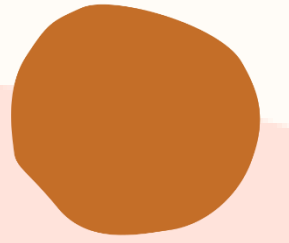




HEALING JUSTICESB

"FOR THE LOVE OF BLACK PEOPLE"

collective leadership



KRYSTLE FARMER SIEGHART

Co-Founder

(she/her/hers)

SIMONE AKILA RUSKAMP

Co-Founder

(she/her/hers)

MARIAH JONES- BISQUERA

Lead Organzier

(she/her/hers)

LETICIA FORNEY RESCH

Lead Organzier

(she/her/hers)

HEALING JUSTICESB

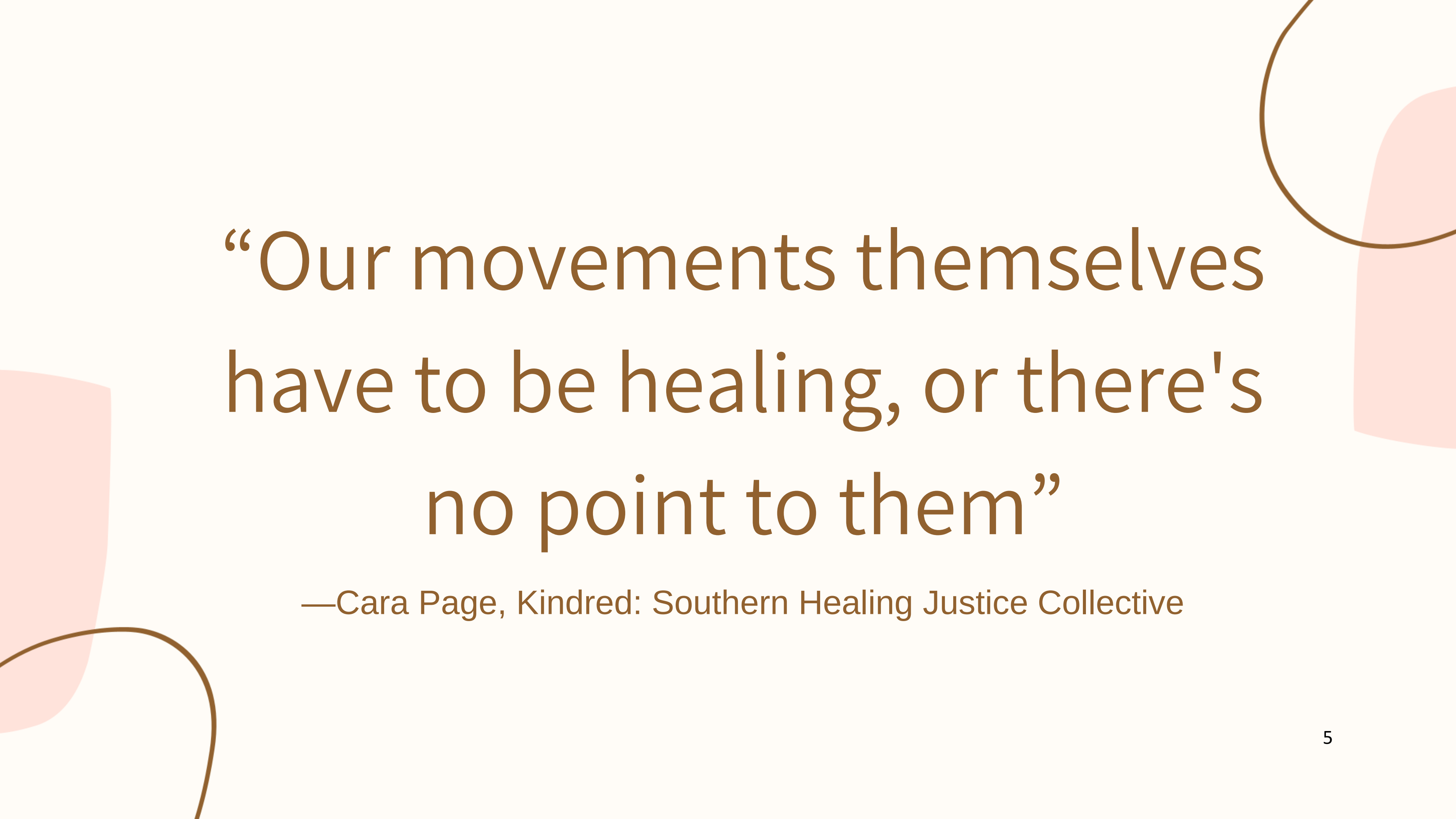
We are a Black led and Black centered organizing collective in Santa Barbara County. Formed in response to the de-stabilizing impacts of racism and anti-blackness, we aspire to build resilient communities for the African diaspora and other marginalized people along the Central Coast. We understand that our collective healing and liberation is essential to creating a more equitable Santa Barbara, therefore we center, uplift, and meaningfully create space that empowers ALL Black people including; Black LGBTQ+ people, Black people with disabilities, undocumented Black people, underserved Black people and Black people that speak in African American Vernacular English.

Our Positioning

We, Healing Justice Santa Barbara, would like to acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Chumash on which we are organizing today. As a Black-led and centered group, we deeply understand the ways that capitalism has succeeded by exploiting the labor of Black bodies; so too have these harmful systems benefited from obscuring the existence of Indigenous people because by doing so those aligned with colonialism can feel less conflicted about laying claim to land and resources which are not theirs.

Our words and actions matter. It is not enough to point to public statements that repeat the values of diversity and inclusion. Instead, we must interrogate and actively respond to our own complicity in the oppression of others. Our communities are deserving of more, and so as a collective of stolen people organizing on stolen land, we fully support our Chumash siblings in pushing for Indigenous reparations and sovereignty.





“Our movements themselves
have to be healing, or there's
no point to them”

—Cara Page, Kindred: Southern Healing Justice Collective

01

SUMMER UPRISINGS OF 2020

It was important to us to name that Black people can protest as a form of grief, as a way of affirming that we have lost something even as the world may say otherwise.

02

FIRST DEMANDS TO COMMUNITY

We gathered as 3,000 in solidarity and left as 3,000 in action. As speakers took space on stage, organizers at home released a set of demands and actions

03

NEW LEAVES ON DEEP ROOTS

Our activism spans as individuals spans over five years, but we understand that we are just a continuation of centuries of Black resistance in Santa Barbara County.

origin story

collective demands

WE DEMAND THAT SB CITY COUNCIL ADOPT A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING POLICE BRUTALITY AND DECLARE RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

WE DEMAND TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM THE SB POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WE DEMAND TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM THE SB COUNTY SHERIFF.

WE DEMAND PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF BLACK LANDMARKS, RATHER THAN MONUMENTS TO WHITE SUPREMACY.

WE DEMAND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR AN ANNUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION.

collective fruit

COLLABORATED ON THE DRAFTING AND PUBLISHING OF OVER 5 CITY AND COUNTY PROCLAMATIONS CENTERING BLACK HISTORY AND COMMITMENTS TO ANTI-RACISM

SUCCESSFUL PRESERVATION OF ST. PAUL AME CHURCH AND ONGOING COLLABORATION WITH CITY OF SANTA BARBARA URBAN HISTORIAN

REDISTRIBUTED OVER \$3,000 IN EMERGENCY GRANTS TO BLACK RESIDENTS

ESTABLISHED AND SUPPORTED HISTORIC POLICE OVERSIGHT FORMATION COMMISSION

CREATED NEW EQUITABLE HIRING PRACTICES FOR CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONTINUED 4TH ANNUAL JUNETEENTH (BLACK INDEPENDENCE DAY)

REVISIONED PUBLIC ART AND EXHIBITIONS TO CENTER BLACKNESS AND HEALING

ESTABLISHED HEALING CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UCSB AND THE HOSFORD CLINIC

Our CommUnity Vision

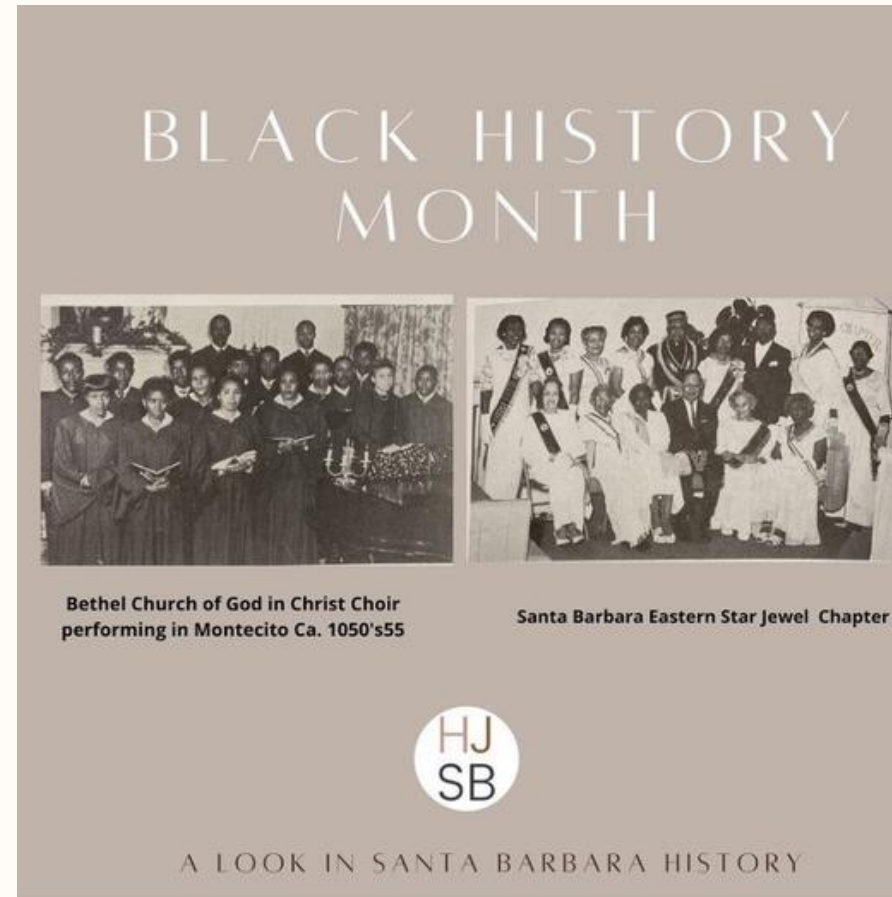


04

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Black Community Meeting

We envision a place that affirms that all Black people belong to one another.



05

PRESERVING LEGACY

Black histories and futures

We envision a place that engages all residents in Black Santa Barbara History and build for inclusive futures



06

ENGAGING VOTERS

Making Informed decisions

We envision a place where Black residents are able to consider meaningful change in the city and beyond

Our CommUnity Vision



01

ACCESSIBLE HEALING

Partnerships with UCSB Hosford Clinic

We envision the Healing Center as a community based clinic, where Black residents are able to access free or low cost therapy.



02

SHOWCASE BLACK JOY

Creating a public archive of local Black artists

We envision rotating gallery exhibitions showcasing local Black creatives

Citizens Chosen to Shape Santa Barbara Police Review Commission
A Highly Qualified and Widely Diverse Group Applied for the 15 Positions



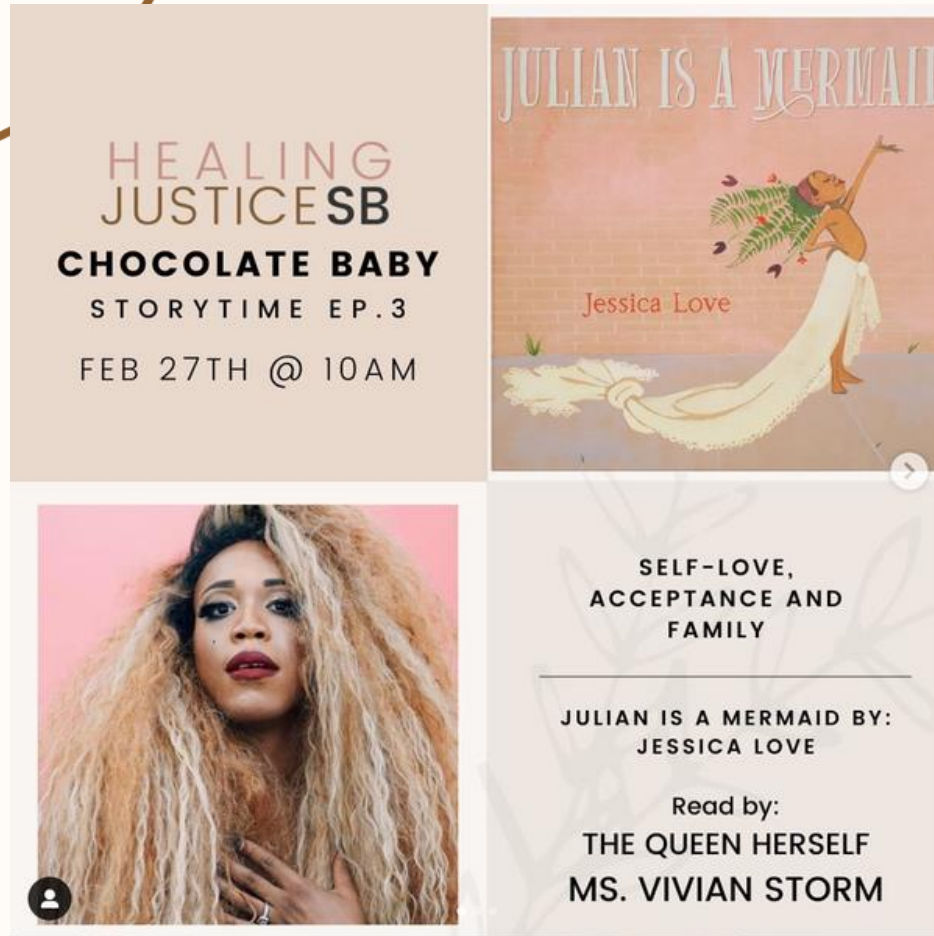
03

RECENTER COMMUNITY SAFETY

Creating spaces that seek community solutions

We envision a space that models de-escalation, restorative and transformative justice

Our CommUnity Vision

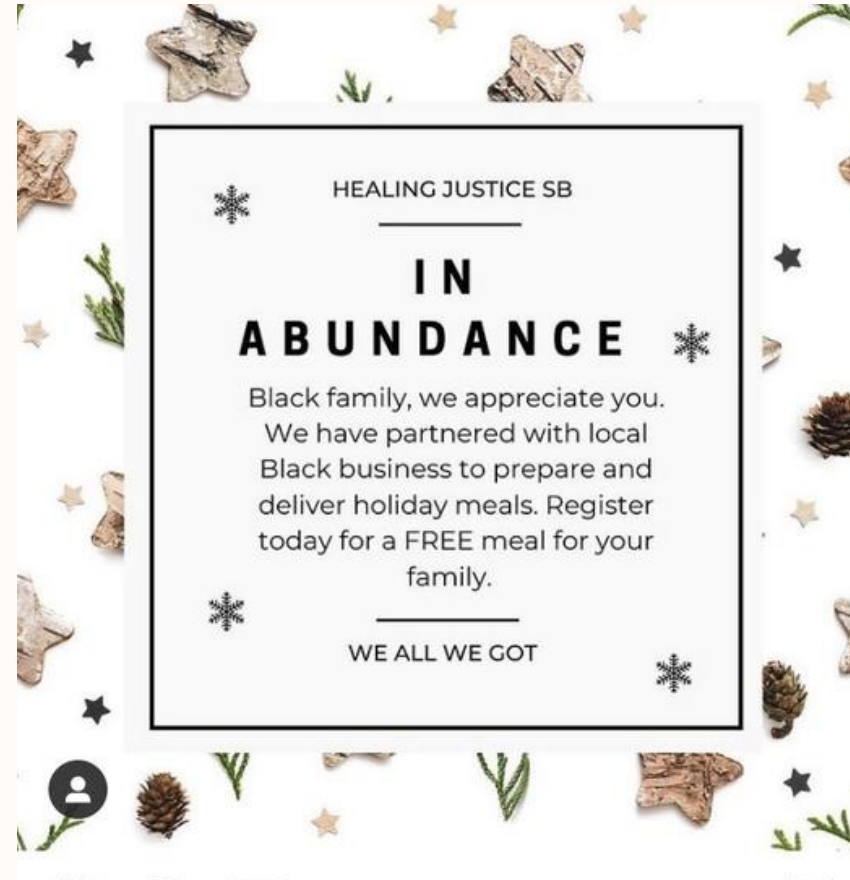


07

CHILDREN ARE CENTERED

Chocolate Baby Story Time

We envision recurring family programming that centers Black children and youth

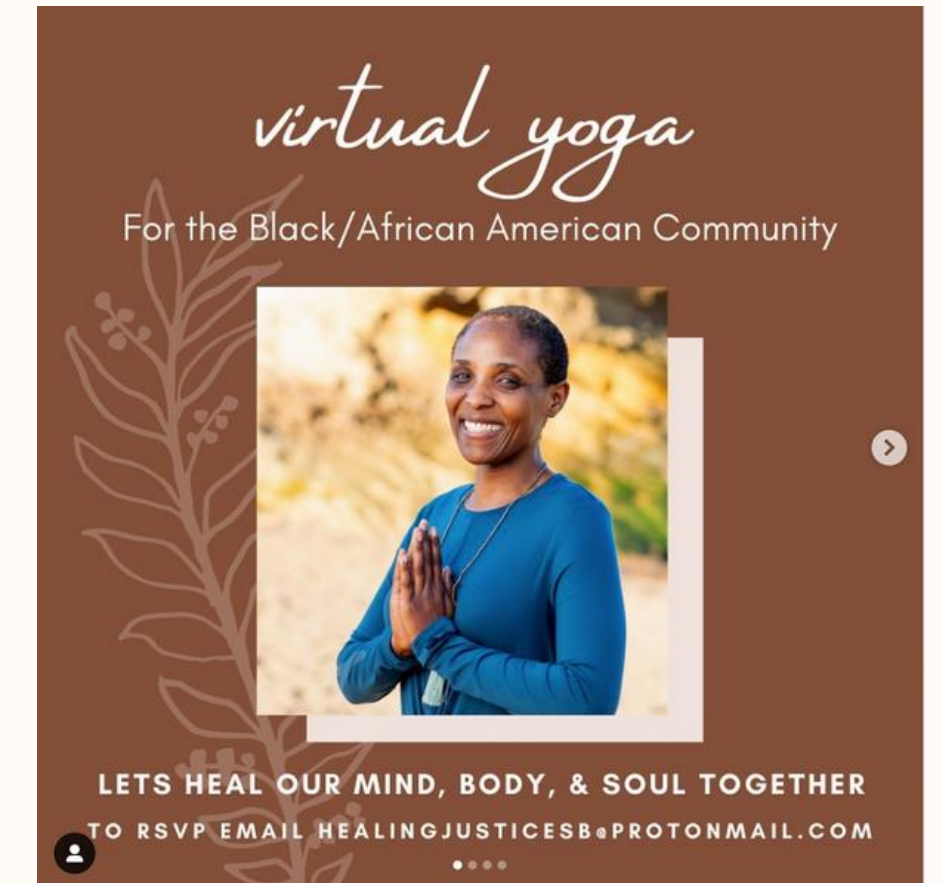


08

FOOD ACCESS

Food that feeds the soul

We envision a culturally responsive food pantry



09

HOLISTIC WELLNESS

Bodies in Movement

We envision a space where all body types and shades are uplifted and nourished.

Our CommUnity Vision



10 JUNETEENTH


Building for Sustainable Futures

Our 2019 celebration hosted over 400 people and the 2021 digital archive and celebration was viewed 13,000 times. We have proven the need, we have proven that we offer responsive and engaging content.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Building for Sustainable Futures

The current gallery space is \$15,000/ month (not including utilities, staff). We need at least \$500,000 to secure a space for 2 years.



We know we can do these things, because we have done them all before.

In the summer of 2020, Santa Barbara City Council unanimously voted to support the establishment of a Black & African American Cultural Resource Center, yet in the months that have passed have made no financial or other meaningful commitments. The time is now. The City of Santa Barbara has a unique opportunity to invest in Black residents. An investment that is overdue, and an investment that comes as the city faces active gentrification.

Our community has spoken. Community safety is not a new 80 million dollar police station, but rather an investment in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color as they build communities based on collaboration, mutual aid, and cooperation.