

## Story of Self, Story of Us, Story of Now Worksheet

In organizing, we use storytelling to articulate our shared values. Stories can be a source of inspiration, a means to engage and connect with one another, and most importantly, a way to motivate others to join us.

The Story of Self, Us, and Now is a model created by Marshall Ganz to help us articulate why we are called to lead, a story of the community we hope to mobilize and why we're united, and the story of why we must act.

**Instructions:** Reflect on each of the following sets of questions (15 mins/set) and journal your thoughts. Then spend 15 minutes tying it all together and filling out the chart on the back. This activity should take you about 1 hour total.

### **In developing your Story of Self, reflect on these questions:**

1. Why did I decide to tackle the specific injustices or problems that I work on? What calls me to do this work?
2. What values move me to act? Have these values always been important to me? If not, when did that change?
3. What stories can I tell from my own life about specific people or events that would show, rather than tell, how I learned or acted on those values?

### **To start in developing your Story of Us, reflect on the following questions:**

1. Who is your community and what values do you share with your community? (note: 'community' here is the 'us' in your story)
2. What experiences have had the greatest impact on your community? What challenges has it faced?
3. What stories inspire you about how your specific community has made change or worked together to overcome challenges?

### **In developing your Story of Now, reflect on these questions**

1. What is the urgent challenge your community faces regarding land and housing now?
2. What change does this community hope for and why? What would the future look like if this change is made? What would the future look like if the change isn't made?
3. What action are you asking people to take and what impact will this have on the bigger picture?

This worksheet was adapted from the handbook titled ["Organizing: People, Power, Change"](#)

**Now it's time to put it all together...Distill from your journal reflections and be ready to share this with the full group.**

<b>Story of Self</b>	<b>Story of Us</b>	<b>Story of Now</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What choices or events in your life led you to be here today? Pick one or two that relate to your community and this moment.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What is your community all about? What specifically moves you about your community?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What are the urgent challenges your community faces with land and housing? Pick a story that shows the impact on your community. What gives you hope? What action are you asking people to take?</li></ul>

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