

# CONFRONTING INEQUALITY

Alternative Economies,  
Resilient Communities  
SYMPOSIUM

Rothko Chapel

MARCH 31 - APRIL 3, 2016

# Confronting Inequality: Alternative Economies, Resilient Communities

## Has the American Dream disappeared?

Income inequality affects almost all Americans and threatens the fabric of our democracy. Inequality raises considerable ethical questions about our interconnectedness and obligation to one another. In response to this crisis, innovative alternative economies are emerging locally, nationally, and globally. These have the potential to create a more economically, politically, environmentally, and socially sustainable and resilient world.

This symposium explores emerging models in depth, incorporating voices from the arts, spirituality, and human rights sectors. What they share are creative, effective responses to challenging inequality and creating a more just world.

Join the conversation at the Rothko Chapel starting **Thursday, March 31st at 7pm with keynote speaker Terry Tempest Williams**, author, conservationist, and activist.



Delve further into this conversation with spiritual leaders, academics, activists, and artists at discussions from **Friday, April 1st through Sunday, April 3rd**. A contemplative practice from the Bon-Buddhist tradition will be led by Geshe Denma Gyaltzen, Resident Teacher at Ligmincha Texas Institute for the Tibetan Meditative and Healing Arts on **Friday at 6:30pm**. Available on **Saturday from 2-4pm** are Plant it Forward Tours and the Farmers Market at the University of St. Thomas Farm, and at **6:15pm**, a performance by Voices Breaking Boundaries. Join M. NourbeSe Philip on **Sunday at 2:30pm** for a poetry reading. There will be food from Cuchara, SweetCup, and Yeti Sunshine, music, a bookstore, and artistic experiences on the grounds **Saturday and Sunday**.

### A FAITHFUL AND MORAL RESPONSE: Spirituality, Community, and Justice

Friday, April 1, 7pm

- **Rev. Sally Bingham** is the President of The Regeneration Project and the Interfaith Power and Light campaign, as well as the canon for the environment for the Episcopal Diocese of California.
- **Rev. Fred Small** is a Unitarian Universalist minister on the Leadership Team of the Massachusetts Interfaith Coalition for Climate Action.
- **Kristin Barker** is a Co-Founder of One Earth Sangha, exploring what it means to practice a Buddhist response to environmental and social injustice.
- **Dr. D.Z. Cofield** is the Senior Pastor of Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church and Founder of Hope for Families, Inc.
- Moderator **Zahra Jamal, Ph.D.** is the Associate Director for Community Engagement at Rice University's Boniuk Institute.

### THE RISE OF THE GREEN ECONOMY: Environmental Sustainability, Development, and Equity

Saturday, April 2, 4pm

- **Margaret Swedish** is a writer, speaker, advocate for ecological wholeness, a culture worker, and spiritual seeker.
- **Janet Redman** is the Director of the Climate Policy Program at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC, where she

provides analysis of the international financial institutions' energy investment and carbon finance activities.

- **Jim Blackburn** is a practicing environmental lawyer and Professor of the Practice in Environmental Law in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Rice University where he serves as the Director of the Undergraduate Minor in Energy and Water Sustainability.
- **Makani Themba** is the Chief Strategist at Higher Ground Change Strategies.
- Moderator **Tom Ricker** is the Director of Communications at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

### MORE THAN HALF: Gender in Alternative Economies

Saturday, April 2, 7pm

- **Monica White, Ph.D.** is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Justice at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- **Anne McClintock, Ph.D.** is a Professor in Gender and Sexuality Studies at Princeton University.
- **Gita Sen** is an Adjunct Professor of global health and population at Harvard University and Co-Founder of the Executive Committee of DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era).
- **Gloria Lowe** is the Founder and CEO of We Want Green, Too!
- Moderator **Elizabeth Gregory, Ph.D.** is the Director of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Houston.

### THE POWER OF THE COLLECTIVE: From the Community to the Boardroom

Sunday, April 3, 4pm

- **Frank Joyce** is a lifelong Detroit labor and political activist and writer.
- **Carl Gibson** is the Co-Founder of US Uncut, a creative movement that mobilized thousands against corporate tax dodging and budget cuts in over 100 cities.
- **Pam McMichael** is the Director of the Highlander Center.
- Moderator **David Benson** is a Rothko Chapel Board Member.

### THE ART OF EQUITY: A Creative Response

Sunday, April 3, 7pm

- **M. NourbeSe Philip** is writer known for experimentation with literary form and for her commitment to social justice.
- **Rick Lowe** is an artist, Founder of Project Row Houses, and MacArthur Award recipient.
- **Mel Chin** is a conceptual visual artist motivated largely by political, cultural, and social circumstances.
- Moderator **Carrie Schneider** is a Houston-based artist and co-founder of the charge//practicum .

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Do not miss this opportunity to engage with and contribute to creating change—in our community and beyond.

## Thank you to our partners

- ▶ Asia Society
- ▶ charge///practicum
- ▶ DA CAMERA
- ▶ Failure to Identify
- ▶ Plant it Forward
- ▶ Project Row Houses
- ▶ Rice University's Boniuk Institute
- ▶ River Oaks Bookstore
- ▶ University of Houston's Community Design Resource Center
- ▶ University of St. Thomas
- ▶ Voices Breaking Boundaries

All programs are free and open to the public with a \$10 suggested donation.

For more information and to register, visit [rothkochapel.org](http://rothkochapel.org).

## Rothko Chapel

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