VICTORY! SF TRANSPORT HEEDS YOUTH VOICE

On April 17, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board approved a two-year pilot program providing free bus passes to low-income San Francisco youth ages five to seventeen. Now funding must get approved!

Back in 2010, youth members of People Organized to Win Employment Rights (POWER) began advocating for free bus passes so that low-income youth like themselves could get to school—but they weren’t sure how to proceed.

Thinking proactively, POWER turned to DataCenter to determine what information needed to be gathered, and which research methods would be most impactful and efficient. Two years and seven hundred surveys later, San Francisco youth are one step closer to permanently achieving their goal of free bus passes.

RESEARCH JUSTICE IS MOVEMENT BUILDING

DataCenter Works Across the Nation to Unite Sectors Through Research Justice

Research Justice is spreading across the country: A nanny from Miami reviews a dataset along with housekeepers from Los Angeles. The mothers of incarcerated young people in Oakland and New Orleans share focus group transcripts and find they are experiencing the same struggles. Farm workers, restaurant workers, meat packers, warehouse workers and grocery workers meet together and develop core solutions that they will advocate for across the food sectors.

Throughout the country, organizations have teamed up and created alliances that build off the success and strategies of their local efforts. That includes acquiring data that will position these alliances as nationally recognized experts, while also ensuring the grassroots continues to drive the work.

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NOW THAT’S WHAT WE CALL RESEARCH JUSTICE!

Paulo Freire once said, “If the structure does not permit dialogue the structure must be changed.” DataCenter delivers research from the margins to the center of the very environments where people live, work, and play. By stewarding the change Freire suggests, DataCenter works to fill the gap between a community’s desire for change and their ability to actualize change.

The right structure can distinguish technical data-producing research from a knowledge-producing process that is transformative and dynamic.

Take it from Meches Rosales, who found power in her own voice as a domestic worker (back cover). Or my grandmother, from the impoverished Korean countryside, who as a young woman escaped two wars barefoot and ended up settling in Japan as a displaced migrant. Three decades later, as a little girl growing up there, I watched Grandma lower her face in public, fearful of being noticed and taunted for her lack of proficiency in either her native Korean or Japanese.

Then the Minority Elder Literacy Program came to her neighborhood. Dialogue in the safe company of peers gave her the confidence to be seen and heard in what she’d always known as a hostile and violent world. Though today I live in Oakland, an ocean away from my childhood home, it is this memory of my grandmother that I relish as I make my life here in the United States and commit to Research Justice every day.

Research Justice often starts with unleashing the power of a single voice. The newly released reports featured in this newsletter are no exception; community members launched their collective voices to the world from restaurant kitchens, fields, and factories.

Through dialogue, Grandma found her voice, and confidence. This — I believe — is what brought our friend and supporter Kimo Campbell (page 5) to DataCenter. The research structure in which he invested that “permits dialogue,” will benefit community members of today, tomorrow, and beyond. Please join us, to bring Research Justice to more grandmas, field-workers, young people and others today!

In celebration of community voices,

miho kim
Executive Director

DataCenter welcomes...
New Board Members: Andrew Jolivette • Vice Chair, and Torri Estrada
New Staff Members: Bill Hogan • Communications & Administration Associate and Christine Schweidler • Director of Strategic Initiatives.

DataCenter thanks...
As we bid them farewell, we would like to thank Anne Ryan and Christina Fletes for all their generous, creative, and amazing work as DataCenter staff members.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter! • www.facebook.com/ResearchJustice • www.twitter.com/ResearchJustice
STEP ASIDE FAMILY FEUD!
New Popular Education Tool Makes Data Accessible

So, you’ve just completed a research project. You’re armed with fascinating facts, shocking stats, radical ratios, and stunning stories. You want to share those findings, but you encounter a serious problem: an information barrier. Not many are riveted by a densely packed fact sheet and your 40+ page report isn’t exactly light reading.

You give a PowerPoint presentation, but you’re met with a sea of yawns coupled with blank stares. What do you do? Data Feud, a newly released research justice tool, breathes life into otherwise stale statistics. Are you familiar with the popular TV game show Family Feud? Data Feud is essentially a customizable game of Family Feud, adapted for a social justice agenda.

Check out the comprehensive (and free!) Data Feud toolkit available at DataCenter.org. It has everything you need to create and host your own game of Data Feud.

“Data Feud was a great popular education tool for us to educate our youth leaders — we used it to discuss stereotypes about our communities and it was a great starting point to get our leaders thinking about these issues.”

Emily Ja-Ming Lee, Youth Organizer, Chinese Progressive Association

RESEARCH JUSTICE IS MOVEMENT BUILDING
Continued from p. 1

Is it possible to conduct both grassroots, community-led research and national research effectively? DataCenter proves it is. DataCenter approaches each project with community leadership and base building in mind. We’ve expanded our popular education and participatory research toolkits; making sure workers, residents, youth, low-income people, and others who may not have a research background can feel empowered in their role in these projects.

From research design and data collection to messaging and story-telling, DataCenter supports the community participation process in each of our national research projects. As a result, Data Center’s approach builds the power of community-based organizations to engage both locally and nationally while generating evidence to back up what they know.

“What an innovative organization! DataCenter uses research as a means for inter-sector organizing and larger-picture movement building.”

Joann Lo, Executive Director, Food Chain Workers Alliance
GOT STRATEGY? MAPPING THE FIELD

Gone are the days when maps were nothing more than simple tools to get us from point A to point B. These days, communities are making maps to make change, illustrating public transportation inequalities or health disparities. We can also think of mapping more figuratively; what does the terrain look like for a particular field? How are community members using new technologies? What resource or skill gaps exist in our organizations? With field scans, DataCenter is helping organizations step back to see the larger picture, identify the problems and opportunities, and be more strategic.

DataCenter is working on these three field scans:

- In partnership with the MIT Center for Civic Media, DataCenter will generate a landscape analysis of participatory GIS projects and technologies. We will identify critical ways community-based organizations and intermediaries could better use grassroots mapping to move their work forward.

- DataCenter and the Global Action Project are conducting the first-ever national field scan of youth using media to engage each other and effect social change to learn more about how they are integrating media into advocacy and organizing efforts.

- Finally, we teamed up with RoadMap Consulting and National Organizers Alliance, to examine compensation and personnel practices of organizations in the social justice movement. We will document policies and explore social justice values embedded in personnel practices. By sharing data, groups can compare and learn from each other about creating sustainable work practices.

Communities + Research = Community Experts

DataCenter’s Research Justice Trainings

“Not only did community members realize how important research is, but they also learned that there are resources for them, such as the DataCenter, to help them do the research and implement it in their organizing.”

Rosina Roibal
Program Coordinator
Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative

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Youth participant
National Youth Organizing Training Institute

Our workshops range from Research 101 to a multi-day Research Justice Academy as well as customized trainings such as campaign research, mapping and research tool design. Check DataCenter.org for the Research Justice Institute training series—a set of curricula that organizers, teachers, and researchers can use to run their own workshops.
DataCenter and the Arcus Foundation released a joint report, *Trans, Two-Spirit, Intersex Landscape Survey* based on a survey of about 200 Trans/Two-Spirit/Intersex (T/T-S/I) organizations around the US. It answers several key questions, including what are the self-defined priority issues, needs of the organizations, and how foundations can structure funding to build T/T-S/I organizational capacity.

A strong advocate and funder of political engagement and grassroots organizing, Kimo also generously supported progressive political candidates and effectively mobilized other donors to support the social justice movement.

Kimo was a leading funder of indigenous and environmental organizing in Hawaii, his native state. He was an active, results-oriented member of numerous boards including the California League of Conservation Voters; Earth Justice; Seacology; Peace Development Fund; Vanguard Foundation; Hawai‘i Trust for Public Land; and the Social Justice Committee of the Threshold Foundation.

Kimo gave generously to DataCenter over a sixteen-year period. He was a leading donor in the late 1990’s to our capacity building campaign, which allowed us to fully move into the digital age, and later helped fund the transition from co-founder Fred Goff to the next generation of leaders. His spirit and legacy lives on through his contribution to our Endowment Fund. We join with many others in honoring, celebrating and giving thanks for Kimo’s life amongst us.

**TWO NEW REPORTS: ELEVATING VOICES**

DataCenter and the Arcus Foundation released a joint report, *Trans, Two-Spirit, Intersex Landscape Survey* based on a survey of about 200 Trans/Two-Spirit/Intersex (T/T-S/I) organizations around the US. It answers several key questions, including what are the self-defined priority issues, needs of the organizations, and how foundations can structure funding to build T/T-S/I organizational capacity.

“We know that organizations serving or organizing in Trans, Gender Non-Conforming, Two-Spirit and Intersex communities are underfunded and under-resourced, but we’ve never had the data before to back that claim—now we have something to leverage”

Kris Hayashi
Project advisory board and staff member
Audre Lorde Project

DataCenter ensured the T/T-S/I community guided the project through an advisory board with key members of the T/T-S/I community.

The *Food Chain Worker Alliance report* looks at wages and working conditions of workers across the entire food chain—which employs one-sixth of the nation’s workforce.

DataCenter conducted surveyor and interviewer trainings. The alliance surveyed over six hundred workers and conducted interviews with employers across the US.

DataCenter facilitated data analysis trainings where the workers themselves decided which findings to use. See the full report online and learn how you, as a consumer, can support food chain workers.

- Over 80% of workers surveyed reported earning low or poverty wages
- 80% never received a promotion
- 85% don’t have health insurance from employer
- Food system workers use food stamps at 2x the rate of the rest of the US workforce

For more news, photos, and reports, join us at • Facebook.com/ResearchJustice • Twitter.com/ResearchJustice
DOMESTIC WORKERS FORTIFY THEIR MESSAGE WITH FIRST-EVER CAPTURED DATA, UNITING TWO THOUSAND VOICES

No words can accurately capture Meches’s contagious laugh and amazing spirit. Meches Rosales is an active worker leader in Domestic Workers United (DWU) and part of the Research Team for the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) Survey Project.

Working as a nanny, Meches faces daily discrimination. Most people don’t recognize her work as real work. She says sometimes you don’t even have the right to get sick. Just last winter, when she called her employer to request a sick day, they threatened to dock her pay.

Meches’ story, and domestic workers’ stories in general, have fallen on deaf ears. Now, thanks to the historic report that she and hundreds of other domestic workers helped craft, the stories of domestic workers are bolstered by findings from over two thousand surveys. The report documents the lives of workers like Meches and makes policy-level recommendations to achieve fair labor standards such as minimum wage, overtime, sick and vacation pay.

DataCenter played a crucial role, making sure the research project was participatory—from start to finish. Throughout the research process, DataCenter employed popular education techniques to empower domestic workers as experts of their own realities. Domestic workers crafted their own stories based on the data they produced through surveys they developed and administered.

Meches has always been a fighter and a leader. Now, she has the confidence and the data to stand up for what she knows is right. Meches hopes the report will help pass a National Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. We do too! Read the report online and see how you can support domestic workers.

“Meches Rosales
Domestic Worker

“Working on the research project with NDWA has transformed my life—it has given me the dignity and respect…. Before I was embarrassed to say I was a domestic worker, but now I say it proudly.”