

NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

Mukuyu Collective, LLC Annual Report 2025



Mukuyu Media Launches Uprooting Qahr

POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND PAPERWORK

Uprooting Qahr calls in the heart and the head reconnecting the ties that bind our human experiences – past, present, and future. Traveling from the Colorado Rockies to West Asia to the Deep South, we navigate the promise of democracy, the spread of colonialism, and reclaim pathways to liberty and justice for all.

Through film, music, and narratives, this work unpacks Qahr: the sadness, frustration, anger caused by displacement, dispossession and discrimination while also shining a light of hope towards collective liberation. A sadness that lingers across generations. A hope that never extinguishes.

Together, we examine how human rights, education, environmental, and policy can both oppress and liberate. We also share insights and strategies on how to recognize, repair, and atonement at the individual, interpersonal, and institutional levels of change.

After two incredible private previews, we host our first public preview the Junkyard Social Club in Boulder, Colorado on December 20, 2026.



This issue:

Uprooting Qahr Performances
PAGE 02

Homecoming:
A Return to the Deep South
PAGE 02

Bringing Our Seats to the Table
with Next 100
PAGE 03

Forging New Outdoor
Leadership Pathways
PAGE 04

PD Of the Year:
WEco Water Fluency
PAGE 04

Accountability is Love
PAGE 05

Reclaiming Connections
PAGE 06

On the Horizon
PAGE 07

Mukuyu Service Menu
PAGE 08

Uprooting Qahr Performances

MIGRATION STORIES & MORE

Uprooting Qahr: Power, Privilege, and Paperwork offers a container to remember, repair, and reimagine ways of being that does not require oppressive and unequal systems. Through music, film, and monologues, this project invites us to remember our neighbors and reconnect with them near and far

For Taishya, our founder, this project combines all the knowledge, skills, talents, experiences, and wisdom to offer this transformational moment in human history starting with her own family history.

Each generation is responsible to remember and to share the fullest history and narratives to the next generation. We are also called to repair and heal from the intergenerational trauma caused by these oppressive systems.

We are capable of a great many things when we come together as a mighty chorus!



[Scan to learn more!](#)



Homecoming: A Return to the Deep South

THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE CONFEDERACY

Uprooting Qahr was birthed from Taishya's experience in the West Bank; however, the project is rooted in her own personal ancestry - an ancestry that served to be the blueprint. The blueprint on how to oppress a people and a place. The US Race Laws that continues to spread colonial cancer throughout the land.

Taishya's maternal family is from Alabama. Her grandma rarely spoke about them and there was a lot of mystery growing up about who they were, where they were, how they escaped the White terror of lynching, displacement, dispossession, and discrimination, and how the fate of those who remained.

I was born in Northern Virginia - above the Mason Dixon Line. The Mason-Dixon Line, established in 1767, was originally a boundary survey for Pennsylvania and Maryland but became the symbolic dividing line between free and slave states in the U.S. My African American family had a lot of pride in having made it above the 'Freedom Line.' Rarely did I hear my family talk about our ancestors from the Deep South.

We are on an intergenerational journey. During the Equal Justice Institute's Legacy Site visit, Taishya found her paternal family name on the Emancipation Wall. Turns out, her family does have paperwork.

Bringing Our Seats to the Table with Next 100

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY INSTITUTE LAUNCHES

In 2025, the Next 100 Coalition partnered with Mukuyu to co-create the inaugural Next 100 Environmental Regulatory Institute. Piloted in Albuquerque, New Mexico and Atlanta, Georgia, this institute welcomed 25 community champions in peer driven workshops and simulations that unpacked the role and status of environmental boards/commissions at local and state government.



together, we (1) examined authority on environmental boards and commissions; (2) identified the relevant skills/ expertise/relationships desired for appointment; (3) crosswalked with lived and learned participant experience; (4) connected with previous and current board/commission appointees; and co-created personalized road map/action plan to identify and secure board/commission opportunities.

In 2026, Next 100 Coalition, Mukuyu Collective will work with Salted Roots to bring ERI to the West Coast!



“ If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.”

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM
POLICY MAKER



Forging New Outdoor Leadership Pathways

POWER, PRIVILEGE, AND POLICY COURSE

The University of Denver (DU) is partnering with The VF Foundation to create the Leadership in Outdoor Recreation Industry (LORI) program. This interdisciplinary program will feature coursework from three academic units at DU: Daniels College of Business, Sturm College of Law and Josef Korbel School of International Studies. A key goal of the program is to increase the diversity of the talent pipeline for the outdoor industry.

Taishya Adams, founder and CEO Mukuyu Collective, served as an adjunct professor for the course. Taishya designed and facilitated an 5-week course titled, “People, Power, and Politics in the Outdoor Industry” on the history of environmental governance on Turtle Island, the United States and Colorado. This course examined power and privilege, Tribal sovereignty and consultation intergovernmental policy and oversight of outdoor recreation, conservation, development, and workforce.

The course included whole and small group discussions, real world assignments, and activities needed for leadership in the outdoors including 2-minute public comment, written comment, and policy analysis.



PD Of the Year: WEco Water Fluency

WECO = WATER EDUCATION COLORADO

Our founder, Taishya Adams, participated in a 5-month hybrid professional development course titled, “Water Fluency.” This course was developed and is facilitated by Water Education Colorado.

The WEco Water Fluency Program is a professional development course designed for anyone interested in gaining an in-depth understanding of Colorado water management and protection. Together, we learned about Colorado’s water resources, legal and institutional frameworks, water resource management, and the future of Colorado water.

Mukuyu works with frontline communities, governmental entities, and nonprofits to navigate systems that have kept us in the margins where decisions are made about water. This training was essential to demystify the surgical complexity of water.

Learning AND getting to know the people making these decisions is invaluable. We are the ones needed and necessary.

Denver University - Leadership in the Outdoor Industry
People, Power, and Politics in the Outdoor Industry
Designed & Facilitated by Taishya Adams, Mukuyu Collective

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Tribal and Early US Government Involvement in Outdoor Recreation and Conservation**
- People and Politics of Outdoor Recreation**
- Outdoors for All: Building a Sustainable Outdoor Future**
- Policy Panel**
- Policy Recommendations**

A decorative graphic on the left and right sides of the text, showing a winding path through a forest of green trees.



MUKUYU

COLLECTIVE

Accountability is Love

FUBU PLANNING - FOR US, BY US

Accountability. I used to think it was a bad word. Like boundaries, I thought accountability was something to be feared not loved. Then I learned more about what accountability really is, what happens when it is abused, and how it can show up in our lives as love.

This series explores accountability at its intersection with power. Unpacking the personal, professional, political power we have or had to hold systems accountable. Together, we will explore what power we have in our daily lives and what power do others hold over us. Whether it is the power to make the decision or the power to take it away, we know that not all power is the same.



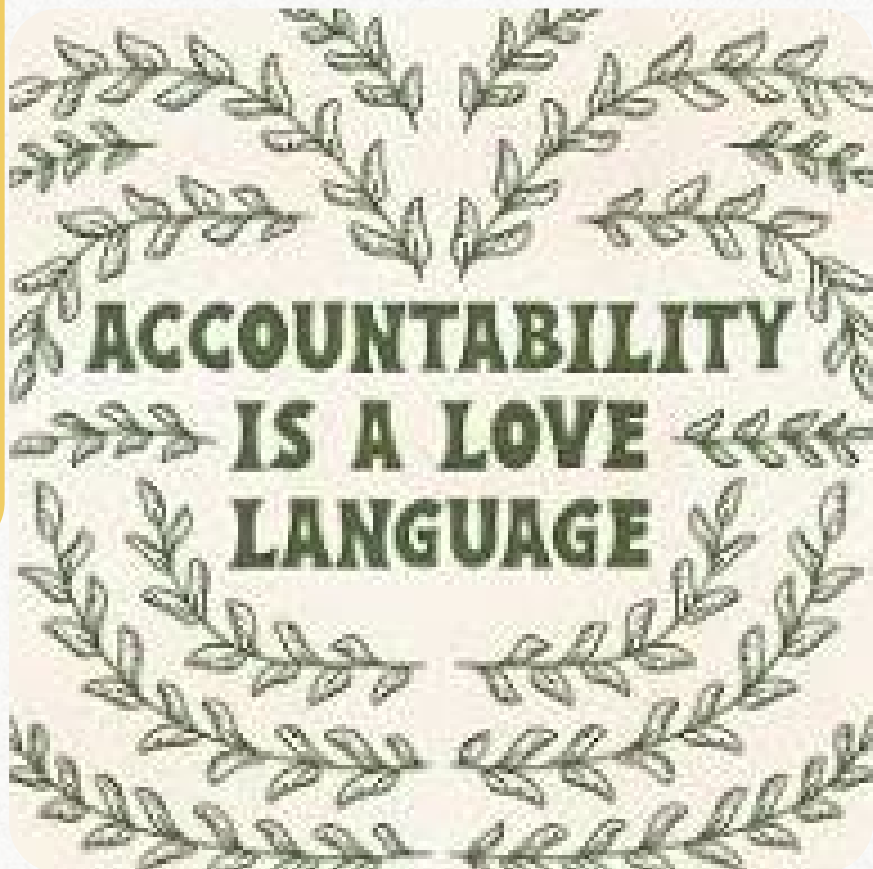
Part I – I’ve Got the Power, Wait, Do I?
Part I explores decision makers and decision making. Policy are the rules of engagement, decision making, and resource allocation. asset dissemination.



All the Power to All the People
This blog explores how diagnostics, differentiation, continuous improvement, and accountability systems/mechanisms accelerates liberation for all.



From Hoarder to Sharers
Together, we will explore how other civilizations answered accountability’s call and the need to balance people and planet.s.



Who Makes the Rules

Assuming you have the right to vote, you should also have the right to run for office. As a descendant of enslaved Africans, my family did not get to vote or be represented in this US government as a decision maker until 1870 – well, African American men. The United States was founded in 1776 as we were just reminded with In(ter)dependence Day. However, it was not until 1870 – 94 years later that African American men were allowed to vote. Not to mention African American women who had to wait until 1965 – that’s 189 years of US government decision making without ONE of my African American maternal line who have contributed to this country since its founding. How could this have come about, you ask?

Well, turns out, it matters who makes the rules. It was not until the The Reconstruction Acts of 1867, known as the First Reconstruction, these acts divided the South into five military districts, and provided for the establishment of new governments, based on manhood suffrage. This Radical or Congressional Reconstruction, which lasted until 1877.

CALL TO ACTION

The best apology is changed behavior. The formerly oppressed have read enough apologies, participated in enough memorials, and commemorations that acknowledged the past injustices without any changed behavior. We asked for monetary reparations, we got a holiday that everyone gets off. Know better, do better.

TALES FROM BLOG

Reflections on In(ter)dependence Day 2025

Taishya Adams. July 2025

Welcome to a bonus blog for the Mukuyu Accountability is Love series!

This series explores accountability at its intersection with power, people, and the planet. Unpacking the personal, professional, political power we have or had to hold systems accountable the the values, statements, and declarations.

This bonus blog comes to you on what I now call, Interdependence Day, also known as Independence Day. Since we know that in nature, you are never alone, we know that independence is an illusion necessary to allow for unfettered capitalism. Alas, as we begin to commemorate this US federal holiday, let us explore who gets power and how that power is used.

Whether it is the power to make the decision or the power to take it away, let us be reminded of the ruling minority and their oversized power over the people of the global majority as well as our non-human kin. Let us also be reminded of the invitation to co-create new/renewed governance structures that honor all living beings on Earth.

40 Acres and a Mule on Stolen Land

As an African American woman still waiting on 40 acres and a mule on stolen land, this In(ter)dependence Day celebration hits different based on my lived and learned experiences. This year, two things come to my mind. The first is Fredrick Douglass, “What to a Slave is the Fourth of July?” speech and the second is the Great Law of Peace – a democratic system created by the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy).

This couplet helps me to untangle the conflicted actions that allowed those select freedoms for some on the backs of many. This holiday reminds me too of the debt still owed to those in the margins as well as those who continue to be sacrificed for the American Dream to exist. During a time when the current US President just alluded to the enslavement of select immigrants at the newly built concentration camp in Florida by alluding that US farmers would be responsible for the (select) immigrant laborers, who would not receive citizenship. A time when our gerrymandered, majority immigrant US Congressmembers try and pass the One Big Beautiful Bill that seeks to extract more from the many for the benefit of a few.

Notice I keep adding ‘select’ in front of immigrants because it is critical to remember that EVERYONE who was NOT born on Turtle Island – the Americas – ARE IMMIGRANTS!! I prefer ‘arrivant’ as a descendent of enslaved Africans but ultimately, we too are not Indigenous to this country regardless of how long we have been living here.

This Fourth July is Yours, Not Mine

Let’s unpack Douglass’ speech and how it continues to speak to this moment in our nation’s history.

We are not equals in the United States of America. We still have a hierarchy of rights that are aligned not with your humanity but with your identities whether race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, disability/ability status, rights have rarely been allocated to the people of the global majority.

DAIR is From the invention of coinage in the 800 BCE to the great capitalist empires of the 1400s and beyond, the prevalence of a small ruling minority over the majority has plagued almost every corner of planet Earth.

The marginalized have yet to inherit the richness of justice, liberty, prosperity, and independence. Just yesterday, the University of Colorado Board of Regents centured the only Black Regent – Regent Wanda James – on the Board for calling out anti-Black racist imagery that was allowed to be shared publicly. Justice is rarely extended and often blocked by order and the chronic lack of representation in decision making.

Many do not know that some of these (stolen) lands were actually given/awarded to formerly enslaved Africans but taken back after [President Andrew Johnson rescinded the policy](#) following Lincoln’s assassination. President Johnson, a segregationist, chose to return 400,000 acres of land to its previous Confederate owners.

***Another world is
not only possible,
she is on her way.
On a quiet day, I
can hear her
breathing.
— Arundhati Roy,
War Talk***

Visit www.mukuyu-collective.com/blogs to continue reading this blog and to access more blogs.

ON THE HORIZON

ON THE INTERWEBS



AWAKEN. ALIGN. ACTIVATE.

JOIN US THE ONLINE

Uprooting Qahr: Power, Privilege, and Paperwork offers free and paid memberships as well as public content.

Members have access to behind the scenes, early access, interviews, advance tickets, and much more.

Your support allows this interdisciplinary project to fund the artists, historians, and filmmakers, as we continue to finalize the film, music, and monologues. There are also learning modules in development as we rebuild our educational systems.



FEB. 25TH

Ancestral New Earth Festival

6:00 pm MDT / Naropa University - Nalana Campus
Festival is a student-led gathering rooted in healing, art, Afrofuturism, and collective care.

FEB 27TH

Be !mpact Conference

Keynote Speaker | 10:00 am MDT | CU Denver
The conference provides a space for Black youth, college students, and community members to discuss and share strategies that contribute to student success.

MAR. 8TH

Uprooting Qahr Public Performance

5:00-8:00 pm | Earth Angels Act at Theater O
Earth Angels Act delivers direct aid and compassionate support to underrepresented individuals and families in crisis.



UPCOMING EVENTS



MUKUYU

Established in 2020, Mukuyu Collective is a social enterprise building climate and cultural resilience - one relationship at a time. Our services center personal transformation, community activation, and multi-systems change. We align purpose with practice, weave histories and ancestral roots, and co-create pathways that amplify impact and outcomes for collective liberation and environmental stewardship. We also create educational materials for intergenerational learning. Whether you are in the beginning, middle, or end of the journey, our services awaken, align, and activate towards your purpose, mission and goals.

Mukuyu SCHOOL Workshops | Keynotes | Modules

Learning and education modules that deepen awareness, understanding, and the ties that bind living beings across space and time. Topics include democracy, colonialization, and liberation.



Mukuyu STRATEGIES Policy | Governance

Designed for organizations conducting a pivot or new strategic plan. Features a participatory process to reflect and assess, collectively identify priority areas, tasks/timelines, resource needs, action steps, and measures of success.



Mukuyu MEDIA Film | Music | Theater

Reconnecting the head and the heart, Mukuyu Media co-creates films, live music, and theater performances to explore complex topics, time periods, and human relations.



Contact Us

www.mukuyu-collective.com
inquiry@mukuyucollective.com