A reflection on yet another murder of an unarmed young African American in Ferguson, Missouri demands that we rework the frame. Three poets—Tish Jones, Taiyon Coleman, and Chaun Webster—are our guides to learn how to “see the living past living in the present,” to use Richard Wright’s notion. They will read from their work, and together with the audience, help create an insurgent space that is productive for exchanges of creative energies and ideas, as well as new discoveries.

“We black folk, our history and our present being, are a mirror of all the manifold experiences of America…. If America has forgotten her past, then let her look into the mirror of our consciousness and she will see the living past living in the present, for our memories go back, through our black folk of today, through the recollection of our black parents, and through the tales of slavery told by our black grandparents, to the time when none of us black or white lived in this fertile land.”

— Richard Wright, Twelve Million Black Voices

A forum on Ferguson and state violence with poets
Friday, November 7, 2014, 6PM – 7:30PM
CAFE SOUTHSIDE, 3405 Chicago Ave S, Minneapolis