

TRACY (T-SPIRIT) STANTON

Phone: (314)-688-3042, Email: tracy@tspiritthepoet.com, website: tspiritthepoet.com
Spoken Word Artist/ Movement Builder/ Community Organizer, Trainer/Healer, Program Manager

Objective

To utilize my art, storytelling, organizing and lived experience with the criminal injustice system to connect with my people, specifically, marginalized and ostracized community members. My purpose is to build a movement of healers, organizers, and artists that will collectively work to disrupt, dismantle, and abolish oppressive systems that have historically caused harm, inflicted trauma, and divested from Black Communities. I intend to use every resource within me to build power so that we can collectively and effectively create a world we all can thrive in and where black people aren't bound by white supremacy or capitalism. We know that in order for that to become a reality we must be committed to interpersonal and societal transformation. Two systems must be addressed: The oppressive system that we live in and our central nervous system. We must build a strong movement body while simultaneously moving our bodies. Organizing, Healing Justice, Transformative Justice, and Restorative Justice is the path toward liberation.

Skills

- Active Listening
- Co Active Coaching Competencies
- Goal Setting/ Smart
- Oral and written communication
- Keen organizational skills
- Emotional Intelligence
- Critical Thinking
- Prioritize and implement a work plan
- Base Building
- Program Facilitator
- Program Development
- Debrief/ evaluate meetings, actions, power mapping
- Developing Organizing Strategic Plans
- Develop Campaign Plans
- Build Alliances
- Manage Projects
- Research/Investigate/ analyze history
- Plan events
- Design Graphics and web materials
- Develop Skills training and political education curriculum
- Engage in publicity and public relations
- Pod mapping
- Circle Keeping
- Project Manager
- Creating and Managing Budgets
- Logic Models
- Theory of Change

Professional Experience

- **Director of Movement Building and Storytelling**

- **The Freedom Community Center September 2022 - September 2025**

- *My primary responsibility was stewarding Freedom Community Center efforts in community movement building through leadership development, organizing, partnerships and city and state-based advocacy. I supported the Executive Director in the development of a multi-year power-building strategy and work plans to build a survivor-centered Black liberation movement focused on transformative justice in addition to managing the Movement Building efforts of FCC. My secondary responsibility as the Director is to align FCCs movement of survivors with coalitions (Defund in St. Louis City and across the state to move forward key advocacy priorities identified in the power-building strategy. Lastly as I the Director I was responsible for developing and implementing FCC led advocacy efforts to shrink the size and scope of the legal system and invest those resources into the North St. Louis community.*

- **Campaigns and Programs**

- **Power Builders & PeaceMaking**

- *Our work at FCC begins with building power in Black and poor communities most affected by the trauma of systemic oppression in North St. Louis. Our organizers canvas streets in neighborhoods such as College Hill, Fairgrounds, O'Fallon, Hyde Park, Jeff Vander Lou, and the Ville. We highlight the voices of those directly impacted by violence and support them in developing their leadership as they fight for durable policy change. Every second and fourth Thursday, we host the "We Keep Us Safe - Power Builders Meeting," which gathers Black and poor survivors of violence in North St. Louis. At these meetings and in our canvassing, we educate, share resources, build relationships and politicize people to take action against the systems of punishment and control most notably the police, prosecution and incarceration machines.*

- **N.O.W (New Opportunities for Wellness)**

- *We partner with the Black Healer Collective and Power 4 STL to introduce the second iteration of the New Opportunities for Wellness (NOW) which is a community healing initiative for neighborhoods that have experienced high rates of violence. Healing must extend beyond those hit by the bullets to include the communities in which the bullets are fired. NOW nurtures community members' power to create spaces of healing and well-being in those neighborhoods. We recruited and trained community healers on wellness and healing techniques to recover from their own trauma and respond to their neighbors.*

- **FCC Court Watch STL**

- *Since June 2021 members of FCC courtwatch have borne witness to the systemic injustices of the pretrial process, arbitrary bail requests, and the unjust pretrial detention of people legally presumed innocent in the 22nd Judicial Circuit in St. Louis, MO. To date we have watched over 3,000 court hearings collecting data which we publish to expose the violence that is occurring and to hold our Courts, Judges & Prosecutors accountable to the People. We also tell the stories of that otherwise would go untold.*

- **No More Jail Deaths**

- *Led or participated in over 10 direct actions demanding an end to jail deaths, investment into our communities, and an end to inhumane pretrial processes. Our strategies are informed by directly impacted people including surviving family members of the people who have lost their lives at CJC, people that are currently detained inside of the facility,*

and those who have been released from the jail. We organize with survivors and provide mental, emotional and financial support.

- [Defund. Re-Envision. Transform Campaign](#)
- We are a grassroots campaign which seeks to defund SLMPD, re-envision public safety, and transform St. Louis.
- [The People Plan St. Louis](#)
- The People's Plan is a comprehensive policy agenda designed to help us build power and redistribute resources in St. Louis city.

- **Healing Support Specialist & Community Organizer**

- **[The Freedom Community Center](#) April 2021 to Sept 2022**

- *I supported survivors of harm as they traveled along their journey toward healing, restoration, and repair. I worked in collaboration with the survivors to get them to safety, expand their support system and address any barriers that would prevent them from having optimal health. I supported them while they processed through trauma and regained their power. I also worked closely with people who were responsible for harm. I supported them during their healing process and to take accountability. In addition to this role, I was the lead community organizer for the We Keep Us Safe: Power Builders. I was responsible for building a base of survivors of violence so who are committed to meaningfully addressing and intervening in individual and systemic violence. Engaged in door to door canvassing to invited community members to participate in Power Builders meetings, created and facilitated training to expand our political analysis, hosted community events in order to support the community, and connected them to FCC's advocacy campaigns. I was responsible for collecting members' information to maintain the communication database in order to keep community members informed of meetings and/or activities for Power Builders.. I also co-developed our Membership Model and Curriculum with other organizers. Leading our training efforts.*

- **Client Advocate/Bail Disruptor Jan 2020 – April 2021**

- **[The Bail Project](#)**

- To provide bail assistance for people from marginalized communities that are held in pretrial detention to secure their freedom. Upon release from jail, I provided our clients with emotional and mental support and connected them to local organizations and social services providers to create sustainability within their lives. My role was not only to secure people's release but to disrupt the criminal legal system, and fight mass incarceration. By upholding our holistic model we were able to support clients while they recovered from the collateral consequences of incarceration. I also provided clients with an advocacy platform to fight against this system and expose the problems of the pretrial system that make TBP's work necessary. Ofcourse, this included data collection, court reminders, case management, and story collection and more. The Bail Project was an anchoring organization in the [Closed The Workhouse Campaign](#), which closed the Medium Security Institute in St. Louis, MO

- **Community Organizer / Volunteer 2019 - 2021**

- **Metropolitan Congregations United [Expo St. Louis](#)**

- MCU puts faith into action by developing leaders who move their congregations, organizations and communities to change public policy for the common good. Expo is a taskforce of MCU and it's an acronym for Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing. The St. Louis chapter was built on the same structure and training that has been successful in Wisconsin, which is the founding organization. Expo aims to combine lived

experiences with the training and knowledge base provided by the Gamelial network to deconstruct the prison industrial complex. Exo's motto is "You have the right to not remain silent." Our goal was to humanize individuals that are currently and previously involved in the criminal legal system. Expo also strives to shift the narrative by highlighting what assets to the community justice impacted individuals can be. During my time, we worked on the Unlock the Vote Campaign, Uplifted the Voices of CJC detainees while they were fighting to survive COVID 19 and harsh conditions, and Holding the Dismas House Accountable for the inhumane treatment, unsafe environment, and deplorable conditions of their facility.

- **Custodian July 2018-Jan 2020**

- **Saint Louis University 1 North Grand Blvd 63103**

- To provide the campus dorms and adjacent areas a clean atmosphere.

- **Awards and Affiliations**

- 2019-2021 Board Member Center For Women In Transition 2019-2021
- 2018-2022 Program Facilitator Institute of Peace & Justice
- 2022 Deluxe Power 100 Honoree
- 2022 Streets to Success Awardee
- 2022 Missouri Mental Health Champion Nominee
- 2022 Center For Women In Transition Community Partner Award
- 2019 Staying Power Award
- 2019 Beautiful Transformation Award
- 2019 Presenter with The Clark- Fox Family Foundations Mass Incarceration Initiative

- **Trainings**

- **Mass Liberation**
 - **Train the Trainer Cohort**
 - 2023 [Mass Liberation Project](#)
- **Mid America Arts Alliance 2023 Artist Leadership Cohort**
 - 2023 [Artist Leadership Fellows Fall 2023 Present WorkShares](#)
- **Mass Liberation**
 - 2022 Black Intensive Groundwork (Organizing & Somatics) & 2023 Train The Trainer Cohort, [Mass Liberation Project](#)
- **Survived & Punished**
 - 2022 Survivor Defense Organizer Training Institute, [Survived & Punished](#)
- **Gamelial/ MCU**
 - 2019 Organizing Training

- **Education**

- Anthropedia Foundation (Well-Being Coach)
- St. Louis University (some college)
- Vatterott State College
 - Dental Assistant Diploma, Dean's List, Student Ambassador

Community Building, Campaigns, Media

Current Campaigns listed above.

- **NoMore Jail Deaths Media**
 - [Community concerns escalate about conditions at St. Louis jail](#)
 - [Alderman Calls for St. Louis Corrections Commissioner to Be Fired](#)
 - [St. Louis activists demand better jail conditions, policies after deaths of two detainees](#)
- **Unlock the Vote Campaign**
 - A campaign that is focused on restoring the voting rights of formerly incarcerated people while they are on probation and parole in St. Louis, MO
 - [St. Louis Public Radio](#)
- **Covid- 19 in Prison**
 - An action that was established to apply pressure on the Missouri State Governor and the Director of MODOC concerning the conditions of prisons during the height of Covid-19
 - [St. Louis American/ State Capitol Protest](#)
- **Dismas House Action**
 - An action that was organized to expose the inhumane treatment, inadequate programming, lack of mental health services provided and safety concerns at this Federal Halfway House. Our goal was to ensure that this organization's contract was not renewed, and it was a success.
 - [Stltoday: Shooting inside of the Dismas House](#)
 - [Stltoday Dismas House Loses Federal Contract](#)
 - [Protestors Demand Closser of the Halfway House](#)
 - [EXPO -STL ACTION AT THE DISMAS HOUSE](#)
- **St. Louis City Justice Center Resistance**
 - During Covid 19, several detainees housed inside of the facility took action to address the conditions of the facilities and we aided them in this effort. We refused to allow the media to misrepresent them and the elected official misrepresent.
 - [St. Louis Justice Center Protest Could Change The Conversation On Workhouse's Closure](#)
 - [St. Louis inmates protest again over long trial wait times, COVID-19 fears](#)
- **Close the Workhouse**
 - A campaign was established to close one of the 2 jails in St. Louis, MO. After a 3-4 year campaign, closure is in sight.
 - [Stltoday Closure In Sight](#)