COLOR OUT CASH BAIL

A political education coloring book on ending pretrial detention in Virginia and the South
Laura Chow Reeve is a queer mixed Chinese femme writing and drawing in Richmond, VA. She is currently writing a novel, studying Transformative Justice practices, dreaming about abolitionist futures, and supporting movement organizations through graphic recording.

Laura is the artist for the Defund the Police and the COVID-19 coloring pages in this book.

Micky Jordan is a Black queer and genderqueer activist born in Richmond, VA. He is a movement graphic designer who loves the power of visuals. He currently does Communications work for SONG.

Micky loves art, movies and dreaming about building a safer, beautiful, more affirming world for trans and queer people of color to not just survive in, but thrive in.

Jasmine Leeward is a community organizer and future film maker who uses the power of culture, history, and community to talk about power, class, and the concept of home.

In Richmond, they use multiple forms of storytelling to help people see each other better. They are a member of Southerners On New Ground (SONG).
IMAGINE IF YOU WERE ACCUSED OF A CRIME AND IMMEDIATELY ARRESTED

"MONEY BAIL" IS THE AMOUNT YOU NEED TO PAY IN ORDER TO BE FREE BEFORE YOUR TRIAL. IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE BAIL, THEN YOU'LL REMAIN LOCKED UP IN A CAGE

ASIDE FROM MENTAL STRAIN, YOUR INCARCERATION COULD RESULT IN YOU LOSING YOUR JOB, HOME, OR EVEN CHILDREN LONG BEFORE YOUR TRIAL DATE

SIMPLY PUT, THE CASH BAIL SYSTEM CRIMINALIZES POVERTY AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR ARE PUNISHED THE MOST

IN SOME CASES, BAIL COULD ALSO BE DENIED SO EVEN IF YOU COULD AFFORD TO POST BAIL WITH THE HELP OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, A JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE COULD DECIDE TO KEEP YOU IN DETENTION FOR ANY OFFENSE—EVEN MISDEMEANORS

My gut is saying wait in jail
Black Mama's Bail Out Action has aimed to protect our families, to intervene on this malicious money bail system that locks up our loved ones since 2017.

Free Black Mamas

When Black mothers are kidnapped by the criminal legal system, our communities suffer.
WE ARE ONE STEP CLOSER THAN WE WERE YESTERDAY.

...if no one hasn’t told you i love you...
I LOVE YOU.

© ALEAH BROWN
Richmond, VA #FREEBLACKMAMAS
Virginia jails hold **28,000 People** between the ages of 15-64.

Of those, around **13,000** are being held pretrial. **46%** of people in our jails aren't there because they were convicted of any crime.

When people are held pretrial, it creates immense pressure to plead guilty to crimes, thus increasing mass incarceration.
Though Black Virginians make up only about 20% of our state's population, they are 43% of Virginia's jail population.
We Cannot Discuss The History Of Prisons In Virginia Without Discussing The History Of Slavery In Virginia
Young people are being pushed out of school.

21% of youth in V.A. are Black yet make up 57% of suspensions.
What To Do Instead Of INCARCERATION
Mental Health Support

Housing For All

Universal Health Care

Accountability
Not Punishment

Basic Needs Are Met

That these resources are available to all and access is not contingent upon incarceration!
END THE CRIMINALIZATION OF SURVIVAL

PRISONS CRIMINALIZE SURVIVORS:
As many as 94% of some women's prison populations have a history of domestic violence, physical, or sexual abuse before being incarcerated— including those imprisoned for self-defense. 84% of girls in juvenile detention have experienced family violence. Sexual violence by police and prison guards is systemic— 79% of women in federal and state prisons have reported physical abuse, and transgender people are abused in prison at rates nearly 10 times those for prisoners in general.

PRISONS ARE RACIST:
About 67% of women in prison in the U.S. are women of color. African American women’s incarceration rates for all crimes increased by 800% since 1986. Girls of color who are victims of abuse are disproportionately more likely to be criminalized. Among Black transgender people, nearly half (47%) have been incarcerated at some point.

PRISONS ARE REPRODUCTIVE VIOLENCE:
1.3 million children have mothers who are in jail, prison, or on probation. Not only are the majority of people in women’s prisons mothers when they enter prison, but many of these people are also the primary caretakers of their children at home.

Info from Survived and Punished survivedandpunished.org/quick-statistics

PRISONS DON'T KEEP US SAFE
END E-CARCERATION

E-CARCERATION IS THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO DEPRIVE FOLKS OF THEIR FREEDOM - FROM MOVEMENT TRACKING DEVICES TO FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE.
MELT ICE

ICE collaborates with local law enforcement through information sharing and detainers that lead to deportations.

Local jails receive funding for detaining and incarcerating undocumented immigrants.

This encourages unjust profiling of poor and brown communities.
...and with their collective love, warmth, and a Molotov cocktail, the comrades were able to melt the ICE monster.
Law enforcement in Virginia can issue a summons in lieu of arrest for all misdemeanor offenses.

Once arrested and taken before a magistrate, people can be held without bail for any offense in Virginia — even misdemeanors.

This is the most common bail outcome in Virginia, even more so than secured bond, aka "money bail."

On secured bond:
Virginia not only allows secured bond for all offenses, it is required in certain cases. Many people trapped in jail because of unaffordable secured bonds are facing charges for which they should be in treatment — not jail.

For example...

Someone struggling with addiction who is charged with simple possession (and has previously been convicted of simple possession) will automatically be given secured bond.

When someone is held in jail pretrial, it is extremely unlikely they will have a lawyer at their very first appearance in court.

The accused is left to answer the judge’s questions without legal counsel and to try to advocate for themselves.

Some judges won’t talk about bail at that first hearing, even if the accused person stuck in jail tries to bring it up!
Who Profits from BAIL & INCARCERATION

- Policing: $63.2 Billion
- Judicial: $2.9 Billion
  - Prosecution: $5.8 Billion
  - Defense: $4.5 Billion
- Public Corrections: $80.7 Billion
- Bail Fees: $1.4 Billion
- Cost to Families: $2.9 Billion
  - Commissary: $1.6 Billion
  - Telephone Calls: $1.3 Billion
- Public Employees: $39.4 Billion
- Health Care: $12.3 Billion

Annual Total: $182 Billion
My Son is Essential to Me!

The COVID-19 pandemic is a dire threat to some of our most vulnerable populations—people living in cages.

Reducing the number of incarcerated people must be a part of the strategy to keep communities safe.

Doug's Mom

Richmond, VA
IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC COMMUNITIES DEMAND JAILS
#FreeOurPeople WITH CAR RALLIES

CREATE YOUR OWN PROTEST SIGN

FREE OUR PEOPLE!
FREE THEM ALL!
DIVEST FROM VIOLENT INSTITUTIONS

DEFUND THE POLICE

IS AN ABOLITIONIST DEMAND!

INVEST IN RESOURCES THAT ACTUALLY PREVENT VIOLENCE & KEEP US SAFER!

COMMUNITY
A Community

Universal Income: guaranteed annual minimum income for all

Transformative justice: "A political framework and approach to responding to violence that aims to reduce harm and lessen the reoccurrence." - Mia Mingus

Mutual aid: method of raising and exchanging resources and services to meet the needs of others

Community care: collective support and response that centers community and relational reciprocity as a form of self-care and radical empowerment

Instead of Prisons

Harm reduction: various practices that leads to safer, less detrimental consequences for the use of drugs and alcohol

Cost of living adjustment or allowances: increasing living wages to offset the increases in costs of living
“They have learned that resistance is actually possible. The holds are beginning to slip away.”

George Jackson

“Prisons do not disappear social problems, they disappear human beings.”

Angela Davis
Let’s dream of a world without chains
Virginia Bail 101 (www.justice4all.org/civil-rights-racial-justice/pretrial-justice-reform): The Civil Rights & Racial Justice Program (CRRJ) at the Legal Aid Justice Center fights to decriminalize poverty in Virginia while dismantling systems of racial injustice. In the courts, CRRJ is currently focused on how Virginia’s bail practices harm low-income communities and communities of color.

National Bail Out (www.nationalbailout.org): The National Bail Out collective is a Black-led and Black-centered collective of abolitionist organizers, lawyers and activists building a community-based movement to support our folks and end systems of pretrial detention and ultimately mass incarceration. We are people who have been impacted by cages — either by being in them ourselves or witnessing our families and loved ones be encaged. We are queer, trans, young, elder, and immigrant.

Black Mamas Bail Out Action (www.southernersonnewground.org/our-work/freefromfear/black-mamas-bail-out-action): SONG is a member of the National Bail Out, a formation of over a dozen community based organizations that is responsible for the Black Mama’s Bail Out along with subsequent bail out actions and strategies to end money bail and pretrial detention.

Survived and Punished (www.survivedandpunished.org): Survived & Punished is a prison abolition organization. S&P believe that prisons, detention centers, all forms of law enforcement, and punitive prosecution are rooted in systems of violence, including racial, anti-trans/queer, sexual, and domestic violence.

History of Lumpkin’s Jail (www.smithsonianmag.com/history/digging-up-the-past-at-a-richmond-jail-50642859): “Archaeologists knew that Robert Lumpkin’s slave jail stood in one of the lowest parts of Richmond, Virginia—a sunken spot known as Shockoe Bottom. From the 1830s to the Civil War, when Richmond was the largest American slave-trading hub outside of New Orleans, “the devil’s half acre,” as Lumpkin’s complex was called, sat amid a swampy cluster of tobacco warehouses, gallows and African-American cemeteries. This winter, after five months of digging, researchers uncovered the foundation of the two-and-a-half-story brick building where hundreds of people were confined and tortured. Buried under nearly 14 feet of earth, the city’s most notorious slave jail was down a hill some eight feet below the rest of Lumpkin’s complex—the lowest of the low.”

How the School-to-Prison Pipeline Works (www.teenvogue.com/story/how-the-school-to-prison-pipeline-works): “Over the past 20 years, advocates, students, educators, and researchers have coined the term “school-to-prison pipeline” (STPP) to describe how harsh school disciplinary policies and law enforcement policies intersect to feed young people into the criminal punishment system. This is part of a national trend that criminalizes rather than educates students — and one that disproportionately targets black students — as “tough-on-crime” policy has resulted in millions of mostly black and brown people winding up behind bars.”

Ending 287(g) Nationwide (www.ilrc.org/ending-287g-nationwide): The 287(g) program allows designated local law enforcement officers to enforce civil immigration laws. According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the 287(g) program led to more than 7,000 deportations in 2018.

Ending E-Carceration (www.challengingecarceration.org/what-is-e-carceration): E-Carceration is the use of technology to deprive people of their liberty. Electronic monitors combined with house arrest represent the most obvious and likely the most punitive form of E-Carceration.
NADD HARVIN  @naddthenomad

As a young black gnc person, art has always been a place to explore my creativity. Nadd’s perceptions of reality, and a way of expressing myself in a medium other people value and understand. Tomato Studios is a collaborative idea inspired by their unfulfilled need and desire for a creative space while on their artistic journey. They want to provide that space for anyone who wants to explore their creativity all while prioritizing accessibility, freedom, respect, and growth. [History page]

Patreon: www.patreon.com/tomatostudios

RAEYLN WILLIAMS  @raylihn.k

Raelyn Williams (she/her) is an art lover with a passion for art as social change. She lives in Richmond, Virginia working towards the abolition of youth prisons and ending patriarchal violence. She dreams of the world rooted in healthy communities and self love. [School to Prison Maze page]

AARON DAVIS  @aarondavistattoos

Aaron is an Atlanta-based tattoo artist and illustrator specializing in a style he coined, called Afro-Americana. His work centers around helping black people feel happy about in the skin they are in. [What to Do Instead of Incarceration pages]

FATIMA AMIR  @of_frostandmice

Fatima is a multimedia artist specializing in film, photography and graphic design. Their work is rooted in storytelling and documenting the histories and culture of queer black folk. [Who Profits page]

ALBERT MASPONS  @all PURPOSE_fabuloso

Alby is a Cuban American illustrator and designer living in Miami, FL. He believes in embracing queerness, being radically soft, and creating chosen families as a means to empowerment. [Bail & Pre-Trial Detention page]

CHIOMMA HALL  @chiommani

Chiomma Hall (she/her) is a freelance illustrator based in Atlanta, GA. After graduating with a B.A. in Art History from Auburn University, she moved to Atlanta to continue her education and fulfill her creative dreams. Through a series of trial and error, she draws from the intersections of her identity to partake in dialogue of community, love and friendship as a black queer woman. [Aleah Brown page]

Shop: etsy.com/shop/chiommani

SYDNEY CORDOBA  @spit.city

Spit City is the working alias of Sydney Cordoba, an illustrator and animator based in Richmond, Virginia. Their work often revolves around themes of identity, dreams, and existentialism. [VA Bail page]

DEVYN KHALEEL FARRIES  @khaleelartt

Devyn-Khaleel S. Farries (they/she), also known by the penname “khaleel,” is a Philadelphia based multidisciplinary artist. Devyn-Khaleel seeks to create art that brings Black queer and trans bodies to the front; the “Black queer default.” [Black VA page]

CYNTHIA YUAN CHENG  @cynthiaycheng

Cynthia is a freelance illustrator and cartoonist based in Los Angeles, CA. She loves to create warm, hopeful comics & illustrations that explore relationships, identity, and personal experience. [Melt ICE page]

Website: cynthiaycheng.com

SIERRA WEBB  @vwoom

Raised in Newport News, Virginia and currently residing in Richmond, Sierra has been pursuing art for as long as she can remember. They find inspiration in film, video games, and perhaps most prominently, people. Sierra hopes to branch out into other mediums in the future, but asserts that digital art is where she’s happiest. [Front & Back cover]
MELISSA DUFFY  @melissatheduffy

Melissa Duffy (she/they) is an Illustrator, comic artist and printmaker based in Richmond, Virginia. They are a proud member of Richmond’s own Studio Two Three and believe in the power of community to affect real and lasting change. [Know Your Rights page]

Website: melissatheduffy.com

JESSICA BOGAC-MOORE  @momonaart

Hawai’i born and raised illustrator who creates picture books, fine art, and comics that tackle subject matters of bodily experience; exploring race, sexuality, and gender. Jessica holds a BFA in Illustration from California College of the Arts. Their work has exhibited locally and recognized on a national level at Scholastics, in Stacked Deck Press coloring books, and in educational culture based animations. [Dream of a World w/o Chains page]

Website: melissatheduffy.com

TING TRAN  @artofting

Ting, is an Atlanta-based (Mvskoke land), self taught artist. Her art is primarily inspired by revolution & revolutionaries, liberation for all colonized people, socialism, LGBTQ+ movements, the working class, and the fight against white power, imperialism, and capitalism. She enjoys juxtaposing powerful imagery and figures with soft color palettes, elements of surrealism, and her love for all things cute-and-cuddly to communicate the beauty of revolution. [ICE Monster page]

Website: artofting.com

MOLLY FAIR  @mollyfdoom

Molly Fair is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice explores the possibilities of radical cultural transformation. As a member of Justseeds Artists’ Cooperative, she has worked on numerous campaigns with grassroots organizations to produce graphics addressing issues including climate justice, prison abolition, and survivor support. She edited Justseeds’ coloring book “Be the Change.” [Gender Violence page]

Website: justseeds.org/artist/mollyfair

MYLLASA RIGGINS  @like.thecountry

Myllasa is an exhibited creative and local groundskeeper often found actively involved toes down with work that connects closely to the community with present themes including total equity and holistic liberation. They are currently in SC, doing all the things. [A Community Needs page]

Website: myllasa.com

JEN STEVENS  @jenstevens7

Jen (She/They) is a mixed race queer artist and community organizer living in Charleston, South Carolina. Jen currently organizes with the Girls Rock Camp Alliance, an international network of youth-centered arts and social justice organizations. When not organizing with the dreamy folks at the GRCA, Jen can be found reading about the Enneagram (they’re a Type 1), creating spreadsheets in Google Drive, or taking photographs of doors. [E-Careration page]

Website: seejencreate.com

AYEOLA OMALARA KAPLAN  @ayeolaomalara

Ayeola is an afrofuturist, post-black abolitionist artist who engages with art as a means for self discovery and healing. She believes art is one of the most important remedies to our society plagued by capitalism, patriarchy, and racism. She creates exciting and spiritually inspired paintings focusing on the human body and portrait. [Liberation/Angela Davis page]

Website: ayeola126.wixsite.com/arts

LUCE ROCHWEGER  @goldenix

Luce (they/them) is a Jewish queer and trans artist. Luce is committed to illustrating the beauty of humanity, in even the most mundane places. [Queer Family page]

Website: seejencreate.com

TARIKA CAMPBELL  @truly_tc

[Free Black Mamas page]
ORGANIZED AND PAID FOR BY MEMBERS OF SOUTHERNERS ON NEW GROUND