Hello,

I am reaching out to you because I consider you an incredibly talented leader within the democracy movement. I believe that your skills and abilities would be instrumental as a mentor with the Bayard Rustin Mentoring program. This program is designed to retain, cultivate and support Black, Brown and LGBTQ+ individuals in the movement who are open to mentorship and professional development. Mentorship is the first phase in a program designed to transform the democracy movement and increase our chances of winning by accomplishing two goals: first, to support senior leaders of color to work within the democracy community in order to more authentically engage communities of color in our educational campaigns; and second, to support strategic grassroots growth through retention and movement building strategies. Qualified participants in the mentoring program will be considered for the Bayard Rustin Democracy Fellowship program, a senior-level fellowship program for experienced people of color and LGBTQ individuals.

This leadership pipeline is housed in the Democracy Initiative, a coalition of 72 national organizations with a combined membership of 45 million. The DI works to mobilize its members towards a fully functioning democratic process in which all are represented and engaged. The DI seeks to create a demand for democracy reform 365 days a year. This powerful coalition exists at the intersection of democracy reform and civil rights, workers’ rights, women’s rights and climate justice movements.  This work is intended to increase the odds of achieving social and economic justice for all of us.

If you believe in cultivating the next generation of movement leaders, invest in them in a meaningful and impactful way, fill out the general interest google form here. If you are unable to become a mentor yourself but would like to recommend someone who is qualified and available, contact the Program Coordinator Brittny Baxter at bbaxter@democracyinitiative.org.