

adePROJECT

ON

PechaKucha Night™  
ASHEVILLE

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black STARSEED:  
revolutionary.reimagination

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official program

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friday, oct 30, 2020 ://: 7-9pm

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## PechaKucha Night

20x20 - a Global Gathering  
Meet PechaKucha Night Asheville



# Acknowledgement & Welcome

## DIVERSITY WELCOME

[as adapted from Training for Change]

### ILLUMINATING THE INVISIBLE

A warm welcome to....the ancestors who lived on this land where we stand. Welcome to the original keepers of this land on which we gather to do this work. We acknowledge fully and honor the Aniyunwiya (Cherokee) who lived in this area before colonization overtook as much as 10,000 (plus) years ago. Welcome. Welcome to people of all genders...People of African descent, Black, African American, Asian descent, Jewish descent, European descent. Those who identify as Hispanic, Latinx, people Indigenous to this land, and people of mixed, multiple descents. Welcome. Welcome to all the languages that will be spoken here tonight, and others you may speak at home: Spanish, English, indigenous languages, movement, rhythm, body language, etc. Welcome to people from around the Southern Appalachias, Western NC, Buncombe County and Asheville...thank you neighbors. Welcome to those from around the Southeast, Global South, North, West, and Central United States. Welcome to those from Africa, Panama, Guatemala, and Costa Rica - thank you for being a friend of adé PROJECT. Welcome. Welcome to people with disabilities, visible or invisible. Welcome to those identifying as gay, lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, pansexual, queer, or others for whom none of the labels fit. Welcome to your bodies and the different ways you experience yours (this may include chronic pain, strength, tension, etc.). Welcome to people who identify as activists, and people who don't. Welcome to people who identify as single, married, partnered, dating, in monogamous or polyamorous relations. We welcome those in their teens, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s (depending on group). Welcome to people with different faiths, religious traditions, faith practices, private practices don't belonging to a tradition, agnostics, atheists, seekers. Welcome to your families, genetic and otherwise. Welcome to those who support you to be here. Welcome to your full range of emotions: joy, bliss, grief, rage, indignation, contentment, disappointment, sadness. Welcome love. Welcome those dear to us who have died and who remain on our light team. Welcome to our elders - those in our lives, and here in this room. Welcome.

### Land & Ancestral Acknowledgments

This land, and much of Western North Carolina, Eastern Tennessee, Northwestern South Carolina, and portions of Virginia, West Virginia and most of Kentucky are the traditional lands of the Aniyunwiya (Cherokee) people. The Cherokee refer to themselves as Tsa-la-gi (pronounced "Jah la gee" in the western dialect, "Zah la gee" or "Tsa lah gee" in the eastern Giduwa dialect) or A-ni-yv-wi-ya (pronounced "Ah knee yuh wee yah" (Western dialect) or "Ah nee yuhn wi yah" (Eastern dialect), literal translation: "Principal People".

For all gatherings hosted by adé PROJECT, we feel that it is important to name that "welcome" goes beyond acknowledgement, and is meant to emphasize the honor we all have of being on these lands. We invoke the honesty that existing on this land today requires. In acknowledgment, or when making a land acknowledgement, one must be ready to offer attention to the healing our our relationship with place and the people who are the traditional inhabitants of this land, as well as our ancestors who were brought here against their will. While we also acknowledge that this land is stolen, trauma that ensued, and how this all came to be, we can also make it clear that you are welcome in our hearts, and that we are glad to be here with you. And so it is. Asé.



## Reclaiming the Narrative

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To control a narrative is to hold power. Reclaiming control of our own narrative is the key to healing the traumas of the past. Disempowerment at the hands of oppressive systems left our ancient legacy fractured, many parts of it scattered—while generation after generation has attempted to piece it back together like a broken vase. We are Black STARSEED – healers of the past and keepers of the future. Story weavers. Our planting of seeds and reaching for stars has always informed humanity's existence. Our reclaimed stories are the seeds planted, as we reach for OURSELVES. No longer fractured and scattered out of one another's reach, we instead are scattered across the black of the night sky, illuminating our own path forward. Just as we carried civilization in our womb, we carry the dreams for our children in our hair. Anchoring the planet between sun and moon, we are the song of our ancestors. Let us hear. Let us see. Let us know.

Artists Designing Evolution (adé PROJECT) has joined forces with PechaKucha Night Asheville to celebrate the voices of those most often silenced and left to bear witness to destruction, then bear the burden of resilience. We are Black women, we are mothers, we are daughters, we are sisters, we are Queens. We are Black STARSEED. This is revolutionary reimagination and #artisourRESPONSE. This event is a re-routing of sorts, a ceremony and celebration, of our circling back to our own truth and telling it for ourselves. Each story weaver who will be sharing, is a healing artist in her own way. It is our honor to welcome them and hold space for this very sacred and necessary moment in community together.

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r e v o l u t i o n a r y  
r e i m a g i n a t i o n





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My name is Bajra. It means thunderbolt. I received it before leaving for India. When I realized I was being asked to leave for India with no planned return, trusting wholly on guidance to lead the way, I knew I had stepped into another dimension of human experiencing.

Today in 2020, I am an ascetic, a full time spiritual seeker living from alms with service as my central focus in the age of technology and pandemics. I love the earth and She is part of my awakening, as much as meditation. This is spirituality in the Age of Women, in the Age of Women of Color. A spirituality that is community and planet minded; no more running off to a cave seeking enlightenment, the planet needs all hands on deck. My spirituality is Nature, service and practice trusting Guidance in the logistics.

I entered into my spiritual and transformational journey when I was 55. The near thirty years of meditation prior was an attempt at being comfortable in the uncomfortable world that said my blackness, my femaleness, and my sexual trauma made me of less value. Meditation was supposed to make all that bearable, and it almost did...Until my second Saturn return.

In my first return, I joined AA, found a meditation sangha, completed college, and had a son. I would later be directed into working in the wellness industry. In my second return I learned of my goddess self and I learned how significantly early trauma influences the personality and the collective and is much of what needs unraveling in a kundalini awakening when one has experienced early childhood trauma. As part of my spiritual journey I have dedicated my remaining years as an earth being to serve, specifically in interrupting the cycle of intergenerational trauma. I am the creator of The Mystic Dance an ecstatic dance with sound for women. I am a sound healing facilitator and dance weaver for Drum, Dance, Heal for BIPOC women.

My life journey has been and is to be of service. I share my journey in service that if not today, one day you will remember something and feel a sense of trust in your own journey. Only you can do yours. I share because maybe one day it will help you to let go in faith that you are supported.





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Sasha Mitchell is a purveyor of history, community building, storytelling and organizing. Over the past 20 years, Sasha has dedicated her life to memory art, scrapbooking, genealogy research and family history - truly in the throes of crafting and weaving broken stories and memories together. Sasha is a bridge between the past and the now, serving as a reminder that what we deem as history still continues to play out today and the value in knowing our roots. Currently, Sasha serves as the Operations Coordinator for Dogwood Alliance, where her gifted attention to detail is fueling the work of forest conservation and environmental awareness, especially for communities of color. There is not one sector of our community that Sasha has not touched, researched or influenced with the delicate and daring truth of the past. Sasha founded Color of Asheville, the first Black business directory where residents and visitors could find out about all the hidden gems in Asheville-Buncombe, professionally, presently and historically. During that initial period of work with Color of Asheville, Sasha learned about the YMI Cultural Center (one of the earliest African American cultural centers in the country) and the business district in THE BLOCK, spreading her findings in community spaces and groups seeking to do cultural preservation work.

Sasha has also served as the chair of the African American Heritage Commission, and a true, life long innovator in the ways of creating order and peace from chaos and pieces.





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Lucia's debut album "Above Water" will be released on 11-11-2020, and will be available on most major streaming platforms (Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, etc.). A portion of every album sale will go to grassroots organizing efforts in her area.

*contact info!*



Lucia Daugherty is a 22-year resident of Asheville, NC, where she has sustained a long-time career as an equity educator and consultant, award winning civil rights organizer, freelance facilitator, resiliency trainer, and life coach. In addition to her professional areas of expertise, Lucia has a background in the performing arts, creative writing, and community radio. She is a graduate of the School for Creative and Performing Arts, based in Cincinnati Ohio. Her experience as a singer, musician, and stage actor has taught her that creative expression is necessary for ensuring growth, healing, and connection within self and within community.





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Olufemi is originally from Charlotte, NC but called Asheville, NC her home for almost 20 years. She's a mother, daughter, and avid community organizer, currently working with the Sierra Club as a Southeast Regional Distributed Organizer for the Ready for 100 Campaign. She also serves as a board member of Dogwood Alliance. Olufemi is also one of the founders of the Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Council, Buncombe County Cooking Oil Recycling Program, Ujamaa Freedom Market, Hillcrest Unity Garden, and Gardens United. She is a Fellow Member of the North Carolina Food Justice Fellowship (for People of Color). Her personal experiences with environmental and structural racism have called her to use her voice in movements that are working to dismantle systems of racial inequities and oppression.





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As a spiritual guide, yoga teacher, life mastery coach and intuitive business consultant, Michele serves in many capacities. Her heart has always been devoted to creating sacred space for others to expand, explore and engage with their own inner wisdom as a path towards dismantling racial inequities and liberation for all. Her ability to "hold space and anchor higher consciousness" allows for greater clarity, deeper insight, and higher accountability for those seeking to live life mindfully harming none. She is the Owner of Coeur Consulting, established in 2009 in NYC, and Founder of Heart, Hustle & Flow, a wellness community for healing of mind, body & soul. A strong believer that every life serves a purpose is the driving force for her passion and dedication in guiding others to live a powerful, authentic, and soul aligned life.

As the former, Vice-Chair of the Western North Carolina Diversity Engagement Coalition in Asheville NC, Michele is an active member of the community and remains committed to building bridges for real conversations, authentic connections, and inclusive communities great and small. Whether its a one-on-one session, yoga class or business consultation, working with Michele is about real talk, real solutions and real change. Her ability to work beneath the surface, allows her to support and guide others in discovering personal truths, life purpose, and next step for greater impact whether for personal or professional reasons. As an Intuitive Life Mastery Coach, she helps you learn how to live life on your terms, standing in your power, with ease and grace. As a Conscious Business Consultant, she will help you align with the "heart & soul" of your business initiative/community project for the soul/sole purpose of creating equity, sustainability and achieving greater community impact allowing all to thrive.

A Native New Yorker, Black Latina, Michele loves yoga, meditation, hikes through the Blue Ridge Mountains, movies [most especially Disney & Marvell], a good glass of wine and the joy of being a part of community.





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Miranda Williams is Asheville's youngest certified doula - by intention. As a teen, Miranda started designing her life early and set out with a mission to support those without the access, opportunities, and tools they need in order to THRIVE and improve their quality of life. In her early years, Miranda set out to be a criminal & justice lawyer and in pursuit of that goal, set out to learn as much as possible about the legal and criminal justice system so that this information can be shared and passed along to others. Presently, Miranda serves as a community facilitator as well as a spokesperson for the lives of Black babies, Black teens and communities of color in spaces such as Mother Love, MotherReed, and a girl's empowerment group based at Asheville High School. Miranda has spoken to many local groups, and spaces where racial equity and teens were the focus. Miranda has been a member of the adé PROJECT Youth Leadership Team since 2019.





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Cortina Jenelle Caldwell is a proud millennial, born and raised in Morganton, NC and descending from generations of Black Appalachian, West African & indigenous farmers, artists, engineers, entrepreneurs and creatives. Cortina is an entrepreneur that learned at her grandmother's hands that serves the community and her mission often in roles as a creative facilitator, creative entrepreneur, community organizer, event + experience curator, educator, youth mentor, life coach, strategic planner, and coalition builder. Cortina is Founder & Creative Community Organizer of [Artists Designing Evolution \(adé PROJECT\)](http://theadeproject.org), a decolonization-focused learning organization seeking to create a world beyond oppression, and inequity by building capacity, opportunity + community around lives + needs of Black, indigenous, people of color (BiPOC). Additionally, Cortina is Co-Founder of [Mountain Business Equity Initiative \(MBEI\)](http://mountainbizequity.com) which is championing disparity with the BiPOC community, and strives toward entrepreneurial equity through education, empowerment & economic mobility, and through [Cortina Jenelle Change Agency](http://theadeproject.org) offers creative coaching, strategic consulting + equity-rooted facilitation.

Cortina's work has touched hundreds of organizations, conferences, teams and associations, including Camp Girl Boss, UNC Asheville Office of Multicultural Affairs, Alternate ROOTS, Asheville City Schools, Buncombe County Schools, the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, CoThinkk, Lenoir-Rhyne University, WNC Nonprofit Pathways, Black Lives of UU, Youth OutRight, National Guild for Community Arts Education, Cooperation Jackson, SI Impact 360, B Corp, Southern Equality Studio, and many others. Cortina is guided by ancestral knowledge, collective wisdom, lived experience and community relationships. Ultimately, Cortina's work is fueled by her personal mission - to shift community, business and organizational culture through authenticity, creativity, entrepreneurship, equity, and collective leadership. Often named a thought-leader in her generation and beyond for innovative business and community practices, Cortina and her collection of work has been featured in North Carolina Public Radio (NPR) "The State of Things" with Frank Stasio, Asheville Free Media - 103.3 FM, Yoke & Abundance Podcast, The Urban News, Asheville Citizen Times, WNC Woman Magazine, Verve Magazine, WLOS News 13, Seeds of Tao Podcast, Blue Ridge Public Radio, The Urban Sounds of Asheville - WRES 100.7 FM, The Voice of Asheville - WPVM 103.7 FM, Mountain Xpress, and Slay the Mic to name a few.



# M a n i f e s t o

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## **Toward inequity, art is our response.**

We look at the world around us with hopeful eyes, seeking to leave it better than we found it. We prefer collaboration over competition and spaces that welcome our voice. We confront unethical and outdated systems that oppress on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, zip code, or age.

## **Toward history, art is our response.**

We acknowledge and honor the innovators, educators, leaders, artists, musicians, engineers, teachers, preachers, mothers, fathers, daughters and sons that came before us. We seek to be the living manifestation of our ancestors dreams by liberating ourselves from anger, and centering our own happiness and joy. We take responsibility for knowing our own history, and learn from lessons of the past.

## **Toward community and capacity building, art is our response.**

We serve as role models for the next generation. We give the mic to youth and serve as allies for their visions, hopes, dreams and inventions. We share our expertise with one another, creating a culture of knowledge and opportunity. We create enterprise and business that provide creative solutions to our community's greatest needs.

## **Toward invisibility, art is our response.**

We resist by choosing to exist. We stand for what we believe in, and advocate for our inclusion in the narrative of communities, and culture our people helped to build. We model the capacity to use art as a response - an organizing tool, the foundation of facilitation, a method of education reclamation, economic mobility and the preservation of culture + heritage. We create transformational experiences with intention, purpose and clarity.

## **ART IS OUR RESPONSE.**

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# MISSION

actualize equity, spark creative inquiry + reclaim the narrative

Artists Designing Evolution (adé PROJECT) is a community-based, learning organization comprised of artists, organizers, students, educators, entrepreneurs, and community leaders that cooperate to create a world beyond oppression, and inequity by building capacity, opportunity, and community with Black, indigenous, people of color (BiPOC) while preserving culture with creative, sustainable solutions - one project at a time. adé PROJECT organizers, members, and supporters are intergenerational, intersectional, integrated beings that lead the work from lived experience, an embodied [Manifesto](#), along with creative facilitation, entrepreneurship, service, storytelling, and training + education as a strategic response in the face of inequitable power and cultural erasure in communities around the Southeast + Global South.

adé PROJECT is legacy work in the name of justice.

# GOALS

**To actualize equity, adé PROJECT** examines the power analysis, organizes collective action and centers leadership by people of color.

**To spark creative inquiry, adé PROJECT** creates transformational experiences with the imaginative combination of participatory learning through the arts, culture, history, justice, education + organizing.

**To reclaim the narrative, adé PROJECT** centers the voice and stories about Black, indigenous, People of Color (BiPOC) shared by other BiPOC.

# VISION

adé PROJECT is home for imagination, and cultural liberation in order to create spaces of belonging, and a solidarity economy that works for ALL. Art is our RESPONSE.

# WHERE WE'RE WEAVING

Rooted in Asheville, NC. Reaching for the Southeast & Global South.



## It All Started When...

20 slides ~~x~~ 20 seconds

cities

1200+

founded

2003

Tokyo, Japan

countries

140+

events

10,000+

emerged in  
Asheville

Jan 29, 2016

presenters

130,000+

THANK YOU FOR HOSTING US, PECHAKUCHA NIGHT ASHEVILLE!

PechaKucha Night Asheville returns in an online, livestream format for an evening of fascinating presentations from the most creative and interesting people in and beyond Asheville, all following the beautifully simple PechaKucha 20x20 format: 20 images, shown for 20 seconds each.

Jay Hill - PechaKucha Night Asheville Liaison & Producer

Jay is a software developer working on natural language processing and serves as Chief Technology Officer of [StatMuse](#). He is an organizer for PechaKucha Night Asheville and the [Asheville Coders League](#), and curates a monthly [Asheville Tech Events](#) newsletter. He enjoys dry humor and the awkward perfection of introversion.

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As with all PechaKucha Nights, Jay Hill is a volunteer organizer, and is accompanied by Megan Martell, Ben Zonneville + Ninebar Creative team: Alex Hill, Nic Goodman, and Jasper Adams.





THANK YOU!

adePROJECT

:://:: thanks all of you for joining us in this cosmic experience! :://::  
::/ keep the conversation going by posting with #blackstarseed \::

ABUNDANT GRATITUDE TO

All of YOU!

PechaKucha Night™  
ASHEVILLE



Center for Craft

103.3  
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