

when they SEE US VOICE



EPISODE 3 TOOLKIT & RESOURCE PACKAGE

“Organizing the South”





About #WTSUV

At a critical time in American history with a tumultuous census, a national election and an atmosphere of both heightened activism and racist backlash, *When They See Us Vote* is a limited series talk that seeks to engage and educate the many people who are becoming politically conscious and active in this moment with an analysis of how we build resilience and Black political power at the voting booth and beyond. The show is co-hosted by Bree Newsome Bass and Ajamu Dillahunt. The accompanying toolkit can be used to deepen individual understanding around the issues discussed and serve as a guide for hosting conversations and study groups.

EPIISODE SYNOPSIS

- Ajamu and Bree speak with Erin Dale, Board Chair for Fertile Ground and Executive Director for The Partnership Fund
- The group discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, strategies for organizing in the south and the importance of having self-sufficient, organized communities
- They also examine the structural dynamics that exist between private businesses, non-profits, the government and grassroots community organizing

QUESTIONS:

- What does it mean to have “permanently organized communities”? What would it look like for your local community to be permanently organized and what is necessary for that to happen?
- What is the difference between individualism and collective action? Why is collective action key to building organized power?
- What is the difference between a tactic and a strategy?

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2015, just 51 percent of Americans polled believed racism is a big problem in the US. Today, that number is 76 percent.

• NOTES

KEY QUOTE

“Voting is a tactic and not a strategy... We have to assess how we build independent Black political power using the voting process as a tool... Voting is insufficient if you do not have permanently organized communities.”

- Erin Dale

KEY TERMS

- **Capitalism** - an economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners who profit from the labor of others
- **Tactic** - an action carried out to attain a certain goal
- **Grassroots Community Organizing** - individuals within a given community, location or constituency building power with each other to address a shared issue or concern
- **Fascism** - a form of far-right government characterized by ethnonationalism and a dictator who has complete power over the society and economy, including forcibly suppressing any opposition and criticism
- **Cooperative** - a way of organizing a business, group or collective effort that is built on ideas of mutual aid, mutual ownership, mutual governance and mutual benefit

NEXT STEPS

- Read **The Other Swing Voter**
by Ibram X. Kendi
- Read **Citizens United Explained**
by Tim Lau
- Read **The Public-Sector Jobs Crisis**
by David Cooper, Mary Gable and
Algernon Austin
- Read **What is Mutual Aid?**
by Detroit Community Wealth Fund
- Read **What Mutual Aid Can Do During a
Pandemic** by Jia Tolentino
- Watch and discuss **If You're Not Scared
About Fascism in the US, You Should Be**
- Watch and discuss **Cooperative
Economics and Civil Rights**
- Research what efforts are being made in your local community to build mutual aid networks. If none exist, consider working with others to develop one.

Erin Dale

EPISODE 3 - GUEST

Erin Dale is an activist, cultural worker and political strategist. She is currently Executive Director for the Partnership Fund. She has a degree in sociology from the College of William and Mary that serves as the foundation of her 15+ years experience in successful coalition work. Dale is also the president of the Fertile Ground Food Cooperative in Raleigh, NC that strives to increase access to healthy and affordable food for residents as well as to establish community ownership over local grocery stores and gathering spaces. Keeping with her organizational work, Erin Dale is Board Chair of the Southern Partners Fund and is a member of Black Workers for Justice. She continues to be of service to her community to improve the quality of life for minorities.



THE #WTSUV TEAM



BREE NEWSOME BASS

is an award-winning activist and artist best known for her historic act of civil disobedience in 2015 when she scaled a 30-ft flagpole at the statehouse grounds in South Carolina to lower its confederate flag in protest following the racially-motivated shootings at Emanuel AME church in Charleston. Bree currently resides in North Carolina where she works as an artist while organizing for housing justice. She is a nationally-recognized public speaker on topics of racial and economic justice as well as the intersection of art and activism.



AJAMU DILLAHUNT

is the Outreach Coordinator at the North Carolina Justice Center in Raleigh, N.C. Before joining the Justice Center in 2004, Ajamu served as President of the Raleigh Area Local of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) for 18 years, where he was also Director of Research and Education for the North Carolina Council of the APWU.



NATALIE BULLOCK BROWN

is an award-winning and Emmy-nominated producer, a Teaching Assistant Professor in Interdisciplinary Studies at North Carolina State University, and a producer on award-winning filmmaker Byron Hurt's upcoming PBS documentary, *Hazing*.

NOTES
