

OCS ALUMNI

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Memo: Arise to the Top

Looking at the bigger picture, our nation is struggling to emerge from the recession. The education system is in pieces. There are budget disagreements for teachers, problems, and stress on the school districts across the country. Schools are rapidly closing mainly in the black community where the poor districts will be hit the hardest. The poor neighborhoods have weakened due to these issues. The side effects deliver students into gang violence, turf wars, and teen conflicts.

The history of Oakland is a diverse city that is well-known for **Political Activism**. In the past and over the years such activism has brought about **Change** in our community. There have been many **activities and programs which developed around cultural arts, education, and humanities striving for the goodwill of the people**.

In recall of BPP's ten point platform and program at point #5 (education), community change happens through organizing and collective action. When we try to improve the world around us we must take a deeper look at the real conditions and root causes of our neighborhoods' disadvantage in order to be effective with grassroots movement. **Currently there are many government cuts to education and cultural enrichment programs. These are vital platforms that need to be in place for our community to continue to prosper.** This helps to individualize student culture, improve student attainment and educator success, and prepare students to flourish in higher learning. We can sit down and take it or get up and make it (develop, design and create what we want and need to happen in our community). The focus should be on planning, and coordinating with educators, community activists, and so on to develop the curriculum and the funds for seasonal organizations to support the needs of the students in our community.