Black Youth Project OTT Proposal

Content Plan

We will produce at least two articles: one which focuses mainly economic justice and the other which focuses on youth activism in Chicago (longer descriptions below).

Interview participants:

Eva Lewis

Nati Corazon

Morgan Johnson

Partnerships:

We are looking to collaborate with In These Times in both and editing and publishing capacity on the first piece.

For the second piece, the collaboration is mainly in the form of in-depth interviews. This piece must be published by July 31st.

Summary of Planned Content:

Using the On the Table as a jump off point, the two pieces will be about how young people are understanding their role in movements for justice and coming into their understandings specifically about economic justice. It's not just the Movement for Black Lives making the most noise anymore, there are numerous movements happening from different angles but a baseline understanding is forming that capitalism has to go and we will be the ones to influence and create new systems through divestment and abolition.

One article will focus on different ways Black folks in Chicago are focusing on invest/divest and economic justice and connecting it to a larger invest/divest movement. Chicago is one of the more segregated cities in the country with a current mayor that is blatantly continuing this trend in a way that harms Black residents. In recent news, an already affluent and popular area of downtown Chicago, Navy Pier, is reported to be receiving $55 million in funding to support economic development through a particular program known as Tax Increment Financing. This same program only provides a sliver of that amount to areas of the city that are truly in need. This example of intentional divestment, and others like it, in Chicago and nationally are prompting the question in Black communities about just how we are supposed to move our folks forward. With interviews from [..] and the New Economy aims to address some of this question.

The second piece will focus specifically on two young Black femme women in Chicago who are using their platforms to address problems the Black Chicago community is facing. Morgan Johnson, co-founder of The Triibe, and Eva Lewis, a co-founder of Youth for Black Lives, have both found the necessary merge between Black activism and communication. Johnson is using her skills in journalism and documentary filmmaking to create a video series, “Another Life” about the aftermath of gun violence. Lewis has used her passions in art and activism to create a platform to discuss intersectionality and help open the consciousness of her peers. While their physical products may be different, both Johnson and Lewis are creating things that will help change the narrative about Black folks in Chicago both outside and within the Black community.