



## OHIO COMMUNITY RIGHTS CONFERENCE

COLUMBUS, OHIO

SEPTEMBER 29, 2018

9AM-5PM, Quest Conference Center

8405 Pulsar Place, Columbus 43240

GROWING ROOTS AND RIGHTS FOR JUST COMMUNITIES

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Are you overwhelmed by the number of issues confronting our communities and our state?

Are you growing tired of putting out fires and putting on band-aids?

Do you wonder *why* we work so hard with little to show for it, and *what* we can do differently?

**Join us for the**

### **Ohio Community Rights Conference: Growing Roots and Rights for Just Communities**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2018 FROM 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

This conference is bringing together people with diverse issues from across the state to discover common origins and explore systemic solutions.

#### **You will leave with:**

- A deeper understanding of how our legal and governing structures are designed to oppress and keep us from getting what we want in our communities
- Discovery of connections between issue-specific and community rights concepts
- Networking with social, political, and environmental groups from across Ohio
- Tools and inspiration to drive forward systemic change, echoing activists in abolition, suffrage, and Civil Rights

#### **Who's coming?**

Keynote speakers include:

- **Melina Abdullah, Ph.D.**, a nationally recognized expert on race, gender, class, and social movements, Chair of Pan African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles and co-founder of the Los Angeles chapter of Black Lives Matter
- **Mari Margil, MPP**, a leader of the International Center for the Rights of Nature, an expert on the right of local community self-government, and Associate Director of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF)

**OHIO COMMUNITY RIGHTS NETWORK**

- [www.ohiocrn.org](http://www.ohiocrn.org) -

## What are we doing?

Together we'll explore social, political, and environmental issues through five Breakout Community Conversations to reveal an unexpected common origin that prevents Ohioans from creating the just communities they envision. Potential topics of conversation and confirmed participants to date include:

- **Safe Communities** - Melina Abdullah and Chad Nicholson, PA CELDF Organizer will discuss issues such as gun violence, police accountability, racial/ethnic profiling, and mass incarceration.
- **Fair Communities** – Cathi Steele, Executive Director of Mid-Ohio Workers Association and Ben Price, CELDF National Organizing Director will discuss issues such as living wage vs minimum wage, worker rights, predatory lending and “right to work.”
- **Just Communities** – Bob Fitrakis, Columbus Free Press and Susie Beiersdorfer, Youngstown State Geology Professor and President of the National Community Rights Network will discuss issues such as fair and free elections, gerrymandering, money in politics, and the right to citizen-led initiative.
- **Healthy Communities** – Kevin O’Donnell, Ohio Organizing Collaborative, Saraquoia Bryant, President of Grassroots Ohio and Tish O’Dell, OH CELDF Organizer will discuss issues such as recognizing drug use as a public health issue instead of a crime; funding drug treatment instead of incarceration; the role of state preemption in protecting the health of community residents.
- **Sustainable Communities** – Mike Ferner, founder Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie and Mari Margil will discuss issues such as the protection of water e.g. Lake Erie, private property rights vs rights of nature, and industrial agriculture vs protecting the local environment.

## SIGN UP TODAY – LIMITED SEATING! CONNECT, DISCOVER, BE INSPIRED, TAKE ACTION!

- Tabling, sponsorship, and endorsement opportunities are available
- \$10 registration is required – lunch included
- Ample free parking
- Overnight accommodations within walking distance
- Go to our website for more information: <http://ohcommunityrights.org/growing-roots-for-just-communities/> or email us: [ohiocrn@gmail.com](mailto:ohiocrn@gmail.com) and watch for updates on our Facebook Event Page <https://www.facebook.com/events/262848744288531/>

**GROWING ROOTS AND RIGHTS FOR JUST COMMUNITIES**  
**- TENTATIVE SCHEDULE -**

|               |                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9:00 – 9:15   | Welcome and Opening Statements        |
| 9:15 – 9:30   | Introduction                          |
| 9:30 -10:30   | Keynote Address – Mari Margil         |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Break                                 |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | Breakout Community Conversations      |
| 12:00 – 1:00  | Lunch                                 |
| 1:00 – 1:15   | Introduction                          |
| 1:15 - 2:15   | Keynote Address – Melina Abdullah     |
| 2:15-2:30     | Break                                 |
| 2:30 – 4:00   | Panel Discussion – Making Connections |
| 4:00 – 4:30   | Audience Q&A                          |
| 4:30 – 5:00   | Wrap-up                               |

**HOSTED BY**



**- OHIO COMMUNITY RIGHTS NETWORK -**

We are grassroots pioneers in rights-based movement building from communities across Ohio who grapple with obstacles which prevent people from creating the just and sustainable communities they envision.

**WE HELP COMMUNITIES TAKE ON INJUSTICE THROUGH RIGHTS-BASED ORGANIZING.**

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