Dream of Europe

Episode Guide:

#101 - Angela Davis: A Revolutionary Roadmap for Building a Better Future
With so many urgent crises tugging at our hearts, from war, to climate, to discontent and violence, people want to know: How do we set priorities and do the right thing, especially as that relates to building a better world, and to an election that seems both problematic and the most important of our time? If anyone can ground us thoughtfully in this moment, with all of its challenges and all its potential, it's renowned professor, activist, scholar and writer Angela Davis. In her writing, lecturing and many decades of activism, Davis has shown a unique ability to pull competing struggles into a single story — a story of systems and power. In this special first episode of "Laura Flanders & Friends" (formerly, The Laura Flanders Show), Laura is joined by Angela Davis, a leading voice in the movement for abolition and feminism who has lots to share about her evolution and how decades of activism are coming together in this moment. From Palestine to elections, to our carceral state and collective liberation, this kickoff conversation is packed with Davis' insight and the teachings from her latest book "Abolition: Politics, Practices, Promises, Vol. 1". What has Davis learned in her 80 years as a freedom fighter? All that, plus a commentary from Laura on the words of the late poet and essayist June Jordan, who writes, "I was born a Black woman/and now/I am become a Palestinian."

Guest:
Angela Y. Davis: Professor, Activist, Scholar & Writer; Author, Abolition: Politics, Practices, Promises, Vol. 1.

#102 - Trust-Busting 2024 with Stacy Mitchell & Matt Stoller: A Bipartisan Battle Against Monopoly Power

Is 2024 the year of trust-busting? This bipartisan issue of small versus big is a fight taking place on the streets and in the federal and state courts; led by grassroots movements and consumer protest. The Biden administration has stepped up anti-trust action, but the number of merger filings is also up. What should we make of this moment? To help answer that question, Laura is

joined by two experts on anti-trust action: Stacy Mitchell, Co-Executive Director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance and Matt Stoller, author of "Goliath: The Hundred Year War Between Monopoly Power and Democracy" and publisher of the newsletter "BIG" on Substack. Mitchell has played a leading role in today's growing anti-monopoly movement and her work informed the Federal Trade Commission's antitrust lawsuit against Amazon in 2023. Stoller is the former policy advisor to the Senate Budget Committee and also worked for a member of the Financial Services Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives during the financial crisis. In this episode, they unpack how decades of corporate consolidation did not lead to cheaper prices, better service or more jobs, but instead worsened our local economies, the quality of our lives and democracy. How have people power and government action together brought about a shift? Is it real? Hear why one guest calls this moment a delayed policy reaction to the 2008 financial crisis, plus a commentary from Laura for tax day.

Guests:
Stacy Mitchell: Co-Executive Director, Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Matt Stoller: Research Director, American Economic Liberties Project; Publisher, BIG & Author, Goliath: The Hundred Year War Between Monopoly Power and Democracy

#103 - Is Earth Day Still Relevant? Breaking Silos with Meet the BIPOC Press
Corporate greenwashing has hijacked Earth Day, but the ideas behind the holiday are more urgent than ever. There are environmental issues all around us — even within recent new stories like the Baltimore bridge collapse and the ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. Will the media be talking about the environmental impacts of mass military onslaught this year or the corporate polluters that will dodge taxes this season? In this installment of Meet the BIPOC Press, our monthly media roundtable featuring journalists of color, hear how the idea of the environment has been siloed and why it's up to the media to undo that. Our guests are Olúfẹ́mi O. Táíwò, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Georgetown University; Francesca Fiorentini, host of The Bitchuation Room podcast and Maximilian Alvarez, Editor in Chief of The Real News Network. With Laura Flanders, they unpack whether Earth Day is still relevant and how the media can help make Earth Day intersectional.

Guests:
Maximillian Alvarez: Editor-in-Chief, The Real News Network; Author, The Work of Living
Francesca Fiorentini: Host, The Bitchuation Room Podcast
Olúfẹ́mi O. Táíwò: Associate Professor Philosophy, Georgetown University; Author, Reconsidering Reparations

#104 - Ai Weiwei: How Do We Save Our Humanity?
In his recent graphic memoir "ZODIAC: A Graphic Memoir", the renowned artist Ai Weiwei writes that artists should "ignite stories", "fight for freedom" and "help us hope." Over his long and defiant career, he has used his art in a wide variety of media to do just that. His past works

such as "Sunflower Seeds" and "Remembering" confronted issues of censorship and human rights abuses in China; in a recent show in London, he asked questions of an AI Chatbot for his project “Ai vs AI”, including “Is there hope for peace?” Earlier this year, he faced criticism for his expressions of support for Palestinian rights and had a show in London canceled. In this wide-ranging conversation with Laura Flanders, they discuss the role of the artist and ask why is “Power so afraid of art and poets?” As attacks on free speech, surveillance and displacement continue to impact so many of us, how do we keep the doors of our minds open to possibility? And how can art and artists help lead transformation? All that, plus a commentary from Laura.

Guest:
Ai Weiwei: Conceptual Artist, Filmmaker & Human Rights Activist; Author, ZODIAC, A Graphic Memoir

#105 - Crime & Migration: An Abolitionist Plan for Immigration Justice
When it comes to crime and migration, all sorts of politicians have justified mass detention and incarceration in the name of confronting a dangerous crisis. But what's real and what's fear mongering, and how can reformers counter the rhetoric to advance alternatives? In this episode, Laura Flanders and co-host Amir Khafagy speak with Silky Shah, Executive Director of Detention Watch Network, about her new book is “UNBUILD WALLS: Why Immigrant Justice Needs Abolition”, and Aron Thorn, Senior Attorney with the Texas Civil Rights Project’s Beyond Borders Program about the road ahead. Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Operation Lone Star program and the state-based deportation process proposed in his state's Senate Bill SB4 could set the tone for the country. Activists can do their best to call out abuses, but what is really needed is an entirely new approach. What difference would an abolitionist lens make?

Guests:
Amir Khafagy (Co-host): Journalist, Report for America Member, Documented; Silky Shah: Director, Detention Watch Network; Author, Unbuild Walls; Aron Thorn: Senior Attorney, Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP), Beyond Borders Program

#106 - Stephanie Flanders on A Trump Economy & What to Watch in The Ultimate Election Year
Just in time for election season, Laura invites her sister Stephanie back to the program. Stephanie is the head of Economics and Government at Bloomberg News and head of Bloomberg Economics. Sixty-four countries (plus the European Union) — nearly half of the world’s population — are facing an election this year. Some are calling 2024 “The Ultimate Election Year”, but what should we look out for? Stephanie Flanders says now is the time journalists and voters are called upon to think about the long-term issues facing their country and the world, and consider what each candidate might propose. With Donald Trump, a lot is guesswork, but Bloomberg's been running the numbers on inflation and debt - both of which are predicted to go up under the former president. Meanwhile, what exactly is Bidenomics? “Voternomics”, the

newly-rebooted “Stephanomics” podcast has just launched. It will be looking at the intersection of geopolitics and the economy. In this insightful one-on-one discussion taped at the CUNY TV studios in NYC, Stephanie and Laura Flanders talk economics, elections, and a little bit about tug-of-war. All that, plus a commentary from Laura. Laura Flanders & Friends becomes Laura Flanders & Family this time.

Guest:
Stephanie Flanders: Head of Economics and Government at Bloomberg

#107 - Domestic Violence Survivor & Homeless Too? A CA Cohort Shows What Can Be Done

The war on women takes many forms — take homelessness for example. Women make up 35% of California’s homeless population, and domestic violence is a leading reason why women lose their housing. For those who do manage to escape, it’s confusing and often impossible to get help. Now some are calling for more gender-conscious policy. Organizations across California are coming together to address this issue, break down silos and bring survivors into decision-making. But their work is in danger. This July, VOCA (the federal Victims of Crimes Act), which funds everything from crisis hotlines to transitional housing, is slated to lose 45% of its funding. What can be done? Laura Flanders is joined by Teniecka Drake, a US Air Force veteran, and Yenni Rivera Martinez, two survivors of domestic violence-related homelessness who now work as advocates, and Krista Colón, the Senior Director of Public Policy for the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. How does housing policy need to change? And what difference does applying a gender lens make? All that, plus a commentary from Laura.

Guests:
Krista Colón: Senior Director of Public Policy & Communications Strategies, California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
Teniecka Drake: Survivor Advocates Team, Rainbow Services
Yenni Rivera Martinez: Family System CES Coordinator, LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority); Survivor Advocate, California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

#108 - BIPOC Press for the People: Bursting the Corporate Media Bubble

It is a cliché to say that the richest corporate media operate inside a bubble of their own making, but it's largely true. Today’s guests are breathing new life into the world of journalism by covering people, places and perspectives beyond the conventional enclaves of power. On this month’s Meet the BIPOC Press, Laura Flanders is joined by Chenjerai Kumanyika, a professor at NYU and prolific audio journalist, host of podcasts including “Empire City” and “Uncivil”. Neesha Powell-Ingabire is Director of Popular Education at Press On, a Southern media collective dedicated to movement journalism, and the author of a new memoir, “Come By Here”. And Mary Annaïse Heglar is an essayist covering climate, podcaster, and author of the novel “Troubled Waters” and a book for children, “The World Is Ours To Cherish”. Together they

discuss the campus encampments in solidarity with Palestine, intergenerational work to stop the climate crisis, the question of objectivity and context, and how movement journalism is — or isn't — traditional journalism. How do we break media bubbles? Join us for that conversation.

Guests:
Mary Annaïse Heglar: Author, Troubled Waters; Podcaster, Spill
Chenjerai Kumanyika: Audio Journalist, Empire City, Uncivil & Seeing White; Assistant Professor Journalism, NYU
Neesha Powell-Ingabire: Author, COME BY HERE: A Memoir in Essays from Georgia's Geechee Coast; Director Popular Education, Press On

#109 - Genesis Be & Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis: Building Collective Freedom with a Poet & Preacher
Description: In a time of division, how do we create a sense of collective freedom? It's a question that peace activist, artist and poet Genesis Be grapples with in all her work. Genesis Be has a new book out, People Not Things: Love Poems & Paintings for Humanity, and recently curated the Freedom Rising art show in Brooklyn, New York featuring work by incarcerated artists currently held by the Georgia Department of Corrections. She is the subject of the upcoming film "Mississippi Turning" about the successful years-long effort to remove the Confederate symbol from the state's flag. In this episode taped at the CUNY studios in NYC, we turn to a poet and a preacher. Genesis Be joins Laura Flanders and co-host Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, the Senior Minister for Public Theology and Transformation at Middle Church, to discuss how to reject stigmas and advance liberation. Genesis Be painted in the studio — for her and us it was a first.

Guests:
Genesis Be: Poet, Peace Activist, Artist; Author, People Not Things: Love Poems & Paintings for Humanity
Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis (Co-host): Senior Minister of Public Theology & Transformation, Middle Church, NYC

#110 - The Defund Movement in 2024: Frontline Reporters Separate Myth from Reality
Four years after the murder of George Floyd and the mass protests against policing that followed, corporate media claim that voters have turned on "defunding the police" — the movement to shift public resources away from policing and into other approaches to improving public health and safety. But what is fact and what is fiction when it comes to this issue, and where does the 'defund' movement stand? In this episode, three journalists reporting from the frontlines on matters of policing and prisons share what they see on the ground, within police departments, and in the media. Cerise Castle is a Los Angeles-based reporter who created "A Tradition of Violence", a podcast about gangs inside the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, based on an extensive investigation into more than five decades of terror, murder and abuse; Lewis Raven

Wallace, of Durham, NC, is the author and creator of “The View from Somewhere”, a book and podcast about the problematic political history of journalistic objectivity, and the Abolition Journalism Fellow at Interrupting Criminalization, a multi movement resource hub for advocates, and Kelly Hayes is a Menominee author, organizer, educator and photographer from Chicago. She also hosts the Truthout podcast “Movement Memos" and is co-author (with Mariame Kaba) of the book “Let This Radicalize You”. What is the corporate media getting wrong about the defund movement? All that, plus a commentary from Laura.

Guests:
Cerise Castle: Journalist
Kelly Hayes: Host, Movement Memos; Co-Author, Let This Radicalize You
Lewis Raven Wallace: Author, The View from Somewhere; Abolition Media Fellow, Interrupting Criminalization

#111 - Maurice Mitchell & the Working Families Party: Voting is a Chess Move
Are you planning to vote in the presidential election? It’s quite possibly the most important election in our lifetimes — and yet some Americans may forgo voting this November. Both President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump have serious problems. How do we square the contradictions when casting our vote, and how should we think about elections altogether? As National Director of the Working Families Party (WFP), Maurice “Moe” Mitchell is interacting with voters on the ground and supporting candidates who’ve come out for a ceasefire in Gaza. The WFP’s bottom-up, third party approach is winning. What is he seeing and what is his advice in this critical election year? For starters, he says “supporting a candidate is a chess move. It's not a valentine”. He joins Laura Flanders and returning co-host Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Senior Minister at Middle Church in New York City, to break it all down. All that, plus a commentary from Laura.

Guests:
Maurice Mitchell: National Director, Working Families Party
Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis (Co-host): Senior Minister of Public Theology & Transformation, Middle Church, NYC

#112 - Political Violence & MAGA Militancy: Strategies to Protect Democracy
Political violence is on the rise and has reached just about every corner of the country, whether it's confrontations on social media, at school board meetings or the chambers of Congress. Reuters reports that we've seen some 213 cases and 39 fatalities in the U.S. since January 6, 2021 — more than we've seen in decades. Women, people of color, Muslims, Jews, and LGBTQ people are among those most vulnerable, but the group seeing the fastest increase in reported incidents are conservatives who are perceived to be out of sync with the pro-Trump, MAGA line. While most Americans oppose political violence, it remains a growing threat to our democracy. What can be done? In this episode, co-hosts Laura Flanders and 22nd Century Initiative Director

Scot Nakagawa convene an expert panel to define political violence and discuss how to protect one another and democracy itself. All that, plus Laura's commentary on "Reveal, Reframe, Resist" and reporters' roles.

Guests:
Sala Cyril: Interim Executive Director, Vision Change Win; Organizer, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, NYC
Hardy Merriman: Author, Harnessing Our Power to End (HOPE) Political Violence; Expert, Democracy Movements
Scot Nakagawa (Co-host): Executive Director, 22nd Century Initiative & 22nd Century Conference
Maria J. Stephan: Co-Lead & Chief Organizer, The Horizons Project; Co-author with Erica Chenoweth, Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict

#113 - Meet the BIPOC Press: Is Worker-Owned Media the Future of Journalism?
The business of media is in danger — but it sure isn't dead. Many of the rising stars that were poised to "save journalism" like Vice and Buzzfeed have either entered bankruptcy or stopped reporting on news. There have been layoffs across the industry and many newsrooms have cut back on the resources available to journalists. But workers have also organized unions, including high-profile campaigns at Condé Nast and The New Yorker, and started worker-owned media like Hell Gate and Defector. This month on "Meet the BIPOC Press", Laura Flanders is joined by three journalists who have lived through the struggles and are a part of the solutions. Alex Sujong Laughlin is a supervising producer and co-owner at Defector; Esther Wang is a worker-owner at Hell Gate; and Tammy Kim helped organize unions at Al Jazeera America and The New Yorker, where she is a contributing writer. How do they think about the future of journalism, and what difference does it make when journalists have the freedom to speak truth to power — especially when it comes to reporting on policing and Palestine?

Guests:
Tammy Kim: Contributing Writer, The New Yorker
Alex Sujong Laughlin: Supervising Producer & Co-Owner, Defector Media
Esther Wang: Co-Founder, Hell Gate; Former Senior Political Reporter, Jezebel

#114 - Amanda Seales Takes the Heat: Speaking Out About Gaza & Hollywood
What does it take to be politically outspoken in Hollywood? You may know Amanda Seales from her role on HBO's "Insecure", her stand-up comedy, her podcast and radio show or her viral videos on social media. She's lost agents, her publicist, and had speaking gigs retracted for her commitment to social justice. From Black women to Palestinians in Gaza, Seales uses her platform to speak honestly about harm done to others. She talks powerfully about her experiences with the dangers of fame and celebrity in Hollywood, neurodivergence, white supremacy and a whole lot more. In this conversation, Laura Flanders asks Amanda Seales about

our progress as a country, what it means to be an “artistic intellectual” and about the educators who’ve helped her along the way. Hear why Seales is “divesting from celebrity” and taking backlash from her support for Palestinians as “a badge of honor”. Plus, go behind the scenes with Seales with the full, uncut conversation from this week’s show. Laura will tell you more.

Guest:
Amanda Seales: Artistic Intellectual

#115 - Breaking Up with Capitalism: Malaika Jabali on Wisconsin's Discouraged Black Voters
As the Republican National Convention comes to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Laura talks with award-winning reporter and author, Malaika Jabali, author of "It's Not You, It’s Capitalism: Why It’s Time to Break Up and How to Move On”. Wisconsin is one of the most racially unequal states in the country, with rising housing costs outpacing wages and one of the highest Black male incarceration rates in the nation. It’s also seen a precipitous decline in Black voting — for either party. Are these things connected? Back in 2020 Jabali went to Milwaukee to find out and made a short film “Left Out“ in which she spoke to Black elected officials as well as non-voters. In this episode of Laura Flanders & Friends we’ll revisit that film, hear Jabali’s advice for concerned Dems, and answers, when it comes to the RNC, what’s in it for Black Midwesterners? All that and a commentary from Laura. Jabali is the former Senior News and Politics Editor at Essence Magazine.

Guest:
Malaika Jabali: Journalist & Author, “It’s Not You, It’s Capitalism”

#116 - Corporate Prison Reform Will Not Keep Us Safe: A Report from Los Angeles
Under the view of the iconic Hollywood Sign, a struggle is being waged over the future of policing and incarceration. Los Angeles is ground zero for fights over the job of District Attorney, Police Chief, and the size of prisons and jails. It recently became one of the only cities in the US to cancel construction of a jail. Activists have forced out two police chiefs, while conservatives have brought two recall petitions against the DA. Corporations that have profited from prison communications are now profiting on electronic monitoring. And in this election year, with criminal justice reform a major issue, how are activists pushing back against false narratives on crime? Looking at the fight inside and outside the system, Laura Flanders talks to activists and elected officials in Los Angeles. All this from the city where SWAT teams were invented, from the state where Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon launched their careers, and the nationwide boom in prison construction was born. Can today's Los Angeles change the script?

Guests:
Melina Abdullah: Co-Founder, Black Lives Matter, Los Angeles
Mark-Anthony Clayton-Johnson: Co-Executive Director, Dignity & Power Now

Eunisses Hernandez: Los Angeles City Councilmember, District 1
Sheila Natt: Former Teen Ankle Monitor User
Anthony Robles: Youth & Community Organizer, Dignity & Power Now

#117 - Democracy Under Siege: Battling Disinformation in the 2024 Election
In a world where lies travel at the speed of light, truth struggles to keep up. From AI-generated deep fakes to lightning-fast social media rumors, disinformation is reshaping our reality. In the wake of Donald Trump's shooting, falsehoods flooded our feeds faster than facts. The problem of disinformation, the deliberate spread of false or misleading information, isn't new, but the stakes are high in this critical election year. In this monthly installment of "Meet the BIPOC Press", we ask: Who are the targets of disinformation in the run up to the 2024 election and why? Joining Laura are Tamoa Calzadilla, the editor and chief of Factchequeado, a collaborative initiative to combat mis- and disinformation targeting Latino and Spanish-speaking communities. Esosa Osa is the founder of Onyx Impact and the former Deputy Executive Director of Fair Fight Action, the voting rights organization founded by Stacey Abrams. Esosa has just released the first report of its kind looking at disinformation specifically in Black online spaces. Kadia Tubman is a disinformation correspondent for Scripps News, a national broadcast news channel based in Atlanta. What is media and government's role in halting the spread of disinformation? Our guests share what concerned citizens can do right now to protect fact-based reporting.

Guests:
Tamao Calzadilla: Editor in Chief, Factchequeado
Kadia Tubman: Journalist, Disinformation Correspondent; Professor Media Literacy, Hunter College
Esosa Osa: Founder & CEO, Onyx Impact

#118 - "God & Country": Rob Reiner & Dan Partland on the Rise of Christian Nationalism in U.S. Politics
How does a religion that claims to be rooted in love and peace fire people up to commit violence, as at the Capitol on January 6, 2021? In their documentary, "God & Country", producer Rob Reiner and director Dan Partland explore Christian Nationalism — a toxic brew of patriarchal White Nationalism and messianic faith. Based on the book "The Power Worshippers: Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalism" by Katherine Stewart, "God & Country" exposes how Christian Nationalism poses a real and immediate threat, not only to the very idea of secular democracy but also to Christianity itself. The stakes couldn't be higher this election year, and so we're revisiting the film and this conversation with Partland and Reiner. Reiner is an Emmy-winning actor and acclaimed director, best known for his work on "All In The Family", "When Harry Met Sally", "This is Spinal Tap" and "The Princess Bride". He is also a political activist dedicating his time to numerous social justice causes. Partland, a veteran documentary producer and director for film and television, is a five-time Emmy nominee with two Emmys for Best Nonfiction Series including American High on Fox. Whether you're a Christian or a concerned

citizen, this episode is a must-watch. Plus, a closing commentary from Laura on becoming actively engaged in our democracy.

Guests:
Dan Partland: Director, God & Country
Rob Reiner: Producer, God & Country

#122 - Labor Safety, Project 2025, & the Far Right's Plot Against Workers: What You Need to Know
What risks do working people face this Labor Day? Workers continue to die on the job and struggle to protect worker safety, but the dangers for labor go beyond bad bosses. On the federal level, the far Right's Project 2025 playbook has plans to gut unions, fire federal workers and limit the power of agencies like the National Labor Relations Board. In this special for Labor Day, Laura Flanders is joined by co-host Maximillian Alvarez, of The Real News Network and James Goodwin, Policy Director at the Center for Progressive Reform. The episode also includes a report from the School of Labor and Urban Studies at the City University in New York on the rise of construction worker deaths in New York City; and an excerpt of "'Death Star' State: The GOP's War on Democracy", a report from The Real News Networks' Marc Steiner on the Texas effort to overturn workers' rights to mandatory worker water breaks. All that, plus a commentary from Laura on people as policy, and the late union organizer and author Jane McAlevey.

Guests:
James Goodwin: Policy Director, Center for Progressive Reform
Maximillian Alvarez (Co-host): Editor-in-Chief, The Real News Network; Author, The Work of Living

#123 - Solving Economic Inequality: An Occupy Movement for this Moment?
Were you one of the hundreds of thousands of people on the streets during the Occupy movement? For many the movement was a political awakening, as people rallied to end economic inequality and support democracy in response to the 2008 global financial crisis. On this 13th anniversary, how does the spirit of Occupy live on? And what progress — if any — has been made when it comes to the wealth gap? Joining us for that conversation is Marisa Holmes, author of the recently released book "Organizing Occupy Wall Street: This Is Just Practice" and director of "All Day All Week: An Occupy Wall Street Story" which looks at the takeover of Zuccotti Park in New York City in September 2011. Also joining us is Taifa Smith Butler, President of Demos, a public policy organization working to build a multiracial democracy and economy. Previously she was a leader at the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute. Award-winning journalist Amir Khafagy returns to co-host this episode. Our guests explore the links between economic inequality and authoritarianism and ask how far we've come as a nation to create structural, policy and practice-based changes on the economic front. How can we create a people-led economy that will lead to collective power? All that, plus a commentary from Laura.

Guests:
Taifa Smith Butler: President, Dēmos
Marisa Holmes: Author, Organizing Occupy Wall Street
Amir Khafagy: Journalist, Report for America Member, Documented

#124 - South Australia's Green Revolution: How Art & Policy Catalyze Climate Action
South Australia has become a global leader in green energy transition, getting off fossil fuels faster, and to a greater extent than almost any other country. How did they do it, and what can we learn from them? In this report for Climate Week, Laura goes Down Under with her partner, Elizabeth Streb, and her extreme dance company, and discovers how the region's culture and its many world-class festivals have helped pave the way for transformation. Helping to unpack it all is a range of impressive guests, including Susan Close, deputy premier of South Australia; Anoté Tong, the former President of the Micronesian island, the Republic of Kiribati; Ruth Mackenzie, former Artistic Director of the Adelaide Festival, now Program Director of Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy within the South Australia state government; Rob Brookman, the co-founder of WOMADelaide, the capital's premier outdoor festival; MacArthur "Genius" Award winner, Elizabeth Streb and the action heroes of her company STREB — and a WHALE. As you'll hear, it's taken politics, policy, science and culture to shift public practice in this extreme-weather-vulnerable area. Over the last decade, South Australia has faced massive storms, brush fires, and extreme heat that have put people, wildlife, and even the festival at risk. Now South Australia is leading the way and using art to help people envision a green future, but they can't solve the climate crisis alone. In this Climate Week special, we ask, *how can the rest of the world follow suit?*

Guests:
Rob Brookman: Co-Founder, WOMADelaide; Director, WOMADelaide Foundation
Susan Close: Deputy Premier, South Australia
Cassandre Joseph: Streb Co-Artistic Director & Action Hero
Ruth Mackenzie: Former Artistic Director, Adelaide Festival; Program Director Arts, Culture & Creative Industries Policy, South Australia Government
Caitlin Moore: Director of Create4Adelaide, Adelaide Festival
Elizabeth Streb: STREB Founder, Co-Artistic Director & Choreographer
Anoté Tong: Former President, Republic of Kiribati
Bart Van Peel: Chief Navigating Officer, Captain Boomer Collective

#125 - What's on the Ballot in North Carolina? Abortion, Trans Life, A Governorship, & Multiracial Democracy
North Carolina is a battleground state, and a petri dish for extremist policy and practice. Whether it's the right to vote, the right to read, or the right to decide the fate of one's body, North Carolinians are on the frontlines. The state has banned gender-affirming care for minors; its MAGA Republican gubernatorial candidate is calling for death for LGBTQ people and a total

abortion ban. Will Proud Boys show up at polling sites this November to intimidate voters? In this special report, Laura speaks with Attorney General and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Josh Stein, and correspondent Lewis Raven Wallace examines the agenda of his Trump-endorsed opponent, Lt. Governor Mark Robinson. Laura also checks in with organizers and activists from past episodes. Among those: Serena Sebring, Executive Director of Blueprint NC; Mab Segrest, Writer, Organizer & Consultant with Blueprint NC; Courtney Patterson, Eastern North Carolina Organizer at Blueprint NC; and LGBTQIA+ youth activist Alex Lafferty. As you'll hear, North Carolina is a microcosm of this country. The question remains: where is the state headed this November and beyond?

Guests:
Alex Lafferty: LGBTQIA+ Youth Activist
Courtney Patterson: Eastern North Carolina Organizer, Blueprint NC
Serena Sebring: Executive Director, Blueprint NC
Mab Segrest: Writer, Organizer & Consultant, Blueprint NC
Josh Stein: Attorney General & Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate

#126 - Reporting on Policing at the Polls & BIPOC Voter Suppression in 2024
Just this month, billionaire immigrant and Republican mega donor Elon Musk amplified a post that seemed to suggest that the system would work better if voting was restricted only to "high status men." Voting should be simple, but we're seeing more and more barriers — especially for BIPOC voters — this election. From purges of the rolls, to efforts to eliminate same-day voter registration, new voter-ID laws, and vigilante style "election integrity" watchdogs turning up at the polls, voters in many states and tribal nations face serious challenges they're working hard to overcome. What's it all mean for the candidates and, more importantly, the millions of eligible voters of color whose ability to cast their vote could ultimately decide the outcome of this election? For this episode of our monthly feature, Meet the BIPOC Press, Laura is joined by co-host Kadia Tubman of the Scripps News broadcast network, along with guests Chenjerai Kumanyika, NYU journalism professor and host of Empire City, a gripping new podcast on the origins of the NY police, and investigative journalist Christopher Lomahquahu of the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism within the Cronkite School at Arizona State University. Together we investigate who gets to vote safely, and who is being excluded from participating in democracy. Will all who want to vote be able to?

Guests:
Chenjerai Kumanyika: Host, Empire City & NYU Professor
Christopher Lomahquahu (Akimel O'odham/Hopi): Investigative Reporter, ASU Howard Center for Investigative Journalism
Kadia Tubman: Disinformation Correspondent, Scripps News

#127 - Trump, Netanyahu & the Weaponizing of Fear One Year After October 7
Israel's far-right leaders, assisted by their allies in the U.S., have waged a year-long assault on Gaza in the name of "self-defense" after the attacks by Hamas on October 7 2023. Now Israel stands accused of genocide and war is breaking out across the region. Military conflict won't make Jews — or any of us — more safe, so why do leaders like Benjamin Netanyahu and former U.S. president Donald Trump continue to get away with casting themselves as the "protectors" of Israel and the Jewish people? The Trump campaign is actually deeply allied with anti-semitic Christian Zionists whose investment in Israel is tied up with a belief in Biblical "End Times" when Jews convert or perish. In this report, (which was recorded before the Israeli assassination of Hezbollah leader, Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon,) we turn to Ben Lorber, a Senior Analyst at Political Research Associates and co-author of the book "Safety Through Solidarity: A Radical Guide to Fighting Antisemitism." Also joining us are Phyllis Bennis, Director of the New Internationalism Project and fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington D.C. and the author of several books on the United Nations and the Middle East; and Yoav Peck, an organizational psychologist, Executive Director of Solidarity of Nations and Israeli peace activist based in Jerusalem. Together we unpack the links between Christian Zionism and Jewish Zionism, look at how trauma has become a political tool, and ask, how might any of us become less vulnerable to the weaponizing of our fears, with a commentary from Laura.

Guests:
Phyllis Bennis: Fellow, Institute for Policy Studies & Director, New Internationalism Project; International Advisor, Jewish Voice for Peace
Ben Lorber: Senior Research Analyst, Political Research Associates; Co-Author, Safety through Solidarity: A Radical Guide to Fighting Antisemitism
Yoav Peck: Organizational Psychologist; Executive Director, Achvat Amim/Solidarity of Nations

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TBD