

Roundtable on Values and Justice

Examining racial disparities in the criminal legal system and reimagining justice in Oklahoma

Co-hosted by The Education and Employment Ministry, Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform, Langston University, the Greenwood Cultural Center, and the Justice Lab at Columbia University

Roundtable Agenda

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Greenwood Cultural Center, 322 North Greenwood Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120

8:45 AM **BREAKFAST AND CHECK-IN**

9:15 AM **KEYNOTE PANEL**
aurelius francisco, Bruce Western, George Young, Mashilah Powell, and Amanda Swope

10:30 AM **WELCOME AND ROUNDTABLE FRAMEWORK**
Kris Steele and Yvita Fox Crider

11:00 AM **INTRODUCTIONS**
Anamika Dwivedi

A diverse group of Oklahomans with unique personal and professional backgrounds have been coming together for the past year to discuss the future of justice in the state. Everyone sitting around this table today has either been a part of these conversations or been exposed to the process. What has brought you to this work? What is your hope for the future of justice in Oklahoma?

12:00 PM **LUNCH**

1:00 PM **THE RACIAL HISTORY OF OKLAHOMA'S CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM**
Tiffany Crutcher and Kym Cravatt

Historic and current policies and practices have led to incarceration on an unprecedented scale in Oklahoma. What is the relationship between our racialized history and our current policies? How can examining our history help us achieve justice in the present? How can we use history to shape current justice system practice, and reform efforts in the state?

3:00 PM **BREAK**

3:15 PM **THE UNITED STATES' VIOLENT EXCEPTIONALISM AND PUNITIVE EXCESS**

George Young and Francie Ekwerekwu

U.S. history is characterized by exceptional levels of violence: it was founded by colonial occupation and the genocide of first peoples, and sustained by an economy of enslaved people. Collective violence continued against African Americans following Reconstruction, and, in the late 20th century, high levels of lethal violence emerged in U.S. cities. What explains U.S. violent exceptionalism? How has structural violence become ingrained in U.S. culture and society? How has it been codified by law, or supported politically? In what ways does Oklahoma suffer from the violence that is unique to the U.S.? Can we rectify and heal from our violent past as a country? As a state?

5:15 PM **WEDNESDAY WRAP-UP**

Yvita Fox Crider and Anamika Dwivedi

Thursday, February 2, 2023

Greenwood Cultural Center, 322 North Greenwood Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120

8:30 AM **BREAKFAST**

9:30 AM **GROUNDING & REFLECTIONS FROM DAY ONE**

Kris Steele and Yvita Fox Crider

10:30 AM **CREATING SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION, AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES**

Tina Brown and Hannah Royce

Communities thrive when their residents feel safe, secure, and socially integrated. Such flourishing depends on systems that provide basic welfare such as food and housing, access to public education and healthcare, and the freedom to work and associate with others. However, all too often, the punitive force of the criminal legal system impacts these sectors' ability to meet such social needs. How have these sectors addressed the effects of—and separated themselves from—the criminal justice system? Do sectors outside the traditional justice system have promising practices and solutions that ensure safety, harm reduction, and healthy communities? What are their successes and their challenges? How can we learn from and amplify their work? Where can sectors build stronger, more inclusive, and more intersectional collaborations to create community safety, resiliency, and thriving?

12:00 PM **LUNCH**

1:00 PM THE OKLAHOMA STANDARD AND THE VALUES OF THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

Ayana Lawson and Adam Luck

In the wake of the Oklahoma City Bombing, Oklahomans demonstrated their deep care for one another and modeled generosity towards strangers in the face of a collective crisis. This harrowing moment gave rise to the Oklahoma Standard: the three values of acts of service, kindness, and honor. These values can guide decision making for both institutions and individuals—about what policies should be set, which practices are acceptable, what budgets should look like, and more. How are these values reflected in the day-to-day work of achieving safety and justice? Can they answer the call to address Oklahoma’s history of racism, and its impact on the current legal system? Are there additional values that we might consider to reduce, repair, or remove the conflicts and shortcomings—both societal and interpersonal—that lead to state violence?

3:00 PM BREAK

3:15 PM ASPIRATIONS FOR MOVEMENT BUILDING AND NARRATIVE CHANGE

Cece Jones-Davis and Reggie Hines

Over the past several months, Oklahomans participating in the Square One Project have been reflecting on how to change the narrative around harm and punishment. They have considered how to reimagine justice in the state. This final session is an opportunity to take stock of contributors’ hard work and the themes that arose from their discussions. What is the power of truth telling about difficult topics, including the racial disparities in the justice system? How can sector-specific ways to address harms support coalition-building that strengthen efforts to reimagine justice? How do we build that coalition for change? Who needs to be included in this process and what does it take to include these voices? How do we go past tinkering around the edges and achieve real change? What is holding us back as we aspire to reimagine justice?

5:15PM ROUNDTABLE WRAP-UP

Kris Steele and Yvita Fox Crider

6:00 PM RECEPTION AND CALL TO ACTION

Gregory II and PoetryAndChill