

The Pla[y/n] for Reparation\$: PRESS KIT

[Website](#) & [Instagram](#)



GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Pla[y/n] for Reparation\$ is a multidisciplinary framework exploring individual and collective healing through cultural organizing, public engagement, and experimental performance. Throughout all program events & activities (open rehearsals, public workshops, and performances) participants who are curious to learn about, discuss, envision, and practice individual and collective healing will answer questions and like a choose-your-own-adventure book each response shapes the experience. This consent-based approach empowers audiences to collectively craft a shared exploration of reparations. This collaborative approach is foundational in building the relationships, knowledge, will, and power needed to transform our social justice movements from a set of ideas to a series of actions.

INTERACTIVE PERFORMANCE

Upon entering the space audience members will be presented a series of Yes/No questions, and like a decision tree or choose-your-own-adventure book each response sends individuals further down a branching path that will sort participants into distinct groups based on their identity, opinions, and willingness to participate in the event. This consent forward approach to performance grants audiences agency in defining the experience they want concerning an exploration of reparations. The project utilizes the [California Reparations Report](#) to help inform the content and guide the structure.

REDISTRIBUTION WORKSHOPS

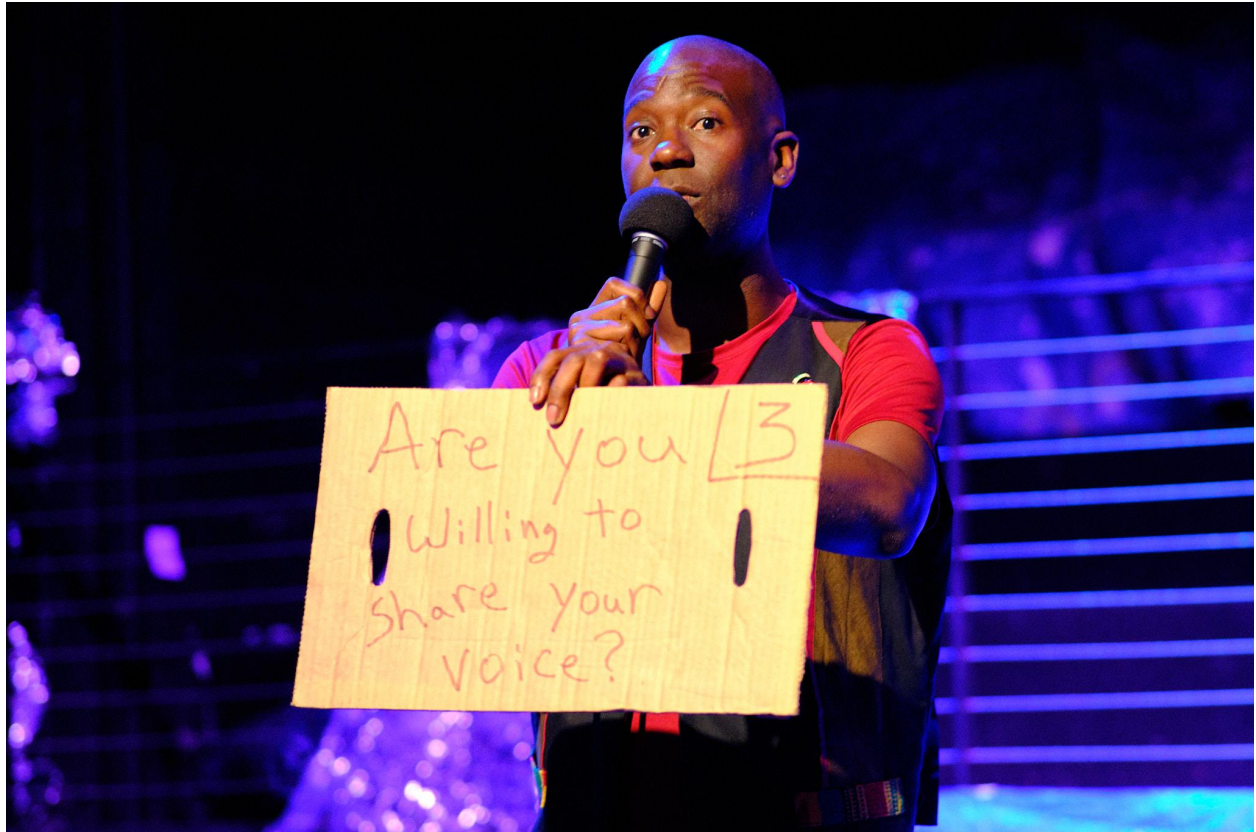
Build community and consciousness around the concept of reparations by exploring embodied engagement frameworks. Workshop attendees share a meal or refreshments, decide how they want to make decisions together: consensus, majority, or by chance; read, discuss, activate excerpts from the CA Reparations Report or other sources, and redistribute a sum of money to: a community organization, workshop participants, or some other beneficiary the group chooses.

OPEN REHEARSALS

Begin with the artist outlining the session's objectives, everyone introducing themselves to the group, and engaging in a warm-up activity. As the rehearsal unfolds, participants may be invited to contribute by answering a question, completing a simple activity, or offering their perspective. Since this is an experimental work in development, there's plenty to explore, and these informal sessions are designed to help shape the project's direction based on real experience and feedback from community members. They offer a unique chance to engage with the creative process, connect with the artist, and perhaps learn something new about reparations.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Eric Avery is an interdisciplinary artist and cultural organizer with over eighteen years of professional experience in theatre, interactive performance, and community-based projects. Since 2018, they have focused on applying a reparationist framework to their creative practice, organizing projects, and life. This dedication to relationship-centered process has put Avery in partnership with non-profit organizations, municipalities, social service agencies, universities, farms, community centers, prisons, art galleries, and private homes. In addition to collaborations, Avery has independently created over 25 original productions. They earned a Bachelor's in Theatre & Film from the University of Kansas and an MFA in Theatre Arts from Towson University. Honors/Awards: Bessie Award (Outstanding Visual Design), Lavender Magazine Best of List (Outstanding Performance), Elliot Norton Award (Outstanding Design), 2024 MAP Grant Awardee, Zellerbach: Community Arts, East Bay Fund for Artists, Drescher Ensemble Artist Residency, TBA CA\$H Grant, Rainin: New & Experimental Works, and more.



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SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Preview Performances of *The Pla[y/n] for Reparation\$* Debut December 11–14 at Omni Commons

Oakland, CA — Interdisciplinary artist and cultural organizer **Eric Avery** will present preview performances of *The Pla[y/n] for Reparation\$*, an interactive and consent-forward performance exploring reparations through embodied experience, personal inquiry, and collective imagination. The previews run **December 11–14, 2025** at **Omni Commons** located at **4799 Shattuck** in Oakland. These performances mark the first public events of Avery's **four-month residency** at the building, taking place **November 2025 through February 2026** as part of a stewardship pilot to help reactivate the site following major repairs and improvements .

Reserve free tickets [HERE](#).

More background available at: <https://efranklin.tv/the-play-n-for-reparation/>

About the Event

The Pla[y/n] for Reparation\$ is an interactive performance inviting participants to learn about, discuss, envision, and practice individual and collective healing. Upon arrival, audience members encounter a series of **Yes/No questions**—a branching decision-tree structure that guides each person into different participant groups based on identity, opinion, and willingness to engage.

This consent-driven design gives audiences agency in determining the depth and direction of their experience. The work draws structural and conceptual guidance from the [California Reparations Report](#), grounding the evening in historical facts and reparative possibilities at the policy level. These December previews focus on three of the report's twelve topics:

- **HOUSING** – Housing Segregation
- **ENVIRONMENT** – Racism in Environment and Infrastructure
- **WELLNESS** – Mental and Physical Harm and Neglect

The full work is slated to premiere in **2027**, with additional chapters—**Education, Healthy Families, Labor & Opportunity, and The Wealth Gap**—to be developed next in **2026**.

Event Schedule

Doors open at the times listed below. Each preview **performance begins 30 minutes after doors open**. Snacks will be available upon arrival. Patrons are welcome to bring their own snacks if they are willing to share and help clean up.

- **Thu, Dec 11, 2025 — Doors 6:30 PM**
- **Fri, Dec 12, 2025 — Doors 6:30 PM**
- **Sat, Dec 13, 2025 — Doors 4:00 PM**
- **Sun, Dec 14, 2025 — Doors 4:00 PM**

Venue: Omni Commons, 4799 Shattuck, Oakland, CA

Residency at Omni Commons

From **November 2025 through February 2026**, Avery will be in residence at **Omni Commons**, participating in a pilot stewardship program to support the reactivation of the building after significant upgrades and repairs. During the residency, Avery will develop *The Pla[y/n] for Reparation* through **community gatherings, open rehearsals**, and ongoing **research**. The residency provides space for iterative creation, mutual learning, and the cultivation of relationships essential to the project's reparationist framework.

Valerie Jameson, the EB PREC Commercial Property Manager & CALLI Program Manager, says "When we were deciding whether it was the appropriate time to launch our pilot program, Eric's project provided us that clarity. His performance project resonates with the building's newly established stewardship principals and the kind of community-led initiatives we hope to foster at the Omni Commons. We were overjoyed to provide a venue for his work to shine."

About Eric Avery

Eric Avery is an interdisciplinary artist and cultural organizer with over nineteen years of professional experience in theatre, interactive performance, and community-based projects. Since 2018, they have centered a **reparationist framework** across their creative practice, organizing methodology, and daily life. This relationship-driven approach has led to partnerships with non-profit organizations, municipalities, universities, social service agencies, farms, community centers, galleries, prisons, public spaces, and private homes. Avery has independently created more than **25 original productions**.

Born and raised on the east side of Topeka, KS—an area shaped by redlining, divestment, environmental harm, and systemic neglect—Avery uses embodied practices to move social justice from theoretical concept to lived, collective action. As a **Black Queer working-class creative**, Avery is committed to building community and kinship across intersectional identities. Avery holds a **BGS in Theatre & Film** from the University of Kansas and an **MFA in Theatre Arts** from Towson University. Honors include: **Bessie Award (Outstanding Visual Design)**, **Lavender Magazine Best Of (Outstanding Performance)**, **Elliot Norton Award (Outstanding Design)**, **Oprah’s Angel Network Scholar**, and currently participating in cohort 2 of the [Grassroots Artists Advocacy Program](#). Instagram: www.instagram.com/efranklin.tv/

About CALLI

The **Collective Action and Land Liberation Institute (CALLI)** is a non-profit organization that confronts **wealth inequality and racialized displacement** by re-envisioning ownership and stewardship of land and housing. Rather than watching the fate of communities be determined by wealthy speculators, large companies, and absentee landlords:

- **CALLI builds collective power, grows pools of capital, develops skills, and galvanizes organized communities** that can take action to shape the future of local land and buildings.
- **CALLI redefines the role of capital and extractive investment practices.**
- **CALLI educates communities** about models that spread and share wealth and power in property acquisition, financing, management, and stewardship.
- **CALLI operates through community-led cooperatives and collective ownership and governance models.**



About EB PREC

EB PREC facilitates **BIPOC and allied communities** to cooperatively organize, finance, purchase, occupy, and steward properties, taking them **permanently off the speculative**

market. By creating **community-controlled assets**, EB PREC empowers communities to cooperatively lead a just transition from an **extractive capitalist system** to one where communities are **ecologically, emotionally, spiritually, culturally, and economically restorative and regenerative.**



Support & Acknowledgments

This project is supported by a grant from the **MAP Fund** and the **Zellerbach Family Foundation**. These preview performances are supported by: **East Bay Community Foundation: East Bay Fund for Artists, Theater Bay Area: CA\$H Grant, Kenneth Rainin Foundation: New & Experimental Works.** Thank you to our generous and courageous funders!



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