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Tech Literacy for Progressive Activists

Bio

Aaliyah W

Data Manager



As a queer, biracial woman working in the progressive movement, I've had the privilege of collaborating with many incredible communities. Throughout my time in movement work, I've noticed a recurring issue: accessibility and literacy. Directly impacted communities are too often overlooked, and as the tech world rapidly evolves, millions of people are being left behind; lacking both the education needed to understand these tools and the access required to benefit from them.

That's why my work is centered on expanding accessibility and increasing data and tech literacy in BIPOC and low-income communities. My goal is to help ensure that we can come together to build a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

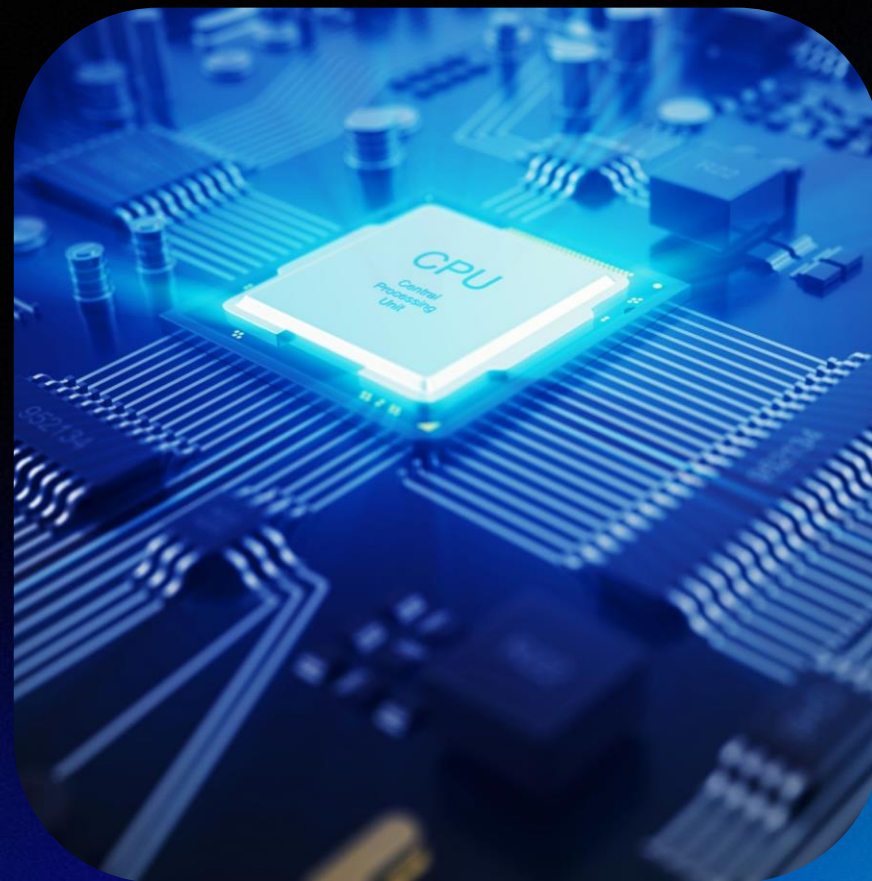
Contact

aaliyah.rebeccaw@gmail.com

The Problem

The world of AI is rapidly expanding, and with it, the literacy gap around understanding what Artificial Intelligence actually is and how it is shaping our lives.

Every day, thousands of news stories, tools, and claims about AI emerge, making it difficult for many communities to separate hype from reality.



The Solution

TL4PA - Tech Literacy for Progressive Activists

Designing and delivering accessible technology literacy resources for people across the progressive movement; including organizers, canvassers, petitioners, advocacy professionals, nonprofit leaders, staff, volunteers, and grassroots activists. By addressing longstanding gaps in technology education within the nonprofit and advocacy sectors, this work helps build the foundational knowledge needed to navigate an increasingly digital world, make informed decisions, and engage confidently with technology in both organizational and community contexts.

Project Overview

TL4PA is designed to help bridge that gap between movement activists, organizers, and the tech world by creating accessible, grounded, and practical AI literacy.

The goal is not just to explain the technology, but to help people understand how AI is already influencing the work, communities, and systems around them.

We want to support organizers, coalitions, nonprofits, and community groups in asking critical questions such as →

- What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?
- Is my organization, coalition, or community already using AI tools?
- How are AI systems shaping the institutions and platforms we rely on?
- What opportunities and risks does the growth of AI create for the communities we organize with and for?
- How can movements engage with AI critically, ethically, and strategically rather than being left behind by it?

How did we get here?

A brief overview of our timeline and project progression

01

Research
Starting from the ground up, I researched the expansive field of Artificial Intelligence, developing a thorough and time-intensive foundation for this project. The process prioritized accuracy and educational value while recognizing the constant evolution and rapid influx of new information within the AI landscape. Based on the research findings, I also designed and created a survey to gather additional insights and perspectives

02

Questionnaire
The survey was created to gather insights into movement activists' understanding of artificial intelligence (AI), including their familiarity with AI tools and their overall opinions and concerns about AI. Based on themes identified in my research, the survey also explores how activists use (or choose not to use) AI in their day-to-day organizing and advocacy work.

03

Analysis
Conducting a comprehensive thematic and quantitative analysis of all questionnaire responses to identify recurring patterns, trends, and key insights. The findings were then synthesized to inform the development of a final guide (final product) that thoughtfully addresses the most significant themes, concerns, and needs highlighted throughout the survey responses.

04

Final Product
For our final product, I created a website that serves as a reference hub for movement activists to learn about the basics of AI, including its social, environmental, and privacy impacts. The site also includes an AI guide for organizations to support them in making informed and thoughtful decisions about whether, and how, to use AI.

What is next?

Information Overload

We recognize that this project only scratches the surface of the rapidly expanding body of knowledge surrounding generative artificial intelligence. New tools, research findings, use cases, and best practices emerge daily, raising an important question: How can we ensure that this work remains relevant and valuable in the face of such rapid change?

To address this challenge, it is important to consider strategies that enable TL4PA to evolve alongside the AI landscape. The following recommendations outline potential next steps to help ensure the resource remains current, informative, and practical in supporting organizations' day-to-day work.

Creating Community

- Partner with community organizations, coalitions, and local leaders to advance AI education and awareness.
- Develop in-person trainings, workshops, and peer-learning opportunities focused on responsible AI use.
- Create a dedicated online resource hub with digital trainings, recorded workshops, and educational materials.
- Regularly update resources to reflect emerging AI developments and best practices.
- Combine in-person and online learning opportunities to provide ongoing, accessible support for organizations.

Monthly Newsletter

- Create a monthly newsletter that curates the most relevant AI developments, tools, research, and best practices.
- Provide concise, actionable summaries to help organizations stay informed without information overload.
- Include citations and links to original sources for deeper exploration.
- Serve as a trusted, centralized resource to keep the TL4PA community up to date as the AI landscape continues to evolve.

Final Product Walkthrough

Lastly, here is a quick walkthrough of TL4PA.org, our website!



TL4PA