Pre-Webinar Check-in

How are you feeling?
What resources or supports have been helpful to you during this time?

Please use the hand-raising & chat function to share.
Listening to Language Interpretation
Escuchar la interpretación del lenguaje

Windows & MacOS

1. In your meeting/webinar controls, click Interpretation.
2. Click the language that you would like to hear.
3. (Optional) To only hear the interpreted language, click Mute Original Audio.

Android & iOS Zoom App

1. In your meeting controls, tap ... More.
2. Tap Language Interpretation.
3. Tap the language you would like to hear.
4. (Optional) Tap the toggle to Mute Original Audio.
5. Click Done.

Note: Session & chat will be recorded.
Nota: sesión y chat serán grabados.
Land Acknowledgement

Image Credit: Kanyon Konsulting
The Praxis Project is a national non-profit organization that works in partnership with national, regional, state, and local partners to achieve health equity and justice for all communities. **Our mission is to build healthy communities by transforming the power relationships and structures that affect our lives and communities.** Praxis supports policy advocacy and local organizing as part of a comprehensive strategy for change.
Hosts

Xavier Morales
Executive Director
The Praxis Project
He/Him

Jenna Gaarde
Program Director
The Praxis Project
She/Her

Candace Cross
Health Justice Fellow
The Praxis Project
She/Her
Guests

Lai Wa Wu
Policy & Alliance Director
Chinese Progressive Association
She/Her

Alejandria Lyons
Environmental Justice Organizer
SouthWest Organizing Project
She/Her

Lisa Padilla
Con Mujeres Gender Justice Organizer
SouthWest Organizing Project
She/Her
Logistics for our webinar

• This webinar will be recorded and posted online.
• Slides will be posted online.
• Continuing Education Contact Hours: email jenna@thepraxisproject.org
Community Agreements

• Be respectful
• Be patient
• Be flexible
• Brave space
• No wrong questions
• Pop the bubble
• Land the plane
Webinar Engagement

Use Q&A and chat tools throughout webinar

Q&A:
• We will answer questions as they come up
• We will have time for folks to verbally ask questions
• We will then answer written Q&A

Chat:
• Set chat to “all panelists & attendees”
• Chat can be used for comments and engagement with other attendees
Welcome & Introductions

Let’s test the chat tool (to panelists and attendees):

• Name
• Pronouns
• Sector (community, nonprofit, government, etc.)
• Where you’re based/land acknowledgement
Gratitudes

Thank you to the community partners who contributed their wisdom, knowledge, and experience to this discussion:

Praxis technical assistance partners, staff, Board of Directors, and network of basebuilding organizations.
Praxis Theory of Change

Build Community Power

Increased Agency to Shape Policies, Systems & Practices

Basebuilding Organizing is Intrinsically Valued and Directly Supported

Positive Change Across Social Determinants of Health Equity

More Just Society
Working Principles for Health Justice & Racial Equity

- Act with Care
- Commitment to Transformation
- Inclusivity
- Sustainable Solutions
- Authentic Community Collaboration
Types of Organizations in Communities

**Advocacy Organization**
A group of people who work to support an issue or protect and defend a group of people, or social good or interest

**Community Service Provider**
Organizations that deliver person-centered care and services within the community

**Community Organization**
An organization that uses its own social structures and resources to accomplish community goals

**Base-Building Organization**
An organization that sets strategies using the priorities of their constituencies to build collective strength and power to address a variety of inequitable conditions within a community
Communities of Praxis

Four Communities of Praxis cohorts make up our Learning Circles, which are designed to emphasize grassroots organizers’ strengths for putting ideas into action to address issues important to our communities’ health and well-being.

1. Early Care & Education
2. Family Supports & Economic Justice
3. Housing Justice
4. Utility Justice – Water & Broadband Internet
Centering Community in Public Health Webinar Series

- Building & Measuring Community Power
- Community Centered Healing
- Equity-Driven Policy & Practice
- The Praxis of Equity
- #CP4All
- Working Principles for Health Justice & Racial Equity

Community Centered Healing
Behind the Brief:
Key Questions:

1. When I say “Community Power” I mean...
2. What does “Community Power” look, feel, smell and taste like?
3. Why do we need to build “Community Power?”
4. What resources do we need to build “Community Power?”
5. What are the barriers to building “Community Power?”
6. How do we want our work to build “Community Power” to be measured?
“WE BUILD POWER FOR FREEDOM, FOR LIBERATION, FOR HEALTH, FOR LIFE.”

“WE WANT TO BE THE NARRATORS OF OUR OWN STORIES—TO SHAPE HOW WE ARE SEEN, OUR POTENTIAL, OUR HISTORIES.”

POWER IS AGENCY.

[POWER IS] “THE ABILITY TO INFLUENCE AND CONTROL OUR OWN HEALTH, OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS, AND OUR LIVES.”

“POWER MEANS FREEDOM, LIBERATION, AND CONTROL.”
Community Power in Action
Community Power in Action

• Chinese Progressive Association
• SouthWest Organizing Project
Chinese Progressive Association
laiwa@cpasf.org

Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) conducts tenant and worker organizing, youth and student organizing, civic engagement, and movement and alliance building for low-income Chinese immigrant communities in San Francisco.
Lai Wa Wu
(she/her)
Policy & Alliance Director
Who is CPA?

Founded in 1972, the Chinese Progressive Association *educates, organizes and empowers the low income and working class immigrant Chinese community* in San Francisco to *build collective power with other oppressed communities* to demand better living and working conditions and justice for all people.

Who is Youth Movement of Justice & Organizing (Youth MOJO)?

In 2009, youth leaders at CPA formed Youth MOJO for low-income Chinese American youth to *build power, strengthen our members’ skills, commitment, analysis, to make real material wins* and build broader movement for change.
SF Chinatown Snapshot*

- There are over 870,000 people in San Francisco
- 68% of the population is foreign born
- As of 2017, about 46% of the population of Chinatown residents did not have a high school diploma
- In 2014, the minimum wage was $10.74 but many workers in Chinatown earned only $5 to $6 per hour.
- 1 bedroom median rent in San Francisco in 2018: $3700 a month

*https://statisticalatlas.com/neighborhood/California/San-Francisco/Chinatown/Educational-Attainment#overview
Why do we Build Community Power?

To win material gains in order to transform conditions for our communities and society as a whole.

This means building power deeply and in scale:

**Build Deep**: Develop leaders to gaining positions within key decision-making bodies

**Build in Scale**: build bases at significant scale, develop broad strategic alliances

Power needs to be centered in deep commitment to dismantling systems that shape our communities and the trauma it inflicts on the health of our community.
Our Healing in Our Hands Campaign (OHIOH)
IN OUR VOICES:
MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF SFUSD
YOUTH OF COLOR

OUR DEMANDS

INCREASE FUNDING TO SUPPORT PREVENTATIVE WELLNESS SERVICES
- Hire staff, therapists, social workers to serve immigrants & students of color’s needs
- Strengthen preventative resources, including mindfulness, community schools, restorative practices

VALUE STUDENT VOICE AND EXPERTISE
- Increase student and school staff decision-making about wellness funding, feedback, curriculum, funding, and hiring

COLLECTIVIZE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WELLNESS AND HEALING
- Create peer counseling programs
- Integrate culturally congruent mental health curriculum and training for teachers, staff, and students
Building Community
Power at CPA Youth MOJO

- Power of Youth Decision Making/ Governance
- Power of Intergenerational Organizing
- Power of Community Healing & Transformation
“I have an 8 y/o, immigrated 2 years ago, I understand the hopelessness & pessimism of recent Chinese immigrant parents. One day my daughter said to me, 'I cry all day, in China I had better living conditions. Why do I live in SRO (single room occupancy) here? Why do I have to line up for showers? To the bathroom, to cook a meal? Why?’” - Ah Lian
“I never used to understand why my dad would come home and yell at me and my sibling. Now i do. I know when my dad is at work, his boss was yelling at him. Coming home to an SRO, 5 of us live altogether in this small room -- 3 generations with leaky rooftops to paint peeling off, broken stovetops. I understand now he was exploited as a low wage worker, and understand how violence gets passed down.” - Youth MOJO member
“In HS as a student you’d never know I was struggling on the inside, high function student, first in my family to go to college. I didn't know how to be my own advocate. I didn't elect to get wellness support, or speak up and say I need help. I didn't feel I could talk to my parents and I felt isolated. This requires a young person to say I want to get support, I want to build a healthier lifestyle for myself, peer to peer support. [We need to] build voices of young people and as allies we need to support you.”

- SFUSD Board of Education Commissioner Jenny Lam
Lessons Learned about Building Power
1. We need **youth power**, not just youth voice/empowerment*
2. We need **intergenerational infrastructure***
3. We need campaigns to **engage community on immediate issues/needs** AND to train the analysis, consciousness and skills of youth*
4. We need to build an **ecosystem of interdependence and solidarity**

*credit to Funder’s Collaborative on Youth Organizing
How to collaborate, partner in an authentic way?

Respect and Listen to Stories on the Ground

- listen to our youth and communities advocating to defund police + invest in restorative justice, community driven alternatives to health and safety!

Train to Look Where These Histories Are

- “Cultural Humility* is also about being open to learning, being okay with not knowing something, believe everyone is the expert of their own lives, and understand we’re given the gift of being able to learn from others’ experiences when they trust us with their story.” - Kawal Ulanday

- *term coined by Melanie Tervalon and Jann Murray-Garcia in 1998

Funders, Agencies:

- Provide core support to allow our organizations to grow and adapt to the needs of the moment and our communities.
Chinese Progressive Association
www.cpasf.org
FB: @cpasf
Twitter: @CPASF
IG: @ChineseProgressiveAssociation

Chinese Progressive Association’s Youth
MOJO Instagram: @YouthMOJO

Any questions?
Find me at laiwa@cpasf.org
SouthWest Organizing Project

lisa@swop.net & alejandria@swop.net

SouthWest Organizing Project seeks to redefine power relationships by bringing together the collective action, talents, and resources of the people within our communities. We work primarily in low-income communities of color to gain community control of our land and resources.
remodeling the house that white men built:

UPROOTING OLD SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION TO BRING ABOUT JUSTICE, LOVE, COMMUNITY
“By creating a new mythos - that is, a change in the way we perceive reality, the way we see ourselves, and the ways we behave - la mestiza creates a new consciousness. The work of mestiza consciousness is to break down the subject/object duality that keeps her prisoner and to show in the flesh and through the images in her work how duality is transcended. The answer to the problem between the white race and the colored, between males and females, lies in healing the split that originates in the very foundation of our lives, our culture, our languages, our thoughts. A massive uprooting of dualistic thinking in the individual and collective consciousness is the beginning of a long struggle, but one that could, in our best hopes, bring us to the end of rape, of violence, of war.”

- Gloria Anzaldúa
New Mexico’s colonial legacy
Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ) - Jemez Principals for Democratic Organizing

# 1 Be Inclusive
# 2 Emphasis on Bottom-Up Organizing
# 3 Let People Speak for Themselves
# 4 Work Together In Solidarity and Mutuality
# 5 Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves
# 6 Commitment to Self-Transformation

Jeanne Gauna and the origins of SWOP

Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ) - Jemez Principals for Democratic Organizing

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2015: Beva Sanchez-Padilla starts the official feminisms division of SWOP, CON MUJERES

“Organizing with a caring heart”
Fourth wave feminisms and intersectionality

“Love heals. - We go forward with the fresh insight that the past can no longer hurt us. Mindful remembering lets us put the broken bits and pieces of our hearts together again. That is the way healing begins.”
- Bell Hooks

“I may be crazy, but that don’t make me wrong.”
- Marsha P. Johnson

I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own.
- Audre Lorde

There’s no revolution without Black trans folks.

#nomorestolenisters
Coalition building

- 6 Fiscally Sponsored Groups:
  - Pueblo Action Alliance
  - Fight For Our Lives;
  - Tribal Entities Connect
  - Transwoman Empowerment Initiative
  - Family + Indigenize + Thrive (FIT)
  - Coalition for Local Businesses

- Housed on SWOP Campus: Karuna Colectiva; CESOSS – Center for Social Sustainable Systems; Red Planet Bookstore
- Coalición LGBTTTI del hemisfero del oeste
- Casa Fortaleza
- NM Women’s Global Pathways
- Marcha Mundial de Mujeres
- Grassroots Global Justice
- Climate Justice Alliance
Healing Network building, mask making project, feminist economy
Working with local healers

- Sylvia Ledesma
- Veronica Iglesias
- Kalpulli Izkalli
- Abuela's Medicina
- Child of All Nations
Mission of the Project

- Promote a return to traditional land tenure
- Remembering ancestral knowledge about native herbs
- Restoring the land by planting native trees, since area was severely burned in 2011
- Creating new economic opportunities to use bosque materials
- Healing ourselves as we heal our connection to the earth and to one another
- Cultivating community and pride in our ethnic heritage
Dreaming of a future in this Covid moment
What legacy would we leave for seven generations?

“The practice of love is the most powerful antidote to the politics of domination”

bell hooks
Report Takeaways:

Why incorporate community power into initiatives addressing health, justice & racial equity?

- Design
- Implementation
- Build agency and capacity
- Build sustainability
- Build legitimacy for public health institutions
Recommendations:

Building community power through organizing is an indispensable component to affect health, justice and racial equity.

It should be integrated into all public health interventions whose goals ostensibly include improving health equity.
Where do we go from here?

“For the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house”
– Audre Lorde

• The systems in which our society operates are damaged and need to be dismantled.
• Community power is key to achieving structural change.
Participant Question

Please type in your response using the chat tool (to all panelists and attendees):
• Why is building community power important for your work?
What questions do you have for the speakers?

Discussion

1.) First, use the hand-raising function in Zoom if you have a mic and would like to speak your question.

2.) Please type in your question using the Q&A tool.
What’s Coming Up for Praxis:

Community Wisdom Brief Series
Stay tuned for the next release:
Recognizing Healing-Centered Community Practices as a Complement to Trauma-Informed Interventions and Services

https://www.thepraxisproject.org/signup-for-updates
What’s Coming up for Praxis:

• Working Principles for Health Justice & Racial Equity: https://www.thepraxisproject.org/our-principles

• Next Webinar: August 26, 2020: Healing-Centered Community Practices

• Basebuilding Convenings: virtual support for disaster recovery justice & digital storytelling
Thank You!

* Please don’t forget to complete the evaluation!

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