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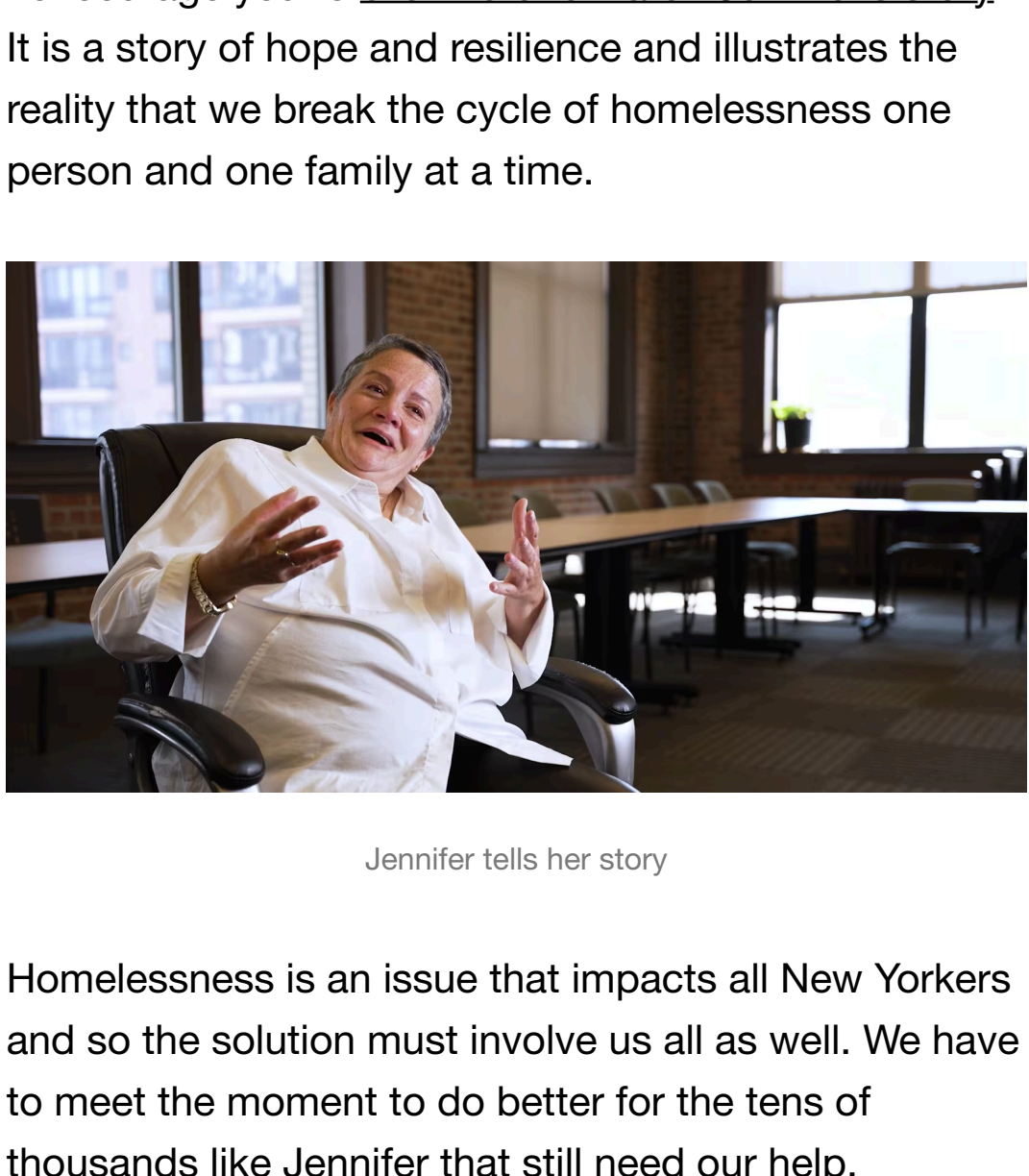

News, updates, stories, and more from the Center for Urban Community Services.

November 2023

Dear Friends of CUCS,

On Thursday October 26, New Yorkers came together to celebrate CUCS at our event: *Igniting Hope: Making a Difference for all New Yorkers*.

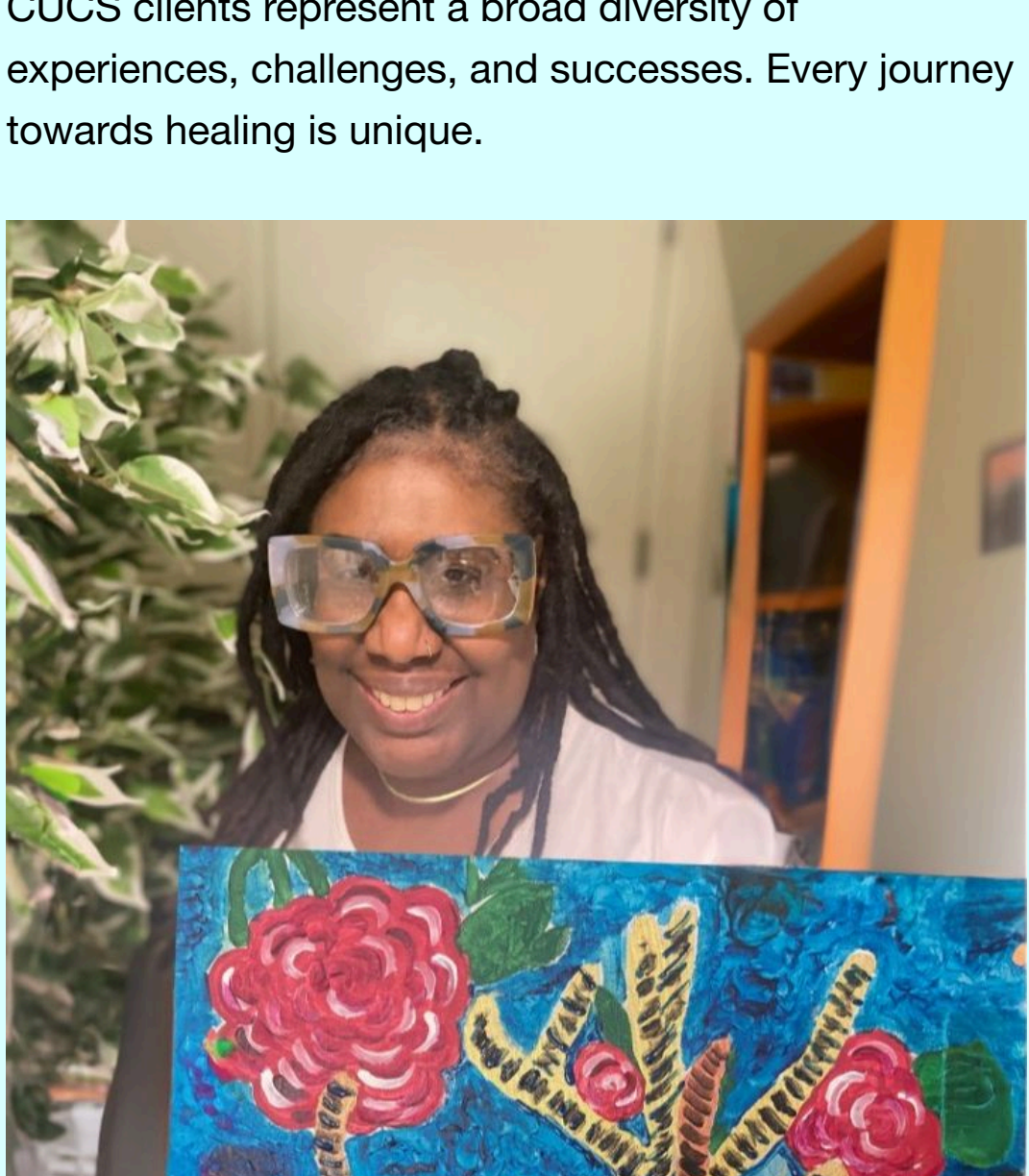
This November CUCS Report highlights what we learned, special moments, beautiful stories, and how every individual can inspire action and support this work.



Dr. Van Yu, Acting CEO and Chief Medical Officer

Helping to take care of people who are street homeless or formerly homeless is incredibly complex work. There are no straight lines in a client's journey and helping someone along that journey can be confusing and sometimes even feel futile. Small successes can breed further successes. Setbacks can be difficult, but through persistence, patience, and a commitment to hope, the journey continues. We often don't know the right questions to ask and when we do find them, we sometimes are deeply troubled to hear the answers. The work can be sad and difficult, but also enlightening, rewarding and inspiring.

I encourage you to [click here to watch Jennifer's story](#). It is a story of hope and resilience and illustrates the reality that we break the cycle of homelessness one person and one family at a time.



Jennifer tells her story

Homelessness is an issue that impacts all New Yorkers and so the solution must involve us all as well. We have to meet the moment to do better for the tens of thousands like Jennifer that still need our help.

As individuals, each of us has the ability to inspire action and to inspire hope. Together, let's make a commitment to ignite hope. Please make a commitment to help CUCS because we can do more when we work together.

As we are entering a season of awareness of gratitude, inclusion, family, celebration, and generosity, please consider how you can make a meaningful difference for all New Yorkers.

Together, we can, and do, ignite hope.

[Donate Today](#)

With gratitude,

Rise Roth

Chief Development and Communications Officer

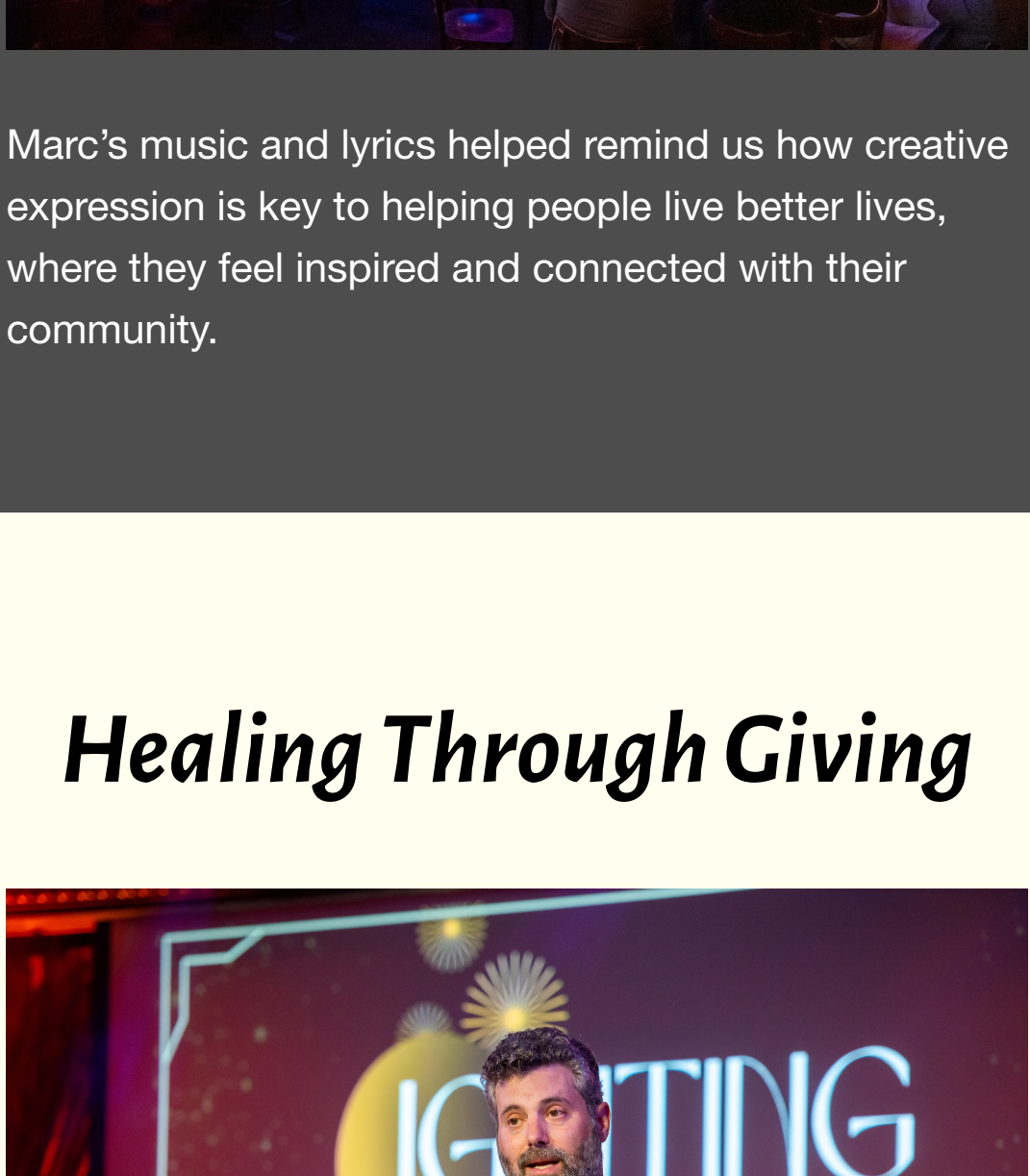
Healing Through Art

CUCS clients represent a broad diversity of experiences, challenges, and successes. Every journey towards healing is unique.



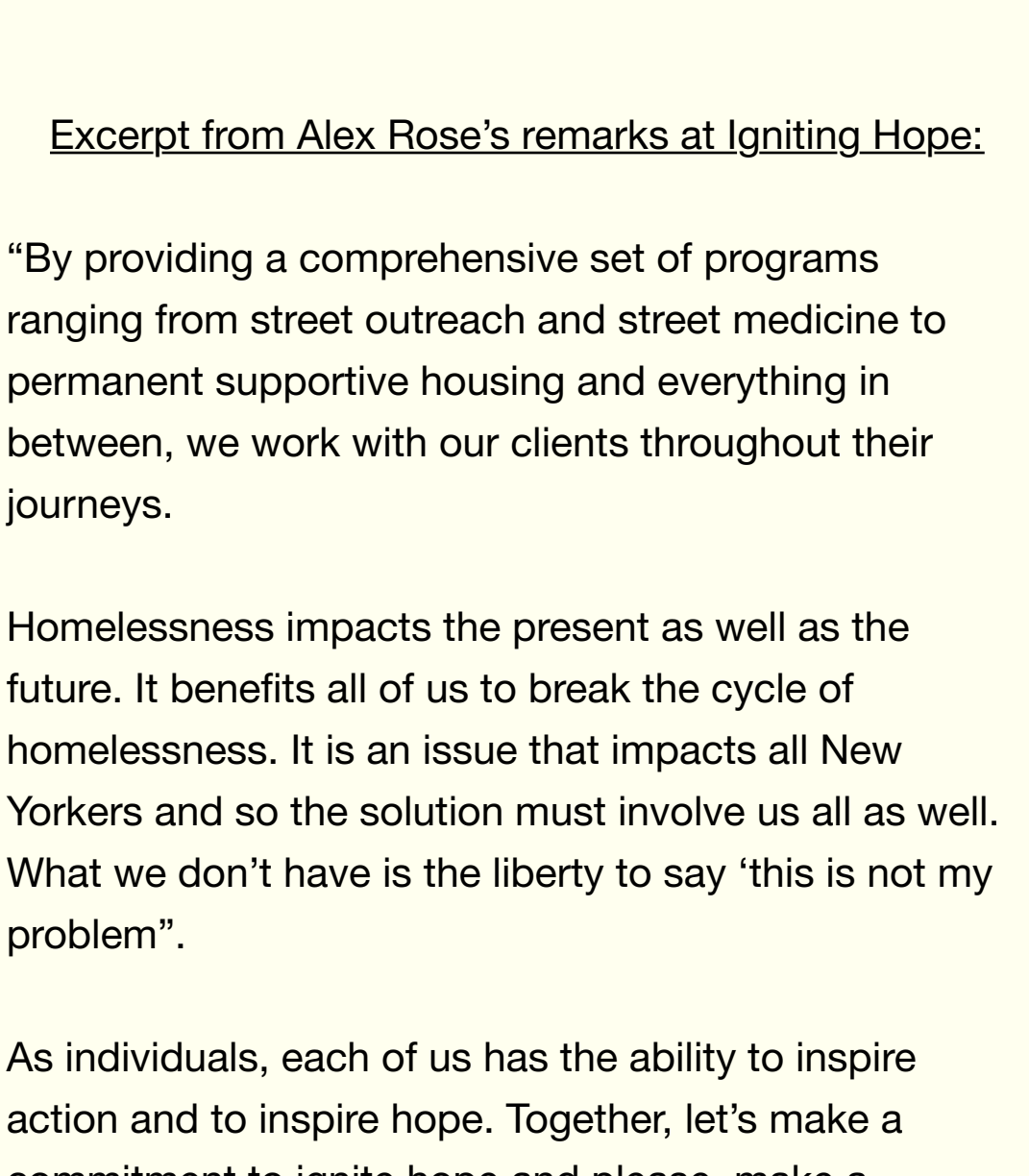
Keesha Rivers

For some, expression through art is part of their healing process. It can help boost confidence and make the artist feel more engaged and resilient. This expression can also help alleviate anxiety, depression, and stress.



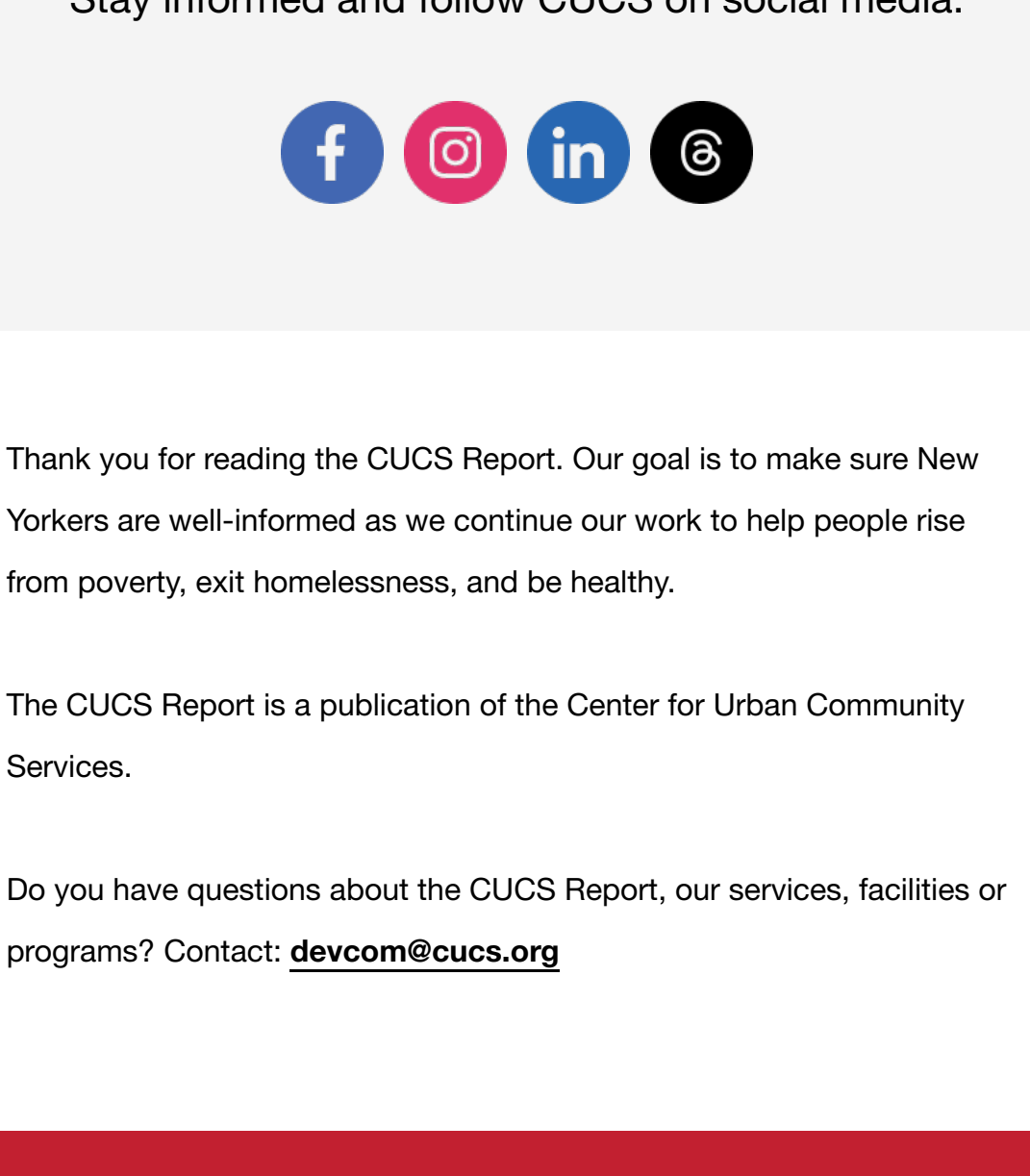
George Rivera

Many of CUCS permanent supportive housing sites provide art therapy programming for residents, and each artist is supported to explore their creativity.



Nekeya Gonzalez

At the Igniting Hope event, guests were invited to bid on unique and powerful client artworks. 100% of the proceeds went directly to the artists.



Stephon Redmon

Keesha, George, Nekeya, and Stephon are just four of the many talented artists and residents that CUCS is proud to support. They have shared their artwork with us to help us all understand that they do more than survive: *they thrive*.

Healing Through Music

All attendees at Igniting Hope had the unique opportunity to hear an intimate acoustic performance by Marc Roberge, songwriter and co-founder of the legendary American rock band O.A.R.

Marc's music and lyrics helped remind us how creative expression is key to helping people live better lives, where they feel inspired and connected with their community.

Healing Through Giving

Alex Rose, CUCS Board Chair, offers his remarks

Alex Rose, Board Chair, took the stage and provided insights into the work of CUCS, the types of services offered, and the successes that ignite hope in us.

[Excerpt from Alex Rose's remarks at Igniting Hope:](#)

"By providing a comprehensive set of programs ranging from street outreach and street medicine to permanent supportive housing and everything in between, we work with our clients throughout their journeys.

Homelessness impacts the present as well as the future. It benefits all of us to break the cycle of homelessness. It is an issue that impacts all New Yorkers and so the solution must involve us all as well. What we don't have is the liberty to say 'this is not my problem'".

As individuals, each of us has the ability to inspire action and to inspire hope. Together, let's make a commitment to ignite hope and please, make a commitment to help CUCS because we can do more with your help."

[Donate Now](#)

Stay informed and follow CUCS on social media:

Thank you for reading the CUCS Report. Our goal is to make sure New Yorkers are well-informed as we continue our work to help people rise from poverty, exit homelessness, and be healthy.

The CUCS Report is a publication of the Center for Urban Community Services.

Do you have questions about the CUCS Report, our services, facilities or programs? Contact: devcom@cucs.org

The CUCS Report | November 2023

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