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As part of Redline's [48 Hours Virtual Summit](#) on Saturday, August 8th, Tilt West, in partnership with Headroom Sessions, will host a ninety-minute Facebook Live panel discussion on *Afrofuturism: Black Safety Beyond Policing*.

Police brutality and other forms of racial oppression are coming to a reckoning in the United States as protestors fill the streets both nationally and internationally. Afrofuturism has long been concerned with issues of safety, sovereignty, and the violence perpetrated against black bodies. Please join our moderator, futurist Chet W. Sisk, at 3:45 pm MT on August 8th as he explores a vision of Black safety beyond policing with panelists Wisdom Amouzou, Bianca Mikahn, and LadySpeech. The conversation will be streamed live on the Facebook pages of [Tilt West](#), [Headroom Sessions](#), [RedLine](#), and [We Are Denver](#); as well as on We Are Denver's [website](#) and YouTube channel. Please continue to check back for updated information.

Background Information/ Suggested Readings:

Elizabeth Reich, "Why Afrofuturism Matters," *LA Review of Books*.
<https://blog.lareviewofbooks.org/essays/afrofuturism-matters/>

Miriame Kaba, "Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police," *New York Times*.
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/12/opinion/sunday/floyd-abolish-defund-police.html?fbclid=IwAR3uq1j0CSbmlNd4_PyOWGM08qiDYy7cqZBpSX92ckxuzNvXFHJxzb4FR1I

Miriame Kaba interview on police abolition, *Call Your Girlfriend* podcast.
<https://www.callyourgirlfriend.com/episodes/2020/06/05/police-abolition-mariame-kaba>

Note: Kaba does an excellent job of placing the demands of protestors on an axis from reform, to defunding, to abolition. She explores why reform has failed and draws upon theories of restorative justice to explain how crime creates a rupture in the community that is not likely to be healed by the trauma of further violence. Her vision of abolition and its resource re-allocation is expansive, involving investment in everything from climate protection, to universal childcare, to equality in education, to ensuring payment of a living wage—all with the goal of building a more just, safe, and equitable world.

Tilting the conversation.

Whitney Carter \ Sarah McKenzie \ Bianca Mikahn \ Kate Nicholson \ Gretchen Schaefer \ Geoffrey Shamos \ Marty Spellerberg \ Brandi Stanley \ Derrick Velasquez \ Sarah Wambold \ Brenton Weyi



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I. Bennett Capers, "Afrofuturism, Critical Race Theory, and Policing in the Year 2044," New York University Law Review.

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3331295

Note: Capers applies the lens of Afrofuturism to 2044, the year in which US is expected to become a minority majority country, and he imagines what that America will look like, when political and social power has shifted to people of color.

Edward Quevedo, "Breaking the Cycle: A Formula for Truth and Reconciliation in America," TriplePundit.com.

<https://www.triplepundit.com/story/2020/truth-reconciliation-america/120811>

For in-depth reading, please also consider:

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism, by Robin DiAngelo

How to Be an Antiracist, by Ibram X Kendi

You and the New Normal, co-authored by our moderator, Chet W. Sisk

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Bios for our Moderator and Panelists

Moderator:

Chet Sisk is futurist, an inspirational speaker, an author, and the founder of Universal Basic Resources, a futurist consulting group helping organizations thrive and succeed in a time of massive change. Leveraging market-based approaches with an emphasis on community leadership, values and vision, Chet helps people prepare for the shifts that climate change, technological evolution and social disruption will bring. Chet has presented in thirty different countries, including South Africa, Albania, Morocco, Malaysia, Nigeria, The Netherlands, Hungary and Bahrain. He is currently a consultant for the City of Denver as part of its Climate Action Task Force.

Panelists:

Wisdom Amouzou was a 2016 diversity & equity fellow with RISE Colorado; a 2017 Camelback Ventures fellow; and winner of the 2017 TFA Social Innovation Award. He currently serves as the executive director of Empower Community High School, an innovative student-led high school grounded in Transformative Resistance, located in Aurora, Colorado. His life goal is to infuse an African spirit and love ethic in all he does.

Bianca Mikahn is an emcee, poet, digital composer, cultural activist, and educator. She is the executive director of Check Your Head, a youth mental health organization; a program manager and facilitator with Creative Strategies for Change; and a partner artist with Youth on Record. Currently, Mikahn is honing social-emotional learning and art-based facilitation to encourage trauma-informed care and mental health first aid (adult and youth modules) in marginalized communities. Mikahn also serves on the Tilt West Board.

Lady Speech is a pansexual, a healer, a writer, a performance artist, an influencer, a sex educator, a poet, an activist, a professional dominatrix, a spiritual coach, an event producer, a master of ceremonies, and a mambo-in-training. She is the founder of the open mic, *Freedom of Speech* at Gypsy House Café. Lady Speech uses art and spirituality to liberate and uplift Black and Indigenous people, as well as Mother Earth.

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