

A Call to Action for Cultural Equity: *Voices from the Cultural Battlefront's* Los Angeles Forum



Cultural Equity Group (CEG) at City Hall, Jan. 9, 2008, NYC

Wednesday, October 1st, 2008 – 1 to 6 pm at Farmlab / Under Spring (1745 North Spring Street, Downtown Los Angeles), with reception celebrating cultural equity following

Thursday, October 2nd, 2008 – 1:30 to 4:00 pm at Imagining America's national conference at University of Southern California, www.imaginingamerica.org

Voices from the Cultural Battlefront: Organizing for Equity is an ongoing 20-year international conversation organized by the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute about the role of art and culture in the struggle for human rights and a healthy natural environment. The book, *Voices from the Battlefront: Achieving Cultural Equity* (Africa World Press, 1993), documents the spirit and thinking of these initial international discussions about cultural equity. It is a premise of the book that just as W.E.B. Dubois correctly predicted the color line would be a defining issue of the 20th century, the struggle for cultural equity will be a defining issue of the 21st century. Defining culture as the distinct intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and material traditions and features of a people or society, *Voices* is dedicated to the proposition that all cultures have an equal right to self-expression and to resources for development.

The *Voices* Call to Action at Imagining America will bring together Los Angeles artists and activists, conference participants, and *Voices* national leaders to share knowledge, to build relationships, and to develop Actions for cultural equity in participants' home communities and in higher education. *Voices'* national leaders planning to attend the Los Angeles forum include **Marta Moreno Vega, Dudley Cocke, Jack (John Kuo Wei) Tchen, Caron Atlas, Carlton Turner, Kalamu ya Salaam, Melody Capote, and Jamie Haft**. LA organizers include **Bernardo Rosa-Lugo Jr., James V. Burks, and Olga Garay**. The elder leaders began their activist work during the civil rights movement and subsequently founded cultural organizations that joined art to the struggle for social justice.

To begin the discussion about cultural equity, *Voices* postulates that there now exists a form of hyper-capitalism that puts the demands of the free market before a people's spiritual, intellectual, and emotional well-being.

www.culturalbattlefront.net

