**Big Questions**

What is the world we dream of living in? Is it possible?

Is ending poverty possible?

What is racism?

What is change?

Do people experience change differently?

**Opening Exercise/Activity**

With both of the options below, the activity can be done first individually where each participant takes some time to reflect individually and then it can stop here, be shared in a pair or shared in the larger group.

*Option 1*

Think of something in the world of homelessness that you think needs to change. What is it, why does it need to change, and what would have to happen for change to be achieved? Share your thoughts with a partner.

*Option 2*

Think of something in your AmeriCorps program that you think needs to change. What is it, why does it need to change, and what would have to happen for change to be achieved? Share your thoughts with a partner.

*Option 3*

When you joined this AmeriCorps program, what change did you expect to see? Does that expectation still remain, why or why not?

**Clarification Questions**

1. Why does the narrator repeat the phrase, “This is the year”?
2. What do the different events for which this is the year have in common, if anything?
3. Why does the second-to-last stanza introduce the word “if,” and repeat it?
4. What are the qualities or characteristics of this year he describes – can we just try to name a few? What does it look like?
5. Which of these events or changes are you drawn to and why? Try to draw out a few and explore them.
6. Re: the events or changes you're drawn to, who is benefiting? In what way? Is it a good or desirable change? What's unclear?
7. "Darkskinned men, sipping coffee quietly." How does this scene compare to the ones before it?
8. Are there common threads running through each of these events/changes? Differences?
9. What is needed for these changes or transformations to happen? Are they possible? Does it matter?
10. How does this poem leave you feeling?
11. Is there a call to action here?

**Significance and Implication Questions**

1. Is this the year for Front Steps – Keep Austin Housed? If no, why not? If yes, why?
2. What is change?
3. Within the people you serve, what is change?
4. Within the world of homelessness, what is change?
5. Do people experience change differently?
6. How should we respond to change?
7. What change do we need to make in AmeriCorps?
8. What change do we need to make within the non profits that work with people who are or are near homeless?
9. What does transformative change look like in your work -- who or what is being transformed? You? The people you serve? The organizations in which you serve? A larger community?
10. How long does it take to make transformative change?
11. Thinking about your own work... is an imaginative vision needed to make this kind of change? What purpose does it serve?
12. Does change need to be "possible" to be valuable?
13. What kind of change are we experiencing?
14. What do we hope our work accomplishes?

**Closing Exercise/Activity**

The below 2 options can be done 1) individually only; or 2) individually and then share in a pair, small group or large group:

*Option 1*

Fill in the blank:

If \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ happens, then this will be the year.

*Option 2*

Thinking about the rest of your year, name **one change** that is possible this year and **one question** that this discussion raises for you.