Communities Over Cages is a campaign led by Women on the Rise and the Racial Justice Action Center. We are Black and Brown women - cis, trans, and gender non-conforming - who are formerly incarcerated or otherwise directly impacted by our current criminal legal and immigration system and who have united in this campaign to help the city redeem its past and transform itself in the service of our communities. We are joined by forty-two (and growing) allied organizations.
WHAT WE WANT:

- The closure of the Atlanta City Detention Center (also known as the "Extra" Jail);
- The reallocation of the $32.5 million dollars spent annually on its operation;
- The repurposing of the giant multi-story facility into a Center for Wellness and Freedom.

WHAT WE ENVISION:

*What can our communities do with $32.5 million dollars and a giant multi-story building in the heart of downtown?*

We envision a Center for Wellness and Freedom - a place of hope, of interdependence, of wellness, of community power. We envision a unique public-private business model that allows for ongoing community leadership and decision making. We envision a vibrant, mural-filled community space with well-funded services and supports inside.

A design team, comprised of key stakeholders, mandated to lead a comprehensive process that includes rigorous community engagement should decide the details. Our preliminary community visioning processes include ideas such as:

- A rooftop garden and/or a rooftop performing arts center
- A one-stop-shop for Atlantans coming home from prison and jail
- Solar Panels and a Solar Panel installation training program
- A wellness center and clinic (with alternative methodologies as well as traditional)
- Entrepreneurial programs for formerly incarcerated women
- A childcare center and parenting supports
- A 24-Hour behavioral crisis center
- Community gathering space
- Office Space for racial, gender, economic, & immigrant justice non-profit organizations
- Creative Art Studio Space

FOLLOW & SUPPORT US:

@WOMENONTHERISEGA
@RACIALJUSTICEACTIONCENTER
@CLOSETHEJAILATL

CLOSETHEJAILATL.ORG
HOW WE GET FREE:

When we fight, we win. When we value people over profits, we win. When we empower and invest in community-led decision making, we win. Our proposal and fight is to divest from profit-centered initiatives and invest in the people of the Atlanta Metro Area; diverting resources into community programs and services that are able to address root causes (i.e. substance use, mental health, lack of jobs, etc.) so we can build safer and stronger communities. The Communities Over Cages campaign proposes that the design team is specifically community-led because our personal and collective freedom, safety, and wellness is something we should be in control of. **We are the ones we've been waiting for.**

- Help you post on your personal and organizational social media accounts in support of the collaborative work we're doing?
- Can your organization or group sign on as an allied organization in support?
- Will you join us on May 6th, the Day of Redemption at City Hall?
- Will you join us on June 22nd for the Communities Over Cages Cookout?

FOLLOW & SUPPORT US:

@WOMENONHERISEGA
@RACIALJUSTICEACTIONCENTER
@CLOSETHEJAILATL

CLOSE THE JAIL ATL. ORG
DAY OF REDEMPTION: A COLLABORATION FOR OUR COLLECTIVE FREEDOM

Join us Monday, May 6th, at Atlanta City Hall for Day of Redemption: End the Harm and Start the Healing! The Day of Redemption is an opportunity for formerly incarcerated women, advocates, organizers, and community members to come together and demand the city divest from jails and a culture of policing that criminalizes poverty and invest in the supports and resources our communities need and deserve!

Together, let's put forward a powerful vision of what a redeemed city can look and be like. RSVP to the Day of Redemption here.

SAMPLE MESSAGING:

FOR USE WITH "REDEEMED ATLANTA FILL IN PHOTO":

- As a proud #CloseTheJailATL Alliance member, we at [INSERT NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION] will be sharing what a Redeemed Atlanta means to us and we encourage you to do the same!
- Post your stories, photos, or videos illustrating how the criminal legal system affects your everyday life and what it means to you. #RedeemedAtlanta #CloseTheJailATL
SAMPLE MESSAGING:

FOR USE WITH "REDEEMED ATLANTA FILL IN PHOTO":

- Our community could [fill in the blank] with the $32.5 million dollars it takes to run the Atlanta City Detention Center each year. Let’s join #CloseTheJailATL in the fight to shut down ACDC and repurpose it into a community center for Wellness and Freedom!
- Let’s us know how your community could use $32.5 million dollars by sharing your photos and videos with #RedeemedAtlanta
- Let’s *invest* in community, and *divest* from harm. $32.5 million dollars should be used to build dreams, not nightmares. Share your dream by using the hashtag #RedeemedAtlanta with your vision of the Atlanta you want to thrive in!

FOR USE WITH "REDEEMED ATLANTA FLYER":

We believe Atlanta is a better place when our community members returning from incarceration are included and have the services and support they need to thrive. That’s why we’ll proudly join @WomenOntheRiseGA (Or @CloseTheJailATL on Instagram) and @RacialJusticeActionCenter on May 6th to tell lawmakers what we think a #RedeemedAtlanta looks like and we encourage you to do the same!

Let us know you’re coming by click here to RSVP: bit.ly/RedeemAtlanta

Transformative Justice frees everyone. When we fight, we win! Support @WomenOntheRise1’s (Or @CloseTheJailATL on IG) fight to close ACDC and help form the design team that will create a Wellness Center for Justice in Atlanta! #RedeemAtlanta #CloseTheJailATL [Visit CloseTheJailATL.org for more info]*

LET'S GET FREE!
RSVP TO THE DAY OF REDEMPTION BY CLICKING HERE!

FOLLOW & SUPPORT US:

- @WOMENONTHERISEGA
- @RACIALJUSTICEACTIONCENTER
- @CLOSETHEJAILATL

CLOSETHEJAILATL.ORG
SAMPLE MESSAGING:

FOR USE WITH "TAG US" PHOTO:

- From today through May 6th, in honor of @WomenOnTheRise1's upcoming Day Of Redemption, we want to know what communities over cages means to you!
- Share your videos and photos of how ACDC has affected your life or why you think it’s should be repurposed by tagging #RedeemedAtlanta *
- It's time for Atlanta to DIVEST from punishment and INVEST in its people! #RedeemedAtlanta
- End the Harm, Start the Healing! #ClosetheJailATL

OTHER TWEETS FOR DAY OF REDEMPTION:

Here’s a step-by-step guide to creating a #RedeemedAtlanta
1) Divest from [fill in the blank-- ex: punishment, broken window policies, etc.]
2) Invest in [fill in blank -- ex: services for mental health, economic empowerment, community, etc.] *

#CloseTheJailATL
That's it. That's the tweet.

@CityofAtlanta was on to something when they ended cash bail and decriminalized marijuana, but now it's time to finish the job. On May 6th we're going to
#RedeemAtlanta *

For us, #RedeemAtlanta looks like... [insert story, perspective, or picture of the city you want to live and thrive in]
COMMUNITIES OVER CAGES.

OUR CURRENT ALLIANCE MEMBERS:

[Logos and names of various organizations]