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# January 2021 Newsletter

Hiring opportunities • Internship Program • PJ in the Press

Friday, January 29th, 2021

## A World Without Prisons

Allow yourself to picture it.

## Education Internship Updates

Our internship program is going strong!

## Hiring Opportunity

Join our Transform Your Yard team!

## PJ in the Press

Read about us in the East Bay Times.

## Featured Plant

Learn more about the Tree Tomato.

## Connect With Us

Share your good news!



## WE'RE HIRING!

Our landscaping team has three openings:

- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPER
- PERMACULTURE DESIGNER

Please submit your resume and cover letter to [tyy@plantingjustice.org](mailto:tyy@plantingjustice.org)!

### LOCAL NEWS

## El Sobrante food-justice community center, café in works

Area church teams with Oakland nonprofit to establish retail farm at former Adachi nursery



By [LOU FANCHER](#) | Correspondent

PUBLISHED: January 12, 2021 at 10:15 a.m. | UPDATED:

# Hi, PJ Community!

Happy New Year! We hope you've been able to stay warm, safe, and grounded in 2021 so far.

As we enter into the new year, we also begin a new political chapter here in the United States with the inauguration of a new administration. While we have undeniably turned the page, we know the book is still the same. There is so much more work to be done.

I've had this image on my desktop for several years now. It's made up of painted snapshots in bright colors -- a healing circle in a gym, children running through the park, a family holding each other tight. All of these joyful moments are framed by the words "Picturing a World Without Prisons."

## PICTURING



art by Bianca Diaz

## A WORLD WITHOUT PRISONS

Art by Bianca Diaz

This image reminds me that, above all else, abolition is *hopeful*. Racist systems of power must be destroyed so that where prisons once stood, a brighter, safer, more just future can grow. Picture it. Indulge in the possibility that a world without prisons could exist. What would be different? What problems would remain? What would it feel like to walk down the street? **It is up to us to bravely imagine the possibilities of a world we have never experienced.**

In "[The Hill We Climb](#)," written by Amanda Gorman and recited at the presidential inauguration last week, the young poet writes, "For there is always light, / if only we're brave enough to see it. / If only we're brave enough to be it." It is Planting Justice's goal to continue to look toward the light of a better future, and continue to reach for it with consistent, purposeful action.

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A few weeks ago, I looked up the phrase, "Picturing a World Without Prisons," and found that the artist, [Bianca Diaz](#), sells [11x17 prints of the piece](#), one of which is now hanging on my wall, a bright gift to myself in times that feel grey. It's my constant reminder of the joy of possibility, a gentle compass that points me toward hope. Each time I look at it, I see more than before. Each time I look at it, I see light.

*Written by Laurel Schweidel, Media Team*

## Education Internship Program Update

Planting Justice's Education Program recently wrapped up our first cohort of interns in 2021! This small but mighty group of students from Madison Park Academy High School and Lionel Wilson Academy Middle School spent six weeks working at the Planting Justice Nursery in East Oakland. They helped with vegetable garden maintenance and planting, smoothie production for our free smoothie distribution, and the harvesting and donation of herbs and greens to local food-insecure populations.

Our interns also participated in Planting Justice's "Plant! Cook! Organize!" curriculum, delving into topics like food justice, permaculture gardening, and holistic health. Even with all of the limitations imposed by COVID-19, we found a way to stay safe and have a blast at the same time!

As one of the interns said, "PJ made me feel at home. I love coming to work!" This positive experience is what we strive to provide to everyone who interacts with Planting Justice. We are so grateful to each of our youth participants for adding to this feeling of unity and joy, each in their unique way. Planting Justice educators and nursery staff look forward to continuing to build these precious relationships with local youth in our next internship cohort.

Our next group of interns is already full, but interested parties can email [education@plantingjustice.org](mailto:education@plantingjustice.org) to be notified about future openings in the program.

*Written by Feyi Ajayi-Dopemu, Education Team*





## Want to Work at Planting Justice?

Apply to work with our Transform Your Yard (TTY) team! We're looking for a new Administrative Assistant, Ecological Landscaper, and Permaculture Designer. If you're interested, email [tyy@plantingjustice.org](mailto:tyy@plantingjustice.org) with your resume and a cover letter or expression of interest. Read more about the positions [on our website](#)! These positions will remain open until filled.

Know someone who would be a good fit? Share this newsletter with them!



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## PJ in the Press

This month, we had the pleasure of talking to Lou Fancher from the East Bay Times about some of the exciting projects we're working on this year. [Click this link](#) to read the article.

We were also mentioned in a Rep.co about the amazing work Dr. Aisha Mays and her staff are doing at Roots Community Health Center's Dream Youth Clinic in Oakland. We were honored to help create a community garden for them this season. [Read about it here](#).

## LOCAL NEWS

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By **LOU FANCHER** | Correspondent

PUBLISHED: January 12, 2021 at 10:15 a.m. | UPDATED: January 13, 2021 at 6:42 a.m.

Written By Melissa Hart

## THEY DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE SEEDS

**DR. AISHA MAYS UNVEILS  
DREAM YOUTH CLINIC'S  
NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN  
—WHERE OPPORTUNITY  
GROWS FOR VULNERABLE  
OAKLAND TEENS.**

## Featured Plant - Tree Tomato (Tamarillo, Tomate de Árbol)

Native to the Andes of South America, this subtropical, juicy, sweet-tart fruit with flavor notes of tomato and passionfruit can be eaten fresh or used in desserts, drinks, smoothies, salads, soups, sauces, and more. It's an excellent source of vitamins A, B, C, E, and Iron, and ripens late in the year. This small tree grows well in containers and prefers protection from strong wind and freezing temperatures. Hardy to USDA zone 9b.

Be sure to check for the tree tomato at [plantingjustice.org/shop](https://plantingjustice.org/shop), available for purchase in the next week.

*Written by Max Cadji, Nursery Team*



## Connect With Us!

We want to hear from you! Reply to this email or reach out to [press@plantingjustice.org](mailto:press@plantingjustice.org) with "Good News" included in the subject line, and tell us about something exciting going on in your life. Getting married? Adopting a pet? Starting a garden? Send us a photo and tell us your story, and you may be featured in our next newsletter! (If you'd rather not be

featured, that's fine too, we'd still love to hear from you!)



Planting Justice | [plantingjustice.org](https://plantingjustice.org)

