



Sep 28, 2020 | Press Release

**CREATIVE JUSTICE INITIATIVE CONVENES A NATIONAL, MULTI-PART
CONVERSATION WITH CURATORS, ARTISTS, & CULTURAL WORKERS**

OCTOBER 6, 7, 13, 20 & 27

“CULTURE: RACE, MYTH, ART = JUSTICE”

**Led by Dr. Marta Moreno-Vega with Dr. Amalia Mesa-Bains, Dr. Lowery
Stokes-Sims, Dudley Cocke and many others**

Loiza, PR and New York, NY -- Dr. Marta Moreno Vega, President and Founder of the [Creative Justice Initiative](#) convenes a series of online conversations, entitled “CULTURE: RACE, MYTH, ART = JUSTICE” designed to address the systemic injustices that continue to oppress and limit the possibilities of the majority of the nation’s Black, Afro Latin, Latinx, Native, Asian, LGBTQ, People with Disabilities, and economically poor White communities.

The virtual national convening is free and open to the public, and will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, EST on October 6, 7, 13, 20 and 27. Registration is required. Guests may sign up [here](#).

The conversation participants represent the full diversity of cultural and arts practitioners who are grounded in and serving historically disenfranchised communities.

Dr. Amalia Mesa-Baines, one of the Creative Justice leaders, states “Our community-based institutions are a foundation for our collective struggle. They give voice and spirit to the battle for justice through words, images and music. Without

them we cannot move forward and without them we have no legacy to leave behind.”

From the COVID pandemic to the police killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and the many other lives lost which have galvanized a global movement for Black Lives, the nation appears to be finally grappling with systemic racism and the stark inequities economically poor communities and disabled communities have persistently struggled to overcome. The Creative Justice conversations bring these historically marginalized communities together to demand change.

"We will only achieve social and economic justice when all people can stand together proudly from within their own communities, rooted in organizations of, by, and for those communities, and work alongside each other toward a future where we own what we make. This moment is a wake-up call for us to make common cause across the nation," state Creative Justice Initiative partners, Dudley Cocke and Ben Fink.

For decades now, giving patterns by government and philanthropy have consistently kept the cultural organizations serving Black, Afro Latin, Latinx, Native, Asian, LGBTQ, People with Disabilities, and economically poor White communities under-resourced and unable to carry out the transformative work of which they are capable.

Recognizing that the time is now to make change, the series of iterative conversations offer an invitation to build networked solidarity and create the society that is promised by the Constitution of the United States, itself built on the democratic principles of the Iroquois Nation.

Together, conversation participants will interrogate and explore how their work is evolving at this moment of political and social crisis.

CULTURE: RACE, MYTH, ART = JUSTICE

Welcome and Ancestral Blessing

1A: Tuesday, OCTOBER 6, 2020, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

THE SPIRIT, PRINCIPLES, AND POWER THAT BUILT OUR COMMUNITY CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS: THE ELDERS SPEAK

PANELISTS

Amalia Mesa-Bains, Galeria de la Raza, former board member, affiliated artist

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Artist, Native American Movement, founding member
Margo Machida, Professor Emerita of Art History and Asian American Studies
Napoleon Jones Henderson, Artist, Black Arts Movement founding member

MODERATOR

Lowery Sims, Curator, Arts Consultant

1B: Wednesday, OCTOBER 7, 2020, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

THRIVING BEYOND THE PERFORMATIVE: A COMMUNITY PLAN
FOR SMALL AND MIDSIZE CULTURALLY GROUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

PANELISTS

Alejandra Duque Cifuentes: Dance NYC from NYC
Amin Husain: Decolonize This Place, from New York
Ani Rivera: Executive Director, Galería de la Raza, from San Francisco, California
David Martine, Chiricahua Apache/Shinnecock-Montauk, Chairperson - AMERINDA
Kimi Mojica: Consulting Director for Justice Funders, from Oakland, California
Michelle Ramos: Alternate Roots Director, from New Orleans
YK Hong: Anti-oppression trainer, speaker, organizer, and artist from New York

MODERATORS

Amy Andrieux, Executive Director MoCADA (Museum of Contemporary African
Diasporan Art);

Melody Capote, Executive Director, Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora
Institute (CCCADI);

2: Tuesday, OCTOBER 13, 2020, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

UNIFYING TO ACHIEVE RACIAL AND CULTURAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES

Opening Remarks: Dudley Cocke, Former Director, Roadside Theater/Appalshop in
Appalachia

PANELISTS

Ashley Walden Davis, Founder and Executive Director Unlock Creative, LLC
Jeff Chang, Vice President, Narrative, Arts, and Culture, Race Forward
Kate Fowler, [Development Director, Studio Two Three and](#) Founding member of the
Southern Arts & Culture Coalition
María de León, Executive Director, NALAC, National Association of Latino Arts and
Culture
Marian Taylor Brown, PhD., Founder & Board Chair, Arts Connect International

MODERATOR

Neyda Martínez, Associate Professor, The New School; Producer, Decade of Fire

3. Tuesday, OCTOBER 20, 2020, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

STRUCTURING AN EQUITABLE FUNDING SYSTEM

PANELISTS

Alvin Stark, Director of Equality Fund, Open Society United States (OS-US)
Billy Ocasio, Executive Director, National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture
Gonzalo Casals, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs
Leticia Peguero, Vice President of Programs, Nathan Cummings Foundation
Margaret S. Morton, Director, Creativity, and Free Expression, Ford Foundation
Susan Taylor Batten, President and CEO, ABFE: A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities

MODERATOR

Olga Garay-English, Principal at OMGAartsplus; former Executive Director, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Founding Program Director for the Art, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

4: Tuesday, OCTOBER 27, 2020, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

WHEN THE LAW IS NOT THE LAW

PANELISTS

Derecka Purnell: Human rights lawyer, writer, organizer, and abolitionist.
Juan Cartagena Constitutional and civil rights attorney President & General Counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF (Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund).
Maricruz Rivera-Clemente: Executive Director COPI (Corporación Piñones se Integra); cofounder, Corredor Afro.
Monifa Bandele: Blogger, human rights activist with the Movement for Black Lives, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and Senior Vice President of MomsRising.org.

MODERATORS

Esmeralda Simmons Esq., founder and former director of the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College.

Isis Rakia Mattei, Esq., attorney in private practice and Creative Justice Initiative board of directors member.

The virtual conference is free and open to the public; however, registration is required. Guests may sign up [here](#).

Media Contacts:

To learn about the history, mission and purpose of the Creative Justice Initiative, the NYU article [Achieving Cultural Equity](#) serves as an FAQ.

To download artwork and assets, use this link: [Creative Justice Media Assets](#)

Members of the press are welcome to send inquiries for interviews and additional information by contacting the Creative Justice Initiative at :
achievingculturalequity@gmail.com.

For urgent inquiries, members of the media may directly contact:

In Puerto Rico: Olga Chapman-Rivera, Cell 787-508-3743

In NY and U.S.: Neyda Martinez, Cell 917-656-7846

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