By Momii Palapaz
Causa Justa Member

This summer, Atlanta, Georgia became the gathering place for the historic five-day national Homes for All #RentersPower2018 assembly. More than 325 people and 105 organizations attended the assembly, held July 18-22 at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center and organized by Right to the City Alliance.

Atlanta welcomed us with what seems a city in a forest, impressively abundant with trees everywhere. The city is a mecca for Black empowerment and a thriving metropolis for Black-owned businesses, commerce and political power.

This grand meeting of tenants, organizers and friends, began with a whooping, hollering, yelling, cheering, clapping and smiling faces. The moment we all anticipated arrived. It was spiritually cleaning, and a reunion of sorts. This meeting of Indigenous, Black, Brown, immigrant, migrant, Asian, low income and working class folks became the moment we all anticipated. For anyone confronted with thoughts of eviction and being displaced, this occasion was a liberating moment of being part of something bigger and more powerful. The program was bilingual — Mandarin, Spanish and English which was grounded in the core belief that all participants must be able to participate in the language they feel most comfortable.

This assembly confirmed and reinforced our duty to fight for dignity in our homes, communities and cities and made official our duty to stand with and for each other, whether we are in the same neighborhood, city or another state. Homes For All is trans-local campaigns to win affordable, dignified, and sustainable homes for all people, where residents have democratic control over their communities.

WHEN DO WE WANT JUSTICE? NOW! The Most Impacted Must Lead

Oakland, San Francisco, and the Bay Area are like many urban cities in the United States, feeling the smash and grab tactics of the system. From the ground up, we are talking about not just a house but the home, our sanctuary. There were hundreds who shared stories of the persistent efforts to join with other tenants in making a lasting, long range movement for housing justice.

“Democracy is a big old garden with all kinds of flowers, and fruits and vegetables. We all have to come together ... I’m going to continue to fight. It’s about my people, it’s about the children, our youth, our nation, it’s about community.” —DebRah Dickerson, of Picture the Homeless, in New York City

DebRah Dickerson, of Picture the Homeless, in New York City, put it this way: “This is what democracy looks like: Democracy is a big old garden with all kinds of flowers, and fruits and vegetables. We all have to come together, north, south, east or west. It is imperative that we stay in this movement. I’m going to continue to fight. It’s about my people, it’s about the children, our youth, our nation, it’s about community.”

An assembly of housing activists wouldn’t be complete without an action. On Friday, July 20, hundreds of us chanted “Housing is a human right, we won’t go without a fight!” Four busloads of HFA members rallied at the City Hall to support the residents of Atlanta to protest the development of a metro system that would displace long-time residents near the proposed #Beltline4All.

The Housing Justice League (HJL), is taking it to the streets, bringing old and young from community centers, workplaces, apartments, schools and churches to “pressure city officials to meaningfully invest in affordable housing that truly meets the community needs along the Beltline.”

Deborah Arnold, of the HJL, said, “we started a tenants’ union to build community power...we went door to door and started holding meetings in our building. What was really inspiring was that tenants showed up and came out yelling, ‘Nobody’s going to put me out of my place’...the landlord thought we were a complex of people who were uneducated, but we showed her who we are...”

EACH ONE TEACH ONE, Concepts for Organizing

There were scores of workshops. At one on Tenant Organizing, more than 50 people sat together without a speaker. And then we hung up a flip chart with the words: “Building People Power = Unity is Power.”

By Kitzia Esteva-Martinez
Causa Justa Community Rights Co-director

This fall, hundreds of organizers and leaders, Indigenous, Black, Asian and Pacific Islanders, came to the Bay Area to build mass unity and action to fight back against climate disaster capitalism and its impact on our communities. We gathered to build true solutions inspired by our resilience and just transition practices.

We came together as part of “It Takes Roots” (ITR), of which Causa Justa is a member. ITR is a national alliance with hundreds of social justice organizations across the country who are aligned and committed to building a stronger social force against white supremacy and climate capitalism, for the rights of our communities to thrive and build self-determination; to work in deep democracy, and for real solutions to the crisis of climate change.

From Sept 7-13, we grew our collective resistance and responses, coming together for a week of actions and solidarity events around climate justice and just transition.

People’s solidarity, people’s solutions

 indigenous Solidarity Means a Healthier World

We marched with thousands upon thousands of people at the People’s Climate March, with Indigenous nations leading the way. We held mass direct actions against climate profiteers and the Global Climate Action Summit held by governor Jerry Brown and held an alternative — Solidarity to Solutions (SoLz2SoL) Summit at La Raza park to share and build our own collective knowledge.

Investing in the value of community-led solutions to climate change, just recovery, housing, food sovereignty and community control of land is essential to keeping us all sustained and to build a society where human development, not profit holds most value.

For CJC the week was a moment to deeply ground in the fight for the rights of self-determination. This means highlighting our local fights against corporate greed and state violence and building our models for community defense, community development and community control of our land, resources and safety.

SEE RTC, PAGE 8
Call for audit of the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department

Demands for transparency and accountability around ICE collaboration

By Hunter King

Causa Justa

Over the past year, Immigration and Customs Enforcement have been empowered to relentless- ly target immigrant communities. In response, Alameda County residents have come together in defense of immigrants and declared that they are a vital part of our families and communities. In flagrant violation of both the spirit of our laws and our community values, however, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department, under Sheriff Chief Ahern, has continued to racially profile and criminalize immigrant communities while volun- tarily collaborating with ICE.

On Oct 1, at the Truth Act Forum, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, community mem- bers, Causa Justa : Just Cause, and other organiz- ers with Alameda County United in Defense of Immigrants (ACUDIR), demanded transparency and accountability from the Sheriff around his policies of ICE collaboration.

We marched in the streets calling for an audit of the Sheriff’s Department to reveal the ways that the department is prioritizing immigration enforcement over reforming its abusive civil law enforcement practices.

“We must do everything in our power to stop [Sheriff Ahern] and other white-supremacists in uniform from getting rid of our community members. [Immigrants] are one-third of Alameda County, and if we continue to sit idly by they will get rid of all of us,” said Juan from the Cali- fornia Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance.

Sheriff Ahern’s Anti-immigrant Agenda En- dangers Our Entire Community.

Legally unable to directly communicate with ICE about when immigrants are being released from jail due to the 2018 California Values Act, the Sheriff’s Department now publically posts the names and release times of everyone getting out. This not only makes it easy for ICE to pick up immigrants, but it also endangers all people being released that might be targeted for retaliatory attacks, gender-based violence, and by drug-deal- ers at a time when people are vulnerable and at a high risk of overdose.

The lies the Sheriff’s Department spews to justify handing over our community members to ICE are the same we use to justify the dehuman- ization and criminalization of Black and Brown people. The Sheriff’s Department has been ex- posed again and again for both civil and human rights abuses. In the last five years, 34 people have been killed.

Organizers calling for an audit of the Sheriff’s Department. Photo by Hunter King

See Sheriff: Page 6

Public land for public good

By Tony Roshan Samara

Urban Habitat

The study identifies almost 700 acres of develop- able parcels, located in Priority Development Ar- eas and within a half-mile of rail stations or along select bus corridors, estimated to have capacity for close to 35,000 housing units located near transit. By county, Alameda has the most avail- able sites (155), while Napa has the forest (1). By city, the range is from a high of 58 sites in Oakland to a low of one in Livermore. The top owners of public land are BART (96 sites), Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (26 sites), and the City of Oakland (19).

The study points that the region has produced far more jobs than housing units in the last several years. It also shows that only luxury housing pro- duction has kept pace with projected need.

When it comes to moderate- and low-income housing, the failure has been astounding across the board.

Between 2007-2014, the private sector and pub- lic officials chose to produce barely a quarter of the needed housing at below-market rates, despite overwhelming demand.

It is commendable that MTC explicitly advocates for public land being used for public good. But the study is not without significant shortcomings.

For one, it does not make an explicit call for pri- oritizing low, very-low, and extremely-low income families.

See Public Land: Page 6
Oakland measures

Measure V: Cannabis tax regulations
Position: Yes
Level the playing field for community entrepreneurs in the legal cannabis industry by taxing big business cannabis companies.

Measure W: Vacant Property Tax
Position: Yes
Make luxury property owners pay their fair share by taxing them at a higher rate.

Measure Y: Close the loopholes, protect renters in duplexes and triplexes from unfair evictions.
Position: Yes
We need stronger protections for all of Oakland’s renters. Extends existing eviction protections to renters living in duplexes and triplexes.

City and County of San Francisco measures

Prop A: Rebuild Embarcadero seawall/Embarcadero repairs
Position: Yes
Provide improvements to infrastructure and utilities for earthquake and flood safety.

Prop B: Personal information protection
Position: Yes
Ensure businesses in SF protect your privacy.

Prop C: Homeless services
Position: Yes
Fund housing and services for homeless families by taxing businesses with over $50 million in gross annual receipts.

Prop D: Tax cannabis companies
Position: Yes
Tax marijuana businesses with gross receipts of over $500,000.

Prop E: Restore funds from hotel tax for arts and culture
Position: Yes

Measure AA: Protect hotel workers from sexual assault and harassment
Position: No Position

Measure Z: Tim’s Up - Worker protections
Position: Yes
Protect hotel workers from sexual assaults and stolen paychecks.

Measure A: Children’s Initiative
Position: No Position
"Costly, unaccountable parcel tax to fund HeadStart as well as college readiness and savings.

Measure Y: the campaign to close loopholes, build Oakland tenant power

By Madison Ashley

Causa Justa volunteer

Measure Y is a ballot measure that, if passed in November, would close a critical loophole for duplex and triplex residents in Oakland.

“We know this loophole is being used to kick out our elders, our communities of color. We know there are over 8,000 duplexes and triplexes in Oakland and they deserve to be protected,” said Causa Justa volunteer tenant organizer Erida Tosini-Corea.

The loophole in question, the duplex/triplex exemption, allows landlords to evict a tenant without a just cause for eviction should the landlord or landlord’s family member move into one of the building’s units or the unit is owner-occupied.

Currently, tenants who face an Owner Move-In loophole eviction have few options, even if they believe their landlord does not actually intend to live in the unit. Posing that a landlord is not residing in the vacant unit can be difficult — tenants often find that they must be strong self-advocates, monitoring the utilities and trash records of their former landlord.

For longtime Oakland resident and Black elder Aunti Frances Moore, who faced a No-Fault eviction last November, the loophole was critical to breaking the cycle of speculation and community displacement.

By breaking the cycle of landlord greed at the expense of lives, homes, and families, it keeps that momentum going and it’s gotten totally out of control,” Moore said. “We, the lower class, are the backbone of this community and we need to be protected.

Multi-year Fight

Getting the measure onto the ballot has been a multi-year fight for CJC, organizers and partners including Centro Legal de la Raza, ACCE, and the Oakland Tenants Union, East Bay Community Law Center and Save Auntie Frances Coalition.

On July 24, the Close the Loophole coalition and community members stayed held down the Oakland City Council for over 12 hours, sharing stories and testimony of the loophole’s consequences for Oakland tenants, until the ballot measure was approved unanimously by city council members.

Leah Simon-Weisburg, Centro Legal de la Raza’s lead housing attorney, identified the loophole pattern while doing intake for Oakland’s Rent Adjustment Program. There, she says, upwards of 50 percent of those assisted in the clinic had been served a No-Fault Eviction notice for an intended Owner Move-In. Simon-Weisburg brought the loophole to the attention of fellow housing rights organizations, including CJC, who corroborated the duplex/triplex Owner Move-In trend as one of several being seen with increasing frequency in CJC’s tenant’s rights clinic.

While Measure Y would not prevent a landlord from occupying or moving into a unit of their duplex or triplex, it would protect the building’s remaining tenants from losing Just Cause and ensure that landlords commit to making relocation payments to tenants for Owner Move-Ins or repairs.

Measure Z: Time’s Up - Worker protections
Position: Yes
Protect hotel workers from sexual assaults and stolen paychecks.

Measure A: Children’s Initiative
Position: No Position
"Costly, unaccountable parcel tax to fund HeadStart as well as college readiness and savings.

Elderly or Disabled Would Be Able to Stay

“The biggest thing is even if a landlord does end up moving into a unit, the other units in the duplex or triplex will not be destabilized. These other units tend to be elderly or disabled folks. If this passes, the elderly or disabled would be able to stay,” said Sarena Chula, CJC lead tenant counselor-organizer.

A second provision of Measure Y would allow the Oakland City Council to amend the Just Cause Ordinance to further limit a landlord’s right to evict without having to seek voter approval. The
The lie of voluntary migration

By Amber Butts
Causa Justa

My family has lived in Oakland for 70 years. Though over 100 of us were born and raised here, only 3 of us live in the city currently.

During “The Great Migration” over six million Black people relocated from the South coast to the Northeast, Midwest and West Coasts between 1916 and 1970. The incentives to relocate included escaping segregation “Jim Crow”, the promise of more money in “freer” states, and industrial jobs.

In 1934, Congress also passed the Federal Housing Act, which insured banks against mortgage losses. The FHA directly encouraged banks and lenders to discriminate against people of color by providing color-coded maps that outlined the level of risk of giving out mortgages. Communities of color were almost always outlined in red as the highest level of risk.

Black folks were systematically denied mortgages and homeowners were discouraged from selling their homes to Black buyers. This effectively kept Black folks out of the newly created suburbs of the 1940s and 50s and restricted them to redlined areas.

“Urban Renewal”
For Oakland in particular, the “Urban Renewal” programs between 1940s-1970s destroyed several thousand housing units that were seen as centers of Black cultural life. The units were replaced with transit systems, post offices and freeways. Entire neighborhoods were demolished to make room for these programs.

My family has lived in Oakland for 70 years. Though over 100 of us were born and raised here, only 3 of us live in the city currently. When I wrote this piece initially, both my grandmother and uncle owned their homes. Now, my grandmother lives in Discovery Bay after selling hers. The rest are in Richmond, Union City, Antioch, Sacramento, Bakersfield, Stockton, Tracy and San Leandro.

The Black population in Oakland has dropped by more than 25%. In some areas, it’s as high as 60%. These numbers rarely take into account the homeless/houseless populations on our streets. On a larger scale, Black displacement and dispossession continues to run rampant around the world.

The racist, heteronormative and capitalist “foundation” of the U.S. is, at its core, about profiting from the blood and labor of Black, Brown and Native folks locally and globally. The U.S. and White Supremacy, in particular, fuel their institutional structures by commodifying land and housing. It also intentionally wields its sword by perpetuating state sanctioned violence, criminalization and anti-blackness, which is strengthened by the housing crisis, displacement and gentrification.

Death by Gentrification

SEE MIGRATION. PAGE 7

The power of planning from the people up

By Maria Zamudio
Plaza 16 Coalition

The fights against the Monster in the Mission continues. After five years of direct actions, community meetings, and working to develop people-led solutions to the housing crisis, the people of the Mission will finally get the chance to speak out against the Monster at an upcoming informational hearing. Unlike other planning commission hearings, this hearing — won through the advocacy of the Plaza 16 Coalition — will be held in the Mission.

On November 1, at 4pm the auditorium at Mission High School - 3750 18th St - will become the Mission’s hall of popular democracy.

Our wins don’t always look the way we plan, but we need to remember how much power we have. Power that looks like utilizing all of the tools in our movement toolboxes.

These are not coincidences and we should beware of reverting to our own pessimism and disconnecting these efforts from each other. Being able to see how our movements are connected and grow from tiny seeds into mighty forces that crush concrete is a necessary skill we must all practice daily.

Our wins don’t always look the way we plan, but we need to remember how much power we have. Power that looks like utilizing all of the tools in our movement toolboxes — from electoral work, advocacy, and direct action, while also leaning into experiments that broaden and scale up popular democracy such as community-based planning.

All of this requires us suspend some of our conditioned disbelief, see into the future for a moment and bear in mind that organizing happens on a timeline that requires the often difficult combination of patience, hope and to remember that while sometimes the people win, the people will always fight back.

We will see you November 1st at 4pm at Mission High, as we continue to experiment, fight back and win. No Monster in the Mission. Build the Housing the Mission Needs, Build the Marvel.
**Nationwide prison strike**

By Hunter King

Causa Justa

People held in detention centers, jails, and prisons across the country acted in solidarity with each other this fall as part of a National Prison Strike. The strike began August 21 on the anniversary of the death of Black Panther and incarcerated revolutionary George Jackson, a leading voice and theorist in the 1970s prison movement. The strike formally ended on September 9 - the 47th anniversary of the Attica Prison uprising, though resistance and repression continue. Strikers across the country held boycotts, work-stoppages, sit-ins, and hunger strikes, with the largest known participation coming from the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington. The strike was initially called in response to seven people being left to die by prison staff after a riot in April at Lee Correctional Facility in South Carolina. Rather than allow this incident of violence between prisoners to be used to justify the same degrading conditions and intentionally cultivated racial antigomies that gave rise to the riot, the strike united imprisoned people in the struggle against the violence of cages.

The following is the National List of demands put forth by the strikers:

1. Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons and prisoners that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.
2. An immediate end to prison slavery. All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction must be paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.
3. The Prison Litigation Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.
4. The Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act must be rescinded so that imprisoned humans have a possibility of rehabilitation and parole. No human shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.
5. An immediate end to the racial overcharging, over-sentencing, and parole denials of Black and Brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in southern states.
6. An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and Brown humans.
7. No imprisoned human shall be denied access to rehabilitation services.
8. State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.
9. Pell grants must be reinstated in all US states and territories.
10. The voting rights of all confined citizens must be reinstated, and so-called “ex-felons” must be counted. Those incarcerated or served any sentence without the possibility of rehabilitation and parole, their rights.

Tenants Together

By Aimee Inglis

Tenants Together

There is an important measure on the ballot this November to take down one of these laws: Prop 10 -- the Affordable Housing Act – which would repeal Costa Hawkins and return the right of cities to make their own choices about how to best protect residents. If we repeal Costa Hawkins, we have the option to expand rent control. These exemptions would no longer apply and we could opt to extend protections to the following:

- Single-family homes, condos, and other properties where one unit is separately owned.
- Housing that was exempt from a local rent control ordinance when Costa Hawkins was adopted. For example, in San Francisco, buildings built after 1979 were exempt from rent control at the time Costa Hawkins passed, and they have not been able to update their ordinance to even cover buildings built before 1995.
- The initial rent in most cases. In California, rent controls are limited to current tenancies. This means that while someone occupies a unit, their rent increases may be limited, but once a tenant

Expand rent control: Vote Yes on Prop 10: The Affordable Housing Act

By Aimee Inglis

Tenants Together

At Tenants Together, counselors on our statewide hotline regularly talk to tenants who come to us for help after receiving a big rent increase or an eviction notice for no reason. People are often shocked to find out that their landlord can actually increase the rent as much as they want and don’t have to cite a reason for eviction — that is, they can if they live in a city that doesn’t have rent control or just cause for eviction protections, or if they are stuck in a loophole that prevents them from being covered by those protections.

With our member organizations all over the state and through our renters’ rights hotline, we have been working over the past few years to pass new rent control laws and expand existing protections so that the lives of renters are not turned upside down on a whim.

A report by the San Francisco Anti-Displacement Coalition, “The Cost of Costa Hawkins” states that, “Research shows high rents, unstable housing, and displacement can have serious impacts on health and well-being. Cost-burdened and displaced renters are often more likely to be pushed into substandard housing conditions — increasing the risk of respiratory illness, lead poisoning, and other chronic health problems. They are faced with impossible choices with little in the budget for basic necessities leaving them more likely to experience homelessness.”

The many loopholes in existing rent control laws leave many tenants unprotected. We work hard to organize but can only do so much because of two state laws: the Ellis Act, and the Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act.

The Ellis Act mandates a big loophole in just cause protections allowing any landlord to evict all their rent control tenants if they just say they are “going out of the rental business.” Costa Hawkins creates a patchwork of loopholes in rent control, requiring that cities exempt certain kinds of housing and certain kinds of tenants.

**Prop 10 — the Affordable Housing Act**

What Will Prop 10 — The Affordable Housing Act do?

- Housing that was exempt from a local rent control ordinance when Costa Hawkins was adopted. For example, in San Francisco, buildings built after 1979 were exempt from rent control at the time Costa Hawkins passed, and they have not been able to update their ordinance to even cover buildings built before 1995.
- The initial rent in most cases. In California, rent controls are limited to current tenancies. This means that while someone occupies a unit, their rent increases may be limited, but once a tenant

**Tenants Together**

Artwork Kalli Arte Collective, Boyle Heights

**Tenants Together**

**Resist gentrification predatory landlords**

**Resist displacement greedy developers**

**YES ON PROP 10**

**VOTE NOV. 6TH**

**Resist gentrification predatory landlords**

**Resist displacement greedy developers**

**What Will Prop 10 — The Affordable Housing Act do?**

There is an important measure on the ballot this November to take down one of these laws: Prop 10 — The Affordable Housing Act — which would repeal Costa Hawkins and return the right of cities to make their own choices about how to best protect residents. If we repeal Costa Hawkins, we have the option to expand rent control. These exemptions would no longer apply and we could opt to extend protections to the following:

- Single-family homes, condos, and other properties where one unit is separately owned.
- Housing that was exempt from a local rent control ordinance when Costa Hawkins was adopted. For example, in San Francisco, buildings built after 1979 were exempt from rent control at the time Costa Hawkins passed, and they have not been able to update their ordinance to even cover buildings built before 1995.
- The initial rent in most cases. In California, rent controls are limited to current tenancies. This means that while someone occupies a unit, their rent increases may be limited, but once a tenant
Oakland renters fight eviction notice — and win!

“Oakland renters fight eviction notice — and win!”

I am so glad I ran into the counselor. I didn’t know where I could go with my two girls. It’s important to look for help. If we had not, we would be out on the streets. Thank God everything turned out alright,” says Silvia P.

Silvia P. has lived in her Oakland unit since March 2017 and her neighbor, Silvia G., since 2008. In July, they both received a verbal two-week eviction threat from their landlord, Global Investments and Acquisitions Inc. The two neighbors went to Oakland City Hall to seek help and one of our counselors ran into them and advised them to come into our Oakland clinic. When they came in, we confirmed they had Just Cause and Rent Control protections and advised them that they didn’t have to leave. In August, their landlord gave them an invalid written eviction. They returned to the clinic where we wrote a letter citing Just Cause. Two weeks after mailing the letter the landlord relented and told them they could stay in their unit.

“Renter power is about community coming together and building. It doesn’t matter whether you’ve known that person for 20 years or for six months. If you are focused on a common goal, you can find so many ways to unite … and fight back! It’s important that renters here and across the nation know their rights, work on policies that will offer protections against harassment, illegal evictions and intimidation because housing is a human right.”

Oakland renters fight eviction notice — and win!
Under the lie of humanity and equity. The drain of economic and educational prosperity. My family didn’t “mean to” have me here. Long-term tenants contemplating relocation are confronted with steeper requirements including credit checks, pet deposits, first and last month’s rent + a deposit and positive rental history. These inattentional barriers are produced and strengthened by the myth of voluntary migration. Those whose faces aren’t “American” are not seen. Those whose race is not aligned with the monocultural majority are not seen. These stories are common and inescapable. The historical analysis of why housing has not been a human right is clear. It pits tenants, families and people struggling to survive against one another and priorities profit over people. To combat the spatial and social segregation and shame that our communities experience, we have to continue to revive and re-envision what housing, land development looks like when it is led by and for the people. This includes ensuring that houseless folks are in those conversations and are treated to lead townhalls, brainstorming sessions and actions where we challenge the institutions that keep us un and underhoused, underfed and silent.

The fight to de-commodify housing began a long time ago and it continues. While we are fighting, may we continue to envision and act on decolonizing gender and commodifying health care. We must define the structures, systems and paths of our communities.

These are all preconditions to human development and self-actualization. Now is the time to arm ourselves against this monster that is capitalistism, anti-Blackness and white supremacy.

This is for all of us who live in homes that are no longer homes. Those who have to travel miles to see who looks like them. Those homes are burned by gentrifiers and/or are moved two streets over in an attempt to “clean the city” without ever asking you. Without ever holding your humanity at the center.

The Myth of Voluntary Migration
The U.S., in all its promises of betting and belonging, has failed us. My family didn’t “mi-grate” to California from Louisiana, Texas and Alabama. They were pushed out under the guise of economic and educational prosperity. Under the lie of humanity and equity. The drain of resources, dignity, housing stability and justice in Black and Brown communities is intentional. It pits tenants, families and people struggling to survive against one another and priorities profit over people.

To combat the spatial and social segregation and shame that our communities experience, we have to continue to revive and re-envision what housing, land development looks like when it is led by and for the people. This includes ensuring that houseless folks are in those conversations and are treated to lead townhalls, brainstorming sessions and actions where we challenge the institutions that keep us un and underhoused, underfed and silent.

The fight to de-commodify housing began a long time ago and it continues. While we are fighting, may we continue to envision and act on decolonizing gender and commodifying health care. We must define the structures, systems and paths of our communities.

These are all preconditions to human development and self-actualization. Now is the time to arm ourselves against this monster that is capitalistism, anti-Blackness and white supremacy.

This is for all of us who live in homes that are no longer homes. Those who have to travel miles to see who looks like them. Those homes are burned by gentrifiers and/or are moved two streets over in an attempt to “clean the city” without ever asking you. Without ever holding your humanity at the center.

Recently, and unsurprisingly, it was found that developers continue to build condos in highly toxic soil. As part of our Community Solutions Tour, CJJC joined our sister organization, Green Action, in the Alameda County SWAT training and armament trading summit. Police forces from throughout the country, ICE agents and some foreign police gather for training on so-called first response tactics, but actually on ways to monitor, target and brutalize our communities.

One of our actions was in solidarity with our Lisjan Ohlone people who are fighting to protect Shellmound, the ancient ceremonial site of the Lisjan Ohlone people, which was hosted by Indian People Organizing for Change at the site of the West Berkeley Shellmound, the ancient ceremonial site of the Lisjan Ohlone people who are fighting to protect their sacred grounds.

As developer companies push to commodify communal land and are sanctioned by the state, native leaders build on the legacy of environmental justice and sovereignty, and push against the further desecration of native sacred sites around the world.

Building Strong and Sustainable Communities

Protecting the sacred is about protecting everything essential to our sustainability — including community gardens, deeply affordable housing and the right to live in healthy areas free from toxins. We must see the democratization of decision making about land and ultimately for community control of land, so that we may build a collective relationship with everything that sustains us, even, and especially in our urban context.

As part of our Community Solutions Tour, CJJC joined our sister organization, Green Action, in an action against Lennar corporation, as they continue to build condos in highly toxic soil. Recently, and unsurprisingly, it was found that Tetra Tech, the company contracted by the U.S. Navy to test the toxic soil around the shipyard had been falsifying results for years. The Bayview Hunters Point district has fought for decades to see the cleanup of the neighborhood, as many Black residents experience high incidences of asthma and cancer, completely connected to the soil toxicity and air quality.

We will continue to call out the injustice our communities are facing at the hands of the U.S. Navy Shipyard, PG&E and the corporate developer Lennar. In May, a class action lawsuit was filed on behalf of Bayview District residents who say they are victims of environmental racism and suffered severe health defects as a result of a botched toxic cleanup at the Hunters Point Shipyard by Tetra Tech. The fallout from U.S. militarism, weapon production and detonation, create major pollution on the planet — as it has in Bayview Hunters Point.

Ending State Violence

State violence toward our communities is an epidemic we are committed to ending. A fight highlighted during Sol 2 Sol was the effort to shut down Urban Shield, the Alameda County SWAT training and armament trading summit. Police forces from throughout the country, ICE agents and some foreign police gather for training on so-called first response tactics, but actually on ways to monitor, target and brutalize our communities.

Closing Urban Shield is a powerful solidarity project, in which we can support communities in countries broken down and displaced by U.S. militarism and state violence. The effort to defund militarism is ultimately to end imperialism and the plundering of our planet and the people who are exploited. We will continue to mobilize our immigrant and Black membership towards this end.

As we fight locally to end mass incarceration, deportations and programs like Urban Shield, we know our fight is connected with movements across the nation and the world to end climate capitalism.

We will continue to build bridges for indigenous resistance, for the rights of Mother Earth and for a society in which we uphold the dignity, resilience and solidarity of our communities as the true life forces that will bring us the solutions we all need to survive and thrive.

It takes roots to build toward just transition and human development.

A report by UC Berkeley’s Haas Institute “Opening the Door for Rent Control” takes a big box view of the housing crisis and a completely disproportionate view of the forces at work in the current rent control movement.

“A report by UC Berkeley’s Haas Institute “Opening the Door for Rent Control” takes a longue durée view of the housing crisis and a completely disproportionate view of the forces at work in the current rent control movement. It is time for more tenants to have rent control. Vote Yes on 10 to repeal Costa Hawkins on November 6th, 2018!”