Radical Reckoning
Invoking the Elements for Collective Change

October 20-22, 2023  Providence, RI

Organized together in partnership with:
The 2023 IA National Gathering visual identity was created by artist k. funmilayo aileru (xi/they).

xi is a Black-Indigenous, Two-spirit, disabled artist who is partnered and parenting, in community, and your local friend or foe. xi uses various materials and media to envision what Black liberation and Indigenous sovereignty might look like beyond earth. xyr work is specifically animated by their Yoruba and Narragansett-Niantic cultural traditions. aileru’s intersecting identities and experiences inform xyr speculative aesthetic and perspective.

aileru is a Rhode Island native from the South Side of Providence and resides in the city with xyr family. xi is a member of the Narragansett Nation and a co-founding member of blackearth collective + lab.

Lavender — The color purple is often used to symbolize creativity.

Bowenite — Rhode Island’s state mineral and gemstone found throughout the world. In many cultures it is considered to provide protection from destructive forces, enhance dream keeping/solving, and bring on success.

Crook Point Bascule Bridge — A local icon. It has been stuck in an upright position since its abandonment in 1976. It has become a fixture in the city’s skyline and a symbol of environmental and political reckoning as it has come to symbolize urban decay.

Fire — Akin to the icon of water, fire is a commonly used symbol throughout Providence and Rhode Island. The symbol is used to identify many traditions cultural institutions throughout the state.

Quahog — Rhode Island’s state shell. Historically and culturally significant to the Narragansett and first peoples throughout the Northeast.

The Rhody 'Wave' — Rhode Island is the ‘Ocean State’ where the wave is a commonly used symbol. Water is also an interconnecting life source all beings on earth.
The Lands Called Providence, RI

The City of Providence acknowledges that we gather as a municipality on the traditional lands of the Pokanoket and Narragansett peoples past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide, forced assimilation and efforts to alienate the Indigenous inhabitants from their territory here. We honor and respect the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land, retained tribal sovereignty, treaty rights and cultural resilience. Indigenous people are spiritual and physical caretakers of this land to which we all belong. Providence respects these sacred lands, stands with the community members from these Nations and will fight injustice in all its forms.

Why Recognize the Land

The acknowledgement of Indigenous lands provides an opportunity for individuals to learn about the tribes that have lived, and in some cases still live, on the land where the acknowledgement takes place. It is also worth noting that acknowledging the land is Indigenous/tribal protocol, and the practice establishes a respectful routine and habit of supporting reconciliation.

Consistent with the Report of the Providence Reparations Commission, completed in August 2022 by the Providence Municipal Reparations Commission, acknowledging the land is a transformative act that works to undo the attempted erasure of Indigenous peoples, and is the first step in decolonizing land relations and establishing relationships based on trust and accountability with American Indian peoples and tribal nations.

From the City of Providence’s Department for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging DEI Engagement Report, October 2022.
On behalf of Imagining America, I would like to welcome you to the 2023 IA National Gathering in Providence, RI. We are excited for the rich and varied experiences that await you as a participant, and proud of the unique program we have created with local partners. For nearly a year, IA has dreamed and schemed with colleagues at IA member College Unbound, AS220, and the City of Providence’s Art, Culture and Tourism (ACT) Department, and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Department to bring this gathering to life.

The theme of the 2023 IA National Gathering was conjured in a room at AS220 — appropriately named Psychic Readings — where a diverse group of Providence-based artists, educators, scholars, and culture makers joined IA to identify the local pressing issues that resonate with the national IA consortium. In that workshop, we shared stories of the spaces between history and memory and of the relations between place and land. The motif of fire appeared again and again to describe both the destructive and restorative processes in a cycle of change. The belief that sometimes things must burn to make new growth possible guided us towards reckoning as a central theme. Reckoning is the practice of taking full account. It requires digging down to the roots — to be radical. While radical reckoning may unearth uncomfortable truths, past harms, and the origins of ongoing injustices, it also reveals the foundations of enduring cultural heritage, creative ecological adaptation, and the sources of physical and spiritual sustenance.

Taking full account is necessary to bring about lasting change in ourselves, our communities, and our institutions. The work of reckoning requires a shared commitment to listen and care for each other, constant reflection in our practices, and a (re)connection to the land and places that we inhabit. Sitting with “what is” through a process of reckoning is the first step towards imagining and then creating collective change that is radically grounded.

Invoking the cleansing work of fire, the changing form of water, the steadiness of the earth, and the ethereal nature of air, the 2023 IA National Gathering invites the elements to guide us all in the radical work of reckoning with the past to create a future of collective liberation. We hope that the land, water, air, and heat during this time together will inspire us to wash away or compost practices that no longer serve us and ignite or breathe life into new ones that move us towards collective change.

Lastly, I invite you all to linger on the thank you pages in this program and recognize the tremendous collective work required to create this event. From the transformative contributions of our partners and sponsors to the generous support of staff at IA Gathering spaces (AS220, Providence Public Library, MET School), and the invaluable efforts of countless volunteers, we are also thankful to each of you for bringing your brilliance, your generous spirit, and your openness to learn and share.

With care,

Stephanie Maroney, Managing Director, Imagining America
“These are the times to grow our souls,” Grace Lee Boggs, the longtime organizer, educator, and mentor to many, said in a talk 20 years ago on Art and Civic Dialogue.

Grace was born in 1915 above her family’s restaurant in Providence’s Chinatown but her connection to College Unbound’s origins and to why we are gathering this weekend in Providence run much deeper. Grace was present at many early conversations about what College Unbound could and should be. In the first month of CU, as its founding students drove cross country in a bus headed towards Providence, we stopped at Grace’s house in Detroit to learn from her as we mapped out the learning community we wanted to co-create. What we saw in her lifetime of work was that to grow our souls was to share a collective investment in one another’s well being, a collective imagination of where we can go if together, and, and by doing so, nurture more justice into this world.

The work planning this Gathering has been one of collective imagining too. What we have done together towards this weekend has been a critical project in naming the Providence we want to build. Through this work we met in backyards to share story circles about what makes home and a sense of belonging. Through this work we designed new curriculum at College Unbound on Reparations, Digital Storytelling, and Monuments & Memorials. Through this work we began book groups around Kelly Hayes and Mariame Kaba’s Let This Radicalize You. Through this work we are a closer collective of Providence’s arts, education, and organizing community.

Throughout College Unbound’s development, IA has been a critical model to turn to and space for incubation of ideas and practices. IA and CU exist together at the crossroads of organizing movements, institution building, and a deep practice of both questioning the way things are and imagining the way the world could be. College Unbound’s mission to reinvent higher education for adult learners needs platforms like Imagining America to raise up the stories of the 75% of college students who are adult learners. These learners challenge a civic engagement paradigm which reinforces separation between community and campus, they bring stories of hurt and pain of earlier engagements with higher education and the institutional limitations to supporting a student body whose lives incorporate, but perhaps do not revolve around, higher education, and their voices are critical to understanding the democratic purposes of higher education. These stories are critical to a reimagining of a more just commitment to liberatory learning and collaborative imagination. Almost half of College Unbound’s full time staff are CU alums and almost half of all alumni work in a mentorship capacity with current students to ensure their institution lives up to these values.

You won’t visit a campus this weekend when you come to College Unbound. The city is our campus. You will visit arts centers, libraries, high schools, and conference rooms across the city where CU gathers. We gather there because those are already sites of learning where our students scheme and dream. That won’t be the only place where we lean into an ethic of lifelong learning. This weekend:

• If you are someone without a degree or looking for additional credits towards a degree or certification while making your way through this conference, we invite you to engage with College Unbound’s Learning in Public program where we will help you document your learning this weekend into a free credit-bearing transcript.
• If you are someone looking to connect more fully with the work of College Unbound, we hope you will attend any of our 8 sessions this Gathering including the College Unbound site visit on Saturday afternoon.
• And, we at College Unbound feel so grateful for this extended community of collaborators in and around Providence. We are excited for the seeds the planning of this Gathering has planted. These, as Grace Lee Boggs said in the opening of this letter, are the times to grow our souls.

We are excited to be, grow, and learn with you in Providence this weekend.
– all of us at College Unbound
AS220

AS220 is honored to be one of 3 organizations co-hosting the 2023 Imagining America Gathering in Providence this fall. The work of both College Unbound (CU) and the City of Providence’s Art, Culture and Tourism Department (ACT) is deeply aligned with AS220’s strategic priorities of Creative Education and Learning, Racial Justice, and Access. As a community arts organization, we are committed not only to providing space for artists to work in but also to nurturing the lifelong learning and growth that is essential to creativity. Co-organizing this multi-day experience has given AS220 the opportunity to work alongside local partners who also share a deep commitment to learning and growth, and has enabled us to enact collective change with those who grapple with similar pains, passions, and possibilities.

As an arts organization founded on the belief that everyone is an artist, and as such, everyone has the right to creatively express and present themselves, AS220 has long since wrestled with what it means to create conditions so that people, especially those who have been most impacted by systems of oppression, can actualize their true creative potential both at AS220 and beyond. The tenets of Imagining America’s (IA) mission harmonize poignantly with our desire to create a world where the brilliance of artists can both be nurtured and called upon to remix and shift power towards communities who, as our founder Bert Crenca has many times expressed, “have the most to say but the least resources with which to say it.”

At almost 40 years old, AS220 finds itself grappling with our own radical reckoning as we try to balance the desire to grow opportunities for artists with the emergent value of “small is all”; as we invest in depth over breadth, elevate racial justice; and honor and evolve the most radical and fundamental elements of our mission. We are both curious and perplexed by critical questions such as: How do we keep momentum towards our goals while not reproducing harms that come along with traditional notions of growth and expansion? How do we know if we are moving in the right direction? Are we actually accountable to the community? How would we even know? In terms of our racial justice work, how do we nurture our cultural soil so that BIPOC artists can not only survive but thrive in our ecosystem? How can we share what we’ve learned about ourselves on the way to becoming an antiracist organization without getting lost in the performative nature that DEI initiatives can sometimes display? There are no easy answers to these questions, and yet we remain hopeful that if confronted within the context of community, we can find solutions together.

The leadership of Imagining America and their eagerness to bring their national network to Providence is not only commendable and exciting but also an opportunity for AS220 and others to think critically about these questions and our work. As IA Managing Director Stephanie Maroney says, the Gathering is a model for “elevating local issues with national resonance.” As one of many local arts organizations in Providence, we look forward to elevating issues that ring true and connect with artists, organizers, and educators from around the country: people who are also reckoning with what it means to evoke change in a rooted and sustained yet futuristic, just and expansive way.
Process. Experimentation. Transparency. Anti-racism. Radical Joy. These are the values of Art, Culture and Tourism (ACT), a government department within the City of Providence. These values guide our department’s work, which is active, in-the-moment, forward-moving, and future-concerned. As we understand it, this is the first time Imagining America has partnered with a city department to host a National Gathering. Alongside our friends at College Unbound and AS220, we are humbled to commune with thoughtful leaders from around the country as we welcome the dynamic IA community to Providence.

Unlike an organization with a board or shareholders, as a city agency, ACT is accountable to the city itself, which is all of us. We steward opportunities for arts and culture on behalf of every facet of Providence in every verb tense across space and time: From the faces to the places, Providence was, Providence is, and Providence will be. So much reckoning, but who has time when we are busy building the future Providence – for whom we can only hope we are making proud.

Reckoning asks us to evaluate the past: “to consider, to settle accounts, to name one by one.” Imagining America’s gathering helps us access that crucial ingredient in reckoning: TIME. It asks us to sit still long enough to hear the details of what came before. It lets us honor the complicated past that brought us here together, while working toward the conditions for a better future. If we are very lucky, we may exit this national gathering clearly naming what is ours to reckon with and having an inkling of how that impacts what we do next.

Reckoning can be dangerous work, especially for a city. When you go back over the accounts of what happened before you arrived, you are likely to uncover things your predecessors missed. And so, we look to our values as a guide: Process. Experimentation. Transparency. Anti-racism. Radical Joy. This is how ACT reckons, and we welcome everyone – visitors and residents alike – to join us in this collective work – before, during and long after this National Gathering has passed.

Sincerely,

Department of Art, Culture and Tourism

Joe Wilson, Jr.          Micah Salkind
Charlotte Abotsi        Rebecca Noon
Dear Imagining America Gathering Attendees,

On behalf of the Department of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, we extend a warm welcome to all of those who have traveled from far and to our locales to be with us for this special occasion.

We believe Providence’s diversity is the beating heart of our city and it brings us great joy to share the City of Providence with people from all walks of life as we partake in a three-day immersive experience.

We are thrilled to be able to participate in this conference with all of you and we express deep gratitude to the Imagining America network and Rhode Island artists and cultural organizers for creating a space for each of us to engage in a collective deep learning, collaboration, and transformative creativity on the theme of Radical Reckoning.

We are excited to further explore the theme of this conference as our very department was founded in a collaborative process amongst community residents, staff members and partners to begin unveiling and healing wounds from the past. At a more pivotal time than ever, our department is striving to create a city that provides fair access to economic and educational opportunities, and inspires an environment where employees and residents feel a sense of connection and ownership.

Thank you for taking the time to participate and we hope you enjoy the conference.

Sincerely,

Department of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
City of Providence
Imagining America is grateful to the people and organizations that made the 2023 National Gathering possible through their generous sponsorship.

Community Sponsors:

SWEARER CENTER
BROWN UNIVERSITY

BROWN
Pembroke Center

BROWN
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Presenting Sponsors:

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Event and Program Sponsors:

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Working at the intersection of music, public space, and social impact, the Levitt Foundation partners with changemakers and nonprofits across America to build community, foster belonging, and inspire joy through the power of free, live music—creating a more equitable, healthy, and thriving future for all.

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Download and login to our app here:
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Or Scan this QR code with your phone’s camera to sign up for the CVENT app:

Each attendee will need to register (your name & email) to access Gathering information and receive push notifications.

Session Types

Participatory Workshops (PW) – 90 minutes – Facilitators set an agenda and organize participant activities over 90 minutes. Workshops are interactive, collaborative, and provide opportunities for group co-creation and collective activity.

Dialogue & Discussion (D&D) – 60 minutes – Designed to create interactive dialogue around a pressing issue or action, these 60 minute sessions are led by one or more organizers and feature multiple perspectives/parties on a topic.

Lightning Talks (LT) – 7 minutes – Up to five lightning talks are scheduled in a 60 minute session. Each speaker has seven minutes to present on current or past work, creative outputs, media, artistic practice, or community projects, and the opportunity to integrate shared concepts of their talks into the following group discussion.

Projects & Practices (PGP) – 20 minutes – Three or four presenting groups will share in a 90 minute session, leaving time for collective discussion. Presenters will each have 20 minutes to offer compelling outcomes, lessons learned, methods, or collective change that emerged from community-based projects.
Friday Locations:

(PPL) Providence Public Library
150 Empire St, Providence, RI - use Washington St. Entrance

AS220
115 Empire St, Providence, RI

Joseph R. Dooley Building Conference Room
444 Westminster, Providence, RI

Roger Williams Park Casino
1000 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI

Friday, October 20th

Maps available on pages 28–30

8:15 – 8:30 am  Shuttles depart from Omni Hotel to Providence Public Library 🚌

8:30 – 11:00 am  Breakfast 🍳

PPL, Grand Hall

8:30 am – 4:00 pm  Registration

PPL, Grand Hall

Opening Plenary

9:00 – 10:30 am

PPL, Auditorium

An opening welcome from Imagining America followed by a look at the past, present, and future of resistance and imagination in Providence. The Opening Plenary features the voices and creative offerings of local artists, organizers, and youth who are engaged in the work of reckoning and collective transformation.

Joe Wilson Jr., Department of Art, Culture and Tourism for the City of Providence

Sylvia Spears, College Unbound

Keith Stokes, 1696 Heritage Group

Rodney Davis, United Way of Rhode Island

AS220 Youth's Dance Team: Saulo Castillo, Bernard Harte, Jaydon Perez, Dre’Quan Tolson, Pahriz Hill, Mikeangelo Prieto, Nyasia Cashwell-Abney, Terry Green, Tracey Leone, and Jordan Mosquera Page.

Everett Company’s production Bliss Body, directed by Aaron Jungles, in collaboration with artists Grace Colonna, Christopher Johnson, Anjel Newmann, and Silas Pinto.

11:00 am – 4:30 pm

Creative Works

Public School Architecture Explored in LEGO  Rhode Island LEGO Artist Andrew Grover

School Feels  Victoria Restler  Asilia Franklin-Phipps  Jessica Hamlin  Maya Pindyck

11
11:00 am – 12:30 pm  Concurrent Sessions 1

Projects & Practices 1  

An Ancient Lake Returns  Patricia Steenland

Reigniting the ‘Fire in the Heartland’: Intergenerational Student Activism at Kent State  Isaac Halaszi

Reckoning with Past and Present through an Augmented Reality App  
Lisa Propst  Jennifer Ball  Alex Lee  
Rebecca Pelky  Eric York  Phillip White-Cree

A Cycle of Change in Theatre: grounding, burning, airing out, watering  Natalie Sowell

Projects & Practices 2  

Invisible Architectures: Reflections on Truth and Reconciliation in Higher Education  
Dr. Kalima Young  Prof. Ada Pinkston

Interrupting Privilege: Racism & Health  
Josh Griffin  Ralina Joseph  Carmen Gonzalez  Julie Feng  Laura Irwin

CREATE Connections: Collaborate, Reflect, Explore, and Teach Experientially  
Lydia Fort  Dr. David Lynn

Participatory Workshops  

Poetry as Liberation  
Beth Feagan  Lalia Wiunda  Brittany Baker  Liz Stansbury  Valentine M. Valentine

Gesturing toward the Undone as Creative Provocation - Rehearsals in Antiracism pt. II  
K. Lynn Robinson  gloria j. wilson  
Nupur Manoj Sachdeva  Kassidy Cherie Smith

Risk and Reckoning in Community-Institution Collaborations: An Exploration of Trust  
Victoria Hensley  Leah Lowe  Kelly Cunningham

Considering Rest as Resistance: Welcoming the Nap Ministry’s afrofuturist daydreams into community engagement  
Dresden June Frazier  Karin Cotterman

SPARC352: A Catalyst for Community-Engaged Research Drawing on the Elements to explore Place & Practice, Space & Imagination  
Oṣubi Craig  Dionne Champion  Alana Jackson  Carla Lewis  Ravyn Gale  
Turbado Marabou  Terri Bailey  Rhonda Wilson  Kio Forrest  Jacob Larson
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## Day 1

### 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CONT.

- **Unfolding Earth Systems**  
  Santrupthy Das  
  PPL, Ship Room

- **Movement is the Method: Navigating Economies of Creative Care**  
  Sarah Wilbur  
  Anisa Raoof  
  Rachel Balaban  
  AS220, Rm. 209

- **Churning the Soil**  
  Justin Freitas  
  AM. Andrade  
  Anjel Newmann  
  Mike Ahern  
  Diana Ross  
  Jay Lew  
  AS220, Black Box

### 12:30 – 1:30 pm  
**Lunch**  
PPL, Grand Hall

### 1:30 – 2:30 pm  
**Concurrent Sessions 2**

**Lightning Talks**  
PPL, Seminar Room

- **Alchemy, Elemental Art and Aesthetic Transformation**  
  Morna McDermott McNulty

- **Using LEGO to Re-Imagine Neighborhood Space**  
  Rhode Island LEGO Artist Andrew Grover

- **Contextualizing Feminist Voices: Podcasting to Engage Broader Audiences From a Transnational and Collaborative Perspective**  
  Marisol Fila

- **Unsettling Norms: Finding unusual coalition between migrant Others and aging citizens**  
  Shao-Yun Chang

- **The Ripple Effect of a Local, Community-Engaged Mural Project: Mending Walls**  
  Caitlin Black

- **Lines, Awash, and Fluidity in Salvador de la Torre’s “Todos Los Dias / 365 Days in an Immigrant’s Shirt”**  
  June Chau

**Dialogue & Discussion**  
AS220, Rm. 205

- **Considering Practices for a Neighborly Campus: A Dialogue and Discussion**  
  Carmine Perrotti  
  Keith Morton

- **Orienting Community Engagement Towards Reparations**  
  Tim Eatman  
  Adam Bush  
  John Saltmarsh  
  George Luc  
  Na’yisha Mills  
  Marisol Morales  
  PPL, Mural Room

- **A slow burn: Stoking and tending long-term academic-community partnerships**  
  Emily Seru  
  Abigail Rombalski  
  Laska Jimsen  
  Lin Winton  
  Anita Chikkatur  
  AS220, Rm. 204
1:30 – 2:30 pm CONT.

Reciprocity Rhode Island: Imagining Radical Change In Public Education
- Kristina Lamour Sansone
- Roberto Gonzalez
- Jennifer Davis Allison
- Anthony Parente
- Brother Ray Smith
- Gail Ahlers
- Ulli K. Ryder
- Marco McWilliams
- Jacques Bidon

After the Flood: Artists as First Responders
- Appalshop, Inc.
- Kathleen Byrne
- Tucker Leighty-Phillips
- Charlie Calhoun
- Willa Johnson
- Caroline Rubens

Reckoning with Social Policy Histories in the Museum
- Daniel Tucker
- Dr. Lisa Yun Lee

Radical is Relative
- Shauna Duffy
- Anjel Newmann
- Janay Pina
- Neal Walsh

Community Owned and Managed Space
- Jonesy Mann
- Howie Sneider
- Xander Morrow

3:00 – 4:30 pm Concurrent Sessions 3

Projects & Practices 3
A Part of the Conversation, Not Apart of It: Developing Generative AI Usage Policy with Students
- Lance Eaton
- Lora Roy
- Veronica Machado

Uncovering Hidden Histories in State Parks
- Kishauna Soljour, Ph.D.

Radical Reckoning Through Interdisciplinary Teaming: A Re-Imagined Project Design for Publicly Engaged Doctoral Students
- Patrick Witmer
- Jennifer Martin Tse
- Jonathan Damiani

Projects & Practices 4
Handmade Comfort From Textiles: The Quilting and Knitting Ministries at Grace Church
- John Chamberlin

Developing SENSES of Belonging: A Critical Soundscape Performance
- Nick Piato
- Chaz Barracks

Mapping the Margins of RePresentation: Data Transparency as Story Advocacy
- Sylvia C. Spears, Ph.D.
- Greta Spoering

Narrative Imagining: Storytelling to Understand the Past and Shape the Future
- Dr. Tashal Brown
- Michael McGuigan
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**Day 1**

### 3:00 – 4:30 pm CONT.

#### Participatory Workshops 🧵

- **Body as Territory: Decolonizing our Relationships to Space and Knowledge**
  - Belén Noroña, Chelsea Vitery, Brittany Baker, Liz Stansbury, Valentine M. Valentine
  - AS220, Black Box

- **Contemplations and Conjuring Towards a Shared Liberation**
  - Vanessa López, gloria j. wilson, Joni Boyd Acuff
  - AS220, Psychic Readings

- **Imagining New Futures through Creative Processes in the Arts**
  - Brian Kaufman, James Dorsey, Krystal Williams
  - AS220, Rm. 205

- **A State Reckoning: Advancing Health Equity Through Community-Led Solutions**
  - Nadine Tavares, Nwando Egbuche Ofokansi
  - PPL, Mural Room

- **From WaterFire to Earth and Air: Reckoning New Lines of Flight in Downtown Providence**
  - Benjamin Ross Nicholson, Fidelia Lam, Triton Mobley
  - AS220, Rm. 204

- **ZODIAC REVOLUTION**
  - Sophia Ellis, Rai Terry
  - AS220, Main Stage

- **Primordial Futurizing: Horseshoe Crab Holiday Activation as Cultural Intervention and Public Transformation**
  - Eli Nixon
  - PPL, Classroom Workshop G14

- **Imagining America Member Session**
  - Erica Kohl-Arenas, Kal Alston
  - PPL, Ship Room

### 5:15 – 5:30 pm

Shuttles depart from the Providence Public Library to the Roger Williams Park Casino 🔗

### 5:30 – 6:15 pm

**Opening Performance: Chuh Wamee (Hey all)**

- Grupo Ondas Capoeira, Pomham Singers, Michaela Harrison

- Bandstand at Roger Williams Park Casino
6:15 – 8:00 pm  Welcome Reception

The IA National Gathering is coordinated along with the Center for Indigenous Peoples Rights (CIPR) Annual Gathering — a convening of Indigenous law and policy practitioners, community leaders, and culture bearers to highlight regional efforts, share best practices, and to elevate issues for discussion and action-planning. Their theme of Reclaiming + Repatriating refers to the law and policy efforts of Indigenous peoples and communities reclaiming their lands and identities, as well repatriating sacred objects and ancestral remains back to their respective homes. Imagining America is grateful for the opportunity to recognize CIPR and celebrate together at Friday’s Welcome Reception.

Sponsors: American Council of Learned Societies, Manetti Shrem Museum, Center for Indigenous Peoples Rights

7:45 – 8:15 pm  Shuttles depart from Roger Williams Park Casino to the Omni Hotel  🚌
Day 2  Saturday, October 21st

Saturday Locations: MET School Community Site Visits 325 Public St, Providence RI Various Locations

Maps available on pages 28–30

8:00 – 8:30 am  Shuttles depart from Omni Hotel to MET High School 🚌
8:30 – 10:45 am  Breakfast 🍳
8:30 am – 4:00 pm  Registration 📍 MET Justice, Commons 101
8:30 am – 4:00 pm  Booksellers & Artisans 📍 MET Justice, Commons 101

9:00 am – 2:00 pm  Creative Works 📍 MET Justice

The Curse of Salt  🌈 Rachel Marie-Crane Williams 📍 MET Justice, Commons 101
What is a river?  🌈 Hannah Michael Flynn  🌈 Leslie Dinkin 📍 MET Justice, Rm. 106
Forgiveness  🌈 Gregory MacNaughton 📍 MET Justice, Rm. 105

9:00 – 10:30 am  Concurrent Sessions 4 📍 MET Equality, Commons 101

Projects & Practices 5 🚀
Sensing the Wrack: the symbiotic relationship between the oceans and humans is multifaceted and complex  🌈 Jennifer Parker  🌈 Fiona Hillary
A Public Art Program at El Campo Pesquero de Playa Bagdad: Transboundary noise and a shared (outer)space  🌈 Jerónimo Reyes-Retana
The WHAT and the HOW: Jumble Methodology as Radical Care  🌈 Victoria Restler

Projects & Practices 6 🚀
Change your neighborhood. Change the world.  🌈 Cassius Palacio  🌈 Lauren Jian
Green Corners: Slow Growth and Gradual Shifts  🌈 Negar Farajiani  🌈 Ashkan Zahraie
9:00 – 10:30 am **CONT.**

**Participatory Workshops**

- **Composting in Community**
  - Laura Briggs
  - Ella Kilpatrick Kotner
  - Julia Woznicki
  - Claudia Peck
  - Lydia Chodosh

- **Providence Queer/Trans Zinefest: A Dialogue on Collective Arts Organizing and Radical Publishing**
  - Tycho Horan
  - Christopher Joseph Lee
  - Dana Heng
  - Kim-Conner
  - MJ Sanqui

- **Reckoning with Change: Book Spaces and Generativity**
  - Kim Loudermilk
  - Vialla Hartfield-Mendez
  - Rose Deighton-Mohammed
  - Diane Capriola

- **Economic Reckoning: Bringing Participatory Budgeting to Your Community**
  - Carlene Fonseca
  - Pamela Jennings

- **Work-time vs. Potato-time: Agendas beyond the clock**
  - Alix Gerber
  - Megan Lyster
  - Emily Norton

- **Amplify!: Co-creating a Journal of Writing-as-Activism**
  - Vicki Reitenauer
  - Rhiannon Cates

- **Speculative Design, Placemaking, and Third Spaces in the Classroom: Teaching and Learning for Transforming Higher Education**
  - Ijeoma Njaka
  - Susannah McGowan
  - Noah Martin
  - Wesson Radomsky
  - Jan Menafee

- **Radical Reckoning in Higher Education: Unveiling the University**
  - Sylvia C. Spears
  - Greta Spoering

- **Conocimiento Practice: Wisdom of Water Bearers**
  - Amikaeyla Gaston

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10:45 am – 12:15 pm **Concurrent Sessions 5**

**Projects & Practices 7**

- **The Power of An Art Atlas: Telling Foodshed Stories and Visualizing the Future**
  - Alan Wight

- **Art, Science and Community: Engaging The Elements to Traverse Divides in Times of Challenge and Change**
  - Lisa Schwartz, PhD
  - Beth Johnston, MFA
  - Kendi Davies

- **Unhousing: claiming the human right to home**
  - Leora Kahn
  - Jayonna Johnson
  - Glenna Jennings

- **What the Guards Saw; Art Museum Counter-Narratives**
  - Ishita Dharap
Day 2

10:45 am – 12:15 pm CONT.

Projects & Practices 8

Cultivating Environmental Stewards: Reflection and Action Begins Around a Campfire
Corey Denenberg Dehner

Reimagining High School Art Credits: Art that Reflects the Culture of the Community
Nowell Academy  Zuli Vidal  Melissa Slaiger

Design Activism for Community Engaged Learning
Rachel Beth Egenhoefer

From Pandemic to Protest, Harlem Remembers (in Augmented Reality)
Jill Strauss

Participatory Workshops

Invoking the Elements with Digital Storytelling
Amanda Esons  Alexandra Corazza

Reckoning with Research: Embracing Participatory Methods for Collective Liberation
Judy Pryor-Ramirez (she/her/ella)  Constanza Mendoza-Guerra (she/her/ella)

Finding Voice by Storying the Self: An introspective, reflective writing journey for radical reimagining
Liz DeBetta

Invoking the Elements Together: Co-creating the Capacity for Transformation through Consultancy Protocols
Hasina Mohyuddin  Jackie Hansom  Jyoti Gupta

From reckoning to realization: Leveraging reparative and restorative systems of assessment for social change

Finding Your Financial “Face” and Building Financially Resilient Spaces: Becoming Communal Agents of Economic Change
Presenters: Sonya Squires-Caeser and Camille Olivierre
Julia Metzker  Sarah Stanlick  Wesley Bishop  LaShawnda Crowe Storm  Anna Sims Bartel

Watershed Moments: Publicly Engaged Design Education in Providence and Beyond through Consultancy Protocols
Brett Snyder  Elaine Stiles  Emily Vogler  Fatema Maswood  William Green

Inclusion, Play, and Ensemble as Higher Ed Superpowers
Deborah Kronenberg  Lexie Oosting
Lunch

Optional Event: Welcome from Dennis Littky, co-founder of MET School and College Unbound

The MET High School was co-founded by Dennis Littky 25 years ago, and he went on to co-found College Unbound out of a three-family home right across the street. For over 50 years, Dennis has been at the forefront of the movement to center students and their interests all the time in any decision, school design, or model for education.

Grab your lunch and meet at Founders Hall for lunch with Dennis and a walking tour of the campus with MET students.

Concurrent Sessions 6

Lightning Talks

Publicly Active Graduate Education (PAGE) Fellows Lightning Talks
- Marisol Fila
- HL Doruelo
- S. Coco Herda
- monét cooper
- Ural Grant
- Racquel Banaszak
- Chelsea Bouldin
- Sonya Squires-Caesar
- Angela Rose David

Dialogue & Discussion

Reckoning with LGBTQ+ Regional History: Dialogue and Discussion about Public History Case Studies from LGBTQ+ Community Archives
- Mary C. Foltz
- Robin Gow
- Lyam Gabel
- Lauren Gilmore
- Yasmin Dasilva
- Abby Trainor

Black Feminist Worldmaking
- Dr. Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo
- Brianna J. Cox, MFA
- Queen D. Scott

Providence Arts and Letters: A New, Rhizomatic Journal
- Virginia Thomas (she/her)
- Shey ‘Ri Acu’ Rivera Rios (They/Them/Elle)
- Charlotte Abotsi

Each One, Teach One: Diversifying the Teacher Workforce
- Aubrey Schabowsky
- Ayana Bass

Supporting deep change: Living into approaches to evaluation that better align with our anti-oppression values, create meaningful, useful knowledge, and hold us accountable to our key stakeholders
- Cynthia Roberts
- Jessica Walsh

Liberatory Learning in Carceral Spaces
- Chris Dickson
- Jose Rodriguez
- Kyle Campbell
- Wanda Brown
- Alberto Lule
- Thomas Lumpkins
- Cheech Raygoza
- Sammi Gilmore
- Shani Shay
- Danny Murillo
- Michael Cerda Jara

From the Bottom Up: Philadelphia and the Politics of Placemaking
- Herman Beavers

Dialogue & Discussion
#IAGathering2023

Day 2

1:00 – 2:00 pm *CONT.*

- **Fostering Trust & Belonging through Creative Placemaking**
  - Sharon Yazowski
  - Lisa Wagner
  - MET CIE, Conference Room

- **Essential Engagement: Advancing the Public Purpose of Higher Education**
  - Robin Bachin
  - Amy Howard
  - Tim Eatman
  - MET Equality, Rm. 208

2:00 – 2:30 pm

- **Prepare to depart for Community Site Visits**
  - MET School

2:30 – 5:30 pm

- **Community Site Visits**
  - Site visits are only available by pre-registration

3:00 – 5:30 pm

- **Verde Visions at Southside Community Land Trust**
  - Southside Community Land Trust
  - 404 Broad St, Providence, RI 02907

- **Everett: Company, Stage & School - Parables from Prison**
  - Everett: Company, Stage & School
  - 9 Duncan Avenue, Providence RI 02906

- **Bannister Community Art Project + Providence Art Club**
  - Providence Art Club
  - 11 Thomas St, Providence, RI 02903

- **Community Music Works: Collective Performance and Workshop with Phase II Youth and TK Mhlambi**
  - Southside Cultural Center of Rhode Island
  - 393 Broad Street, Providence RI 02907

- **Movement Education Outdoors + The Emergent Forest**
  - West End Raices
  - 47 Harrison Street, Providence, RI 02907

- **Culturally Informed, Community Minded Memorialization in Providence’s City Cemeteries**
  - North Burial Ground
  - 5 Branch Ave, Providence, RI 02904

- **Tomaquag Museum**
  - 390A Summit Rd, Exeter, RI 02822

- **The Youth Are the Truth: Enacting Social Justice through Arts, Education, Civic Engagement, and Youth Development**
  - AS220 Black Box Theater
  - 95 Empire Street, Providence RI 02903
3:00 – 5:30 pm CONT.

Nonviolence as a Practical Alternative to Violence
Nonviolence Institute

Stages of Freedom African American Museum
Stages of Freedom

A Forgotten Neighborhood: The Resilient People of Smith Hill
Smith Hill Library

The Haus of Glitter: The Historical Intervention of The Former Home of Esek Hopkins, Commander of the slavery ship “Sally”
Esek Hopkins House + Park

Radical Ris-ing: Risograph Poster Design Workshop at Project Open Door Studio
Project Open Door (POD) Studio

Tigers and Portals
Project Open Door Studio
Joseph A Doorley Jr. Municipal Building

Reclaiming + Repatriating Land: Potumtuk (Organized with the Center for Indigenous Peoples Rights)
Potumtuk (Mt. Hope Farm)

5:30 – 6:00 pm
Shuttles return from Community Site Visits to MET High School

6:00 – 6:25 pm
Shuttles provided from MET High School to Omni Hotel

4:00 – 9:00 pm
The Steel Yard Iron Pour & Sims Ave Festival
Optional Event

27 Sims Ave, Providence, RI 02909
Day 3  Sunday, October 22nd

Sunday Locations:
- MET School, 325 Public St, Providence RI
- WaterFire Arts Center, 475 Valley St, Providence, RI
- MET Justice, Commons 101
- MET Justice, Rm. 106
- MET Justice, Rm. 105

Maps available on pages 28–30

7:45 – 8:00 am  Shuttles depart from Omni Hotel to MET High School

8:00 – 10:00 am  Breakfast

8:00 am – 12:00 pm  Registration

8:00 am – 12:00 pm  Booksellers & Artisans

8:30 am – 12:00 pm  Creative Works

- The Curse of Salt  Rachel Marie-Crane Williams
- What is a river?  Hannah Michael Flynn  Leslie Dinkin
- Forgiveness  Gregory MacNaughton

8:30 – 9:30 am  Concurrent Sessions 7

Lightning Talks

- Healing Through Harmony: The Healing of an Urban Community Through Music  Dan Vlahos  Ron Bell
- Transformative Teaching Starts with Inner Reckoning  Aubrey Schabowsky
- Waves of Migration: Locating Asian American Radical Tenderness in Institutional Archives  Grace Xiao
- Art-chiving the Now: Community Preservation through Storytelling  Jennora Blair
- Water as shaper of landscape and community: Mapping the flows of research and resources in a university-led initiative  Jonathan Lowell
- The Flood is a Ghost  Aja Cacan
8:30 – 9:30 am cont.

Dialogue & Discussion

Storying the Self; Re-Storying Trauma: Engaging With Storying as Guided by the Elements  
Molly C. Driessen, Meghan Phadke

Antilynching Counter-Archive: Confronting Lynching as a technology of Imperialism, Anti-Blackness, and Settler Colonialism  
Virginia Thomas (she/her), Erin Gray (she/her), Joann Ayuso (She/Her), Jeffrey Yoo Warren (he/him), Christopher Roberts

Our Fire Is on the Rise! Elements of Institutional Change and Black Studies  
Ruth Nicole Brown, Yvonne Morris, Mike Martin, Alaya Pack, Ural Grant

Harnessing the Elements to Envision Change in Museums  
Nenette Luarca-Shoaf, Myesha Ward, Alexandra Poterack, Kajette Solomon

Reckoning with Interdisciplinarity: How Can We Foster Real Collaboration for a Shared Future?  
Tuba Agartan, Eric Sung, Nick Longo, Stephanie Fortunato

Interdisciplinary Community Engagement Opportunities in the Arts, Humanities, and Beyond  
Linda Greenberg, Kathryn Perry, Danelle Dyckhoff Stelzreide

Through the Fire: Performing Our Future, A Coalition Together til Death Do Us Part.  
Tiffany Turner, John Harris, Denise Johnson

Center for Community Partnerships - RISD

9:45 – 10:45 am Concurrent Sessions 8

Lightning Talks

Reckoning with Access to Legal Education  
Peter Dickson

Envisioning Elemental Care: Multimedia Messages of Community Health Workers  
Emma Olson

EmersonWRITES Boston: Our Youth Uncover Our Truth  
Crystal M. Gómez, Alayne Fiore

It’s not a program; it’s a movement  
Deborah Golding, Nwando Ofokansi

Equity and Justice in the Workplace - Elemental Pedagogies  
Chenthu Jayton, Ashley Hill
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## Day 3

### 9:45 – 10:45 am CONT.

#### Dialogue & Discussion 📚

- **Reckoning the Airwaves: from Internet to Broadcasts**
  - Aditi Mehta
  - Sheryl-Ann Simpson
  - Tony Schloss
  - MET Justice, Rm. 203

- **Broad Street Stories: Reckoning the Legacy of Public Design Interventions through Community Owned Place Making**
  - Tamara Metz
  - Katie Edmonds
  - MET Justice, Rm. 205

- **Social Impact Initiatives: a Thematic Approach to Interdepartmental, Collaborative Studio Course with Demonstrable Social Impact**
  - Eric Gordon
  - Rachele Gardner
  - Dana Edell
  - Maridena Rojas
  - Nate McLean-Nichols
  - MET Justice, Rm. 213

  - Stephanie Fortunato
  - Julia Lazarus
  - Julie Adams Strandberg
  - MET Unity, Rm. 203

- **Fire and Water: Using Dialogue to Imagine Liberating Institutional Norms**
  - Romy Hübler
  - Brian Jara
  - Matt Durington
  - Morgan Rawlings
  - MET Unity, Rm. 205

- **“Meaning of the Seed” Documentary Screening & Discussion**
  - Anita Balski
  - MET Unity, Rm. 213

### 11:00 am – 12:30 pm Concurrent Sessions 8

#### Projects & Practices 9 🏭

- **Walking As Reckoning: Grounding Education**
  - Mike Wakeford
  - Joe Mills

- **Fifty-One Miles: A Walking Exploration of the Los Angeles River**
  - Hannah Michael Flynn
  - Leslie Dinkin

- **Reckoning, repair, and regeneration: An elemental approach to mobilizing collective knowledge for land stewardship**
  - Sarah Stanlick
  - Gabriela Pereyra
  - Katherine Foo
  - Melanie Allen
  - Olivia Watkins

#### Projects & Practices 10 🏭

- **Spatial Justice: Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Equity**
  - Jules Rochelle Sievert
  - Gabriela Cartagena

- **Schools and Communities Organizing for Racial Equity (SCORE): Community-based Research and Design for Educational and Racial Justice**
  - Brenda Santos
  - Juan Pablo Blanco
  - J. Niko Merritt
  - Janette Perez

- **Reimagining Culture and Economics in Community Development and Human Flourishing in West Baltimore**
  - Denise Griffin Johnson
  - Lee Boot
  - Marion Blackwell
  - John Harris
  - Christy Turner
  - Moses Hammett

- **Schools and Communities Organizing for Racial Equity (SCORE): Community-based Research and Design for Educational and Racial Justice**
  - Brenda Santos
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- **Reimagining Culture and Economics in Community Development and Human Flourishing in West Baltimore**
  - Denise Griffin Johnson
  - Lee Boot
  - Marion Blackwell
  - John Harris
  - Christy Turner
  - Moses Hammett
11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
**CONT.**

### Participatory Workshops 📑

**Threats to Education and Positive Visions**  
- Imagining America National Advisory Board Members  
  - MET Justice, Rm. 202

**Collaborative Artmaking as Ritual for Joyful Resilience**  
- Perrin Teal Sullivan, Emily Norton  
  - MET Justice, Rm. 211

**Encouraging Imaginative Futuring through Classroom Negotiation Simulations**  
- Camille Tinnin, Ross Holmes  
  - MET Equality, Rm. 211

**Elemental Justice: How do we intersect the elements of nature and our work to redistribute power?**  
- Manda Wittebort, Soniy Alamdari  
  - MET Equality, Rm. 208

**Alchemical Resilience: Co-creating Transformational Personal and Professional Pathways**  
- Jackie Hansom, Whitney B. Taylor, PhD, Christina Keeton, PhD, HD McKay  
  - MET CIE, Conference Room

**Radical Storytelling for Collective Change**  
- Leslie Lombre, Jacqueline Ramos  
  - MET Unity, Rm. 204

**Liberatory Ancestral Social Justice Storywork: An Interactive Workshop**  
- Tamera Marko, Helen Credle, Priscilla Andrade  
  - MET Unity, Rm. 211

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**12:30 – 1:00 pm**  
**Shuttles depart from MET High School to WaterFire Arts Center 🚌**

**1:00 – 1:15 pm**  
**Lunch 🍽️**  
- MET Unity, WaterFire Arts Center

**1:15 – 3:00 pm**  
**Closing Plenary**

**In Love and Struggle**

- Robin D.G. Kelly, University of California, Los Angeles  
  - Tracie Hall, American Library Association  
  - Adam Bush, College Unbound  
  - WaterFire Arts Center

**475 Valley St, Providence, RI**
# IAGathering2023

## Parking & Transportation

### Shuttle Bus Transportation 🚌

**Friday, October 20**
- 8:15 – 8:40 am Loop from Omni Hotel Providence to Providence Public Library
- 5:15 – 5:30 pm Providence Public Library to Roger Williams Park Casino
- 7:40 – 8:30 pm Loop from Roger Williams Park Casino to Omni Hotel Providence

**Saturday, October 21**
- 8:00 - 9:00 am Loop from Omni Hotel Providence to MET School
- 2:30 - 5:30 pm Round-trip Transportation from MET School to Community Site Visits
- 6:00 - 6:15 pm MET School to Omni Hotel Providence

**Sunday, October 22**
- 7:45 - 8:30 am Loop from Omni Hotel Providence to MET School
- 12:30 - 1:00 pm MET School to WaterFire Arts Center

*Note: Participants are responsible for travel from WaterFire Arts Center at the end of Gathering.*

### Omni Hotel Parking

- Guests staying at the Omni Hotel can use overnight valet services (with in/out privileges) for $34 a day.
- The hotel is a 10-minute walk from Providence Amtrak Station, a 15–20 minute drive (10 miles) from T.F. Green Airport (PVD), and 50 miles from Logan International Airport (Boston).

### Downtown / Empire Street Parking

- Shuttle bus transportation is provided by IA from Omni Hotel Providence to the Providence Public Library on Friday morning.
- People arriving by car can either park at the Omni Hotel ($34/day) and walk to Empire Street, or pay for parking in the Empire Lot (197 Fountain St, Providence, RI 02903) next to the Providence Public Library.
- Paid parking is available on downtown Providence streets via The Providence Parking App.
- Visit ProvidenceRI.gov/parking for details.

### MET School Parking

- Shuttle bus transportation is provided by IA from Omni Hotel Providence to the MET School on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- Parking at the MET School (325 Public Street, Providence, RI 02905) is available for Gathering attendees in two parking lots on either side of the MET lawn/track, both are accessible from Public Street.
Downtown Providence

WaterFire Arts Center
475 Valley St, Providence, RI

Omni Hotel Providence
1 W Exchange St, Providence, RI

Providence Public Library (PPL)
150 Empire St, Providence, RI
use Washington St. Entrance

AS220
115 Empire St, Providence, RI

Joseph R. Dooley Building Conference Room
444 Westminster, Providence, RI

South Providence

MET High School
325 Public St, Providence, RI

Roger Williams Park Casino
1000 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI
Maps have been modified to highlight certain areas.

Providence Public Library (PPL)  Friday

Ground Level

Level One

Level Three

Ground Level

- G14 – Workshop Classroom

Level One

- Washington Street Entrance (IA Gathering Entrance)
- Grand Hall - Registration, Food Service
- 138 – Ship Room

Level Three

- Auditorium
- 309 – Seminar Room
- 303 – Mural Room
AS220

Floor One:
• Entrance
• Cafe
• Main Stage Gallery
• Black Box Theatre
• Elevator

Floor Two:
• Psychic Readings
• Aborn Gallery
• 209 – Performing Arts
• 205 – Media Arts
• 204 – Visual Arts

MET School

Saturday & Sunday

6 MET Justice
First Floor:
• Commons 101 – Registration
• 105, 106, 114

Second Floor Rooms:
• 202, 203, 204, 205, 211, 213

8 MET Unity
First Floor:
• Commons 101

Second Floor Rooms:
• 202, 203, 204, 205, 211, 213

10 MET Equality
First Floor:
• Commons 101

Second Floor Rooms:
• 208, 209, 210, 211

Public Street Campus

4 Black Box Theatre
6 Justice Building
7 Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE)
8 Unity Building
9 Gymnasium
10 Equality Building
Thank You

Imagining America’s 2023 National Gathering, “Radical Reckoning: Invoking the Elements for Collective Change,” was made possible through the generous and creative contributions of many people. We would like to extend special thanks to:

**Working Group**

Charlotte Abotsi  City of Providence Department of Art, Culture and Tourism
Adam Bush  College Unbound
Karen Casper  College Unbound
Anjel Newmann  AS220
Rebecca Noon  City of Providence Department of Art, Culture and Tourism
Silas Pinto  City of Providence Department of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
Moneé Reis  City of Providence Department of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
Sylvia Spears  College Unbound

**Steering Committee**

Jennifer Davis Allison  Partners Training & Consulting
Marissa Brown  Rhode Island School of Design
Roshni Darnal  United Way of Rhode Island
Chris Dixon  College Unbound
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Julia Travers Rickert  College Unbound
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Nathaniel Svoogun  College Unbound
Joe Wilson Jr.  City of Providence Department of Art, Culture and Tourism

*Including all members of the Working Group and IA Staff*

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Darby Ray  Bates College
Robyn Rodriguez  University of California, Davis
Sylvia Spears  College Unbound
Winoka Yepa  University of New Mexico
Carol Zou  Cultural Worker

Publicly Active Graduate Education (PAGE) Fellows

Racquel Banaszak  University of Minnesota
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monét cooper  University of Michigan
Angela Rose David  University of California, Los Angeles
HL Doruelo  University of California, Riverside
Ural Grant  Michigan State University
S. Coco Herda  University of California, Davis
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Gabriella Nieves  Macalester College
Danny Zuniga Zarat  Bates College

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- The Flourishing of the Whole Student, for Every Student
- Commitment to Equity, Democracy, and the Public Good

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Rhode Island School of Design is a creative project that started in 1877.
The Modern Language Association
Supports the Public Humanities

Read our Guidelines for Evaluating Publicly Engaged Humanities Scholarship in Language and Literature Programs.

These guidelines help departments, institutions, and faculty members in languages and literatures value and assess research in the public humanities. Whether you need to make the case for the importance of your work to your institution or you’re seeking guidance about how to collaborate with partners ethically, this document provides a framework for gauging impact.

Watch our professional development webinar series on publicly engaged scholarship.

In conjunction with the publication of the guidelines, the MLA sponsored a series of webinars about developing and sustaining projects in the public humanities and using the guidelines to spark dialogue and implement change around how such projects are valued. View the recordings for discussions about podcasting, public writing, and other public humanities work.

LEARN MORE
www.mla.org/Guidelines-Public-Humanities
Mission and Values

Vision

We envision a world of expansive social imagination, constructed by multiple ways of knowing, where people work together to nurture healthy, vibrant, and joyful communities.

Mission

The Imagining America consortium (IA) brings together scholars, artists, designers, humanists, and organizers to imagine, study, and enact a more just and liberatory ‘America’ and world. Working across institutional, disciplinary, and community divides, IA strengthens and promotes public scholarship, cultural organizing, and campus change that inspires collective imagination, knowledge-making, and civic action on pressing public issues.

By dreaming and building together in public, IA creates the conditions to shift culture and transform inequitable institutional and societal structures.

Values: We Believe...

Imagining America is committed to bringing people together as our full selves in critical yet hopeful spaces to imagine better ways of living, learning and working together. To do this work, we believe:

• It is important to struggle with the idea of ‘America’.
  The idea of ‘America’ embodies both the prophetic vision and legacy of social movements that have fought for a fully equitable broad based popular democracy, and a troubling history of violence, oppression, and genocide. To realize our vision, we believe that it is important to struggle with this contradiction and how it has and continues to manifest domestically, regionally, and globally.

• Creative culture is an important site of liberation.
  The bold power of art and design holds the key to bringing people together in imagining and embodying a better future. Creative practices force us to suspend belief, step outside of dead-end thinking, and imagine a different way of being. Collaborative creative culture-making brings people together in ways that foster empathy, joy, play, and connection.

• Organized ideas matter in the project of personal, institutional, and societal transformation.
  IA sense of what is possible (even imaginable) is partially defined by ideas about how the world works. Public humanities, community engaged scholarship, and storytelling is central to the long-haul project of social change towards a more just, nurturing, and equitable world.
Nothing is completely new. Our work builds upon the strengths, legacies, and innovations of our elders and ancestors while simultaneously lifting the voices of youth. The most powerful work is intergenerational and incorporates multiple opportunities to learn from each other.

Our work must be radically inclusive. In a society marked by historical and ongoing forms of oppression, where invaluable indigenous and community-based knowledge is often marginalized, our work depends upon supporting more inclusive institutional and social structures, and incorporating multiple ways of knowing.

How we learn and work with one another matters. We believe in the capacity of every human being to learn, grow, create knowledge, and lead change. Teaching and organizing that is driven by curiosity, care, compassion, openness, and belief in everyone’s intellectual, creative, and leadership capacity holds the key to building individual and collective agency/power.

Living up to our values requires institutional and societal change. This includes, and goes beyond, supporting higher education institutions in achieving their public purpose and towards greater diversity, equity, and inclusion in a truly participatory democratic culture.

By dreaming and building together in public, IA creates the conditions to shift culture and transform inequitable institutional and societal structures.
Imagining America Member Institutions

Auburn University
Augsburg University
Bates College
Bergen Community College
Bunker Hill Community College
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Monterey Bay
Carleton College
Clark University
Colgate University
College Unbound
Columbia College Chicago
Drexel University
Emerson College
Emory University
Georgetown University
Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis
Kansas State University
Lansing Community College
Macalester College
Maryland Institute College of Art
Michigan State University
Occidental College
The Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
Providence College
Reed College
Rutgers University, Newark
Skidmore College
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
The New School
Towson University
Tulane University
University of Arizona
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
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University of California, Merced
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