



# TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP for CHANGE

## May 2018 Update



Our transformative journey has continued and we are now halfway through our inaugural year for the Transformative Leadership for Change fellowship. We have been building the curriculum and crystalizing the goals for the fellowship that include deep work on fortifying the ecosystem and cultivating relationships between movement leaders and funders, increasing the network and coordination of leaders of color to sustain the movement, amplifying the healing and wellness of leaders of color, building the capacity of fellow organizations to increase sustainability and impact,

Our time has also been spent on centering our wellbeing as leaders of color and connecting that to our collective liberation.

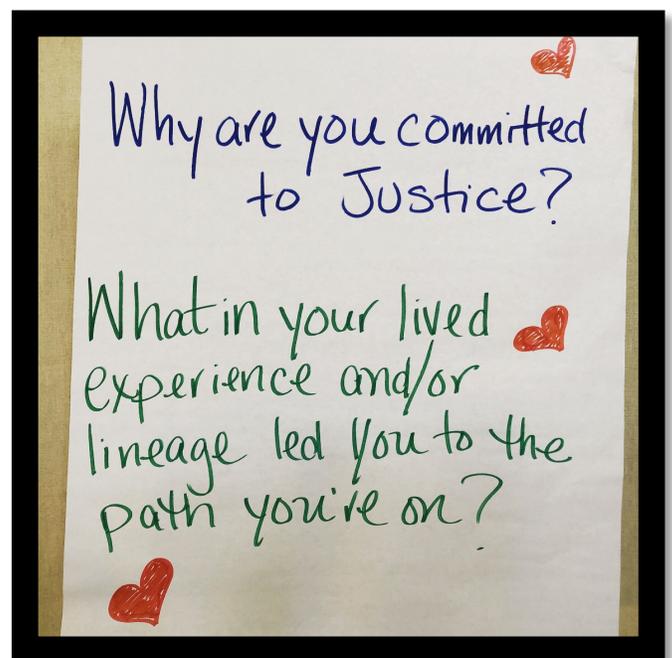
In April, we spent time with the funders of TLC and invited the entire group to share their responses to, “Why are you committed to justice?” and “What in your lived experience and/or lineage

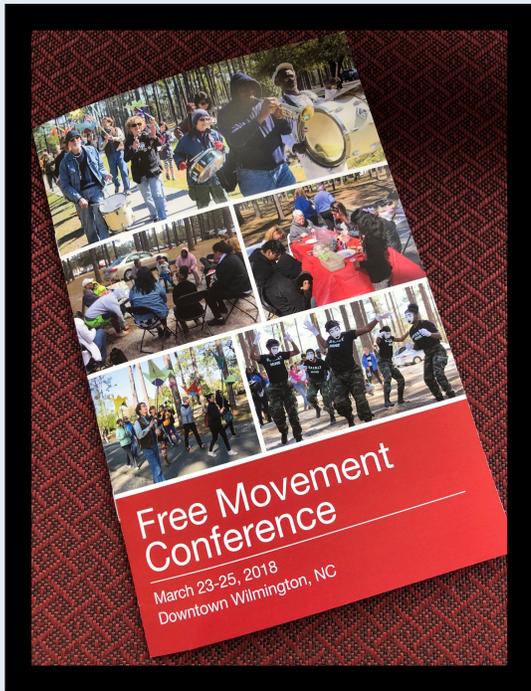
*“The session with the fellows was a powerful time together.” TLC Funder*

led you to the path that you are on?” Each person led with vulnerability

to share their story, bringing to life their experiences with racism, classism, and sexism. But also bringing their families, elders, and the vision for justice and equity.

This time building with funders was incredibly valuable and is the foundation for some of our transformation and ecosystem work moving into the remainder of the fellowship.





Our fellows continue to rise and are being recognized for their valuable contributions and visionary work:

- *Candi CdeBaca*, Co-Founder & Executive Director of Project VOYCE, is running for Denver City Council.
- *Nicole Melaku*, Executive Director of Colorado Immigrants Rights Coalition, was the first recipient of the Sheila Bugdanowitz Leadership Development award from Rose Community Foundation.
- *Janiece Mackey*, Co-Founder & Executive Director for Young Aspiring Americans for Social & Political Activism, was recognized for her excellence around community advocacy and leadership from the Ebony Evolution Student Organization for Ethnic Women at the University of Colorado at Denver.
- *Crystal Middlestadt* is now the Executive Director of the Chinook Fund.

- *Veronica Palmer*, CEO & Co-Founder of RISE Colorado, received the first-ever Colorado Nonprofit Association Inclusiveness & Racial Equity Award and was also selected for the Obama Fellowship.

*“What you pay attention to grows.”*  
*adrienne maree brown*

Nationally, we have been sharing our approach to racial justice, transformative leadership, and ecosystems change with grassroots leaders, foundations, and other stakeholders. We presented at the *Free Movement Conference* in Wilmington, North Carolina. In May, we shared our evolution and story with funders at

the national *Funders’ Committee for Civic Participation* conference and we will be presenting an interactive workshop called *Building Power Within and Power With to Mobilize Resources* at the GIFT national conference *Money for Our Movements* in Atlanta in July. This workshop will highlight some of the practices of TLC around abundance, healing around power and money, and fortifying our movements.

We look forward to the remainder of our time together. We are planning for our last retreat and getting ready to do a call for the next cohort of leaders of color.

