

## Who We Are:

The Design Justice Network is a home for people who are committed to embodying and practicing the [Design Justice Network Principles](#).

## Mission:

We wield our collective power and experiences to bring forth worlds that are safer, more just, more accessible, and more sustainable. We uplift liberatory experiences, practices, and tools, and critically question the role of design and designers. Rooted in a sense of abundance, possibility, and joy, we provide connection, care, and community for design justice practitioners.

## Vision:

**We envision futures where** design is used to support care, healing, liberation, joy, and deep sustainability.

### We dream of worlds

in which design is truly led by the experiences and brilliance of those who are marginalized by interlocking systems of oppression. We also know that birthing dreams requires discomfort and moving beyond good intentions.

## Intentions

**As the DJN steering committee & network coordinators, we intend to:**

### Cultivate a deeply interconnected network. We

do this by decentralizing power, sharing resources, and remaining adaptable enough to dismantle systems of oppression.

### Advance and embody the design justice principles in practice. We

do this by practicing community-led design and sharing stories and critical reflections.

**Amplify experiences of joy throughout the network.** We do this by convening and collaborating as a growing community.

[designjustice.org](http://designjustice.org)

## Principles:

**This is a living document.**

**Last update: summer 2018**

Design mediates so much of our realities and has tremendous impact on our lives, yet very few of us participate in design processes. In particular, the people who are most adversely affected by design decisions — about visual culture,

new technologies, the planning of our communities, or the structure of our political and economic systems — tend to have the least influence on those decisions and how they are made. Design justice rethinks design processes, centers people who are normally marginalized by design, and uses collaborative, creative practices to address the deepest challenges our communities face.

Design  
Justice  
Network

**1:**

We use design to **sustain, heal, and empower** our communities, as well as to seek liberation from exploitative and oppressive systems.

**2:**

We center the **voices of those who are directly impacted** by the outcomes of the design process.

**3:**

We prioritize **design's impact on the community** over the intentions of the designer.

**4:**

We view change as **emergent from an accountable, accessible, and collaborative process**, rather than as a point at the end of a process.\*

**5:**

We see the role of the designer as a **facilitator rather than an expert**.

**9:**

We work towards **non-exploitative solutions** that reconnect us to the earth and to each other.

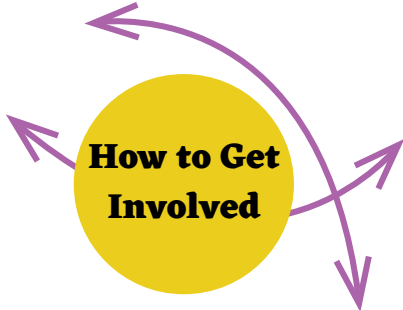
**10:**

Before seeking new design solutions, we **look for what is already working at the community level**. We honor and uplift traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge and practices.

**8:**

We work towards **sustainable, community-led and -controlled outcomes**.

**The first step in becoming part of the Design Justice Network is to sign on to our principles.**  
Translations of the principles, in the various languages are available online.



## How to Get Involved

### Become Member

Now that you have signed onto the DJN Network Principles, we welcome you to join the community as a member.

Member benefits are listed below! If you have yet to sign onto the DJN Principles, please consider reading and signing onto them

#### Some Membership Benefits include:

- Access to the Design Justice Network Slack channel (to keep in touch with other DJN members)
- Network with movement builders around the world
- Invitations to DJN Member Story sharing sessions (and the opportunity to lead one yourself)
- Receive care in our DJN Care Circle

#### Cost:

Pay a sliding scale membership fee, and/or agree to provide equivalent (volunteer or in-kind) services to the Design Justice Network (for example, by joining a Working Group).

### Questions?

Email:  
[Designjusticenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:Designjusticenetwork@gmail.com)

### Attend Events

Both the Network, Nodes, and Working Group put on Events where you can connect with other signatories and members. Including Book Clubs, Visioning Sessions, Welcome Sessions, Workshops and Meet Ups

Events can be found on our website

### Join or Start a Local Node

Nodes are a key part of a thriving network. Just as in botany, where a node is the part of a plant stem where new leaves emerge, a local node within the Design Justice Network is a space for local members to gather and grow design justice related projects, ideas, processes, and community. DJN is a sponsored project of Allied Media Projects, and the local nodes have thus far developed as volunteer-driven and community-based groups. DJN local nodes and members are accountable to the communities they serve, through organizing work that reflects the design justice network principles.

- Engage with and share personal experiences around the design justice principles
- Assess and provide feedback on a given project using the design justice principles
- Identify and organize around local issues using the design justice principles
- Support local organizations and campaigns with design processes
- Support, foreground, and amplify the voices and practices of marginalized designers
- Convene design justice-related events and socials (for example, by hosting invited speakers, artists dates, connecting design practitioners to community organizers to build relationships...)
- Host skillshare events, such as the “DiscoTechs” (Discovering Technology) events for communities (first coined by the Detroit Digital Justice Coalition).
- Develop walking tours in your community using the design justice principles to observe your built environment
- Organize a reading group
- Engage in shared activities with other DJN local nodes

### Five Steps to Starting a Local Node

1. Get together and set your intention
2. Get in touch with the steering committee
3. Host your first public meeting
4. Register your node and access DJN resources
5. Join the Local “Nodes Connect” Monthly Meeting

Be sure to get more context/instructions for this step by following:

<https://designjustice.org/how-to-organize-local-node>



## Working Groups

Working Groups are subnetworks that center around specific topics, goals, ideas, and/or research, as related to Design Justice Principles. To form a WG you will need members that can commit to both facilitation and envisioning. We suggest starting with at least (2-4) organizers. These roles can shift as things form and get interested volunteers. It is our hope that these groups will be a resource to members. Unlike Nodes, working groups are not tied to geographical locations. This allows more possibilities to form your initial group. Slack and our list-serve are both great tools for connecting about collaboration. They are also ways that working groups can start conversations around their focus. These groups are supported by our network's staff members with initial check-in meetings, event promotion, and project support.

**Principle 10: Before seeking new design solutions, we look for what is already working at the community level. We honor and uplift traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge and practices.**

We highlight this principle here for those that are forming working groups to consider. Are their members doing similar work or organizations that align with the principles that they can support?

## The Role of Organizer

As an organizer, your role is to help organize, activate, and facilitate the members of your Local Node or Working Group. Here are some of the activities of a Coordinators:

- Organize initial meetings, and later, a regular meeting time
- Put together recurring coordination meetings (agendas and facilitation)
- Help your LN/WG develop, establish and maintain a shared understanding of the kind of space you want to create and the work you will be doing together.
- Develop roles Assess Capacities, and assign who is going to take them on. For example, a Zine WG might want to have a Facilitator, an Illustrator, several Writers, an Editor, several Reviewers (if you have an open call for content), etc.
- Develop clarity around processes that makes everyone feels supported.
- Communicate about the activities of your LN/WG back to the rest of the DJN (for example, in Slack, in monthly or occasional network-wide calls and newsletters, via blog posts to designjustice.org, and/or via social media - although note that once you get going, some or all of these things might done by other members of your LN/WG who take them on).
- Organize and Facilitate Events Depending on the function of your groups



## Five Steps to Starting a Working Group

1. Get in touch with the steering committee / Let us know your plans to apply
2. Organize a meeting for visioning / Email us for visioning resources
3. Develop a Mission, Vision, and Intentions for your Group / Email us for resources
4. Submit your Application/Proposal
5. Organize a kick-off event

## Support from DJN Staff

The DJN International Coordinators (DJN Staff) play a supporting role to LN/WG Facilitators, and can help your LN/WG out by connecting new and existing DJN Members to your LN/WG; sharing key documents and resources, helping you organize an initial meeting; organizing regular check-in meetings for all LN/WG Facilitators to build community, develop shared resources, and resolve shared questions or issues.

## Current Groups

