

SRCCON:LEAD closing

Day & Time: Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019, at 9am

Erika: Is this mic working? Closer mic, got it. OK, thanks everyone. We're just going to have a quick closing from these two days. So I just want to share a bunch of appreciations, some reflections, and an announcement. So thank you all for this time together, for being vulnerable, sharing your experiences and continually publishing to imagine how things can be different. Thank you to our volunteers in the yellow shirts for keeping everything running smoothly.

[applause]

And to Joe for coordinating the volunteers.

[applause]

And many logistic details. Our SRCCON planner Erik Westra has been supporting us from afar. Thanks as always to Norma and White Coat Captioning.

[applause]

Thanks for documenting our talks and sessions and helping folks outside of these rooms learn from the wisdom shared over these two days. Thanks to the venue staff, who are out and about for opening up this beautiful building and letting us take over part of it. Thanks to our caterers I don't even know if all of those vegan. Thanks to Ryan who managed all the staff this year, and Lindsay for helping document many of your projects and sharing the talks and helping us get excited for these two days.....

Also thanks to our sponsors, to the Lenfest Institute that provided support for transcription, and breakfast was covered by Vox Media, lunch by Democracy Fund and stats from the KS fellowship, which there's many alumni in the room and applications are open right now. Thank you to all of our sponsors for making these two days possible.

Thanks to Angilee Shah and ... For working with Ryan to craft the schedule for this event. Thanks to our speakers, Stacy-Marie Ishmael, Andre Natta and Bryan Mercer for setting the tone and sharing of themselves.

[applause]

Thanks to our facilitators for framing our discussions, stretching our imaginations and giving so many ideas to take home, and thanks of course to all of you for being here, bringing your perspectives and making these two days amazing. So as we've been sharing your thoughts about SRCCON:LEAD, I've already heard so many ideas about what's next. Those SRCCON: Ideas include, SRCCON revolt, decolonize, SRCCON-leave

[laughter]

SRCCON: Struggle, SRCCON, burn as in burn it down. So sense a theme in those suggestions, maybe some catharsis, as well, so it looks like we're really thinking about shifting how we work, shifting how we think, shifting how we organize ourselves and shifting what we are willing to endure.

So while we're doing the work of covering trauma, and revolution and celebration, we're also working to shift power's function, shift how the work in what they look like, who we serve. At SRCCON this summer several of you were in a session that I helped facilitate and the resounding message I heard in that session is we want to help us, just ask us more. So we'll get to that in a moment.

I find asking hard. When Bryan answered this morning about how you can create space to actually imagine and that part of that is being able to escape from isolation, that really hit me in my gut. I often feel pretty isolated myself and I hear so often from other people, including many of you in the room, about how isolated and exhausted you feel, too. But at the same time, as Andre mentioned, we all have folks to call on for support and there are so many ways we turn up, whether it be a text message, sponsorship, encouragement for a new job. So today I have a specific ask for support, a new one. So I'm excited to announce a new pathway for support at OpenNews, we're launching a founding sustainer program where community members who financially support OpenNews.

Audience: Yeah!

[applause]

So I'm excited to be able to share this with a meaningful, concrete, ongoing way to support the work that OpenNews does, the community that we serve, all of you. You can sign up at OpenNews.org/donate. Collective action has been a theme we've seen over the last few days and this was a way for us to band together as a community and collectively support the work we care about. Working collectively fights back an an austerity mind set or about a theme that came up in a session earlier about capitalism, we can pull the resources together, share them with one another, we can create abundance, give what you can when you can and know that your community has your back if and when you need it. And we know that because it's how we've been operating that way for the last 18 years. Stacy-Marie mentioned individual capacity building yesterday and that is one of the ways that I think about the work of OpenNews. So much of what we do is connecting networks, providing space to build with community members. We can continue investing our skills, experiences and passions into this work. So I think you can all see why I was thrilled for Bryan to speak with us today MMP was the first place that I encountered a sustainer program. Way back when paying something monthly was a novel thing to do online. And it wasn't just the fundraising thing that was talking about, but I am a fundraising nerd, I'm always excited to you can talk about this. I love participating in the community of MMP as a member of that community. I love how it was a truly inclusive way to contribute financially. Yes, including contributing financially and seeing sustainers for taxi drivers and student activists from all over the city and all walks of life. It really showed me how asking can not only be OK, but it can be a real invitation to contribute to something you findful.

so I hope we can provide a space for this community to have that same experience. Your ongoing contribution will be a significant part of how we continue our program, including things like sending people to journalism events through the ticket and travel scholarships, giving back out financial support directly and exploring the conversations journalism needs. I hope you'll consider contributing at OpenNews.org/donate you'll find the signup form. We are rolling out this you have program slowly. We wanted to share it with you the folks who are committed to imagining new modes of leadership and how to support one another. We need to be able to build capacity to articulate the why and build the thing. I sure heard a lot of inspiring conversations about why over the last two days. Let's build those things and keep the struggle going, not in isolation, but together. Thank you.

[applause]

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