

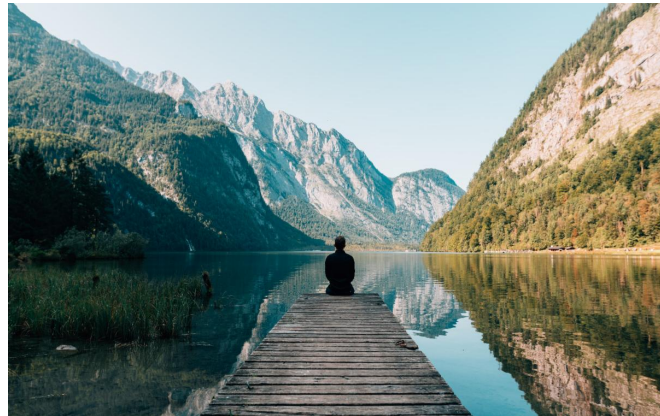


What Does The Future Hold And How Do We Support One Another?

Greetings!

Reflections on the Moment

I have never lived through a moment like this. Covid-19 maintains its grip. Fires have raged for two months in my region and they may continue for two more. The needed racial reckoning roils on with civil unrest and very worrisome



white supremacist violence on the rise. And American democracy is threatened as never before. It leaves me worried for our future.

I am asking myself, what is it that I must do? What is it that ROC and our allies must do to be a positive force in what lay ahead? I am unsure of the answers to both questions. As for ROC and its allies: the answer(s) will in part depend on the decisions made by the American people in November. A part will depend on the pandemic's impact, a part on what actions and solutions funders and government will be seeking.

As for me, any response will depend on my ability to adapt and remain psychologically, spiritually and physically resilient in the face of whatever unfolds. And I believe the mental resilience of individual Americans will play a key role in how the nation as a whole will fare in the decades ahead. Each of us will be increasingly challenged by the ecological, social and political impacts that are sure to come.

I have questions about you, my community. How are you handling the pressures and uncertainties? Are there people in the ROC circle of relations that would want to participate in conversations via Zoom to discuss their state of mind and attitudes about the future and their ability to enhance mental resilience and agency in the face of cascading crises?

In the period ahead, no matter the politics or social conditions, I am certain we

will need each other more than ever. Community cohesion, community alliances and common purpose are goals that I aspire to be part of forming and achieving. **Please let me know what you think, and whether you would want to participate in dialogues with others by sending me an email.** Thank you!

(Photo credit: Simon Migaj / Pexels)

Legislative Update



This is the final report for 2020's regular legislative session as the deadline for the final step in the process of creating a law has arrived. As the whole year has been, the results remain disappointing. Only four bills that we supported this year actually made it through the Legislature to Governor Newsom's desk. He

signed only two of those bills. Both vetoed bills would have had costs that may not be covered without future federal COVID-related assistance. So fiscal restraint in light of the COVID-19 impact on California's budget appears to us as the underlying reason for Governor Newsom's decisions. Sadly, the lack of assistance will disproportionately harm Californians of color, particularly food chain workers, who are experiencing high levels of unemployment due to COVID-19 and fires.

Bills That Made it to the Governor

SB 1383 SIGNED

Unlawful employment practice: California Family Rights Act (author: Senator Hannah Beth Jackson of Santa Barbara)

AB 826 VETOED

Emergency food assistance: COVID-19 (author: Assemblymember Miguel Santiago of Los Angeles)

AB 2054 VETOED

Emergency services: community response: grant program (author: Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager of Culver City)

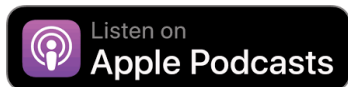
AB 3121 SIGNED

Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans (author: Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber of San Diego)

This Week's Flipping the Table Podcast

The Los Angeles Food Policy Council is the

nation's largest and we believe most impactful council in the nation. The ROC crew is proud to have been instrumental in its formation and launch and continuously impressed by its impact on California's largest city. Christine Tran has recently become its Executive Director. Hear our conversation about Christine's inspiring journey to her new post and her vision for the Council's future.



Please Become a Contributor to Our Work

I hope our range of actions to create a just, resilient and healthy food system is of interest to you. Please consider making a donation to support our work.



Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Reid Dimock".

Michael Reid Dimock
President
Roots of Change
A Program of the Public Health Institute

Roots of Change

