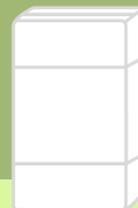


WHAT'S IN YOUR MOVEMENT PANTRY?

FRAMEWORKS



PRACTICES

RELATIONSHIPS



Building Movement Project

Activating Nonprofits | Fueling Change

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Developed by Deepa Iyer & Trish Tchume

What's In Your Movement Pantry?

During the first few weeks of the shutdown, many of us responded to the crisis by stocking up on nonperishable foods we thought we might need to see us through the coming weeks (and months). At home, we put away those staple items that would last a long time but continued to build our meals around the fresh food in the fridge. Then, every few weeks, we felt the need to return to the store and get more items for the week ahead. Meanwhile, the pantry we had already stocked stayed full – and forgotten.

In movement spaces, we do something similar. We operate from a place of scarcity and smallness that can lead to competition, gatekeeping, hoarding, and defensiveness. We often feel the urgency to invent new frameworks and analyses and to innovate solutions and narratives, particularly in times of crisis. We tend to scold our collective selves for not being prepared enough or organized enough. We ignore or dismiss the lessons we have learned, the relationships we have fostered, and the readiness of the general public to the narratives and ideas we have been building over time.

Instead, what might it mean if we operated from a place of abundance and bountifulness, if we provided for each other with the harvest and storage that we have been building for years?

For example, the COVID-19 pandemic and the most recent uprisings for racial justice are testing all of us around the globe in ways we could never have imagined, and many of us are naturally seeking out fresh ideas and tools to respond to these unprecedented times. Meanwhile, many of the relationships, institutions, tools, and bold ideas that we have cultivated over the past several years or even decades – our movement pantry, if you will – are revealing their hardiness and their versatility.

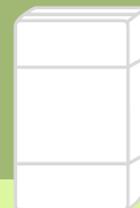
So, what's in your movement pantry?

It might be the place to start to gather the ingredients and staples you stored away for a time like this. You might discover that its shelves contain the building blocks for your sustenance – not just in this moment, but for the long run.

We have developed this framework and tool to help you think about what's in your movement pantry and how you can shape and mold it to meet your goals. Think of your movement pantry as having three shelves: frameworks; practices; relationships. What exists already that you can bring out and that you can build on? What do you wish to add and how? Below is a graphic to visualize your own pantry and a worksheet to help you identify what you have, what you can shape and mold, and what you need to stock.

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Worksheet for “What’s in Your Movement Pantry?”

First - choose a timeframe that is meaningful to you - since the last election, since the last recession, 2020, the pandemic time period, the uprisings for racial justice

Next - choose a goal that you’re working on (example: organizing a campaign, doing a teach-in, facilitating a strategy session, engaging in solidarity practice, centering racial equity)

Then– reflect on the three areas: frameworks, practices, relationships. What are on the shelves of each area of your movement pantry? What exists already that you can bring out, that you can build on? How would you do that? What do you wish to add and how? How can you mold and reshape what you know and have?

After – after you complete the worksheet, put the items you have identified on the shelves of your movement pantry using the graphic, and identify what you are looking to stock and how you’ll get there.

Frameworks: *How has our vision gotten bigger, bolder, more radical? What are some examples of how we are demanding and moving things that felt impossible before your chosen timeframe? Name who or what helped with that?*

What ingredients have we stocked already?

Bold visions about dismantling systems that don’t serve us and building new ones

- ⇒ -
- ⇒ -

Normalizing what used to be “radical” and “impossible”

- ⇒ -
- ⇒ -

Operating from a deeper intersectional analysis (including addressing and confronting our own privileges, and positionalities)

- ⇒ -
- ⇒ -

Practices Shelf: *What practices have we cultivated that make our organizing deeper, more relevant, and more effective?*

How have we improved our ability to be in principled struggle with one another? What are examples of moments of tension and disagreement where we figured out how to move forward together?

What ingredients have we stocked on each of these shelves?

Returning to the wisdom of ancestors and mentors

- ⇒ -
- ⇒ -

Community care resources

- ⇒ -
- ⇒ -

Transformative solidarity practices

- ⇒ -
- ⇒ -

Centering the experiences + solutions of affected community members

- ⇒ -
- ⇒ -

Relationships shelf: *Who is in your ecosystem? Who keeps you accountable, who teaches and mentors you, and who is down to support you? Who do you need to build with and how can you reach them?*

Resource: Couple this with Deepa's Social Change Mapping framework to figure out who's in your ecosystem (found [here](#)).

What ingredients have we stocked on each of these shelves?

Networks and standing coalitions

- ⇒ -
- ⇒ -

Formations that strategically come together around "Movement Moments"

- ⇒ -
- ⇒ -

Our personal squads whom we struggle with and build with

- ⇒ -
- ⇒ -

Who we want to build with to strengthen our ecosystem

- ⇒ -
- ⇒ -

Once you've completed the worksheet, place the items you have on the shelves of the movement pantry graphic and reflect on the following prompts:

What have you learned about yourself through your movement pantry?

What can you use right now to meet your goals?

What else do you need to stock? How will you stock (via learning/practice/mentorship, etc?)

What can you share with others?

What are two next actions you might take?