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BERRETT-KOEHLER FOUNDATION
CO-CREATING A WORLD THAT WORKS FOR ALL

The momentum carries forward! Welcome to Week 3 of our Action Learning Fellowship reflection series, as we begin to see purpose in action. Since meeting each other at the end of October, the fellows have had two Oasis cohort meetings, an Art of Convening training with author Craig Neal, and have begun to meet with their mentors.

Convening creates a structure to connect to your purpose and be in authentic relationship with others, creating an intentional engagement strategy. To practice, the BKF facilitation team (aka The Weavers) is providing experiential learning for the fellows as they collaboratively facilitate cohort meetings using the Art of Convening techniques and methodology.

As 2019 begins to come to an end, we look forward to our mid-point Action Learning share-out event. Please mark your calendars to save the date for Saturday, February 29, 2020! This event will be a blend of in-person and virtual connections so wherever you are, we look forward to welcoming you.

Today we introduce **Valentina Helo-Villegas** (accompanying parents in their journey to deepen relationships with themselves, their families, and the community while building Protective Factors to mitigate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences), **Maya Carlson** (designing more intimate, inclusive and youth-led initiatives around the theme of climate justice), and **Rose Essiem** (more fully optimizing African diaspora community giving to move the needle on the economic development agenda in Africa).



Valentina's image reflects emerging: *a sense of wholeness; a deep recognition of lines of purpose and destiny; and my part in this is to ask with clarity, confidence, and humility while waiting patiently...to materialize the expansive dreams of the heart and the soul, and ultimately be of better service to my community.*

Rose and Maya co-created their reflection, carrying reminders of how light can triumph over darkness and Fireweed can begin regrowth.

On the weekend that the North Bay, San Rafael to Jenner, up through the Russian River and all of Sonoma County was evacuated, eight Berrett-Koehler Foundation Action-Learning Fellows and four Community Weavers convened for a kick-off retreat. There was a dark haze along the Pacific Ocean as waves thundered and gulls dipped into the swells. Recognizing how special the moment was to have everyone together, we gathered in circle to learn about one another, share our respective journeys to this moment, and look ahead with anticipation for what would unfold for each of us individually and collectively over the course of the weekend retreat and the eight-month Fellowship. We

were moved by collective power, love and strength that emerges when women come together to dive deep and bless each other up.

Saturday night, we sat around a candlelit table in Pacifica due to a power outage to prevent more fires. Despite the seeming inconvenience, we danced and laughed and told stories for hours in the shadows. We realized that it was also Diwali - an Indian Holiday when families and friends in all corners of the world gather for candlelit festivities, celebrating light triumphing over dark. Though the circumstances under which we gathered were an unplanned coincidence, the significance of the holiday offered warmth in the face of planetary uncertainty. While enjoying a delicious meal prepared by our very own fellows, we shared family secrets that left each of us on the edge of our seats; and were reminded in this sharing of the sacrifices the women in our lives have made to protect their beloveds. We felt safe and held in our togetherness despite the disasters around us.

This spirit of togetherness carried us through the weekend as we contemplated our life's intentions, unveiled our projects and embarked on an expedition into the potential of Fireweed - the regrowth that is possible after soil has been eroded by fire. There was solidarity in our hopes and our fears for what we could transform in our respective worlds. We left the weekend to return to our communities, trusting in the care, passion and courage we will offer one another in the months to come.

**Click the picture to learn
a little more about
Valentina, Maya, Rose,
and their amazing co-creators!**



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