



Above: MPA/SPA partners at the launch of the State Power Accelerator in Minnesota, May 2024

## Building Businesses that Build Economic and Political Power

To address the current crisis of democracy and advance visionary politics in our states, **we must build a level of economic power that allows movement organizations to set their own agendas and better negotiate with power players.**

The Movement Politics Accelerator (MPA) – *the 501c4 sister organization to the State Power Accelerator* – is an innovative program focused on the development of independent resources for movement and base building organizations. MPA partner organizations are eager to develop new business infrastructure, drive their own civic engagement strategies, and raise flexible funding to invest in innovative organizing and campaigns.

MPA provides active intervention and strategy in funding this work: promoting business development and real estate initiatives that drive independent revenue to state movement ecosystems, while challenging the electoral industrial complex and capitalizing on success to optimize organizing. Learn more about our ongoing work in this edition of the MPA newsletter.

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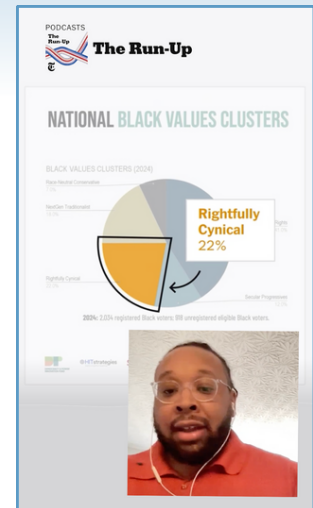
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# MEANS OF PRODUCTION OF POLITICS

## The Run-Up: New York Times

MPA Senior Advisor Prentiss Haney was recently featured alongside Maryland Governor Wes Moore in [The Run Up: a New York Times podcast](#) discussing the Democratic Party's message to voters in the final stretch of the election season to voters: that they, too, are patriots. The effort aims to win back white rural voters and re-engage disillusioned Black voters, emphasizing a shared love of country to reach the undecided and skeptical.



## MPP Conversation Series

One of MPA's core activities is to work with state-based leaders in the development of vehicles that shift and disrupt the way politics are executed. These initiatives redirect political dollars back into movement ecosystems, generating revenue for innovative campaigns and aligned 501c4 programming. They also serve as allied alternatives to existing political players in our electoral infrastructure.

During this pivotal election cycle, MPA is hosting a series of conversations designed to better understand and engage with how politics is played. These Means of Production of Politics (MPP) discussions will explore lessons from and valuable strategies for building and executing electoral vehicles, as well as navigating the power structures that shape political spending in our states. We hope to see you there.

### MPP Strategic Learning Session

Oct. 2, 2024 – 1-2 PM EST

What are we learning about politics this cycle? Join us for a real-time conversation with state partners to discuss the experience of establishing and managing political firms seeking to win campaigns while empowering leaders to shape a more democratic world. Hear directly from organizations in the field that are engaging in this work in 2024.

### MPP Data Analysis and Interpretation

Dec. 4, 2024 – 2-3 PM EST

Who really controls our electoral system? In this session, we'll hear from electoral analysts who update our [2023 MPP analysis](#) that provided organizers, donors, and grassroots leaders with a clearer understanding of electoral power structures and political spending. Join us as we explore data mined from state and federal campaigns in this election cycle.

Register

# REAL ESTATE

## Delray Community Fund

Did you know that minority and women-owned firms make up less than ten percent of the asset management industry, controlling less than one percent of \$70 trillion in US assets? MPA is committed to growing movement-aligned businesses and organizing the capital necessary for their success. By transforming how the field is structured, we can ensure that racial and economic justice are at the center of impact investment strategy.

In collaboration with the [Amalgamated Foundation](#) and community leaders in South Florida, MPA has been working to develop the Delray Community Fund. This innovative charitable loan fund will raise \$5 million for the acquisition and development of properties in the historically Black neighborhoods of Delray Beach. The community-centered fund seeks to increase Black homeownership rates, provide affordable retail space for Black-owned businesses, and build political power by increasing civic participation and leadership opportunities for Black residents.

This project was made possible through partnership with the [Boston Impact Initiative](#), where MPA Project Director Prentiss Haney and MPA Fellow Eric Brakken participated in the Emerging Fund Manager Cohort.



## Rise Up Center

We are thrilled to report that our partners at [Rise Up Center](#) in Minnesota are in the final stages of acquisition of the 70,000 sq.ft. former YMCA in Uptown Minneapolis. We toured the site at the SPA launch in May and learned about Rise Up's [plans to rehabilitate the building](#) as an opportunity center for green jobs training and BIPOC community organizing hub.

Led by an alignment of power-building organizations and labor ([Unidos MN](#), [New Justice Project](#), [SEIU Local 26](#), [UFCW Local 663](#)), Rise Up is exploring independent revenue generation models such as a coffee shop, parking ramp, event center, and co-working space to lessen future dependence on philanthropy. Rise Up is in the midst of a \$10 million capital campaign to complete build out. Reach out to [SPA Advisor Laura Flynn](#) if you are interested in learning more about or supporting this exciting project.



# FELLOWSHIPS

## MPA Fellowship Program

For five years, MPA has actively developed a learning community around independent resource generation: bringing together leaders to develop ideas, share their work, and interrogate the industry. In 2024, we initiated a Fellowship Program for state-based leaders who have made (or are seeking to make) strides in the development of strategies that support independent resources for movement and base building organizations. MPA is excited to introduce our inaugural Fellows: Eric Brakken and Mohamed Omar.

Eric's work is currently focused on the development of the Delray Community Fund; leading the establishment of a trade association intended to provide operational and governance support for aligned political firms; and working on the production of a series of Economic Power Plans, which examine how independent resources can ignite power building work in states.



Mohamed, a founder of the [Zawadi Center](#) in Bloomington MN, is working with MPA to produce a case study of this innovative restaurant, event space, and coworking hub for the Somali (and broader!) community in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro. Mohamed will also be exploring opportunities to expand this business model into other states.

## Just Economy Institute Fellowships

One of MPA's goals is to equip partners with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to effectively organize resources to advance collective goals through financial strategies and tools: using capital innovatively and effectively to produce systemic change.

In that vein, MPA Senior Advisor Prentiss Haney was a fellow of the [Just Economy Institute \(JEI\)](#) in 2023-2024, a program that supports and connects financial activists to shift the flow of capital and power to solve social and environmental problems. Through a growing partnership with JEI, we worked with MPA partners Alphonso Mayfield and Eric Brakken to participate in this competitive fellowship program during the 2024-2025 cycle.

# LEARNING COMMUNITY

## Montana Learning Visit

In a follow-up to Dawn McGee's presentation at our May 2024 event, MPA recently visited [Goodworks Ventures](#) in Montana. A social impact fund supporting a dynamic entrepreneurial environment locally, Goodworks is committed to providing capital support and capacity building in a multi-entity approach to building progressive power.

The visit provided valuable insights into how philanthropy, civic engagement, business, and leadership development can align to drive lasting social and political change. We explored first-hand how Goodworks integrates multiple sectors to advance progressive goals, as well as key strategies for civic engagement, rural economic development, and leadership training. MPA is looking forward to continued partnership with Goodworks staff, and providing our leaders with connections to and inspiration from all that they have achieved in Montana.

