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Limited-Edition Table Collection Merges Design with Social Impact to Benefit Women Rebuilding Their Lives after Incarceration

*Designing Justice + Designing Spaces, Formr, and A New Way of Life
join forces to launch charitable initiative*

Oakland, CA (June 2, 2025) — A new limited-edition table collection, produced using reclaimed materials and built by individuals from historically marginalized communities—including the formerly incarcerated, veterans, and immigrants—launches today. Proceeds will support women transitioning from incarceration to independent living.

Uniting design with social impact, the collection is a collaboration between [Designing Justice + Designing Spaces](#) (DJDS), the renowned nonprofit architecture firm working to end mass incarceration, and [Formr](#), whose mission is to give disadvantaged communities a fresh start while giving new life to construction remnants and fallen urban trees. Together, they have created "The Healing Forest Tables" as the inaugural release in [The Donation Collection](#), a new charitable initiative benefitting Designing Justice + Designing Spaces' longtime partner, [A New Way of Life](#), a national organization that provides housing and support for women rebuilding their lives after incarceration.

The collection features two tables blending architectural elegance with sustainable craftsmanship. [The Premium model](#) (\$795, 22" diameter, 22" height) showcases reclaimed wood finished with Shou Sugi Ban—a Japanese charring technique that creates dramatic ebony borders, highlighting natural grain patterns. Its striking tabletop floats above sculptural trunk-inspired legs, forming a bold silhouette. [The Accessible model](#) (\$495, 20" diameter, 22" height) maintains the same dimensions and sophisticated design but features sleek recycled steel hairpin legs for a lighter aesthetic at a more approachable price point. Each piece is signed, numbered, and hot-branded with the logos of our three collaborators: Designing Justice + Designing Spaces, Formr, and A New Way of Life.

Both tables are available for purchase from June 2 to June 30 at theformr.com/donationcollection.

"This collection embodies our collaborative design philosophy, where people impacted by mass incarceration are essential co-creators of the spaces and objects that support healing," said Deanna Van Buren, founder of Designing Justice + Designing Spaces. "It's a beautiful cycle of renewal—from discarded materials finding new purpose, to artisans rebuilding their lives, to women supported through the proceeds. By creating objects that represent growth and resilience, we invite people to bring this powerful symbol of transformation into their homes."

To design the tables, Designing Justice + Designing Spaces—whose work has been profiled by [The New York Times](#), [Financial Times](#), and [MSNBC](#)—built upon insights gathered during a previous collaboration with A New Way of Life on the renovation of a re-entry home, where residents and staff shared visions for bringing nature into the space to support healing and growth.

This collaboration deepens an ongoing partnership between Designing Justice + Designing Spaces and Formr, which have previously collaborated on projects, including custom millwork for [Community Works](#) and furniture for its [Mobile Refuge Rooms](#), currently on display at the Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum's [HOME exhibition](#) through August 2025.

“This first collaboration in our Donation Collection with DJDS and A New Way of Life is deeply personal to what Formr stands for,” said Sasha Plotitsa, founder of Formr. “We’re driven by the belief that transformation can do more—it can give second chances to both people and the planet. By repurposing construction waste into something beautiful and functional, we reduce environmental impact, while our production process creates meaningful job opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged communities. Each piece is a testament to what’s possible when we invest in both sustainability and social equity.”

For each collection in this series, Formr partners with designers who create limited-edition pieces and select nonprofits to receive proceeds. This creates a sustainable cycle of creative collaboration and social impact, keeping resources flowing within communities, embodying circular economy principles that benefit both people and planet.

About Designing Justice + Designing Spaces

DJDS is a nonprofit architecture and real estate development firm working to end mass incarceration by building infrastructure that addresses its root causes. They design with and for people impacted by incarceration, including spaces for restorative justice, community building, and housing.

About Formr

Formr's mission is to provide second chances to both people and planet. By creating thoughtfully designed objects, they offer disadvantaged communities a fresh start while breathing new life into construction remnants. Founded initially to empower formerly incarcerated individuals, Formr has since expanded its efforts to support other disadvantaged populations, including those who were previously unhoused, former gang members, asylum seekers, and others seeking a fresh start.

About A New Way of Life

A New Way of Life Reentry Project promotes healing, power, and opportunity for formerly incarcerated people. Their mission is to empower communities where justice-impacted women heal, excel, and lead while disrupting systems of oppression.