



AKONADI  
FOUNDATION

# 2019 RACIAL JUSTICE POSTER PROJECT

## Juana Alicia Artist Statement

Poets have long inspired me to create images, and I have been honored to work with luminaries such as Genny Lim, Juan Felipe Herrera, Alice Walker, and Rafael Jesús Gonzalez. When I first heard Chinaka Hodge read her poem "All Power to the People: The Black Panthers at 50," I was riveted.

Hers is the voice of West Oakland, the epicentre of revolution, cultural wealth, urban devastation and now, gentrification. Her TED talk, "What Will You Tell Your Daughters About 2016?", is a call to arms, to resist the madness of the current era of rising fascism, racial hatred, gender discrimination, misogyny, and white supremacy. Hodge proclaims the birthright of women to create a more humane society, an intergenerational legacy to be sung frequently, whenever the odds seem too great.

My portrait of **Chinaka Hodge**, presenting the last line of the poem, connects the work of generations of women artists of color as cultural activists and leaders. The background of the image features a detail of **Rigoberta Menchú Tum** from the **MAESTRAPEACE Mural on The San Francisco Women's Building**; seven women muralists, including myself, created this work.\*

We painted the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize winner and Guatemalan human rights activist speaking out over the rooftops of the Mission District. A traditional Mesoamerican speech glyph emerges from her mouth, as in many Mayan and Aztec texts. In creating this piece for the Akonadi Foundation I seek to celebrate these connections among women in leadership and to inspire younger women to learn about them and become activists in their own right.

## Bio

Juana Alicia has been creating murals and teaching for over 30 years. Her sculptural and painted public works can be seen in Nicaragua, Mexico, Pennsylvania, and many parts of California, most notably in San Francisco. Her work is associated with the greatest artistic and political achievements of the Chicano movement.

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OPPOSITE: **'Tell Her'** by Juana Alicia, commissioned by Akonadi Foundation as the 2019 Racial Justice Poster. Featuring: **Chinaka Hodge** & MAESTRAPEACE mural on The San Francisco Women's Building, 18th and Valencia Streets, Juana Alicia, Edythe Boone, Miranda Bergman, Susan Cervantes, Meera Desai, Yvonne Littleton and Irene Perez, © 1994, 2000, 2010.

## About

At Akonadi Foundation, our mission is to support the development of powerful social change movements to eliminate structural racism and create a racially just society. With an emphasis in Oakland, Akonadi Foundation seeks to stop the criminalization of youth and young adults of color, end the school-to-prison pipeline, and respond to harm in ways that nurture wellness and well-being.

In its eleventh year, the Racial Justice Poster Project is one approach the foundation uses to honor and inspire racial justice movement building in Oakland and around the world. The Racial Justice Poster Project builds on the legacy of political posters as an integral part of social movements for more than a century.

## History

In 2008, Akonadi Foundation distributed our first Racial Justice poster on 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. Today, in the U.S. and internationally, the structures of racism live on with devastating impacts: in redevelopment policies that destroy and displace communities of color; in public school funding tied to property values; in denial of jobs to people struggling to escape the prison-industrial complex; and in immigration policy that criminalizes people of color trying to survive global exploitation. Through this poster project, we want to lift up the artistic legacy of resistance, paying tribute to the artistic and cultural ambassadors engaged in the struggle for racial justice.

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 #RJPP19 @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.

"Tell her she was born, as you were, and your mothers before in the age of legends,  
tell her she was born just in time, just in time to lead."

- Chinaka Hodge

To see Chinaka Hodge perform "What will you tell your daughters about 2016?" @TEDWomen 2016, please scan QR code.

