

Art in the Context of Gender Justice & Mass Incarceration

presented by



leeway foundation

2018 Beyond the Walls:
Reentry & Prison
Healthcare Summit

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Workshop Description

Within the movement to end mass incarceration, the experiences of women, trans, and gender nonconforming folks are silenced and often forgotten. This workshop will demonstrate how art with a vision can be used to change and dismantle systems of oppression such as mass incarceration, and move us toward prison abolition and restorative justice. Through dialogue and collective story-building, we will re-center and re-focus our attention on those marginalized in this movement, and leave participants with tangible steps for how they can be bridges and truth speakers.

Presenter Bios & Contact Info

Nikki Powerhouse,
NicoleTray@gmail.com

Philly native, Nikki Powerhouse, is a creative force that speaks to the human spirit. She is a recipient of the Leeway Foundation Art and Change Grant. A Temple University graduate, she received her BA in Theater and Communication.

Paulette Carrington,
carringtonpaulette@gmail.com

PauletteCarrington is the second woman released in Pennsylvania, originally sentenced to life without parole as a juvenile. In collaboration with Mary DeWitt, she is leading tours in an exhibition that features portraits of women with whom she endured several decades of incarceration.

Reno Wright,
renoprestige16@gmail.com

Reno Prestige Wright has been an advocate and activist within the LGBTQIA community for over twenty-three years. He has participated in landmark projects and historical policy change throughout his decorated career.

Leeway Grantees Who Work to End Mass incarceration & Reentry Stigma

Aja Beech

Aja Beech is an independent freelance author writing about social issues and the arts in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley. Her commentary appears frequently in NewsWorks' Speak Easy blog. In 2010, she was the recipient of a Leeway Art and Change Grant and in 2011, was named one of Philadelphia's Creative Connectors.

Courtney Bowles

Courtney Bowles is an artist, educator, and community organizer who uses art as a vehicle for connecting diverse communities to build empathy and support for social justice movements. She is the co-director of the Philadelphia Reentry Think Tank and The People's Paper Co-op, an ongoing initiative of The Village of Arts & Humanities that connects individuals in reentry with artists, civil rights lawyers, and many others, to run a multitude of programs and initiatives.

Emily Abendroth

Emily Abendroth is a poet, teacher and anti-prison activist living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her creative work often uses interventionist and documentary poetic strategies as exploratory tools for the investigation and "making strange" of otherwise all too familiar socio-political dynamics, relationships and intimacies.

Faith Bartley

Faith is an organizer and multidisciplinary artist who creates resources for women living in halfway houses. Working with The People's Paper Co-op, Faith uses the process of papermaking, gatherings, and speaking engagements to provide information and tips meant to ease the process of reentry for formerly incarcerated women.

Mary DeWitt

Since the late 1980's, Mary has repeatedly painted portraits and collaborated with women serving life without parole in Pennsylvania. Her goal is to show their depth and humanity through exhibitions and YouTube videos of developing portrait images paired with their voices. Currently she is painting ceramic tile mural portraits of the women who are juvenile lifers, to be installed around the city of Philadelphia.

Noelle Hanrahan

Noelle Hanrahan is the director of Prison Radio, a multimedia production studio that brings to the public the voices of incarcerated women, men and children. She seeks to honor the agency and humanity of prisoners by bringing their uncensored essays into mainstream discourse. She has produced over 3,500 multimedia recordings from over 100 prison radio correspondents, including the critically acclaimed work of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Ras Mashramani

Ras Mashramani is Cali born, Philly fed, and Guyana blood. She is co-founder of the around-the-way DIY sci-fi collective, Metropolarity. Inspired by the collective action of the Occupy Philly movement, Ras Mashramani had a vision that a new form of sci-fi would emerge--one that is active, accessible, and grown from the block. Ras Mashramani believes that sci-fi is a technology that allows those without a way forward in the violent machinery that is our economic, criminal justice, and cultural systems, to build futures where they are alive and thriving.

Rhetta Morgan

Rhetta Morgan is a sound healer and creator of Zenvoice, a method of vocal instruction which combines spiritual growth and vocal healing. Her work as an international performer and a conservatory trained musician blends indigenous influences into transformational songs for spiritual empowerment. Rhetta is also an interfaith minister and founder of Ecclesia Spiritual Center, an innovative spiritual community where all paths and all people are welcome.

Romeeka Williams

Romeeka is an organizer who is creating a collection of writing and poetry from workshops with youth within the Philadelphia prison system. Romeeka uplifts the voices of young people tried and incarcerated as adults by sharing where these young writers come from, how they got to this point in their lives, and what trauma they experienced that influenced their decisions.

Community Partners

Bread & Roses Community Fund

Bread & Roses Community Fund believes in change, not charity. We organize donors at all levels to support community-based groups in building movements for racial equity and economic opportunity. We support movements and their leaders through fundraising, grantmaking, capacity building, and convening.



Decarcerate PA

Decarcerate PA is a coalition of organizations and individuals seeking an end to mass incarceration and the harms it brings our communities. Decarcerate PA seeks mechanisms to build whole, healthy communities and believes that imprisonment exacerbates the problems we face.

FIERCE (NYC)

FIERCE is a membership-based organization building the leadership and power of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth of color in New York City. We develop politically conscious leaders who are invested in improving ourselves and our communities through youth-led campaigns, leadership development programs, and cultural expression through arts and media.



Juntos

Juntos is a community-led, Latinx immigrant organization in South Philadelphia fighting for our human rights as workers, parents, youth, and immigrants. We believe that every human being has the right to a quality education and the freedom to live with dignity regardless of immigration status.



People's Paper Co-op/Reentry Think Tank

The People's Paper Co-op (PPC) is an ongoing initiative by the Village of Arts and Humanities that connects formerly incarcerated individuals together with artists, civil rights lawyers, and many others to run a multitude of programs and initiatives. The REENTRY THINK TANK connects returning citizens with artists and advocates to transform the stereotypes, social services, and platforms that impact our lives and communities.

Philadelphia FIGHT/ICJ

Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers provide culturally competent comprehensive primary care, and state of the art HIV primary care to low income members of the community, along with research, consumer education, advocacy, social services and outreach to people living with HIV and those who are at high risk.



Rauschenberg Foundation/ The Artist as Activist Fellowship

The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation fosters the legacy of Rauschenberg's life, work, and philosophy that art can change the world. The Artist as Activist Fellowship provides up to \$100,000 over two years, along with access to opportunities for professional advancement, to independent artists and art collectives with a demonstrated commitment to social engagement in their creative work.

Sisterly L.O.V.E.

Sisterly L.O.V.E. (Leading Others Via Education) is a program facilitated by Mazzoni Center in collaboration with a community advisory board of area trans women, with the aim of developing leadership skills and building community among trans women/trans femmes in Philadelphia. We organize and build power around the self-identified needs of the community, host workshops and events, and conduct targeted street outreach to connect trans women with resources.

Sylvia Rivera Law Project

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine their gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence. SRLP is a collective organization founded on the understanding that gender self-determination is inextricably intertwined with racial, social and economic justice. and of survival and safety from violence.



Trans Justice Funding Project

The Trans Justice Funding Project is a community-led funding initiative founded in 2012 to support grassroots, trans justice groups run by and for trans people. We center the leadership of trans people organizing around their experiences with racism, economic injustice, transmisogyny, ableism, immigration, incarceration, and other intersecting oppressions.



Why Not Prosper

WhyNotProsper is a grassroots 501C(3) organization founded by a formerly incarcerated woman for formerly incarcerated women. We are strong advocates for women and we are committed to providing programs and services that support women in their re-entry efforts from prison to community.

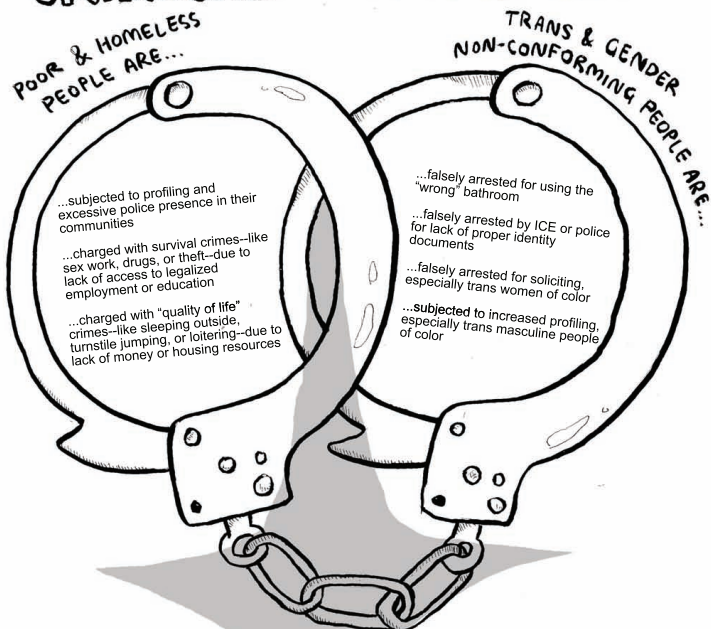


YASP (Youth Art Self empowerment Project)

The number of teenagers under the age of 18 who are held in adult jails and prisons in Pennsylvania has increased drastically over the last fifteen years. The Youth Art & Self-Empowerment Project (YASP) is building a youth-led movement to stop this trend by ending the practice of automatically trying and incarcerating young people as adults.

Other Resources

SYSTEMS OF INEQUALITY: CRIMINAL "IN"JUSTICE

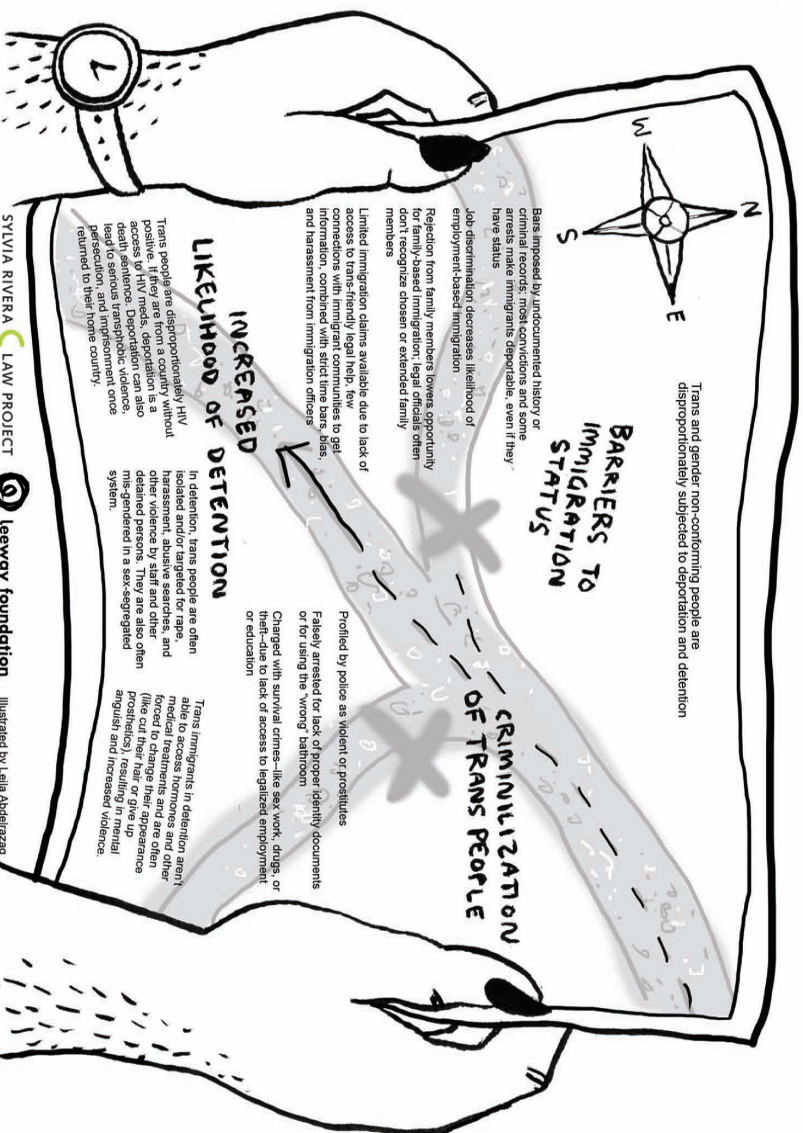


Poor and homeless people and transgender and gender non-conforming people are both criminalized, profiled, and over-policed, which leads to a disproportionately higher risk of arrest, police harassment, violence, and incarceration for low-income trans people.

Poor trans people face additional struggles while incarcerated. These include:



SYSTEMS OF INEQUALITY: IMMIGRATION

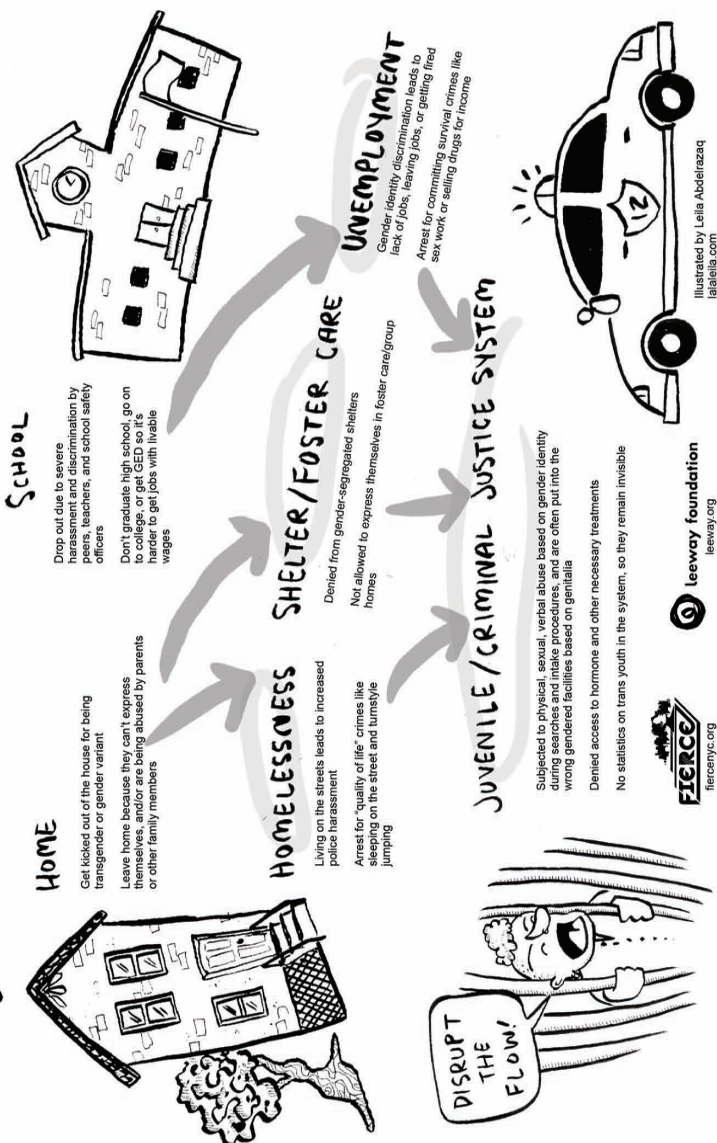


SYLVIA RIVERA
LAW PROJECT
slp.org

leeway foundation
leeway.org

Illustrated by Laila Abdelrazag
lailaella.com

TRANSGENDER YOUTH & THE PRISON-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX



About Leeway Foundation

The Leeway Foundation supports women and trans* artists and cultural producers working in communities at the intersection of art, culture, and social change. Through our grantmaking and other programs we promote artistic expression that amplifies the voices of those on the margins, promotes sustainable and healthy communities, and works in the service of movements for economic and social justice.

Our Grant Programs

The Art and Change Grants and the Leeway Transformation Awards fund women and trans artists and cultural producers living in Greater Philadelphia (Bucks, Camden, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties), who engage in art and social change work and have financial need.

Join us for ***MAKING SPACE: Leeway @ 25***

2018 marks the 25th anniversary of the Leeway Foundation, dedicated to grantmaking and community building among artists, cultural producers, and organizers in Greater Philadelphia. In celebration of this milestone year, Leeway presents *MAKING SPACE: Leeway @ 25*, an exhibition at The Galleries at Moore (1916 Race Street), running from September 20 through December 8, 2018.

*Leeway is a trans-affirming organization committed to gender self-determination, and we use the term “trans” in its most inclusive sense, as an umbrella term encompassing transsexual, transgender, genderqueer, Two-Spirit people, and anyone whose gender identity or gender expression is nonconforming and/or different from their gender assigned at birth.

Notes



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