

## TOWARD ABOLITIONIST FUTURES

### How We Halted the \$81 million Santa Rita Jail Expansion

While there are a number of popular strategies for building power, they often fall short of **creating cultures of care** and belonging for Black and Brown communities stressed by grief, rage and violence as a result of systemic failures and disenfranchisement.

We believe that basebuilding and coalition-building through a healing justice framework is how our movement can build and sustain power. If we understand **power as a force that is co-created and asserted between people**, we must also be concerned with our shared sense of belonging-- both within our campaigns and to each other.

This poster outlines how we sustained the people power necessary to halt a "mental health" jail expansion through **healing justice praxis**. By weaving solidarity amongst coalition and base members, instigating the transformation of their analysis, and centering abundance in our demands, and kinship, we secured a monumental win for abolitionist movements in Alameda County.



## Solidarity

We model the care we want to see in the world as we dismantle the prison industrial complex. Holding **community building circles** to surface personal stories & connect struggles has been cornerstone practice to developing shared strategy. It reinforces our calls to actions, where we hold space for the **public grieving** of loved ones lost to Santa Rita Jail. Coalition members practice **politicized healing** by showing up for each other in times of need by way of **participatory defense**, as well as times of advocacy.



## Transformation

**Political education** is crucial for cultivating a culture of **principled struggle**. It creates shared language we can use to share our stories, agitate urgency, and practice democratic decision-making. We created opportunities **to build critical analysis** of Alameda County's key decision makers, budget process, and behavioral health infrastructure through a number of **experiential teach-ins and skillshares** throughout the campaign.



## Abundance

When we **make budget literacy and advocacy skills accessible** to impacted communities, we organize from a place of abundance to divert spending from jails and police to life-affirming community resources.

We successfully halted the jail expansion because front line community members were able to create a **proactive budget platform** made up of **\$171 million of life affirming investments** to fund permanent supportive housing, community-based mental health, increase care worker wages, and more. Our people centered budget platform was designed by formerly incarcerated people, family members, 60+ mental health service providers, and faith leaders.

By designing a campaign that centers our needs, we now have a real opportunity to advance **material change** for our communities!



Many thanks to the Care First Community Coalition, & all comrades. Being in community with you is the greatest honor. Solidarity forever!

Designed by Joy George, Tash Nguyen & Zoe Parsigian  
Contact - [tash@restoreoakland.org](mailto:tash@restoreoakland.org)  
Instagram - [@restoreoakland](https://www.instagram.com/restoreoakland)  
Website - [www.restoreoakland.org](http://www.restoreoakland.org)



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