

THE CENTER FOR
CULTURAL
POWER

Cultural Power to Change Society

Favianna Rodriguez August 2022



**CULTURE
IS POWER**



Art and culture shape our understanding of the world around us.





STOLEN LAND
STOLEN LABOR



Between 1525 and 1866, an estimated **12.5 million people** were forcibly taken from Africa.

Between 1492 and 1600, **90% of Indigenous people** in the Americas were murdered.



JACOB LAWRENCE







NINA SIMONE, JAMES BALDWIN, & VICTOR JARA



**Artists bring the vision and
creations for a new paradigm**



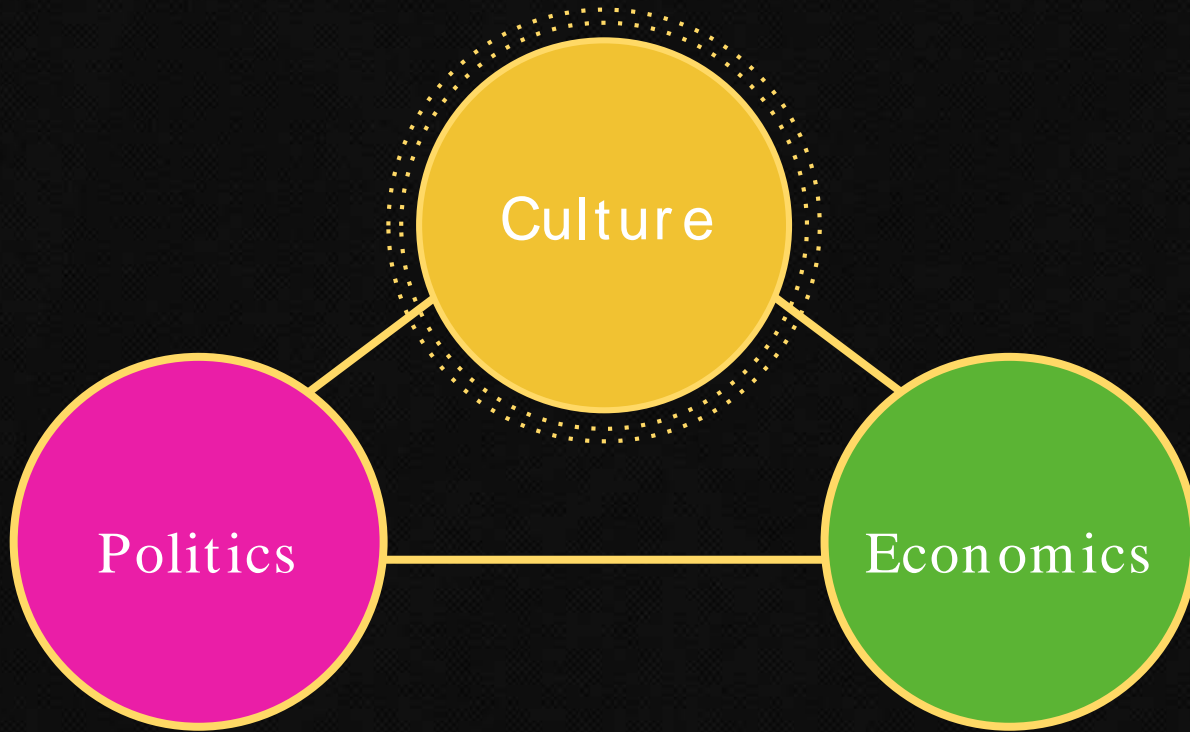
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If they
don't give
you a seat
at the table,
bring a
folding
chair.

Shirley Chisholm



We are world building.

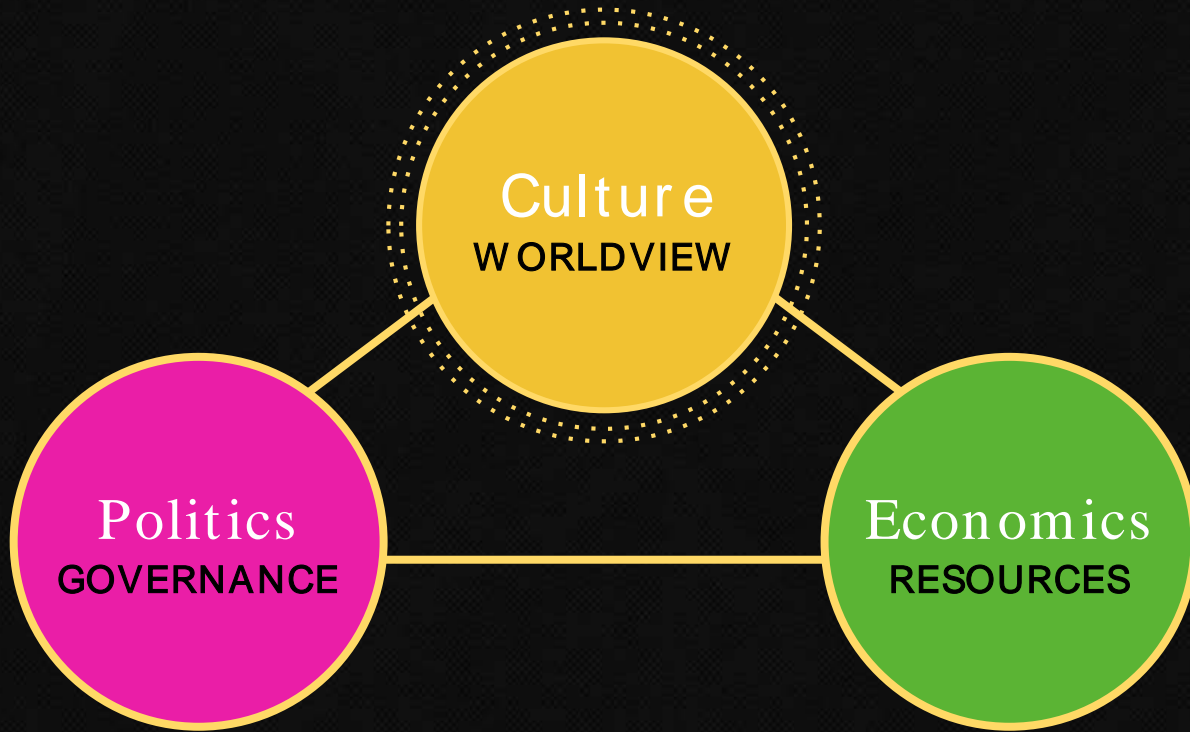


Culture change precedes political change

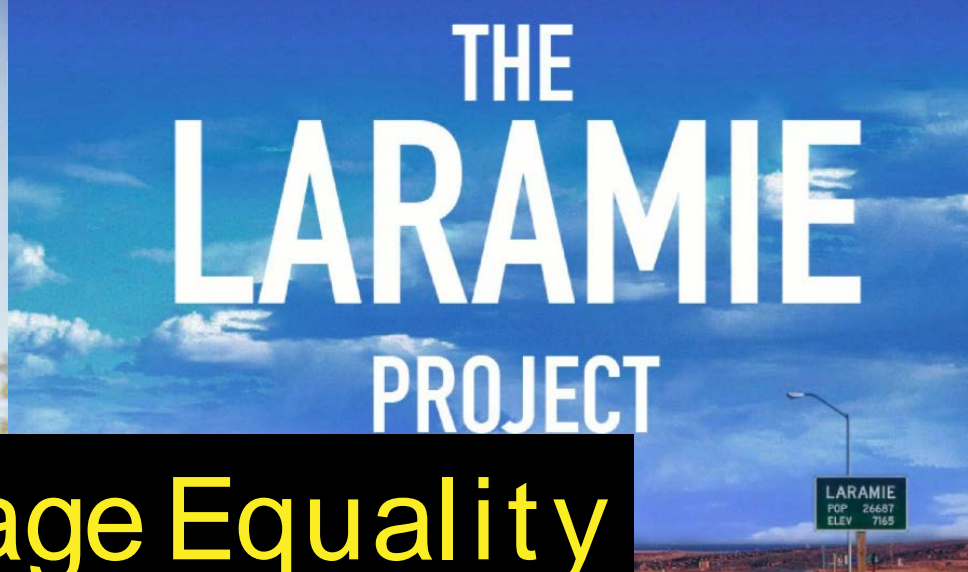


Culture Shapes Worldview





Culture moves faster than politics



Marriage Equality



MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Culture



1987

1997



2000



2012



2013

Politics

1996

D.O.M.A

2004



2008



2009

Matthew Shepard
and James Byrd Jr. Act

2011



2013

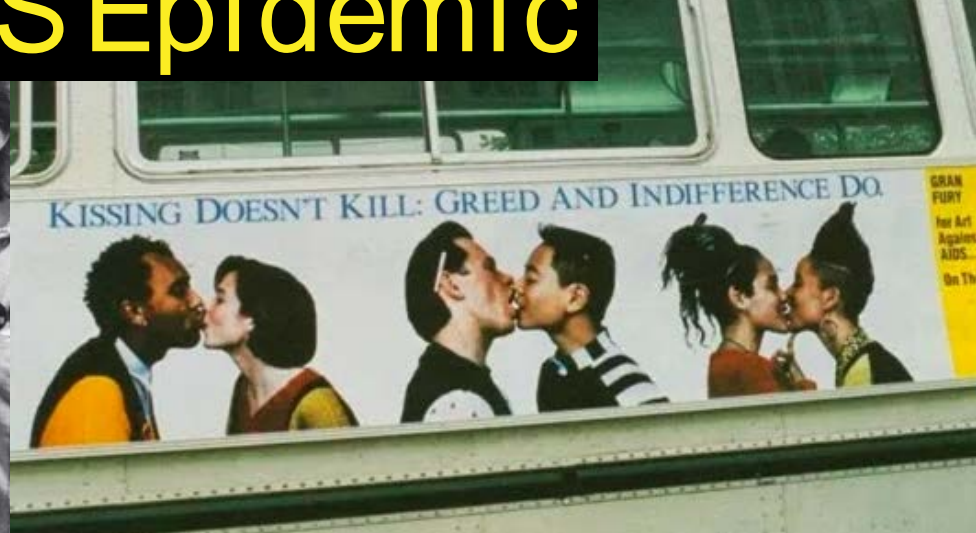


IGNORANCE = FEAR



SILENCE = DEATH

The AIDS Epidemic



Although they
comprise less than
5% of the world
population,
Indigenous peoples
protect 80% of the
Earth's biodiversity.



NEMONTE NENQUIMO



Climate Justice Movement





Understand the power of artists to
advance culture change






The roots of my organization:





1. The power of the
STORY

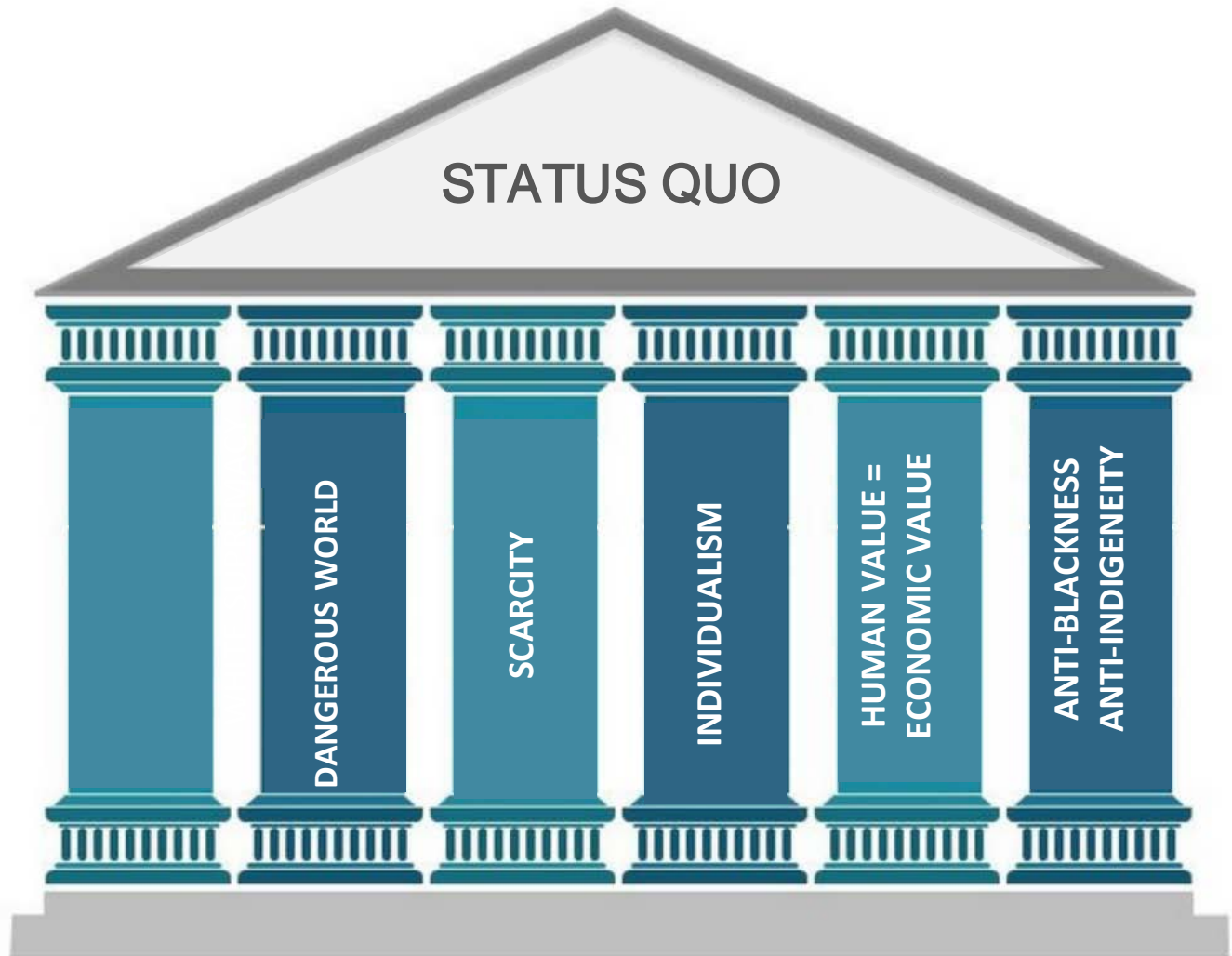


The background is a dark purple field filled with white lines and dots, representing a starry sky or constellations. The lines connect various points, forming geometric shapes and patterns. A prominent feature is a large, white, multi-pointed star-like shape on the left side. The overall aesthetic is that of a night sky or a celestial map.

Stories lead to other stories. Stories help us
make sense of the world.

Narrative Pyramid Tool





STATUS QUO

DANGEROUS WORLD

SCARCITY

INDIVIDUALISM

HUMAN VALUE =
ECONOMIC VALUE

ANTI-BLACKNESS
ANTI-INDIGENITY

Deep Narratives Example

We steward the past and the future

We are interdependent

We all belong

We thrive when we care for each other

Our survival depends on balance

We determine our lives and our future



Interdependence
We recognize our interdependence with each other and with all life. We recognize that our fate is interconnected with each other's, and so we practice mutuality.

Abundance
We recognize that there is enough for all if we live in alignment and the right relationship with the world around us, practicing love, care, community, and regeneration. When we center mindsets of sufficiency and generosity, resources can flourish into abundance. We call people toward an abundance of imagination, to make a leap with us toward our shared future.

Belonging
We see each other, welcome each other, and call each other into community. We recognize and respect the diversity of our peoples and communities, acknowledging differences as invigorating and powerful assets that push us toward transformation. We see each other's joys and struggles with clear eyes, and care for each other as if our own. We recognize the ways that systems have oppressed and harmed people differently and make equity our central practice.

**Narrative System
for our
FUTURE**

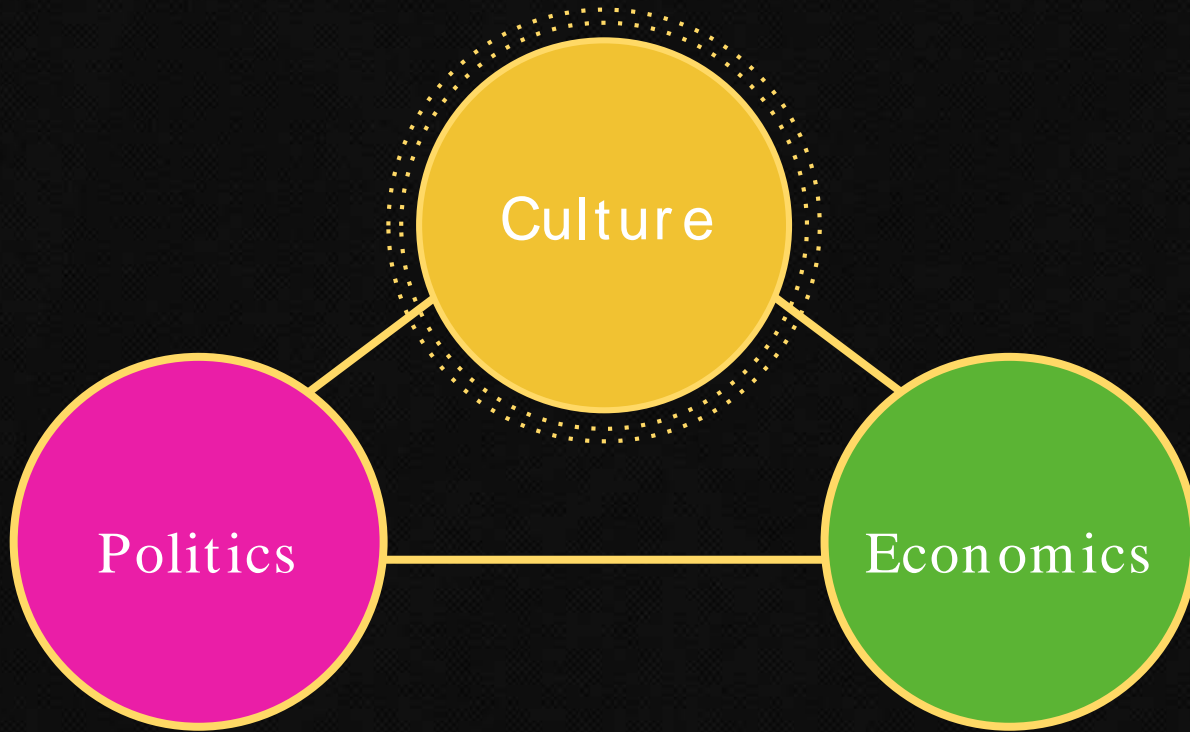
Safety
We collaborate as communities to ensure collective wellbeing and peace with justice. We build these solutions in community and use equity as our guiding principle, seeking to repair the harm against those most impacted.

Dignity
We believe in the inherent value and dignity of all life that exists. All should be able to exist and express their pride in being, practicing and transmitting their identities, such as their cultures, languages, and spiritual beliefs, as long as they do not harm or debase the dignity of others.


Freedom to Thrive
We believe all beings should thrive and that communities and cultures should have equal agency to make decisions about their lives, relationships, communities, and futures. In balance and alignment with our world, we should be able to pursue our dreams, engage in quality and fulfilling work, and live with joy, dignity, and love, regardless of race, national origin, gender identity, class, caste, religion, and ability.

1. The power of the
ARTIST





Culture change precedes political change



Artists shape what we see and give us a lens of interpretation

ARTIST DISRUPTOR

Transformative
Creative Practice



Dismantling
Systems of
Oppression



Artist Superpowers

**CREATOR
MAKER**



**CULTURAL
INSTITUTIONS**

**AUDIENCE
PLATFORM**



ACTION



IDEAS



Cultural Strategy is a practice that leverages the catalytic and emotional power of culture and the arts to shift attitudes, behaviors, resources, narratives, and power.

Lesson Integration Activity

Create a **Culture & Politics Timeline** for your country, map out a particular issue that has changed.

Create a draft **Deep Narratives** list for your organization. What are 3-5 narrative pillars to explore

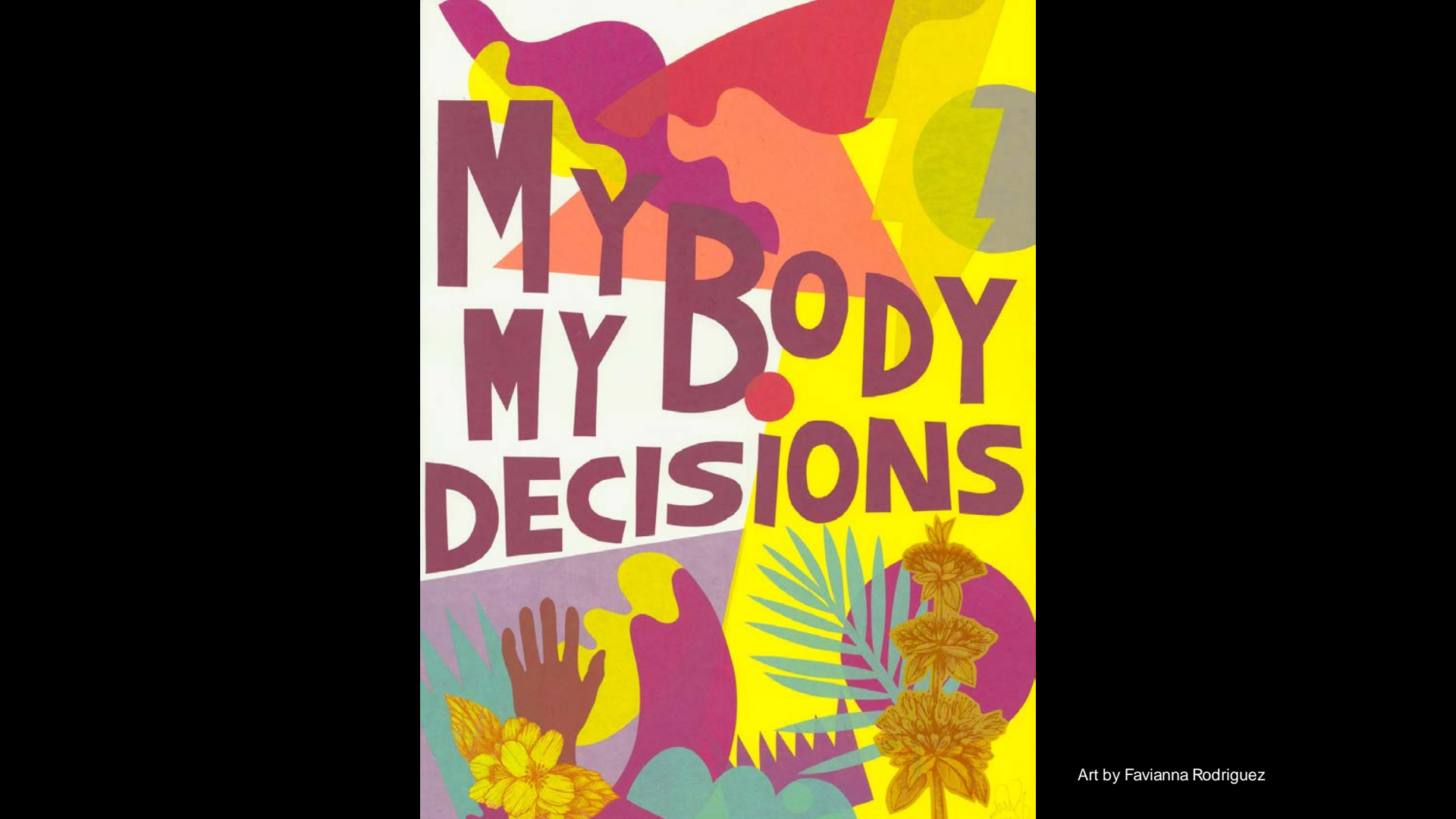
Sketch out a program can you create for artists activists. What would they have to learn? How can they practice their ideas in the field?



I AM HEALING FOR MYSELF



AND FOR PAST GENERATIONS



MY BODY MY BODY DECISIONS

Art by Favianna Rodriguez



migration is beautiful

**FREEDOM
JUSTICE VOICE
POWER**



★ THE
★ REVOLUTION ★
WILL BE
JOYFUL!



FP

1/20

PANDEMIC



CLIMATE CRISIS



The moment calls for systemic solutions

RACIAL RECKONING



ECONOMIC CRISIS



Our Core Strategies



Artist Leadership

Builds the power of artists to advance social change.



Intersectional Storytelling

Activates artists and movement groups to create inspiring stories on issues of migration, climate, and gender justice that uplift directly impacted communities.



Field Building

Builds a field of BIPOC practitioners at the intersection of arts and social justice who create the narrative strategy needed to realize a more just and equitable world.



Our values based
narratives shift world views
from domination to
collaboration and empathy.

From the ground up

