An illustration featuring two stylized figures, a man on the left and a woman on the right, holding a large white banner. The background is a vibrant orange-red with a textured, painterly quality. Above the banner, there are several large, stylized leaves or petals in shades of yellow and purple. Below the banner, there are some dark, spiky plants. The overall style is bold and expressive.

#DefundPolice
#FundThePeople
#DefendBlackLives

**THE STRUGGLE
CONTINUES**

Recent incidents **OF POLICE VIOLENCE** reinforce the urgency of organizing toward safer communities free from the violence of policing through campaigns to **#DefundPolice** **#FundthePeople** **#DefendBlackLives**

- The brutal killing of **Tyre Nichols** by the Memphis Police Department—which consumes 40% of the city’s budget and received an additional \$9.8 million in federal funding in 2020 to fund 50 positions
- The execution of **Manuel “Tortugita” Paéz Terán**, a forest defender fighting the construction of a massive facility to train cops from across the country in urban warfare at a cost of \$30 million in public funds and \$60 million in corporate funding
- The violent killing of **Keenan Anderson**, a school teacher who sought police assistance after a car accident, by the Los Angeles Police Department, which has a \$3 billion budget
- The killing of **Daryl Williams** during a traffic stop, by the Raleigh, North Carolina Police Department, whose budget is 10x the city’s housing budget
- Over 3000 police killings since 2020, including more police killings in 2022 than any other year in the past decade
- A report documenting that 1 in 5 New Orleans police officers have been reported for sexual or domestic violence—in a department that consumes close to 30% of the city’s budget

INTRODUCTION

Over the past two years, organizers across the continent continued to actively fight for and build safer communities, contrary to repeated assertions that movements to divest from policing and invest in communities are “dead.” If something is, indeed, “dead,” there should be no need to repeatedly proclaim it so.

Indeed, the fact that politicians, pundits, and academics continued to feel compelled to respond to, address, and refute the demand to #DefundPolice is a sign of power, not weakness, and of the clarity of vision it communicates —stop investing in institutions that are perpetrating harm while consuming an ever-growing share of our collective resources, start investing in people, programs, and institutions that promote community safety and well-being.

SINCE THE 2020 UPRISINGS, #DEFUNDPOLICE ORGANIZERS ARE CONTINUING TO BUILD POWER BY:



Seizing opportunities to advance bold, abolitionist demands and visions focusing on:

- defunding and dismantling violent police departments and jails
- funding institutions and community programs people need to survive pandemic, economic, and climate crises and to reduce violence and harm
- seizing greater control of our collective resources through public safety task forces, participatory budgeting, and progressive revenue generation
- fending off the violence of policing in all forms including family policing, medical policing, migrant policing, etc.



Building collective knowledge and understanding of municipal budgets and processes



Steering public safety task forces and demanding public input over disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds



Forcing policymakers to contend with community demands and respond to challenges to police budget increases that have previously been approved without any justification, and to mount a massive public relations campaign to delegitimize our demands and visions and re-legitimize police



Building/deepening relationships in community through mutual aid, surveys, and political education, and creating opportunities for conversations about what safety means and looks like



Connecting through national and regional networks to learn from each other, and share and strengthen strategies, skills, successes, challenges, resources, relationships, tools, and visions

“The opportunity...to actually be in deep strategy with people, to learn from each other about the movement moment that we’re in, I think, is going to have a lasting impact on strategy and how we think about our local work.”

**RACHEL GILMER,
DREAM DEFENDERS**



Since 2020, #DefundPolice organizers have regularly come together to assess conditions, strategize, and glean valuable lessons as they pivoted from moments of mass uprising and mobilization in 2020 to deepening engagement with communities, dreaming, building, and practicing non-police responses to conflict and harm, and experimenting with new forms of collective governance. They are also strategizing around and workshopping responses to politicians', police unions', and mainstream media's narratives of widespread increases in crime and violence deployed to discredit and undermine their organizing efforts, crowdsourcing and testing effective messaging for community members, policymakers, and media.

“If we’re not in the same room having the same conversations, we can’t be on the same page, we’re not operating from the same sheet of music.”—Rob Ferrell, Organizing Black

This report draws forth lessons from convenings of dozens of organizers from over 20 cities hosted by Interrupting Criminalization in April 2021, and from the Abolitionist Organizing: Toward A World Beyond Police and Prisons Network Gathering at the Allied Media Conference in June 2022, cohosted by Interrupting Criminalization, Black Visions, Liberation in a Generation, and The Forge, and attended by over 250 organizers from across the U.S. and Canada. Additional insights from the field and front lines of movements to #DefundPolice and build safer communities are reflected in [short](#) and [feature length](#) videos produced by Interrupting Criminalization and Sensitive Visuals available on the Interrupting Criminalization [YouTube page](#).

A report summarizing conversations and learnings from Interrupting Criminalization's monthly Mental Health Practice Space for organizers working to envision, design, implement and evaluate non-police crisis responses, as well as tools and reflections from our Creating Collective Ecosystems of Community Care Cohort will be published later in 2023.

MOVEMENTS TO #DEFUNDPOLICE ARE STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE

**“We brought on a community base-
building organizer and offered more
long-term skill-up and training and
political education opportunities for
folks in Milwaukee. Now we’re seeing
the impacts: those folks are taking on
and helping to lead projects.”**

**This moment allows organizers to think
maybe a little bit more strategically,
it’s not just now, now, now, it’s also now
and 5 years from now.”**

**DEVIN ANDERSON,
AFRICAN AMERICAN
ROUNDTABLE**



OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE ENGAGED IN:



Ongoing budget fights in Austin, TX, Seattle, WA, Los Angeles, CA, Milwaukee, WI, New York City, NY, Phoenix, AZ, and Raleigh, NC, St. Louis, MO, Washington, DC among many other communities



Research engaging thousands of community members in conversations regarding individual and collective perceptions of safety



Participatory budgeting



Mapping existing safety strategies and programs across communities



Building non-police crisis response and community safety infrastructure



Building and practicing new forms of governance




Base building and leadership development



Mapping and strengthening collective ecosystems of care

“We are training these individuals into becoming organizers and learning about laws and learning about how to fight for their own rights...to change the laws that once held them hostage.”—**Marilyn Winn, Women on the Rise**



“We were able to organize people in our city and in our communities and in our neighborhoods to show up...and advocate for what they wanted to see that funding invested in.

[The Mayor] immediately defunded 98 vacant positions from our police department, which resulted in \$4 million being invested in people, communities, programs that increased the quality of life and well-being for people in our neighborhoods.”

INEZ BORDEAUX, ARCH CITY DEFENDERS

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SAFETY



Using surveys, canvassers, participatory research, community-based storytelling projects, and living room conversations, organizers engaged tens of thousands of community members in conversation about what is needed to create safer communities.



Baltimore organizers collected 600 stories from community members providing critical data about what community members believe is necessary to increase safety.



Phoenix organizers trained dozens of community members to host community conversations with hundreds of family and friends about how to create safer communities.



Seattle organizers released the 1200-page Black Brilliance report laying out a blueprint for participatory budgeting for safer communities based on the findings of over 100 community researchers.

POLICY & BUDGET FIGHTS

“We became a
force at City Hall.”

AUSTIN JUSTICE COALITION

Over the past two years, organizers made substantial gains across the board in terms of increasing scrutiny of police budgets and forcing policymakers to respond to demands to divest from policing and invest in increased community safety. It is a testament to the power they built that pro-police forces were pushed into mounting a massive public relations campaign to delegitimize and undermine their demands and attempt to re-legitimize policing.

Seattle Solidarity Budget organizers successfully advocated to cut \$54 million from Seattle Police Department’s budget in 2021, making it the only city to defund its police department two years in a [row](#). In 2022, organizers successfully eliminated funds and authorization for 80 “ghost cop” (unfilled) positions. Since 2020, a total of 220 ghost cop positions have been eliminated through the budgeting process, moving SPD’s budget closer in alignment with its actual staffing. They also increased revenue generation through a successful campaign to defend the JumpStart Seattle tax on the city’s largest corporations. In 2022, a million dollars in funds from this tax were allocated for eviction prevention and defense, and over three million for climate resilience [hubs](#).

“Working together as Solidarity Budget, we have now cut the police budget two years in a row, from \$409M in 2020 to \$355M in 2021, then we came back for another \$10M in 2022.

“We civilianized 911 dispatchers, we civilianized parking enforcement, we won \$30M for participatory budgeting and nearly \$30M for community organizations who are practicing new ways of keeping each other safe.”

**ANGÉLICA CHÁZARO,
SEATTLE SOLIDARITY BUDGET**

Milwaukee organizers won investments of \$43.5 million for housing, \$31 million for lead remediation using APRA funding, and cuts to the Milwaukee Police Department budget for 25 positions in 2021.

Oakland organizers won the reallocation of \$18 million originally slated for the Oakland Police Department to violence prevention programs and mental health [services](#), and released [Oakland is Reimagining Public Safety: The Defund Police Coalition Responds To Reimagining Public Safety Task Force Final Recommendations](#), including information about revenue streams for a safer Oakland, data about how OPD spends their time, and links to additional resources.

“I was able to devote my time ... to helping to construct a people’s budget with my organization that was presented to the City Council”—**Denzell Caldwell, Black Nashville Assembly**

Miami organizers won a \$10 million dollar reduction in funds from the municipal general fund to police and jails and significant investments in housing, transit, and the creation of a municipal department focused on development of alternatives to policing and punishment.

Austin organizers won \$9 million in investments to fund recommendations of the Austin Public Safety Task Force, successfully advocated for a one year-pilot of a non-police crisis response, and fended off a ballot initiative that would have fixed the police budget by population.

Action St. Louis & Arch City Defenders in St. Louis eliminated nearly 100 vacant police officer positions in their proposed budget, diverting funds to community [services](#).

Baltimore organizers won the creation of an advisory committee (on which 4 members of the local coalition serve) to draft an amendment to the city charter to ensure local control over the city (and police department) budget.

“Atlanta organizers mounted a campaign to stop the construction of “Cop City,” a \$90 million dollar facility to train cops from across the country in urban warfare at a cost of \$30 million in public funds and \$60 million in corporate funding that would destroy hundreds of acres of forest land in Atlanta on the traditional lands of the Muscogee Creek people. Together they have successfully mobilized thousands through a cross-issue coalition, substantially reducing the acreage that would be sacrificed to the project, targeting the project contractors and corporate sponsors, successfully pressuring a major contractor to pull out of the project, and establishing encampments to defend the forest.”—**Micah Herskind, #StopCopCity**

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURES OF SAFETY

“It’s not like people love the police, they just need their communities to be safer and they don’t have an alternative.”

RACHEL GILMER, DREAM DEFENDERS

Organizers across the country continue to fight for—and win—investments that meet the material needs of communities in continuing crisis, and for life-affirming institutions and programs that can effectively prevent, interrupt, and promote healing from violence and harm.

In Atlanta, organizers won a substantial reduction of the city jail population, expansion of the policing alternatives diversion initiative to provide a 7 days a week community response for 311 [callers](#), and the creation of a 24-hour sobering center.

“We emptied out a jail that had about 600 people in it, and we were able to reduce that population down to 30 or 20 people right now. We educate people, we support and train each other into this work.”

MARILYN WINN, WOMEN ON THE RISE

Durham, NC organizers won the creation of a non-police crisis response program.

“We were able to win unarmed compassionate crisis response in Durham. We’ve been invited by our own Department of Community Safety to put our movement folks on the hiring teams, to apply for these positions as crisis responders...And, there’s a lot of our lives that is held outside of these moments of crises. There is so much that we could be doing to prevent ending up in these encounters with the state at all.

“We’ve been examining public safety and wellness needs of Durham residents, we’ve been educating Durham residents on existing safety and wellness resources, we’ve been designing community-based prevention, intervention, and re-entry visions, alternatives to policing and the criminal legal system...proposing safety and wellness policies and practices and recommending investment of public resources to municipal elected leadership...Through listening, and debating, and being in love and struggle with people we’ve been able to win unanimous recommendations out of this diverse body [Durham Community Safety and Wellness Task Force].”

—Manju Rajendran, Durham Beyond Policing

Organizers in New Orleans won a vote to mandate City Council to consider an alternative to an 89-bed psychiatric jail [expansion](#) and passage of legislation creating a taskforce on non-police mental health crisis response through their Help not Handcuffs campaign [in their city](#).

Defund MPD in DC won a pilot program that will shift some 911 crisis calls out of the police and to the Department of Behavioral [Health](#), and significantly influenced the recommendations of the DC Police Reform Commission, Decentering Police to Improve Public [Safety](#).

“We were able to build a community abolitionist defense hub that marries all the lessons that we’ve had since 2014...that can really meet the needs of our communities in real time, as well as impact political change.”

MAKIA GREEN, HARRIET’S WILDEST DREAMS/DEFUND MPD

“We were able to add three violence interrupters to the team that already existed, and that makes it possible for us to be in other communities with other eyes...”

ZINNIA ALEJANDRO, TALLER SALUD



To date, community-based safety strategies have received a fraction of the economic and ideological investment that policing and punishment has benefited from. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been poured into policing over decades, while police are rarely held to the same standards of proving efficacy in terms of preventing, interrupting, and reducing violence (including their own). As a result, it is still too early to formally evaluate the impact of these programs, particularly given that their success is shaped by the conditions under which they are evolving, including a continuing pandemic, economic crisis, climate catastrophe, and resource starvation, while police continue to be the primary recipients of public investment and actively undermine the work of community-based organizations they perceive to be a threat to their control over public safety dollars.

Successful community-based safety strategies are products of the unique needs, conditions, relationships, and infrastructure present at a particular time and place in communities. While lessons and elements of individual programs can offer valuable information, lessons, approaches and resources to nascent programs, each community will need to tailor its programs to its own needs.

Lastly, organizers point to the need to move beyond moments of crisis, and create conditions under which fewer people and communities will find themselves in crisis thanks to investments in meeting material needs, prevention, healing, and transformation.

“We came out of [the Ferguson uprising] really committed to figuring out how we could provide a viable public safety alternative in our community...So we have a mobile crisis that we’re launching...we have a free urgent care clinic, we have youth programming where we’re bringing young people together to help them process the violence that they’re experiencing on a day-to-day basis in order to stop the cycle of violence, we have free therapy we’re providing in the community to survivors of violence.

We’ve really been able to scale up our service work to the point where it's having an impact and is building our actual capacity to be able to fight for policy solutions that move more money away from the police, more money away from incarceration, more money to the community programs that are actually having an impact on reducing violence.”

RACHEL GILMER, DREAM DEFENDERS



LESSONS LEARNED

**WE NEED DEEP, LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS IN
ABOLITIONIST ORGANIZING TO BUILD THE POWER
NECESSARY TO ACTUALIZE OUR DEMANDS AND VISIONS.**

Power takes many forms—it can look like the people power evident during the mass mobilizations of 2020 Uprisings, narrative power that mobilizes credible messengers to organize people to our vision of safety and well-being, relational power based on connections to elected officials and policymakers, informational power that manifests when community members are recognized as experts on municipal budgets, violence, and safety, or financial and economic power.


All these forms of power need to be built in the context of organizing—bringing new people into organizations and movements for safer communities, sharpening their political analysis, leadership, and skills, and shaping the way they see and understand the world in relationship with each other—to bring about our collective visions of safety.

“There is so much that is possible that maybe isn’t even in relationship with the system if we are in relationship with each other.”—**Manju Rajendran, Durham Beyond Policing**



While organizers have been able to build some forms of power (influence, narrative, relational, and informational power) over the past two years, when protests subsided, the power to make defund demands and recommendations real was hampered by limited capacity to absorb newly politicized and mobilized people into organizations and political formations, and to keep people engaged in the hard work of building toward abolition. Additionally, they have faced overwhelming backlash against their substantial success in shifting narratives around policing and safety. This has undermined their ability to defend and build on their victories, and to mobilize the resources necessary to meet the full breadth of urgent need in our communities in such a way as to make a significant impact on violence.

Making lasting change requires deep investment in organizing to build broad and sustained power over the long term. The visible successes of the past two years are actually the product of decades of slow, steady, strategic, and intentional organizing, positioning organizers to seize moments of opportunity in the wake of the 2020 Uprisings.



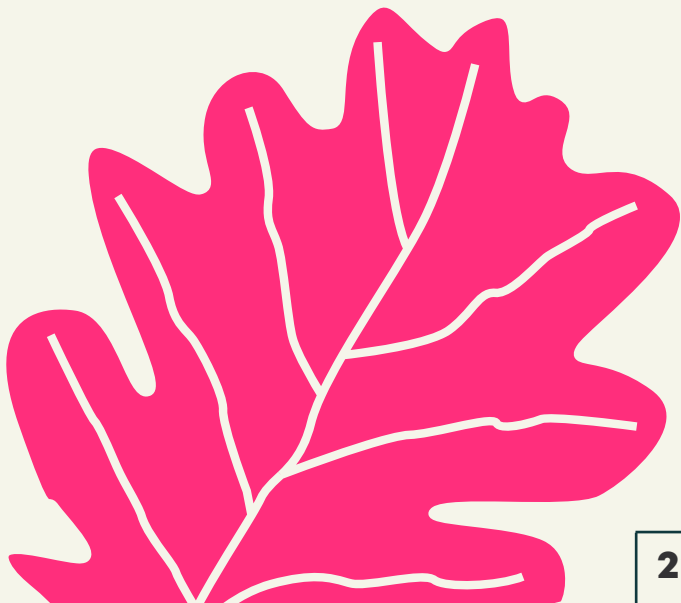
“We want to bring people into our organizations, we want to move large campaigns, and to do that we need trained organizers, skilled organizers, folks that can move with community and bring community into our base.”

ROB FERRELL, ORGANIZING BLACK

**WE NEED TO SLOW DOWN AND MOVE AT
THE PACE OF THE PEOPLE, NOT LEGISLATIVE
OR PHILANTHROPIC TIMELINES.**

Pressure from policymakers and funders to “prove” the case for and scale up community safety strategies in a short period of time placed tremendous and unsustainable pressure on organizers and small-scale, grossly under-resourced community-based programs, causing some to falter in the face of exhaustion, burnout, conflict, and the weight of expectations and need.

Building and securing investment for community safety infrastructure is a long-term process, which requires attention to relationships, structure, accountability, and sustainability. Political champions and philanthropic partners must be willing to exercise patience, extend trust, understand that there is no fail-safe, “shovel-ready,” replicable, one-size-fits-all solution to the multiplicity of issues that plague our communities, and welcome both failures and successes over the long term as valuable sources of information and lessons that point the way forward to safer communities for all.

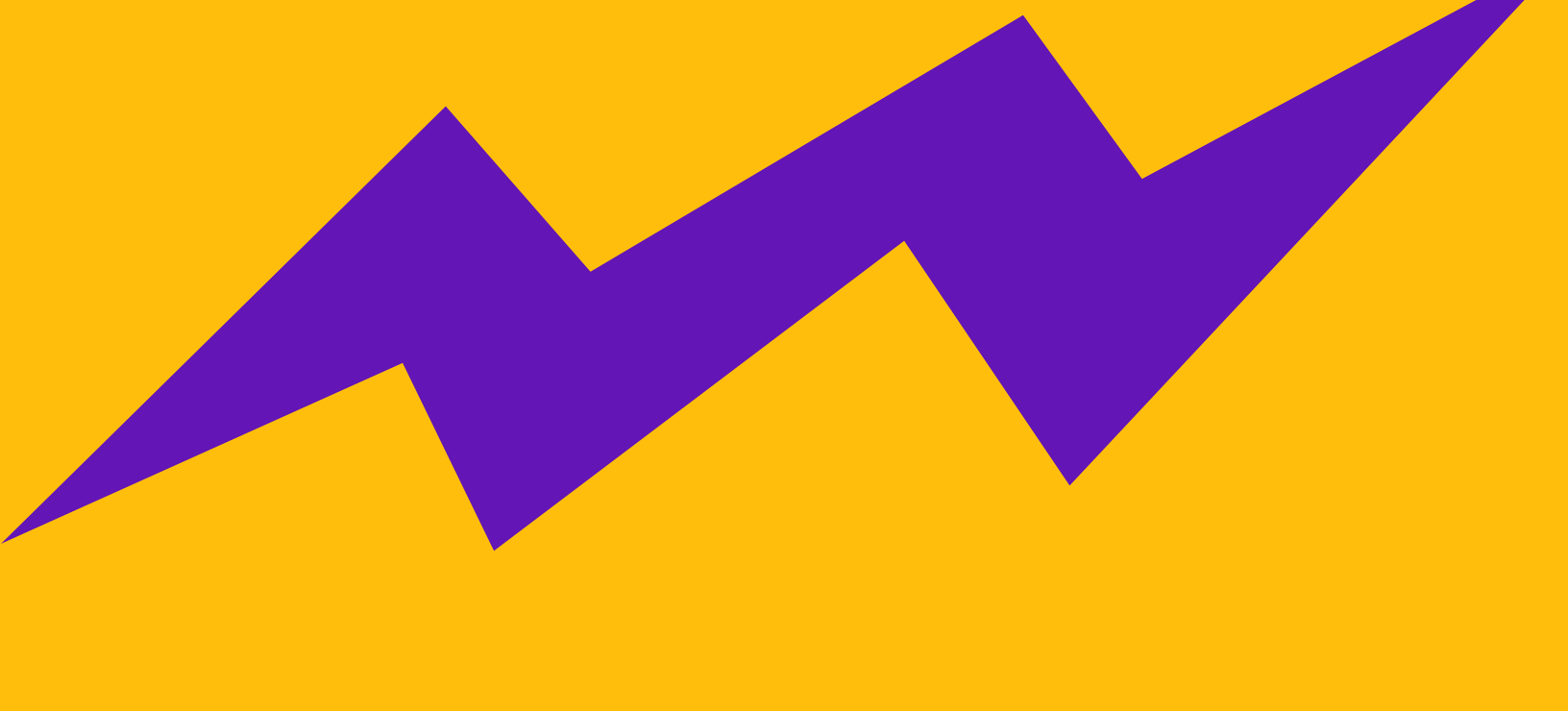


NARRATIVE WORK ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH TO PRODUCE MEANINGFUL CHANGE.

Narrative shift cannot effectively take place outside the context of the difficult daily work of organizing, meeting people's needs, and engaging in deep political education, and skill and relationship building. Organizing is about shifting the common sense that shapes people's understandings of the world, in the context of building relationships and power. There is no magical incantation or combination of words or well-written and placed op-ed or statistic that can singlehandedly change how people understand or build safer communities.

Efforts to shift narratives around public safety must take place within the framework of organizing. Words alone won't shift public perceptions equating policing and punishment with safety that have been deeply embedded within our minds, hearts, relationships and governance for hundreds of years. Changing the way large groups of people think about public investments, public safety, and economic and social relations while creating communities of care happens most effectively in the context of building relationships, and power.





“Organizers built out a true and broad coalition bringing in folks from all of the different aspects of the issue—the environmental, the policing, the gentrification, every issue that this touches.

“There is really no one group or organization that has led this movement, and this story is one that encapsulates a lot of people and groups, most of whose names you’ll never hear because they are in the trenches.

“This is the story of a movement that has refused to accept the lie of inevitability. A movement of broad alliances with a fierce focus, a movement that knows how to embrace official channels like public comment and call-in and also deeply criminalized direct action and direct defense of the forest. A movement that’s been willing to knock doors and talk to neighbors, and a movement that’s not going anywhere until we have the world that we deserve. It’s a movement that’s actively ongoing...”

MICAH HERSKIND, #STOPCOPCITY



**WE NEED TO ADAPT BASED ON LESSONS
LEARNED AND CHANGING CONDITIONS.**

Holding to implementation of a specific set of tactics and deliverables developed under a particular set of conditions eliminates organizers' ability to nimbly shift priorities in response to changing conditions. While it is important to set broad, long-term goals and arenas in which to contest for power to shift material conditions, organizers need the flexibility to shift short-term strategies and approaches in response to changing conditions and to allow for building authentic relationships and genuine accountability in communities.

**WE NEED TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, CONFLICT
RESOLUTION, AND LONG-TERM VISIONING.**

Rushing to meet external demands and secure policy wins can undermine the long-term success of organizing efforts without building a shared long-term vision, shared values and practices, skills and structures to hold conflict in generative and transformative ways, and pathways for leadership development. We need both structure and power to move in formation, even if our structures are horizontally networked and decentralized.


WE NEED TO FIGHT TO FOR SPACES FREE OF POLICE AND PROSECUTORS TO DREAM AND BUILD PUBLIC SAFETY.

“Don’t give up on keeping cops away from that table because I think we’ve been able to have much more productive conversations among Durham residents that disagree on that body because we didn’t have that overbearing force distracting us.”—**Manju Rajendran, Durham Beyond Policing**

The presence or involvement of law enforcement in processes of “reimagining public safety” stifles collective imaginations, directing conversations back to one-size-fits-all solutions that look like, involve, or collaborate with policing—and often continue to direct resources to police departments. Organizers in Austin and Durham successfully kept law enforcement representatives out of public safety task forces, allowing space for more creative and generative conversations about what will increase collective safety beyond policing.

CROSS-MOVEMENT ORGANIZING IS ESSENTIAL.

Defund organizers are working closely and building relationships with organizers in health care, housing, education, climate, labor, anti-violence and reproductive justice movements—particularly in the context of developing non-police mental health crisis responses, resisting the criminalization of unhoused people and youth, removing police from educational and health care spaces, increasing public sector wages and benefits, and highlighting survivor calls for effective means of preventing, interrupting, and healing from violence without the violence of policing. These efforts increase collective power while recognizing that criminalized communities exist at the intersections of multiples sites and forms of structural violence.



“We realize that divesting from policing systems and investing in the Black community goes hand in hand with climate justice work, housing justice work, transportation justice, Indigenous sovereignty, all of it. We know that places in our city where inequality cuts most deeply, the places that are most disinvested in, are also the places that are most heavily policed...Our work is far from done, but we will not go back to working in silos.”

ANGÉLICA CHÁZARO, SEATTLE SOLIDARITY BUDGET

“We realized that our focus must be on organizing workers at the point of production and service...We’d stand flyer in hand at the gate to their workplace. We’d ask, why does the City of Raleigh put more money in the pockets of police who have a history of brutality and not the workers who keep the city running?...Workers began speaking with us at city council budget hearings, demanding better pay and treatment, and standing with Refund Raleigh as we called for defunding our city’s police and investing in us instead...The lesson here is to understand that our many struggles for social transformation should not be seen in isolation from each other. Look for where the power lies, build an organization that forces capitalists and politicians to listen to your demands, and never speak for the people. Engage in a process that encourages them to speak for themselves.

REFUND RALEIGH



WE NEED TO BUILD LOCAL, TRANSLOCAL STATE AND NATIONAL, AND TRANSNATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

We need to create and resource both local movement ecosystems and state and national infrastructures for networked local organizing, within a broader strategic framework that strives for cohesion and alignment to develop long-term plans and to grow our ability to create communities of care and withstand burnout. Translocal organizing offers opportunities to mount coordinated resistance at the local level with broad impacts at the state, national, and transnational levels. It is also essential for organizers in the US to build relationships and connections to people engaged in similar struggles around the world to share and learn new social and economic relations and forms of governance.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

“There’s no end date to this work...it will never be over until we are all liberated, until we are all free... So it’s always so important that we get the resources that we need, in the places that we need, in the communities that we need...”—**Cass Bowers, African American Roundtable**

We are in a protracted struggle to fundamentally change the way our societies and communities are structured, how we relate to each other, how we meet our individual and collective needs, and how we respond to conflict, harm, and violence. Communities need long-term, substantial, flexible investments to build organizations, spaces, and movements in which we can practice the world we are building and be in conversation around fundamental questions that offer greater clarity on the path to get there.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, DEFUND ORGANIZERS ARE FOCUSED ON THE FOLLOWING GOALS:



Continuing to build membership, leadership, and power to secure demands through deep community organizing



Extracting power and resources from policing through budget and policy advocacy, participatory budgeting, people's movement assemblies, and public safety task forces



Building and implementing the community safety programs they have organized the state to fund



Continuing to build skills, infrastructure, and strategies to create greater safety in communities



Continuing to build and strengthen relationships across organizations and communities at the local, state, regional, national, and international level

“It’s not going to be an overnight process, much as we want it to be. It’s going to take years of experimentation, years of testing and failing, years of refining, years of trying to figure out—what does governance look like? What is this world we want to build? Every day we are adding additional paint strokes into what that world will look like.”

DEVIN ANDERSON, AFRICAN AMERICAN ROUNDTABLE

RECOMMENDATIONS

We need to collectively make deep and long-term investments in organizing efforts that prioritize:



Community outreach, participatory research, and deep community conversations about how to achieve greater safety and collective well-being



Building infrastructure for outreach, membership, political education, and leadership development



Deepening skills in de-escalation, conflict mediation, transformative justice, community care, and politicized healing



Meeting material needs of communities in the context of organizing and building power



Experimentation, practice, and learning with respect to community-based safety strategies



Deepening and building relationships among organizations and formations toward creating community ecosystems of collective care



Cross-community learning and collaboration



Building containers for translocal and transnational organizing toward divestment from policing and punishment and investment in individual and collective safety and well-being



Rest and respite

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was written by Andrea J. Ritchie, gathering and reflecting the wisdom and brilliance shared by organizers across the country supported through the OSF Cities Initiative and the Community Resource Hub Defund Fellowship, as well as participants in the June 2022 Abolitionist Organizing Network Gathering at the Allied Media Conference and the Community Resource Hub Invest/Divest Learning Communities.

Design and cover art by [Danbee Kim](#).

RESOURCES

Over the past two years, Interrupting Criminalization has created the following resources with and for organizers across the country working to divest from policing and build safer communities:

[#DefundPolice Report Back \(2022\)](#)

[#DefundPolice Report Back Extended Cut \(2022\)](#)

[The Demand is Still #DefundthePolice #FundthePeople #DefendBlackLives \(2021\)](#)

[So is this Actually an Abolitionist Proposal or Strategy?](#) A Collection of Resources to Aid in Evaluation and Reflection

[Navigating Public Safety Task Forces](#)

[Cops Don't Stop Violence: Combating Narratives used to Defend Police Instead of Defunding Them](#)

[Defund Police, Invest in Community Care: A Guide to Alternative Mental Health Crisis Responses](#) and a monthly Building Non-Police Crisis Responses [Practice Space](#)

One Million Experiments [website](#), zines and [podcast](#)

Building Your Abolitionist Toolbox [series](#)

[Mapping the PIC](#)

[In It Together: A Framework for Conflict Transformation In Movement-Building Groups](#)

[Police Abolition 101: Messages When Facing Doubts](#)

[Police Responses to Domestic Violence: A Fact Sheet](#)

[What About the Rapists?](#)

[Shrouded in Silence](#), a comprehensive report documenting the underreported systemic issue of police sexual violence, which often takes place in the context of calls for police assistance, and [Breaking the Silence](#), a curriculum, which includes narrative intervention strategies, for organizers and service providers working to uplift and address sexual violence by law enforcement

[TJ Skill Up](#) Report-Back

[Beyond Do No Harm principles](#) and network of communities and providers working to take cops out of care

[Abolition and the State](#), a reflection and discussion guide for organizers

[Don't be a Copagandist](#)

[No More Police: A Case for Abolition](#)

