

Remaking the Economy Mutual Aid: 3 City Case Studies

October 28, 2020

Steve Dubb, Nonprofit Quarterly, Boston, MA

Danielle Mkali, Nexus Community Partners (Minneapolis-St. Paul)

Mike Strode, Kola Nut Collaborative (Chicago)

Dr. Yolande Tomlinson, Metro Atlanta Mutual Aid Fund (Atlanta)

#RebuildTheEconomy



Image courtesy of artist Heather Goodwind

Coming soon!

Remaking the Economy series, special post-election edition

Where to Now—and Beyond

Thursday, November 12th, 2-3 pm ET

Steve Dubb, Nonprofit Quarterly, Boston, MA

Dr. Gar Alperovitz, Democracy Collaborative, Washington, DC

Laura Flanders, *The Laura Flanders Show*, New York, NY

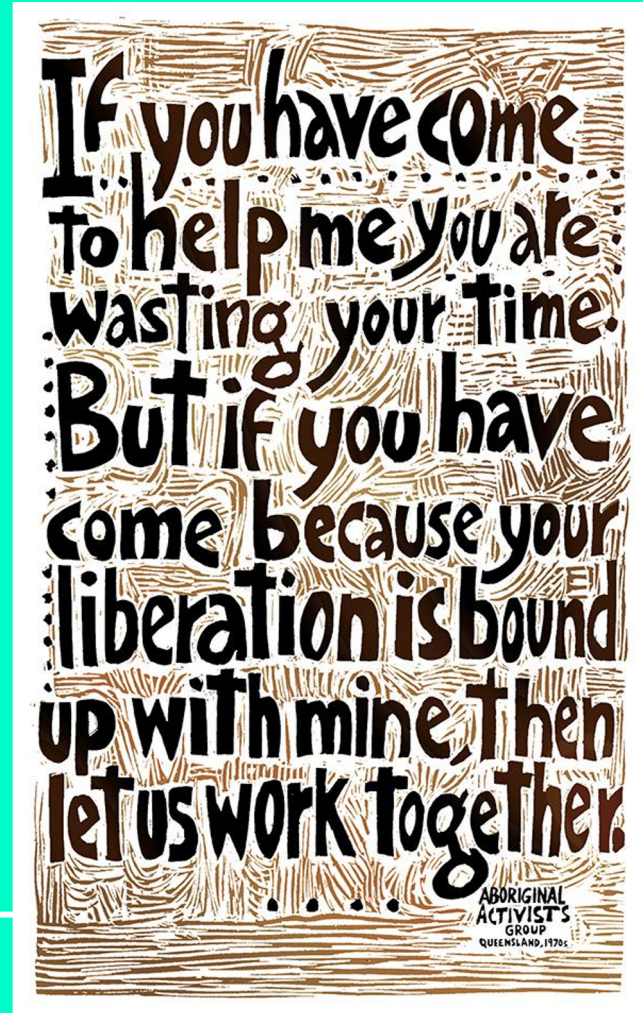
Dr. Stacey Sutton, University of Illinois, Chicago

What is Mutual Aid?

A practice and politic that emphasizes solidarity rather than charity.

- Solidarity = Done with/together
- Charity = Done for

*Graphic: Ricardo Levins Morales/Lila Watson





Mutual Aid Principles

- Solidarity not charity
- Liberation not recuperation
- Autonomy & power building
- “Everything for everyone, nothing for us.” -Zapatista proverb
- Cooperation not competition
- Lead by asking

*Graphic: [Monica Trinidad](#)



A Brief History of Mutual Aid

In North America

Indigenous lifeways and sovereignty;
Black thrivance and power.

-Regan De Loggans



The Afronaut mural, Will, Jennifer & Alexa Condry

Mutual Aid by Other Names

- ❖ Sovereign Nations
- ❖ Maroon Communities
- ❖ Konbit
- ❖ Free African & Secret Societies
- ❖ Sociedades Mutualistas
- ❖ Fraternal Lodges and Societies
- ❖ Voluntary Associations



NEXUS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Twin Cities (Minneapolis & St. Paul) Mutual Aid efforts



Major events....

- Covid-19 increased the need for and visibility of mutual aid networks.
- The uprising in response to Mr. George Floyd on May 29th went on for days.
- Call outs of sexual harassment, assault in art, music and non-profits begin in mid June.
- Unemployment disproportionately impacting BIPOC communities.
- Housing encampments: We have award-winning parks yet lack housing for our people.



Diverse mutual aid responses

- Individuals-individuals
- Informal networks
- Resource/Space/Time
- What are nonprofits' roles?
- What are funders' roles?
- Who is leading mutual aid?
- Challenges
- The promise of mutual aid in the Twin Cities

THE KOLA NUT COLLABORATIVE

Our Abundant Social Infrastructure Made Visible



Time Travelin'

A Brief Journey Through the History of a Kola Nut



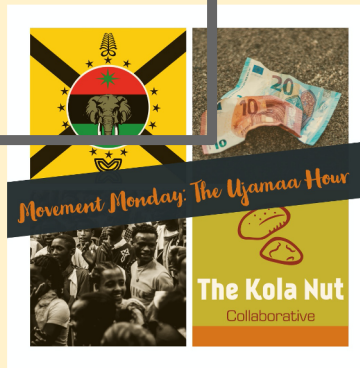
Kola Past



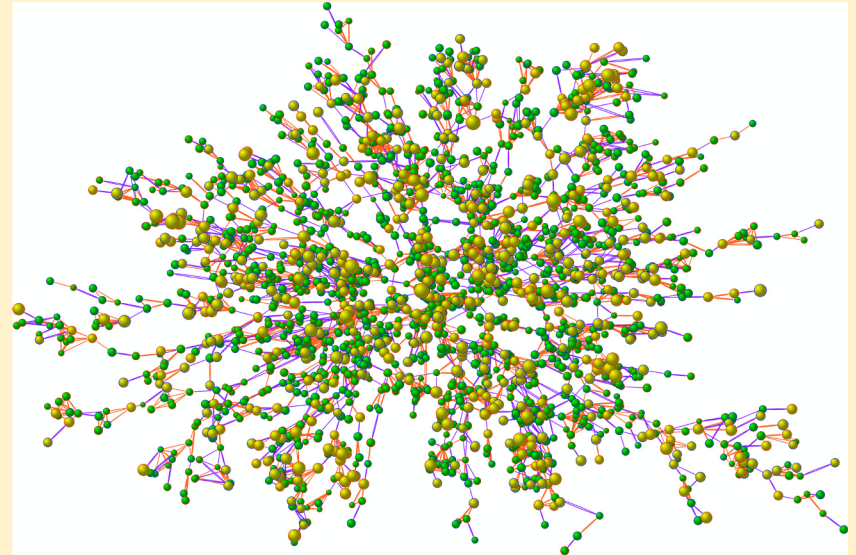


NEW ECONOMY
COALITION

Kola Present



Kola Future





Pre-COVID-19: Mutual Aid in Metro Atlanta



Organization for
Human Rights
and Democracy

Metro Atlanta
Time Bank



Georgia Citizens
Coalition on Hunger



**Food Not
Bombs
Atlanta**
FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT

The Come
Up Project

**THE
GUILD**

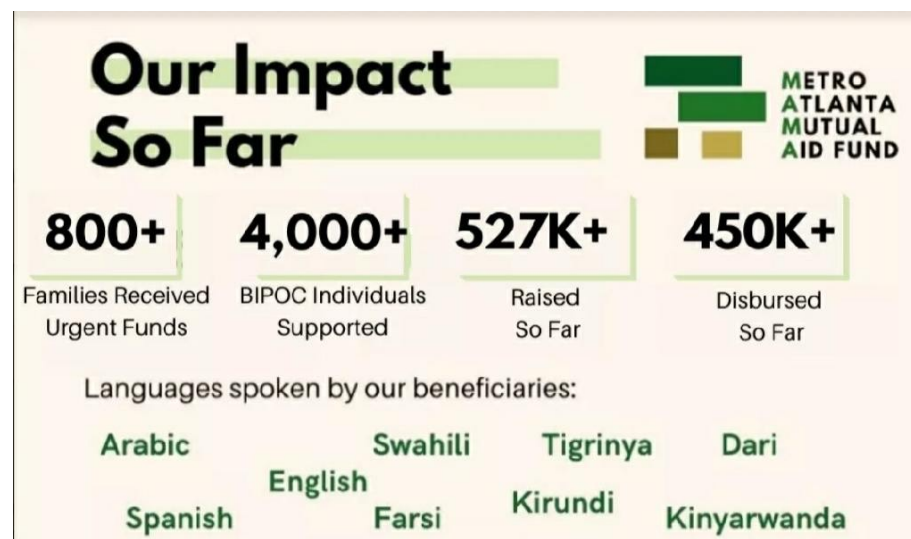
**BLACK MAMA'S
FREEBLACKMAMAS
BAIL OUT ACTION**

**ATLANTA
FREE STORE**
love is kind and food is FREE

Our Values

- ❖ Focus on Black, Indigenous, and other Peoples of Color, with special attention paid to gender, sexuality, class, immigration statuses
- ❖ Radical trust in our people
- ❖ Prioritize community needs over donors'
- ❖ Utilize a wealth redistribution framework
- ❖ Encourage employers to prioritize their workers over giving to the Fund
- ❖ Ensure that funds reach communities outside of city centers and major suburbs

MAMA Fund: Rapid Response Now



www.atlantamutualaid.org



Our Vision: Alternative Systems for our Future

We envision interdependent ecosystems of individuals, families, and communities in an abundant, loving and joyful Metro Atlanta region. Ecosystems where our communities' structures and institutions are life-affirming and are aligned with Mother Earth. Communities where we all are valued, supported and nourished.



www.atlantamutualaid.org



Innovative thinking for the nonprofit sector

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Image courtesy of artist Heather Goodwind

**Please complete your brief evaluation
Thank you!**