

CULTURAL ORGANIZING FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE



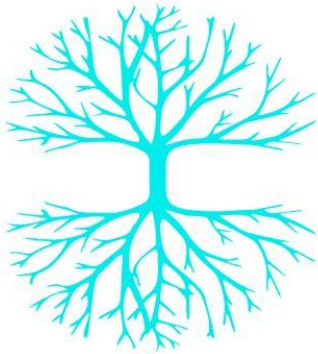
presented by

ARTS & DEMOCRACY

**NOCD
NY**

Three Themes for THIS Moment

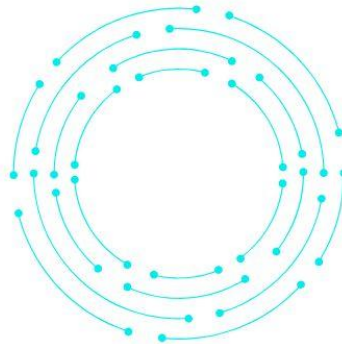
What We've Inherited



Memory & Story

Our roots, traditions, histories,
and inherited narratives.

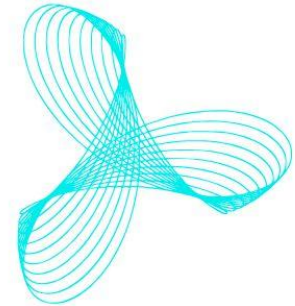
What Is



Care & Connection

How we hold each other and
make meaning together now.

What Could Be



Imagination + Possibility

The futures we can envision and
grow collectively.

Why Do These Themes Matter?

- **Memory & Story:**

Ground identity, resilience, and wisdom.

- **Care & Connection:**

Strengthen solidarity and belonging.

- **Imagination & Possibility:**

Expand what we believe is achievable together.

CULTURAL ORGANIZING *Working definition:*

Exists at the intersection of *arts, culture and activism*.

It's a fluid and dynamic practice that is **understood** and **expressed** in a variety of ways, reflecting the unique cultural, artistic, organizational and community context of its practitioners.

Cultural organizing is about **integrating arts and culture into organizing strategies**.



It is also about **organizing** from a particular tradition, cultural identity, and community of place or worldview to advance social and economic justice.

Artist/Activist: Bunky Echohawk



We support the people's right to retain and determine place

Our intention is based on the belief that:



Activism without art does not touch people's emotional core, a necessary precursor to sustainable personal and social change.



**We believe in Cultural Rights —
all people & have a right
to their creativity and traditions**



A vision of
arts & culture
as an integral part
of our
communities
with an abundance
of
cultural assets



Collaboration, **interdependence**
& sustained relationships



Communities must determine for themselves how arts & culture can best strengthen their neighborhoods, shape change, share benefits



We want to impact changes in **systems** and institutions, in addition to individual lives—including **artists, organizers** and **cultural workers**.

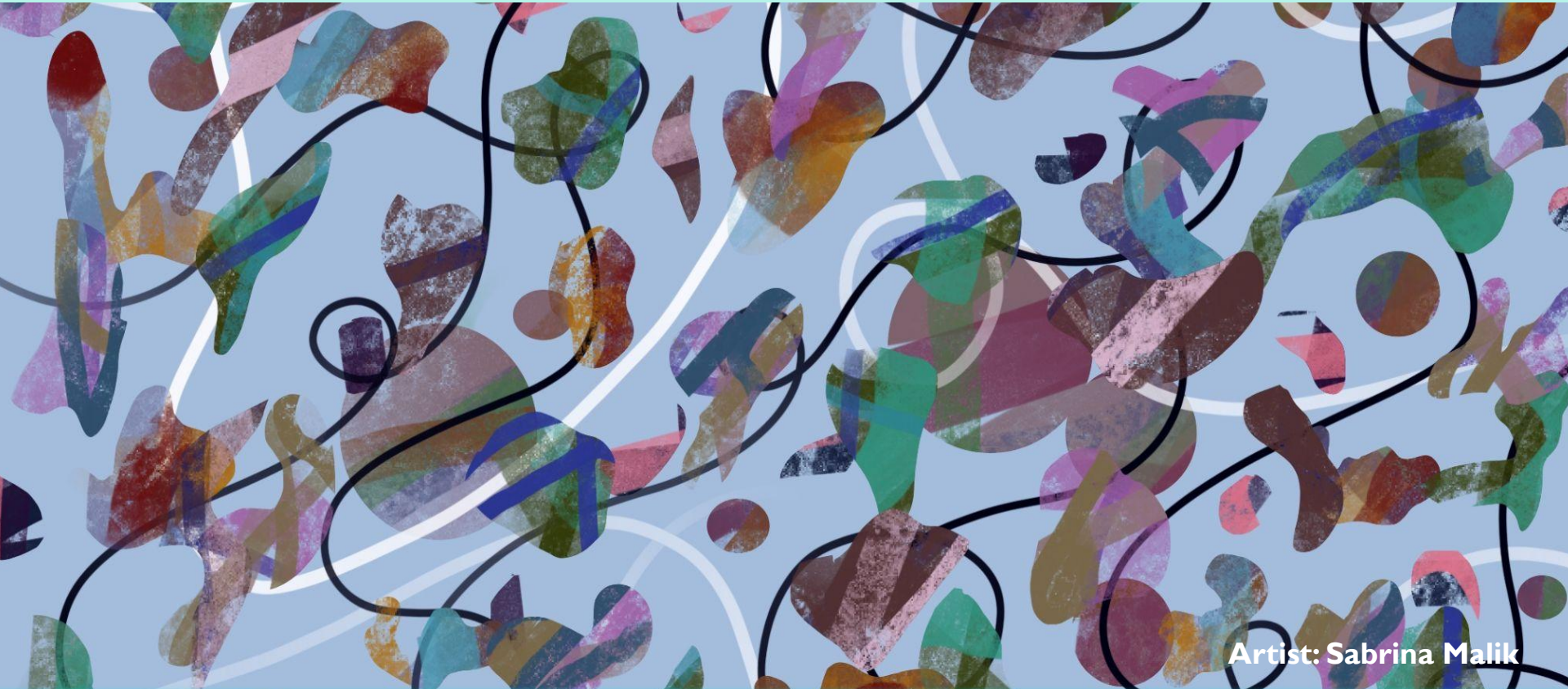
Real **decision making power** that is equitable, accessible, and significant.





A **redefinition of citizenship** that is about **belonging, having voice, being heard, and community relationships** rather than a nation state.

We Use our Collective Imagination to Create Thriving Futures



Artist: Sabrina Malik

Long-term thinking and **collective imagination** are radical practices that enable us to look beyond immediate challenges and build **shared futures** where everyone **thrives**.

We support the people's right to retain and determine place

Our intention is based on the belief that activism without art does not touch people's emotional core, a necessary precursor to sustainable personal and social change

We believe in cultural rights—all people and communities have the right to their creativity and traditions

Cultural organizing enables people to bring their whole selves to their activism.

A vision of arts & culture as an integral part of our communities with an abundance of cultural assets

Collaboration, interdependence, and sustained relationships

Communities must determine for themselves how arts and culture can best strengthen their neighborhood, shape change, share benefits

We want to impact changes in systems and institutions, in addition to individual lives—including artists, organizers and cultural workers

Real decision making power that is equitable, accessible, and significant

A redefinition of citizenship that is about belonging, having voice, being heard, and community relationships rather than a nation state.

We use our collective imagination to create thriving futures.