

# BLACK FIRE SIDE SPEAKER SERIES

# OUT OF THIS WORLD: AFROFUTURIST EXPRESSIONS ACROSS SCIENCE, ART, TECH, AND DESIGN

determine the direction of our future. It is not inevitable. ACEs can be prevented. And there are concrete, concrete steps can be taken to help children, families, and communities heal from their effects. Intervening early, creating resilience in individuals, and building resilient communities are key to mitigating the impacts of childhood trauma.<sup>10</sup> The Office of Prevention plans to build statewide capacity across state agencies, local governments, and communities to address the root causes of ACEs.

When I saw the plan, which mentioned "racialized violence, institutionalized racism, and white supremacy" as sites of intervention, I thought, *Word. OK, maybe this isn't another exercise in pathologizing the victims of unjust systems.* It's still too early to tell where those implementing this plan will focus. And I do wonder whether a state initiative focused on resilience can eventually reckon with the state's central role — via policies such as the "family regulation system" that requires so much compliance unless the most affected individuals receive interventions. One *tiny* tweak to the statutory language could change the rhetoric that begins



JANUARY 25–26, 2023

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### JAN 25: RECEPTION, KEYNOTE ADDRESS, & BOOK SIGNING

#### VIRAL JUSTICE: HOW WE GROW THE WORLD WE WANT

5:00pm Health Sciences Innovation Building, Main Level | Open to all

### JAN 26: STUDENT FIRESIDE CHAT & LUNCH

12:00pm Slonaker House | Limited to students only

**RSVP HERE:**

<https://bit.ly/bfss-ruhabenjamin>