

22nd Annual Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed Conference

Breaking the Silence: From Rebellion to Waging Love

#PTO2017

June 1st - June 4th
Cass Corridor Commons
Detroit, MI



PEDAGOGY AND THEATRE
OF THE OPPRESSED



Cover photos (top to bottom) are from 2009 Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conference in Minnesota, MN; 2014 Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conference in Omaha, NE; 2013 Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conference in Oxford, OH; 2011 Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conference in Chicago, IL.

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#PTO2017

WELCOME



from S. LEIGH THOMPSON, President, Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed, Inc.

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Dear Friends,

As the President of Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed it is my great and humbling honor to welcome you to the 22nd Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed Conference, Breaking the Silence: From Rebellion to Waging Love. And yet my welcome is wrapped in a troubling reality. People who know me know I don't mince words, so let me get to the point: Right now, shit is fucked up.

Globally we're seeing renewed commitment to violence against so many groups. Black folk. Muslims. Women. People of Color. Trans and gender-nonconforming people. Immigrants. People with disabilities. Queer people. We know that these oppressions are not new, but the tactics waged to support systemic power are changing. Our communities are getting slammed in more blatant and unapologetic ways. In many ways, this backlash can be seen as a sign of progress, a direct result of the change-making movements we've fostered over the years. We've forced the snakes out of their holes, and now they are striking wildly.

But in response to tactical dehumanization it's more crucial for us to respond with tactics of our own. The strategies that achieve true liberation for all have yet to be developed, but I am certain they will be developed in dialogue, in community, and by leveraging deep love for each other.

Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed has been convening people from around the world for 22 years. We come together to express ourselves, exchange ideas, explore possibilities and engage in dialogue. We come to sharpen our analysis, to expand our toolbox, to deepen our understanding of the work, practices and expressions of Paulo Freire and Augusto Boal. But what I believe is most important of all, we come to find and to build community amongst beautiful people doing some of the toughest work possible. This conference is possibility, it is resistance, it is pathway to revolutionary love and liberation. Coming together in a time where we are urged to be apart, to reflect when there is so much to react to, to dialogue when we are wrapped up in slogans and sound bites—these are revolutionary actions.

But PTO is more than a conference. We are an all-volunteer organization that strives to support our community in many ways. The PTO Journal is live and is a platform to share our work all year long. Our Membership Directory helps people find colleagues, collaborators and co-conspirators. And regional events (hosted by community members) bring people together to grow and learn. To make these (and more!) happen we need your support, and hope you'll consider joining our team as board members, community representatives or volunteers.

So with that, welcome to the 22nd PTO Conference. I'm excited to see many of you again and to meet so many new friends, but most of all excited for all the change this conference will bring. Together as organizers, educators, artists and activists we can wage revolution with loving community.

With deep love and mad respect,

S. Leigh Thompson-Shealy
President, Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed



WELCOME

from REG FLOWERS, Lead Local Organizer



I was first introduced to Paulo Freire’s Pedagogy of the Oppressed in 2005 when I was deeply immersed in a career in the not-for-profit theater world. Shortly thereafter I was introduced to Theater of the Oppressed as a practice. The combination of these two events has led to a profound change in the way I think, the way I approach my work, the way I imagine the future. Nothing has pleased me more in the time since my discovery of popular education as outlined by Freire and my formal introduction to the work of Augusto Boal, than each opportunity to share these tools with others and seeing them, in turn, profoundly transformed by the experience.

It is with great joy, honor and humility that I wish to welcome you all to the 22nd International Pedagogy and Theater of the Oppressed Conference in Detroit.

It is an undertaking that began nearly three years ago over a glass of scotch (very good scotch) with Julian Boal. We dreamed of what the power of experience to have this event in a city that has become the emblem of self-transformation and resiliency—a city that is in and of itself a powerful generative object leading many to conscientization. I am overjoyed to have popular education and cultural activism taking its place in the heart of Detroit’s social justice community at Cass Commons. I am simply thrilled that my cherished colleagues in the Motor City, will spend a few days immersed in beautiful, inspiring, effective and consciousness-raising work. I am also excited for our visitors who are making the acquaintance of Detroit, perhaps for the first time—you have quite an experience ahead.

Thanks to the PTO board, the local planning team, the many friends, institutions, community leaders and all of you who dedicated your time and resources to attend this event at this historic moment. Thanks to those who came before us, paving our way. Thanks to our ancestors, especially those who took their place among them only recently—Grace Lee Boggs Vincent Harding, Ron Scott and Charity Hicks. May we honor them and each other by being the best student-teachers, teacher-students, actors and spectactors imaginable for the next three days and together into a future of waging love!

Our Deepest Gratitude Goes to...

from the entire Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed Board and 2017 Local Organizing Team

Local 2017 PTO Detroit Planning Team & Advisors

Reg Flowers	Tawana “Honeycomb” Petty	Jo Boakye	Mile Boucher
Dee Collins	William Copeland	Julia Cuneo	Bryce Detroit
Tawana Petty	Richard Feldman	Kate Martinez	Brian Donovan
Jo Ann King	Rhiannon Chester	Cass Charrette	Daryl Jordan

Wayne State University & Housing Organization: Chris Bowen, Kate Martinez, Oz Sheikh, Charles Adams

All our 2017 Keynotes & Special Guests (more information Page 11-17)

Julian Boal	David Cobb	Gloria House	Will Copeland
Reg Flowers	Jamon Jordan	Malik Yakini	Tawana “Honeycomb” Petty
Shea Howell	Nate Mullen		

Volunteer Coordinators: Jo Ann King & Tawana “Honeycomb” Petty

Food: Food Not Bombs (Breakfast), Food Lab (Lunch), Homespun Hustle (Sustainable Foodware)

Fliers: Red Door Digital

Book Vendor: The Boggs Center Book Store

Detroit PTO Board Liason to the Local Organizing Committee: Ruthi Engelke

Additionally: A huge thanks to all of the amazing organizers and laborers who are not listed here, including workers from Cass Commons, Volunteers, and everyone who has contributed to making #PTOC2017 a liberatory event and space!

Pedagogy of the Oppressed & Theatre of the Oppressed Lingo

Below are short definitions of some basic PO and TO terms that you're likely to hear around the conference. If you hear a term or concept you're not familiar with, always feel free to stop and ask for an explanation!

Oppression: a word with many meanings to many different people, of course. Paulo Freire and Augusto Boal defined oppression as the situation in which a person is stopped from doing something s/he wants to do. The person who experiences oppression is the oppressed. The source of that oppression—external or internal, human or non-human—is the oppressor.

Pedagogy of the Oppressed (PO): a theory and practice of teaching and learning developed by Brazilian teacher and activist Paulo Freire, while doing literacy education with peasant populations. It is not enough, Freire said, to read the word; you must also learn to read the world. For pedagogy to be liberatory, Freire said, students and teachers must engage in dialogue, in which the teacher's knowledge and the students' knowledge are respected and valued, and everyone leaves the classroom having learned from everyone else.

Theatre of the Oppressed (TO): a theory and practice of politically-engaged theatre developed by Brazilian writer, director, and teacher Augusto Boal, who worked in literacy education with Freire. Theatre of the Oppressed emerged during the Brazilian dictatorships of the 60s and 70s, as Boal worked with oppressed groups that used theatre as a tool to plan new forms of resistance. The goal of TO is to turn spectators into actors, all participating in breaking oppression together. Theatre may not be revolutionary, Boal says, but it can be a

Specific forms of Theatre of the Oppressed include:

- **Image Theatre:** exercises with bodies in still images and dynamizations (moving images), often images of oppression and images of possible ways to break it;

- **Forum Theatre:** plays in which audience members stop the action and enter it themselves, to experiment with ways in which the protagonist(s) could break their oppression;

- **Rainbow of Desire:** a series of advanced Image Theatre exercises, with the objective of identifying and breaking internalized forms of oppression (sometimes called the Cop in the Head); and

- **Legislative Theatre:** similar to Forum Theatre, except performed by citizens/constituents in concert with members of legislative body (a council, a parliament, a congress, etc.), with the goal of passing laws to lift oppression.

Spect-actor: in Theatre of the Oppressed, there are no spectators! Everyone in the room must be actively engaged in the work. When this happens—for instance, when audience members enter into a Forum play—the spectator becomes a spect-actor.

Joker: the person or figure who facilitates the workshop or performance—and, in the case of Forum and Legislative Theatre, the person who mediates between the actors and spect-actors and invites the spect-actors to join the action. Also sometimes called a facilitator, although Augusto Boal preferred the term “difficultator,” since more often than not, the Joker is the one who reveals just how difficult a problem of oppression is to solve!

Banking Model: the theory of education that assumes that the teacher knows everything (the “bank” of knowledge) and the students know nothing. Or, as Arnold Schwarzenegger put it, “When kids go to school...there's an empty bucket there. Someone... will fill that bucket.” This is, of course, the model of education that Freire argues against.

Conscientização (“conscientization”): the name Paulo Freire gave to the process of learning to see the social, political, and economic oppressions around you, and to take action against these oppressions.

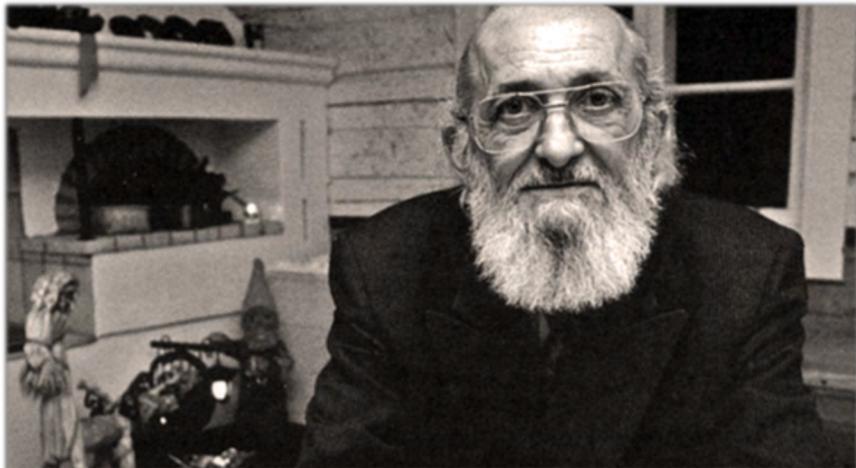
Paulo Freire

Edited from the article by LESLIE BENTLEY, 12/99, www.ptoweb.org

Educator Paulo Freire was born September 19, 1921. He grew up in the Northeast of Brazil where his experiences deeply influenced his life work. Freire became a grammar teacher while still in high school. Even then his intuition pushed him toward a dialogic education in which he strived to understand students' expectations (5). While on the Faculty of Law in Recife, Freire met his wife, Elza Maia Costa de Oliveira, an elementary school teacher and an important force in his life. Elza influenced Freire to intensely pursue his studies, and helped him to elaborate his groundbreaking educational methods.

Freire's arsenal of educational thought began to manifest with his appointment in 1946 as director of Education at SESI, an employer's institution set up to help workers and their families (Gadotti, 6). Here he began to see more disconnections between elitist educational practices and the real lives of the working class. During this time Freire also participated in the Movement for Popular Culture, and supported the active exercise of democracy in lectures and in his Ph.D. thesis, "Present-day Education in Brazil," written in 1959. His convictions would earn him the title of "traitor." For education, Freire implies a dialogic exchange between teachers and students, where both learn, both question, both reflect and both participate in meaning-making.

The year 1962 saw the first experiments in Freire's method when 300 farmworkers were taught to read and write in just 45 days (15). As a result, the government approved thousands of cultural circles to be set up all over Brazil. Unfortunately, the military coup of 1964 halted the work, and changed Freire's life.



In June 1964, Freire was imprisoned in Brazil for 70 days as a traitor. In 1968 he wrote his famous *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, published in Spanish and English in 1970, but not in Brazil until 1974.

Freire was invited to Geneva in 1970 where he worked for ten years as a special educational advisor to the World Congress of Churches. During this time, Freire traveled worldwide helping countries to implement popular education and literacy reforms. In 1979, after 15 years of exile, Freire was allowed to return to Brazil and did so in 1980. He joined the Workers' Party (PT) in São Paulo and, from 1980 to 1986, supervised its adult literacy project. With the triumph of the PT in 1988, Freire was appointed Minister of Education for the City of São Paulo.

In 1991 the Paulo Freire Institute was created, "congregating scholars and critics of his pedagogy, in a permanent dialogue that would foster the advancement of new educational theories and concrete interventions in reality.... [This work] is carried out by 21 scholarly nuclei located in 18 countries" (Gadotti, "Homage").

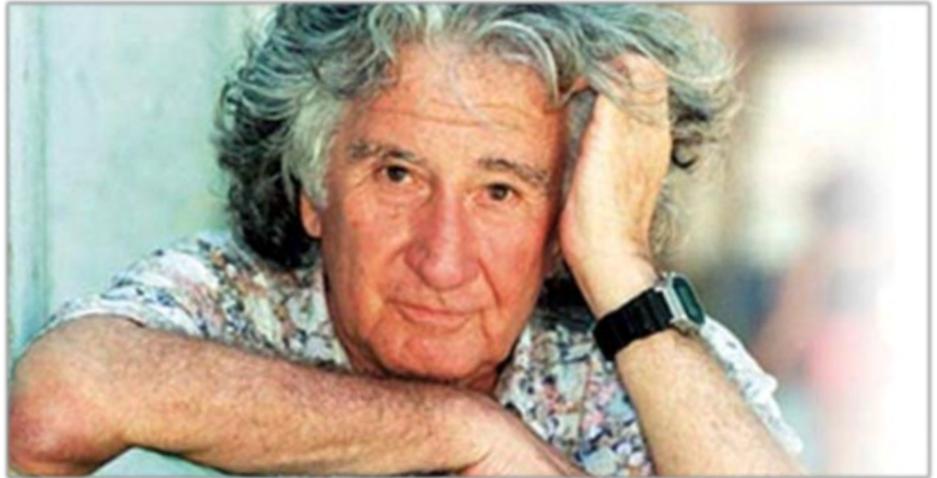
On May 2, 1997, Paulo Freire died of heart failure at the age of 75. As he wished, Freire's work continues to be reinvented and re-clarified according to changing political and intellectual thought and social movements. As long as the struggle for more humane educational practices, for deeper insights into constructions of power and oppression, and the impulse for people to invent their own identities and realities exists—Freirean praxis will challenge every person toward personal and social liberation, both in thought and deed.

Augusto Boal

Sourced from the PTO Website and TOP Lab/Brecht Forum Website

Augusto Boal was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1931. He was formally trained in chemical engineering and attended Columbia University in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Although his interest and participation in theatre began at an early age, it was just after he finished his doctorate at Columbia that he was asked to return to Brazil to work with the Arena Theatre in São Paulo. His work at the Arena Theatre led to his experimentation with new forms of theatre that would have an extraordinary impact on traditional practice.

In the 1960s Boal developed a process whereby audience members could stop a performance and suggest different actions for the actor, who would then carry out the audience suggestions. In a now legendary development, a woman in the audience was so frustrated by an actor who could not understand her suggestions that she came on stage and began to play the role herself. For Boal, this was the birth of the “spect-actor” and his theater was transformed. He discovered that through this participation the audience members became empowered not only to imagine change but to actually practice that change, reflect collectively on the suggestion, and thereby become empowered to generate social action. Theatre became a practical vehicle for grass-roots activism.



“While some people make theater,” Boal said, “we are all theater.” Over many years, Boal wrote many books, adapted and created new theatrical forms, remained a political activist, and continued to strengthen his relationship with liberatory educator, Paulo Freire. At the Second Annual Pedagogy of the Oppressed Conference in Omaha in March 1996, both men appeared together (for their only public co-appearance) to reflect on liberatory education and to answer questions from an audience of around one thousand people.

Augusto Boal passed away on May 2, 2009, one day after the International Worker’s Holiday.

He was a giant in so many ways: theatre director, scholar, teacher; pedagogy colleague of Paulo Freire; political representative and statesman in Rio de Janeiro and Brazil; international speaker and teacher; recipient of the Crossborder Award for Peace and Democracy in 2008; Nobel Peace Prize nominee; and the visionary who conceived and patiently developed one of the most revolutionary cultural and artistic practices of the last millennia, the Theatre of the Oppressed.

Sources:

PTO Website: <http://www.ptoweb.org/boal.html>

TOP Lab/Brecht Forum Website: <http://brechtforum.org/abouttop>

Some of Boal’s Key Publications

Boal, Augusto. *The Theatre of the Oppressed*. New York: Urizen Books, 1979.

Republished by Routledge Press in New York/London in 1982.

----. *Games for Actors and Non-Actors*. New York: Routledge Press, 1992.

----. *The Rainbow of Desire*. New York: Routledge Press, 1995.

----. *Legislative Theatre*. New York: Routledge Press, Fall 1998.

About Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed, Inc.

About PTO

Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed, Inc. (PTO) supports people whose work challenges oppressive systems by promoting critical thinking and social justice through liberatory theatre and popular education. Our vision is to create global access to popular education pedagogy and liberatory theatre of the oppressed methods to support a world based on radical love and social justice in stead of oppression and violence.

Our approaches stem from the theories and practices of Paulo Freire and Augusto Boal. We foster collaborative connections to share, develop, promote, and document liberatory theatre, popular education, and other revolutionary actions. PTO serves as a resource for oppressed peoples and their allies in diverse communities, contexts, and traditions around the world.

PTO promises activists and social change agents, our members, and actors and non-actors alike that you can count on us to provide global and expanding connections to PTO practitioners, access to updated PTO tools, resources, and research, and support for your liberatory education and theatre efforts.

Stay Connected!

Connect with us online all year 'round! Find our Membership Directory, Member Spotlight Interviews, Board Member Interviews, and more!

Online: ptoweb.org

Facebook @[PTOinc](https://www.facebook.com/PTOinc)

Twitter: @[PTOtweets](https://twitter.com/PTOtweets)

[LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/pto/)

Need to Contact us quickly during the conference? Feel free to call us at: **402-915-1683**

Connect with Pedagogy & Theatre of the Oppressed Conference Organizers, Attendees, and Speakers with the hashtag:

#PTO2017

About Cass Commons

About the Cass Commons Location

We are located in an historic building complex on the edge of the Detroit Cultural Center and Wayne State University, in the heart of Detroit. We are also on the edge of the Cass Corridor, an area of deep poverty. As with many boundary zones, our location is rich with diversity.

In 2011, the church donated the complex of buildings, including the sanctuary and attached church house with social hall and second story church, to the [East Michigan Environmental Action Council \(EMEAC\)](#). We are now part of the EMEAC managed [Cass Corridor Commons](#), a multi-use non-profit and green space in which educational activities, community efforts and business endeavors are created and carried out.

About Cass Commons

EMEAC is committed to cultivating a shared space called The Commons. The Commons is intended to serve as a multi-use non-profit and green space in which educational activities, community efforts and business endeavors are created and carried out. Our vision is to transform the Unitarian Universalist office space – that was donated to EMEAC in 2011 – into a multi-use office space and community hub that embodies principles of shared space, environmental justice and social justice principles. We intend to use the space in the following ways.

1. Office space for East Michigan Environmental Action Council and several grassroots organizations with which EMEAC collaborates.
2. Space for entrepreneurial ventures by grassroots collaborative partners.
3. Community space for grassroots activities and events.

The idea of the Commons emerged from the United States Social Forum held in Detroit, MI in June 2010. Several organizations that played an important role in the planning and implementation of the USSF – including the East Michigan Environmental Action Council [EMEAC], Detroit Women of Color Film Festival, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network [DBCFSN], Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC), and Michigan Welfare Rights Organization [MWRO] – continued meeting after the USSF to discuss its impact on and legacy to Detroit. A common theme of these ongoing conversations involved the many ways that Detroit residents were inspired to get involved in revitalizing and uplifting Detroit communities.

After many discussions with one another and feedback from USSF attendees, as well as observations and critical analyses of the outsider-led Detroit revitalization initiatives (which systematically deny input by grassroots people and organizations), recommendations to positively impact the city of Detroit and its residents were identified. One recommendation was to create and support a *commons*, or a publicly owned/held shared space; especially timely given the determined effort to gentrify various neighborhoods in Detroit, thereby displacing people and businesses/organizations that have served them for years. In the meantime an opportunity opened to submit a proposal to the Unitarian Universalist Church to assume ownership of its 3-building complex. EMEAC prepared a proposal that was accepted in June 2011. Since then we have been working to develop the concept and practice of a Commons.

We consider the creation of the Commons to be an important contribution to community advocacy and movement building in the city of Detroit, particularly as it is located in the heart of rapidly gentrifying neighborhood. Though still in the early stages of development, Commons members are furthering its development by creating values and principles, as well as processes for shared decision-making, care for the building, making repairs and renovations, offering programs and engaging the community...among other things. We look forward to fully realizing what we consider to be a powerful alternative to an economy in crisis.

Food, Allergies, Photos, Restrooms, Emergencies

Food

This year, we are delighted to announce that we will be working with [Food Not Bombs](#) to provide breakfast June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. We will also be working with [Food Labs](#) of Detroit to offer lunch on June 2nd and 3rd. ALL provided food will be vegan and the local organizing crew has worked very diligently to work with organizations that pride themselves on sustainable, anti-violent food sourcing and production! We will also have plenty of gluten free options. Additional nearby restaurants include:

- **Harmonie Garden** (Detroit's Number One Middle Eastern Café): 4704 Anthony Wayne Dr, Detroit, MI 48201
- **Cass Cafe** (informal bi-level space for international & vegetarian dishes, local art & live performances) 4620 Cass Ave, Detroit, MI 48201
- **Traffic Jam & Snug** (pub grub & a diverse menu of global dishes in a multi-level dining spot with an in-house brewery) 511 W Canfield St, Detroit, MI 48201

Allergies and Sensitivities

We often have a conference attendees who have a strong and even FATAL peanut allergies. We must ask that you support us in making the ENTIRE conference space peanut-free. We also ask that you avoid bringing any kinds of nuts to the conference site if at all possible as several attendees also have non-peanut nut allergies. We strongly encourage attendees to be as scent-free as possible. Many people have scent allergies or sensitivities that make participation at conferences more challenging. For example, some people get severe headaches or migraines from smells. Please consider using scent free hair products, hygiene products, and abstaining from colognes or perfumes.

Photos

By attending this conference, participants grant permission to The Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Organization, Conference, and its agents or employees to use photographs and/or video and audio taken during the conference. These images may be used in educational and documentary materials such as Public Service Announcements, Grant Applications, Video Documentaries, and both printed and online newsletters. Furthermore, participants authorize the use of images, likenesses, and voices for all program promotion, materials, and any other purposes in connection with the program deemed appropriate and necessary by The Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conference. However, PTO is also aware that some people truly do not want to be photographed, and we want to respect those wishes. In the event that participants do not want to be photographed, notification may be indicated through the use of a red dot clearly displayed on conference credentials. Not displaying this indicator will void lack of consent and absolve the conference of any and all liability pertaining to the use of images, likenesses, and/or voices.

I hereby agree to release, defend, and hold harmless The Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Organization and Conference and its agents or employees, including any firm publishing and/or distributing the finished product in whole or in part, whether on paper, via electronic media, or on web series, from any claim, damager, or liability arising from or related to the use of the photographs/video, including but not limited to any misuse, distortion, blurring, alteration, optical illusion, or use in composite form, either intentionally or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in taking, processing, reduction, or production of the finish product, its publication, or distribution.

Restrooms

All restrooms on the ground floor of the conference site will be all-gender restrooms and at least one restroom will be ADA compliant (disability accessible). Please use whichever bathroom you choose. PTO and our collaborators recognize that gender segregated spaces, such as gender segregated restrooms, are often unnecessary and harmful, especially to transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people. Trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people, especially people of color, often have to function the entire day without safe access to facilities due to fear of harassment and violence.

As part of our commitment to the prevention of violence against marginalized communities and support survivors attending this event, we offer gender inclusive restrooms. Please support us in our commitment to ending oppression and violence, and be respectful and affirming. If you have questions about this policy please feel free to contact any of the any PTO Board member throughout the conference.

In case of emergency, the nearest hospital is:

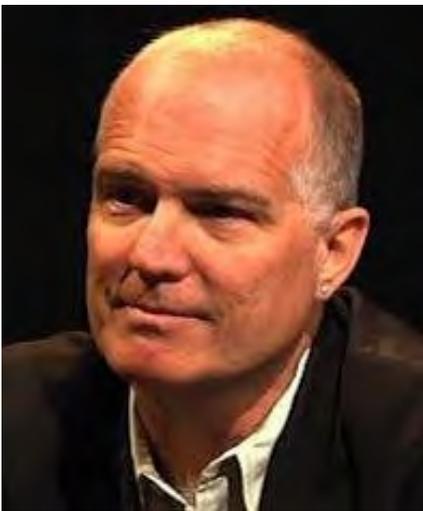
Henry Ford Hospital located at:

2799 W Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI 48202

Keynote Presenters

Julian Boal

Julian Boal was a founding member of different collectives in France. He is now part of the Escola de Teatro Popular in Brazil. He has realized workshops and projects in more than 20 countries, and he helped in the realization of Theatre of the Oppressed festivals in India with Jana Sanskriti, in Europe with Pa'tothom, and in South America with CTO-Rio. Julian is the author of *Images of a Popular Theatre* (*Imagens de um Teatro Popular*, Hucitec, 2000), co-editor of *Theatre of the Oppressed in Actions* (Routledge, 2015), and recently completed a PhD in Brazil.



David Cobb

David Cobb is a Democratizing Elections Fellow with the [Liberty Tree Foundation](#) and a Principal with the [Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy](#). He served as campaign manager for Jill Stein and Ajuma Baraka in the 2016 election and managed the recount efforts in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. He is a lawyer and political activist and co-founder of [Move to Amend](#). David has sued corporate polluters, lobbied elected officials, run for political office himself, and has been arrested for non-violent civil disobedience. He truly believes we must use ALL the tools in the toolbox to effect the systemic social change we so desperately need.

David was born in San Leon, Texas and worked as a laborer before going to college. He graduated from the University of Houston Law School in 1993 and maintained a successful private law practice in Houston for several years before devoting himself to full time activism to achieve real democracy in the United States.

In 2002 David ran for Attorney General of Texas, pledging to use the office to revoke the charters of corporations that repeatedly violate health, safety and environmental laws. He did not win the office, but the Green Party of Texas grew dramatically during his campaign from four local chapters to twenty-six. In 2004, he ran for President of the United States on the Green Party ticket and successfully campaigned for the Ohio recount.

Keynote Presenters

Gloria House

Gloria House, Ph.D. is Professor Emerita in Humanities and African American Studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and Associate Professor Emerita in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department of Wayne State University. She is the former Director of the African American Studies Program at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Dr. House has been an activist in human rights struggles in the U.S. and abroad since the 1960's, when she was an organizer in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She is the recipient of many awards for her work as a social justice advocate, including the Edward Said Scholar/Activist Award of the Michigan Peace Team, the Harriet Tubman Award of the Michigan Chapter of NOW, and the Civil Rights Activist Lifetime Achievement Award of the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights.



She is currently engaged in organizing the freedom school movement in Detroit. From 1992 to 1996, Dr. House was a Visiting Professor in the English Department, and Director of the Partnership with Township High Schools at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. She has published three poetry collections, *Blood River* (Broadside Press, 1983), *Rainrituals* (Broadside Press, 1989), *Shrines* (Third World Press, 2004), and a book of commentary on the political uses of environment in the United States, *Tower and Dungeon: A Study of Place and Power in American Culture*. She was also lead editor of the anthology, *A Different Image: The Legacy of Broadside Press*, selected as a Notable Book of Michigan for 2005 by the Library of Michigan. Her recent publications include an essay, "The Detroit '67 Rebellion: The Long Aftermath," 2017 Catalogue of the Detroit Public Library; a chapter in *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts of Women in SNCC*, and a book, *Home Sweet Sanctuary: Idlewild Families Celebrate a Century*, a cultural study of the African American resort community in Northern Michigan.

Keynote Presenters

Will Copeland



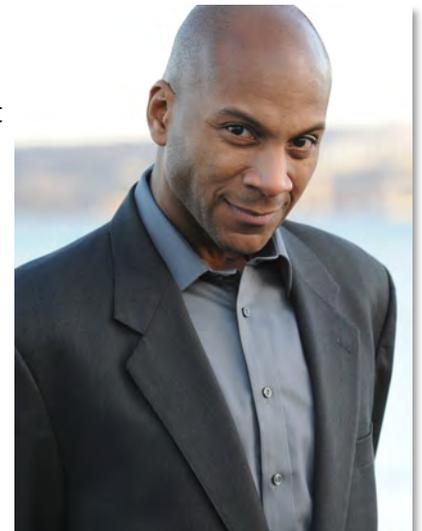
William Copeland is an organizer and cultural worker from Detroit. He works on EMEAC's Leadership Team as its Climate Justice Director. He served as one of the local coordinators for the 2010 US Social Forum, organizing over 300 Detroit-area volunteers to host 20,000+ activists and community change agents to 5 days of workshops, panels, concerts, and work projects. He also worked as lead organizer of the 2011 Detroit 2 Dakar Delegation to the World Social Forum held in Dakar, Senegal. He has significant affiliations with the healing justice movements in Detroit and nationwide and is also currently working on creating the D. Blair Theater Space in the Cass Corridor Commons. Copeland serves on the board of the US Solidarity Economy Network to host the 2016 North America Solidarity Economy Forum in Detroit. Will See dropped his first solo hip-hop CD "The Basics" which includes EJ anthems such as "Water Power" "Take tha House Back" and "Respiration" available at <http://willseemusic.bandcamp.com/>. His second project is a spiritual mixtape called SOL SWGGR found at <http://www.audiomack.com/album/will-see/sol-swggr>.

Reg Flowers

Reg Flowers is a community activist and organizer specializing in popular theater techniques that build capacities for civic engagement and social change. He is also an award-winning theater professional and teaching artist linking art, education and activism for much of his professional career. He is the founder of Falconworks Artist Group a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) based in Brooklyn.

Reg's most recent project is Alt Space, a culture project in just and sustainable living located on Detroit's lower east side. The project brings together neighbors, grassroots organizations and allies in the social justice community, providing an incubator space to develop sustainable independent community-controlled resources. The project promotes re-imagining how these resources can be shared to achieve fair access to power and the ways power is produced and reproduced.

Reg Flowers is a graduate of University of the Arts where he received his BFA and also holds an MFA from Yale School of Drama. Reg trained in the practice of popular theater with Theater of the Oppressed Laboratory in New York City and has collaborated frequently with Julian Boal. Reg has also trained with representatives of the Navajo Nation in the practice of Peacemaking. He currently splits his time between Detroit and Brooklyn.



Keynote Presenters

Jamon Jordan

Jamon Jordan is an educator, writer & historian. He has been a teacher of African & African American history for over 15 years and a researcher of Black history for decades.

After teaching in public schools for 10 years, he now runs Black Scroll Network History & Tours, where he leads lecture tours and gives presentations dealing with African & African American history, especially African American history in the Detroit area.



Also known as Baba Jamon, he leads tours of sites of Detroit's Underground Railroad, as well as important sites connected to the historic neighborhoods of Black Bottom & Paradise Valley, and Black historic sites throughout the city, including the Cultural Center sites of two of his institutional partners, the Detroit Historical Museum, and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and Detroit's Black Historic Music Sites.

Jamon Jordan has given hundreds of tours for public and private schools, including Detroit Public Schools, Walled Lake Public Schools, the Roeper School, the Farmington Hills Homeschool Collective, the Educational Achievement Authority and numerous charter schools, as well as for students and classes at Wayne State University, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and New York University.

He has also given hundreds of lectures and presentations for schools, churches, and other institutions, including the Historical Society of Michigan, the Underground Railroad National Conference, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's national convention, Fellowship Chapel, Oak Grove AME, St. David's Episcopal, and New Liberty Temple Baptist Church.

Along with being the founder & CEO of Black Scroll Network History & Tours, he is also the co-founder of the Black Scroll Study Group, an educational research organization that takes a study tour to a different site each year that is important to African & African American History. Jordan also serves as the President of the Detroit branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH Detroit), which is the Detroit chapter of the organization responsible for Black History Month.

Along with providing history tours and presentations, Jamon Jordan writes for two publications of the Historical Society of Michigan, "Chronicle," and "Michigan History for Kids," where he has written about Detroit's role in the Underground Railroad, as well as the history of Motown Records, and Detroit's history of riots and rebellions.

Jamon Jordan is committed to African & African American History and teaching it to as many people who will listen.

Keynote Presenters

Malik Yakini

Malik Kenyatta Yakini is a founder and the Executive Director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN). DBCFSN operates a seven-acre urban farm and is spearheading the opening of a co-op grocery store in Detroit's North End. Yakini views the "good food revolution" as part of the larger movement for freedom, justice and equality. He has an intense interest in contributing to the development of an international food sovereignty movement that embraces Blacks communities in the Americas, the Caribbean and Africa.



Tawana "Honeycomb" Petty



Tawana "Honeycomb" Petty is a mother, social justice organizer, youth advocate, poet, author and visionary educator. She was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and is intricately involved in water rights, digital justice and visionary organizing work. She is the past recipient of the Spirit of Detroit Award, the Woman of Substance Award, the Women Creating Caring Communities Award, the Detroit Awesome Award, the Black Law Student Association's Justice Honoree Award, and was recognized as one of Who's Who in Black Detroit in 2013 and 2015.

In addition to Tawana's social justice work and community organizing, she performs, teaches and speaks across the globe. She has been a featured guest on the Tavis Smiley Show, NPR/WDET, AM 1440, FM 107.5, TV50 Street Beat, Occupy Radio, Move to Amend, PBS, The Barbara Dean Franklin Show, MetroTimes, on former Detroit Councilwoman JoAnn Watson's television program Wake Up Detroit, on the Motown Writers Network, on former Rolling Stone Editor Dave Marsh's national radio program Living in the Land of Hopes and Dreams and several other radio and television programs.

Tawana also teaches her workshop Poetry As Visionary Resistance across the globe. Her work and writings have also been featured in various publications and she has been a featured speaker and performer in many cities across the United States as well as outside of the country. As an organizer, Tawana has organized a vast array of social justice initiatives bringing together thousands to advocate for social justice and create alternatives and solutions.

In 2014, she spoke with comrades on water rights issues at the United Nations in New York on International Peace Day and in 2015, and was a featured speaker at the School of Americas Watch Vigil (SOA Watch Vigil) in Georgia.

Keynote Presenters

Shea Howell

Shea Howell is a Detroit activist, writer and lecturer. She works with youth, artists and community-groups, emphasizing place based, visionary organizing. She explores issues of social difference and peace. For nearly two decades she wrote a weekly column for the *Michigan Citizen* and her work is widely published. She is a co-founder of Detroit Summer and of the Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership. She is currently working with Detroiters Resisting Emergency Management, emphasizing the need for a Water Affordability Plan and independent freedom schools. She is also a member of the National Council of Elders. She is a professor of political communication at Oakland University.



Nate Mullen



Nathaniel Mullen is the director of Detroit Future Schools (DFS), a sponsored project of Allied Media Projects. He joined the AMP team in 2011, as part of the founding team of DFS. Nate's work thrives at the intersection of art, education and people. For eight years, Nate has worked in classrooms, leading student media investigations which have included everything from stop motion videos about Newton's Laws to infographics on the complexities of global economics. He has a B.F.A. from the University of Michigan and is a graduate of Detroit Public Schools. Lastly, Nate is a lover of bad jokes, cheesy graphics and Krista Tippett.

Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, JUNE 1st – Sunday, JUNE 4th, 2017

Tuesday, May 30 – Thursday, June 1, 2017

Pre-Conference Workshop

Forum Theatre: Examining Oppressive Systems, Exploring Concrete Options

10:00am - 6:00pm Facilitated by: Julian Boal

Thursday Evening, June 1, 2017

7:00pm ~ 8:30pm 2017 PTO Opening Session

Friday, June 2, 2017

8:00am - 8:45am Welcoming Ceremony

9:00am - 10:30am Concurrent Session 1

10:45am - 11:45am Plenary: Building a Revolutionary Movement

11:45am - 1:15pm Lunch

1:30pm - 3:00pm Concurrent Session 2

3:15pm - 4:45pm Concurrent Session 3

5:00pm - 7:00pm Plenary: Cultural Organizing

Saturday, June 3, 2017

9:00am - 10:30am Concurrent Session 4

10:45am - 12:15pm Plenary: The Struggle for Education in Detroit

12:15pm - 1:15pm Lunch (Members' Meeting!)

1:30pm - 3:00pm Concurrent Session 5

3:15pm - 4:45pm Concurrent Session 6

5:00pm - 6:30pm Concurrent Session 7

Sunday, June 4, 2017

9:00am - 10:30am Concurrent Session 8

10:45am - 12:00pm Closing Ceremony

All Conference Sessions Overview

Thursday Evening, June 1, 2017

2017 PTO Opening Session: Forum Theatre Presented by Pre-Conference Participants - 7:00pm

Jokered by Julian Boal

Friday, June 2, 2017

Welcoming Ceremony – 8:00am - 8:45am

Plenary: Building a Revolutionary Movement – 10:45am - 11:45am

Julian Boal ▪ David Cobb ▪ Gloria House

Moderated by: Kelly Howe and Tatiana Grasso

Plenary: Cultural Organizing Panel – 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Will Copeland ▪ Reg Flowers ▪ Gwiseok Hong ▪ Jamon Jordan ▪ Malik Yakini

Moderated by: Jamilah Bradshaw and S. Leigh Thompson

Saturday, June 3, 2017

Plenary: The Struggle for Education in Detroit – 10:45am - 12:15pm

Tawana Petty ▪ Shea Howell ▪ Kim Sherobbi ▪ Nate Mullen

Moderator: Simona Simkins and Rebecca Struch

Sunday, June 4, 2017

Closing Ceremony – 10:45am - 12:00pm

Interested in being involved with PTO? Check out these sessions!

Saturday, June 3rd, 2017 @ LUNCH

Join the PTO Board for the members meeting over lunch (Multi-Purpose Rooms)!

Sunday, June 4th, 2017 @ 9:00am

PTO Community Representatives - Multiplying the Movement by Katherine Burke (Multipurpose Room C)

Tuesday, MAY 30 – Thursday, JUNE 1, 2017

Pre-Conference Workshop with Julian Boal

Tuesday, May 30 - June 1, 10am-6pm EDT

Location: Cass Corridor Commons

Participants in this three-day workshop will gain experience with a variety of Theatre of the Oppressed techniques in the process of developing Forum Theatre plays.

2017 PTO Conference Opening Session

Thursday, June 1, 7pm EDT

Location: Cass Corridor Commons

At the opening session of the 22nd Annual PTO Conference, we'll welcome the entire conference community and feature Forum Theatre joked by Julian Boal and performed by pre-conference workshop

Detailed Schedule

Friday, JUNE 2, 2017

WELCOMING CEREMONY (8:00am - 8:45am)

Location: Sanctuary

CONCURRENT SESSION 1 (9:00am - 10:30am)

[D] Can we live! A statement, not question. Black girls... Black womyn.

Speakers: Veronica Bohanan

Location: D. Blair Theatre B

What is it to center Black womyn's experiences? What is it to be hypervisible in the midst of invisibility? Using an interdisciplinary arts approach to conversing, come, let's "dialogue..."

[D] The Boggs Center - Welcome to Detroit

Speakers: Rich Feldman

Location: The Foyer

What does it mean to visit Detroit in June 2017? 2017 is the 50th anniversary of the Detroit Rebellion and the 50th Anniversary of MLK's Beyond Vietnam Speech: Time to Break the Silence. 50 years ago some of us were active in a revolutionary period in our country and today We all live in a Revolutionary Period. What does this mean for our relationships, our work, our vision, our challenges? How will this gathering create the opportunities for each of us to assume responsibility to heal, transform and organize?

[D] Youth On Stage: Strategies for Inclusion, Techniques for Empowerment

Speakers: Mary Anderson, Assata Haki, Clara Hardie

Location: Parlor B

Detroit teaching artists discuss the relationship between performance training and social transformation among youth.

[P] Creating a Unified Learning Experience for D/deaf and Hearing Students at Kent State using Theatre as the Catalyst

Speakers: Daniel R Nadon, Carol Robinson

Location: Parlor A

A look at merging the D/deaf and hearing populations of one Midwestern university using social justice techniques, theatre and film; the good, the bad and the ugly.

Detailed Schedule

#PTO2017

Friday, JUNE 2, 2017

CONCURRENT SESSION 1 (9:00am - 10:30am) cont.

[G] Interviews to Performance: The Detroit Uprising

Speakers: Meriah Sage

Location: Day Care

In this participatory workshop, we will explore interviewing techniques, image theatre, and facilitation, discuss research methods and actively engage with transcribed interviews/scripts exploring the 1967 Detroit Uprising.

[G] Pinhole Puppetry: Lambe-Lambe

Speakers: Tristan Castro Pozo

Location: Multi-Purpose Room - C

This workshop offers participants an approach into Lambe-lambe's pinhole-puppetry, which is a form of Brazilian popular theatre. Participants of this workshop will be willing to explore body movement, sharing personal stories, and to design cardboard miniature puppets.

[G] Sing, Chant, Hum, Bellow: Vocal Improvisation as Collaborative Liberatory Practice

Speakers: Gwi-Seok Hong

Location: D. Blair Theater A

In this participatory workshop, we will explore interviewing techniques, image theatre, and facilitation, discuss research methods and actively engage with transcribed interviews/scripts exploring the 1967 Detroit Uprising.

[G] Story Circle: Mutual Humanization

Speakers: Skye Ashton Kantola

Location: Multi-Purpose Room - B

This workshop will utilize Story Circle, which evolved out of the Civil Rights Movement, to connect Freirean Mutual Humanization to lived experience, anti-oppression work, and community accountability/restorative practices.

[T] Forum Theatre, Cholera, and Behavior Change

Speakers: Jessica Bodiford

Location: Multi-Purpose Room - A

Forum theatre can tackle health and security issues like cholera and flooding. This workshop will give participants tools to create this type of forum theatre and measure its impact.

[T] Introduction to Theatre of the Oppressed

Speakers: Doug Paterson

Location: Sanctuary

This active workshop aims to introduce participants not familiar with Augusto Boal's workshop process to basic TO history, theory, and techniques.

[T] The River: Towards an Eco-Theatre of the Oppressed

Speakers: Chris Bell

Location: Room 100

"The River" will be a space to experiment with who has the power in the relationship between humans and the environment, opening up new ways to understand individual and collective actions by thinking from the perspective of distinct ecologies.

PLENARY: BUILDING A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (10:45am - 11:45am)

Location: Sanctuary

LUNCH (11:45am - 1:15pm)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2/3 (1:30pm - 4:45pm) Double Sessions

[D/F] Anti-Oppression Comedy: A Performance/Dialogue about Using Humor to Rebel and Wage Love

Speakers: Jenn Freitag

Location: D. Blair Theater A

What is the function of activist comedy in our current political and cultural climate, and how can it be used strategically in anti-oppression work? Prepare to laugh and critically engage.

[T] Unpacking Race: A Tutorial

Speakers: Morgan FitzPatrick Andrews, Hariprasad Kowtha

Location: Multi-Purpose Room - B

First session: Plot your racial journeys with others; learn strategies to facilitate T.O. workshops unpacking Institutional Racism. Second session: Unpack White Fragility, a common roadblock to racial solidarity.

[T] You Don't Get a Pass - Game Show for Exploring Oppression

Speakers: Natalya Brusilovsky, Sheila Gaskins

Location: The Foyer

Experience the joy of flashing your game cards, make your own game scene and deepen your understanding of others' perspectives. Learn how TAG created this game and how it evolved.

[G] Empowerment Facilitation using Mutual Humanization, Trauma Informed Perspective, and Anti-Oppression Frameworks

Speakers: Skye Ashton Kantola

Location: Multi-Purpose Room - C

This workshop will be interactive. We'll cover: consensus building, making organizing and education accessible, using communication guidelines, conflict resolution in the context of community, historical, individual, intergenerational trauma and much more!

[T] This Intersectional Dilemma

Speakers: Nicole Wires, Zara Zimbardo

Location: Dressing Room A

Explore internalized voices of white privilege and gendered oppression in a process of "intersectional" cop in the head, unpacking common dilemmas in our work as racial justice allies and accomplices.

Detailed Schedule

Friday, JUNE 2, 2017

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CONCURRENT SESSION 2 (1:30pm - 3:00pm)

[P] Educating Through Theatre Activism: TO Troupes on College Campuses

Speakers: cfrancis blackchild, Suzanne Burgoyne, Noah Lelek

Location: Room 100

Educating Through Theatre Activism: TO Troupes on College Campuses Do they know what we do? Do they know we are here? Will they let us do what we can do?

[R] Coping Metaphors, Storying Sustainability

Speakers: Beth Murray

Location: D. Blair Theater B

A look at merging the D/deaf and hearing populations of one Midwestern university using social justice techniques, theatre and film; the good, the bad and the ugly.

[R] International Perspectives on Theatre of the Oppressed

Speakers: Sohail Amir Ali Bawani, Doug Paterson

Location: Parlor A

Sohail Amir Ali Bawani: "How one can break the 'culture of silence' to initiate a 'dialogue' with the landless peasants of Sindh province in Pakistan? A community worker in search for a way forward"

Doug Paterson: "Theatre of the Oppressed in Iran: A Residency"

[R] Language, Power, and TO

Speakers: Perla Barbosa, Lisa Marie Westbrooks

Location: Parlor B

Perla Barbosa: "Problematizing anti-immigrant and anti-bilingual narratives through Theater of the Oppressed"

Lisa Marie Westbrooks: "Understanding the Power of Language Identity through Urban Drama"

[G] Education, Conscientization, and Pedagogy of the Oppressed — An Introduction to the Work of Paulo Freire

Speakers: Charles Adams, Jamilah Bradshaw

Location: Day Care

Engage in a problem-posing approach in this lively interactive workshop on Pedagogy of the Oppressed. Workshop participants will bring their own knowledge and experience to the workshop and create together a short narrative about a social issue that will elicit generative themes that can further discussion and action. We will then engage in an artistic collaboration to display our conscientization plan to our conference fellows.

[T] Codes to Choreography to Change-Makers: An Exercise in Radical Self-Love

Speakers: Allie Knuth

Location: Sanctuary

Using exercises inspired by Boal's Image Theatre, explore who you are as a change-maker and see that choreography can be a gate-way to become MORE powerful than you realize!



**PEDAGOGY AND THEATRE
OF THE OPPRESSED**

CONCURRENT SESSION 3 (3:15pm - 4:45pm)

[D] Biracial and Multiracial Interviewees, White Interviewers, Many Questions on Racialized Identity

Speakers: Amanda Masterpaul

Location: Room 100

This session reflects on interviews conducted with people identifying as biracial and multiracial. What insights did the interviews offer about narrow social constructions of race? What does it mean to explore these questions through a lens of white privilege?

[D] Deepening the Dialogue: Values in Practice in the 21st Century

Speakers: Debra Alexander, Jackie Milbrandt

Location: Parlor B

This highly engaging and experiential session will increase awareness and connect practitioners who wish to deepen the dialogue and explore their values of practice in 21st century organizations and institutions.

[P] From Service to Empathy to Activism: The Over-the-Rhine Residency Program

Speakers: Tammy A. Schwartz

Location: Dressing Room A

In this session, community and university panelists share a unique, place-based interdisciplinary community-university collaboration, the Over-the-Rhine Residency Program.

[R] Social Media, Internet, the Digital Age

Speakers: Mohammed Waseem, Anne Larcher

Location: D. Blair Theater B

Mohammed Waseem: Forum Theatre for countering violent extremism and its mainstreaming through digitization and social media.

Anne Larcher: Leveraging the Internet for a better impact of TO: a survey of digital forum theatre initiatives

[T] Image Theatre - Dynamizing Individual Responsibility in Oppressive Systems

Speakers: Pavla Uppal

Location: Day Care

Using Image Theatre and Transitions techniques, we will identify the points of disruption of systemic oppression and explore what is needed for the individual act of courage and love.

[T] Newspaper Theatre in #AlternativeFact Land(s)

Speakers: Kelly Howe, Rebecca Struch

Location: Sanctuary

How can Boal's Newspaper Theatre techniques help us hone and clarify our analysis of social systems in the context of regimes that traffic without consequence in almost solely "alternative facts"?

[T] TO + Reproductive Justice: Reframing & Reclaiming Sexuality Narratives

Speakers: Quenna L. Barrett, Jessamyn Fitzpatrick

Location: Multi-Purpose Room A

This TO workshop explores internalized oppression in the context of the shaming construct of virginity. Participants will practice exercises offering healing through reflection, community building through witnessing and collective playmaking.

[T] TO and Teacher Professional Development in India

Speakers: abhishek goswami

Location: Parlor A

This workshop will be interactive. We'll cover: consensus, making organizing and education accessible, using communication guidelines, conflict resolution in the context of community, historical, individual, intergenerational trauma and much more!

Detailed Schedule

#PTO2017

Friday, JUNE 2, 2017

PLENARY: ABOVE BANNERS, CHANTS, AND DRUMS:
THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN REVOLUTIONARY PRACTICE(5:00pm - 7:00pm)
Location: Sanctuary

Detailed Schedule

Saturday, JUNE 3, 2017

CONCURRENT SESSION 4 (9:00am - 10:30am)

[D] Poetry as Visionary Resistance

Speakers: Tawana Petty

Location: D. Blair Theater B

Toni Cade Bambara said, "The role of the artist is to make revolution irresistible. In this workshop participants will embody that challenge through collectively created art.

[D] The Historiography of a Moving Target

Speakers: Debra Alexander

Location: Dressing Room A

This session will examine the role of history and historiography in contemporary TO practices and scholarship.

[R] 'Primed for Action:' Theatre of the Oppressed, Digital Storytelling, and Interdisciplinary Community-Based Partnerships to Address Infant Mortality

Speakers: Ann Elizabeth Armstrong, LaTouia Foster, Natalie Jones

Location: Room 100

This paper (session) explores an interdisciplinary project designed to confront systemic racism in the healthcare system. Image theatre and Digital storytelling techniques are combined to reveal an analysis of oppressive systems.

[R] African Perspectives on TO

Speakers: Gilda Mensima Hammond, Felicia Owusu-Ansah

Location: Parlor B

Gilda Mensima Hammond: Repositioning African Theatre Pedagogy and Practice Towards Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Felicia Owusu-Ansah: My Image, My Conscience, My Story: Image Theatre as a Gateway between Silence and Blast

[G] Disrupting Higher Education from the Inside Through a Course in Education and Theatre for Social Justice

Speakers: Ellie Friedland

Location: Parlor A

Interactive workshop/dialogue using approaches from an undergraduate course in education and theatre for social justice: group decision making about learning outcomes, power and roles; grading (when pass/fail is not an option); assignments, and accountability.

[G] Youth Leadership

Speakers: Julia Cuneo, Jada Patrick

Location: Multi-purpose Room B

This workshop will share We the People of Detroit's youth organizing strategy and philosophy with participants. We will discuss the unique challenges and strengths of a youth lead approach to social justice.

A - All Conference Event

R - Paper Presentation/Panel

S - Self-Care Workshop

D - Dialogue or Debate

G - Pedagogy of the Oppressed Workshop

T- Theatre of the Oppressed Workshop

B - Double Session

P - Panel

F- Performance

CONCURRENT SESSION 4 (9:00am - 10:30am) cont.

[F] Dança, Memória do Outro

Speakers: Stela Guz

Location: D. Blair Theater A

The present moment as opportunity for change and building. The composition is done at the meeting: performer and public. A memory play. A rite of construction in scene.

[T] African Woman: Anasesem as a Liberating Play

Speakers: Hellen Mawunyo Diaba, Bubu Buku Korku, Lucia Elorm Akusika Ladzekpo

Location: Multi-purpose Room C

Series of traditional games and performances will be the anchor of the workshop.

[T] Decolonizing Games: the Arsenal of Theatre of the Oppressed as Spaces for Exploring Power and Resistance

Speakers: Dustin Brass, Warren Linds

Location: Sanctuary

In this workshop we will share key games used to explore power, identity and resistance and invite participants to share games that have explored the realities of the communities they are working with.

[T] I see my shadow in TO/PO/social justice work, do I run, do I hide or do I learn to love? From Rebellion against one's shadow to Waging Love

Speakers: Neha Blat

Location: Multi-Purpose Room A

How can TO serve as a tool to shine the mirror internally as well as externally? Can we, as social justice communities learn to first, see and then, love our own shadow? Can communities learn to distinguish the key difference between radical love and abuse? Can our communities identify and engage with dichotomies of power within ourselves using tools from Theatre for the Oppressed? Can we learn to radically love darkness and light?

[T] Open to Joy: Michael Chekhov Tools in Theatre of the Oppressed

Speakers: Bevin Bell-Hall, Tim Welsh

Location: The Foyer

A workshop applying Michael Chekhov's imaginative and psychophysical acting technique to Theatre of the Oppressed.

PLENARY: THE STRUGGLE FOR EDUCATION IN DETROIT (10:45am - 12:15pm)

Location: Sanctuary

LUNCH (12:15pm - 1:15pm)

Detailed Schedule

#PTO2017

Saturday, JUNE 3, 2017

CONCURRENT SESSION 5/6 (1:30pm - 4:45pm) Double Sessions

[T] Re-Rooting Arts-Based Practices: Using Photovoice to Inspire Theater of the Oppressed

Speakers: Theresa Ronquillo

Location: Sanctuary

In this applications workshop, participants engage in a Photovoice process (community-based, documentary photography and intergroup dialogue) to inspire the creation of Theater of the Oppressed performances.

[T] Theatre of the Oppressed with K-12 Youth

Speakers: Mark Weinberg, Jenny Wanasek

Location: Day Care

An interactive workshop demonstrating techniques to develop engaged, creative, and empathetic learners in the K-12 environment.

CONCURRENT SESSION 5 (1:30pm - 3:00pm)

[D] Healing Trauma Through Expressive Arts

Speakers: Survivor Theatre Project, Melissa Redwin, Leila Zainab

Location: The Foyer

Through dialogue, storytelling & movement, we will understand how trauma lives in the body and in society, & how expressive arts is a powerful tool used to create saf(er) artistic spaces.

[P] Prison Arts: Personal Empowerment, Social Transformation

Speakers: Mary Anderson, Kyle Grant, Gaia Klotz, Heather Martin, Frannie Shepherd-Bates, Curt L. Tofteland

Location: Room 100

The founding directors of some of the most inspiring and transformative prison arts programs speak about the relationship between their work and the philosophies and practices of Freire and Boal.

[R] Critical Pedagogy and Teacher Education

Speakers: Kaitlin Popielarz, Long Tran

Location: Parlor A

Kaitlin Popielarz: Teacher Education: A Proposal for Transformation Using a Third Space of Community
The goal of this paper presentation is to engage in dialogue about transforming teacher education preparation by utilizing a third space of community.

Long Tran: Wage Love: Changing the World One Student, One Classroom, and One School at a Time
Global capitalism has wreak havoc and devastation in our global economies. One place to develop love is in critical spaces such as classrooms, schools, and colleges.

CONCURRENT SESSION 5 (1:30pm - 3:00pm) cont.

[R] International Public Health Perspectives

Speakers: Dr. Mark Abu Agyei, Roberto Carbajal

Location: SEE SCHED

Dr. Mark Abu Agyei: Theatre of the Oppressed in physical Healing: The Case of Newlife Homeopathic Clinic Patients

Roberto Carbajal: Theater as a Social Intervention in Marginal Community Change Opportunity
It is proposed that marginal community faces different social problems, in this living experience the introduction of theater as an approach focused on Boal techniques help to change a reality.

[T] Rehearsing a Life of Calling In Versus Calling Out: Difficult Dialogues with University Peer Theatre Educators ReACT!

Speakers: Alli Metz, Jacob Mollie

Location: D. Blair Theater A

ReACT! University Peer Theatre Educators focused their work during the 2016-17 school year on creating open and safe spaces for university audiences to explore difficult dialogues with friends and family members who use sexist language to contribute to rape culture. This interactive performance will look at how to break the silence with loved ones by "calling them in" instead of "calling them out" about sexually violent language and supporting survivors of sexual assault.

[R] Problematizing Anti-Immigrant and Anti-Bilingual Narratives Through Theatre of the Oppressed

Speakers: Perla Barbosa

Location: SEE SCHED

This presentation describes undergraduate students' engagement in a problem-posing bilingual education pedagogy and documents their transformation toward critical consciousness and rehearsal of actions through Theater of the Oppressed.

CONCURRENT SESSION 6 (3:15pm - 4:45pm)

[D] Saying The 'F' Word

Speakers: David Cobb

Location: The Foyer

Benito Mussolini famously said "Fascism should more properly be called corporatism because it is the merger of state and corporate power." In this session we will explore the context of the current political moment, and discuss how the concept of "Rebel Cities" can be used to build a United Front for a peaceful, just and sustainable society.

[D] Diaspora Crossroads: Magical Realism Through Performed Genealogy

Speakers: Folaranmi Afolayan

Location: D. Blair Theater A

Diaspora Crossroads is a program that will consist of a performance followed by a talkback session on the performance of ancestry as a means to reclaim present narratives.

Detailed Schedule

#PTO2017

Saturday, JUNE 3, 2017

CONCURRENT SESSION 6 (3:15pm - 4:45pm) cont.

[R] TO and the (in)Justice System

Speakers: Robin Brandehoff, Oluchi Joyce Igili

Location: Parlor B

Robin Brandehoff: Tattoos of Promise

TO transforms and heals students who have experienced trauma. This paper shares personal narratives of using TO with students of poverty, gang-affiliation, and incarceration in urban and rural schools.

Oluchi Joyce Igili: Between Ex-Offenders and Their Destination Communities: Waging Love in the Halfway A significant need of mobile populations generally, and ex-offenders in particular, is acceptability in their destination communities. This project seeks to enable ex-offenders realise the dream of acceptability.

[G] Radical Inclusion: Making Organizations Safe for Humankind

Speakers: Debra Alexander

Location: Parlor A

Isolation and alienation that are commonplace in organizations and institutions, even those committed to social justice. This session strengthens the internal core of social justice organizations and institutions through the humanizing practices of collective resonance, radical inclusion, democratic participation, and liberating education.

[S] Self Care for Activists and Leaders

Speakers: Billie Jo Joy

Location: D. Blair Theater B

Pause. Digest. Rest. Yoga and Meditation as a breathing space between activities.

[T] Breaking Silences, Waging Love representing voices against medical diagnosis: Working with adults diagnosed with schizophrenia using Theatre of the Oppressed

Speakers: Neha Blat

Location: Multi-Purpose Room A

Description on sched.com.

[T] Fighting Apathy with Empathy: Movements for Social Change

Speakers: Christey Carwile, Jayden Savino

Location: Room 100

This workshop begins with the assumption that one of the most fundamental ways of achieving social change starts with empathy. We will engage in a series of TO games and creative movement exercises to practice and improve empathetic skills that can serve as a foundation for social justice efforts.

[T] Resisting Immigration Intolerance

Speakers: Laura Mann

Location: Multi-Purpose Room C

This interactive workshop will explore how Theatre of the Oppressed can help a community combat anti-Muslim and anti-Immigrant rhetoric and discuss how to use theatre to mobilize community to be proactive in embracing supporting oppressed communities with intervention and actions that target the larger systems at play.

[T] Where is Home?

Speakers: Tatiana Grasso

Location: Multi-Purpose Room B

The workshop aims to create a safe space for the participants to discuss and share the concepts of 'home'. We intend to explore the relationship in between people and homes through the ideas of belonging and community, as well as the themes of culture, food, language and family.

A - All Conference Event
R - Paper Presentation/Panel
S - Self-Care Workshop

D - Dialogue or Debate
G - Pedagogy of the Oppressed Workshop
T - Theatre of the Oppressed Workshop

B - Double Session
P - Panel
F - Performance

CONCURRENT SESSION 7 (5:00pm - 6:30pm)

[D] A Spectre of Marx: Waging Critical Love in the age of Trump

Speakers: Long Tran

Location: Day Care

The age of trump is upon us. Are we living in a penultimate state of capitalism?

[D] Community Dialogue on Gender Violence Prevention & Response

Speakers: Jenn Freitag, Skye Ashton Kantola, Amy Seham

Location: Dressing Room A

This session is devoted to community building, idea-sharing, and troubleshooting for activists, educators, and performers who work with gender violence prevention and response. Participants will guide the content of the discussion.

[R] TO Theory

Speakers: Abdul Karim Hakib, Tristan Castro Pozo

Location: Parlor A

Abdul Karim Hakib: Does it Need Creation or it Just Happens: The Social Actor Phenomenon and Sustainability Issues in Theatre for Development Projects

This will be a paper presentation that seeks to propose and also seek best practices on how there can be sustainability with regards to theatre for development projects

Tristan Castro Pozo: The Infinite Parabasis: TOs Devising Imagination

In this paper presentation will be discussed Augusto Boal epiphanies and devising of new theatre techniques through the lenses of the Greek comedy's parabasis theatrical effect used to assemble chorus and audience

[T] Exploring Games and Exercises on Contradictions

Speakers: Julian Boal

Location: Sanctuary

This workshop will focus on participants sharing games and exercises that help specifically with the exploration of contradictions. In other words, what kinds of exercises can we use to help us devise plays in which the characters do not appear as monolithic but instead as people with inner contradictions that reflect larger social structures?

[T] Flash Forum, A Simplified Process for the Development of Forum Theater

Speakers: Reg Flowers

Location: D. Blair Theater A

Working with a group of new TO practitioners we will present several techniques that are believed to be of particular use in addressing issues in Detroit.

[T] Critique as an Act of Radical Love: Using Currere and Theatre of the Oppressed to Work Towards a More Liberatory Approach to Education

Speakers: Rachel Radina, Genesis Ross, Mary Webb

Location: Parlor B

Participants will be asked to use Theatre of the Oppressed techniques to embody the different stages of Currere to tell a story about their own experiences with culturally relevant or irrelevant curriculum. Participants will then engage in a critical conversation about these experiences using their critiques as an act of radical love to change and/or problematize their previous understanding of these experiences.

Detailed Schedule

#PTO2017

Sunday, JUNE 4, 2017

CONCURRENT SESSION 8 (9:00am - 10:30am)

[D] 'So when's our next meeting?': An Open Dialogue on Groups, Collectives, Cohorts, and Coalitions

Speakers: Jasmin Cardenas, Kelly Howe

Location: Parlor A

Join us for this open dialogue on why and how groups/collectives form, how they sustain themselves (or not), and how they adapt to social changes.

[D] A Conversation about the Ethics of TO Work

Speakers: Reesa Graham

Location: Day Care

A conversation around the ethics of TO work in the current day: what is our responsibility as artists?

[D] PTO Community Representatives - Multiplying the Movement

Speakers: Katherine Burke

Location: Room 100

In this dialogue, we will discuss ways in which we can work together beyond the conference as "multipliers" - using PO, TO, and related methods - for liberation. We will discuss ways to share information, and work together to make PTO a resource for educators, activists, organizers, and artists.

[D] PTO Journal Session with the Editor

Speakers: Jenn Freitag

Location: Multi-Purpose Room C

This "open house" style session is for anyone interested in Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Journal. Drop in for one-on-one information on submitting, reviewing, idea-sharing, and other involvement.

[D] We're Here, We're Queer (LGBTQ+ Resilience)

Speakers: Maggie Mayeaux, Kalan Trammel

Location: Multi-Purpose Room A

We will discuss the ways to combat hate with love, while remaining resilient. We will discuss ways to move forward as a community after events such as the Pulse Orlando massacre.

[R] TO in the University

Speakers: Jeffrey Pufahl, Shruti Ramesh

Location: Multipurpose Room A

Jeffrey Pufahl: "Ashley's Consent:" Using Freire and Boal in Sexual Assault Education."

Through the use of Freirian and Boalian techniques, a University of Florida team developed "Ashley's Consent," a theatre experience addressing issues of sexual assault on campus. This presentation discusses the techniques used to create and perform the play and reports on audience survey findings.

Shruti Ramesh: Evaluating the Use of Forum Theatre in Training Peer-Support Workers

A - All Conference Event
R - Paper Presentation/Panel
S - Self-Care Workshop

D - Dialogue or Debate
G - Pedagogy of the Oppressed Workshop
T - Theatre of the Oppressed Workshop

B - Double Session

P - Panel
F - Performance

CONCURRENT SESSION 8 (9:00am - 10:30am) cont.

[S] The Art of Embodied Listening & Mindful Action

Speakers: Billie Jo Joy

Location: Multi-Purpose Room B

Overcome inner oppression, habits & ideas about yourself that block you from experiencing the present moment. Find your voice, embody your authentic self. Share that with the world.

[T] Stories to CREATE Change

Speakers: Zaya Jones, Marco Lopez, Gerry Reyes, Meredith Schilsky

Location: D. Blair Theater B

Participants will leave with concrete activities to use when working with casts of 4 or 40 learning how to motivate audiences to move from the personal (their own story of oppression) to the global conversation (systemic oppression) using PTO based techniques as a guide.

CLOSING CEREMONY (10:45am - 12:00pm)

Location: Sanctuary

2016-2017 PTO Board



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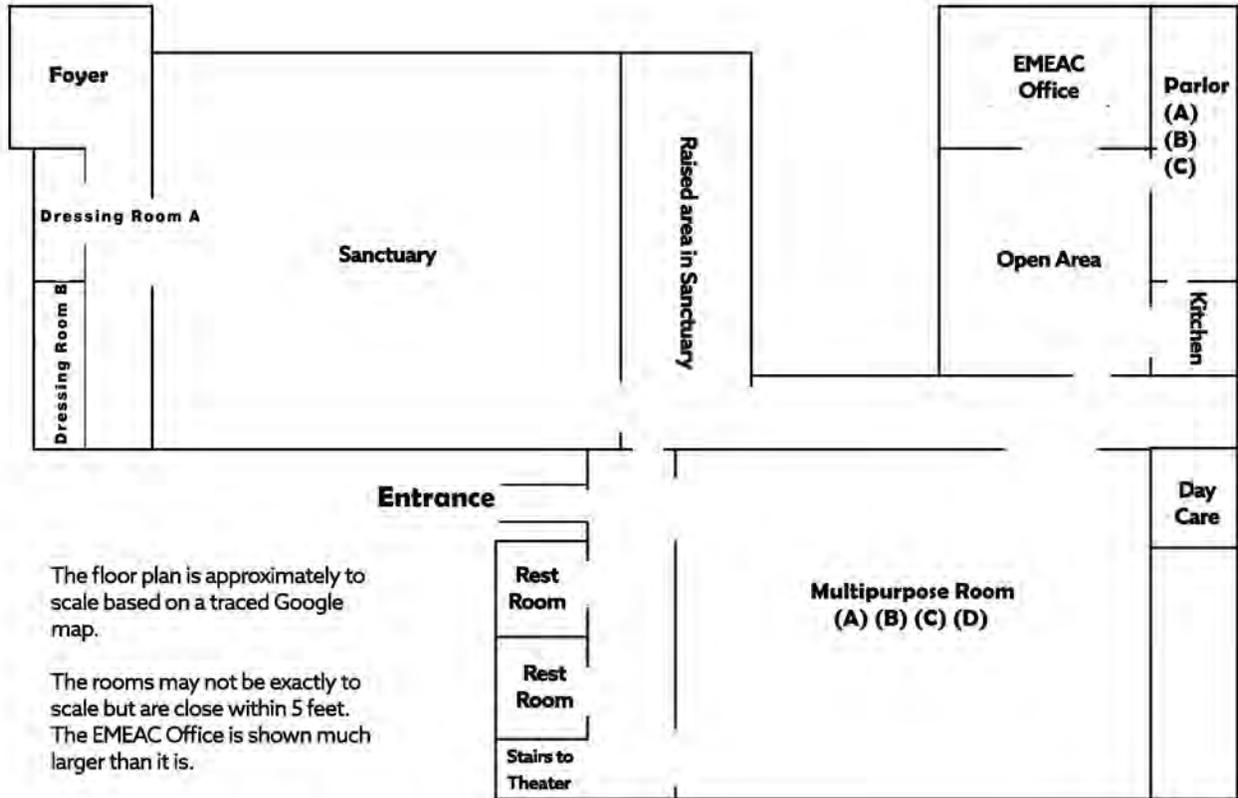


Katherine Burke
Community Representatives Chair, PTO

Conference Maps

Cass Corridor Commons

CASS COMMONS LAYOUT



The floor plan is approximately to scale based on a traced Google map.

The rooms may not be exactly to scale but are close within 5 feet. The EMEAC Office is shown much larger than it is.

20 ft 

Conference Maps

Campus Residential Towers to Cass Commons

655 W Kirby St, Detroit, MI 48202
Cass Corridor Commons, 4605 Cass Ave

Leave now **OPTIONS**

Send directions to your phone

3:56 PM–4:04 PM **8 min**
 4:01 PM from Cass & Kirby
 \$1.50 6 min every 10 min
DETAILS

- via Cass Ave **13 min**
0.6 mile
- via Gullen Mall and Cass Ave **13 min**
0.7 mile

Map labels: Wayne State Towers (655 W. Kirby Street), Cass & Kirby, Cass & Forest, Cass Corridor Commons, University Club Apartments, Detroit Public Library, Michigan Science Center, John D Dingell VA Medical Center.

St. Regis Hotel Detroit to Cass Commons

3071 W Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI 48202
Cass Corridor Commons, 4605 Cass Ave

Depart at **OPTIONS**
8:30 PM **Fri, May 26**

Send directions to your phone

- via Cass Ave **typically 7 min**
1.3 miles
DETAILS
- via Woodward Ave **typically 5 - 8 min**
1.5 miles

8:31 PM–8:42 PM **11 min**
53

Map labels: 3071 West Grand Boulevard, Cass & Kirby, Cass & Forest, Cass Corridor Commons, ART CENTER, POLETOWN EAST, NEW CENTER.

Shuttle Schedule

Friday, June 2, 2017

7:20 am: Depart from St. Regis Hotel

7:30 am: Arrive/depart from Towers Residential Suites

7:40 am: Arrive at Cass Commons

10:00 am: Depart from St. Regis Hotel

10:10 am: Arrive/depart from Towers Residential Suites

10:20 am: Arrive at Cass Commons

8:00 pm: Depart from Cass Commons

8:10 pm: Arrive/depart from Towers Residential Suites

8:20 pm: Arrive at St. Regis Hotel

Saturday, June 3, 2017

8:20 am: Depart from Pick up at St. Regis Hotel

8:30 am: Arrive/depart from Towers Residential Suites

8:40 am: Arrive at Cass Commons

10:00 am: Depart from St. Regis Hotel

10:10 am: Arrive/depart from Towers Residential Suites

10:20 am: Arrive at Cass Commons

8:00 pm: Depart from Cass Commons

8:10 pm: Arrive/depart from Towers Residential Suites

8:20 pm: Arrive at Drop off at St. Regis Hotel

10:00 pm: Depart from Cass Commons

10:10 pm: Arrive/depart from Towers Residential Suites

10:20 pm: Arrive at St. Regis Hotel

Sunday, June 4, 2017

8:20 am: Depart from St. Regis Hotel

8:30 am: Arrive/depart from Towers Residential Suites

8:40 am: Arrive at Cass Commons

Please notice pick up and drop off times are estimates. This times may vary due to traffic and construction, so we advice arriving to the shuttle pick up a few minutes early.