# Welcome from Mijente, MediaJustice, and Tech Worker Coalition

In the 21st century, mass incarceration and criminalization have gone high-tech. Today, over 6 million people are under some form of correctional control in the United States. Physical jail cells are being replaced with digital prisons through the expansion of electronic monitoring. More jurisdictions across the country are turning to risk assessment algorithms to grant or deny someone freedom. Data processing companies are helping track and deport immigrants at an unprecedented scale. Facial recognition, drones and other surveillance technology are being deployed by local and federal police. The major companies behind Silicon Valley, including Facebook and Amazon, are complicit in collaborating with the authoritarian ambitions of government here and abroad.

The human cost has reached epic proportions. While Silicon Valley generates billions in government contracts for a handful of white men, the rest of us are harmed. Meeting the scale of the problem means organizing across communities to forge a new vision of technology, one that centers human impact and de-prioritizes economic ambition.

When we came up with the idea to partner on #TakeBackTech, we knew that people are already challenging the power of big tech. We knew that innovative organizing is winning. We knew that technologists within and outside these companies are banding together. What we needed is a space where we can forge new relationships, share information, and strategize together. As co-conveners Mijente, MediaJustice and Tech Worker Coalition want this space to serve you and the communities you represent.

We are excited you could join us.

*A special thanks for the support we received to make #TakeBackTech happen: Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Algorithm Justice League - MIT, Community Resource Hub for Safety & Accountability, Ford Foundation.*

# PROGRAM

**FRIDAY, JULY 26TH**

6:00-8:00 PM    Mijen.tech Happy Hour at 71 Saint Peter's

**SATURDAY, JULY 27TH**

7:00-8:30AM     Breakfast at hotel

9:00AM          Opening:
                Calpulli Tonalequeh
                Silicon Valley DeBug

9:45AM          #TechTalk Presentation by Jacinta Gonzalez, Mijente

10:00AM         Plenary Discussion: Steven Renderos, Media Justice; Marisa Franco, Mijente;
                and Brooke Larson, Tech Workers Coalition

11:00AM         The 411: What is it? [Workshops]

12:30PM         Lunch

1:30PM          Lessons: How do We Fight it? [Workshops]

3:00PM          Break

3:15PM          Large Group Interactive Activity

3:45PM          "The Future of Criminalization" with Malkia Cyril

4:30PM          Closing Activity

**SUNDAY, JULY 28TH**

7:00-8:30AM     Breakfast at hotel

9:00AM          Opening

9:15AM          Fireside Chat with Meredith Whittaker, AI Now

10:30AM         Unconference (loose structure for rapping about ideas!)

12:00PM         Lunch

1:00PM          Visioning: Co-Creating Strategies [Workshops]

2:30PM          Closing Activity

# WORKSHOPS

### Militarism as the Common Thread: How the Military-Industrial Complex Equips, Justifies, and Props Up the Police State

*ABOUT FACE*
**CLASSROOM 1**

Participants will gain a better understanding of how the Department of Defense aligns with military corporations and tech companies, designs equipment, software, and tactics in endless wars overseas, and soon after deploys them domestically at the southern border and in Black, brown, and indigenous communities across the country. The workshop will use a combination of case studies, participatory exercises, and mapping to gain a shared understanding of how pervasive this system is and where we can begin to push back.

### Risk Assessment Algorithms are Here. Now, What do We do About Them?

*MEDIA MOBILIZING PROJECT*
**CLASSROOM 2**

From pretrial decision-making to immigration detention, from Amazon warehouses to privileges in prison, algorithms are deciding who gets access to the basic dignities and freedoms of life, and who doesn't. Despite their ubiquity, they are shrouded in mystery — and only now are our communities coming together to reign in their use. How can we understand, control, and defeat these algorithms? After discussing how these tools work — focusing on their impact in the pretrial detention process — join us to experiment and co-create strategies combating algorithmic tools wherever we find them deployed unjustly.

### No Digital Prisons: Challenging E-carceration in the Criminal Legal System

*MEDIA JUSTICE*
**PAVILLION**

This workshop will focus on how e-carceration, especially electronic monitoring, is expanding and transforming our conception of punishment and freedom. We will discuss the impact of e-carceration on individuals awaiting trial, those who have completed prison sentences, and youth caught up in the system. We will explore this impact at the level of individuals, households and communities, stressing disproportionate effects on people of color. In concluding we will consider: how do we push back against this technology, how do we contest the notion "at least it's better than jail," how do we sync this struggle with notions of racial justice and abolition.

### Who's Behind ICE: The Tech and Data Companies Fueling Deportations

*MIJENTE,*
*IMMIGRANT DEFENSE PROJECT*
**CLASSROOM 5**

Tech is transforming immigration policing; technology companies are playing an increasingly central role in facilitating the expansion and acceleration of arrests, detentions, and deportations. ICE now has access to information from private data brokers, international databases, facial recognition technology, licence plate readers, and much more. Come learn about what data and information ICE is able to collect through surveillance, and how we can use this knowledge can help our communities prepare for and fight back against ICE.

### Tracking Bodies: Fighting Biometric Surveillance

*COMMUNITY JUSTICE EXCHANGE,*
*CENTER ON PRIVACY AND TECHNOLOGY*
**CLASSROOM 3**

It used to be that law enforcement technology tracked your technology: your car, your phone, your computer. The latest wave of law enforcement techniques track your body: your face, your voice, the way you move. It is much harder to counter this kind of biometric tracking. In this workshop, you will learn about (a) how police and the FBI use face recognition in law enforcement operations; (b) how ICE uses face recognition to find and detain immigrants; (c) how jails scan phone calls made from people behind bars to identify and secretly archive the voices of detained people and those who call them; and (d) the technologies being introduced into jails that can covertly capture and store facial biometric data from people on both sides of jail walls.

### Say No Equal Opportunity Surveillance

*MUSLIM JUSTICE LEAGUE*
**CLASSROOM 4**

What happens when you ask social media corporations to police "hate speech" or remove violent content online? How could you possibly oppose countering violent extremism (CVE) in the face of rising white nationalism? Our desire to prevent violence has propped up the policing of Muslims through facially neutral programs like CVE. How can we fight white supremacy and discuss violence without expanding the surveillance state?

# WORKSHOPS

### De-Bug the System

*SILICON VALLEY DE-BUG*
**CLASSROOM 5**

De-Bug has trained movement organizations across the country in the model, and there is now a National Participatory Defense Network consisting of hubs in 30 cities. As the current administration moves to further criminalize and alienate our communities, we have been engaging families and communities impacted by the criminal, juvenile, and immigration systems to transform the landscape of power in the courts. Participatory Defense is an organizing model developed by families in San Jose to affect the outcome of cases and leverage community power to hold system players accountable. It's an organizing tool that not only focuses on supporting the individual but also looks at the systemic issues within that process to create legislative changes. It's about empowering those who are the most affected to become agents of change and leaders in defining what's right for our communities.

### Exposing the Gang Databases in Illinois

*ERASE THE GANG DATABASE COALITION*
**CLASSROOM 1**

Members of the Erase the Database campaign in Chicago will share a comprehensive background of community efforts to expose two of the most used gang databases in Illinois: the Chicago Gang Databases (CLEAR) and Cook County Gang Database (RGID). Organizers will also share a toolkit of tactics and strategies used to mobilize and build power against the systems of surveillance and criminalization of Black and Brown communities. Tools include strategic communications, policy and research.

### Fight Surveillance Tech in Your City: Using Policy as One Tool

*JUST FUTURES LAW,*
*UC IRVINE*
**CLASSROOM 2**

Technology surveillance in our cities and towns has exploded. Yet, there is little, if any, oversight or transparency into how corporations and local police departments get to collect information about local residents and share it across government agencies at local, state, federal, and international levels. Just Futures Law, Mijente, and UCI Immigrant Rights Clinic created a toolkit to help you investigate the surveillance technologies operating in your city/town and to organize against their implementation, using policy advocacy as a tool.

### Taking on the Stalker State in Los Angeles

*STOP LAPD SPYING*
**CLASSROOM 3**

Police departments across the nation are using algorithms, predictive policing programs, drones, suspicious activity reports and more to surveil and stalk our communities. The Stop LAPD Spying Coalition has been organizing against the police's use of these tactics and technologies using an abolitionist framework and have grounded police drones, and shut down the predictive policing LASER and chronic offender bulletin program. In this interactive workshop, attendees will learn about the work of the coalition and how community led grassroots efforts to stop, dismantle, and abolish the Stalker State are progressing in Los Angeles.

### Building Power not Paranoia: Community-Based Data Defense

*OUR DATA BODIES,*
*STOP LAPD SPYING*
**PAVILLION**

A series of activities that help deepen collective understanding of data-driven systems and their impact on peoples' lives, while building community defense and power to reduce and eventually end systemic harms. Participants will engage with popular education tools & resources designed by Our Data Bodies Project and recently published into a playbook, which will be available to those who attend.

### Change the Terms: Reigning in the Power of Big Tech

*FREE PRESS, OPENMIC,*
*MEDIAJUSTICE*
**CLASSROOM 4**

The largest tech companies in the world are reshaping our lives in ways we never imagined. Facebook failed to prevent the misuse of their user data by Cambridge Analytica in the 2016 elections. Twitter has given Donald Trump a platform to spread his racists and xenophobic ideas without consequence. Google's YouTube has become a global organizing tool for white supremacist to spread ideas and coordinate hateful activities. While the failures of these companies have been highly visible, little has been done by policymakers and regulators to stop them. Challenging the power of tech companies requires a strategy for right now. What can we learn from traditional and new forms of corporate accountability? How can we engage multiple stakeholders (users, workers, shareholders) in leveraging their power against these companies? Join us to find out what some groups have been doing to pressure these companies directly and what you can do to support.

# WORKSHOPS

### Electronic Monitoring: No Alternative

*COMMUNITY JUSTICE EXCHANGE*
**CLASSROOM 1**

Is electronic monitoring an alternative to incarceration, or an insidious net-widener that expands the reach of the prison-industrial-complex? The use of GPS-enabled ankle monitors to track people awaiting their court hearings has been normalized within the immigration detention and deportation system since the 1990s. Today, electronic tracking devices are increasingly touted by prosecutors as a "reform" in the pretrial system, replacing cash bail and ending mass incarceration. What can we learn from e-carceration's history in the immigration context as we fight for an end to carceral surveillance in all its forms? Join us for a short film screening and facilitated discussion.

### Unpacking the Algorithmic Ecology

*STOP LAPD SPYING*
**CLASSROOM 2**

Algorithms have penetrated multiple domains of our lives, from criminal justice to public services. In order to strategically organize against this expansion and encroachment we need to take our interventions beyond biased technology and "dirty" data. We need to consider the ecology of players that design, wield, and legitimize these tools. In this conversation we will unpack the algorithmic ecology: policy makers, state/local actors, public- private partnerships, academics, law enforcement—and how these actors shape the impact of technology on our communities.

### How We Demand Needs Assessment in our Fight to End Pretrial Detention

*SOUTHERNERS ON NEW GROUND (SONG)*
**PAVILLION**

An average of 74% of people in local jails are held pre-trial because they cannot afford to pay bail. At Southerners on New Ground, a major barrier we have found to our grassroots organizing campaigns to end pre-trial detention across the U.S. South has been the rise of risk assessment tools. Risk assessment tools claim to address judicial bias by their supposed "neutrality." In fact the proprietary algorithms that make up these tools reinforce the same classist and racist biases rampant in the pre-trial detention system. We will lay out our vision for a needs assessment in our fight to end pretrial detention and pose these strategic questions: How do we build transformative direct action campaigns that will rebuild our communities' social safety net by identifying people's needs and investing to meet them? How do we hold true to our abolitionist politic and vision while making material demands of our local and state policy makers and government structures? Who are the frontline direct service providers we can align with as grassroots organizers who are skilled at both navigating within the system and relying on community-based models without putting people at greater risk coming into contact with the State?

### Dialogue on Automated License Plate Readers: An Organizer's Approach

*RESILIENCE ORANGE COUNTY*
*IMMIGRANT LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER*
**CLASSROOM 3**

With the increased use of technology, ICE is now using Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) to surveil, target, and deport immigrant communities. The majority of this workshop is discussion-based with a focus on organizing strategies for advocates to address and fight back against the use of ALPR in our communities.

### Dreaming New Tools: Movement Technology that Protects and Uplifts Us
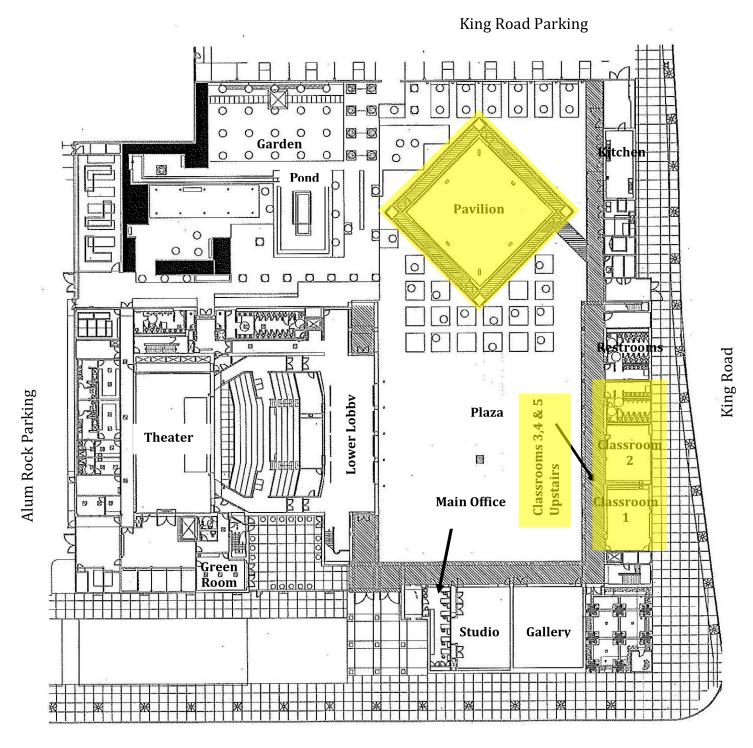
*DESIGN JUSTICE NETWORK*
**CLASSROOM 5**

Have you ever felt you had no choice but to rely on technology that isn't in alignment with your values, or that you worry might put your community at risk? What if we didn't have to protect ourselves from the very tools we're using to build the world we need? In this visioning workshop, we'll use hands-on design methods to imagine new technologies that actually support our safety and self-determination. We'll end by sharing these visions out as a call to action for movement designers and technologists. No design or coding experience required!

### "Smart" Cities?

*IMMIGRANT DEFENSE PROJECT IDP*
**CLASSROOM 4**

Recently, immigrant rights organizations have pushed efforts to expand access for undocumented immigrants to municipal IDs and driver licenses. Yet, these efforts have had to confront not only direct ICE access to data collected as part of these efforts, but also a growing focus of private corporations to engage in public-private partnerships to gather data on spending patterns, transit use, location tracking, and data to verify identity. Corporations make big profits by selling this data to private data brokers and the government. And we have seen that this type of information is readily and routinely accessed by ICE to achieve their mass surveillance and deportation goals. In this conversation, we will discuss how to manage the risks of such ID systems in the face of the growing surveillance state.

# School of Arts & Culture

King Road Parking

Garden

Pond

Pavilion

Kitchen

Theater

Lower Lobby

Plaza

Restrooms

Classrooms 3,4 & 5 Upstairs

Classroom 2

Classroom 1

Alum Rock Parking

King Road

Green Room

Main Office

Studio

Gallery

Alum Rock Ave.