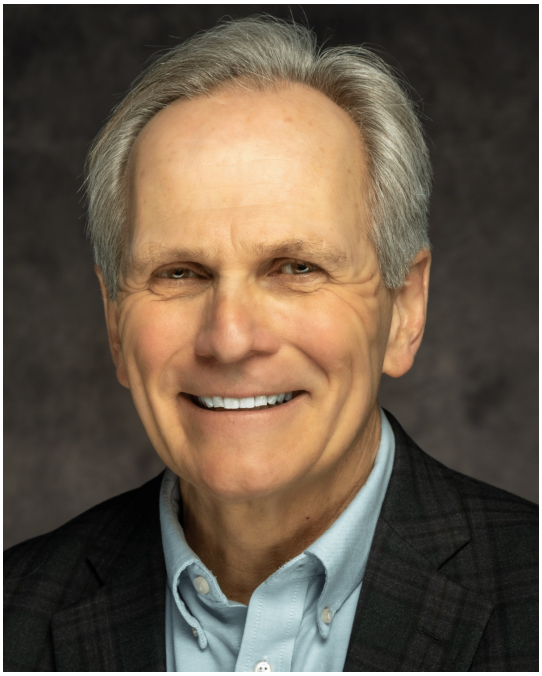
Roundtable Bulletin

October 2025 | View as Webpage

Celebrating 85 Years of Justice and Community



Dear Friends, Supporters, and Beloved Community,

As I walked into the room on October 1, 2025, celebrating my retirement from the Michigan Roundtable for Just Communities after 29 years, I was overwhelmed with gratitude and love. Being surrounded by so many of you — friends, colleagues, former and current board members, and community members — reminded me how much dedication and heart has built MRJC over 85 years. For those who couldn't make it, thank you for your calls, texts, and for keeping me in your thoughts.

I remember a moment early in my tenure when we brought together youth interns from every corner of Metro Detroit. Watching them discover that their voices could shape policy, their ideas could change systems, and their courage could inspire communities reminded me why MRJC exists. It's not just about programs or policies, it's about people, relationships, and the power of collective action. Every workshop, every campaign, every conversation has carried that truth.

During my time here, I witnessed the torch being passed from Dan Krichbaum to Thomas Costello, and from Tom to me. Now, as I step into this next chapter, I am filled with confidence and hope knowing that MRJC is in extraordinary hands as I pass the torch to Dr. Yusef Bunchy Shakur, the first Black and formerly incarcerated person to hold this position in MRJC's 85-year history. Yusef brings vision, energy, and an unwavering love for this community. With his leadership, MRJC will continue to innovate, expand, and fight for justice in ways that honor our legacy and meet today's challenges; especially as DEI is under attack, Black history is being erased, and immigrants face threats.

This month, MRJC turns 85, and to honor our incredible legacy, I invite you to

support the **“$85 for 85 Years” campaign**. Your $85 gift isn’t just a donation—it directly supports mentorship for youth leaders, strengthens programs that build beloved neighborhoods, and amplifies voices that too often go unheard. Every dollar helps continue the vital work we’ve built together and invests in the next generation of justice and community leadership.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you—for your partnership, your passion, and your belief in what we can achieve together. Let’s honor the past, sustain the present, and light the path for decades of justice to come. Let’s celebrate 85 years by investing in the next 85.

With deepest gratitude, love, and hope,
Steve Spreitzer
Executive Director, Retired

$85 for 85 Years

Happy Retirement Steve

Upcoming Events

MRJC is excited to share upcoming Community Forums about Police Dashboards:

In partnership with Voting Access for All Coalition and Ferndale Inclusion Network, upcoming dates are:

Monday, October 13, 2025
6p-8p
Arabic Translator available
Melvindale Civic Center, 4300 S. Dearborn St., Melvindale, MI 48122

Tuesday, October 21, 2025
6p-730p
Incubizo, 1938 Burdette, Ferndale, 48220

RSVP

Reimagining Public Safety Community Forum

October 23, 2025
6p-8p
McCree Theatre, 4601 Clio Rd., Flint MI 48504

Join us for panel conversations with state and regional law enforcement leaders and community leaders to dig into best practices that center community engagement in policing practices.

Free parking and refreshments available!

3rd Annual Halloween Festival

October 31, 2025, 5p-8p,
Mama Akua Community House

2431 Ferry Park St., Detroit, MI 48208

We are looking for volunteers to:

- host an activity station
- vendor table
- be a scarer in our haunted maze

Can't volunteer but want to help? Check out our Amazon wish list: **https://a.co/h1xGvHa**

We will be hosting an after-hours screening of Redemption Road: The Story of Dr. Yusef Bunchy Shakur

More info and questions: Contact Dez at 586.744.3889 or dsquire@miroundtable.org

Email Dez

BEAMS Youth Engagement Summit

Saturday, October 18, 2025
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Central Detroit Christian, 1550 Taylor St, Detroit, MI 48206

Join us for a powerful mental health summit created for middle school students and their parents/caregivers. Together, we'll explore strategies to support mental wellness, build resilience, and strengthen family connections.

The summit will include:

- Engaging workshops for both youth and parents
- Access to local mental health resources
- Free lunch and giveaways

Registration is required. Space is limited.

Register Today

First Friday Forums

Our First Friday Forum Series is back!

Join us on Friday, November 7, 2025, at the Mama Akua Community House for food, networking, and conversation about hot topics around racial equity.

November 7, 2025
6p-8p
Mama Akua Community House, 2431 Ferry Park St., Detroit, MI 48208

This month's conversation is:
What does the election results mean for me?

For more info and questions: Joe Drew-Hundley at jdrewhundley@miroundtable.org

Email Joe

Executive Director Spotlight: Building the Beloved Community in a Divided World

Watch Episode

When i walk through my neighborhood in Detroit, i see what community really looks

like — folks who ain't got much, but still share what they have. Muslims, Christians, and folks who don't claim a religion at all — watching each other's kids, helping each other, keeping each other safe. That's what getting along truly means. At the Michigan Roundtable, We call that *building a Beloved Community.* It ain't a slogan — it's a practice. It's everyday people choosing humanity over white hegemony, togetherness over exploitation, and truth over historical lies.

Justice, Not Just Peace
Dr. King told Us peace ain't the absence of tension — it's the presence of justice. So when people talk about "coming together," i remind them — We can't come together on top of broken systems. Getting along means telling the truth and being willing to hear it — even when it's uncomfortable. It means dismantling the stigmas that undermine Our humanity — whether it's race, class, gender, or incarceration status — and building new pathways for Our people to heal, transform, and lead. i know what it feels like to be written off — this society did that to me. And i know what it feels like to be restored — my community did that for me. That's what Our work is about: restoration, healing, and collective transformation — turning pain into power, and power into purpose.

The Long Pain, The Long Work
As We reflect on October 7, We have to overstand that it wasn't just one tragic day — it sits on top of decades of pain, fear, and struggle that have scarred generations. What happened that day was horrific — innocent people killed, families torn apart. But We also must recognize the suffering that's been ongoing for decades — Palestinians living under occupation, Israelis living in fear, and children on both sides growing up without peace — being slaughtered before they ever know life. Grief doesn't have a nationality. Every innocent life lost — there or here — is a reminder of how much work We still have to do.

And it's not just overseas. Here at home, We carry Our own tragic anniversaries — the bombing of Black churches, the mass shootings that stain Our cities, and the ongoing violence by the hands of police in Our communities. These wounds deserve recognition too. Healing and transformation start at the crux — confronting the ugliness of Our present, starting with the militarization of ICE being deployed on the streets and the so-called *"Big, Beautiful Bill."* They call it reform, but the ramification is more trauma and oppression. It increases police budgets while cutting housing and mental health programs. It pushes surveillance into poor neighborhoods under the name of "safety." It promises opportunity but leaves working-class people trapped in low-wage jobs and economic insecurity. It eliminates Medicaid, leaving the most vulnerable without access to healthcare.

When We talk about a Just Community, it means budgets that reflect humanity — not fear. Every dollar taken from housing and education to fund policing is a dollar stolen from Our future. That's the quiet assault on poor and working-class people We must name — policies wrapped in the language of progress but built on the same old exploitation, further pushing folks to the margins and away from a Just society. Because until We face those truths, We can't truly heal or transform ourselves. In Detroit, We've always known how to build something out of nothing — from block clubs to community houses. That's where the blueprint for a Beloved Community lives — right here. i don't come at this absent of history — i'm guided by it. Because peace can't just mean silence between bombs or quiet between tragedies. It has to mean the end of dehumanization — everywhere. Justice means seeing every life as sacred, every mother's cry as holy, every father's determination as worthy, and every child's smile as precious. We don't have to pick a side to pick humanity. We

just have to decide that love and truth are stronger than fear and lies.

That's what the Beloved Community is — the courage to love when it's easier to hate, to listen when it's easier to judge, and to heal when it's easier to stay divided. And if We can do that right here — in Detroit, on Our blocks, in Our hearts — then We can send ripples of healing across the world.

Closing Reflection
At the Roundtable, We're building that Beloved Community every day — through Our work dismantling stigma, amplifying community power, partnering with corporations for authentic engagement, and lifting youth as the architects of change. Justice is how We engage each other in public — and that's the only kind of peace worth fighting for.

In Solidarity,
Dr. Yusef Bunchy Shakur

Support Our Partners

Update from the Ferndale Inclusion Network on Ferndale's use of Flock Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR):
Ferndale City Council will be voting on whether or not to extend their contract October 13th. If you are concerned about the way data collected may be shared and used by Flock, FIN has several actions you can take - for both residents and friends and neighbors (non-residents).

Non-Residents - Please use this link to take action through Action Network.

Ferndale Residents - Please send a letter to City Council using one of the options below:

- Add your name to our existing letter using this form.
- Create your own letter - we have a template to help you!

Everyone - Join FIN at the City Council Meeting October 13th (City Council vote on contract extension) at 7PM!

- Speaking is great, but even just showing up and wearing a pin (we'll provide!) is helpful
- Fill out this form, and we'll send more details and talking points closer to the date

If you have any questions on this, please reach out to ferndaleforall@gmail.com

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