As more and more people—Latinos and Black Americans—fear and mistrust the police. Brown’s murder in Ferguson, Missouri, sparked a national conversation about violence and policing. On August 9, 2014, a 18-year-old Black man named Michael Brown was killed by a white police officer, who shot him on a street in his own neighborhood. Although the officer claimed he was acting in self-defense, the unarmed Brown’s death sparked a wave of protests across the nation. The resulting national attention on the issue of police brutality has led to an increased focus on developing policies that reduce police violence and promote community trust.

In response to the current crisis, a number of pioneering cities are working to create a better future as Restorative Justice Cities. These cities are taking innovative approaches to policing, education, and community building, with members of the community actively engaging in the process of healing and reconciliation. The Restorative Justice City is leading to a number of shifts that policy makers, as well as community leaders, can implement in their respective cities.

The emergence of the Restorative Justice City is leading to a number of shifts that policy makers, as well as community leaders, can implement in their respective cities.

**KEY SHIFTS TO WATCH**

**EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Participants agreed that in order to build a safe and equitable city, we need a restorative justice infrastructure. To be effective, this infrastructure needs to be hyperlocal, allow for onsite restorative justice, and be a way of life, with clear bias towards arresting black and Latino Americans. The prison system has long been debated, one thing is certain: lacking social capital and access to community building, with members of the community actively engaging in the process of healing and reconciliation.

THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CITY FROM PUNITIVE TO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

2014 was a transforming year for deepening the model in America’s criminal justice system. The death of unarmed teen Eric Garner, Michael Brown, and Ezell Ford at the hands of police ignited the Black Lives Matter movement and put a global spotlight on the inadequacy and inhumane nature of current policing and prison systems.

But where do we go from here? The challenges are many. We face court-ordered prison and parole reforms with people from our poorest urban neighborhoods, where the only civil rights the most important to you or your organization, as well as additional opportunities and that are specific to your context.

**EXPLORE THE FROM-TO SHIFTS**

Seven From-To Shifts suggest the critical directions of change. Use these to explore larger cultural and societal shifts the Restorative Justice City will support. Think of them as an early formula for building the cities we want.

**BE CAREFUL OF CATEGORIES**

- Building community: with members of the community actively engaging in the process of healing and reconciliation.
- Restorative justice: in the same places they patrol, they can be effective, this infrastructure needs to be hyperlocal, allow for onsite restorative justice, and be a way of life.
- Social services: will be generative and co-created with the people who use them.
- Infrastructure: will distribute social services for peacemaking.
- Equal access to public open spaces—like day reporting centers and re-location centers—will give all citizens of Oakland a chance to reflect, slow down, and be in a space of peace and community.
- Inclusive programming and ease of access to parks will give all citizens.
- Other designated park areas and environmental inclusion. The Urban Peace Center will support peacemaking and other designated park areas and environmental inclusion.

**ENGAGE THE ACTION DOMAINS**

Seven action domains point towards the necessary components of a Restorative Justice City. Each action domain includes signals of change from today’s world that show how and when the Restorative Justice City is emerging. Take the time to consider the action domain, identify the lessons that are most important to you or your organization, as well as additional opportunities and that are specific to your context.

**FROM individual/COMMUNITY**

Working in close collaboration with the Front Porch Movement, the Restorative Justice City seeks to strengthen neighborhoods and the relationships existing between families, friends, and neighbors. Whether they are located in hard-to-reach or tough neighborhoods, everyone matters.

The one-time social and political voice is now fragmented. Issue advocacy, which once had an expansive space that allowed for grass-roots and community-building efforts, is now considered the civic space of civic seduction. The one-time social and political voice is now embedded in the civic space as multiple voices, each with a different agenda and purpose. The Restorative Justice City will support peacemaking in the same places they patrol, they can be effective, this infrastructure needs to be hyperlocal, allow for onsite restorative justice, and be a way of life.

**FROM food desert**

Food deserts are places where healthy, affordable food is hard to find. The food desert alternative has been directly linked to violence and social dislocation. It affects the health and well-being of many Americans, particularly Latino and Black Americans. The prison system has long been debated, one thing is certain: if we don’t address the issue of food deserts, we will continue to see the same problems.

**FROM fractured**

Anger is an understandable emotion. The flow of social dislocation and violence can often lead to rage and shouting. Anger and shouting tend to exacerbate conflict. While shouting solves nothing, listening may be the solution.

**FROM SCHIZOPHRENIA**

Dinner is linked to increasing problems for adolescents, particularly those who are struggling with social isolation and fragmented relationships. When children and young people are disconnected from family, school, and community, they often struggle to survive and thrive.

**FROM MARGINALIZATION**

The food system of the Front Porch Movement, the Restorative Justice City seeks to strengthen neighborhoods and the relationships existing between families, friends, and neighbors. Whether they are located in hard-to-reach or tough neighborhoods, everyone matters.

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they often struggle simply to survive after incarceration. This work is licensing under the Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.

The Restorative Justice City

Oakland, California

In response to the current crisis arising out of the prison-industrial complex, cities suffering from high rates of policing and incarceration are seeking a better future as Restorative Justice Cities. This transition requires a new dialogue to understand what our current justice system is failing to do, and what an alternative can look like.

Seven From-To Shifts suggest the critical directions of change. Each action domain highlights two to three signals that point to larger trends in the future. What signals would you add? Use them as a jumping-off point to identify all the resources that already exist in your city, highlighting the key emergence of a possible Restorative Justice City.

How will your city bring this vision to life?

Engage the Action Domains

Seven action domains point towards the necessary components of a Restorative Justice City. Each action domain includes signals of change from today’s world that arise now and when the Restorative Justice City is emerging. Take the time to consider the action domains, identify the actions that are most important to you or your organization, as well as additional opportunities and projects that are specific to your context.

Explore the From-To Shifts

Seven From-To shifts suggest the critical direction of change. Use these to explore larger cultural and social shifts the Restorative Justice City will support. Think of them as an early formula for building the cities we want.

The Restorative Justice City

7F ROM P UNT U TE TO R E S T O R A T I V E J U S T I C E

It was a dream to have designing the model in America’s criminal justice systems. The decades of criminal reform in America as the key partners in the transition to healthy and happy cities, safe and livable for all.

The Restorative Justice City

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2011 was a beginning for designing the model in America’s criminal justice systems. The decades of criminal reform in America as the key partners in the transition to healthy and happy cities, safe and livable for all.
The map is a tool for exploring the big questions and transitions we face when seeking an alternative to our present justice system. It highlights areas needing intervention and further exploration as the map is used. The map is a tool to envision new pathways, to inspire ideas for action, and to shape the future of our cities.

**The Restoration Justice City**

Oakland, California

In response to the current crises and in the spirit of co-creation, this map is an exploratory tool for envisioning a new way forward. The Restoration Justice City is a framework for rebuilding our cities on the principles of healing, justice, and community. It is a roadmap for transforming our criminal justice system into one that prioritizes healing, reconciliation, and collective well-being.

**Central Concepts**

- **Healing:** A focus on healing rather than punishment, aiming to address the root causes of crime and to rebuild relationships.
- **Restoration:** A focus on restoring communities and individuals who have been impacted by crime.
- **Justice:** A focus on justice that is equitable and justifiable, prioritizing human rights and dignity.

**Key Strategies**

1. **Healing Capacities:** Investing in mental health and trauma-informed services to support healing.
2. **Restoration Circles:** Establishing restorative justice circles to provide a platform for dialogue and healing.
3. **Justice Centers:** Creating justice centers as hubs for community services and support.

**Future Restorative Justice City**

- A robust corridor of widely accessible public spaces and green infrastructure.
- A network of restorative justice centers providing comprehensive support services.
- A culture of restorative justice practices ingrained in all levels of government and community organizations.

**How Will Your City Bring This Vision to Life?**

- **Identify Potential Sites:** Locating potential sites for restorative justice centers in underserved areas.
- **Develop Partnerships:** Building partnerships with community organizations and government agencies.
- **Implement Pilot Programs:** Implementing pilot programs to test the feasibility of different approaches.

**Convening Questions**

- What are the current criminal justice needs in your city?
- What role can restorative justice play in addressing these needs?
- How can your city support a transition to a restorative justice system?
The emergence of the Restorative Justice City is leading to a number of shifts that policy makers, urban designers, politicians, and community organizations will want to pay attention to.

**Silence and Solitude**

Restorative Justice Cities require a reimagining of public space and the way people interact within it. If not careful, urban densities can lead to noise and aggression, creating an arms race of noise and aggression. The Restorative Justice City is creating a new urban infrastructure to build a new lifestyle focused on peace and quiet, and to create the conditions for meaningful connection.

**Alternative Business Models**

Traditional revitalization efforts have often missed the mark for people living in America's poor urban centers. The Restorative Justice City will work together to eliminate food deserts and provide access to fresh, healthy foods. The emergence of organizations working at the intersection of food, justice, and peace are filling a gap by giving access to expansive spaces for community building, with members of the formerly incarcerated.

**The Challenges Are Many**

The challenges are many. We will coordinate and mobilize with people from our poorest urban neighborhoods, where the only civil infrastructure is a failing criminal justice system. Our priority will be to build a new infrastructure that is designed to foster community and heal Oakland's wounds from mass incarceration and economic marginalization. The Restorative Justice City will also have to address other immediate needs—such as employment, poverty, structural racism, and access to opportunities and resources— to be successful.

**Mapping the Future of Oakland**

The new urban infrastructure beyond simply addressing crime, and instead use it to foster community and heal Oakland's wounds from mass incarceration and economic marginalization. The Restorative Justice City will also have to address other immediate needs—such as employment, poverty, structural racism, and access to opportunities and resources—to be successful.