NARRATIVE AREA OF OPPORTUNITY:

CYCLE-BREAKING, WORLD-MAKING

A framing that offers the story of reparations as a transformative process that not only creates a pro-Black world but tears down all oppressive systems and roots out anti-Blackness.

Best used against:

- Too Long Ago Narrative
- Just the Cash Narrative
- Reverse Racism Narrative
- Diaspora at Odds Narrative

Articulate:

- What oppressive systems, if any, am I currently trying to dismantle?
- What are the details (economic, social, political, cultural) of the world I am trying to make? How will reparations push us toward that goal?
- Who is the villain you’re targeting (system or individual)—bring their character to life.
- What might this frame communicate about you/your organization’s values?
- Where have frames of abolition, liberation, decolonization, and transformation been used before in social movements? How were they employed? What was their impact?
- What stories exist that bring this frame to life? What data exists? What is an articulation of this frame that can make the destination seem within reach for audiences?
- Where does the Cycle-Breaking, World-Making frame show up in popular culture?
Align:

- In what ways does your organization currently speak on topics of inequality?
- What other social movements (past or current) can this frame be connected to?
- In what ways, if at all, does the frame of decolonization intersect with the work that you/your organization does?
- How does tearing down oppression align with you/your organization’s mission/voice?
- How does building a new society align with you/your organization’s mission/voice?

Amplify

- How can you employ the Cycle-Breaking, World-Making frame when discussing wealth, income, race, and/or gender inequality?
- What audiences might resonate most with this frame and why?
- Where does this frame already show up within society? Where are there opportunities for this frame to grow in parts of society, and why?

Activity

You are given a reset button that gives you the power to create a brand-new society. The button allows you to discard and keep certain aspects of the United States. Once you hit the button, you’re asked the following questions:

- What aspects, if any, of the United States would you keep (think culturally, economically, politically)? Why would you keep these aspects?
- What aspects, if any, of the United States would you discard? Why would you discard these aspects?
- What new holidays exist in your new society? How do we celebrate them, and why?
- What new traditions exist in your new society? How do we practice them, and why?
- Who holds power in your new society? How is it distributed?