




DEMOCRACY & FREEDOM IN THE MAKING

SPRING 2022



CONNECT WITH HIGHLANDER









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HIGHLANDER OVER TIME

In 2022, the Highlander Research and Education Center is celebrating 90 years addressing the needs of the people we serve in the United States South and Appalachia. In the words of Co-Executive Director Allyn Maxfield-Steele, "Highlander lives in the past, present, and future every day." Since 1932, Highlander has centered the experiences of directly-impacted people in our region, knowing that together we have the solutions to address the challenges we face in our communities and to build more just, equitable, and sustainable systems and structures. Our workshops and programming bring people together across issues, identity, and geography to share and build skills, knowledge, and strategies for transformative social change.

This work has created strong movement infrastructure in the South and Appalachia, building networks and organizing efforts that advanced the labor movements of the 1930s and 40s, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s, and environmental, economic, and racial justice organizing across decades.

Today, this work is fortifying movement in the 21st Century by building the leadership of youth, LGBTQ+, and Black and Brown organizers; advancing solidarity economies to dismantle capitalism and extractive industries in our region; creating capacity for movement organizations through fiscal sponsorships and hands-on network support to groups like the Movement for Black Lives and the Southern Movement Assembly; shifting resources to build power within our region; and making sure Southern freedom fighters not only have a seat at decision-making tables, but are leading national and global efforts to shift systems and structures that all too often have incubated oppression and exploitation in our home communities.

PROGRAM UPDATES

SEPTIMA CLARK LEARNING CENTER

The [Septima Clark Learning Center](#) is the home of Highlander's new library and archive, bringing new opportunities for visitors to engage with movement history and learn from our many resources.

Throughout the summer of 2021, staff librarian archivists Susan Williams and Ashby Haywood hosted "Up Close with the Septima Clark Learning Center", a monthly series online digging deeper into the Center's many offerings - [check them out here](#) and stay tuned for more sessions coming in 2022!

Susan and Ashby are also working consistently to recover and digitize historical documents related to our work and Southern organizing, and are preparing a digital history timeline to honor Highlander's 90th anniversary in 2022.

Contact: Susan, susan@highlandercenter.org,
Ashby, ashby@highlandercenter.org



SEEDS OF FIRE

Our youth organizing program [Seeds of Fire](#), led by Rosemary Paz and Cal Lane, hosted two fellowships in 2021 for young people organizing on the ground across the South and Appalachia, and funded six projects led by youth organizers in the region to boost capacity in their work and communities.

The [TRANSformative Cohort](#) provided direct support for five trans and gender variant young people, and The Seeds of Fire Methodology Fellowship hosted seven fellows who each focused on one of Highlander's methodologies in their organizing work, providing project funding, peer mentorship, a network of support, and monthly training and skill-building session.

In 2022, the program is convening a network of its previous Advisory Committee members to strengthen youth autonomy in distributing SOF Fund mini-grants, expand training opportunities, and increase intergenerational space for grassroots organizing.

Contact: Rosemary, rosemary@highlandercenter.org,
Cal, cal@highlandercenter.org.

CULTURAL ORGANIZING

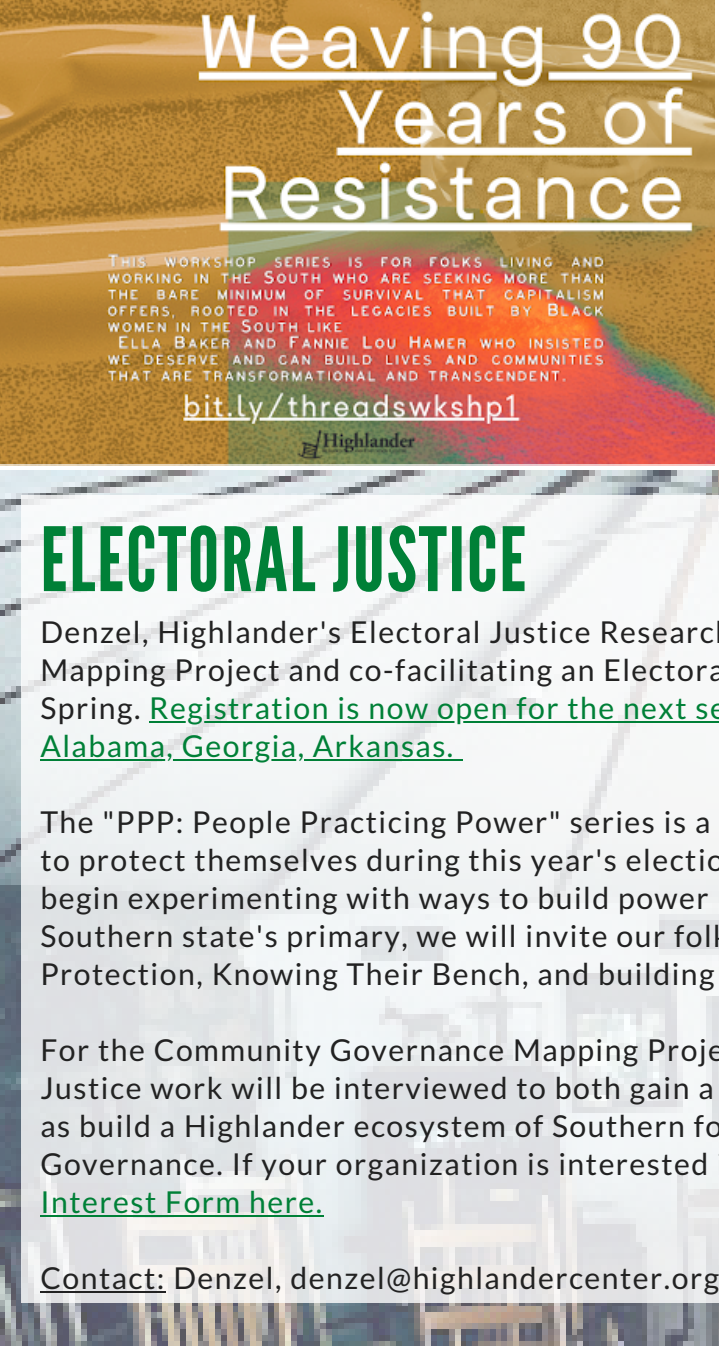
Highlander Cultural Organizer Je Naé Taylor had a busy year in 2020-21 supporting movement in cultivating joy and building resilience through cultural work. This collective work and its impact is featured in a new video "[Recipes for Culture](#)" celebrating all that was accomplished in a challenging and historic year through the celebration of culture.

The work continued in Summer 2021 as Je Naé collaborated in the "On the Road Again" listening tour with cultural workers and community organizers, and hosted a series of workshops examining how organizers define the work of being a catalyst for social movements - check out this work at <https://highlandercenter.org/cultural-organizing/>.

Stay tuned in 2022 for an upcoming artist residency, a cultural organizing toolkit, Parties at the Polls, and updated curricula and training opportunities!

Contact: Je Naé, jenae@highlandercenter.org





To ensure Highlander is sustainable toward our 100th year and beyond, our Development Team has introduced "The Gift of Chaos" in 2022, a new donor sharing and education series to deepen our base's skills and storytelling for peer-to-peer fundraising. This three-part series is the first step in our commitment to maintaining consistent conversations with Highlander's donors about your role in re-imagining philanthropy in the South and at-large. If you missed the March sessions, we'll be back with another session in May!

Contact:
Mia: mia@highlandercenter.org
Isaac: isaac@highlandercenter.org

Save the Date for Highlander's 90th Homecoming Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2022!

We celebrated our 89th Homecoming in 2021 with the theme "Reflecting and Rising", bringing hundreds of movement folks together with amazing Southern organizers and freedom fighters in a weekend full of conversations and learning that left us replenished and ready for the work ahead.

In case you missed it, all the links to the recordings and the full slate of videos from the 2021 weekend are available on [Highlander's website](#) and our [Vimeo page](#).





Our 2022 [Threads workshop series is now underway!](#) Threads is about grassroots community organizing for transformation, combining popular education methodologies with campaigns to demand a better world and to build real community-based alternatives. It's for folks living and working in the South who are seeking more than the bare minimum of survival that capitalism offers, rooted in the legacies built by Black women in the South.

Participants are pushed to think beyond the constant reactionary state created by the converging crises of fascism and racial capitalism amid the pandemic to imagine what alternative systems and ways of living look like in the South, including solidarity economies, collective governance, and shared power. The series is a springboard for folks to build analysis, share knowledge, and take action through serious, catalyzed grassroots organizing.

ELECTORAL JUSTICE

Denzel, Highlander's Electoral Justice Researcher and Educator, is leading a Community Governance Mapping Project and co-facilitating an Electoral Justice workshop series, "People Practicing Power" this Spring. [Registration is now open for the next session April 30 for folks in West Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas.](#)

The "PPP: People Practicing Power" series is a Highlander intervention ensuring our folks are equipped to protect themselves during this election season, know who is running and what's at stake, and begin experimenting with ways to build power between election cycles. On Saturdays before each Southern state's primary, we will invite our folks from each state to ground themselves in Election Protection, Knowing Their Bench, and building Power beyond the Polls.

For the Community Governance Mapping Project, Southern grassroots organizations doing Electoral Justice work will be interviewed to both gain a deeper understanding of their landscape and work, as well as build a Highlander ecosystem of Southern formations dedicated to learning and practicing Community Governance. If your organization is interested in being interviewed, [please complete the CG Interview Interest Form here](#).

Contact: Denzel, denzel@highlandercenter.org



CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CAMP

[Children's Justice Camp](#) 2022 registration is now open! Camp will take place in person at the Highlander Center July 18-24, 2022, unless COVID protocols require us to move to virtual programming. Our theme this year is: "Replanting Our Roots - Grounding Yourself!" We'll explore culture, ecosystems, mythology, and all the identities that affirm your existence! We are so excited to meet and share space with your camper(s)!

Registration is open to young people ages 6-12 (at the time of camp in July). [Register today and learn more here.](#)



Beyond Transition: Appalachia's Pathway to Justice and Transformation

The Highlander Center [Appalachian Transition Fellowship](#) program closed its third and final cohort in 2019 and Highlander immediately set out to inform the next phase of our work in the region. From 2020-2021, Highlander worked with Dialogue + Design Associates to develop and anchor a listening and assessment process to learn more about the values and principles embedded in and underlying just transition work throughout Central Appalachia since the fellowship was initiated. The lessons are highlighted in an exciting new report we are excited to release, "[Beyond Transition: Appalachia's Pathway to Justice and Transformation](#)" sharing case studies, strategies, opportunities and challenges lifted up by the interviewees, centering the voices of Black, Brown, Indigenous, low- and no-income, young, and Queer people organizing in our region.

Learn more: Elizabeth, elizabeth@highlandercenter.org

ECONOMICS AND GOVERNANCE


Highlander [Solidarity Economy](#) educators David, April, and Denzel support organizers and communities in practice to shift economies toward collective ownership, participatory democracy, and democratic governance that builds people's power.

[Applications are now open for Highlander's 2022 Solidarity Squadship: Southern Beyond Survival 2022 Fellowship!](#)

The Solidarity Squadship is an innovative movement accompaniment cohort program, organized by Highlander Center's Economics and Governance and Cultural Organizing Programs. The program engages "squads" - groups of three or four organizers from communities across the South - in a cohort learning community over the course of several months.

Participants are paid stipends, provided with funding and assistance around organizing actions and people's assemblies, and gathered together on-site and virtually for workshops, restoration, and check-ins.

Contact: David, david@highlandercenter.org,
April, april@highlandercenter.org,
Denzel, denzel@highlandercenter.org



HIGHLANDER METHODOLOGIES

Highlander's Education Pods partnered with artist [Gabriela Hurtado-Ramos](#) to create these beautiful one-page education tools spotlighting each of Highlander's methodologies. Download them in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and use them as you wish, and share them out! We're excited to currently be offering our [Threads workshop series](#), digging into each methodology.

Education Pods Coordinator: Trina, trina@highlandercenter.org
Education Pods Administrative Assistant: Kayla, kayla@highlandercenter.org



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