



LIBERATION VOCABULARY

RITUAL OF BREATH IS THE RITE TO RESIST | FALL 2022
BLACK LIBERATION COLLECTIVE

FREE TO BREATHE

We intend to breathe together. In order to do that responsibly, we must understand how we breathe—what gives us breath & what takes our breath away. For this, we use language to communicate clearly as we struggle to return to one another. And by extension—to return to ourselves.

SOURCES

These definitions are the culmination of various sources of study. This includes directly from lessons of struggle for our collective liberation. To be clear: “[We are not] a Liberator. Liberators do not exist; the people liberate themselves.”

-Ernesto Guevara

REUNION

LOVE ETHIC *(as described by bell hooks)*

The value that we utilize all the dimensions of love—care, commitment, trust, responsibility, respect, and knowledge—in our everyday lives. A belief that honesty, openness, and personal integrity need to be expressed in public and private decisions. A love ethic presupposes that everyone has the right to be free, to live fully and well.

HEALING

The act of growing & maintaining connection as a cyclical process. Laboring to create awareness & engagement with our full selves & community, instead of merely seeking to dispose of our ailments, injuries, or one another. The process of healing requires a commitment to decolonizing wellness and creating a culture of collective vulnerability & trust.

DISTRESS, ABANDONMENT, BEAUTY, & FEAR

MISTICA *(as described by the Brazil MST)*

The grounding Spirit of committed Struggle. A “thing” of the heart, of sentiments-motivated by our principal politic, & fueled by the hope to achieve a dream, ideal, or objective that one desires. Mistica is the different ways we use to motivate ourselves to continue in our struggle and hope of bringing the future closer to the present moment. Mistica offers us a taste of the future while living in the present.

RESTORATION

Returning something to its former state or condition.



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AMENDS/REPARATION

Doing something to make up for a mistake or wrongdoing. The interest of reparation is for the party that has stolen or broken to compensate another for what has been lost.

COMMUNITY *(as described by M.S. Peck, affirmed by bell hooks)*

The coming together of a group of individuals, "who have learned how to communicate honestly with each other, whose relationships go deeper than their masks of composure. And who have developed some significant commitment to 'rejoice together, mourn together,' and to, 'delight in each other, and make others' conditions our own."

FORGIVENESS & BEARING WITNESS

ACCOUNTABILITY

The practice of voluntarily committing to actions & relationships where materially, economically, & politically powerful parties are responsible for making sure other folx (they are accountable to) have a clear understanding of why something is happening in order to move forward. Accountability produces a transparency of organization and decision-making.

COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

A communal commitment to sharing responsibility for our culture and our structures. It is an active engagement in service to the community. Responsible collective leadership centers Black-wholeness and labors across differences in institutional and social power, building connections through struggle.

