Hello Movement Sisters and Brother,

We hope you all are well and settling back into your respective cities with energy and spirit of our collective time together. As we reflect back to our reunion at the Edith Macy Conference Center in New York for our 5th Convening—we are optimistic and hopeful about the work that we have built/created together. As a brief recap, Convening 5 focused on the core elements of Raising Visibility and Racial Equity. The week proved to be a time of reflection, a place to learn and share with spaciousness to grow in our connection to our individual and collective core strengths, and to be with one another in beloved community. We also had the opportunity to explore our new way of being into practice within the movement through live opportunity labs. We left the week with a transformative and collaborative energy and with Convening 6 coming up in four months, we are excited to continue building our collective momentum forward together as Movement Makers.

We honored the spirit and energy of our Cohort Sisters who could not attend with us the entire convening—Nicole, Jodeen, Lovisa, and Heidi. We have made arrangements for buddy pairs to connect with you: Heidi (Archi) Lovisa (Kelly) Jodeen (Marcia) Annika (Nicole)
Over the course of our week, we held the outcomes reflected in this visual below as the rocks that grounded our work, and as stepping stones to move us forward together.

And some of the highlights of the week to reflect the outcomes:

- **Strengthened relationships**: From day 1 to day 5 and beyond, one could feel the magic of our beloved community. Our collective way of being together felt joyous and playful while also filled with love, mutual support, learning and curiosity, kindness and resiliency to undertake creative and challenging work.

- **Core Strength**: Norma Wong struck just the right balance between clarity and confusion as we searched to unearth and discover our individual and collective core strengths. From the “you’re getting hot” game of discovering whether or not you were in the “territory” of landing your core strength. We all continued to dig and explore, through peer coaching and physical practice, as we worked to identify and learn how to move from our individual and collective core strengths.

- **Racial Equity Framework**: Our dear sisters, Monica and Rachael, facilitated thought-provoking sessions with a structural analysis of race, class, power and privilege. Rather than a lecture format, cohort members were engaged in the facilitating and learning process, being broken into small groups, doing teach-backs of concepts previously learned, to creatively refreshing our memories (ask about the Maura Harris-Perry and Mrs. Bower’s interview). Through these small group discussions on key concepts and common grounds, our cohort continued to develop our collective understanding of and applied the analysis of structural racism to the work of ending violence against women and girls.

- **Raising Visibility**: We were honored to hear the voices and stories communities often silenced by structural racism. Through in-depth conversations with some of our Movement Maker colleagues, we learned the historical and generational trauma experienced by native communities from Corrine (of Cohort 1) and her colleagues Peggy Bird (from Corrine’s community in NM), and Eileen Hudon (from Nicole Matthew community in MN). Our very own Tony provided an overview of the evolution of A Call To Men to further understand the experience of organizing with communities of boys and men to end violence against women and girls.

- **Live Opportunity Labs**: With live opportunities popping up regularly, our cohort of Movement Makers were excited to practice and explore strategies to evaluate live opportunities and identify meaningful solutions together. After an activity to identify our collective passions and energy, we landed into two live opportunities: “Ferguson” and “Children and their Mothers on the Border.” Each Live Opportunity group rotated through “live opportunity labs” using two
different lenses: strategic thinking/mapping real false solutions with Norma and Kristen and applying a racial equity lens with Rinku.

**Broaden our horizon:** As the week came to a close we turned our attention to the horizon. Through a visioning exercise, the cohort was invited to look forward with hope and optimism, with a guiding quote from Nelson Mandela: “Part of being optimistic is keeping one’s head pointed toward the sun, one’s feet moving forward.” There was lots of excitement and optimism (the day felt more like a Tuesday morning than a Friday) for the work moving forward as folks began to cluster their energy using visual images/postcards. The visualization became a collective art gallery of the beautiful work that lies ahead.

Cohort 2 Art Gallery: Our Work Forward Together

As you can see from the image, there is great passion interweaving and connecting each of our pieces of work together—and we are honored to help be the weaver for folks. As we pivot and orientate ourselves to the horizon, here are some next steps:

**Convening Follow Up**

- **Reimbursements:** due to Oanh-Nhi by **next Friday, October 3**!
- **Documentation:** Here are the notes, charts, pictures available to you; let Emily know what else you might need.
Next Convening

December 8-12, 2014 in Aptos, CA at the Seascape Resort Monterey Bay

The purpose of this convening is to foster strong, deep relationships between Movement Makers across cohorts and create a broader sense of community. We hope this time together will provide an opportunity for Movement Makers to be engaged in and understand each other’s work with spaciousness for Cohort 2 to wrap up well and build a pathway together as Alumni of Movement Makers. We hope this week will be an opportunity to build a solid core of Movement Makers who are committed to working together to lead this movement in a new direction that enables us to affect bold social change.

C6 Design Team: Aimee, Annika, Cristy, Debbie, Kelly, Leiana, Marcia, Monique, Nan, Trina

Our work moving forward:

Trina and Kristen will be in contact about connecting via the postcards; how to bring folks together; and the various streams of work next week.

Be on the lookout for your post card next week!

Blogs

There is lots of excitement to SHARE externally what we’ve been doing! Here is what folks signed up for. Trina and Michelle will follow up with folks directly. There is still also room for other themes/topics for folks to share and in alternative formats.

September

Archi: Wrote an amazing blog during the convening, “How I Honor My Heart Beat”
Eesha and Heidi: co-authored “Are We Listening, Acting on Our Commitments to Women and Girl” on the impact on the Syrian Conflict on Women and Girls. October
Sher: Art Response

November

Tony: A Call to Men Institute: Engaging Men in MEV
Archi: Immigration/Children and their Mother on the Border/Detention

December

Chandra: Mothering a White Son: Race, Class, Power, Privilege

January

Sher: Artivism: Art in the Movement to End Violence Against Women and Girls
Conferences/Upcoming Events/Announcements:

**A Call to Men International Institute to End Gender Based Violence**, November 3-5 2014 in Harlem, NY. Theme: *Creating the Next Generation of Manhood with a Special Focus on Trafficking and Demand in Collaboration with Sanctuary for Families*. Tony extended the invitation for folks to attend who are interested in engaging boys and men in the movement.

**Race Forward Facing Race Conference**, November 13-15, 2014 in Dallas, TX. Jodeen put out a call to gather folks who will be attending the conference to have a cross-movement discussion with racial equity folks around intersecting a gender analysis.

**INCITE! Color Of Violence 4 Conference**, March 26 – 29, 2015 at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Theme: Beyond the State: Inciting Transformative Possibilities. MEV has submitted two proposals on Research and an Intersectional Movement. We will keep folks updated on the status of those proposals.

**Honoring our Heartbeats: A Tour to End Forced Marriage in the US**: Archi invited folks to attend tour to raise awareness of forced marriage and its impact on individuals in the United States. For the tour schedule visit [here](#).

**NFL Game Changer**: During our convening last week in NY, several members of cohort 2 got together to discuss a strategy to engage in movement building, working with the NFL and other sports leagues to properly respond and address issues of violence against women on and off the field. The link to the letter is [here](#).

**More?** Conferences/Announcements/Upcoming Events—please let us know, so we can share with your Movement Maker community.

Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. --Nelson Mandela

Sincerely,

Your MEV Team