2022 SMA Action Plan

to advance the Southern People’s Initiative

“We’re on Our Way.” - Fannie Lou Hamer

The role of the Southern Movement Assembly is to grow a social movement in the U.S. South with the power to practice a people’s democracy, build new social economies, and protect and defend our communities (Southern People’s Initiative/SPI). We are building the world we know is possible. We draw from the brilliance of grassroots organizers working on every frontline in the 21st century, acknowledging the U.S. South is part of a centuries-old and global struggle for justice.

We believe we all have something to contribute, we operate by shared principles of unity, and we created a blueprint for our resistance in 2016.

In 2022, We’re on Our Way!

We are sick and tired of being sick and tired. As we enter the third year of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the South is reckoning with the threats of climate crisis, rising authoritarianism, forced migrations and hostile immigration policies. We are reckoning with the threats of corporate control of land, militarism, surveillance, policing, mass criminalization, extractive economies, misinformation campaigns, and attacks to healthcare access. Our neighborhoods are rapidly being gentrified and making our people more vulnerable to state violence. The whitewashing of U.S history in public education is strengthening homegrown fascism and nationalism, while denying our young people access to a true historical analysis. These oppressive conditions continue to threaten and harm our people, and in many ways these conditions are worsening over time.
We take strength in the knowledge that we are part of something larger than ourselves - a regional network of freedom fighters using a diversity of tactics to resist and build movements across the Global South. Together, we protect and defend our communities, build a new social economy, and advance a people’s democracy. We will continue building a deep political analysis that is rooted and nourished by our relationships to each other. Through the Hot D.A.M. Freedom and Survival School study group series and monthly General Membership Assemblies, our people have come together to learn from one another as we continue to build our understanding and practice of decolonization, abolition and mutual aid. Southern People's Power will transform our region.

On the road to SMA 10 we will dive deep into our history to celebrate and learn from the people and the land. The Southern Freedom Movement is rooted in the Black Radical Tradition of the South, and the wisdom and guidance of our ancestors and elders informs us in this critical moment of resistance and possibility. We are standing on the shoulders of giants.

Recognizing the 10 years of Southern Movement Assembly history and the current political moment of crumbling economic, ecological, and political systems, we ask ourselves: What power are we exercising to replace these systems? This question guides our organizing strategies towards EXERCISING POWER on every frontline which will require strengthening our relationships and movement infrastructure, sustaining our leadership and movement governance, and supporting a broad base of members who are prepared and connected across the South.

We continue to develop strategy, and connect across frontline struggles through the general membership assembly calls. We build on the collective success of the Southern Spring in 2020 and the People’s First 100 Days in 2021. We continue to create organizing intensives that build and strengthen Southern freedom movements across the region and lead up to Southern Movement Assembly 10 in September 2022, 10 years after the very first SMA in Lowndes County, AL in 2012.

The SMA convenings create opportunities to share our skills and experiences with one another. We divest from systems and practices of oppression that are destructive and harmful to humanity. We build a people’s democracy, and practice movement governance, by organizing people’s assemblies across frontline communities in the South. We continue to hold fast to our commitment to practice healing across all of our work, and not just as an afterthought, as we deepen and sustain leadership in our movement.
Action Plan Goals

Strengthen our relationships and movement infrastructure
➔ Structure our processes to allow for adequate rest, response, and transition
➔ Organize SMA 10 a convergence of people and ideas that advance the SPI

Sustain our leadership & capacity to do collective work with shared resources
➔ Share and connect our strategies to the last 10 years of SMA history and practice
➔ Streamline our organizing and education practices to be more effective and accessible

Support our members through connection, engagement, and training
➔ Organize regular political education & skill-building opportunities that meet this moment
➔ Build relationships and deeper connections to one another through work

Action Plan Outcomes

➢ Clarify Our Governance: How do we govern ourselves as social movements?
  We practice governance for and by the people through frontline and community-based People’s Movement Assemblies to develop clear representation at the SMA 10 to produce our collective plans for 2023.

➢ Expand Our Base: How do we grow our power?
  We are stronger together, and we will find each other, support each other, and learn together.

➢ Map Our Movement: How do we know where we are and what we need?
  We map and coordinate our movement history, mutual aid sites, local policy fights, Peoples Movement Assemblies, and active organizations to strengthen all our campaigns and initiatives.

➢ Communicate Our Stories: What stories do we need to tell?
  We inform our everyday work by telling our own stories about the power, the history, and the significance of Southerners fighting for liberation.
Resource Our People: How do we sustain our movements? We support each other and resource our organizing so that our communities are sustainable beyond philanthropy and towards a New Social Economy.

The Road to SMA 10 - Flexing Our Power

Southern Movement Assembly 10 will converge September 8-11 at Franklinton Center at Bricks in Whitaker, North Carolina

How do we exercise our Southern Freedom Movement power to replace the systems that have failed us?

Rooted in the spirit of the original SMA I in 2012 that converged in Lowndes County, Alabama on the site of 1965’s Freedom City, SMA 10 will recognize the last decade of our movement building work. SMA 10 will be a convergence of community representatives that builds our collective political power, skills, and governance practices in the face of rising authoritarianism, public health crisis, climate change, and economic distress. The throughline of the Southern Freedom Movement’s long-term fight for political power will inform our current efforts to protect our rights to fully exist which include our rights to vote, to protest, to learn, and to sustain our lives, families, and planet. SMA 10 will convene Southern leadership to produce a shared 2023 plan RESIST the attacks and to BUILD our power.

POWER OF THE PMA: Organizing Intensive > JUNE 11-12, 2022

The Peoples Movement Assembly is an organizing methodology that Social Movements throughout history and around the world have used assemblies to make decisions. Movements, particularly in the Global South – Africa, Asia, and Latin America have used assemblies to advance the practice of people power, self-determination, and governance. In the 21st century, social movements are building power through radical democratic, participatory spaces that respect and trust the collective voice of people in struggle. The Southern Movement Assembly organizes PMAs to gather, learn, and develop shared strategies on every frontline. Since 2011, Organizing Intensives have been sites of training and capacity building for organizers around the South. In 2022, we will focus on the skills required to organize, facilitate, and synthesize PMAs.

SOUTHERN MOVEMENT ASSEMBLY 10 > SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2022

CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF SMA: We will root in the legacy and culture of the SMA by gathering our people to remember the past, honor the present, and heal in order to transform our material conditions.
**BUILD LOCAL/REGIONAL POWER ACROSS FRONTLINES:** Our people resist and build across the frontlines of Climate, Abolition/Policing/Militarization, Labor and Economy, Legislative Policies, Election Protection, Health and Wellness, Body Autonomy, Critical Institutions, Refugees/Immigrants, and Land.

**STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIPS, SKILLS, AND STRATEGIES:** SMA is at its best when we are building and strengthening our relationships. During and post SMA, we will map our people power and create synthesis that connects our strategies across the US and global South.

## 2022 ACTION PLAN TIMELINE

### WE LISTEN & ASSESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>Hot D.A.M. Freedom and Survival School: Abolition Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB</td>
<td>General Membership Assembly Calls:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- January 26: Southern Cypher: What is the State of the South?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- February 23: <em>“Been Here, Still Here, Ain’t Going Nowhere!: an intergenerational conversation about the Black Radical Tradition</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- March 30th: <em>“We’re On Our Way!: The release of the SMA 2022 Action plan to advance the Southern People’s Initiative</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR</td>
<td>★ Launch 2022 Action Plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WE MAP & LEARN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>Hot D.A.M. Freedom and Survival School: Mutual Aid Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>General Membership Assembly Calls:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>- April 27th: Youth on the frontlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- May 25th: What is a PMA?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- June 29th: History of SMA &amp; Road to SMA10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

★ **JUNE 11-12: Organizing Intensive “Power of the PMA” - Peoples Movement Assembly Training**

### WE ORGANIZE & ASSEMBLE
### People’s Movement Assemblies across the South!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>SEPT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ July 27th: PMAs in all regions of the South</td>
<td>☐ August 31st: Preparation for SMA10</td>
<td>☐ September 28th: Synthesis report from SMA10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

★ Southern Movement Assembly 10

### WE SYNTHESIZE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCT</th>
<th>NOV</th>
<th>DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ October 26th: TBD</td>
<td>☐ November 30th: Year Close-out &amp; Preparation for 2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BREATHE & CELEBRATE**

### JANUARY 2023: WE BEGIN AGAIN

How to engage on the Road to SMA 10:

- Join Work Teams to make it happen! - build relationships, map and tell our stories, coordinate actions, People’s Movement Assemblies, and campaigns that are rooted in the SPI (practice a people’s democracy, build new social economies, and protect and defend our communities)
- Engage in study and synthesis through the Hot D.A.M. Freedom and Survival School.
- Learn how to organize a People’s Movement Assembly at the “Power of the PMA” organizing intensive, June 11-12
- Converge your people and build across frontlines with PMAs to bring visions and strategies to SMA 10 and to establish regional identities to challenge state borders. *(Gulf South, Deep South, Coastal South, Appalachia, Mid-South, and Global South)*

### ROLES & TEAMS:

**SMA Membership and Engagement Team**
- Meets bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 6pm CDT. This team focuses on the connection, cultivation, expansion, and enrichment of the SMA membership body.
**SMA 10 Design Team**
- This team focuses on the planning and design of SMA 10. Invitation for members to join periodically*

**Communications and History**
- Meets bi-weekly on Thursdays at 6pm EST starting on April 21st. This work team helps to streamline the history of the Southern Movement Assembly, facilitate communication and engagement across organizations on the frontlines, and tell our visions for the South through captivating and culturally rooted communication practices.