

CALIFORNIA



The Mass Assembly is just two days away and there's still time to get involved, whether or not you can be there at the State Capitol. Logistical details and opportunities to spread the word are below. You can also read about a press conference where Oakland residents voiced four demands for equitable housing, as well as an inspiring talk given by Rev. Theoharis. See you on Saturday—in person or in spirit!

Announcement



Mass Poor People's—No and Low Wage Workers Assembly at the State Capitol

THIS WEEKEND! Saturday March 2 | [RSVP](#)

11:00am: Gather at Westminster Presbyterian Church (1300 N St, Sacramento CA 95814)

11:30am: March to Capitol

12:00pm: Rally

This Saturday, the California PPC will be in Sacramento at the State Capitol. We hope you'll be there with us.

Whether or not you can make it, we urge you to spread the word on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#). Watch the [promo video](#) to get fired up.

When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. Poverty is the fourth leading cause of death in the richest nation in the world. Politicians who continue to make concessions for the wealthy while leaving families and children to die in poverty are guilty of policy murder.

SIGN UP

We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking injustices of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative that blames people for being poor.

The Assembly is one of over 30 simultaneous actions happening in states across the country as we launch our 2024 PPC voter mobilization campaign and tell our elected officials: **WE ARE POWERFUL AND WE VOTE!**

Want more detail on our demands? Check out [14 Policy Priorities to Heal the Nation](#).

Upcoming meetings

Los Angeles regional meeting

Saturday Mar 9, 11am | [RSVP](#)

Please note the new date and time!

LA PPC activists: We've changed our meeting date so we can hear first-hand reports on our Mass Assembly. We'll also start planning for upcoming actions. All are welcome—please invite your family, friends and communities.

Recap



Wood Street press conference: Oaklanders issue 4 housing demands

“A society’s success is measured in how it treats those most vulnerable. If this is true, then our city has failed.”

—Freeway, an impacted Wood Street resident

Last Monday, the impacted residents of the Wood Street homeless encampment in Oakland held a press conference so that their voices could be heard by the city, Building Opportunities For Self-Sufficiency (BOSS) and the wider community. (For background on the Wood Street encampment and those impacted by its dismantling, read [KQED’s](#) coverage.)

The speakers shared their concerns regarding BOSS, which is under contract with the City of Oakland, and their basic needs for food, ADA facilities, sanitation, safety, security, maintenance of the facilities, resources and rapid rehousing. The City of Oakland has allocated \$8 million for the opening of the Wood Street facilities, but the policies of BOSS do nothing to protect Wood Street residents.

To address their concerns, Wood Street residents laid out four demands:

1. The formation of an independent oversight committee that consists of 1/3 impacted individuals who are currently unhoused, formerly unhoused (within the past 2 years), currently in shelter or in temporary housing.

2. The audit of BOSS, overseen by the committee. This investigation will look at the policies, programs and/or lack thereof that are currently being implemented by BOSS under contract with the City of Oakland.
3. A revision of staff, conducted upon the completion of the investigation. This may include measures as severe as termination and at a minimum the retraining of staff. Specific areas may include sensitivity training, diversity in the workplace, conflict resolution, sexual harassment training, harm reduction, client-caseworker relations and financial transparency.
4. Provisions to implement a new grievance policy for residents. This resident-led avenue for reporting complaints will be confidential and safe, and will provide reporting options that do not include the staff or administrative staff in question.

At one point, some BOSS employees disrupted the press conference—but the courageous residents of Wood Street stayed the course, ensuring their demands were heard.

“It’s time to remember we are voters too, and it is an election year,” said Freeway, in response to the disruption. “Not another year will go by with our voices silent.”

A Wood Street Commons member will be speaking at our [Mass Assembly](#) on Saturday: another reason to come to Sacramento and show your support.

Support the California PPC!

When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.

DONATE

News



Rev. Theoharis speaks at ‘Poverty, by America’ study group

Speaking at the fourth and final installment of a group study of Matthew Desmond’s 2023 book *Poverty, by America*, Rev. Theoharis said she was excited by so many taking interest in working toward an equitable country. “It starts with us making the decision we can actually do something about poverty,” she said, and she invited all to join the action this Saturday at state houses across the nation. “Find out what is already going on, and how you can plug in.”

Later she emphasized that in “cities across the country, there are five or more abandoned housing units for every unhoused person living in the city.... There isn’t a scarcity of housing, and there’s no scarcity of solutions. When we do the work of ending poverty and inequality, it doesn’t just benefit those who are impoverished.”

Read more about the book and Rev. Theoharis’s uplifting talk [here](#).

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.

