Defining Transformation for Social Change
PMA Resolution
June 25, 2010 *(modified July 1, 2010)*

CONTEXT

A social change movement rooted in transformation is critical to making new worlds possible.

Because the ends of justice can never be served by the means of injustice, even when the injustice is as subtle as the mental framework instilled by our quest for liberation; and because suffering cannot be alleviated by instigating suffering; the conditions under which we labor for change need to exemplify the conditions we wish to ultimately find ourselves in.

And we, as agents of that change, must be empowered to thrive in seeking it.

We believe movement work is at a vital and exciting transition point, one marked by larger and larger numbers of people who are interested in and hungry for transformative practice. We believe burn out and struggles over accountability in our collective actions detract from the steady expansion and sustainability of our movements. We believe that this process begins where we are, with an intention to share out into greater community. We believe that now, this moment, is the time to put hope into action, give it shape, definition, a body. Now is the time to identify the principles and core components of Transformation we need to make possibilities realities.

RESOLUTIONS

Thus, we resolve that:

~Transformation, as applied to social change, is a process through which who we are – individually or collectively – is changed so deeply that the following are altered:
- **identity** (way of seeing/thinking/reflecting upon ourselves and environment),
- **emotions** (range of feelings and reactivity,)
- **embodiment** (relationship and connectedness to and within our bodies and how we show up,)
- **actions** (behaviors, patterned responses,)
- **creativity** (capacity for responsiveness and ability to access resources,) and
- **paradigms** (overall perspective and mode of operating.)

~The work of transformation requires the following components:
- Awareness of the default conditioning, habits and reactions in our individual, organizational and movement experience.
- Appreciation of old identities and states as they pass away and an understanding of the experience of crisis, breakdown, "undone-ness," or "not-knowing" as a necessary catalyst that moves us toward new identities and states. People and entities can and must be supported in these periods.
- A container at the individual, organizational and movement levels; practices that support the process, and a commitment to mentoring people into the necessary skills and processes.
- A sustainable relationship with the whole web of life.

~ Transformation can and does consist of multi-disciplinary practices, modalities and paths, but overall it points toward the centrality of consistent, rigorous practice capable of undoing conditioning. <mark>Such a practice must effect systemic changes, internal and external.</mark> We refer to the broad spectrum of varied modalities *as transformative practices*.

Defining Transformation for Social Change
PMA Resolution
June 25, 2010 *(modified July 1, 2010)*

~ Transformation happens in its own time and it can't be undone. We expect processes of transformation, *as distinct from change,* to be inclined towards being irreversible.
~ In the transformation process, one identity or self passes away and a new, radically altered one emerges. The new way of being is more integrated, resourceful and aligned. This is apparent to others in your presence, your actions and your increased capacity to respond based on vision, rather than reaction. This process is repeats itself and deepens through continued engagement in transformative practices and processes. The **old**, previous "form" sheds again and **new** emerges again.

~ The methods and philosophy of transformation must be rooted in an explicit analysis of oppression.

~ We recognize that this work is grounded in ancient wisdom, lineages and history, and that it is entering a new phase of coherence that allows us to move forward.

~Applied transformation leads to the following outcomes:
- Radically increased awareness, clarity and comfort with direct experience what is so.
- Breakthroughs in ways of knowing, thinking and accessing creativity
- Impacts our character in a way that is observable, felt and experienced by others.
- Increased ability to respond from a place of vision and compassion rather than ego or self-interest.
- Increased capacity for, skillfulness with and practice of: presence, authenticity and interdependence.

DECLARATION and COMMITMENTS

This new world is not only possible, but necessary. It is in this Spirit that:

We commit to support our selves, our communities, partners, allies, and opponents in the movement:
- ∞ To see this methodology and philosophy integrated into a wide range of issues, sectors and movements so that we can move toward a more life-affirming, sustainable, progressive agenda.
- ∞ To rigorously engage in and humbly honor the variety and difference among all our transformative practices that are capable of undoing our conditioning.
- ∞ To be rooted in a methodology and philosophy of transformation that moves towards a vision of liberation.
- ∞ To call for, empower and resource transformative leadership within our movements.

We commit to a Transformative Social Change: a philosophical, practical and strategic process to effect changes within ourselves, organizations, institutions, systems and society that are rooted in positively-oriented (progressive), sustainable (personally and environmentally sound), equitable (interdependent), life-affirming (generative) purpose and vision. It reaches towards a world in which people are inspired towards liberation from both personal suffering **and** systemic oppression, no longer compelled by anger and separation, but by love, compassion and a deeper desire for connection, healing, and new beginnings. **Further,:**

We commit to placing Transformative Social Change at the core of our movements, with the recognition that it as the most critical and indispensible aspect of moving toward a more just, more equitable, more sustainable society for all.

And we call on others in the US to join us.