison Basile

Gregory Squires

Claire Cook

Jessica Gordon Nembhard

Nkechi Feaster

### Freedom Schools

Will Merrifield

Eugene Puryear

Allison Basile

Caroline Hennessy

Marybeth Onyeukwu

### Administration and Organizational Management

Jessica Gordon Nembhard

Yuqi Wang

Linette Robinson

Jennifer Diamond

Claire Cook

Jamie Nelson

Benedict Nguyen

Gabrielle Newell

### Service Learning Student Volunteers

Sam Keeler

Morgan McKenna

Bethany Silva

Alex Braun

Britta Galanis

Bailey Roe



## Committees

### Membership Appreciation

Pat Penny

Ka Flewellen

Claire Cook

### Annual Meeting

Pat Penny

Claire Cook

### Resource Development and Fundraising

Beth Sadler

Gina Charusomhat

Leigh Crenshaw

Rosemary Ndubuizu

Ben Kabuye

Nicholas DiRago

Lasitha Ranatunga

Alexa King

### Personnel

Pat Penny

Jessica Gordon Nembhard

Allison Basile

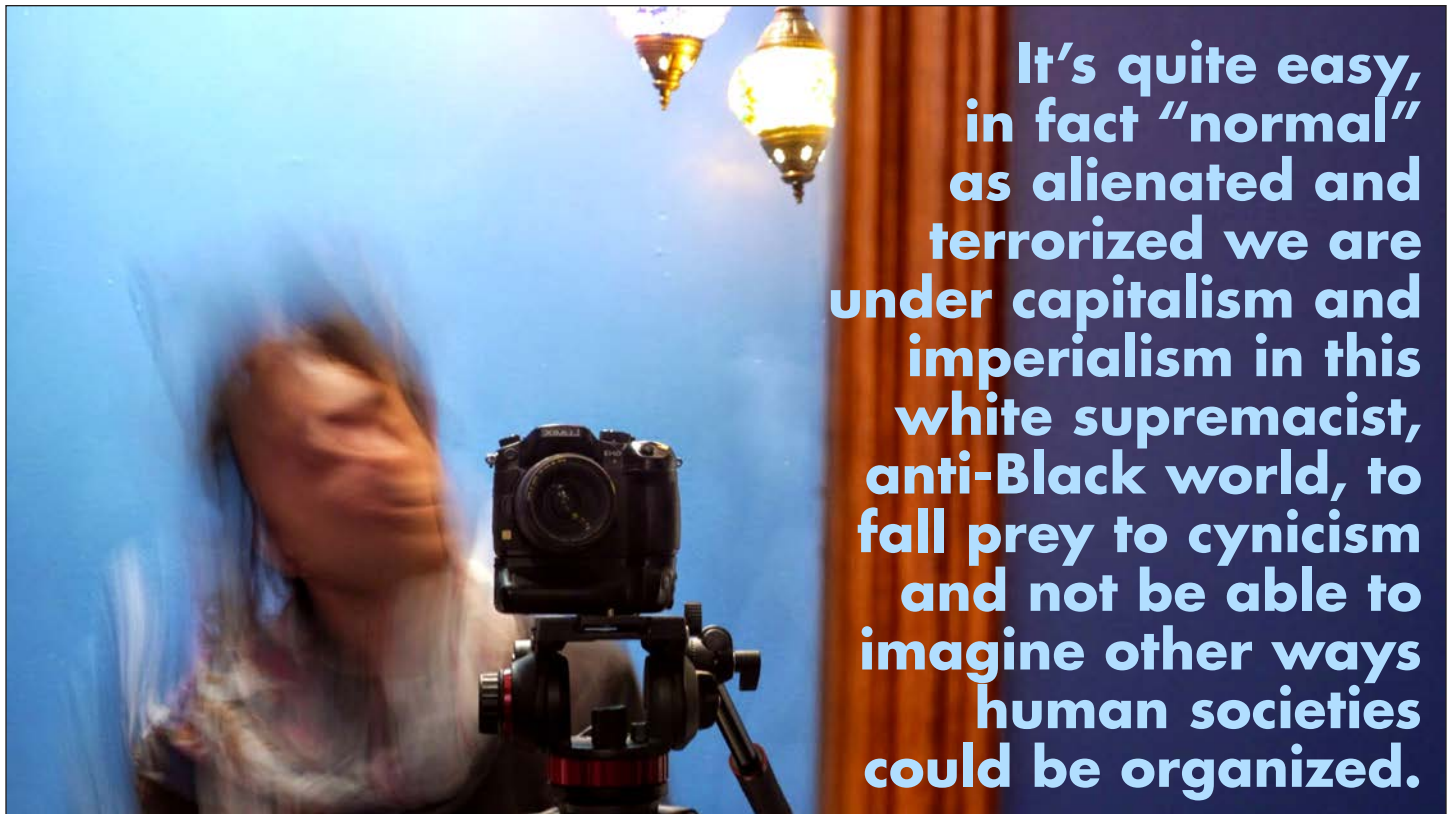
Tim Kumfer

### Membership Development and Community Learning

Allison Basile

Charles Turner





**It's quite easy,  
in fact "normal"  
as alienated and  
terrorized we are  
under capitalism and  
imperialism in this  
white supremacist,  
anti-Black world, to  
fall prey to cynicism  
and not be able to  
imagine other ways  
human societies  
could be organized.**

These are questions of power and those currently in power – those who control, exploit, and oppress us on a daily basis – will continue their reign of terror until the balance of power shifts.

Once they are removed from the scene, we can begin to materially organize a whole new society by redistributing mutually owned – not privately owned – resources in radically new ways. This would result in a society where every person would have shelter, food, clothing, and time via no condition other than being human. Capitalism and imperialism were not always with us, nor will they always be. The system must be destroyed; society must be radically reorganized and our colonized subjectivities must be dismantled and built anew with revolutionary principles. Such a just and equitable vision of society has been articulated for centuries and can be realized: it's a matter of organization and strategy.

**– Can Tuzcu**



# Igbo Landing 2.0: From Slaveships to Starships

**WHO:** The Igbo, stolen from present-day Nigeria

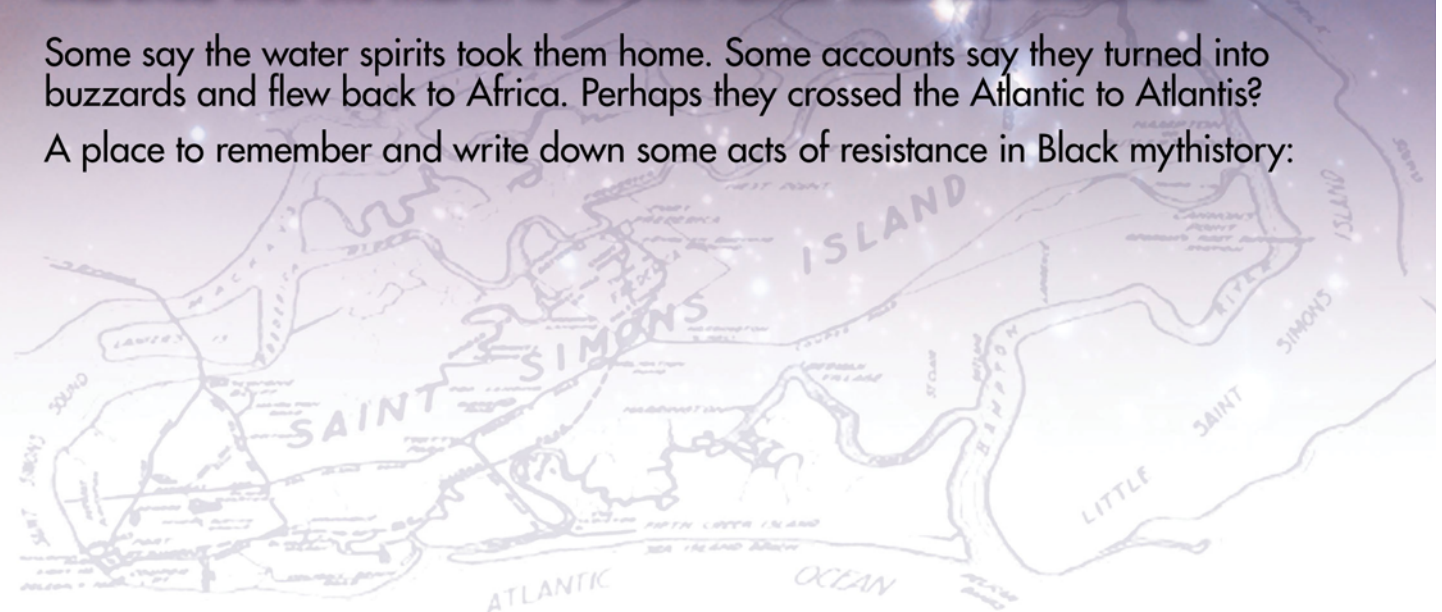
**WHEN:** May 1803

**WHERE:** Dunbar Creek, St. Simons Island, Georgia

**WHAT:** The Igbo – after being auctioned off in Savannah, Georgia – rose up and seized the ship taking them to plantations in St. Simons Island. Captors were drowned and, in what Hal Sieber called “the first freedom march in the history of America,” the Igbo marched into the marsh to drown rather than live enslaved.

Some say the water spirits took them home. Some accounts say they turned into buzzards and flew back to Africa. Perhaps they crossed the Atlantic to Atlantis?

A place to remember and write down some acts of resistance in Black mythistory:



Igbo Landing was and will forever be an Afrofuturist rebellion.





## FROM THE STREETS TO THE ROOFTOPS:

### A Learning Journey

In the spring and summer, ONE DC convened a series of four sessions on the forces driving displacement and gentrification in the District. Supported by the “Who’s A Washingtonian?” grant from The Humanities Council of Washington, DC, each gathering brought together longtime and newer residents to learn about these dynamics as a first step towards transforming them.



Our first session in April explored the economic cycles of boom and bust driven by developers, banks, and the government and looked at how these cycles shaped the history of DC neighborhoods. In our May meeting at the Emergence Community Arts Collective, we broke down the myths of urban poverty used to justify the displacement of low-income people of color and to challenge the racism and sexism that we often see in the media. Our next gathering began to shape a new narrative of resistance and flourishing against the odds, as grassroots leaders from Baltimore and DC shared their struggles to secure safe and affordable housing for their communities. Our final event, entitled “Our Streets,” was both a celebration of the diverse cultures that call DC home and a “sending off” into the organizing work that will create a truly equitable city.

– Tim Kumfer



## Keepin' It Sidereal

Anti-blackness is everywhere on Earth. That's why we need a trans-terrestrial solution. Black respectability politics – that is, policing ourselves with a white supremacist gaze – is not the solution. It's way too pedestrian, unimaginative, and soul-killing. As those of us of African ascent have always done, we must look to the stars. We must keep it side/real. We must keep it

$$[2/\text{SEC}(\pi/3)] \cdot [\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^3 + 8x + 10]^2 / [\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \sin \theta / \theta] = 100$$

*(Translation: we must keep it one hunnid, 100% real.)*



Enslaved blackfolks encoded stars and other symbols in their quilts to provide maps to freedom, the Underground Railroad Quilt Code. Another guide was in the sky – the North Star aka Polaris aka The Drinking Gourd, the “handle” of the Big Dipper constellation.

There are still escape routes, but not through black respectability.

In short, remember this simple mathematical sentence:

**black possibility > black respectability**



**“[Katherine] Johnson was a physicist, space scientist, and mathematician who played a major part in the early days of the space program. She dealt with the early application of digital electronic computers**

**at NASA. Johnson was known for her mathematical accuracy in computerized celestial navigation. She was responsible for calculating the trajectory for the 1969 Apollo 11 flight to the moon. Essentially, she was a human computer.”**

– [blerds.atlantablackstar.com](http://blerds.atlantablackstar.com)







## Resident Organizers at Mount Vernon Plaza: Supernovas Speak



Azieb Tesfamariam and Alem Ghebremariam were interviewed by Channel 7 during the People's Platform sit-in at the Wilson Building to secure low-cost housing

at Mount Vernon Plaza. They helped organize tenants to resist displacement from Mount Vernon Plaza, which is located at 9th and M Streets NW.

Azieb has "confidence" in working with ONE DC. "[With] ONE DC, we got this result," she declares.



### What result?

- ★ 63 units of affordable housing preserved
- ★ Several rent court cases won
- ★ Illegal rent increases reversed

About ONE DC Alem says, "I'm glad I know them. They're working hard from the heart, believe me. I'm proud of them."



## Urban & Rural Challenges

Export of capital and industry – relocation to foreign soil and to other areas of the world

Non-livable wages

Few employment benefits

Out migration, alienation of youth; high youth unemployment

Credit crunch, redlining.

Lack of banking services, branches close.

Predatory lending and alternative finance businesses – check cashing, title loans, payday loans, pawn shops

Impaired credit

Lack of asset-building opportunities

Underdevelopment

Remnants of old industrial practices

Unoccupied sites and businesses

Weak limited resource sectors

Unemployment, underemployment

## Cooperative Solutions

Worker owned and managed businesses

Community owned businesses

Geographic stability

One member one vote – no tyranny of capital

Non-traditional assets developed, alternative resources leveraged.

Individual and community entrepreneurship nurtured.

Youth-owned cooperatives, intergenerational co-operatives, youth social entrepreneurship

Community development credit unions

Alternative and creative community financing

Leveraging community resources

Pooling capital and other resources (lending circles, solidarity groups).

Use of non-traditional resources and alternative assets (social energy, "sweat equity," etc.)

Democratic governance and ownership foster use of effective, innovative, flexible strategies and organizational forms which support competitive enterprises.

Individual and community entrepreneurship given formal structures and support.

Social entrepreneurship and investing

Income-generating and wealth producing enterprises developed.

Marketing or producer cooperatives

Worker cooperatives



## Urban & Rural Challenges

Poor quality of education

Lack of skills or appropriate skills and inadequate/inappropriate labor force training and participation

Skills mismatch

High rates of adult illiteracy

Skyrocketing property values

Lack of affordable housing

Inadequate housing – poor quality, poor location

Increasing poor elderly population

Access to affordable and quality food

Better dietary practices

## Cooperative Solutions

Education mission, continual education is a priority.

Learning-by-doing is rewarded.

Commitment to training workers and managers; new members.

Self management

Vertical and horizontal mobility

"Social energy," non-traditional skills recognized.

Affordable housing through cooperative housing and land trusts

Community land trusts

Increased quality of economic activity increases land use, ownership structure can keep properties affordable.

Community-based revitalization of commercial areas

Cooperative housing and cooperative home health care services, for example, are low cost, high quality alternatives particularly suited to serve the elderly.

Cooperative grocery store

Food buying clubs

Community gardens in housing communities



**Urban & Rural Challenges**

Quality childcare services

Lack of access to health/mental health care,  
addiction services

Lack of health insurance

Disproportionate incarceration of people of color,  
prison industrial complex; re-entry

**Cooperative Solutions**

Worker co-ops

Parent-run (consumer) co-ops

Non-profit daycare operations

Social health cooperatives – worker co-ops

“Solidarity” health cooperatives

Consumer health cooperatives

Prison abolition; cooperative alternatives to  
imprisonment

Worker cooperatives (inside-outside)

**Source:** Jessica Gordon Nembhard, revised Table 10.1, p.224, in *Collective Courage: A History of African American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice* 2014.



# BLACK DISPLACEMENT

## and a journey through space-time

**“space-time:** The four-dimensional space whose points are events.

You cannot talk about space as it relates to Black people – to African people – without talking about movement or moving through space. And once you talk about moving through space as it relates to Africans, then you must confront the forces that prohibit or restrict that moving.”

– from M. NourbeSe Philip's "Black W/Holes: A History Of Brief Time"

**“Over recent decades, a sustained process of evictions and discrimination** pushed black families out of the historically black neighborhoods Barrio Sur, Palermo, and Cordón towards poor neighborhoods on the city's outskirts, where they were...cut off from essential services as well as their cultural roots.

In more recent years, however, the concerted efforts of the Afro-Uruguayan community, combined with positive signs from the country's first ever leftist government, led by President Tabaré Vázquez, have paved the way for the first steps on the road to reparations that will allow black Uruguayans to return to the birthplace of Afro-Uruguayan society and culture.”

–from “Afro-Uruguayan Women Find Their Own Way Home,” Inter Press Service



Ronnie Harris and family.

**Ronnie Harris:** “I moved into an actual community. The majority of the folks who lived in Kelsey already were either close friends or family. But after about a year or two, I became a part of that close knit family as well. So it was very comfortable. Everyone knew each other. You couldn't walk outside without seeing someone that you knew or who knew you and your children.”

What it was like being away from Kelsey Gardens for eight years: “It was really hard. Although I didn't





The "New Kelsey Gardens": Jefferson Marketplace, on 7th Street NW.

move that far, I moved away from the convenience, I moved away from close family, being able to walk to see my mom, or walk and see my grandfather. And my kids weren't able to go outside. It was kinda lonely, honestly, for those eight years.

I came back to actually prove a point and to stand firm...we do belong back here. We belong here and this was ours to an extent. We all deserve the amenities and the things that have been placed up here at Jefferson and around 7th Street...for the fact that we were longstanding residents of Shaw."



Kelsey Gardens residents Cheryl Jordan (left) and Shirley Williams (right).

**Cheryl Jordan:** "[The neighborhood] is mostly white now – now I feel like coming back here that I'm totally out of place now. Nobody hangs out or anything – it's like a little Adams Morgan to me.

It don't feel like home. I feel like [the original Kelsey Gardens residents] are being treated differently. No repairs. I wish they could let me out of my lease right now and I can go back where I

came from, I really do. Because nothing's getting done in the building – I'm being ignored, and other people that came from Kelsey Gardens, they talking the same thing. They feel like nothing's getting done – everything's being ignored. I don't feel like the Kelsey Gardens residents is being respected."

**Shirley Williams:** "I am very comfortable. I'm enjoying this apartment, I love it here. ONE DC was very helpful; I don't think we could have been able to do it without ONE DC."

## A STELLAR 2014: WINS AND CHALLENGES



### Equitable Development

- ★ Featured in Social Policy journal – “Equitable Development Move Forward in the Nation’s Capital.”
- ★ Nearly 200 people attended the first Equitable Development Symposium (EDS) co-sponsored with GW. Angela Glover Blackwell of PolicyLink was the keynote.
- ★ Co-sponsored the DC Solidarity Economy Summit with Impact HUB DC.
- ★ Members and staff presented at the 2014 EcoDistricts Summit, “Restoring Our Place In The World: The Grassroots Role in the Building Blocks of EcoDistricts.”

### Administration and Organizational Development Committee

- ★ Hosted four Kalamnovitz Initiative Organizing Fellows.
- ★ Over 50 members attended the 2014 Annual Meeting and Board Election.
- ★ General database grew from 1,500 to 4,000+ names.
- ★ 89 paid members in 2014
- ★ Twitter followers: 850
- ★ Facebook likes: 535
- ★ Instagram: 114

### Resource Development and Fundraising Committee

- ★ Sent two volunteers to the GIFT fundraising conference.
- ★ Sent two members and two staff to Wayside Center for Popular Education for the first Resource Committee Retreat.
- ★ Seven members completed 35 grant proposals.
- ★ Secured four new foundations: Ben and Jerry’s, Left Tilt, Consumer Health Foundation, and OSI-DC.
- ★ Raised 100% of 2014 annual revenue.

### Organizing and Coalition Building Committee

- ★ Over 250 people attended the People’s Platform Mayoral Forum in Southeast DC.
- ★ People’s Platform Mayoral Forum was co-sponsored by Barry Farm Study Circle, Empower DC, Our DC, Employment Justice Center, ROC-DC, DC Fair Budget Coalition, DC Jobs with Justice, and Working Families.
- ★ Submitted Memorandum of Understanding to Brookland Manor Resident Council to do anti-displacement organizing with Housing Counseling Services.
- ★ Sent Return Notice to Representative and Property Residents of Kelsey Gardens Apartments pursuant to Settlement Agreement – “WON 10 YEARS AGO - 2004”.



- ★ Ms. Bilal, the co-founder of the Barry Farm Study Circle, presented public testimony before the Zoning Board to address 30-day eviction notices and inflated rental ledgers against tenants, some reaching \$6,000.
- ★ Barry Farm Study Circle signed up 44 tenants to participate in resident-led organizing.
- ★ Barry Farm Study Circle recruited 10 tenants who completed Marriott Marquis job training program.
- ★ 187 graduates of the Marriott Marquis Job Training Program (ONE DC recruited longtime, low-income DC residents for the training program) were hired at the new Marriott Marquis.
- ★ Graduates of the Marriott Marquis Jobs Training Program that were not hired met with Marquis human resources directors in Fall 2014 at ONE DC to address concerns with the training program and hiring process; push for more job-ready program graduates to be hired; and to begin the process of accountability around DC's First Source law.
- ★ Sent two members and two staff to the National Black Worker Center Project Lessons Learned Conference/the National Black Workers Center Convening. We had the opportunity to connect with workers and staff from existing and developing Black Workers Centers in Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Rocky Mount, Jackson, St. Louis, and other cities across the country. We discussed best practices, worker center models, policy issues, funding, challenges, triumphs, and strategies for forming a cohesive national Black Workers Center movement.
- ★ Mount Vernon Plaza residents stage sit-in at Councilmember Bowser's office in protest and resistance to evictions after losing the low-cost housing rental subsidy.
- ★ Shared Leadership Team member represented ONE DC at DC Council Chairman's Candidates Forum at KIPP DC Shaw Campus to present issues on education, housing, and jobs.
- ★ Co-sponsored with CNHED, DC Jobs with Justice, Empower DC, Jews United for Justice, and Washington Peace Center: Summer in the City: A documentary series on gentrification, urban change, and local resistance in American cities.
- ★ Five members testified against Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development declaring Parcel 42 surplus property, which would mean it is not public land.
- ★ Wayside organizing apprentice and three members testified at DC City Council on affordable housing legislation.
- ★ Lincoln Westmoreland II resisted displacement after apartments name is changed, community center is closed, and playground destroyed.
- ★ Right to Income campaign held four Black Work Center Listening Sessions at the United Black Fund in Anacostia. The stories and experiences that came out of these sessions helped inform the vision and planning of the DC Black Workers Center.
- ★ ONE DC hired a new Right to Income Organizer, increasing the total number of full-time paid staff to four.
- ★ Continued partnership with the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs to address housing and worker's rights issues.



## Community Learning and Membership Development Committee

- ★ Over 45 members attended the People's Platform Freedom School, which focused on building a people's movement, a people's political and policy platform, and economic alternatives.
- ★ Joined By Peaceful Means at DC Youth Rising to engage youth in working for justice and equity in the city.
- ★ Awarded grant from DC Humanities Council for "From the Streets to the Rooftops" series on displacement in DC with longtime and new DC residents.
- ★ Two Wayside apprentices started organizing internship.
- ★ Two longtime DC residents and tenant leaders become apprentice organizers for People's Platform campaign.
- ★ Movement Matters developed capacity-building work plan with five members and two staff.
- ★ Lincoln Westmoreland II tenants, members, and staff attended the Ella Baker Institute sponsored by UIC-Social Justice Initiative.

## ONE DC in the NEWS!

- ★ Shelterforce: "The Cooperative Solution"
- ★ Shelterforce: "An Organizer's Work is Never Done"
- ★ Press Conference at Wilson Building to present The People's Platform to City Council - Movement to Take Back DC!
- ★ Press Release at Mount Vernon Plaza – "Is the Museum Square's Owner on a mission to displace all of her affordable housing renters?"
- ★ DC Breakdown features ONE DC's stance against displacement in DC
- ★ The (Washington) Afro: "D.C. Housing Crises: Gentrification, Revitalization or Renaissance?"
- ★ DCist: "Demonstrators Descend on Bowser's Office With Affordable Housing Demands"
- ★ Washington Post: "Affordable Housing Advocates Hold Small Sit-In at Bowser's D.C. Council Office"
- ★ Truthout: "DC's Poorest Residents Fight Displacement by Gentrification"
- ★ Social Policy: "Equitable Development Moves Forward in the Nation's Capital," by Gregory Squires, Dominic Moulden, Kalfani Turé

## Challenges:

- 1) Marriott organizing brought out issues of staff, members, and residents needing support in anti-racist and "respectability" politics analysis.
- 2) Capacity-building skills and leadership development skills needed for staff and members in racial equity training.
- 3) Managing the interconnection between service, organizing, popular and political education.
- 4) Creating more space for staff and members' self-reflection and collective learning from DEFEATS and WINS at ONE DC.



## A Galaxy of Generosity...

**Thank you for your otherworldly support for an/other world. Destination: Equity.**

### MEMBERS

AcquNETta Anderson, Adrien Schless-Meier, Akosua Dosu, Albert Ramirez, Alem Ghebremariam, Alex Zavistovich, Allison Basile, Andrea White, Andrew Feierman, Anita Travers, Annie O'Brien, Aster Berhe, Azeb Malase, Bernard Demczuk, Beth Sadler, Bob Schlehuber, Brian McCabe, Brook Hill, Caitlin Cocilova, Campbell Johnson, Charles Turner, Chris Otten, Christopher Johansson, Clyde Moore, Dale Prunoske, Daniel Ehrenberg, David Brown, David Edwards, David Schwartzman, Derek Hyra, Dominic Moulden, Dominique Beatty, Edgar Cahn, Elana Kessler, Ellen Taylor, Emily Blank, Emily Citkowski, Flossie Joyce Boyd, Getachew Meruts, G. Lee Aikin, Gloria Robinson, Gwen Johnson, Hassan Bouaichi, Hazel Thomas, Howard N'ya Finley, Huey Hudson, Jabari Zakiya, James Ashford, James Ploeser, Jason Crocker, Jennifer Bryant, Jeremiah Lowery, Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Jessica Solomon, Jim Driscoll, Joe Hoover, Juliana Barnet, Ka Flewellen, Keith Simmons, Kenny Gaddy, Kesara Brewster, Kimberly Singleton, Leah Drilias, Leigh Crenshaw, Linette Robinson, Lisa Goode, Margie Miller, Marian Jones, Martha Davis, Michael Brown, Michael Stansbury, Mildella Greely, Mohammed Jamal, Mohammed Kemal, Monica Lewis, Myra Margolin, Nawal Rajeh, Nicholas DiRago, Nick Wertsch, Nicole Newman, Nikki Lewis, Nkechi Feaster, Patricia Briggs, Patricia Penny, Phyllissa Bilal, Quitel Andrews, Rebecca Mintz, Rob Wohl, Rodney Foxworth, Rolando Idaro Davis, Rosemary Ndubuizu, Ryan Gerety, Sabrina Gharib Lee, Sanora Armstrong, Sean McGuinness, Shaka (Hallie) Clark, Shimelis Abtew, Shirley Phillips, Sonya Hochevar, Sterling Ashby, Sylvia Brown-Carson, Sylvia Robinson, Tarek Maassarani, Thelma Jones, Tim Kumfer, Timah Ruth Howard, Treasure Arthur, Urica Lewis, Venus Little, Virginia C. Lee, Walda Katz-Fishman, William Merrifield, Winta Berhe, Yasmina Mrabet, Yuqi Wang

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## ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

Avodah, Community Science, DC Working Families, Eighth Day Faith Community, Empower DC, Georgetown Center for Social Justice, Goodwill of Greater Washington, Jews United for Justice, New Community Church, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Progressive Partners LLC, Raise Your City LLC

## FOUNDATIONS

Benjamin Fund, Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Consumer Health Foundation, Diverse City Fund, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., Gitt Foundation, Hill Snowdon Foundation, Left Tilt Fund, Lynn Handleman Charitable Foundation, Moriah Fund, NeighborWorks America, Open Society Institute-Washington DC



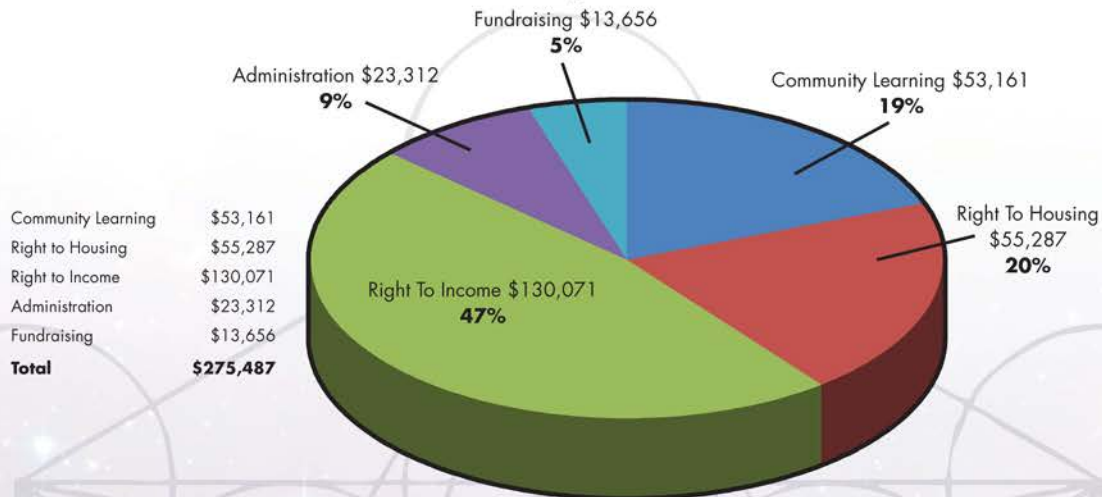
*"The arc of the moral universe is long,  
but it bends towards justice."*

—Afrofuturist Martin Luther King, Jr.



## 2014 Planetary Positions

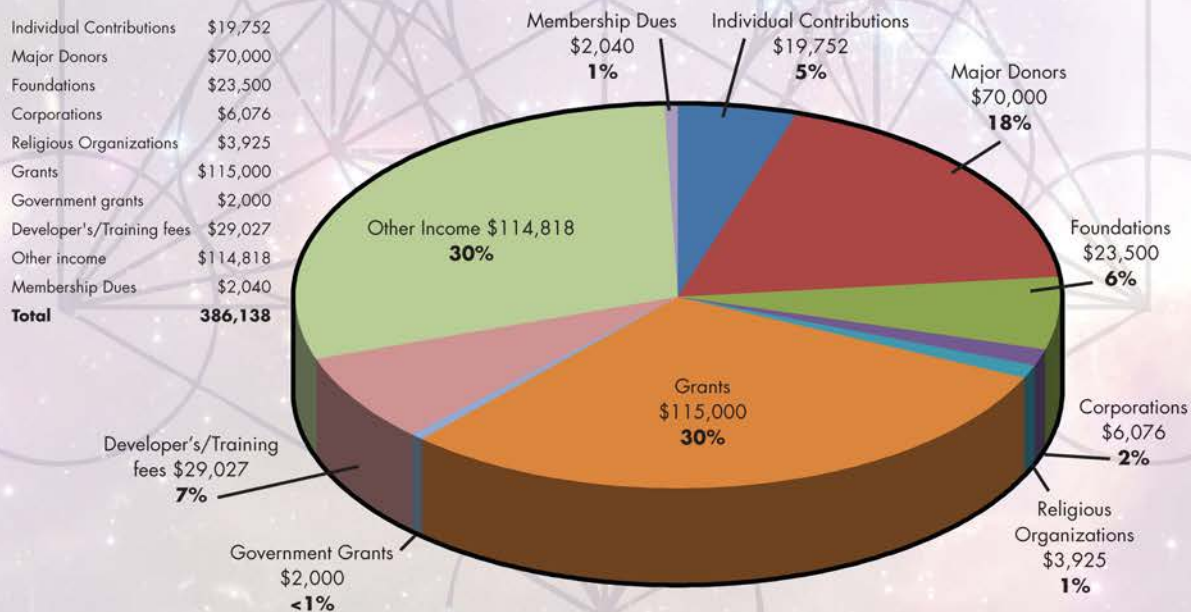
### 2014 Expenses



Organizing campaigns (Right to Income, Right to Housing, and Community Learning) amounted to \$238,519 or 86% of the \$275,487 total expenses.

Administration and fundraising accounted for 14% of total expenses. Actual expenses were 21% less than the 2014 budgeted expenses.

### 2014 Income



In 2014, ONE DC earned \$108,500 in Other Income from the Goodwill Industries contract for the Marriott Hotel Training project. This accounted for 28% of the total income of \$386,138. Three major donors provided \$70,000 (18%) with one contributing \$25,000 twice. Foundations (Grants and Foundations categories combined) accounted for \$138,500 or 36% of total income. New relationships with four grantors were developed and \$70,000 was received from these foundations. Actual income was approximately 10% higher than the 2014 budgeted income.







Treasure Holt's drawing at the ONE DC office reminds us that the outer limit is love.  
#BlackLoveMatters