

# What's In Your Movement Pantry?



*Analyses &  
Frameworks*

*Strategies &  
Practices*



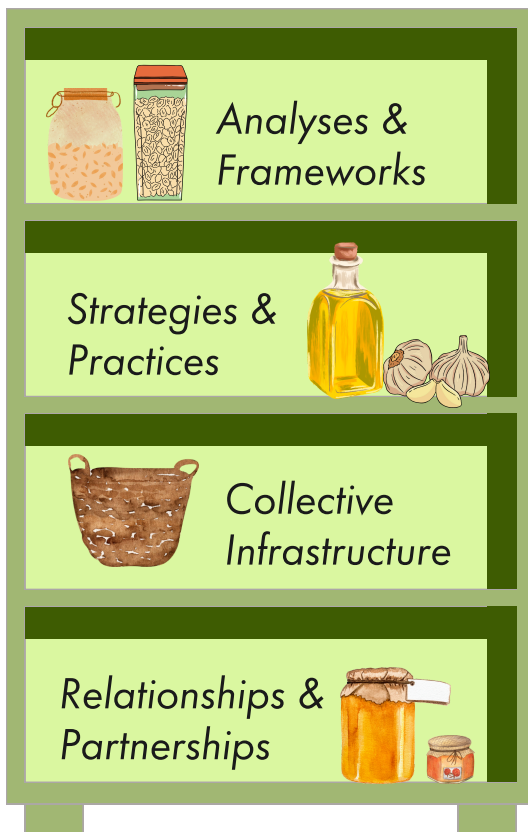
*Collective  
Infrastructure*

*Relationships &  
Partnerships*





# ABOUT THE MOVEMENT PANTRY



The *Movement Pantry* framework and tool was originally developed in 2020 by Deepa Iyer at Building Movement Project and Trish Tchume, a social and racial justice advocate.

While the framework was developed as an offering during beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we hope it can also be helpful as organizations fortify themselves and prepare for the 2024 elections (and beyond).

## WHAT'S IN YOUR MOVEMENT PANTRY?

Reflect back on the first few months of the pandemic in 2020. Many of us responded by stocking up on nonperishable foods we thought we might need to see us through the coming weeks (and months). At home, we put away those staple items that would last a long time but continued to build our meals around the fresh food in the fridge. Then, every few weeks, we felt the need to return to the store and get more items for the week ahead. Meanwhile, the pantry we had already stocked stayed full – and sometimes, forgotten.

In movement spaces, we do something similar. We operate from a place of scarcity and smallness that can lead to competition, gatekeeping, hoarding, and defensiveness. We often feel the urgency to invent new frameworks and analyses and to innovate solutions and narratives, particularly in times of crisis. We tend to scold our collective selves for not being prepared enough or organized enough. We ignore or dismiss the lessons we have learned, the relationships we have fostered, and the readiness of the general public to the narratives and ideas we have been building over time.

*What might it mean if we operated from a place of abundance and bountifulness?*

*How can we provide for each other with the harvest and storage that we have been building for years?*



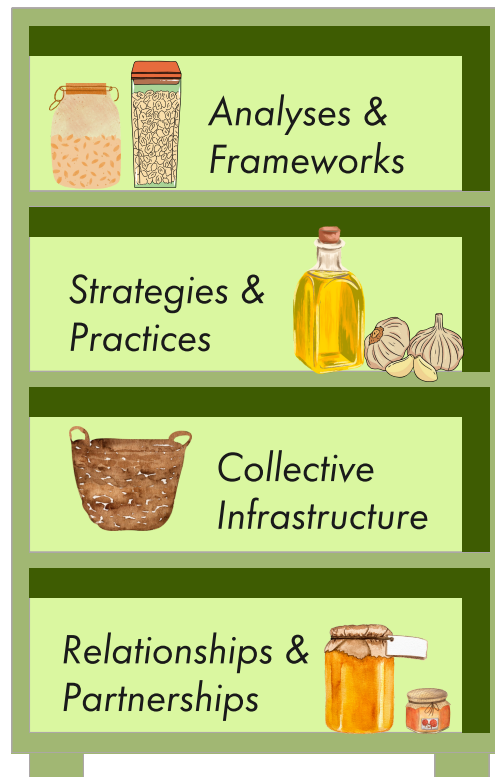
For example, the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 uprisings for racial justice, the most recent global movements in solidarity with Palestine, and the 2024 election cycle are testing us in ways we could never have imagined. Many of us are naturally seeking out fresh ideas and tools to respond to these unprecedented times. Meanwhile, many of the relationships, institutions, tools, and bold ideas that we have cultivated over the past several years or even decades – our movement pantry, if you will – are revealing their hardiness and their versatility.

## What's in your movement pantry?

It might be the place to start to gather the ingredients and staples you stored away for a time like this. You might discover that its shelves contain the building blocks for your sustenance – not just in this moment, but for the long run.

We have developed this framework and tool to help you think about what's in your movement pantry and how you can shape and mold it to meet your goals. Think of your movement pantry as having four shelves: analyses and frameworks; strategies and practices; collective infrastructure; and relationships and partnerships. What exists already that you can bring out and that you can build on? What do you wish to add and how?

*Here is a graphic to visualize your own pantry and a worksheet to help you identify what you have, what you can shape and mold, and what you need to stock.*



## WORKSHEET

# WHAT'S IN YOUR MOVEMENT PANTRY?

First – choose a timeframe that is meaningful to you – since the last election, since the last recession, the pandemic time period, the uprisings for racial justice, or the 2024 election cycle, for example.

Next – choose a goal that you're working on (example: organizing a campaign, doing a teach-in, facilitating a strategy session, engaging in solidarity practice, centering racial equity)

Then – reflect on the four areas: analyses and frameworks; strategies and practices; collective infrastructure; and relationships and partnerships. What are on the shelves of each area of your movement pantry? What exists already that you can bring out, that you can build on? How would you do that? What do you wish to add and how? How can you mold and reshape what you know and have?

After – after you complete the worksheet, put the items you have identified on the shelves of your movement pantry using the graphic, and identify what you are looking to stock and how you'll get there.



## Analyses and Frameworks Shelf

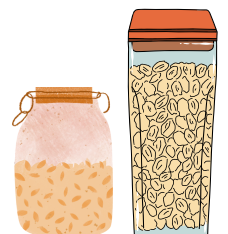
*How has our vision gotten bigger, bolder, more radical? What are some examples of how we are demanding and moving things that felt impossible before your chosen timeframe? Name who or what helped with that?*

### What ingredients have we stocked already?

Bold visions about dismantling systems that don't serve us and building new ones

Normalizing what used to be "radical" and "impossible"

Operating from a deeper intersectional analysis (including addressing and confronting our own privileges, and positionalities)



## Strategies and Practices Shelf

*What strategies and practices have we cultivated that make our organizing deeper, more relevant, and more effective?*

*How have we improved our ability to be in principled struggle with one another? What are examples of moments of tension and disagreement where we figured out how to move forward together?*

**What ingredients have we stocked already?**

Returning to the wisdom of ancestors and mentors

Generative conflict and collective care resources

Transformative solidarity practices

Centering the experiences + solutions of affected community members



## Collective Infrastructure Shelf

*What scaffolding or building blocks have we developed during times of crisis within our organizations and collectives? Are there staff and volunteers who are ready to play different roles?*

**What ingredients have we stocked already?**

Staffing

Operations

Community defense, security, and safety

Communications and narrative





## Relationships and Partnerships Shelf

*Who is in your ecosystem? Who keeps you accountable, who teaches and mentors you, and who is down to support you? Who do you need to build with and how can you reach them?*

*Resource: Couple this with Deepa Iyer's Social Change Ecosystem framework*

### What ingredients have we stocked already?

Networks and standing coalitions

Formations that strategically come together around "Movement Moments"

Our personal squads whom we struggle with and build with

Who we want to build with to strengthen our ecosystem



**Once you've completed the worksheet, place the items you have on the shelves of the movement pantry graphic and reflect on the following prompts:**

- What have you learned about yourself through your movement pantry?
- What can you use right now to meet your goals?
- What else do you need to stock? How will you stock (via learning/practice/mentorship, etc.?)
- What can you share with others?
- What are two next actions you might take?

