



2024  
NATIONAL

# HIV & HEPATITIS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEETING

**CALL TO ACTION:  
INVESTING IN BIPOC LEADERSHIP**



CALL TO ACTION: INVESTING IN BIPOC LEADERSHIP

Meet Me at the Intersection:  
Afrofuturism and the  
Reimagination of BIPOC  
Leadership Within HIV, Viral  
Hepatitis, and Harm Reduction  
Health Department Programs

# Where We're Going

- Welcome and Speaker Introductions
- Afrofuturism and *Afro-Rhythms* Overview
- Interactive Activity: *Afro-Rhythms from The Future*
- Group Reflection



“Remembering Not to Forget” | Deidre Bell | DC





**Nina Woodruff** (she/her)  
Executive Director  
Museum of Children's Art

**Dr. Lonny Avi Brooks** (he/him)  
Co-Founder and Creative  
Director/Chair and Professor  
AfroRithm Futures Group and  
California State University, East  
Bay

"A Radiant Light" | Mikel Elam | Philadelphia



# Join us on an Afrofuturism Journey From Algorithms of Oppression to Envisioning



**AHMED BEST**



**JADE FABELLO**



**DR. LONNY J. AVI BROOKS**

Lacey Wozny and Chinelo Ufodu, Fathomers

Eli Kosminsky and Michael Batista, Equitable Games Group: publishers

Paula Te, graphic design

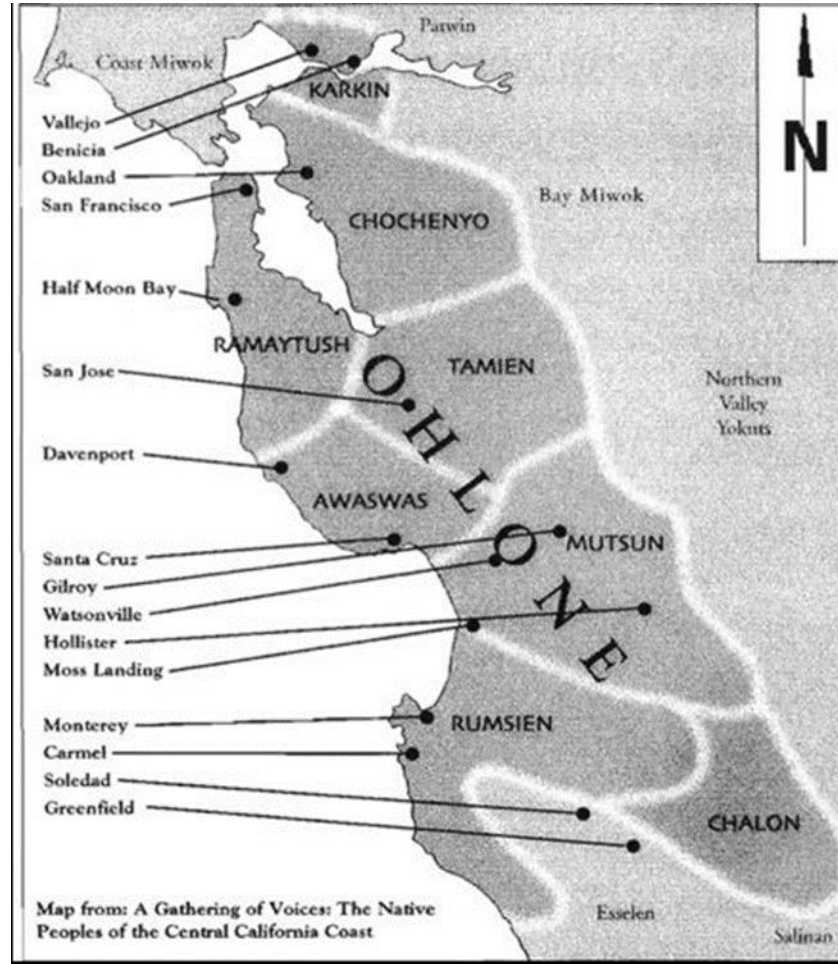
Alan Clark, card deck images

Afro-Rhythms From The Future @2020



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Sogorea Te' is centered in Huchuin, the ancestral homeland of Chochenyo-speaking Lisjan Ohlone people, now known as the East Bay.





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“WE ARE STILL HERE”  
MARC NICELY

Wednesday, May 30, 18

## Bay Area Native Solidarity in Ohlone Territory

3,299 views



Kanyon Konsulting LLC

17 uploads

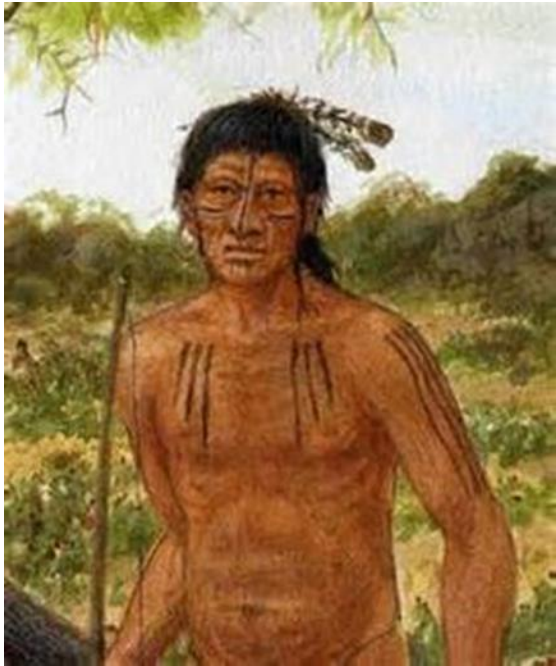
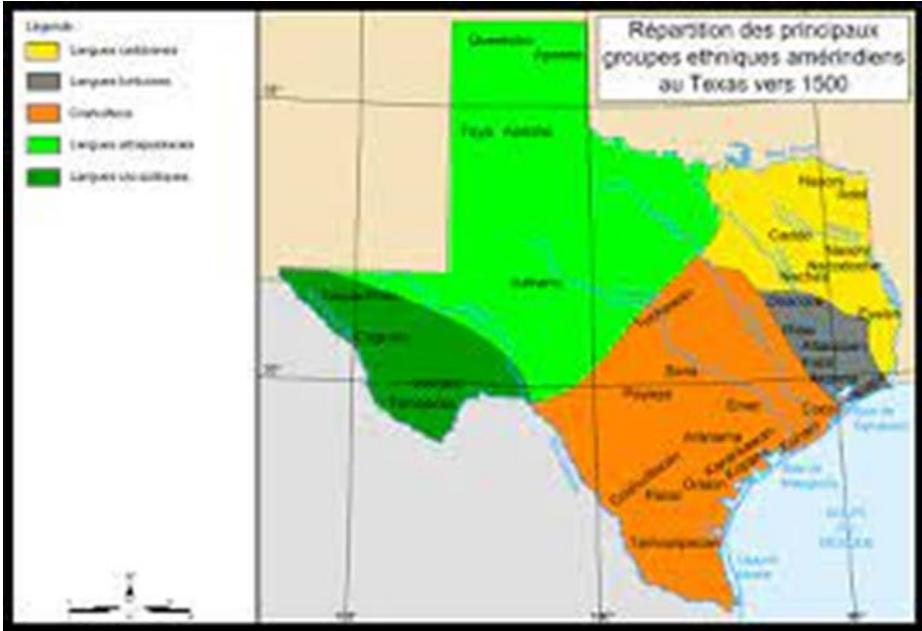
Afro-Rhythms From The Future @2020

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# My Tribe: The Coahuitecans of Nuevo Leon, Mexico



Afro-Rithms From The Future @2020





Afro-Rhythms From The Future @2020



# The Rise of Astro-Blackness



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Afro-Rhythms From The Future @2020



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**THE RISE OF ASTRO-BLACKNESS**  
**A PERSON'S BLACK STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS,**  
**RELEASED FROM THE CONFINING AND CRIPPLING**  
**SLAVE OR COLONIAL MENTALITY,**  
**BECOMES AWARE OF THE MULTITUDE**  
**AND VARIED POSSIBILITIES**  
**AND PROBABILITIES WITHIN THE UNIVERSE.**

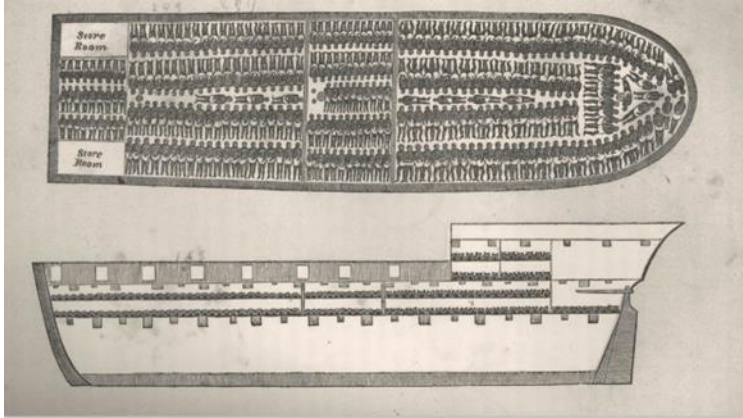
**-REVEREND ANDREW ROLLINS**



ARTIST: DAMON DAVIS

Black People have always been futurists. We had to be!  
 Afrofuturism aims to reclaim and transform the trauma of past atrocities against the Black and Afro-Queer diaspora

Afro-Rhythms Forge the Future ©2020



SOURCE: MARVEL STUDIOS



Our real Vibranium

Spirituals as Sonic Utopias: Visions of Liberation + Sustainability,  
Ancestral Intelligence and staying connected to lands here and before

# BSAAM

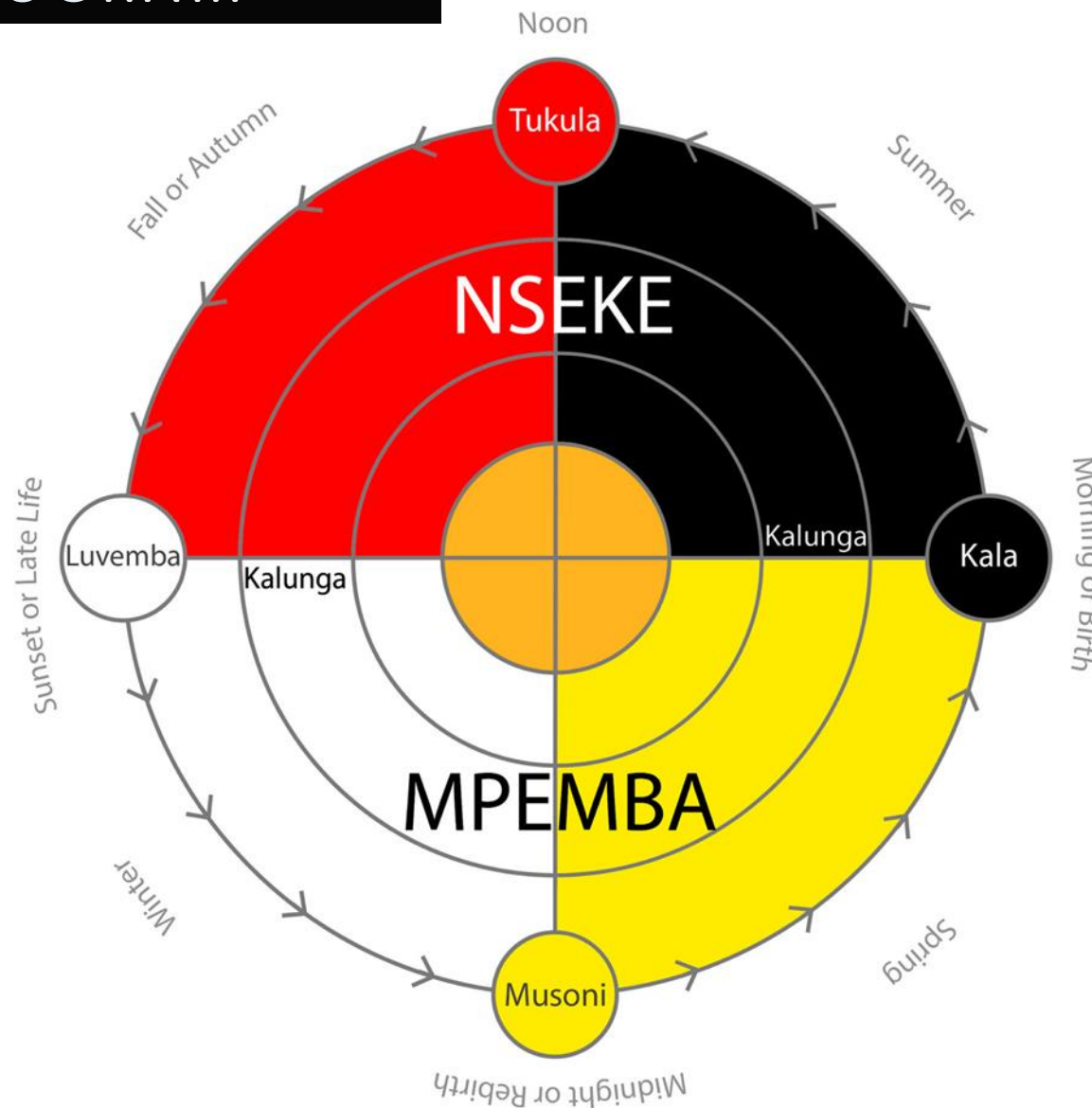
**BLACK SPECULATIVE ARTS MOVEMENT**





# THE CONGO COSMOGRAM

KALUNGA LINES  
WHERE OUR  
ANCESTORS  
MEET US  
IN THE  
PRESENT  
TO  
CREATE  
THE FUTURE



NSKE: The world of the living.

MPEMBA: The world of our ancestors.

# WEB DU BOIS—Scholar, Writer, Activist (1868-1963)



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WEB DU BOIS ENVISIONS THE  
**MEGASCOPE,**  
A DEVICE TO SEARCH FOR THE UNDISCOVERED  
STORIES



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LIKE RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES  
WE TRACE ACROSS TIME

# AFROFUTURETYPES

ARE BLACK SIGNALS OF THE FUTURE

THAT FIND AND RECLAIM

THE TRACES OF BLACK

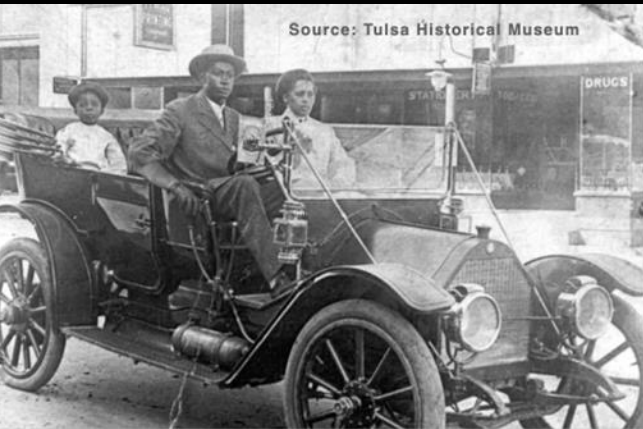
CULTURAL VISIONS

ALONGSIDE ERASURES

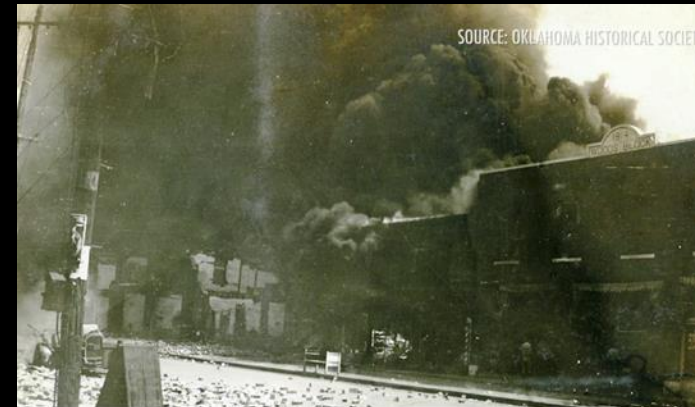
OF THOSE SIGNALS.



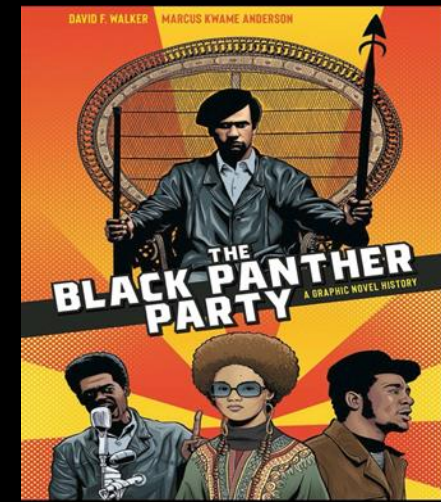
Finding the Undiscovered Stories



Source: Tulsa Historical Museum



SOURCE: OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY





# AFROFUTURISM

COMBINES SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY TO RE-EXAMINE HOW THE FUTURE IS CURRENTLY IMAGINED AND TO

# ENVISION

ALTERNATIVE FUTURES BASED ON THE BLACK EXPERIENCE



...and to heal others



CURATING THE END OF THE WORLD





Visualize alternative memories  
of the future as cognitive prosthetics  
**-experiential futures-**  
to heal ourselves



**...and to heal others**

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**I SHARE A**



**DREAM**

**TO ENSURE THAT LONG OPPRESSED  
RACIAL MINORITY AND  
DIVERSE VOICES  
CAN ARTICULATE THEMSELVES  
IN THE FUTURES IMAGINED  
IN THE PRACTICES OF LONG-TERM THINKING  
AND IN THE PROFESSIONAL AREAS OF FORESIGHT.**

**CELEBRATING THE**

**BLACK**

**IMAGINATION**

IFTF FORESIGHT TALKS

# AGENTS OF CHANGE: TEACHING FUTURES LITERACY TO YOUTH



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# BLACK FUTURES MATTER: USING AFRO-RITHMS FROM THE FUTURE TO HEAL

- Community Futures Literacy with a Black perspective in mind can support healing young and adult minds
- California BSAM with the Museum of Children's Arts (MOCHA) and Gameheads to launch our 2020 Imagining with Afrofuturism initiative now
- The Community Futures School (CFS):  
*"Black Futures Matter"*





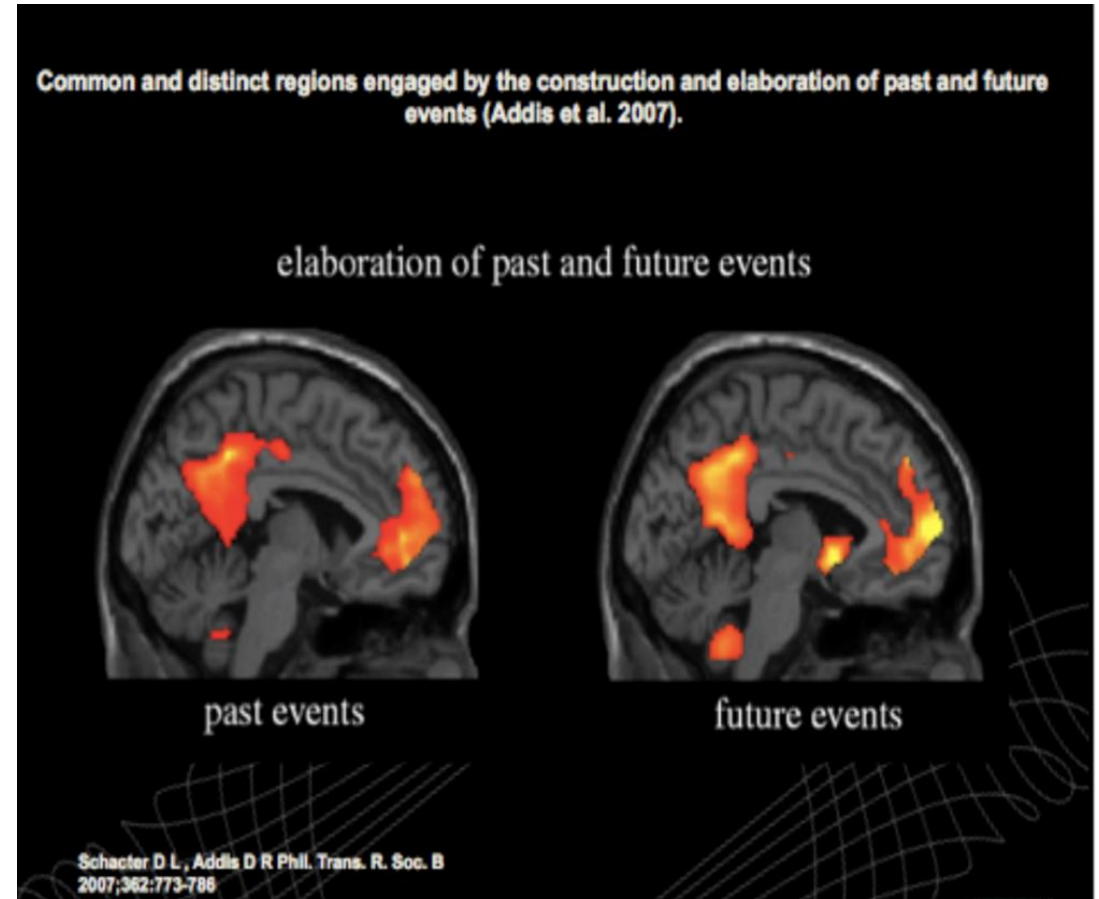
Artwork: Alan Clark  
Graphic Design: Paula Te  
Font: Grotesk by Frank Adebaiye of Velvetyne Open Source Type  
Foundry

Afro-Rithms From The Future @2020



# Using Afro-Rhythms to Heal

- This game can help rework our memories by creating new scenes and new futures that renew positive associative neuro-pathways.
- Gaming as a call for a futures therapy of the mind to jam and heal the epigenetics of Black trauma.



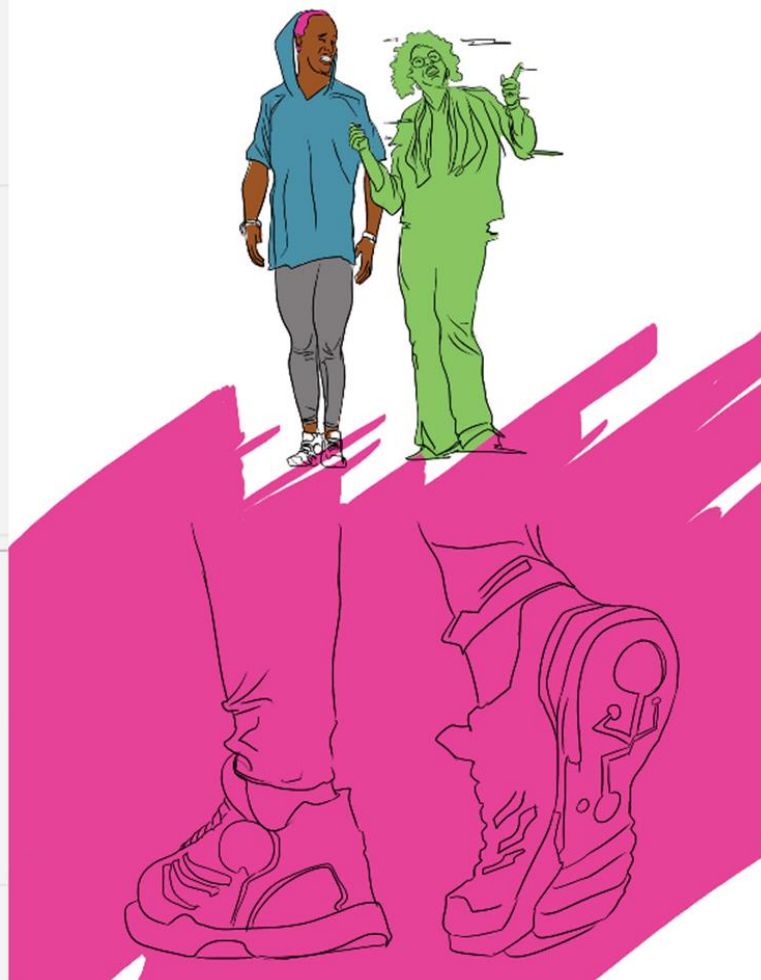
# Ancestral Bracelet

- It is mostly used for symbolism
- Nothing technical but it is supposed to be therapeutic for generational trauma and lost connection to ancestors due to slavery.
- Creates a guide.





WALK WITH  
**ANGELA**  
DAVIS



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Neal Stephenson's novel *Snowcrash* established the dystopian concept of the Metaverse in June, 1992.

One year later, in August 1993, C. Tsehloane Keto argued that the only way forward is a global pluriverse that respects our innovation and a non-hegemonic approach that embraces our humanity.

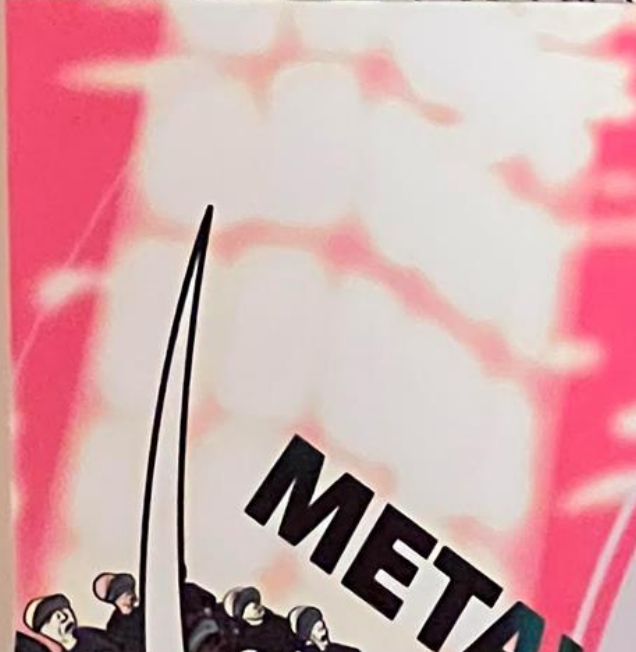


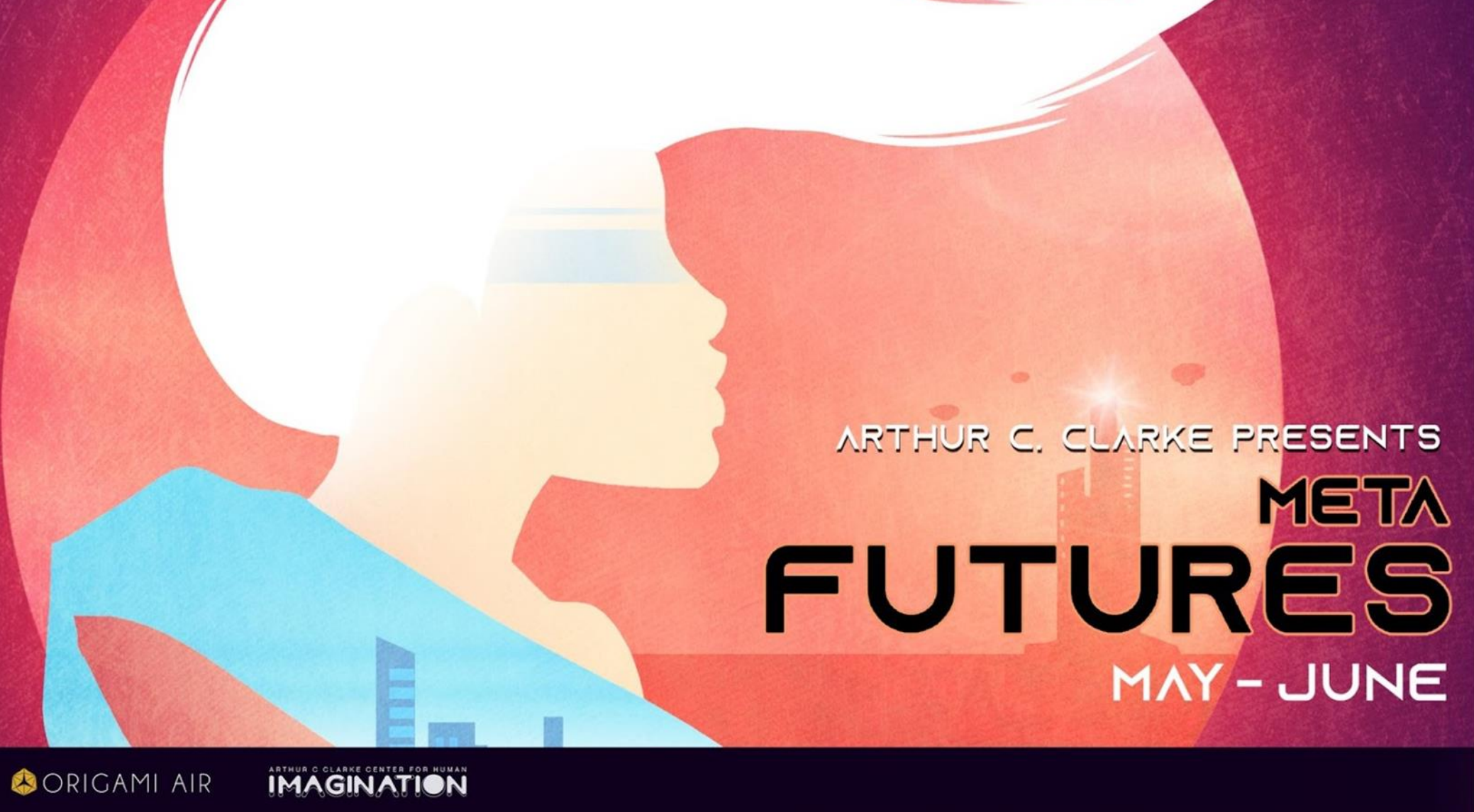
*Dr. C. Tsehloane Keto*

While technology corporations race to make that dystopia a reality, the Black Angel of History offers responses to the future challenges of the Metaverse with Cyberfunk worldbuilding and Pluriverse flair of the Astro-Black Speculative design imagination.

My idea for Critical Race Design Studies presents one such response to these emergent technocultural challenges...

... an interdisciplinary design practice that intersects critical race theory, speculative design, design history, and critical making to analyze and critique the effects of visual communication, graphic objects,





ARTHUR C. CLARKE PRESENTS

# META FUTURES

MAY - JUNE

ORIGAMI AIR

ARTHUR C. CLARKE CENTER FOR HUMAN  
IMAGINATION



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ARTHUR C. CLARKE PRESENTS

FRIDAY MAY 20, 2022



5pm PT / 7pm CT / 8pm ET

THE META PLURAL MULTIVERSE

FEATURING

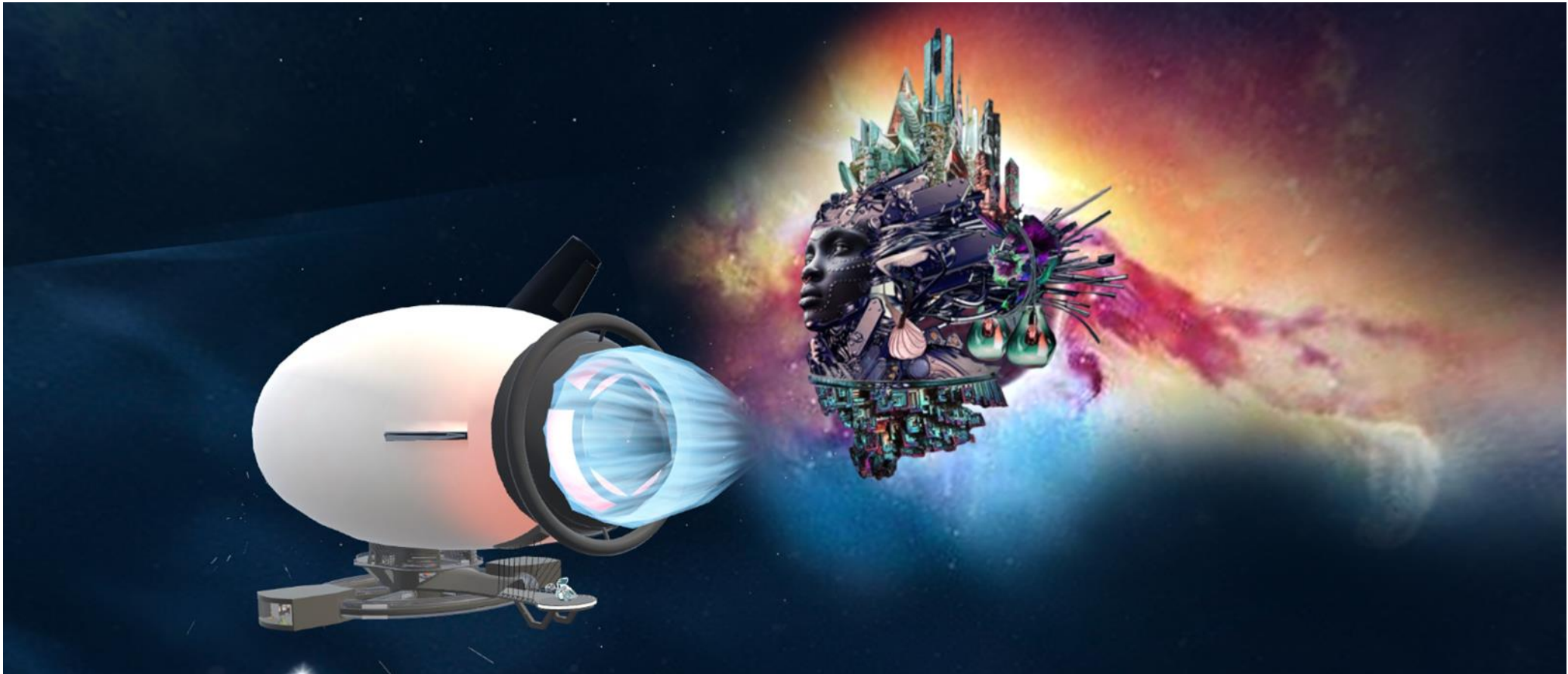
THE RESIDENTS OF AFTERVILLE

META

FUTURES

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Afro-Rhythms From The Future @2020

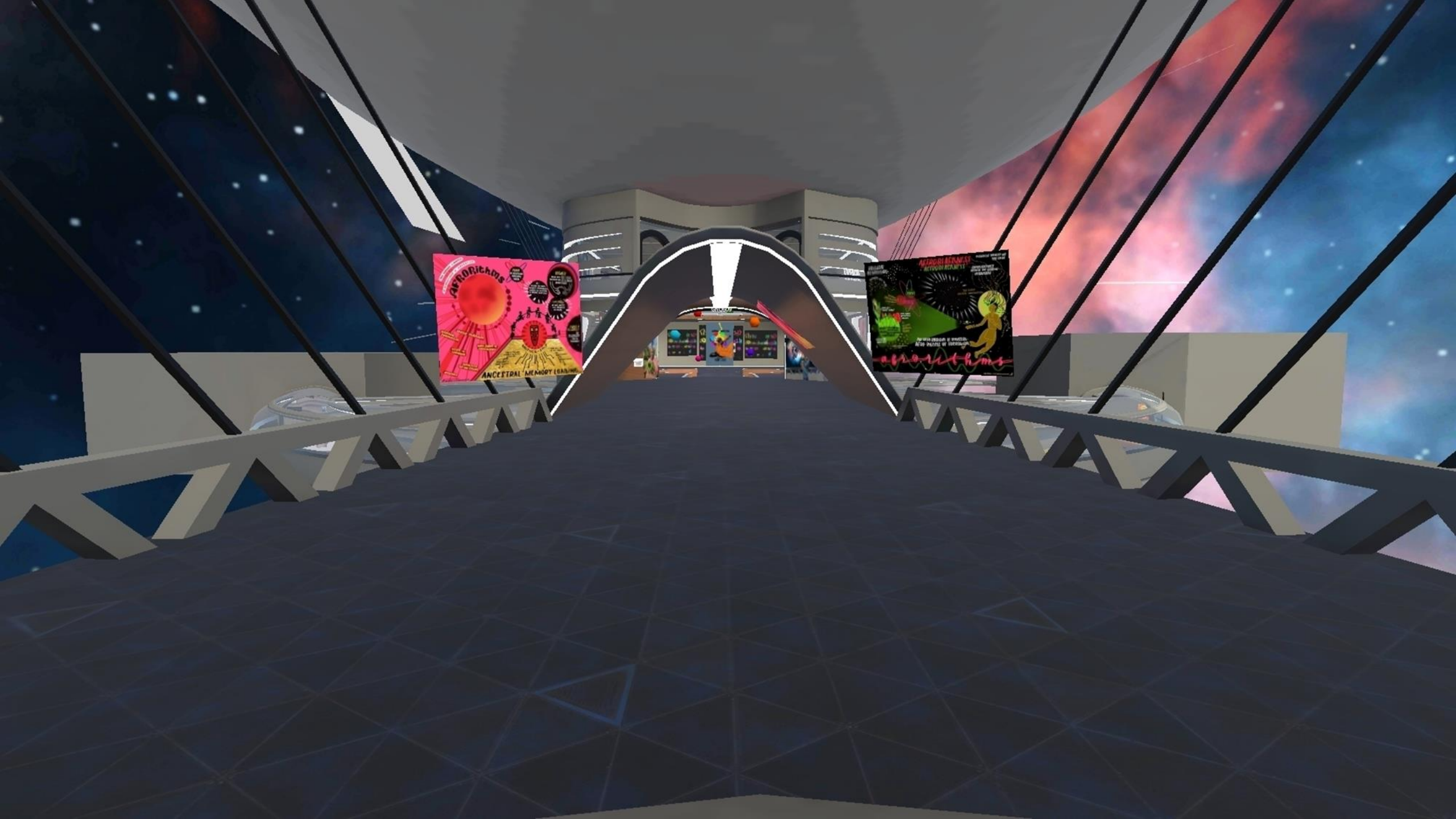


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AFROFICARS

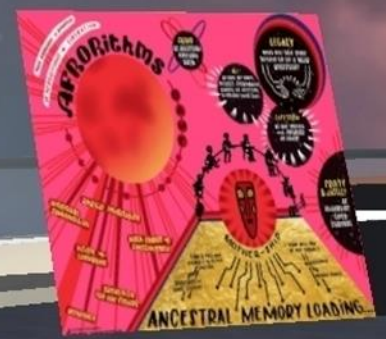
ANCESTRAL MEMORY LEARNING



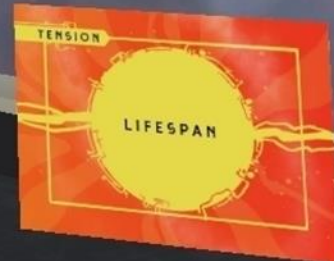
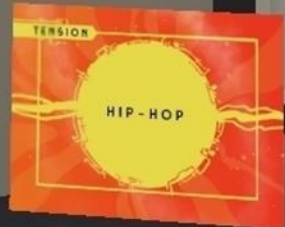
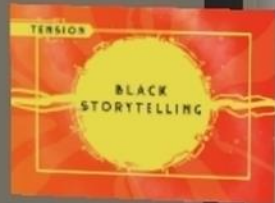
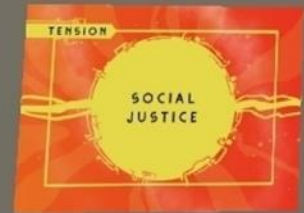
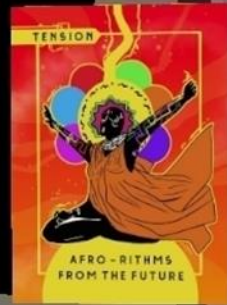
AFRO RITHMS  
FROM THE FUTURE

AFRO RITHMS  
FROM THE FUTURE

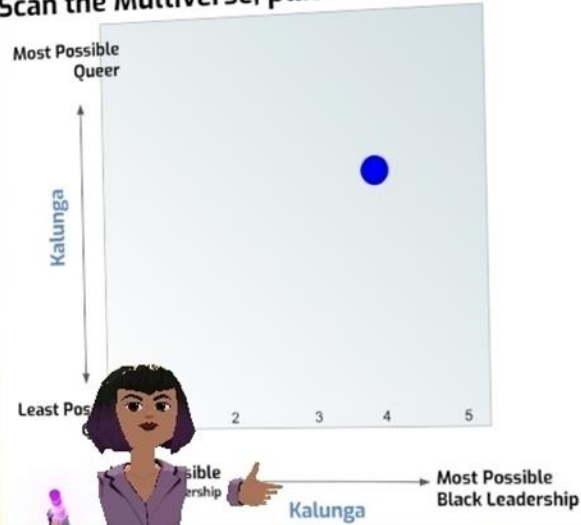
AFRO RITHMS  
FROM THE FUTURE



**AFROFUTURETYPES**  
ARE BLACK SIGNALS OF THE FUTURE  
THAT FIND AND RECLAIM  
THE TRACES OF BLACK  
CULTURAL VISIONS  
ALONGSIDE ERASURES  
OF THOSE SIGNALS.



## Scan the Multiverse, place the dot on the map



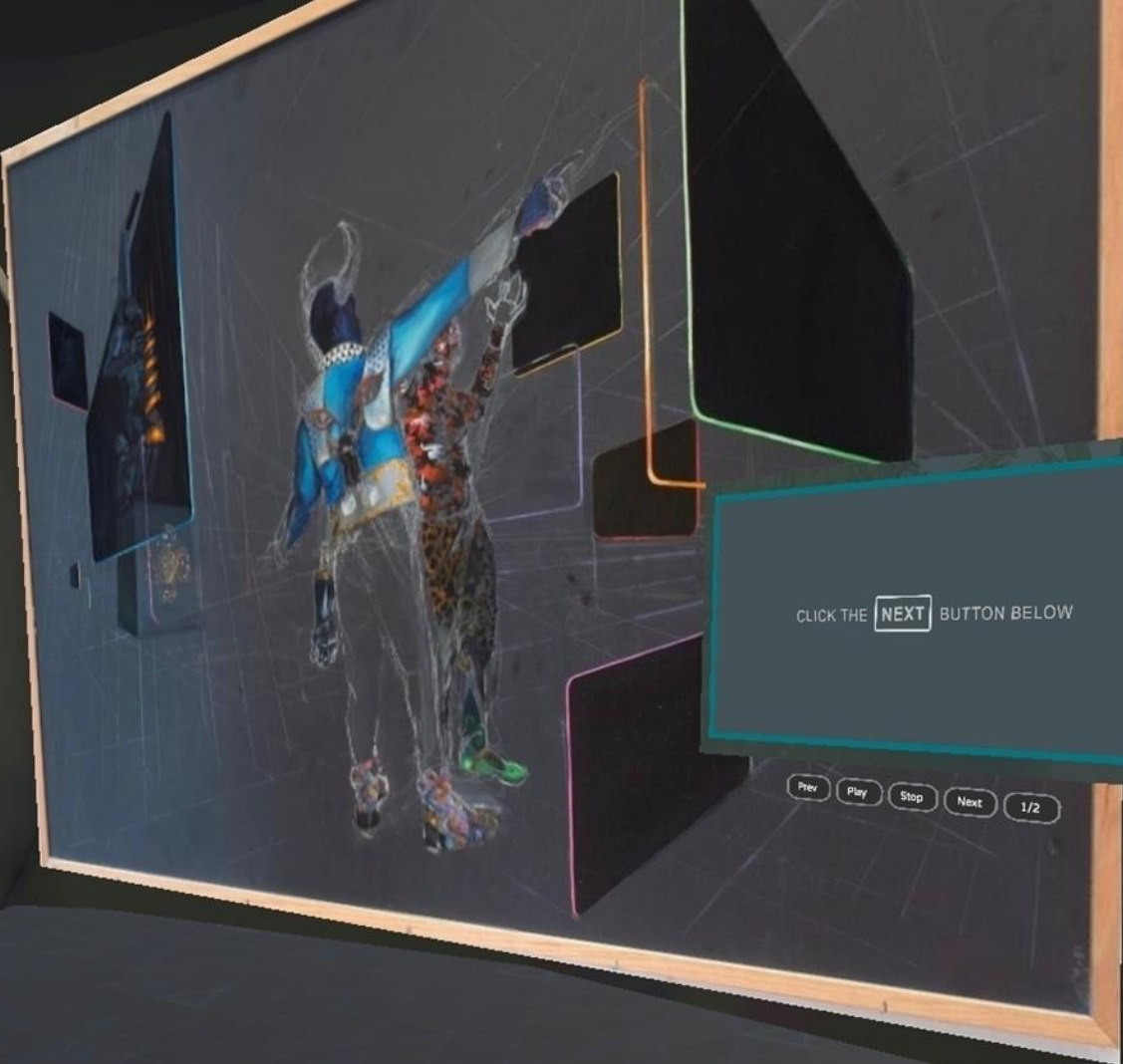
### Guiding Questions:

- Which regions of the Map are most likely to be Utopic or Dystopic?
- Can you imagine a way to turn a likely Utopic world into a Dystopia or vice versa?
- Which regions of the Map are confusing, where one Tension seems to be at odds with the other?
- How could you explain a world existing in that spot on the Map?



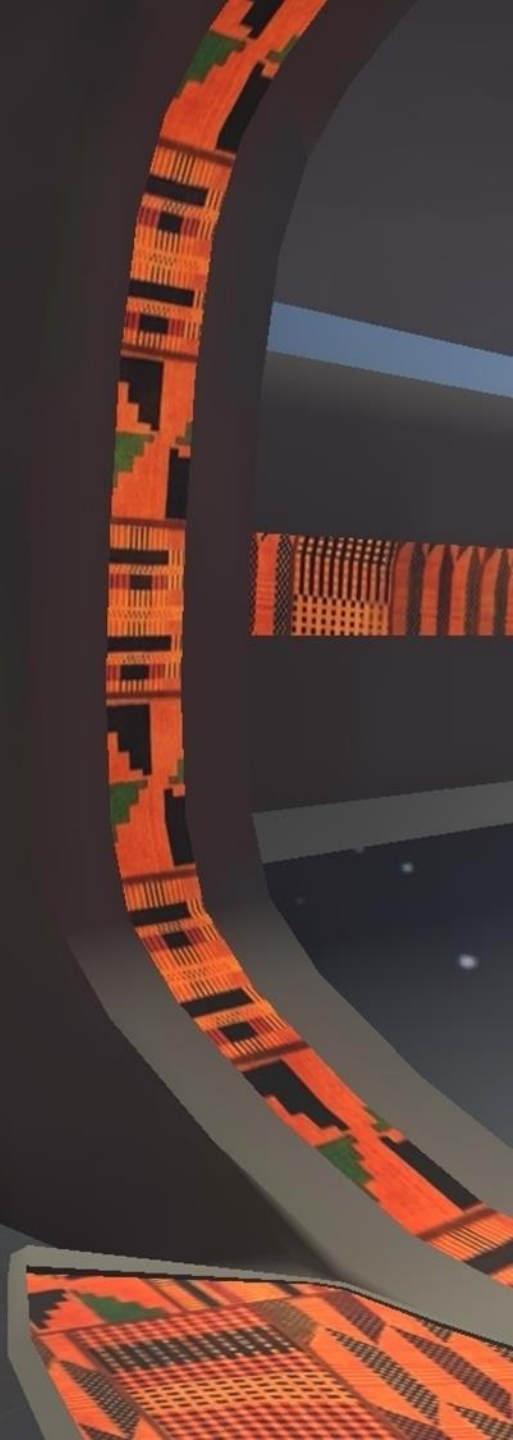
**Power of the Avatar**  
Claiming Black Space in the Metaverse

How many of my digital Cells are being used without my story?



CLICK THE **NEXT** BUTTON BELOW

- Prev
- Play
- Stop
- Next
- 1/2









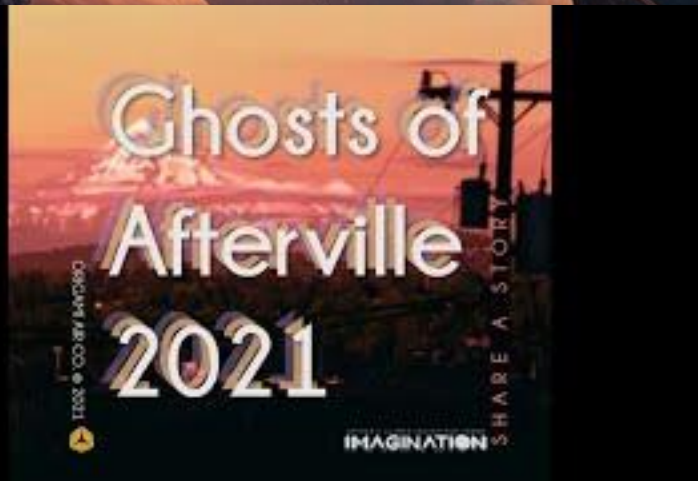
FIRST CONTACT:  
THE GHOSTS OF AFTERVILLE 2021 DR. BROOKS  
REVEALS 2029




News-Just-In...2029: **Historic and Ancient (?) Black Village discovered near Afterville's neighboring Indigenous territory!**

A former village founded by ex-slaves was just discovered by the Indigenous territory of Afterville, and is tied to the prosperous Black community of the city Windsor Hills in Cascadia near Afterville. Their descendants are part of a circle of Ancestral Wisdom and Ancestral Seers and Librarians. What was also discovered was a quilt blanket with clearly delineated African fractal textiles...that depicted otherworldly cities that archeologists are analyzing and deciphering their meaning...a photo was found...not of this world or Earth...

- and excerpt from the Account



A medium shot of Ahmed Best, a Black man with a short beard and mustache, wearing a black button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to his left with a thoughtful expression. A black microphone is positioned in front of him. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. To the left, a portion of another person wearing a blue and white patterned shirt is visible. In the bottom left corner, there is a blue horizontal bar.

**AHMED BEST**

ARTIST; EDUCATOR; DIRECTOR; HOST, AFROFUTURIST PODCAST;  
CO-FOUNDER, AFRORITHM FUTURES GROUP

The background features a bokeh effect of warm, out-of-focus lights in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. A dark, diagonal line runs from the top-left towards the bottom-right, bisecting the scene.

**ASTRO EGALITARIAN VIRTUAL NETWORK (AEVN)**  
**DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT CONVENING**

October 23, 2022



# SIGNAL

**A signal is typically a small or local innovation or disruption that has the potential to grow in scale and geographic distribution. A signal can be a new product, a new practice, a new market strategy, a new policy, or new technology. It can be an event, a local trend, or an organization. It can also be a recently revealed problem or state of affairs. In short, it is something that catches our attention at one scale and in one locale and points to larger implications for other locales or even globally.**

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# WE ARE THE SIGNAL

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# Metaverse

## Power of Narrative

- **Oral Tradition**
- **Digital Record**
- **Infinite Real Estate**
- **Currency**
- **Frame the Narrative**
- **Reclaim History**  
to be able to create Avatars  
that can be looked at,

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**FOR EVERY ALGORITHM  
OF OPPRESSION,  
THERE'S AN AFROITHM  
OF LIBERATION.**

**ACTIVATE YOUR RADICAL IMAGINATION.  
THE FUTURE IS FOR EVERYONE.**





**For my/our latest research & game happenings**

**see [www.afrorithms.com](http://www.afrorithms.com)**

**Black Speculative Arts Movement**



# Group Reflection Questions

After completing this visioning session what is one thing you will do that will:

1. Contribute to the development of successful and healing-centered leadership pipelines for BIPOC leaders.
2. Assist with the creation of internal infrastructure and mentorship opportunities that are necessary to support BIPOC leaders with lived experience.
3. Construct equitable hiring practices to ensure more BIPOC staff with lived experience are employed within your health departments.



# Take Our Survey



# Stay Connected!

**Nina Woodruff:**

ninaww@mocha.org

**Dr. Lonny Brooks:**

dr.brooks@gmail.com

