

LOVE THE PEOPLE

BUILDING POWER THROUGH SANCTUARY

AORTA Webinar Series

January 31, February 14 and February 28, 2018



AORTA

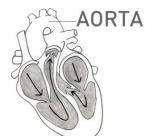
*anti-oppression resource
& training alliance*

Session 2

LOVE THE PEOPLE

Defending Our Demonstrations
February 14, 2018, 1-2:30 pm ET

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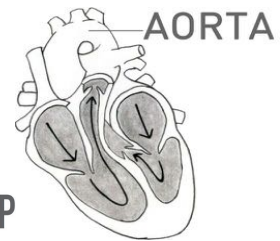
LOVE THE PEOPLE: DEFENDING OUR DEMONSTRATIONS + MOVEMENT SPACES

Welcome! Type into the Chat Box:

- ★ Your **name** +
- ★ Where you are calling **from** +
- ★ **What does collective action mean to you?** What's a snapshot from your streets that gives us a glimpse?

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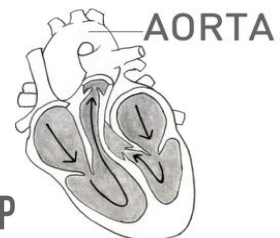
WELCOME FROM AORTA

AORTA Anti Oppression Resource and Training Alliance

- WHO: worker-owned cooperative devoted to strengthening movements for social justice and solidarity economy.
- WHAT WE DO: expand the capacity of cooperative, collective, and community based projects through education, training, and planning.
- KEEP IN TOUCH: info@aorta.coop

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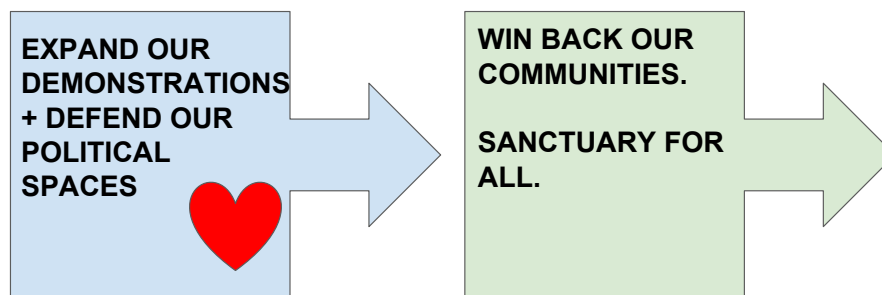


WELCOME FROM AORTA



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TRANSFORM OUR
HOMES +
NEIGHBORHOODS +
ORGANIZATIONS +
WORKPLACES +
INTIMATE SPACES +
HOUSES OF FAITH +
RELATIONSHIPS

EXPAND OUR
DEMONSTRATIONS
+ DEFEND OUR
POLITICAL
SPACES



WIN BACK OUR
COMMUNITIES.

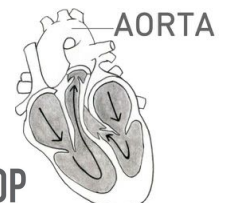
SANCTUARY FOR
ALL.

*If there is to be a wall built, it needs to be **a wall of us**, pushing back on the violence and destruction with everything we've got. Pushing back and ending its existence.*

-Toshi Reagon



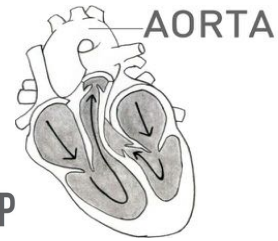
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DEFENDING OUR DEMONSTRATIONS

AGENDA

- Introductions and goals
- What is movement marshaling?
- Getting rooted in values and purpose
- Knowing yourself
- Context is everything
- Steps to facing trouble
- Lessons from guests about defending and expanding our demonstration spaces
- Closing



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SUPPORT THIS AND FUTURE TRAININGS



- If you are able, please give to AORTA to support this training series and future webinars
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- bit.ly/supportAORTA

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AGREEMENTS

- We recognize the limits of a public forum and distant format. Participants, **please don't share sensitive content about actions**, since we won't be able to protect the confidentiality such sharing would deserve.
- There are contradictions, complexity, and challenges in this work. Let's struggle through and also **give ample space for hope to flourish**.
- There is **no formula**. There are **many pathways**. **No one knows everything; together we know a lot.**

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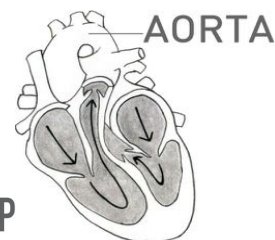
THE WEBINAR IS NOT THE WORK

This webinar assumes you have attended or will attend an embodied training (not merely a briefing) for movement marshals, and that you will practice these techniques as part of an organized, welcomed cohort in the streets.

We'll remind you of some of the core concepts covered in a real day-long embodied training. See *you in the streets!*

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GRATITUDES FOR TODAY'S CONTENT

This presentation was created by AORTA Anti-Oppression Resource and Training Team adapted from resources generously shared with our movements by **Ready the Ground Training Team**; **Jewish Voice for Peace**; and **Vision Change Win**.



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"We don't think you fight fire with fire; we think you fight fire with water... We're going to have to struggle. We're going to have to struggle relentlessly to bring about some peace, because the people that we're asking for peace, they are a bunch of megalomaniac warmongers, and they don't even understand what peace means."

-Fred Hampton, Chicago Black Panther Party, 1969



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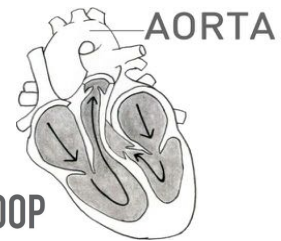
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GOALS FOR TODAY

- Understand the principles of marshaling and defending our political spaces
- Practice problem solving in a way that is consistent with our values
- Deepen understanding of our own responses and needs when trouble arises

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ROLE OF MOVEMENT MARSHALS

We serve the demonstration to **help it operate smoothly** and **achieve its goals**. We **amplify the message** and **embody the purpose** of the demonstration.

We do not act as police or bouncers.

We are not there to tell our fellow demonstrators how to demonstrate.

We only intervene in situations that detract from the smooth operation of the event or the clarity of the message.

We never intend to de-escalate the movement or the enthusiasm of action participants.

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ABCD's OF INTERVENTION

- **Accountability** – to organizations, participants, values
- **Boundaries** – understand the physical perimeters and political parameters
- **Communication** – keep info flowing through the team and communicate to participants
- **De-escalation** – prevent or minimize situations that can bring harm to participants or that would interrupt the action as planned

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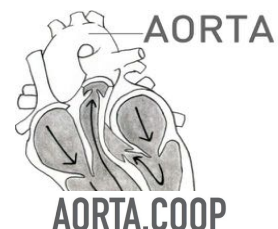
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WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SAFETY?

“We envision a safe, resilient world where everyone can thrive, where we live in powerful communities organized around collective liberation, not abuse or exploitation. Violence and trauma become opportunities to practice individual and collective transformation. Every living thing is valued as a vital part of a larger whole.”

-Communities United Against Violence

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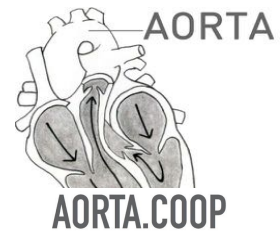


GETTING ROOTED IN YOUR VALUES

What are the values that bring you to this work?

How might those values anchor you during an intervention?

Please share in the chat box!



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CENTER AROUND YOUR PURPOSE



KNOWING YOURSELF

How do you react to trouble? Fight; flight; freeze?

How does your body and identity impact what you bring into a charged situation?

What three things can you do to center yourself?



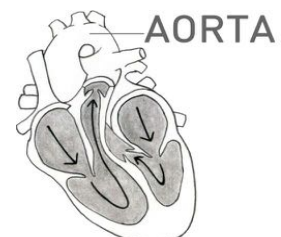
From Cat Willet's Bystander Intervention Training

YOU AND YOUR SURROUNDINGS

How do different physical situations impact how you de-escalate?

How do you know that you are committed to intervention?

Are there scenarios you know are not best for you to intervene?



GET TO KNOW YOUR MARSHAL PARTNER

How might I need support?

How might I avoid support, and need it anyway?

Two people working in a tight team can have a much wider influence on a situation than they could if they spread out.

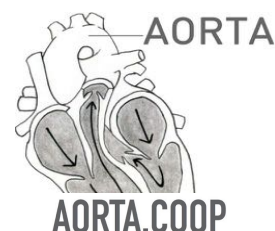
Stick with your marshal partner.

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ROLE OF THE MOVEMENT MARSHAL

1. Create a culture of welcome and inclusion.
2. Provide good information.
3. Set the tone for the gathering.
4. Intervene in cases of *trouble*.
5. Work in pairs.



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ROLE OF THE MOVEMENT MARSHAL

1. **Welcome people** as they join demonstrations of people power. **Creating a culture of welcome and inclusion is the first step in creating safer, braver spaces.**



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ROLE OF THE MOVEMENT MARSHAL

2. **Provide good information.** Help to make a space accessible to all by providing good information. In the unlikely case of an emergency, direct people to needed resources. Help event participants understand the plan (and any unplanned happenings).



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ROLE OF THE MOVEMENT MARSHAL

3. Set the tone for the gathering. Be the 'skin' of a gathering so that the people participating can feel a sense of their own power and voices. Meetings can have many different tones. Model productive participation.



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ROLE OF THE MOVEMENT MARSHAL

4. Intervene in cases of *trouble*. We define trouble as anything that interferes with the smooth operation of our event or interferes with the clarity of our message. If it doesn't do one of those two things, we don't call it trouble.



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ROLE OF THE MOVEMENT MARSHAL

5. **Work in pairs.** Always. Two people working in a tight team can have a much wider influence on the situation than they would if they spread out. Stick with your de-escalation partner.



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HANDLING TROUBLE

1. Keep the trouble from spreading.)
2. Help the situation shift away from being trouble.
3. Keep boundaries clear.
4. Follow up.



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VERBAL INTERVENTION TECHNIQUES

PREVENT. Listen for tension; breezily interrupt; separate people if necessary.

BE WHERE THEY'RE AT. This is not a moment to convince.

ACTIVE LISTENING. We can practice active listening even when in disagreement

CONVERSATIONAL OFFERS. Identify a point of agreement and build from there.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ENGAGE. Intentional non-engagement can be powerful.

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VERBAL INTERVENTION TECHNIQUES, continued

DISTRACTION. Offer to show them something.

GET HELP. Try approaching someone who is connected to the escalated person to assist you

CHOICES. Expand a sense of available options.

SURPRISE. "You're right. I should not have said that."

RESPECT. Don't assume you know someone by the way they look.

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BODY LANGUAGE TOOLS

POSTURE– Equal, not threatening.

WARM, NEUTRAL FACE– Not hostile, not beaming.

VOICE– Gentle and firm tones.

EYE CONTACT– Not same across cultures, sometimes can help humanize and make people less likely to hurt you.

PAUSE– Don't be afraid to pause or do nothing..

ALLOW FOR EXIT– Try not to block someone's exit.

DON'T POINT OR SHAKE FINGERS

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KNOWN ESCALATORS

- Aggressive body language
- Not listening
- Criticizing
- Name-calling
- Arguing
- Minimizing
- Threatening
- Ordering

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STORYTELLING: DEFEND OUR DEMOS

**Toshi
Reagon**



**Kriti
Sharma**



**Rosza Daniel
Lang/Levitsky**



**Shawn
Fischer**



**Jenna
Peters-Golden**



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KRITI SHARMA



Kriti Sharma is a founding member of Ready the Ground Training Team, based in the Triangle region of North Carolina.

She is a life-affirming biologist, author of *Interdependence: Biology and Beyond*, and a lover of poems and puns.

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ROSZA DANIEL LANG/LEVITSKY



Credit: Noah Church

Rosza Daniel Lang/Levitsky is a cultural worker and organizer based at Brooklyn's Glitter House. Never learned how to make art for art's sake; rarely likes working alone. Can't stop picking things up on the street and making other things out of them – outfits, collectives, performances, barricades, essays, meals... Third-generation radical; second-generation dyke; just another diasporist gendertreyf mischling who identifies with, not as. Founding member of the Rude Mechanical Orchestra's Tactical Spectacle and Jewish Voice for Peace's Artists & Cultural Workers Council (Palestine solidarity on the cultural front). Other current projects include: JUST LIKE THAT, a militant research and tactical toolbox project on dancers' embodied knowledge and political movements.

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SHAWN FISCHER



Shawn Fischer has been a member of About Face: Veterans Against the War since 2014. As a Service Member he conducted four deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, working as a Surveillance Operator and Intelligence Analyst. His transition to an anti-war/anti-imperialist position was fueled not only by his direct experiences in America's war zones, but also by the images and stories of extreme police militarization that have been taking place in the United States targeting marginalized communities and those that choose to speak out against it.

Living in Southwest Virginia, most of Shawn's time and effort goes into organizing against issues that could be viewed as intersecting with the Military-Industrial-Complex. His efforts with antifascist/antiracist activism; jailhouse/prison organizing; and building working class solidarity in Virginia's New River Valley, has allowed him to see the power that can be found in autonomous direct action that is directed towards creating a more equitable and just existence for everyone.

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JENNA PETERS-GOLDEN



Rooted in Philadelphia, Jenna has been honored to facilitate workshops, retreats, and transformational processes with hundreds of co-ops, movement organizations, and other groups fighting for justice. A queer Jew from Michigan, Jenna is anchored to projects and campaigns fighting for community control and liberation.

Jenna and her beloved, Molly, are among many still facing charges from protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock. Jenna was honored to be one of the members of the security crew for the National Domestic Workers Alliance + It Takes Roots contingent at the Women's March last year.

Jenna is a founding worker-owner of AORTA.

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TOSHI REAGON



Toshi Reagon is a singer, composer, musician, curator and producer with a profound ear for sonic Americana—from folk to funk, from blues to rock.

Toshi recently developed an opera based on Octavia E. Butler's novel, *Parable of the Sower*. This project received a 2016 NEFA National Theater Project Creation & Touring Grant. She has released several recordings and produced music for many artist including Sweet Honey In The Rock, Lizz Wright, Climbing PoeTree and Carl Hancock Rux.

Toshi knows the power of song to focus, unite and mobilize people.

Credit: Kevin Yatarola

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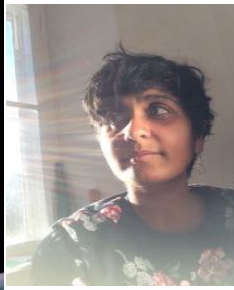
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STORYTELLING: DEFEND OUR DEMOS

**Toshi
Reagon**



**Kriti
Sharma**



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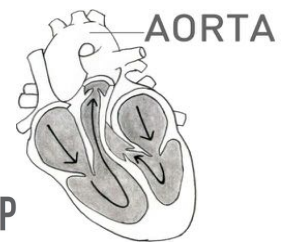


“We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers. Our power is in our ability to make things unworkable. The only weapon we have is our bodies. And we need to tuck them in places so wheels don't turn.”

—Bayard Rustin



QUESTIONS? ANSWERS!



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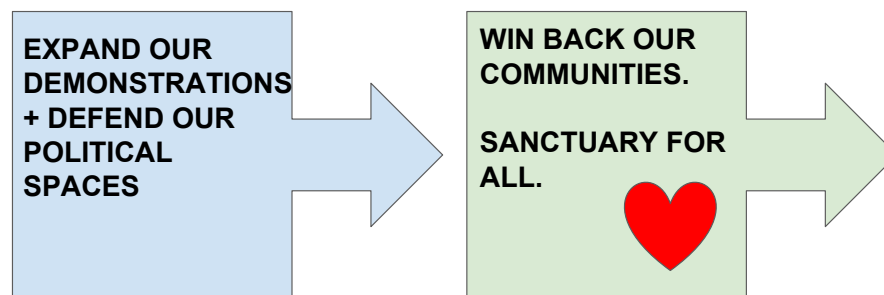
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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

- ★ *How are you going to ground and take care of yourselves and each other as you're leaving this space?*
- ★ **Agustina Vidal** from **Icarus Project** will be holding space for **the next 2 hours** in our private Facebook group. Or you can e-mail **agustina@icarusproject.net** to request support.
- ★ Don't forget to sign up for our private FB group for discussion. Please share your feedback in the emailed survey.
- ★ Next session is **Sanctuary for All: Community Defense** on **February 28th, 1-2:30pm EST.**

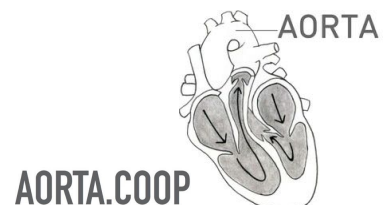
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-Toshi Reagon



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