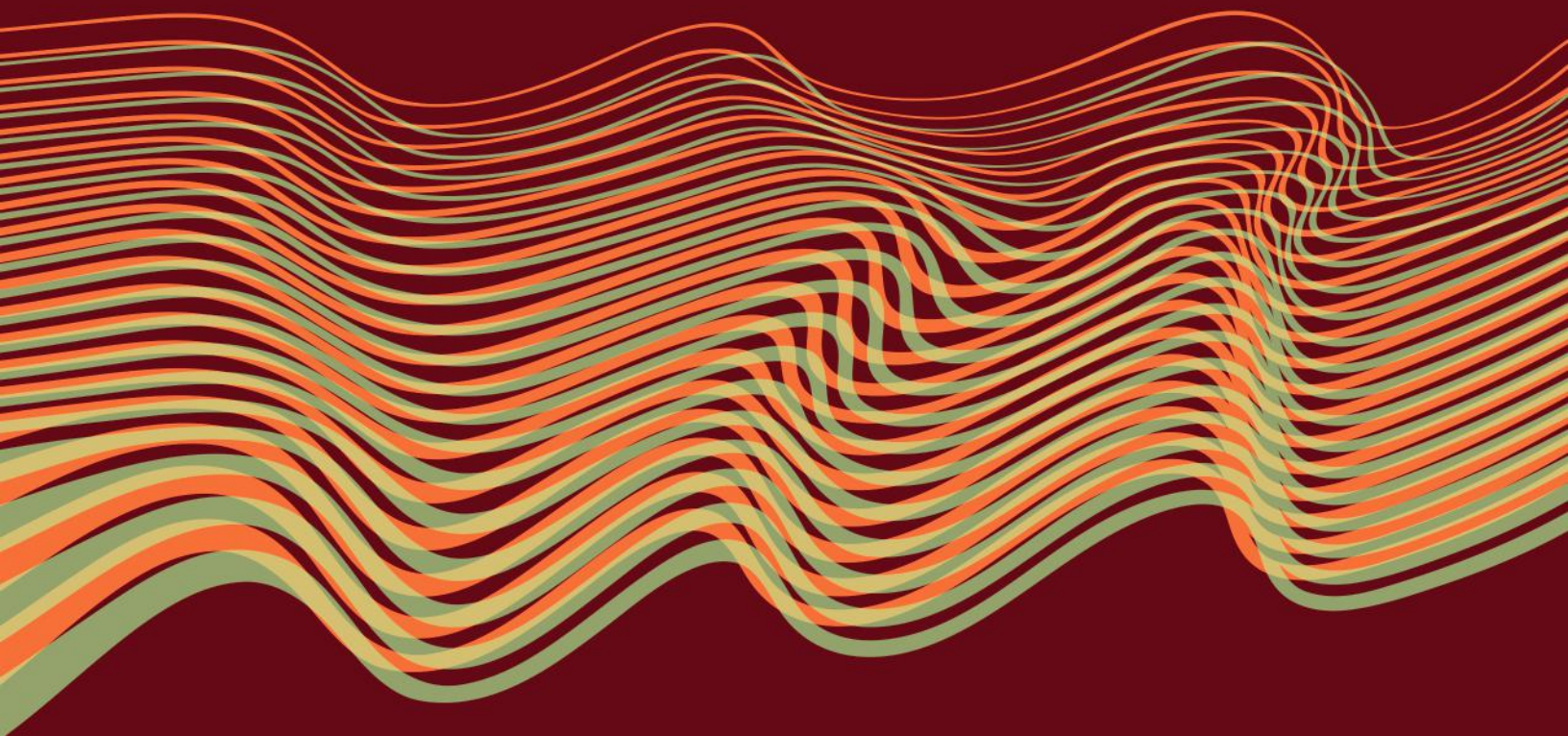
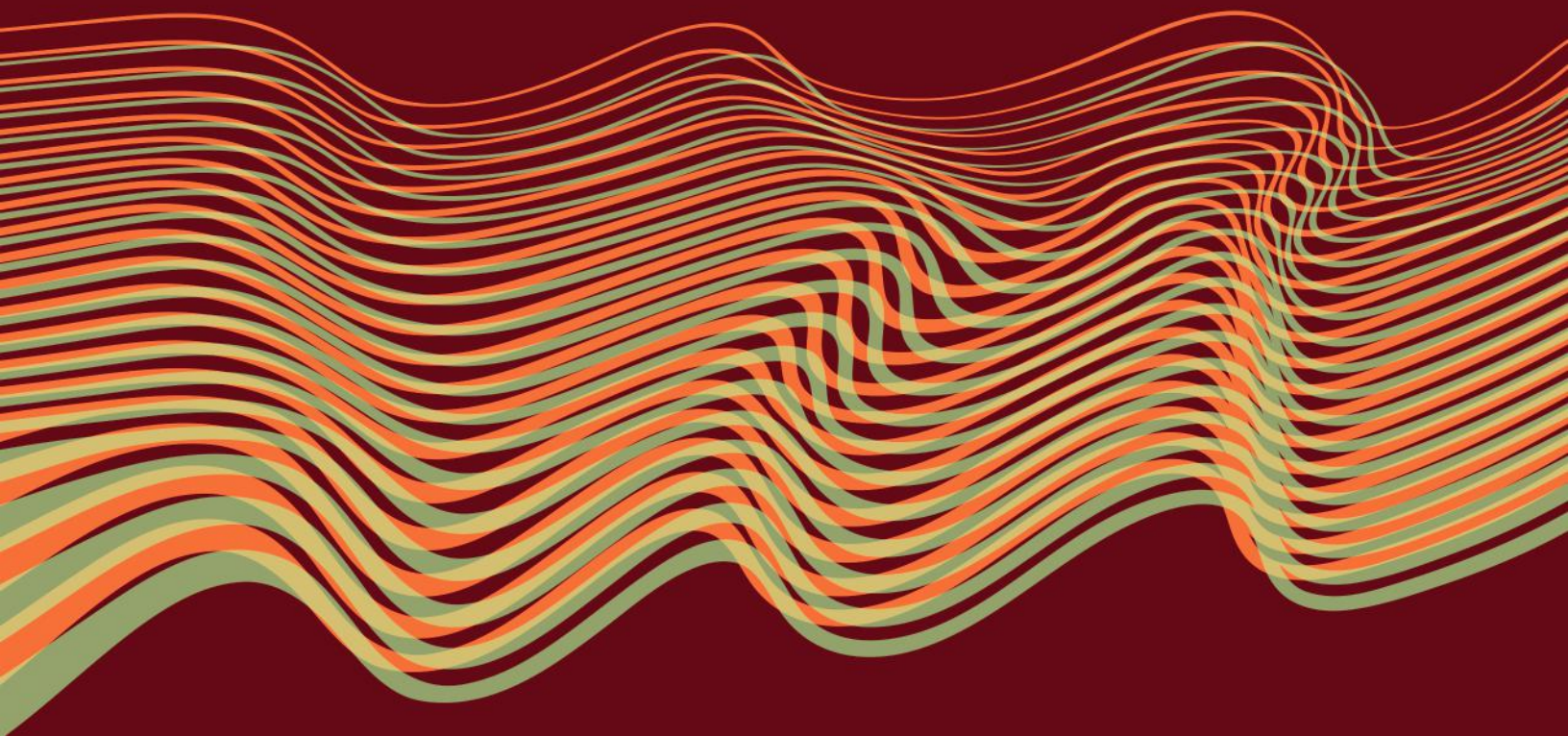
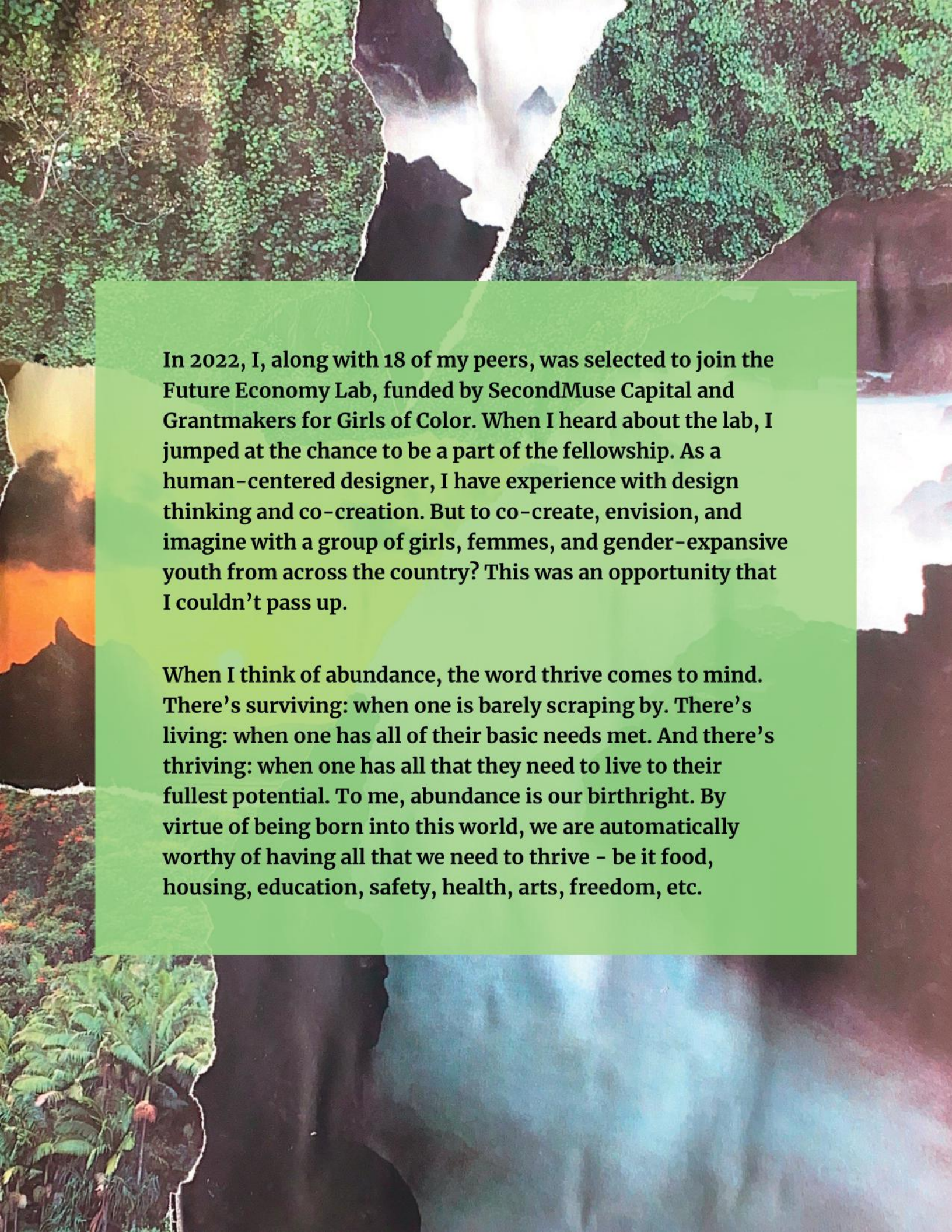


ABUNDANT FUTURES
FOR GIRLS, FEMMES,
AND GENDER - EXPANSIVE
YOUTH OF COLOR

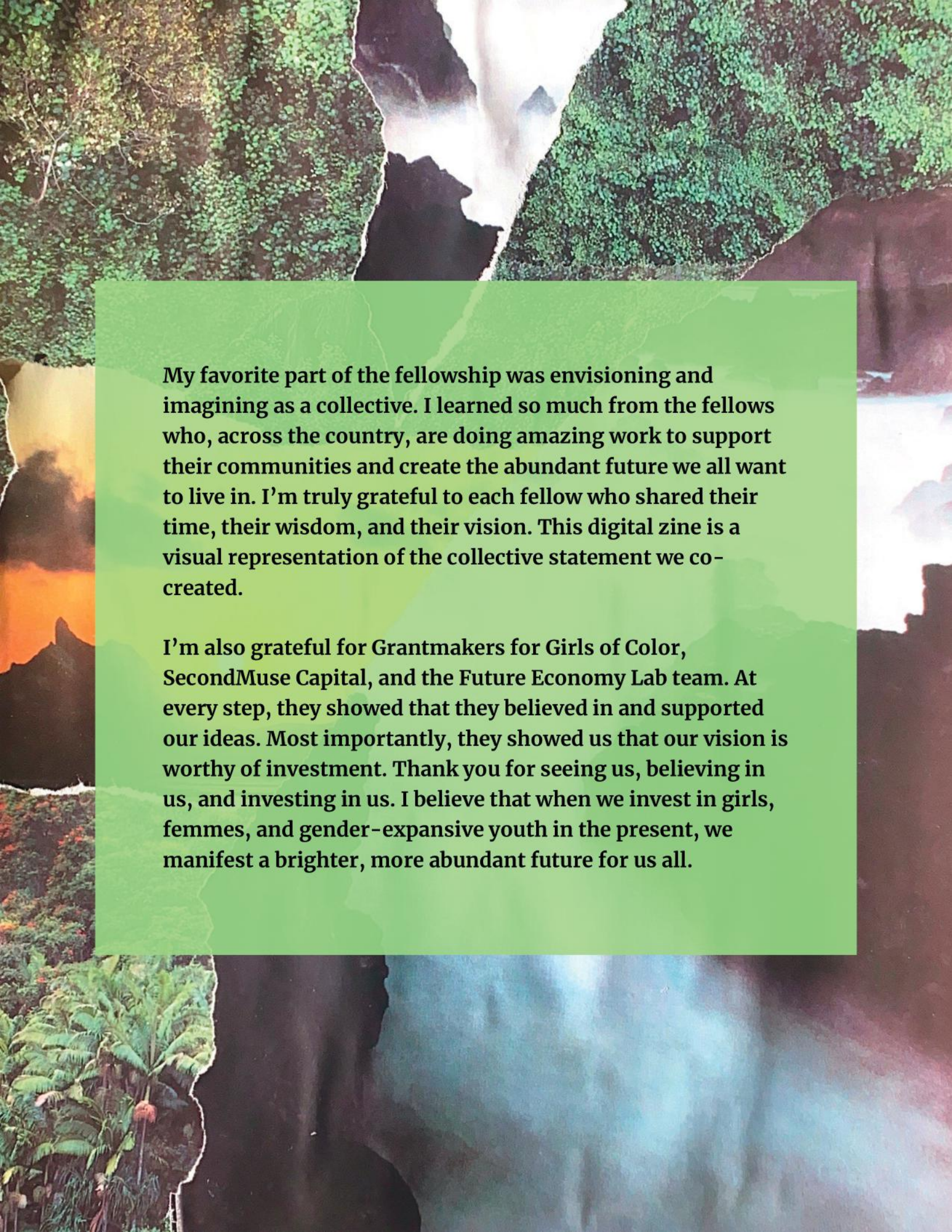






In 2022, I, along with 18 of my peers, was selected to join the Future Economy Lab, funded by SecondMuse Capital and Grantmakers for Girls of Color. When I heard about the lab, I jumped at the chance to be a part of the fellowship. As a human-centered designer, I have experience with design thinking and co-creation. But to co-create, envision, and imagine with a group of girls, femmes, and gender-expansive youth from across the country? This was an opportunity that I couldn't pass up.

When I think of abundance, the word thrive comes to mind. There's surviving: when one is barely scraping by. There's living: when one has all of their basic needs met. And there's thriving: when one has all that they need to live to their fullest potential. To me, abundance is our birthright. By virtue of being born into this world, we are automatically worthy of having all that we need to thrive - be it food, housing, education, safety, health, arts, freedom, etc.



My favorite part of the fellowship was envisioning and imagining as a collective. I learned so much from the fellows who, across the country, are doing amazing work to support their communities and create the abundant future we all want to live in. I'm truly grateful to each fellow who shared their time, their wisdom, and their vision. This digital zine is a visual representation of the collective statement we co-created.

I'm also grateful for Grantmakers for Girls of Color, SecondMuse Capital, and the Future Economy Lab team. At every step, they showed that they believed in and supported our ideas. Most importantly, they showed us that our vision is worthy of investment. Thank you for seeing us, believing in us, and investing in us. I believe that when we invest in girls, femmes, and gender-expansive youth in the present, we manifest a brighter, more abundant future for us all.

MY FUTURE VISION

In an abundant future, I can access tools to create and design my community with ease. In an abundant future, power is not concentrated within large systems and governments, but diffused throughout communities. In an abundant future, people are empowered to lead their communities, and have the resources to do so. In an abundant future, communities can collectively decide what their best interests are and act on them in ways that are specific to those communities.

I'm a Black girl from Baltimore, a city with MANY grassroots organizations and individuals who are currently investing in their communities, but lack the capital/resources to make abundant investment happen. If these folks were invested in at a high-level, and had all the resources they needed to thrive, I believe we would have an abundant future. We have Black-led/owned urban farms throughout the city, people working on zero-waste initiatives, equitable transportation advocates, youth programs, community organizers, mutual aid networks, artists and creatives, makers, and so much more. We have people who are making a difference every day - and filling in the gaps created by the government to meet the needs of their community. In an abundant future, these folks are fully funded - maybe by the government, maybe by billionaires.

To me, an abundant future looks like shifting wealth and power into the hands of the people. I dream of a world where Black people are empowered to lead their communities.

Simultaneously, I dream of world where Black people can simply be. I dream of a world where we can follow what fulfills our hearts and our spirits, where our destinies aren't dictated by capitalism. In an abundant future, safety is not a luxury. Everyone would be safe - from climate disasters, from violence at the hands of the state, from interpersonal violence, from patriarchal violence. In an abundant future, children are valued, have justice, and grow up in loving communities.

In 15 years, I will be 40 years old. In an abundant future, here's what I imagine:

I work if and when I want to, and that work is fulfilling to me.

I don't ever have to think about money because my needs and wants are fully met.

I have children who I can send to school anywhere in the city, because every school is strong, supportive, and will prepare them for success.

I navigate the environment with ease - all public transport is free.


Anxiety around police violence no longer plagues me, because police and prisons have been made obsolete.

My life is filled with love, travel, family, rest, learning, and joy.



FUTURE ECONOMY LAB COLLECTIVE VISION

An abundant future is where we are consistently thriving in a tranquil world, surrounded by a sustainable society built on communal love reimagined, that is inclusive of all of us and our cultures.



An abundant future

is where we are

consistently thriving



in a tranquil world



*surrounded by a
sustainable society*

built on communal love reimagined

“

**THERE CAN BE NO
LOVE WITHOUT JUSTICE.**

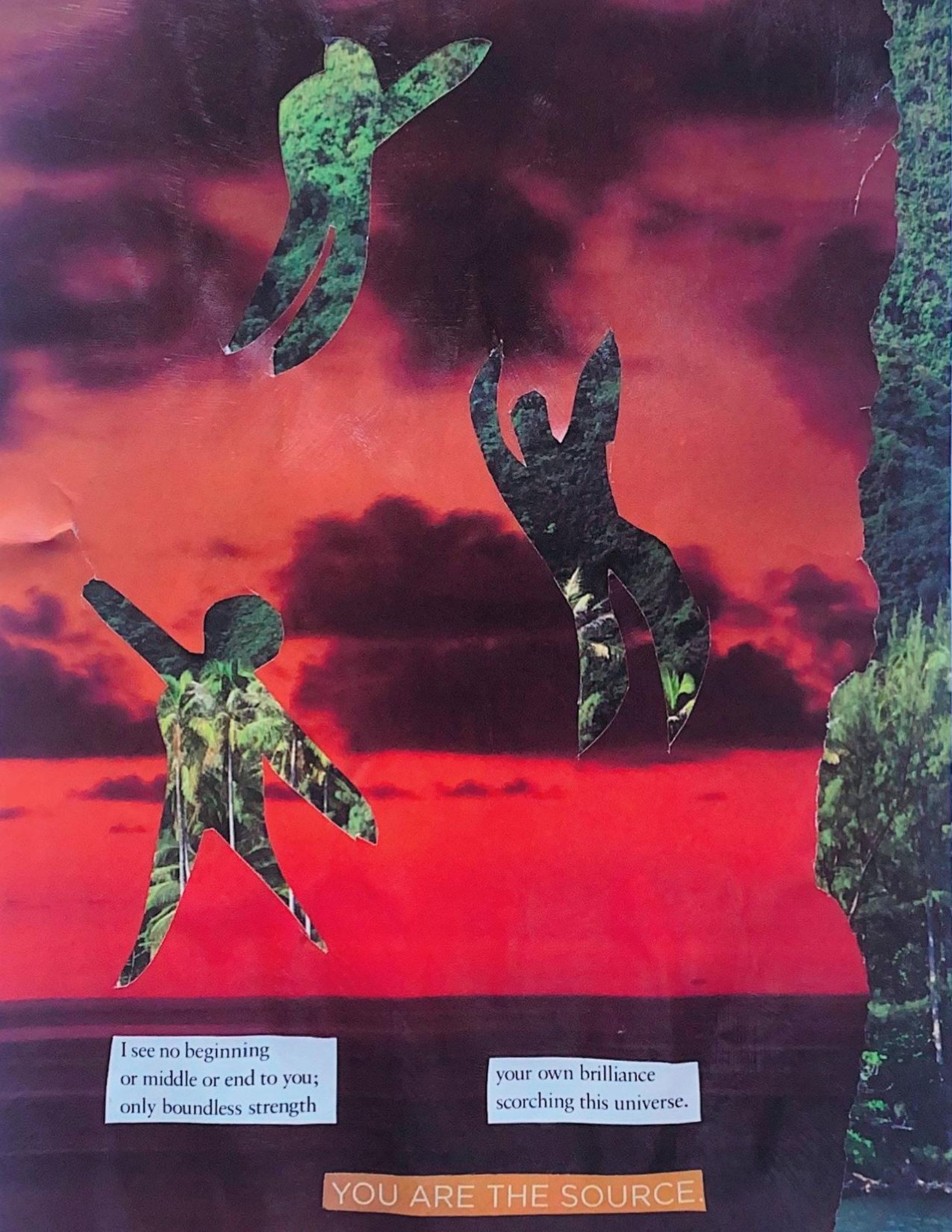
- bell hooks



that is inclusive of all of us



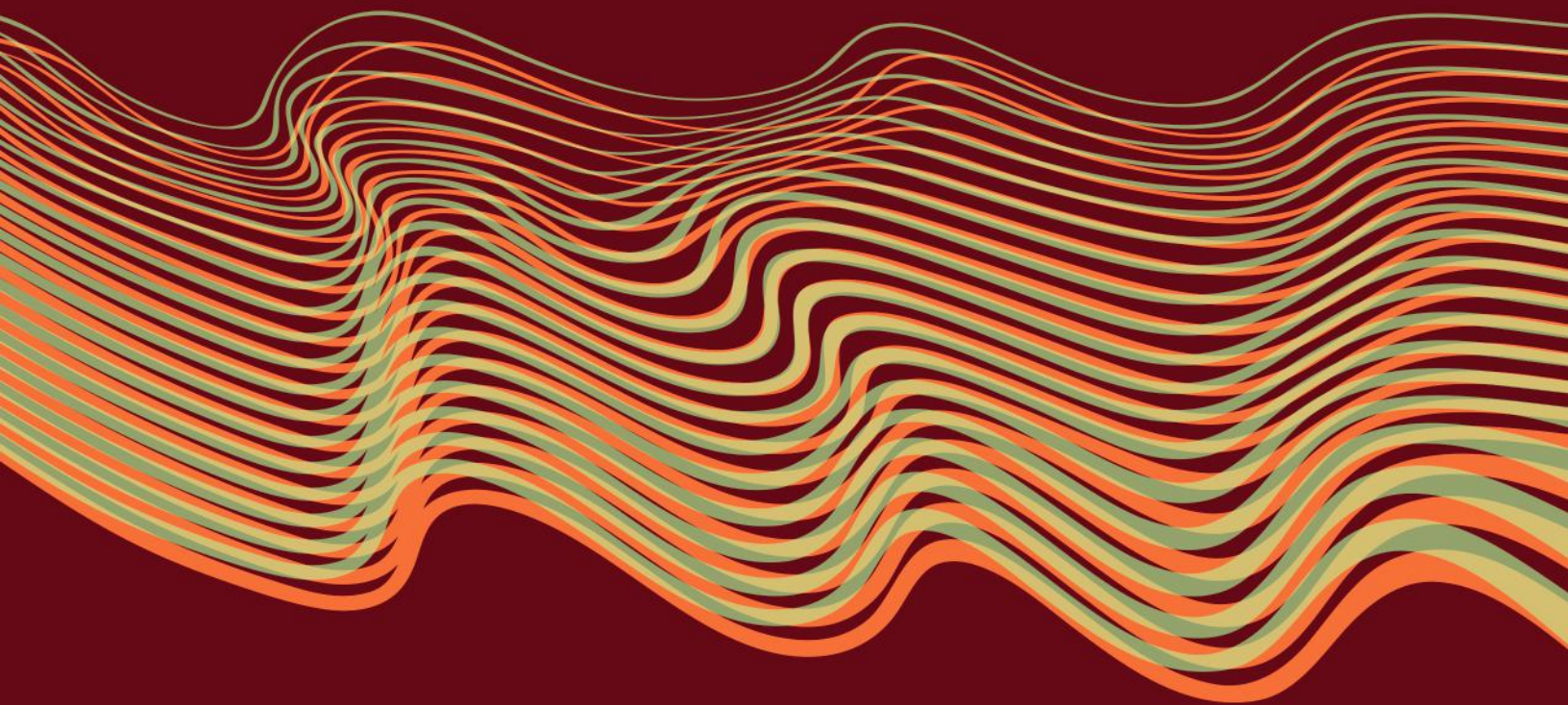
and our cultures.



I see no beginning
or middle or end to you;
only boundless strength

your own brilliance
scorching this universe.

YOU ARE THE SOURCE.



FUTURE ECONOMY LAB '23

EDITED BY KENNEDY MCDANIEL

A BLACK ZINE FROM @BLACCINE

