



Jews of Color Initiative

Dear Yitro Cohort Members,

Thank you so much for the willingness to explore storytelling with us yesterday at the retreat. It was a true gift to hear from each of you and reflect on how leadership skills are cultivated, and how to inspire others with our own stories. We hope you are able to take what we learned together and apply it to the work that each of you do in your roles, camps, and communities!

We wanted to leave you with some reflections of what we heard during our time together, and share some more opportunities to stay connected with the [Jews of Color Initiative](#) (JoCI).

Reflections of Wisdom:

- **We're all in a constant state of calibration:** It's okay to write the story as we go, and we will always be changing and adjusting. Allow the calibration to be part of writing and sharing your story.
- **Our leadership begins at different points of our own lives:** Some of us may not feel like we're "leaders" yet either – look for the moments in which we may have stepped into ourselves more, or been inspired to do so.
- **Storytelling is deeply rooted in Jewish life:** Whether historians (people who focus on the past itself) or historiographers (people who focus on how the past is told and by whom), storytelling is central to the culture. Our tradition is shaped not only by the stories we tell, but also by how we interpret them, whose perspectives we center, and how we carry them forward.
- **Consider what your leadership looks like for you:** It could mean "being in the mud" alongside your group, creating space for everyone to share and feel heard, or facilitating spaces for growth across differences. Discover for yourself what feels like the best articulation of your vision.
- **We're all storytellers:** Whether you prefer being behind the scenes or focusing on operations, we each have a role in sharing the stories that matter, building human connection, and moving people to action. It's about understanding which parts of our experience will resonate with the audience you're trying to reach.

The JoCI and What We Do

The JoCI is the central organization for everyone in, and supportive of, our multiracial Jewish community. Through [research, grantmaking, and education](#), we invest in the people, programs, and spaces helping shape the future of Jewish life – including opportunities for young people to explore their identities, build community, and grow as leaders.

Supporting JoC Communities in Los Angeles



Over the past two years, the JoCI has helped seed and support [JoC-led organizations and projects across Los Angeles](#). Organizations such as [Correlate](#), [Jewtina y Co.](#), [Lunar Collective](#), and [Shades of Belonging](#) continue to create opportunities for connection, belonging, and community building in the region.

Grantmaking for the Field and the Next Generation

JoCI launches strategic grant rounds focused on specific needs and opportunities across the field. These recently have included [addressing antisemitism through a JoC lens](#) and supporting [youth leadership and education](#). Our youth-focused grantmaking has supported camps and youth-led initiatives empowering belonging, JoC youth and counselors, including projects led, by, or for JoC at Camp Havaya and Shwayder Camp. If you're interested in learning more about [JoCI's grantmaking](#), reach out to Gabi at gabi@thejoci.org.

Ways to Stay Connected

We'd love to keep the conversation going. Here are a few ways to connect with JoCI and explore our work:

- [Sign up for our newsletter, Galim](#), and follow us on social media
- Join us for our upcoming “**Leadership Lessons for Jewish Peoplehood, Powered by Parenthood**” virtual panel October 22: bit.ly/JoCI-ParenthoodPanel
- Join us for the launch of **our newest research project, Connecting the Dots**, on December 1: bit.ly/JoCI-ConnectingTheDots
- **Explore opportunities to collaborate:** We welcome opportunities to connect with camps and organizations interested in strengthening this work, whether through learning together, exploring resources, or engaging JoCI for consultation and training.

Thank you again for the leadership each of you brings and for the care you put into creating spaces where young people can learn, connect, and grow. We hope yesterday's conversation stays with you as you continue developing your own stories and making room for the stories of others.

We'd love to stay connected,
Gabi and Jordan