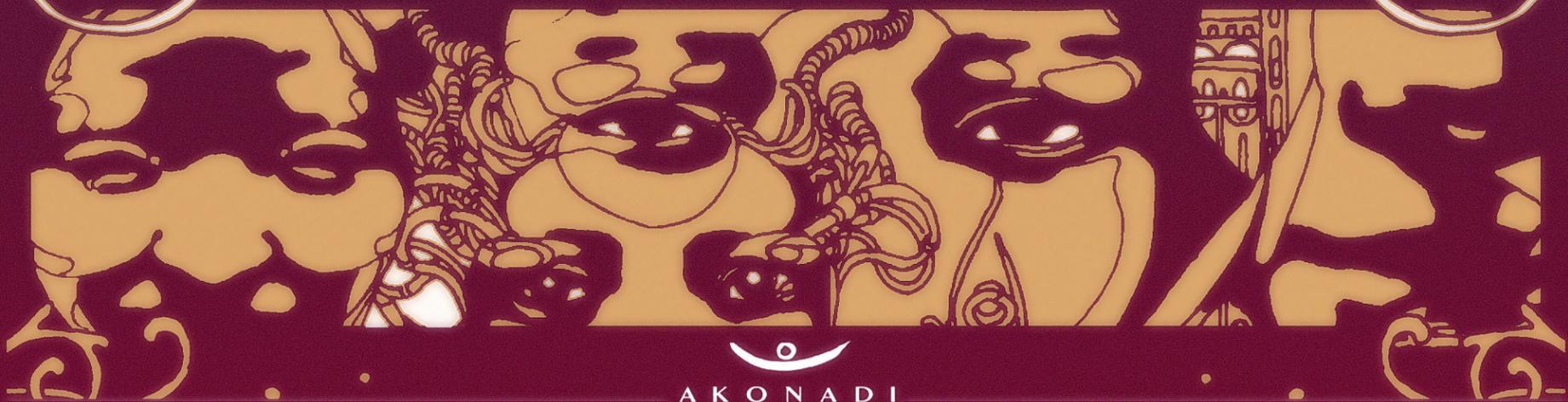




We live with a heightened sense of gratitude, wonder and limitless possibility.  
We are our ancestor's wildest dreams.





# AKONADI FOUNDATION

## 2018 RACIAL JUSTICE POSTER PROJECT

At Akonadi Foundation, our mission is to support and nurture a powerful movement to eliminate structural racism and create a racially just society. We believe that art and cultural expression play a critical role in building voice, power, and self-determination in communities of color. **This year Akonadi Foundation marks 10 years of using arts and culture to advance racial justice through our Racial Justice Poster Project.**

In 2008, Akonadi Foundation's founder and then-President Quinn Delaney commissioned Melanie Cervantes, an artist with Dignidad Rebelde who was also a Program Officer for the foundation, to create a racial justice image to commemorate March 21, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This day commemorates the Sharpeville massacre of March 21, 1960, when the South African movement against apartheid was spreading as blacks across that country began demonstrating against "pass laws" that required them to carry identity cards. In the township of Sharpeville, a huge crowd of black Africans gathered peacefully outside a police station, singing and subjecting themselves to arrest for failing to carry cards. The police opened fire and killed 69 people, among them 10 children. It was from this history that the first image, titled 'Building a Movement for Justice,' was created; it inspired the launch of Akonadi Foundation's Racial Justice Poster Project.

We want to use this 10-year milestone to lift up the artistic legacy of racial justice movement building, paying tribute to the courage of artistic and cultural ambassadors engaged in the ongoing struggle for racial justice locally and nationally.

This year's poster, '**Transmission: Received,**' by Joshua Mays, is celebrated for its creativity, originality, artistic and design quality, and potential to inspire and inform racial justice movement building. Several of his murals can be found on buildings in Oakland. (Find one on Telegraph Ave. and 17th St. in Downtown Oakland)

We are distributing the poster to activists, schools, and organizations across the country through our annual mailing. We hope that you enjoy the poster and that, through social media, you will share with us a picture of yourself or your organization with the poster, using the hashtag #RJPP18 or #rjpp18 @akonadi\_oakland. To learn more about Akonadi's Racial Justice Poster Project, please visit our website: [www.Akonadi.org](http://www.Akonadi.org).

Thank you for your continued commitment to building a racially just world.

*Akonadi Foundation's mission is to eliminate structural racism that leads to inequity in the United States. Using an ecosystem grantmaking lens, Akonadi supports and nurtures grassroots organizing, culture shift, and policy changes that build Oakland's racial justice movement. Since its founding in 2000, the Foundation has given over 1,600 grants totaling \$35 million to nonprofit organizations, primarily in the Bay Area but also across the country.*

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OPPOSITE: **Transmission: Received** by Joshua Mays, commissioned by Akonadi Foundation as the 2018 Racial Justice Poster.

### ARTIST STATEMENT: JOSHUA MAYS

The keys for humanity to master the vast challenges at hand lie in its own cultural diversity. Racial and social inequity are distractions to us harvesting possibility from our struggles and our visions. Utilizing gratitude derived from ancestral perspective, we can each fill our short stay in this lifetime with transition, meaning, and peace.

Art transcends barriers rooted in perceived cultural, generational, linguistic, racial, class, and gender difference. Art is an effective medium for ideas to flow in order to connect people who are activated by similar visions. This piece reflects optimism and hope. It reflects the stories and struggles of our ancestors and is an offering of gratitude for all that they endured and the work that is to come. The piece exemplifies power and balance. It is a tool for individual and collective empowerment.