

## **USSF 3 Evaluation and Documentation 4.10.16**

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<b>1. Context</b>	<b>page 1</b>
<b>2. Road to USSF 2015 and the Polycentric Social Forum</b>	<b>page 2</b>
<b>3. Lessons Learned and Political Reflections</b>	<b>page 5</b>
<b>4. Polycentric Social Forum Sites' Evaluation and Documentation</b>	<b>page 8</b>
<b>Philadelphia Social Forum</b>	<b>page 9</b>
<b>San Jose Social Forum</b>	<b>page 37</b>
<b>Jackson People's Movement Assembly</b>	<b>page 39</b>
<b>Tijuana People's Movement Assembly</b>	<b>page 48</b>
<b>5. Where from Here?</b>	<b>Page 50</b>
<b>6. Appendices</b>	<b>page 52</b>

### **1. Context**

In the opening years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the US state response to 911 created a new environment for social movement organizations and formations. The so-called “war on terror” and the Patriot Act intensified a climate of surveillance, repression, and criminalization of social protest and struggle, even as the social forum process globally and in the US was beginning.

When the social forum process began in 2001, the movement forces that initiated it and participated in it were, in the main, fighting to hold back the neoliberal onslaught. They were resisting the massive destruction, displacement, dispossession, poverty, and war impacting society and ecology across the globe, especially the poorest and most oppressed and exploited classes, genders, and peoples.

The slogan of the social forum, “another world is possible,” and the need for detailing the economic, political, social, and ecological content of this new world and the transformational strategy of getting there set up a profound contradiction within and outside of the social forum. The contradiction between fighting neoliberal capitalism, trying to hold onto past reforms, on the one hand, and using these struggles to mount an offensive for a world in which capitalism and private property are abolished and society reconstructed, on the other, remained submerged. But this contradiction was clearly present in the struggles among movement forces in the forum process; and has erupted more openly into the political discourse of vision, strategy, and tactics in the current moment.

At the outset, those of us drawn to the social forum agreed that there was a developing social movement in the US that needed to be joined and connected to the global movement. This globalization from below movement challenged neoliberal policies including privatization, deregulation, trade, labor, and environment, racial, genders, and indigenous oppression, the prison industrial complex, deportation, war, and more. Some of the forces within the US Social Forum saw this as an opportunity to gain a seat at the table of the reform struggle set by the trade unions, the large NGOs, and ultimately the Democratic Party. Other forces saw it as an opportunity to organize within the rising movement, to develop movement infrastructure, collective analysis and vision, and to set the basis for movement strategy to go on the offensive. By 2007 and the first US Social Forum, the process represented perhaps the broadest, most diverse and inclusive expression of the developing movement.

Many movement motions have emerged and grown since then – around Occupy and the 99%, Black Lives Matter and state violence, genders justice and reproductive justice, Dreamers and the undocumented, water as a human right, the fight for \$15 and raising the minimum wage, public education and student debt, Moral Mondays, health and healing, climate, food, and environmental justice, housing and ending homelessness, solidarity economy and worker cooperatives, and participatory democracy. Movement forces were largely unable to stem the tide of neoliberalism, state violence, austerity, fascism, and the destruction of the planet for any substantial portion of humanity. This necessitated and opened up the space for more explicit debates and divisions of various types and expressions within the social forum and broader movement process.

Today's movement is taking shape within the political landscape of a weak US left in relation to political practice, theory, and resources. Many left forces aren't rooted in those communities bearing the brunt of police and ideological violence, economic dispossession, and environmental crisis. Further, without political clarity and an understanding of the revolutionary process, the theory and practice of day-to-day work and campaigns is defensive, in the main. The complex connection between organizing for survival, and visioning and strategizing for a political offensive against capitalism lacks articulation. And, the political control and containment of movement forces by the pull of funders and the nonprofit industrial complex, of the Democratic Party, and of trade unions looms large. This pull is exacerbated by a political culture of anti-communism, anti-intellectualism, and a bow to spontaneity and activism.

The US Social Forum must be located in these dynamics.

## **2. Road to USSF 2015 and the Polycentric Social Forum**

Fissures and fractures – organizationally and politically – became evident within the NPC during USSF 2 and deepened post 2010. Jobs with Justice stepped back, as did local unions and the AFL-CIO. As in 2007, most NPC organizations fell away to concentrate on their organizational

work – base building, fundraising, and campaigns in their many fronts of struggle. (See Appendix 1 for detailing of the 2007 and 2010 US Social Forums.)

Project South concentrated on the PMA process and stepped back from national NPC organizing work. They wrote and distributed the very useful ***PMA Organizing Kit*** in 2011 and actively continued to support, with *University sin Fronteras*, PMA work. They began organizing the Southern Movement Assembly in the Southeast as an important movement tool which continues to grow and develop, most recently in relation to Gulf South Rising and the Katrina 10 anniversary (see [www.southtosouth.org](http://www.southtosouth.org) and [www.gulfsoutherising.org](http://www.gulfsoutherising.org)).

Our inability, as the social forum, to form ongoing relationships and work with new movement forces resisting state violence in all its forms – for example, Occupy early on, Black Lives Matter more recently, and many more – reflects both the nature of these motions and of the social forum. The social forum process lacks a unified political will and understanding of movement forces in relation to the revolutionary process. The forum also lacks a stable infrastructure, and human and money resources. On the other side is the strong and consistent pull on social movement forces toward activism and campaigns, toward the Democratic Party, trade unions, and foundation funders who impose political direction and long term strategy.

### **November 2012 NPC**

In November 2012 we reconvened and regrouped in Chicago, IL as the NPC shrank and forces fell away. Core forces – GGJ, PS, MWRO, EMEAC and other Detroit anchors – were stepping back with specific work they agreed to do or from the process as a whole. While we had important political discussions with local Chicago forces, including the Chicago Teachers Union that was deep in struggle, and with NPC organizations struggling in Detroit and national electoral third party work, it was challenging to translate that into active participation in the forum process. We reviewed where we had been and mapped the immediate next steps on the road to USSF 3. We agreed to review and update the US Social Forum goals and “We Believe” statement. And to draft an “Urgency Statement” about the need for the social forum as a national movement building tool given the intensifying crisis of global capitalism, the destruction of the people and the planet, and the growing danger of fascism and war nationally and globally. We established ACT, the Accountability and Coordination Team, with representatives from active working groups and staff (when hired) as the coordination collective for USSF 3 inside the NPC.

### **March 2013 NPC**

The NPC planned to meet in early 2013 in New Orleans, LA hosted with local NPC organizations. Lack of clarity over the purpose and resources for the NPC meeting led to tensions, and New Orleans organizations pulled out. PPEHRC stepped up and hosted the NPC meeting in Philadelphia in March 2013. We invited Occupy activists we knew to join us in an effort to develop working relationships; it was interesting but challenging. At this meeting GGJ submitted a letter indicating they were stepping back from the NPC, and lacked the capacity to be fully engaged in their own work and the work of the social forum.

Philadelphia, with PPEHRC as the lead anchor, indicated in Chicago that they wanted to host USSF 3. The Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights, along with Asian Americans United, submitted their formal application for Philadelphia as a site in April 2013, before the NPC agreed to have a polycentric social forum.

### **August 2013 NPC: A Polycentric USSF 3 and 3-year Plan**

In August 2013 the NPC convened in Atlanta, GA, hosted by Project South, and made two important decisions. The first was that the USSF 3 would be a polycentric social forum, happening simultaneously in several sites connected technologically. The second was to have a three year plan for USSF 3, from 2014 to 2016.

We understood USSF 3 as a movement building tool to facilitate our movement going from defensive to offensive, to reorganize society to meet human needs and protect the earth, and to connect with global movement forces. Peoples Movement Assemblies (PMAs) and movement schools across the three years would deepen our systemic analysis, visioning the world we need, developing political program and action agendas, movement strategy and tactics, and building political cohesion, alignment and independence for collective power from below to win it and hold it. The polycentric USSF 3 would be in 2015 and an Assembly of Assemblies was projected for 2016.

### **USSF 3 Polycentric Site Selection**

In December 2013, after the site team visit, the NPC selected Philadelphia as the first site for USSF 3 as part of a polycentric social forum of a new type.

The election of Chokwe Lumumba, long time movement lawyer and activist, as Mayor of Jackson, MS in May 2013 created huge movement energy. Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and the Jackson People's Assembly submitted their application for Jackson, MS as a site for USSF 3 in July 2013. Following the site team visit in early 2014, the NPC selected Jackson as a polycentric site for USSF 3, with major support from the Office of the Mayor. The tragic and untimely death of Mayor Chokwe Lumumba in February 2014 meant a profound loss and crisis for the people of Jackson and movement organizers on many levels – personal, organizational, political, and economic.

Cooperation Jackson, an incubator for cooperative economic projects in Jackson, helped host the January 2015 NPC meeting and movement school, and PMA on cooperative economics. They also organized, with partners, the Summer of our Power Southern People's Movement Assembly on Just Transition in June 2015 as part of the USSF 3 polycentric social forum.

San Jose anchors Hip Hop Congress, The Multimedia Center, CHAM (Christian Homeless Alliance Ministry), Human Agenda Project/MTA, and Silicon Valley De-Bug submitted their site application for San Jose as a polycentric social forum site in April 2014. The NPC, following the site team visit, selected San Jose as a site for USSF 3 in May 2014.

In early 2015 May First/People Link, which has many Mexican members, brought to the NPC a proposal to have a PMA in Tijuana, Mexico as part of the polycentric USSF 3 in late June. The NPC approved the proposal.

In 2014 ACT made contact with the Montreal Collective organizing the WSF 2016 and participated in the Peoples Social Forum in Ottawa. We began to discuss hemispheric unity and North American unity among social movement forces as a step toward movement internationalism.

### **Qualitatively New Moment**

In 2013 and leading into USSF 3 in 2015, it was clear that the social forum process was in a qualitatively new moment in terms of money and human resources and the political moment. Foundation resources began drying up post-911, but further deteriorated after the financial bubble burst and the “great recession” of 2008. The social forum did receive foundation support late in the 2007 process and in 2010. But the loss of organizations and individuals with foundation ties and expertise following 2010, and the changed funding environment resulted in virtually no foundation support in 2015. USSF 3 got no major foundation money, though some donors, small family funds, and regional foundations made modest contributions. The change of the US Social Forum fiscal sponsor in late 2014 meant many logistical and infrastructural challenges.

Grassroots movement organizations on the NPC had few staff resources to support the forum and fewer money resources – all of which had been critical to the 2007 and 2010 social forums. USSF 3 had the resources to hire one national staff person, Shamako Noble, in late 2013. He was paid for half-time, and continued through the duration. But there were no paid local site staff.

This scarcity of resources while the most oppressed, exploited, and dispossessed and movement forces confront a life and death crisis presents the social forum and, more importantly, the arising social movement in the US with a profound contradiction. How do we carry on under these new conditions? How do we develop a deeper political alignment through collective study and education? And how do we develop the movement infrastructure and organizational forms to cohere a national movement process across our diversity toward political unity and the political offensive?

### **3. Lessons Learned and Political Reflections US Social Forum**

Lessons learned and political reflections begin with our assessment of the polycentric model, and move to the National Planning Committee, movement culture, movement strategy, and movement resources.

## **Polycentric model**

The polycentric model was a multisite forum form. The polycentric model encouraged movement organizations to work regionally to build more enduring relationships, to develop shared political analysis, vision, and praxis. And this required building with virtually no money. It also reduced the cost of travel to the social forum and PMA sites. This provided the opportunity for more people to access the forum process.

At the same time, the polycentric social forum came with many challenges. It did not resolve the longstanding dynamic in forum and movement work of logistical and practical matters dominating the process, and forcing to the margins political education of ourselves and the movement. We intended to have consistent political study and discussion necessary for moving toward political alignment; but fell short in the practice. It also required technical capacity and equipment in all four sites for the simultaneous connectivity and interaction originally envisioned and planned. This did not materialize from the communications and technology working group, from the NPC or from the sites.

At a moment when we were most lacking in human and money resources, the polycentric model tended to dissipate the energy of the social forum, further fragmenting and dispersing any center of gravity in the process.

## **National Planning Committee – Is this form useful? Who held the work?**

The National Planning Committee after 2007 was never a fully engaged and functional organizing body within the social forum, and was even less so after 2010. With the stepping back of many organizations, especially GGJ, Jobs with Justice, and forum anchors from 2007 and 2010, the NPC was increasingly less functional and involved in the forum process.

The social forums would not have been possible without the incredible hard work of the anchor organizations in all three social forums, and the staff of the various forums. The fiscal sponsors, Project South in 2007, The Praxis Project in 2010, and Alliance for Global Justice in 2015, also did essential work in relation to the staff of the respective forums.

The collective bodies that also contributed significantly to making the social forum happen in 2007, 2010, and again in USSF 3 were the active working groups. An example of what worked was the consistent activity of the gender justice working group across forums and its relation to health and healing. On the other hand, the communications and technology working group stopped and started and was never able to get up to capacity for USSF 3 following 2010. Given the critical importance of a robust online and social media presence, this seriously constrained the visibility and outreach of the social forum from 2014 to 2016.

In USSF 3 the ACT (Accountability and Coordination Team) was formed and stepped up to hold the day-to-day work of the forum along with the national coordinator, Shamako Noble, who was only paid half-time. Once the polycentric social forum and PMA sites were selected, the local organizing committees centered around the site anchors (LOCs) became critical to making

the polycentric forum a reality. They held the logistics and programming, outreach and fundraising, and virtually everything.

### **Movement culture – historic and ongoing challenges**

The developing movement and social forum process exist within a dangerous political moment, a profoundly destructive, oppressive, and exploitative stage of global capitalism and move toward fascism. Too often we, as movement actors, reproduce the oppressions of class, race, genders, nationality, age, ability, and more in our interactions within the forum. We are not good at naming and dealing openly with these violations of our movement and forum principles and values. And we need to reclaim in a new moment the practice of constructive criticism and self-criticism, and nurture the skills of political and principled struggle inside our movement formations.

This raises the bigger question of clarifying what we mean by culture and movement culture as an integral expression and practice of social movement work and transformation. The forum has struggled with this since its inception and much more remains to be done going forward.

### **Movement strategy – moving to the offensive**

Given the fragmentation and political division among movement forces, and the lack of resources, the social forum struggled with several questions of movement strategy: How do we move toward political alignment and unity across the rich diversity of our movement? How do we develop organizational forms and political practice as a national movement in this country? How do we collectively vision the world we want? How does our transformational movement create the change necessary for the future of humanity and the Earth? How do we go on the political offensive so we can win it and hold it?

The social forum tried to lift up the need for movement political education and for theoretical study. We offered movement schools as a beginning of a broad political education project within social movement organizations and spaces. And we recognized the need to identify who and how to do theoretical education.

The social forum discussed movement internationalism in the context of hemispheric unity. With a focus on North America, we would concentrate on building deeper relationships between forum and social movement forces in the US, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Follow-up to the Tijuana PMA in 2015 and the upcoming WSF in 2016 is in this context.

US Social Forum 3, with its 3-year plan, offered a different model for social forum work, emphasizing intentional and strategic movement praxis and education through the PMA process, movement schools, and cross-border conversations. Though some advances were made and we are learning from our experience; we barely scratched the surface of political study and movement alignment. Moving forward likely includes ongoing Peoples Movement Assemblies (PMAs), movement schools, and strategic movement conversation(s). But who will hold this work and how?

### **Movement resources – How does the movement gain financial and political independence?**

The social forum today is operating in a qualitatively new political moment. The attack is greater than ever and resources (money and human) are fewer. This forum offered a window into this reality. The intensification of the assault on our communities, new movement motions rising, and the extreme challenge and struggle of how a transformative national movement grows and survives with no foundation, Democratic Party, or trade union money and resources. And many movement forces are taking political direction from these very powerful sources.

Movement forces have to confront this reality – of how do we put forward a politics in our interests and figure out how to fund our transformative movement work through grassroots fundraising – the pass the hat foundation, crowdsourcing, etc. The resource crisis is deeper as the base has less and less financial resources to bring to the table. Yet, the survival of humanity and the planet depends on a powerful bottom-up movement that is strategically anti-capitalist and has the capacity to reconstruct society along cooperative, collective, egalitarian, and democratic lines.

We know of no other movement process that does what the social forum does. What can and should it look like moving forward? What could fill the vacuum of the social forum process in the US? Especially given that the social forum process represented perhaps the broadest, most diverse and inclusive expression of the developing social movement an ongoing interrogation of the process is necessary.

## **4. The Polycentric Social Forum Sites' Evaluation and Documentation**

- **Philadelphia Social Forum** **page 9**
- **San Jose Social Forum** **page 37**
- **Jackson People's Movement Assembly** **page 39**
- **Tijuana People's Movement Assembly** **page 48**

## **USSF Philadelphia, PA, June 25-28, 2015**

### **Overall Evaluation**

The US Social Forum in Philadelphia was an incredibly challenging endeavor. There were both positive and negative takeaways from the experience. Despite the obstacles of PPEHRC's impoverishment coupled with DIA's disability organizations, we agreed to anchor the USSF. We were further pushed to think in new ways about how to organize large events with no resources. For us, the most important part of the USSF was the people's movement assemblies.

The polycentric process works in an ideal form, but on the local ground it doesn't bring in the resources that are necessary to pull off an event that will bring in groups of people from all sections of the population.

The Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign and Disabled In Action were the two anchor groups. The American Friends Service Committee also played an important role in assisting us in this process. These groups have continued to work together at the conclusion of the USSF.

The venue of the USSF-Philly was held in two spaces, Temple University and American Street in the poorest district of Pennsylvania. We had challenges on American with the police. The police harassed the poor businesses for working with us and took away our permit for our cultural performances.

We had over 50 local partner groups, 276 registered organizations; and at different times the attendance grew to almost 1,500 people (1,475 individuals were registered). The video documentation team developed this 3 minute YouTube video to capture the moment <https://youtu.be/RkRRE7vrpsc>.

The PMA's were well-planned and thought out. Some of the highest and most elevated political, economic, and social analyses and conversations resulted from these gatherings. All of this critical thinking created a paradigm shift in this region's movement. These conversations pulled people from the defensive and old ways of thinking and caused our visions to evolve while simultaneously forcing us to deal immediately and explicitly with real problems of this section of society's day to day lives. This was further examined by our reality tours, exposing people to our housing takeovers and to our community farm, and the reality of people struggling with disabilities.

Various challenges presented themselves on a daily basis. In one instance, we had to pay for the transportation of a group of several people so they could view the museum and Rebel Diaz. We housed people from around the country and the world. Everyone had a place to sleep, we made sure of that. Our housing people worked on finding housing for people until 2am in the

morning every night. We also provided child care for all the parents. These are just a few of the challenges we had to face.

Because the event was polycentric, the money was split among multiple groups. We had to wait a very long time for any money to begin our organizing and this put a great deal of stress on the process. Being forced to face urgent problems with very little resources and nowhere near the budget of past US Social Forums, presented challenges and was very taxing. If these problems could had been resolved, more people could have benefited from this experience.

### **Philadelphia Local Organizing Committee (PLOC) Evaluation, August 2015**

#### **1. As a movement, how did the Philadelphia US Social Forum benefit us? What did we get out of this process?**

- It brought together a lot of people, some of whom had never worked together before. Hopefully these connections will make future organizing projects more successful. Many of us also gained new skills in organizing, and a lot of knowledge/wisdom was shared during the workshops and PMAs. I think many of the PMAs were very successful in developing action plans for the future as well.
- At the basic level, the Philadelphia US Social Forum brought a number of groups together across numerous subjects, connecting many dots in the movement for justice. I also believe that the specific knowledge of the way forward has been imparted at various times during the Social Forum, making the task of collecting and synthesizing this information absolutely critical.
- As a movement, the Philadelphia US Social Forum benefited us by allowing us to build a coalition with organizations and activists locally and across the country. It was also organized by organizations led by the poor and disabled which showed that important and influential work can be done by those who often have little to no resources but still have the capacity to mobilize over thousands of people.
- Lots of new connections and working relationships of course.

But it would be better if we turn our site into an ongoing service to the world at large, at least until such time as the next USSF is ready to take it on.

A way to do this would be to invite all workshop and PMA organizers to submit a new abstract, to go up on a new database that is a small variation of the existing one (e.g. no need for a date/time field). Then anyone who likes what we are doing can search a smorgasbord of groups and activities in a similar spirit. Of course they will already have their own websites. But our database will let new people find them by spirit -- then search by topic as they wish.

- For PPEHRC, it helped to build our capacity and strengthen our relationship with Disabled in Action. It also helped to set what I think is the correct direction of the movement. It has put us in a position of taking the offensive as opposed to the

defensive. It has forced us to look at what our vision is, and to map out concrete plans on how we intend to obtain it.

- Primary benefit of the Social Forum, as I saw it, was that it brought many people together that would never have worked with each other otherwise. I've been to many meetings where the participants were all white, mostly male and all able and the feeling of cooperation and fellowship was not terribly different from that of the Social Forum meetings, so I think the template of lefty meetings is generally-applicable one.
- We put together a decent Social Forum with a good core of activists. Where we go from here is open to discussion.
- The revolution will not be televised, nor will it be funded. I think this year's US Social Forum shows much of the tensions in our society. Our overall organizing process that led up to the Forum in June had to face the challenge confronting many grassroots, politically independent struggles - lack of funding and staff. I think our uncompromising efforts to host the forum in Philly and make it a success proved to us and our grassroots social movement at large that another world built on local, sometimes decentralized organizing bodies joint together with networks of solidarity sharing a collective vision is possible and necessary. The forums helps us recognize a diversity of problems in our settle-colonial ablest heteropatriarchal capitalist society, some of which matter to people's everyday survival. It requires creative and radical approaches. By strategizing intersectionally, across different fronts, we can identify a diverse set of solutions and address causes of oppression and domination at a root level. The change will happen from the ground up. The grassroots will lead the future.  
It all seemed too demanding and difficult for us to organize the forum just a few months back. At the end, we made it happen. My take-away from the social forum is that we will make possible the impossible. It takes imagination and experimentation. Our collective survival and well-being depends on it. We are just ordinary people doing extraordinary things.
- I think we got visibility and organizing skills.

## **2. How did the US Social Forum negatively impact our movement, if applicable? How can we overcome these negative aspects or turn them into something positive?**

- I think it brought out some simmering tensions, both personality conflicts and deeper ideological rifts, in the progressive communities locally and nationally. I don't necessarily think this is a bad thing though, since it is important that we are aware of ideological differences and that we know where we all stand on issues and values. Hopefully we can continue to try to create safe spaces where people can come together and discuss their differences and disagreements so that we can move beyond some of these internal issues to build a more united front against the larger oppressive forces in society.
- I noticed a great deal of ego at play in the Philadelphia Social Forum. Unchecked, ego in organizing will destroy our movement. This is something we'll need to be mindful of moving forward as we explicitly outline the way forward.
- I think one negative aspect of the US Social Forum was that we left the process in debt as a movement. We did not receive a lot of financial support and even though the event

is over we still have certain financial obligations. This is extremely difficult when we have very few financial resources as an organizations already.

- I wasn't able to see any harm to our movement.
- The USSF was a big financial drain on PPEHRC, with very few people helping to raise money in order to staff. We are thankful that we have staff that are politically dedicated and see themselves as leaders in the movement and they made decisions to work with little money under very adverse conditions. This is something we are proud of. Most of them understood the political necessity of going forward even without any money. Like slaves during slavery, they didn't say "How do we first get a foundation grant?" They worked against those conditions. We too need to figure out how to go forward without money while simultaneously learning how to utilize this country's surplus.
- Don't there were any generally negative aspects.
- I don't see where we negatively impacted the movement.
- i don't think of it as something negative, but it would be better to have many groups and networks that should be at the forum present. Many of GGJA and Right to the City affiliates who attended the previous two social forums should be here this time. It is our loss to leave them out, especially since many of them represent a rising Asian American movement. I wonder if they ever felt excluded from the movement or how they received the forum this time. anyways, it would be on my part to have conversations with said groups that I know.
- It cost a lot of money, wore us out, put our own organization in a state of disorganization.

**3. What challenges were in place that hindered our ability to complete important organizing steps? (i.e. lack of funds, not enough volunteer or "paid staff", conflict with national team, conflicts with local police, etc.)**

- Lack of funds was certainly a major issue. We were facing a chicken or the egg situation where we didn't have money until people started registering, but people weren't going to start registering in large numbers until it was clear that the USSF was actually going to happen and be worth attending, which we couldn't guarantee until we had some funds to help pull things together and make things happen. More volunteers, especially in the earlier stages of organizing, would have definitely been helpful as well. Unfortunately we had some internal struggles in the early months, which I think contributed to us not doing as good of a job with outreach as we needed early on, which then resulted in low numbers of volunteers, which then resulted in less outreach later on, and so on. We didn't do a great job of criticizing each other in constructive ways and accepting criticism without becoming overly defensive, which I feel like often had to do with a lack of trust. As far as relationships with the national team goes, I think communication was a major problem as well. The local Comm/Tech team did not get a lot of direction in the early going from national Comm/Tech, and often we ended up hearing about plans and policies after we had already started parallel processes of our own. I was never on any of the NPC or ACT calls (in retrospect maybe I should have been, if I had time), but it sort of sounded like there was a lot of talk without so much resource sharing from the

national organizers, especially in the early months, which I imagine was frustrating for local reps.

- All of the challenges mentioned above hindered our ability to complete this work.
- Some of the challenges we faced were not being allocated funds from the national team early enough, not enough funds raised and allocated so that we could have a solid amount of paid staff members. The police created a huge conflict with our cultural events on American Street, and we did not have enough volunteers during the USSF itself to help things run smoothly.
- There were all of these problems, of course.
- The main need, I think, is to get our message out earlier, in future USSF organizing. And here there is a problem. Publications don't do their calendars 6 to 18 months or so in advance. So they won't pay attention to announcements we send. But if we make our site relevant in an ongoing way, as I suggested above, then we could be helping to promote news from all the organizations involved in PMAs and workshops, nationwide. Their news will have much shorter timelines of course. And any promotion we do automatically informs people about USSF, and what it's good for.
- In the beginning we not only lacked money, but had no form of transportation. We needed to be everywhere. Eventually, as I said above, we figured out how to go over and around these obstacles. We also needed to have a plan on how to educate others about the reality of the conditions of which this section of the population was organizing under. I believe if more people were conscious of the inhumane conditions under which people were organizing, there would have been a plan to get resources much earlier. The focus seemed to be "let's have people volunteer." I would have liked if there were more efforts to raise money so that the organizers, who are already living in poverty, could have been paid living wages.
- Couple of specific problems: Temple U messed us up by suddenly claiming a whole block of classroom space. Someone from our workshop went up to the Social Forum administrators, got the number for the new meeting place and relayed that to us, but I and many others of us weren't at all clear where the new space was. So it really would have helped to have had more people on hand to better managed the problem that Temple dropped into our laps.

I dropped off a container of tea at the West Kensington Ministry. It didn't occur to me to leave my contact info and no one asked for it. When I picked it up, it was still mostly full, which tells me that no one managed to figure out how to properly open it up. Had someone had my contact info, they could have asked me about that and I would have been happy to tell them. I sent an email and left a phone message using information from their website and neither one was ever answered.

The Temple method of getting onto their wifi was very complicated, made even more complicated by the lack of clear instructions. I made sense of it once someone from the Forum explained it to me. Hopefully, if we have it again, we'll pick a site with more accessible wifi.

- I think we needed more volunteers and more paid staff. Given what we had, however, I think we did an excellent job.

- 1. Lack of \$.
- 2. Ill-defined roles for many volunteers so that we don't have all the necessary information to help people to attend events and give directions.
- 3. Need to print more schedules and booklets. They were out pretty fast.
- 4. Need hearing aids, and let people know where they are provided, especially at panels.
- 5. Maybe better security and checking people's wristbands at workshops + have workshops more discreet about collecting contact information, while maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere.
- Lack of resources. Money, transportation, staff. Many of the organizers are already living in poverty, so to also have a dearth of resources at work as well multiplied the impact.

#### **4. What are your reactions to the permit process on American Street?**

- I wasn't there, but definitely angry with the police.
- I wasn't terribly involved in that process. I think the police interference was evidence of corruption.
- I did not think what happened to our cultural performances on American Street was fair and that we should be reimbursed for all or partial funds for the stage and sound system since they did not let us have our event.
- I wasn't directly involved.  
But maybe we should get legal advice on how to make sure that a permit from the city really is a permit. It isn't-if it can be unilaterally revoked by a police official on the last day, just because he doesn't like us or what we are doing.
- For me, American Street was totally predictable. For most other people, it was a new educational. As Philadelphia prepares for the Pope and DNC, I know, from living here at night, that they are preparing a total police state in preparation for these upcoming events. Homeland Security, three nights ago, had over 300 officers on American and Cumberland, practicing for these upcoming events- 300 officers and the Homeland Security van on one square block. More rhetoric around ISIS will continue while more and more of our civil liberties are taken away from us. The key to combatting all of this will be an increase in movement schools and providing political education, or else all of the young people will buy into the propaganda, and we will not be able to create the new kind of world that we need to create.
- I had no involvement the process on American Street.
- I really wasn't familiar with the process.
- Well, the police always likes to screw things up.
- Many participants at the social forum did raise the concern that they would rather meet in the neighborhoods and interact with the local communities than at a place like Temple U which they understand it as a gentrifying force (and the forum is contributing to the problem).

#### **5. How would we like to move forward as a movement now that the US Social Forum is over? How can we stay connected to the organizations and people we organized with and met during the USSF?**

- Maybe we could have occasional assemblies like the PLOC meeting, where we keep each other updated on things we're working on? Maybe monthly or every other month? I'd also potentially be down to help with skill share/movement school type stuff.
- We need to recognize that the US Social Forum is never over. The whole point of the Forum and the PMAs are to bring people together as the catalyst for future movements. As those future movements are ongoing, the Social Forum hasn't ended. We need to follow up on the promises made at the Social Forum and make those promises deeply embedded within all of our organizations.
- I think one of the most important things is to keep the momentum going. We should continue to utilize the organizations and people we organized and met during the USSF, maintain our social media accounts, send out consistent updates on how we are continuing to build a movement together, mobilize people to participate in our upcoming national efforts such as the March for our Lives and the Climate Strike, continue having Philadelphia Local Organizing meetings (perhaps 1x / month or every other month) to stay connected. We should also think about some sort of documenting process for the Philly USSF.
- By organizing collectively for the Climate Strike so that we keep our planet, and by organizing collectively to stand up to power and conquer our fear by marching on opening day of the RNC and DNC in the March for our Lives.
- Very much in favor of more meetings with a new focus for action on social issues.
- I can't comment on most of this since I only parachuted in at the last minute (as it were) and didn't get to attend much at all. But thoughts on this one:
  - 1) maintain website and data base / maintain events calendar
  - 2) bi-weekly blog maybe? We could invite different groups, particularly those who had panels, to post something - updates, reflections, commentary on issues etc.
  - 3) send out monthly eblast with updates on what groups are doing, link to blog, link to WSF
- I think we should work on the 'March for Our Lives' campaign. I think it will resonate as people are getting sick and tired of the two party system and the possibility of a Bush/Clinton election. A national March like this could be impressive and make the news.
- Definitely I think we should keep in touch with all the PMA organizers and engage in their ongoing organizing. I also think the forum represents a new wave of grassroots social movement in the 21st century, and there is much needed documentation and reflection of the current state of grassroots social movements and how the social forum moved things along.
- Continue to host events with them, check in with each other, and monitor our progress.

**6. How do we plan on continuing the People's Movement Assemblies that we were personally involved in? What next steps should we take?**

- I wasn't involved with any myself, but it seems like several of them have plans to continue their work together.
- Make sure the notes are synthesized and continue conference calls / meetings to plan the way forward.

- Hopefully all the PMA's did their own internal evaluations and that those who participated were collected and saved so we can continue communicating with them. The Poverty PMA is heading up the March for our Lives in 2016 and the Climate Strike is planning to start their campaign in November. I think a good step forward would be to organize conference calls, meetings, and email list serves to keep the conversation and organizing going.
- This is absolutely what we should be doing. It will take some thought and planning on our part, since each PMA brought together different organizations that may not work closely together ordinarily. What can we in Philadelphia do to help keep the collaborations going? This is a key question, but not always an easy one.
- We need to have a meeting in which we read the write-ups from all of the PMAs, document and disseminate the conversations, and get it out to as many people as possible. Then, devise concrete plans from now until the March for Our Lives.
- Open to suggestions.
- We should call another large meeting at the Kensington Ministry like we had in February of 2014 to have a community discussion on where 'we should go from here' on the People's Assemblies.
- i think it would be helpful conversations about how the PMA represents a front of struggle and what is happening with it more broadly. The results should also make into the social forum's general report/reflection document.

#### **7. What organizing skills did we learn from organizing the USSF?**

- communication, outreach strategies, website management, conflict resolution, event planning
- We learned how extensive our network can be when we band together.
- I think we learned important skills in: event planning, social media, coordinating and collaborating with various organizations and activists, fund development, database management, website development and management, as well as enhancing our survival skills to feed and house low income families who attended.
- Not sure.
- We learned the importance of doing things as far in advance as possible. Also, that we need to do a better job at coming up with job descriptions so we get the right people for certain positions. That we need to do more political education. I think that we learned how to work together under very adverse circumstances, which is definitely bound to continue to grow in this country. We also learned how to be resourceful without resources.
- Think we largely used what we already had. May just be from my perspective.
- How to register people into the Forum using the Computer. Also, working as Co-Treasurer was beneficial in using my Accounting skills
- Multi-tasking is possible; multitasking is necessary.

#### **8. What organizing skills could we improve on that did not go as well as they could have at the USSF?**

- conflict resolution, supporting each other, constructive criticism

- People didn't step up to the plate and work was centered on certain people and a certain organization.
- I think one of the big skills we could improve on is fundraising.
- Not sure.
- I think that there could have been more members of the Philadelphia Local Organizing Committee actually helping to organize locally in the city, besides just primarily PPEHRC.
- Couple of items could have gone better, but they are more a matter of organization than skills. I took part in the registration and thought our skills were fine
- We needed a better outreach plan-better designed flyers and posters. Also more people to put them up around the city.
- Maybe outreach and conversations with organizations that we want to invite can start earlier.
- Organization. Volunteer coordination.

**9. Do we prefer the polycentric model or would we like to go back to having one location?**

- In theory I still like the polycentric model, since it promotes greater local participation and autonomy, and less money wasted on travel and really big convention centers. The problem I think was that we had a problematic structure where major decision-making and most importantly funding came down in a hierarchical way from national, while most organizing and planning was based locally. If registration money had gone directly to local sites I think this would have been much better. Also, we ended up not taking advantage of the opportunities for polycentric interaction between sites as much as we had hoped, due to technological constraints and lack of time. I thought the one session that did have interaction between Philly, Jackson and Tijuana showed some of the potential that polycentric organizing could have though. I think a next important step could be better use of tools to share the results coming out of PMAs across geographic sites.
- I like the polycentric model in theory, but when you add the ego of individual organizers to the mix, there was some uncomfortable competition involved.
- Personally, since the USSF this year did not have as many funds as they did with the other USSF's, the new polycentric model was extremely difficult. We just did not have enough resources and funds to go around for three sites. If we had the same budget as Detroit and Atlanta, perhaps the polycentric model would be good. However, with the low budget we had this year I would not recommend doing it again.
- Some form of polycentric model has a future. We can't expect many people to travel across the country. We should consider having many more than two centers someday.
- Ultimately, we know that people have to be having all sections of the population. We can't afford to bring people to different locations, but having it in three locations removed any real resources to be available to any one location to put anything on a higher scale in terms of numbers. If polycentrism in the future, we must be realistic and expect quality in low numbers. If one location, we can expect resources and fundraising to happen all over the country for that location.
- No opinion as was not really aware of how the other Forum interacted with ours.
- One location.

- I think that's up to the group to democratically decide this. I do think meeting at the Friends Center was beneficial as it was centrally located for people to get to. Good train and bus service there.
- I prefer the polycentric model. If resources are limited, I understand why having one location is more desirable. In whichever case, I think the social forum should keep rooting the struggle in the city and neighborhood that it will take place.

**10. How can we mobilize people who attended the US Social Forum around the country to attend the World Social Forum in Canada 2016?**

- We have the email list, social media, calling lists, etc..  
It would probably be helpful if we can find ways to keep people engaged with the Social Forum between now and then (continuing to share media from the USSF, promoting events relating to the PMAs, possible movement schools, etc.  
It would also be cool if we can share some of our organizing experiences with the folks in Montreal.
- Reach out to the people coordinating the PMAs at the USSF and they can reach out to the people who attended. Also send blanket email invitations and phone bank.
- I think we should utilize the lists we have collect of everyone who participated in the Philadelphia US Social Forum and create social media and emails promoting the world social forum in Canada. I think it would also be really important that many of the Philadelphia USSF Organizers participate in the world social forum.
- Start reporting the news about 2016 ASAP -- sending email or other communications to the contact information we have for 2015 attendees. We can also send releases to relevant media here -- with the support and permission of the Canadian organizers.
- Priority should go to anchor organizations and organizers so that they can help by using their experience to assist the World Social Forum. There should be organized lectures and discussions on people talking about what they learned and got out of the USSF 2015. This should happen at different universities, unions, and organizations. There should also be a written publication that is compiled of the different areas of the country and made available for people to purchase.
- We should gather around a new issue so as to keep the group together, that way we can put out a better message more effectively than if we allow the group to demobilize.
- Good question. Right now I think people will be focused on the Elections in the USA.
- World Social Forum reached out to us for organizational experiences and skills. They expect us to form a local organizing body to propose plans for workshops and join their process. We can either attend in person or participate remotely via internet video conference. They also want to follow up with our documentation & evaluation.  
Anyways, let's in touch with them.

**11. What kind of relationship do we want to have with the national USSF committee moving forward?**

- Personally, I don't know if I will stay involved with national USSF organizing. I'm certainly willing to share my experiences from Philly USSF organizing and I might consider

attending future USSF gatherings, but there are other projects which I will probably be shifting most of my time toward.

- The national USSF committee wasn't terribly helpful from my point of view as people were organizing on the ground. I think they have connections though and periodic check-ins should be in order. I think we should let the work continue to be on-the-ground and people-powered, rather than controlled from above.
- I think it would be a good idea to continue to have a close relationship with the national USSF. We should make sure there is someone from PPEHRC and DIA that participate in the committee and relay what is going on to the Philadelphia Local Organizing Committee.
- Going forward, we need to work well with whatever national organization is active.
- I think that organizations should definitely apply to have their organization (organizations other than PPEHRC and DIA) sit on the National Planning Committee of the USSF. In order to change the world, we have to work together whether or not we like each other.
- Should definitely keep in touch.
- I think we should coordinate with them on the area.
- keep in touch and hold them accountable

### **Housing People's Movement Assembly Themes and Principles** And *Guide to Breakout Groups and Workshops* (5.27.2015)

The following is a list of themes and principles that have been expressed by various housing advocates around the country in response to a questionnaire from the Housing PMA Coordinating Committee. We hope to see the themes inform specific discussions at the PMA with the principles woven throughout the PMA and workshops.

#### 1) THEMATIC PIECES FOR BREAKOUT GROUPS:

- Criminalization and Penalization of the Homeless and Poor:
  - How do we organize to sustainably decriminalize homelessness?
  - How do we link housing advocacy to other anti-poverty efforts, such as full employment, higher wages, universal health care, and ending mass incarceration of low income communities?
  - How can we provide housing first housing solutions and permanent housing, not warehousing for homeless and near homeless persons?
- Taking Back the Land:
  - How can land be protected from market forces?
  - How can land be committed to community use?
- Maintaining Homes and Communities:
  - How do we prevent displacement and preserve tenants' rights and accessibility to housing and communities in the face of massive market-oriented development?

- How do we preserve and expand rent control and rent stabilization, tax real estate speculation, and regulate out of control real estate markets?
- How do we fight against privatization of public housing and market conversion of HUD subsidized housing, and preserve and expand public and HUD housing under social and/or resident-controlled ownership?
- Housing on the National Level:
  - How do tenants' organizations and the homeless utilize their power and unite to form a national movement?
  - How can national budgets and policies be altered to fully fund housing for low income, homeless and working class people? How can we win funding for new housing to provide homes for all, including homeless, near homeless, low income and working people? How can we retarget housing subsidies to upper income groups through the Mortgage Interest Deduction to meet the needs of all?
  - What are alternative ways to fund investment in public housing without privatizing ownership?
- Housing on the Global Level:
  - How do we connect local and national housing movements to global organizations and social movements addressing the Right to Housing, Land and the City?
- Racism in Housing:
  - How has racism, particularly anti-black racism, shaped housing policies in the U.S. both nationally and locally?
  - How do we connect a recognition of this history to the collective struggles for housing justice of all low-income tenants?

## 2) GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE HOUSING TRACK AND PMA:

- Leadership:
  - This movement should be led by those most affected by the housing crisis including homeless persons, low-income tenants and the displaced.
- Diversity:
  - We affirm that access to housing is affected by our identity. Race, class, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age and other experiences intersect with and compound the experience of homelessness and displacement.
- Human Right to Housing:
  - We affirm that adequate housing is a fundamental human right. Adequacy includes seven elements: (1) security of tenure, (2) availability of services, materials, and infrastructure (3) affordability, (4) accessibility, (5) habitability, (6) location, and (7) cultural adequacy. Human rights law requires that the U.S. take progressive steps to respect, protect, and fulfill the right, to the maximum of the country's available resources, in a non-discriminatory manner.

- Human Right to the City:
  - We affirm that, through collective action, everyone has a right to the city. This right is more than individual access to urban resources, but instead a common right to change ourselves by changing the city. Historically urbanization has been spurred by capitalist investment of surplus resources, which has dictated how cities are structured and which inhabitants are privileged. Our collective action will show that all inhabitants, particularly the disenfranchised, have a right to shape the city, design it, and implement an urban human rights agenda.

If you want to run a workshop or organize / sit on a panel regarding one of these topics, please [register](http://www.ussfphilly.org/register) for the Forum in Philadelphia today by selecting the following link: <http://www.ussfphilly.org/register>. Once registered, please apply for a [workshop](https://www.ussocialforum.net/node/add/workshop): <https://www.ussocialforum.net/node/add/workshop>. If you have any questions or would like to submit a topic for consideration, please contact us at [housingpma@ussfphilly.org](mailto:housingpma@ussfphilly.org).

**The following is an evolving narrative derived from a diverse set of responses to the U.S.**

**Social Forum Housing People’s Movement Assembly Committee questionnaire:**

- Movement led by the most affected and created on a local level,
- Transform vacant land into affordable housing through community land trusts,
- Utilize housing first policies, house people now, preserve their knowledge of their rights in housing, and decriminalize homelessness
- Come together nationally through the USSF and fight for a human right to housing

This movement will be derived from the organizing of local, low-income tenants into powerful groups led by the low-income communities and/or communities of color most affected by our housing crisis. This organizing can be facilitated through multi-city Renter Assemblies. There will be special ongoing attention paid to developing the skills of these leaders.

This movement will work to transform vacant lands into community-controlled, affordable housing by getting properties into community land trusts and housing trust funds. Anti-Speculation Taxes can play a role in combatting gentrifying developers and building funding power in these trusts. In addition, the movement can work on strengthening rent control and rent stabilization.

This new affordable housing will be used to house low-income and homeless people in a housing first approach, as opposed to less successful “housing ready” standard. These policies will not abandon the “hidden homeless” - those individuals living in poverty without mental health or substance abuse issues - and will recognize the urgency of housing people now. Along the way, serious steps will be taken at the city, state, and federal level to decriminalize homelessness and halt the revolving door of prisons for our homeless community members. For those who are housed in the seized land, there must be educational action to preserve tenants’ knowledge of their rights in housing, specifically the right to organize, the freedom of

information of the property, the right to be included with the decisions on where tenants live, the right to be included in the REAC inspections, and waiting list procedures.

The U.S. Social Forum will act as a catalyst for these local organizations to come together and establish the big picture of the housing movement on a national level and support/endorse one another's work locally. Work on this level will include full funding to HUD, forcing state and national budgets to invest in jobs, taxing the 1%, closing corporate tax loopholes, redirecting funding from wars to domestic issues, and federal policy incentives to end the criminalization of homelessness.

Ultimately we can work toward an affirmative human right to housing and an end to homelessness that incorporates the following human rights principles: universality, equity, participation, transparency, and accountability.

Contributing organizations: National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Women's Community Revitalization Project, Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI), Right to the City, National Alliance of HUD Tenants, and Community Service Society of New York.

### **Philadelphia Social Forum: NESRI Response by Peter Sabonis 3.2.15**

#### **1. What do you expect to be the state of your/your organization's campaign(s) at the time of the US Social Forum?**

In the housing field, NESRI is working with the United Workers and its Housing is a Human Rights Roundtable in Baltimore. The Roundtable has developed a three-phased, multi-year campaign with the ultimate goal of creating a vibrant and publicly supported "non-speculative" housing sector in Baltimore City. At the campaign's end, we hope to have rehabilitated roughly 15,000 vacant houses and transformed them into non-speculative, community-controlled housing, with the help of municipal bonds. The three phases are set summarily set forth below, with the specifics of each phase explained thereafter.

- Phase One: Education (thru 2015)—involves introducing the idea of non-speculative housing into communities and public discourse, organizing targeted neighborhoods, developing leaders, attracting political support from a diverse, but key grouping of stakeholders, and growing recognition that Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are a viable model for resolving problem of vacant housing in Baltimore.
- Phase Two: Demonstration (mid 2015 thru 2018) – involves creating and operating a number of CLTs in Baltimore that acquire vacant properties and transform them into no- and low-income housing, building political power for non-speculative housing across Baltimore neighborhoods and within a variety of sectors (Faith, Labor, Advocacy, Anchor Institutions).
- Phase Three: Implementation (2018) – involves securing large-scale city public investment (most likely municipal bonds) in non-speculative housing, and securing other city policy changes that make acquisition of vacant housing easier for CLTs.

There are five functional areas operating in each phase: community organizing, public policy support, and technical assistance to community groups, communications, and resource development.

**2. What are 5 concrete goals that your organization is working to accomplish?**

1. Creation of at least three viable Community Land Trusts in Baltimore City by 2016.
2. Education of residents, community developers, anchor institutions, local foundations and community development opinion makers through release of “White Paper” on City Housing & Development Policy, Vacants, and Human Rights based Solutions. (Release date: May, 2015.)
3. Development of at least 20 community leaders by end of 2015 to lead community education and organizing effort of Housing Campaign.
4. Passage of City legislation or adoption of city policy by 2016 to facilitate easy and cheap transfer of city-owned vacants to Community Land Trusts.
5. Passage, by 2018, of \$200 million municipal bond issue to capitalize CLTs and assist in housing rehabilitation.

**3. How would your organization envision other voices joining your organizing efforts? Are there particular points where other people could get involved that would help your particular campaign(s)?**

As our campaign involves locally passed public policy, the success of CLTs elsewhere must be shared with policymakers. We see a key role for rust-belt city groups with CLT experience (i.e. Philadelphia’s WCRP). This involvement will come during “implementation phase.” [Phase 3.]

**4. What would you and/or your organization like to see accomplished by a People's Movement Assembly? What are your goals for participating in the U.S. Social Forum?**

The advance of the five human rights principles as applied to housing and development: Universality, Equity, Participation, Transparency, and Accountability. We have no goals for participation in the Forum as we do not plan to attend, at this point.

- 5. What resources can your organization marshal at the U.S. Social Forum? How many affiliates does your organization have?** None. At this point, the Roundtable coalition is a group of roughly 20 organizations and 10 individuals that is being formalized into an accountability and legal structure.

**People’s Climate Strike PMA and Related Panels and Workshops**

The Poor People’s Economic Human Rights Campaign is building a movement that unites the poor across color lines. We are committed to uniting the poor as the leadership base for a broad movement to abolish poverty everywhere and forever.

The Global Climate Convergence is grassroots education and direct action campaign on behalf of People, Planet and Peace over Profit. It provides coordinated action and collaboration across

fronts of struggle and national borders to harness the transformative power we already possess as a thousand separate movements.

### **People's Climate Strike PMA (Saturday) submitted**

Laying the foundation for powerful collaborate strike action in solidarity with the [Paris protests against the final UN Climate Summit](#) sell out and beyond.

The People's Climate Strike PMA is a critical element in laying the foundation for collaborate strike action and using the USSF process to move us from a defensive strategy to an offensive one in the realm of climate activism. The People's Climate Strike is being planned to bring the engines of economic and ecological destruction to a grinding halt, demonstrate our growing power, and promoting community-controlled, just, and green alternatives. The strike is intended to join workers, youth, immigrant and Indigenous, as well as racial justice, anti-poverty, climate and other activists in support of people, planet and peace over profit. It will take place in cities and villages across the globe in solidarity with [Paris protests against the final UN Climate Summit](#) sell out and beyond.

This two part PMA will focus on analyzing, organizing and executing climate strike actions - ways to concretely map out how we build this new economy, clean environment and new world. The first 2 hours will address the current food and climate justice related problems plaguing our global society and how movements converge, connecting the dots between the climate crisis and its root causes. The second 2 hours will explore community based solutions with a focus on creating a resolution for action around COP21 actions this year and extending the concept of the climate strike as a powerful organizing tool into the 2016 National Peoples Movement Assembly and beyond.

### **Resolutions for Action:**

Climate Strike 2015 Pledge

Climate Strike 2015 Community Alternatives - Organizing Resources

### **PANEL: Climate Democracy, Repression & Targeted Communities (Friday) submitted 6/5**

#### **Abstract:**

Panel & Conversation exploring the links between racism, police brutality, mass incarceration, gender issues & ecological struggle.

#### **Participants:**

Cheri Honkala - PPEHRC, GCC, USSF (panel chair & moderator)

Jacqui Patterson - NAACP

Chanelle Helm - Women In Transition

Kimberly Smith - Honor the Earth

#### **Resources:**

[NAACP Climate Justice Classroom Guide](#)

**PANEL: Empire vs. Planet - How Free Trade & War Drive Climate Change (Sunday?)**

Panel & Conversation focusing on the global connection of Empire, militarism, mass incarcerations & climate justice.

James Jordan - AFGJ, GCC (Mass Incarcerations)

**SKILL-SHARE: Kids Gardening Club Session (Friday or Sunday) submitted 6/5**

**Abstract:**

The *Kids Gardening Club Session* is a hands-on gardening club skill-share for kids comprised of a gardening activity, an art activity and a food democracy lesson & discussion. The GCC Global Gardening Initiative was created by “Gardens Rising!” & provides [resources and guidelines](#) for establishing organic, non-GMO, “Kids Global Gardening Clubs” at sites interested in teaching children about food democracy, sharing hands-on educational opportunities, promoting & fostering creativity & helping provide community food distribution support. Art feeds us, & the fusion of topical outdoor art projects with gardening make Kids Global Gardening Clubs a place where kids can engage with themselves, nature & each other through a variety of activities where they can take the lead while reusing, recycling and innovating.

**Participants:**

Timeka Drew (GCC, PPEHRC)

PPEHRC Gardens

**Resources:**

[Kids Global Gardening Clubs](#) / [Daily Club Guide - Unit 1](#)

**WORKSHOP: Converge to Amend (Friday or Sunday) submitted 6/5**

**Abstract:**

Workshop on converging to pass Move to Amend’s “We the People” Amendment with brainstorming on how to tailor organizing as a People’s Climate Strike Action. In solidarity, WE THE PEOPLE DEMAND AN END TO CORPORATE PERSONS. We call for the passage of the “We the People” Amendment to the United States Constitution. This is Move to Amend’s Proposed 28th Amendment which is the first critical step toward the greater social transformation. If we all come together and rise up against corporations we can slow this train of destruction. We will also have the highest probability of stopping the ecological collapse if we do this. Read the text of the amendment at the Move to Amend Website - <https://movetoamend.org/amendment>.

**Participants:**

Michael Ippolito ([Converge to Amend](#), Move to Amend, InterOccupy, GCC)

Daniel Lee (Move to Amend, GCC)

**Resources:**

[We the People Amendment](#) / [The Global Ecological Collapse and the Way Forward](#)

**WORKSHOP: Philly Urban Garden Bike Tour (Friday) submitted 6/5**

This workshop will share the work being done in the city of Philadelphia in the area of urban agriculture with visiting activists. This tour is a biking tour because one of the themes of the USSF is encouraging the use of environmentally friendly forms of transportation. We plan to visit six community gardens in north Philadelphia. The tour will consist of 45 mins for each garden, with 15 mins of travel time and 30 min tours. At every garden the group will get a tour

and a brief history of the garden along with information about volunteer opportunities when available. We are hoping to provide bikes to people who are visiting, but we encourage residents of Philadelphia to bring their own and an extra if they can spare it for the day. The gardens we're visiting are listed below:

**USSF Philly Urban Garden Bike Tour / 2015 Featured Gardens:**

1. Brewery-Town Community Garden
2. Master's Work Community Garden
3. North Philly Peace Park - 2401 Bolton St
4. Urban Creators / Life New Grow – 2315 N 11th St
5. Historic Fair Hill - 2949 Germantown Ave
6. The Village of Arts & Humanities - 2544 Germantown
7. North philly Orchard - Edith Brown- 2nd & Susquehanna & Dauphin
8. Norris Square - 2nd & Hancock (finishing here with a fundraiser and closing reflections) Friday 5-9pm

**Participants:**

Deeq Abdi - PPEHRC

Trina Baxter - Soil Generation

Dusty Hinz- North Philly Peace Park

**Saturday - WORKSHOP: International Petition ~ Living Wage for Mothers & Caregivers (solution)**

Contact - Dean Kendall ([Global Women's Strike](#)) - (610)926-5883 / [deankendall48@epix.net](mailto:deankendall48@epix.net)

Investing in caregivers redirects economic and social policies towards everyone's survival.

Discuss how this international demand can be a tool for building an equitable world.

Women are the primary caregivers, growing most of the world's food, and fighting for survival, justice and well-being, yet we are not considered workers and are the poorest everywhere. Climate change won't be tackled unless human survival is prioritized. Investing in caregivers redirects economic and social policies towards everyone's survival. Discuss with us how this international demand can be an effective tool to building the movement for a caring and equitable world, and against the suicidally greedy market, its criminalization of poverty and protest, and its destructive and polluting wars.

**Youth Program**

**1. The Ambition Assembly (Youth) Peoples Movement Assembly**

**Youth United for Change, Philadelphia, PA**

Youth United for Change will host a People's Movement Assembly for all ages to discuss the National Student Bill of Rights. Email: [saeda@yucyouth.org](mailto:saeda@yucyouth.org)

Description: Youth United for Change will host a People's Movement Assembly for all ages to discuss the National Student Bill of Rights. "The Ambition Assembly" is aimed to push and inspire youth to fight for rights that they deserve to have in order to live fulfilling lives. The Ambition Assembly will consist of 3 breakout groups: Cohort 1 will be for youth 14-24 years,

Cohort 2 will be for youth 6-13 years young, Cohort 3 will be for ages 25 and older. We will have a youngest in charge group for youth 5 and under where the youth will learn about the organizing movement in Philadelphia using oral stories and games. Goals: Goals: 1. Educate youth and adult support on the National Student Bill of Rights: Utilizing the bill as a tool of infrastructure 2. Push youth back to the front of the struggle 3. Introduce youth rights into national dialogue 4. Create a 2 year strategy to practice the NSBR on the ground and choose rights to push for legislation as they align with the current political landscape of the people and the "State"

**Fronts of Struggle:** Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: Youth United for Change

## **2. The Climate Crisis (Youth) Workshop**

**PPEHRC, Philadelphia, PA**

Making youth aware of how important the environment is through real life examples.

Email: [cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com](mailto:cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com)

Description: Discussing the effect of the climate crisis on youth.

**Fronts of Struggle:** Earth and planet – sustainability, food sovereignty, and ecological justice, Health, healing, and spirituality, Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: PPEHRC

## **3. Asthma Nation (Youth) Workshop**

**PPEHRC, Philadelphia, PA**

This workshop will uncover the life of children living with asthma.

Email: [cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com](mailto:cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com)

Description: The struggles of being a youth with asthma.

**Fronts of Struggle:**

Health, healing, and spirituality, Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: PPEHRC

## **4. Immigrant Youth Workshop**

**PPEHRC, Philadelphia, PA**

This workshop will discuss the common struggles of immigrant youth; including language barriers.

Email: [cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com](mailto:cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com)

Description: Understanding the complexities of immigrant youth in the world.

**Fronts of Struggle:** Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture  
Organization: PPEHRC

**5. Growing Up in a Warzone (Youth) Workshop**  
**PPEHRC, Philadelphia, PA**

Gain an understanding of the environment but knowing you don't have to be a participant of violence just because it's in your neighborhood.

Email: cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com

Description: challenging conversation with youth in high risk communities.

**Fronts of Struggle:** State violence and resistance, mass incarceration and abolition, Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: PPEHRC

**6. Youth and Music (More than Just words) Workshop**  
**PPEHRC, Philadelphia, PA**

Participants will discuss lyrics and describe how it makes them feel.

Email: cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com

Description: Exploring popular music lyrics for content.

**Fronts of Struggle:** Culture – capitalist appropriation of culture, political culture, and movement culture, Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: PPEHRC

**7. Youth, Arts, and Culture Workshop**  
**PPEHRC, Philadelphia, PA**

Participants will use their medium of arts to create something based on their culture.

Email: cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com

Description: Discussing how creativity in any form is great and natural.

**Fronts of Struggle:** Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: PPEHRC

**8. Black Girls Matter Workshop**  
**PPEHRC, Philadelphia, PA**

This workshop will create a safe space to discuss pressures and solutions to stereotypes girls (of color) face.

Email: cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com

Description: Helping girls of all colors appreciate their own beauty.

**Fronts of Struggle:** Health, healing, and spirituality, Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: PPEHRC

### **9. Stopping the School to Prison Pipeline Workshop**

#### **PPEHRC, Philadelphia, PA**

Make youth aware of obstacles against them and their oppressors gain if they go to prison.

Identifying how learning institutions are preparing them for incarceration.

Email: cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com

Description: Proactive workshop designed to make youth aware of obstacles against them and solutions that will WORK!

**Fronts of Struggle:** Public education – anti-privatization, attacks, and struggles, Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: PPEHRC

### **10. Young and Hungry (Youth) Workshop**

#### **PPEHRC, Philadelphia, PA**

Safe space for sharing the struggles of not having enough to eat. What are solutions? Choosing healthy choices when the opportunity arises.

Email: cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com

Description: This workshop focuses on youth hunger low income communities.

**Fronts of Struggle:** Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: PPEHRC

### **11. Growing Up with Disabilities: The Superhero Condition (Youth) Workshop**

#### **PPEHRC, Philadelphia, PA**

This workshop is a safe space to acknowledge the many strengths that came from a disability like superheroes: ex. Daredevil

Email: cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com

Description: This workshop will show participants how incredible their 'disabilities' make them.

**Fronts of Struggle:** Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and

directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: PPEHRC

### **12. Communicating on Social Media (Youth) Workshop**

#### **Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, Philadelphia, PA**

This interactive workshop will give youth a chance to see exactly how quickly and widely their posts travel on social media.

Email: cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com

Description: This is an in depth look at how communicating through social media is fast and visible to the world. Because of this we have to be careful what we post.

Fronts of Struggle: Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign

### **13. Anti-Bullying (Youth) Workshop**

#### **Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, Philadelphia, PA**

This is an interactive workshop that creates a safe space for expressing feelings and exploring solutions around BULLYING.

Email: cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com

Description: This workshop explores the feelings of all parties involved in bullying: including the bully, the one being bullied, and the bystanders.

Fronts of Struggle: Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture.

Organization: Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign

### **14. Kids Gardening Club Session Workshop**

#### **Global Climate Convergence, Philadelphia, PA**

A hands-on gardening club skill-share for kids comprised of a gardening activity, an art activity and a food democracy lesson & discussion.

Email: timekadrew@gmail.com

Description: The Kids Gardening Club Session is a hands-on gardening club skill-share for kids comprised of a gardening activity, an art activity and a food democracy lesson & discussion. The GCC Global Gardening Initiative was created by "Gardens Rising!" & provides resources and guidelines for establishing organic, non-GMO, "Kids Global Gardening Clubs" at sites interested in teaching children about food democracy, sharing hands-on educational opportunities, promoting & fostering creativity & helping provide community food distribution support. Art feeds us, & the fusion of topical outdoor art projects with gardening make Kids Global Gardening Clubs a place where kids can engage with themselves, nature & each other through a variety of activities where they can take the lead while reusing, recycling and innovating.

Fronts of Struggle: Cooperative economics – poverty, housing, and workers’ struggles, anti-capitalism, and economic alternatives, Earth and planet – sustainability, food sovereignty, and ecological justice, Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: Global Climate Convergence

**15. Working with Youth: Peace & Social Justice Workshop  
Granny Peace Brigade Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA**

Local activists share strategies, challenges and experiences working with Philly youth to support development of peace & social justice perspectives, advocacy & actions.

Email: Jean.haskell205@gmail.com

Description: Local activists explore strategies, challenges and experiences working with Philly youth in school & community to support development of peace & social justice perspectives, advocacy & actions. Participants will share their experiences and questions; group will pose strategies to increase effectiveness of on-going peace & social justice work with youth at People's Assembly.

Fronts of Struggle: Youth and students - struggles for economic stability, health, housing; access to credible information and media tools; political study and awareness, movement planned and directed by all black lives, queer and trans black bodies and voices, the young; reconnection and appreciation of arts & culture

Organization: Granny Peace Brigade Philadelphia

**PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT ASSEMBLY: Re-Visioning the Constitution to Serve the People  
Philadelphia, PA, Aug 9, 2014**

**Goals:**

- To help introduce local/regional movement forces to the Philadelphia Local Organizing Committee (PLOC) and get them involved in that process.
- To share the PMA as a movement tool for political education.
- To encourage various fronts of struggle to think about how to frame their own work as demands for constitutionally recognized rights.

**Results:**

- Approximately 75 folks participated. It was racially diverse, with representation from groups advocating for labor, peace, justice, democracy and environmental protection.
- 25 people signed up to participate with specific PLOC committees.
- Several folks expressed interest in facilitating PMAs in their communities and/or regarding their movement work.

**Anchor Organizations:** American Friends Service Committee, Disability in Action, Move To Amend, Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights Campaign

**Additional NPC orgs that participated:** USACAI (Rob Robinson), Occupy Theory (Pam Brown), Youth United for Change (Priya Johnson)

**Agenda (with times)**

- 1) Welcome & Introductions (15)
- 2) Agenda Review, Participation Guidelines & Explanation of Process
- 3) Assumptions organizers bring to this event (readily apparent to some, perhaps a challenge for others)
  - a) The USA is not now, nor has it ever been a functioning democracy.
  - b) The US Constitution (the "Supreme Law of the Land") is *\*not\** a human rights document, it is a property rights document.
  - c) The US Constitution was used to perpetuate and to legalize attempted genocide, white supremacy and racism, male domination over women, and class oppression. It took mass social movements—broad, deep, conscious, organized and educated—to make marginal improvements in this country.
  - d) Any movement that wants to actually create a new world must create new institutions (including new legal institutions) that meets people's needs without destroying the planet that we depend upon for life itself.
  - e) Question: Do we need to rewrite this entire document to secure the world we want to live in?

We had a brief discussion in large group about these assumptions, and discovered that there was basic agreement about them. We then split into small groups for discussion of the following questions:

- 4) What is happening and why? (60)
  - Economic Crisis (late stage capitalism)
  - Political Crisis (emerging blatant fascism)
  - Ecological Crisis (Earth is being destroyed)
  - The Legal Crisis (Constitution as Supreme Law)
- 5) What is our vision for the world we want? (60)
- 6) What is our plan to get to that world? (60)
  - Note the need to imbed our demands in constitutionally recognized rights
  - Note the role the USSF III can play
  - What can/should we be doing right now?

**The following are the synthesized report backs from each small group**

***Break-out facilitated by Jerome/David***

**Our list of what we are fighting for:**

- Distribution is based on need not ability to pay
- Right to healthy food, clean water, clean air, quality housing, health care and public education should be a human right.
- Right to an ecologically sustainable society
- Right for meaningful participation on issues that affect us

- Right to real justice
- Restorative justice...no for profit prisons
- Right to a guaranteed livable salary
- Right to revoke corporate charters
- A cooperative and egalitarian society

**Things we can/should be doing right now:**

- Build a social movement big enough to transform society- the best way to do that is to be part of the Social Forum process
- Build and promote independent media, institutions, and political parties
- Promote and support the “We the People” Amendment- abolish the doctrines of corporate constitutional rights and money is political speech.
- Support full publicly funded elections

***Breakout facilitated by German***

**What holds us back from our vision?**

- Inequality
- 2 party system
- Money based society that induces poverty
- Lack of union density
- Idea of property including intellectual
- Propaganda
  - Suppression of information
- Violations of constitutional rights: law not applied equally to all people
  - Racism
  - Discrimination
  - Puts workers against each other
- Lobbyist - government
- Decimation of organized labor
  - Ability of workers to organize
- Privatized industrial prison complex
- GMO's
  - Big agriculture
- Militarized police state
- Drug war / pharmaceutical industry
- Military industrial complex
- Victimization of immigrants worldwide
- Race to bottom

**Vision of New World**

- Economic justice for all
- Multi-party system with new Congress
- Money out of politics
- Resources used for good of all
- Adopt an economic bill of rights

- Housing, universal healthcare, water, air, land, free education of all levels, family sustaining income
- Greed is not rewarded but discouraged
- Guaranteed universal franchise
- A world without a military
- A system where policies to promote a sustainable environment is a priority
- Local farms, local economies, shared resources
- Land use shared not owned
- Art is encouraged

### **Path to Vision**

- World without borders
- Inform and organize / support services
- Engagement with others
- Safe spaces to gather, including digitally
- Commitments to visions beyond organizations' specific goals
- Unified power supporting worker rights
- Connection - unification
- Concrete actions long pathway
  - Local investment
  - S. 2515 Community Integration Act of 2014: Guaranteed right to home and community based services for people with disabilities
  - Single payer
  - Worker card check - making it easier for worker representation
  - Make illegal privatization of public utilities while finding ways to fully fund them without defunding other common goods, ie. heating, welfare, etc.

### Starting tomorrow

- Support 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to overturn Citizens United
- ID legislative supporters
- Spread the word far and wide of USSF - 3

### ***Breakout facilitated by Walda/Pam***

1 - Create a document that lists grievances and articulates vision including values of the new society

2 - Create an organizational structure:

- develops popular education (with consideration of digital divide)
- creates sites of engagement
- serves as a clearinghouse for information (everything is in one place)
- prefigures the kind of democracy we would strive for

3 - Challenge the state and expose its contradictions through a variety of strategies including direct actions like giving away free food in low income neighborhoods and creating cooperatives

Additional points re: vision:

- beloved community, affirmation of dignity
- all required for life is provided
- free education
- freedom from anxiety
- freedom determined by true democracy
- break out of culture of individualism, what does freedom look like in context of community?, full human expression occurs in community with others
- peace
- commons
- beauty, art, creativity, athletics
- care for environment

***Breakout facilitated by Cheri/Galen***

- Our group had a rich conversation about the rights of people over corporations. About how we would value the worth of all human beings and that everyone would have something to contribute to society. We would also have a responsibility to the next 7 generations. To People, the planet and peace.
- We agreed that time was of essence and that we needed to begin having these conversations everywhere and build for the next USSF.

***Breakout facilitated by Kaitlin***  
***Breakout facilitated by Keith***

**Faith and Justice Transition Document**

Aaron Appel, May 5, 2015

**Flow of Faith & Justice Committee Events at U.S. Social Forum**

The U.S. Social Forum developed from the World Social Forum and previously took place in Atlanta (2007) and Detroit (2010). It is taking place this summer in Philadelphia and San Jose and will represent a convergence for the development of peoples' solutions to political, economic, and ecological crises in America. The Faith & Justice Committee will organize workshops, cultural events, supportive housing options, non-violent civil disobedience training, and a people's movement assembly (PMA) on "how our communities can be on the front lines of justice."

*Thursday (6/25):*

- Registration and opening plenary (F&J can organize some faith speaker to start the event)
- Evening: Interfaith reflection with opening worship or other cultural offering

*Friday (6/26):*

- Morning: Interfaith worship

- People's Seminary: Workshops on liberation theology in the U.S., building community, preaching for peace and justice, and how to organize congregations for grassroots work
- Nonviolent civil disobedience training in conjunction with other U.S.S.F. tracks
- Evening: Another interfaith reflection exploring the lessons of the day from a variety of tracks and preparing for the rest of the People's Seminary and the PMA the next day

*Saturday (6/27):*

- Morning: Interfaith worship
- Complete People's Seminary
- PMA: Opening presentation to set context, breakout groups among different faiths and/or specific topics (with facilitators), and regroup in general plenary to discuss solutions
- Evening: Another interfaith reflection offering more thoughts on the PMA

*Sunday (6/28):*

- Complete the PMA by synthesizing the solutions proposed in the previous PMA sessions
- After the Forum:*
- Accumulate photographs, recordings, and notes from the PMA
  - Follow-up to maintain connections and adhere to the solutions proposed in the PMA

### **Faith & Justice Committee To-do List**

The following is a combination of short-term and long-term work that needed to be done as of the end of April. Interspersed are questions that may need to be answered at some point.

#### **Outreach:**

- Make sure participating faith leaders and organizers email something along the lines of the following blurb to their contacts. Also, have them send out flyers and other communication to their congregations inviting participation in the Forum from people on the ground.
- Our [Faith and Justice Committee](#) will organize worship and reflection, music and cultural offerings, workshops, and a [people's movement assembly](#) on how faith communities can be on the front lines of movements for justice. If you have any questions or want to join our organizing efforts, please email us at [faith@ussfphilly.org](mailto:faith@ussfphilly.org). We hope you will bless us with your presence.

## **USSF San Jose, CA, June 24-27, 2015**

### **Evaluation by San Jose and Bay Local Organizing Committee**

**Participating:** Michelle Córdova (San Jose Peace and Justice Coalition – SJPJC), Sharat Lin (SJPJC), Richard Hobbs a (Human Agenda), Peggy Elwell (Low-Income Self-Help Center) and John Marienthal, David Cobb (Move to Amend), Shamako Noble (US Social Forum National Coordinator)

#### **What went well in the Social Forum?**

- Quality of workshops
- The number of workshops
- The diversity of topics
- Good learning experience
- They were a vehicle to do things
- Being at the edge of the Silicon Valley can bring important topics to the area like surviving skills, health, homelessness, etc.
- A good learning experience on how to organize
- There was a good effort in outreach even though we were not able of getting other people/organizations involved
- Democratic composition was very helpful
- Good experience to work together
- We were able to pull the social forum the last 3 weeks

#### **Challenges that we face**

- There was no independence on taking decisions
- The subcommittees were not able to have control and take decisions
- There other movements/events taking place or that people was focused on like Post Occupy and Black Lives Matter.
- There was so many directions
- We did not have a venue until the last moment
- We had no program until few days before
- Not having a venue and program ready did not allow us to spread the word properly and engage people's attention.
- The structure changes
- We were underfunded
- Groups were not empowered to make decisions
- The nature of the Social Forum itself
- The Social Forum is not bringing people as it use to
- It was based on few individual forces
- Political gap in the forum (Black Lives Matter, crime & justice, etc.)
- We had no US Social Forum banners

- The people who attended were basically locals, for instance there were few people from San Francisco.
- We ended exhausted

**What can we get out of this experience?**

**How are we going to keep working for social justice?**

- The World Social Forum that will take place in Canada next year has requested us to form a Local Committee to promote the event.
- We should see toward Richmond Progressive Alliances as an example to follow.
- We should have a left local forum
- The SJPJC will have a Social Forum Series in order to bring back important issues that were discuss during the Social Forum and great workshops and PMA's that were held to the public who were not able to attend.
- Send emails and invite people to discuss what we are going to do next and how we should build a momentum.
- There is a suggestion that we should have a political formation.
- The Low-Income Self Help Center does not want to continue working as part of the coalition for the moment. They are willing to cooperate with efforts on a case-by-case basis, depending on how the issues coincide with its priorities.
- Richard Wolf is coming, we can take advantage of his presence in the area to promote an event.

## **USSF Jackson, MS People's Movement Assembly, June 26-28, 2015**

### **Summer of Our Power Just Transition Southern People's Movement Assembly**

#### **Our gathering**

Over 250 Activists and organizers from Mississippi and throughout the south and southwest gathered in Jackson, MS at the Chokwe Lumumba Center for Economic Democracy and Development Friday, June 26th through Sunday, June 28th, 2015 for the Summer of Our Power Just Transition Southern People's Movement Assembly, organized and hosted by Cooperation Jackson. The Assembly also served as Jackson's contribution to the 2015 polycentric US Social Forum, which was also held in Philadelphia, PA and San Jose, CA.

The primary objective of the Just Transition Southern People's Movement Assembly was to consolidate more social justice forces in South around the Just Transition framework for social transformation and climate justice. To this end, the Assembly secured, as you will read, solid commitments from the activists and organizations present to build a "freedom road" from Jackson to Paris through the Summer of Our Power activities and beyond to build the transformative movement for system change that our people's and planet so desperately need and to confront the false solutions to the climate crisis that the worlds governments and corporations are going to agree upon at the United Nations COP21 conference in Paris, France from November 30th through December 11th, 2015.

#### **Our Partners**

Cooperation Jackson thanks our partners and allies in helping to make this Southern People's Movement Assembly a success. Our partners included the National Planning Committee (NPC) of the US Social Forum, the Our Power Campaign, the Climate Justice Alliance, the Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, the Reinvest Network, and the Southern Grassroots Economies Project (SGEP).

#### **Our Intentions**

Poverty and powerlessness for the overwhelming majority are steadily increasing throughout the United States. This immiseration is a product of widening income inequality and the increased concentration of wealth in the hands of a small minority, which is the direct result of the neo-liberal strategy pursued by transnational corporations and the barons of finance who lord over the capitalist world-system.

We need a new socio-economic system that eliminates the need for extractive based production, the depletion of the earth's resources, the unsustainable need for growth and the oppression, exploitation, and inhumane suffering that is at the heart of the capitalist system. We need an economic system that is both democratic and restorative.

A system where workers, producers, distributors, and consumers all have an equal stake in the ownership of the essential resources and means of production; an equal say in when, why, how, by whom and under what conditions goods and services are produced and distributed; and an equal say in the terms of compensation and/or value exchanged in all economic transactions. And a system that restores the earth's eco-systems, structures production in

accordance with the natural energy and resource recycling systems of the earth, eliminates the need for non-biodegradable waste products, and eliminates the externalization of production costs and offsets. These are the basics of economic democracy and ecological restoration.

The movement for economic democracy – as expressed by the growing solidarity economy, cooperative, and rejuvenated workers movements – is steadily growing in the United States. But it still has a long way to go towards amassing the strength necessary to act as a truly transformative force.

The South is one of the global epicenters of the petro-chemical driven extractive economy, which is at the heart of the capitalist-imperialist world system, and the primary cause of climate change. Oil, natural gas, coal, rare earth materials, lumber, and mass mono-crop, meat and fishing industries are the bedrocks of our regional economy. The South also bears the brunt of the deadly by-products of the extractive industries in the form of environmental racism and the extremely high prevalence of toxin induced cancers, birth defects, learning disabilities, and respiratory diseases that afflict the region.

We have to end the region's dependence on the extractive economy in a manner that ensures that the workers, families and communities that are dependent on these industries for their livelihoods are not abandoned and discarded. And deeper still we have to defend Mother Earth – our survival as a species and the species we depend upon require it. In order to defend the Earth and avoid ecological collapse, we have to eliminate the capitalist socio-economic system that is destroying our planet. Eliminating a socio-economic system requires a profound mass movement that changes socio-political systems and alters human behavior, particularly the behaviors that guide our collective choices about who decides what we produce and consume, what we produce and consume, why we produce and consume it, and why what we produce and consume is distributed in the unequal and inequitable manner that it is. In effect, we need a mass movement for a Just Transition and we have to build it!

Climate Change is real. Its impact and growing threat is not to be taken lightly, as the heat waves in Pakistan and India and the drought in the Caribbean and on the west coast of the United States painfully illustrate.

Resistance is growing! From Pope Francis' ground breaking encyclical declaring climate change an existential threat to life on Earth and denouncing the extractive economy and the "throw away consumer culture" produced by capitalism; to the Dutch High Court's ruling that the government of the Netherlands must reduce carbon emissions by 25% by 2020; to the Islamic Declaration on Climate Change which calls on the end of the "relentless pursuit of economic growth". The people of the world are beginning to get the message that a change must come.

The Summer of Our Power's Just Transition Southern People's Movement Assembly, which was part of the 2015 US Social Forum, was an effort to deepen and expand the southern resistance movement for climate justice and a new economy. Cooperation Jackson called for this Southern People's Movement Assembly to declare that, "another system of production is possible, and another socio-economic system is necessary" to avoid an extinction level catastrophe. We all

have a role to play in transforming the capitalist socio-economic system that is destroying our planet.

Cooperation Jackson intends on making a substantive contribution towards the development of this movement in our Jackson, Mississippi base as we work to infuse the Just Transition framework and demands into the execution of the Jackson-Kush Plan. Our first task is making Jackson a Zero Waste City by 2025.

We are working with the Southern Grassroots Economies Project (SGEP), the Our Power Campaign, and the National Planning Committee (NPC) of the US Social Forum, amongst other networks and alliances, to build and expand the movement for economic democracy throughout the United States.

### **Our Tracks**

As we mapped our struggles across the southern region for the last 50 plus years to create our purpose and set intention for the PMA, we realized that our struggles are centered through our individual and collective identities of Youth, Gender, Labor/Worker, Economic Democracy and Energy Democracy and their relation to system change. The five tracks were thus created to be addressed through the PMA process to bring about local to global strategies that influence system change.

### **Our outlines of work done in tracks and community report backs**

#### ***Workers/Labor & System Change***

##### **Our Key Questions for Labor, Workers & System Change**

- Who owns labor? How do we end the exploitation of labor?
- Where does the (economic and political) power reside in our society?
- What do we see (objective and subjective conditions) and what do we want?
- Divide and conquer between racial justice, environmental justice, labor justice movements – how and where can we build bridges?

##### **Our Collective Visioning for Labor, Workers & System Change**

- What would the world look like with a Just Transition in place?
- Educating the entire planet about how the original economy worked. How the land fed us and we made sure we fed the land.
- Make sure that technology serves humanity, not just profit and making sure we're not reducing populations to surplus social forces and displace them from their communities.
- Respecting/understanding what Indigenous people did/do, working toward decolonization
- Value of our families and local communities.
- We have to lift up the underground economy and its importance to our communities and to the world economy in general.

##### **Our Programs and Demands for Labor, Workers & System Change**

- Worker power – we have to struggle to make sure that labor owns and controls its own power.
- Organization – a new type of political party? Global solidarity? Bottom up? Localization? A new kind of organization?

- It is going to look different everywhere? We need to respect local variances and differences.
- Building while we continue to do the work
- We have to be cautious about working within the system, but do so when and where we can to make change.
- We have to start practicing and building the just transition ourselves
- Remember what our ancestors did before us, what we're doing today is for tomorrow.
- Demands in a Just Transition
  - To get to a place of making demands, we have to realize our own power first.
  - Are we demanding in our spaces that we work now that we have opportunities to grow veggies, or that employers put solar panels on the roof, divest from fossil fuels, etc.?
  - Or that they keep employment in that area and that our jobs are sustained.
- If we realize that we own our own labor, then when a company decides to move, we can take it over and keep on operating as a cooperative.
- We need to study collaborations between labor and cooperatives, nationally, like the United Steelworkers and Mondragon, and internationally.
- Will labor unions have a place in the future, after we've freed the land, taken back our own labor? They do now, and they will during the transition. The future however, is an open question.
  - Community Benefit Agreements are beneficial for certain institutions, but should be beneficial for the people, not just the politicians that make those agreements.
- Other pieces/demands:
  - Living wage
  - A guaranteed minimum income

### ***Economic Democracy & System Change***

#### **Our Key Questions and Responses for Economic Democracy & System Change**

What does a Just Transition look like to you?

- Reparations
- Power
- Dignity
- Healthy living
- Teamwork
- Liberation

Discussion about middle layer/bribe strata (between workers and capitalists): Groups that are easily bribed by the capitalists (owners) that we have to take a nuanced approach to engaging

- Professionals
- Politicians
- Administrators
- Military and police

#### **Our Track Summation for Economic Democracy & System Change**

- We have to come up with effective strategies to engage these strata and make sure they utilize their talents, resources, and time to support the people's movements.

- Strategies to build alternative
  - Welcoming converts/former naysayers with open arms.
  - Teaching our actual history to our youth.
  - (Internationalism) Connecting with people who are fighting same struggles globally.
  - Solidarity – the general weakness of the “first world left” poses a challenge to practicing building solidarity with global movements.
- We share the same enemies.
- The conditions degrading the quality of life are the same.
- The capitalist and ecological crises impact all of us.
- Development
  - Traditional path is for a developer to find a piece of land and develop it so that they profit it from it.
  - What if communities got to come up with the vision and plan for development in a way that maintains collective ownership of a project?
  - (Community Wealth Building) If communities are their own developers, wealth and power created via development stay within the community.
- Resistance
  - Defining baby steps, short term and long term goals
  - Development
  - Action Development
- COP 21 – Conference of polluters, its outcomes are likely to aggravate the climate crisis further
  - What are existing campaigns?
    - Gulf Future
    - Duke energy in North Carolina
- How to support ongoing struggles?
  - Help by countering the narratives (like that the Gulf has recovered)
  - Signing petitions
  - Merging campaigns
  - Awareness raising
  - Knowledge sharing events for people fighting different utilities across the country
- Plans to defeat COP21/what would we like to see come out of it?
  - Complete ban on fracking worldwide
  - Frontlines communities involved in planning of emissions reductions
  - Reparations to global south for climate harms
  - Reduction of utilization of energy and implementation of renewables
  - Decentralization of energy
  - Provisions for the rights of mother earth
  - People based solutions as opposed to technology-based solutions
- Question: What about an alternative term to development?

## ***Youth & System Change***

### **Our Key Questions for Youth & System Change**

- What is change?
- What do you want to see change?
- Gentrification, access to education, pollution, violence, powers
- What do you think when you hear climate change? People of Color Communities
- Emphasizing the effect that the current pollutions will have on future generations Important points
- NO JOBS – how do we create a place that has innovative economies, fair jobs
- Recognizing that we are all the same, we should be living in a balance
- Value of food: how we produce it, exchange it
- Education system: end to testing, different methods of teaching, valuing differences
- Accountability: generational education, how do we seek TRUE accountability

### **Mapping Our Potential for Youth & System Change**

What can Youth do?

- Reinforcing recycling methods, regulation, methods
- Cooperation's, taking concerns to the streets
- Creating the new—recognizing that the earth is the only home we have
- Recreating/repurposing the materials available
- Feeding/producing healthy ideas
- Guerrilla Gardening
- Direct representation in political offices
- Using ourselves to tell our stories/concerns
- Finding a way to live with our diversities
- Program and Demands
- Incorporating understanding of sustainability.
- Youth justice, interaction of youth and current social justice system.
- Solar panels; giving power to the community.
- Access to taxes by community and where that goes
- Removing ROTC
- Putting environment into school curriculums
- Creating/opening more conscious/historical context in hip-hop culture—recognizing the power of it
- Holding government accountable
- Having a responsibility over creating a new space, a safe space

### **Questions**

- Why should we remove the ROTC program? Sometimes it is important for young men. What are alternatives?

### **Answers**

- Removing the system, the pressure to join the military and serving a system that does not serve the youth or people of color
- New African Scouts – current alternative
- Highlighting the history of revolution, political prisoners

## ***Energy Democracy & System Change***

### **Our Starting Points for Energy Democracy and System Change**

- We recognize that our current system is wholly dependent upon the extraction of resources and the labor; where it begins, where it ends
- Equitable distribution: right to sharing resources
- How do we find a way to manage the process and provide for the community?
- Building an education that introduces the terms, and acknowledgment of the relationships we hold with mother earth and each other to create a harmony. We can only move forward together.

### **Our Demands for Energy Democracy and System Change**

- Stop displacement
- Repurpose all of what we produce and consume
- Build a New Regenerative Economy
- Peoples Power Plan
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Community/Collective Ownership
- Recognizing the rights of Mother Earth as well as our rights on Earth
- Climate Job Programs
- Ecological Reparations
- 100% Renewable Energy

## ***Women, Gender, Justice and System Change***

### **Our Challenges for Women, Gender Justice & System Change**

- Issues with Combating anti-racism
- Gender equality
- Addressing the needs of Indigenous communities
- Decolonization: How do we practice this politics effectively?
- Naming problems facing women
- Hetero-patriarchy
- Lack of access trans women and women to employ
- Incarceration of Black women
- Sexism in the environmental movement
- Anti-Blackness in Asian communities, accountability
- Young people and the system that does not help them combat racial and gender issues
- Examining thought, reflecting on black lives, pro-black, resisting anti-black sentiment
- Highlighting the work of allies, #asianforblacklives, acknowledging that
- Learning shares-and making that learning broader
- When learning new things modifying and making sure put into practice
- Identifying gender tasks and making sure that women get to choose first
- Values principals and politics exercise
- Sex workers as a frontline struggles-we need to understand that all work is valuable through unions
- New Movement moment-co-conspirators, working with them, becoming allies with our white counterpart

- Intersectionality
- Rights of children-Undoing patriarchy and undoing practices that put children's lives in danger

### **Our Actions for Women, Gender, Justice & System Change**

- Uplifting the stories, connecting them, and creating a plan that can entail all of the needs of the community and Mother Earth
- Centering Women and Gender in our System Change approaches
- Start with Questions
- Actively resisting
- Joint struggle –what is the struggle and identifying common enemy
- Loving black people more than hating the state
- Challenging scarcity-drawing from the resources we have, saying no to things that compromise our values

### **Our Collective Next Steps from PMA onward**

- Brittany-Summer of Our Power-Fellows will play roles in local strategizing, project building, what Just Transition looks like for community, local relay around the country ending in the Gulf coast to identify what power looks like in frontline communities
- Helena-Just Transition Assemblies-Coming together to envision what Just Transition looks like to each individual Community-see Helena's chart
- Cindy-Road to Paris & Beyond-United Nations Framework on
  - All heads of states come together to discuss and debate climate change and solutions, but really to lobby for industrialized nations, green-washing, make money, imagine geo-engineering

### **Our Calendar of Events for Just Transition and Summer of Our Power**

All events centered around coming up with climate solutions and making demands

- Summer of Our Power: June – August 2015
  - Commemoration of Katrina & Rita in New Orleans, LA Saturday, August 29th
  - Flood the System Decentralized Actions in September
  - Decentralized Actions in the U.S.-Oct 14
- UNFCCC/COP21-Nov. 30-Dec 11,
  - Global Day of Mobilization in Paris and Around the World Sunday, November 29th
  - Global Villages of Alternatives December 5th and 6th
  - Escalation of Actions (Decentralized) in Paris December 7th – 11th
  - Major Civil Disobedience in Paris, Saturday, December 12th

### **Action Ideas:**

Hold Local assemblies with written recommendations for Paris, striving for in 12 cities in the United States.

### **Our Conclusive Reflections and Asks**

The struggles of the historically oppressed and exploited peoples in the south in the last decade are best exemplified by the catastrophic failure of the state to protect the most vulnerable communities in the wake of Hurricane Katrina's devastation of the Gulf Coast. The continuing

cycles of oppression, inequity and economic, environmental, social injustices post Katrina clearly indicate the need to build people power across all lines and boundaries. It becomes imperative for southern movements to collaboratively, cooperatively and self determinedly co-create conscious and radical strategies that are centered on building southern people's power to combat state violence and capitalist extraction and exploitation in all their forms. The tenth anniversary of Katrina is a critical space for southern people to analyze the specific and intersectional challenges that our communities are combating to plan a "Road to Paris" that is local in focus, but global in impact. Cooperation Jackson as a rising grassroots entity focuses on building worker owned cooperatives that value the needs of the Jackson, MS communities across all identity lines of its constituents: Youth, Women, Queer, Trans, Immigrants, Workers and all Black people severely and adversely impacted by economic, environmental and energy inequities.

Cooperation Jackson is being built on the shoulders of the historic human and civil rights struggle in Mississippi. As we move towards making Jackson a Human Rights City, it is imperative for us to build the power of the people through social, cultural, educational, economic and political initiatives that educate, motivate, cooperate and organize our communities to continue to determine and sustain themselves.

Please continue to build, support and grow in solidarity with Cooperation Jackson to continue to amplify Southern Peoples Power!

## **USSF Tijuana, MX People's Movement Assembly, June 25, 2015**

### **Final Declaration**

#### **World Social Forum Bi-National Convergence – United States and Mexico**

Meeting in the city of Tijuana, Mexico on June 25, 2015 – as the Bi-National World Social Forum Mexico-United States – people from the original nations, social movements, workers organizations, victims of violence, defenders of human rights, activists, journalists, academics and students express our indignation at the current situation and our solidarity with those compañeras y compañeros who struggle for their rights and the right to truth and justice in Ayotzinapa, Iguala y San Quintín; with the yaqui, triqui, otomíes, cucapá, kumiai and all original peoples; with the victims of violence and human rights violations who continue to be "invisible" to the Mexican government; and with the thousands of Mexican and Central American migrants under attack as they search for a dignified life for themselves and their families.

They are not alone and from the border we will do what is necessary so they can achieve what they long for and deserve.

And so:

1. We demand that the Mexican State recognize workers' rights and implement policies to combat unstable wages and assure dignified working conditions, incorporating international standards. We demand that it stress the protection of women workers, the prevention of child labor and the protection of migrant workers, original peoples, disabled peoples, LGBTTTIQ people, journalists and defenders of human rights.
2. We vigorously demand that peaceful political struggle and the organization of working people not be subjected to criminalization or repression. And we express our solidarity with those groups, original peoples and organizations that have been under attack for defending their rights, particularly our compañero and compañera day workers from the San Quintin Valley and the yaqui, otomís, cucapás y kumiai tribes.
3. We demand immediate implementation of laws and amnesty for the freedom of those who struggle for the rights of original peoples.
4. We denounce the strategies of separation, division and conflict generation inside the original indigenous communities and people that have been promoted by the agencies of the Mexican federal government.
5. We demand that the lands of original peoples and their sacred places be respected and protected from sale.
6. We proclaim the relaunching of the Plan de Ayala, drafted by revolutionary leader Emiliano Zapata during the Mexican Revolution, to protect land and rural worker rights.
7. While migration is a human right, many people are forced to migrate each year due to crime and the fact that their economic, social and cultural rights are neither respected nor guaranteed in their birth places and homes of choice. Therefore, we demand that

the Mexican state respect and ensure respect for the rights of people in their birth-places and homes of choice, guaranteeing these rights so these peoples can engage in projects of economic and social development, that the existence of migration be recognized as both as a way of expelling and exploitatively receiving workers and migrant workers, that bi-national public policies be created with a focus on dual responsibility and multiculturalism to guarantee the protection of migrating peoples' rights in the countries that are receiving them, expelling them and serving as migratory pathways for them.

8. We emphasize the responsibility of the governments of the United States of America, Mexico and Central America for the violations of human rights y the absence of guarantees of protection for migrating peoples and so we demand an end to these violations and reparations for all migrating people who have been victims of rights violations.
9. We call on the mass media of North America and Mexico to halt the spreading of racist and discriminatory images and statements about migrating peoples as well as information that criminalizes their struggle for human rights.
10. We demand that the governments of the United States and Mexico finally address the demands of the 4.6 million workers of the Bracero Program (1942-1964) for the back pay that is owed them and restitution for the harm done by the decades-long ignoring of these rights.
11. We call for respect for the international agreements reached between the U.S. and Mexico that guarantee universal access to the water as a legal and human right.
12. We demand the prohibition of water basin transfers that endanger the environmental rights of entire populations.
13. The problem of the environment must be addressed through integrated social, technological, economic, educational and standards-setting strategies that allow for changes in consumption that benefit the environment. Particularly, we demand that the governments of the United States and Mexico guarantee air quality, the safe handling of solid waste, the development of safe, clear and efficient transport; and the bi-national treatment of water as a human right in light of the droughts that are affecting the California and other regions of both countries.
14. We denounce the human rights violations suffered by communities and peoples by the implementation of super-projects such as the development of tourist complexes, hydraulic projects, highway construction, hydro-carbon extraction (including fracking) and the production of energy contaminants. We demand the immediate suspension of these activities and reparations for the harm they have done to people.
15. We call on the scientific and academic communities to undertake studies on alternative methods and technologies for energy production that are truly clean, safe and sustainable and we call on all communities and peoples in both countries to defend the natural resources that we all share.
16. We urge the educational institutions to make a genuine effort to make teachers, investigators and students sensitive to the problems faced by working people and their eco-systems as well as incorporate human rights, environmental education and gender

rights into their educational programs.

17. We propose the implementation of a program of effective public consultations, citizens' initiatives, plebiscites and referendums to determine the design and improvement of public administration that is responsive to the demands of the people.
18. As a principle of equality, we demand the establishment of laws that guarantee gender equality in marriage and combat the discrimination and violence due to sexual orientation and gender identification.
19. We call for an accurate and public reporting of all incidents of, reports of and complaints received by the Mexican National System to Prevent, Address, Sanction and Eliminate Violence against Women and immediately issue necessary warnings in the areas in which violence against women has intensified.
20. We demand that the public institutions charged with protection of the rights of women abide by the principles of secularism, transparency and autonomy and that their staff have the necessary knowledge, attitude and aptitude to guarantee maximum effectiveness in this work.
21. We call for effective guarantees of the right to choice and the immediate release of all women imprisoned in Baja California and other states because of their exercise of the right to voluntarily interrupt pregnancy.
22. We commit to developing a network among the people and groups who work in the California regions for the defense and protection of the human rights of migrating workers, women and other vulnerable peoples from discrimination and violence, favoring the building of a network of joint action, reflecting the commitment to never stop building a just world.

## **5. Where from here?**

1. **2016 World Social Forum Montreal, August 9-14, 2016** [www.fsm2016.org](http://www.fsm2016.org)
2. **Convene NPC and PMA representative in summer 2016 to discuss:**
  - 2016 electoral process, what this means for transformative systemic change, social movement struggle, and how social forum forces might engage; and
  - 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US Social Forum process in 2017.

## **Appendices**

- **Appendix 1: Brief timeline and history of USSF 2007 & USSF 2010** page 52
- **Appendix 2: Movement Schools, USSF3** page 55
- **Appendix 3: USSF3 - 2014 – 2016 PLAN #7 5.28.2014** page 58
- **Appendix 4: US Social Forum III Political Framing Documents** page 61
- **Appendix 5: Financial Report** page 68

## **Appendix 1**

### **Brief timeline and history of USSF 2007 & USSF 2010**

#### **Road to Atlanta 2007**

US Social Forum (USSF) forces had participated in the World Social Forum (WSF) since its beginning in 2001 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. After urging by the International Council (IC) of the WSF, these grassroots organizations held a consultation with broader US social movement forces in 2004, and moved forward with the social forum process in the US. We organized the National Planning Committee (NPC) of the USSF, and began organizing the US Social Forum process. The NPC selected Atlanta, GA as the site, lifting up the history and centrality of the US South in building a movement for another US and another world.

Grassroots Global Justice Alliance (GGJ) formed out of the global justice movement and social forum process. GGJ and its 30+ grassroots member organizations held an important space in organizing the social forum in the US. As did Jobs with Justice and Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights Campaign (PPEHRC) – the only US organizations to be members of the WSF IC.

The first US Social Forum, with Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty & Genocide as anchor organization, converged in 2007 in Atlanta. We postponed the forum for a year so that Gulf South communities and organizations destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and government abandonment and violence in August 2005 could fully participate. And so our movement could begin to reflect on the lessons learned from this human and ecological crisis of destruction, displacement, and death. The road to Atlanta included two important regional forums – the Southeast Social Forum in Durham, NC in summer 2006 and the Border Social Forum in Juarez, Mexico in fall 2006.

The social forum technology working group led by May First/People Link argued for an open source (free and open software) technology platform as part of the social movement struggle against corporate and state control of the internet, websites, and social media. Tension, especially in 2010, emerged over using social media on corporate platforms since they were useful movement organizing and mobilizing tools without open source alternatives. And the conversation into 2015 and beyond continues.

USSF 2007 included 1,000 workshops and a closing People's Movement Assembly synthesizing the vision and demands of the movement forces present. There was a children's social forum, health and healing space, an active gender justice working group and presence, political culture and performance, thematic plenaries beginning with frontline voices from the Gulf South Katrina struggle, tents for youth, Indigenous, democracy, Palestine, and other struggles, an opening march lifting up Atlanta movement struggles, political soccer, a Southwest freedom caravan, and more (see *The United States Social Forum: Perspectives of a Movement*. 2010. USSF Book Committee: M. Karides, W. Katz-Fishman, R. Brewer, A. Lovelace & J. Scott. Chicago: Changemaker Publications for a more thorough documentation).

The grassroots sector in the social forum was strong and robust in 2007, and brought in some trade union forces. NPC organizations donated significant staff time and money resources to make the social forum happen. As it became clear that the forum was a reality, some foundation funds also came in. Though grassroots fundraising, including individual and organizational registrations, brought in essential resources. The political will and functional unity of the NPC in that movement moment of resistance made the first US Social Forum a powerful convergence of over 12,000.

### **Road to Detroit 2010**

Following 2007, some organizations took new directions and fell away. Three formations that were formalized at the US Social Forum – the National Domestic Workers Alliance, Excluded Workers Congress, and Right to the City – stepped back to concentrate on their own base building and campaigns. The National Domestic Workers Alliance and Excluded Workers Congress developed deeper relationships with Jobs with Justice and the AFL-CIO. They are fighting for expanding workers’ rights and inclusion for those excluded from the 1935 National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). Right to the City was responding to rapidly intensifying gentrification and privatization of urban space, land, housing, and services.

The challenge of anchoring the USSF was intense politically and organizationally. Detroit emerged as the only viable site for the next social forum. Most NPC organizations came back together to organize US Social Forum 2 in Detroit, MI in 2010. The technological revolution in the auto industry and the 2008 global crisis and “great recession” in the US placed Detroit at the epicenter of the capitalist crisis. (Even with this set of realities it wasn’t a straightforward selection process. Detroit epitomized the descent from the auto capital of the capitalist world to the destruction wrought by the technological revolution in industry – massive displacement, dispossession, economic and political violence, and appointed emergency managers negating any vestige of democracy. This reality, a \$100,000 budget surplus from 2007, and continuing foundation funding for the social forum process contributed to the convergence of over 20,000 at the USSF 2. Detroit was the most resourced US Social Forum in terms of both money and staffing. At the same time, the depth of the economic destruction in Detroit presented the forum with problems such as lack of options for transportation and the inability to secure and set up tents.

New Detroit area forces and organizations stepped up and joined the process. Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO), Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC) took the lead in anchoring the Detroit social forum along with anchor organizations *Centro Obrero* and Southeast Michigan Jobs with Justice. Long and deep connections to workers struggles within the trade unions and anti-poverty struggles in the community facilitated participation and support from local unions and formation of the poverty working group and Assembly to End Poverty.

USSF 2010 included a dynamic opening march and environmental justice action, powerful plenaries, a children’s social forum, a youth social forum organized by the youth working group, neighborhood work brigades, bicycle brigades, Southwest freedom caravan 2, and an anti-

poverty march from the Delta to Detroit. We strived for arts and culture to be better infused into the social forum process, and still have much more to learn and do. The health and healing working group organized first aid medical stations and health and healing spaces. They wrote a very useful documentation report from those who held the work in 2007 and 2010 to future social forums and movement processes. Again the forum offered 1,000 workshops. And also included 48 Peoples Movement Assemblies and a powerful PMA synthesis presented at the closing plenary. Project South took the lead in organizing and documenting over 40 Peoples Movement Assemblies following 2007 on the road to Detroit; and held the PMA process during USSF 2 and after.

The NPC and the Detroit social forum staff worked to do evaluation and summation, along with some analysis to offer political direction going forward. And the NPC set aside \$50,000 to secure venues and some minimal staffing for the next social forum.

The social forum as a movement tool with no permanent staff, no fixed location, and confronting a fundamentally new and difficult political and financial context was undergoing changes in form and content. This presented substantial challenges for advancing the movement building energies of Detroit and pivoting forward toward a possible 3<sup>rd</sup> US Social Forum.

## Appendix 2

### Movement Schools USSF3

#### Questions for ongoing movement study, analysis and strategy

- Why the technological revolution and robotics create an antagonism within capitalist relations of production, how this necessitates rupture in the long run?
- What does anti-capitalism mean politically, electorally, on the ground?
- What does political independence mean concretely? What does it look like as forces maneuver day-to-day?
- What is our vision and why is a cooperative society possible and necessary?
- How do we get there

#### Why Movement Schools?

Movement schools are the next step in the US Social Forum process to deepen and broaden our collective understanding of how we can contribute to movement building in the current moment. The purpose of movement schools is to grow our movement leadership through an intentional process of collective study interrelated with collective political practice. Movement schools can be a follow-up to PMAs where we can go deeper in thinking and planning together to build a movement that can win.

#### Sample Curriculum: Questions & Readings

##### Essential questions (alternative questions below)

1. What is the current political moment that informs our work?
  - The economic crisis
  - The ecological crisis
  - The political crisis
2. Vision the world we are fighting for – what does it look like and how do we get there?
  - What does a communal and cooperative economy look like?
  - What is real democracy for the people?
  - What is our relationship to Mother Earth?
3. What is political independence and why do we need it?
4. How can our movement go from the defensive to the offensive?
5. How do transformative movement activists work in the reform struggle without becoming reformists?

##### Essential readings (specific movement schools can add readings on their struggle, region, etc.)

- **USF3 Framing Documents** (Goals, Urgency Statement, “We Believe” and 3-year Plan overview) (doc)
- **“A Revolutionary Talks Politics with the American People”** by Nelson Peery (pp. 5-12) in *The Future is Up to Us*. 2002. Chicago: Speakers for a New America (pdf)

- **“Industrial civilization headed for ‘irreversible collapse’ – NASA funded study”**  
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/earth-insight/2014/mar/14/nasa-civilisation-irreversible-collapse-study-scientists>
- **“14 Defining Characteristics of Fascism”** <http://www.rense.com/general37/char.htm>
- **“Women Confronting Terror”** by R. Brewer, M. B. Kuumba, W. Katz-Fishman & N. Rousseau (pp 102-08) in *The Roots of Terror*. 2004. Project South (pdf)
- **“What is a Revolution”** by Tariq Ali in *Counterpunch*, September 4, 2013 (pdf)
- **“The Progressive Movement is a PR Front for Rich Democrats”** by John Stauber in *Counterpunch*, March 15, 2013 (pdf)
- **“The Weapon of Theory”** by Amilcar Cabral, 1966  
<http://www.marxists.org/subject/africa/cabral/1966/weapon-theory.htm>

### Supplementary readings

- ***On Practice: On the Relation Between Knowledge and Practice, Between Knowing and Doing*** by Mao Tse-Tung, July 1937  
[https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1\\_16.htm](https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_16.htm)
- **“Global Labour Institute Activities Report 2013”** [www.global-labour.org](http://www.global-labour.org) (pdf)
- **“Heteropatriarchy and the Three Pillars of White Supremacy: Rethinking Women of Color Organizing”** by Andrea Smith (pdf)
- **“Race, Class and Transformation: Confronting our History to Move Forward”** by Walda Katz-Fishman & Jerome Scott (pp 265-274) in *Teaching Race and Anti-racism in Contemporary America: Adding Context to Colorblindness*. 2014. New York: Springer (pdf)
- **“Forged in Blood: Black Wealth Injustice in the US”** (pp 73-130) in *The Color of Wealth* by M. Lui, B. Robles, B. Leondar-Wright & R. Brewer with UFE. 2006. New York: The New Press (pdf)
- **“‘Under Western eyes’ revisited: feminist solidarity through anti-capitalist struggles”** by Chandra Mohanty (pp 394-401) in *The Women, Gender & Development Reader, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* NY: Zed. (pdf)

### Alternative questions

1. What is the systemic context (in relation to global capitalist development) and history of your particular struggle and work?
2. How does our movement deal with historic oppressions that have divided our movement rooted in race/nationality, gender/ sexuality and class that are foundational to the US and global capitalist system?
3. How is the organizing work you do / front of struggle work connected to building power from below and a movement able to bring about fundamental transformation?
4. What is the relationship between the organizing work you do / front of struggle work and our long term solution to our problems?
5. What is the strategy of our movement and what are the day-to-day tactics connected to that strategy to realize our vision(s)? Think short-term, medium-term and long-term.

6. How do we understand “culture”? And what is the culture of our 21st century movement that we are developing as we “walk our talk” and “prefigure” / model the world we are fighting to win.

## **Appendix 3**

### **USSF3 - 2014 – 2016 PLAN #7 5.28.2014**

#### **Goals and Priorities**

The US Social Forum is guided by the following goals and priorities:

1. Create a space for social movement analysis, popular and political education, convergence, cohesion, and strategic discussion.
2. Advance Peoples Movement Assemblies' agendas for ongoing action directed toward social transformation.
3. Build stronger relationships, collaboration, and social movements across fronts of struggle for political understanding, strategic direction and a powerful political force.
4. Deepen our collaboration with global social movements and our practice of international solidarity and joint struggles.
5. Strengthen local capacity to improve social conditions and social struggle
6. Model and practice our values and our vision of another world (e.g. celebration, caring, support of identity, cooperation, collectivity, justice, equality, democracy, and sustainability).

#### **Building a new type of Social Forum Centered in Peoples' Movement Assemblies (PMAs)\* and Polycentric\*\* Movement Building Hubs**

In the current context, USSF3 is a movement building tool. The process facilitates our movement going from defensive to offensive, to reorganize society to meet human needs and protect the earth, and to connect with global movement forces. It facilitates systemic analysis, visioning the world we need, developing political program and action agendas, and building political cohesion, alignment and independence for collective power from below to win it and hold it. USSF3 will be a social forum of a new type. As a polycentric movement building process, it is rooted in PMAs across a three year time frame and movement schools.\*\*\* The locations and fronts of struggle where PMAs take place may become "movement hubs"\*\*\*\*that are also hubs within the polycentric social forum process. Thus the polycentric aspect includes multiple hubs across time, as well as across locations simultaneously.

\* to \*\*\*\* definitions at end of Plan

#### **3 year plan**

**2014: PMA Process Anchors USSF3 and Site Selection for Polycentric USSF3**

**2015: Polycentric USSF3**

**2016: National People's Movement Assembly and Movement Strategic Education and Action Plan**

#### **December 2013:**

1. NPC selects Philadelphia as first site for USSF3 as part of a polycentric social forum of a new type. Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights Campaign and Asian Americans United are anchors.

2. Discussions begin with the Philadelphia Team and Site Team, including appropriate resource and budget development in relation to the polycentric model

### **2014: PMA process anchors USSF3 and Site Selection for Polycentric USSF3**

#### **Site Selection for Polycentric USSF3 completed**

1. In February the NPC selects Jackson, MS as a site for USSF3 as part of a polycentric social forum of a new type. Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and the Office of the Mayor are anchors.
2. Discussions will begin with the Jackson Team and Site Team, including appropriate resource and budget development in relation to the polycentric model
3. Site selection for a third site in the Western US complete by May 2014.
4. San Jose/Bay area selected as 3<sup>rd</sup> polycentric site. Anchor organizations include:
  - Hip Hop Congress
  - The Multimedia Center
  - CHAM (Christian Homeless Alliance Ministry)
  - Human Agenda Project/MTA
  - Silicon Valley De-Bug

#### **PMAs as outreach strategy and educational tool for USSF3**

1. A year of PMAs-locally, regionally, thematically-that bring their analysis, vision, and strategy with day-to-day and medium term programmatic demands, actions, in relation to the national process.
2. PMAs in process
  - Southern Movement Assembly. Lead organization: Project South
  - Fall 2014 Pacific/North West Social Forum & Regional PMA. Lead organizations: Community to Community, Right 2 Survive, Jericho Project, Move to Amend, GlobalFam, The Assembly to End Poverty, USSF Poverty Working Group, Alliance for Global Justice
  - Bellingham, WA Farmworker PMA. Lead organization: Community to Community
  - West Virginia: Appalachia Regional PMA. Lead organization: DAWG (Direct Action Welfare Group) and USSF Poverty Working Group
  - 3 Move to Amend Thematic PMAs on "A Democratic Constitution." Lead organization: Move to Amend
    - Oakland
    - Salt Lake City
    - Philadelphia
  - SOA Watch Thematic PMA, Washington, DC, SOA Watch lead organization
  - Louisville, KY local PMA
  - Fall 2014 Ft. Collins, CO local PMA
3. This process includes continuous political and popular education within the PMA and broad social forum process (including NPC educationals)
4. PMA anchors are identified to hold these processes regionally. Unity built through conference calls, a face to face meeting, and coordination through the PMA Task Force

5. Brief report and outcomes from PMAs shared with PMA Task Force for USSF3 PMA website and PMA synthesis process moving toward 2015 and 2016
6. First movement school\*\*\* in Summer 2014
7. Identify throughout the year movement hubs for USSF3 polycentric social forum coming out of PMA process

#### **2014-2015: Movement Schools**

- to convene movement leaders on critical fronts of struggle locally and/or regionally
  - to go deep into our understanding of the current political moment, and to create a space for strategic and tactical movement analysis for the long haul
  - to struggle for political clarity, direction, unity and cohesion within the USSF process and larger movement
  - to discuss the revolutionary process and its relation to our day to day work
  - to launch Summer 2014 training for movement governance, organizing and facilitation
1. Late Summer 2014 Polycentric sites Movement School for Anchors
  2. Early Fall NPC Movement School
  3. Spring Movement School Before USSF3
  4. Fall/Winter Movement After USSF3

#### **2015: Polycentric USSF3**

1. Synthesis of 2015 (and earlier) PMAs in preparation for USSF3 – leading toward deeper organizational relationships, political alignment and movement cohesion and governance. (See December 2013 USSF3 Newsletter article on SMA with Project South)
2. Movement schools in relation to PMAs and USSF3 process, including one movement school in spring before USSF3 and another in Fall/Winter following USSF3
3. USSF3 polycentric sites live streaming and selected interactive dialogue
4. Evaluation and assessment of where our movement process is in relation to the developing objective conditions (and subjective readiness) to prepare for the National Peoples Movement Assembly in 2016.

#### **2016: National People’s Movement Assembly and Movement Strategic Education & Action Plan**

1. Based on outcomes of USSF3 and PMA process, preparation for further political alignment and movement cohesion and governance through PMA and political and popular education process.
2. Movement school early in 2016
3. National People’s Movement Assembly to chart national movement program and course of action, as well as national movement schools

## **Appendix 4**

### **US Social Forum III Political Framing Documents**

#### **The urgency of movement building in the current moment of crisis .... On the Road to USSF III**

We live day to day in crisis and struggle. For the first time in history we are experiencing a rapidly deepening crisis of global capitalism affecting millions in the United States and billions world-wide – producing austerity policies and massive permanent unemployment and poverty, unimaginable climate, ecological and social destruction, and intensifying political attacks, repression, and the threat of fascism and war everywhere. At the same time, resistance, activism and organizing are on the rise across all continents, sectors, and fronts of struggle.

This moment requires a huge and unified social movement in the U.S. with millions of politically conscious people to ensure victory for the arising social motion in the interests of the oppressed, exploited, and dispossessed – to protect the earth and affirm life. The US Social Forum can play a role in pushing forward strategic US movement development through the dynamic interrelation of local and regional struggles, and the emergence of a national movement in relation to global movements. The US Social Forum process is striving to step up and take its place in history by advancing the interests of working class, low-income, and grassroots struggles. The moment is urgent and the opportunities are great.

To advance our struggle for shared understanding, political unity, and participation on the road to US movement building and USSF III, we invite you to read and discuss the US Social Forum political framing documents in your organizations, networks, and collectives and to answer the questions below.

- USSF III Goals
- Urgency Statement 2012
- We Believe Statement (2007, updated 2013)
- People’s Movement Assembly (PMA) Synthesis 2010
- World Social Forum Charter of Principles

#### **USSF3 Goals (updated 11.9.13)**

1. Create a space for social movement analysis, visioning, popular and political education, convergence, cohesion and strategic discussion.
2. Advance Peoples Movement Assemblies’ agendas for ongoing action directed toward social transformation.
3. Build stronger relationships, collaboration, and social movements across fronts of struggle for political understanding, strategic direction, and a powerful political force.
4. Deepen our collaboration with global social movements and our practice of international solidarity and joint struggle.
5. Strengthen local capacity to improve social conditions and social struggle.

6. Model and practice our values and our vision of another world (e.g., celebration, caring, support of identity, cooperation, collectivity, justice, equality, democracy, and sustainability).

### **Urgency Statement 2012 (10.28.12)**

#### **The Urgency of the moment and the challenge to the US Social Forum process**

It will take a huge social movement in the United States with millions of conscious people to ensure victory for the arising social motion in society in the interests of the oppressed, exploited, and dispossessed. Given this, what are the role, responsibility and accountability of the US Social Forum in pushing forward U.S. movement development in relation to global struggles in this urgent moment of deep systemic crisis?

#### ***The current moment***

The objective situation in the U.S. and the world is a rapidly deepening and widening crisis of the entire global capitalist system. It's evidenced by an irreversible economic crisis affecting millions in the U.S. and billions world-wide, producing massive poverty and irreversible ecological and social destruction, and heightening political attack, repression, war, and the threat of fascism the world over.

In 2001 the Patriot Act marked the beginning of this intensified period of domestic repression, linkage to the so-called "war on terrorism," and the formation of the Department of Homeland Security. More recently the federal government has enacted HR 347 - criminalizing dissent, protest, and activism – and the NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act), bringing militarism and preventive detention to the domestic front of our neighborhoods. The police state continues to fill the prisons with young African Americans, Latinos, immigrants, and the poor. This increasingly rapid economic and political polarization and motion toward fascism require a powerful movement response.

Movement development is thus an urgent task; and the US Social Forum, in relation to other forces in motion, can be a powerful tool in this process. If we do not act smartly and intentionally to build our movement, the crisis will only worsen - placing humanity and the planet in peril - and the threat of fascism will become a reality.

#### ***The urgency of movement building – from spontaneity to consciousness***

Resistance is on the rise across continents, sectors, and fronts of struggle. Spontaneous motion in response to the crisis is increasing in the U.S. and globally through mobilizations, campaigns, protests, and occupations. But there is little conscious and strategic movement development within this growing activity. The US Social Forum process can and must add this element and help fill the vacuum by advancing the interests of working class, low-income, and grassroots struggles.

### ***Critical moment - moving the US Social Forum process forward***

The essential next step for the US Social Forum process, including the Peoples Movement Assembly, is to move forward with organizing a post-election national convergence in March 2013 as a strategic movement building opportunity.

To accomplish this, we have several immediate tasks:

- To organize the NPC to include forces in motion and social movement forces not already part of the US Social Forum process.
- To develop a tight timeline and work assignments for organizing the March 2013 Convening.
- To hold bi-weekly NPC expanded calls, with NPC organizations that engage and organizations, networks and coalitions that may want to join the NPC and /or the 2013 Convening process.
- To hold an NPC expanded face-to-face meeting in early November in Chicago.

The US Social Forum process needs to step up and take its place in history. The moment is urgent and the opportunities are great. Join us in organizing the Strategic Movement Convening in March 2013.

Make it happen!

### **Peoples' Movement Assembly (PMA) Synthesis 2010 \***

We can build a better world. Working together, we can create a world that respects the human rights of every human, nurtures creativity and health, promotes unity, solidarity and peace, and uses resources in a way that protects the earth and affirms life.

At this historical moment, there is a growing sense of overwhelming crisis. We recognize that the money and other resources that have been swallowed up by militarization must be redirected to solve human needs – to protect the basic human needs of food, shelter, freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom from harm, and protection of Mother Earth, which nurtures and sustains all life.

We believe that we can create a new economic system. We can build an economic system that is not based in individual, corporate, or private ownership and does not exploit people, the planet, natural resources, or living beings but instead is based on principles of collectivity and sustains our communities. We must move aside old systems that have failed and create new ones that serve and are accountable to all people and all living beings.

We must link arms with our sisters and brothers globally. We must commit to a willingness to work together to seek understanding, to coordinate action, and to move forward with a sense of urgency to create a more just world. We acknowledge the need to break down barriers. We must integrate our national struggles for the human rights to dignity, welfare, freedom and justice.

Each one of us has to dig deeper to understand each other's culture and history. We must build respectful relationships across difference. Our struggles and our goals are all connected to each other. Our fronts of struggle and our goals are all on the same continuum. We have the desire and energy to create something different that sustains us. As a people, we must rely on each other. We can realize our dreams to treat each other as equals and to build alliances across our commonalities and differences.

We affirm self-determination and self-reliance. We believe that we can build our collective power through participation in popular political education and organizing collective action. We can each realize the power within each one of us and build collective power by participating in the fronts of struggle recognized through the Peoples Movement Assemblies. Let us unite and create a better world for all future living generations. **A better world is possible! Another U.S. is near....**

\* This statement represents the work of a Synthesis Assembly to craft a social movement agenda based on the work of over 50 assemblies held at the U.S. Social Forum in 2010. A Synthesis Commission made up of leaders from various movements (Marian Kramer, Rose Brewer, Suzanne Pharr, Manuel Pino, and Jacqui Patterson, facilitation by Dana Wright) wrote and read this declaration at the National Assembly.

### **We Believe Statement (2007, updated 2013)**

We, the organizers of the first United States Social Forum:

- Believe that there is a strategic need to unite the struggles of oppressed, exploited, and dispossessed communities and peoples, classes, and genders within the United States (particularly Black, Latino, Asian/Pacific-Islander and Indigenous communities) to the struggles of marginalized, oppressed, and dispossessed peoples and classes around the world.
- Believe the USSF should place the highest priority on groups that are actually doing grassroots organizing with working-class people and people of color, who are training organizers, building long-term structures of resistance, and who can work well with other groups, seeing their participation in USSF as building the whole, not just their part of it.
- Believe the USSF must be a place where the voices of those who are most marginalized and oppressed from Indigenous communities can be heard--a place that will recognize Indigenous peoples, their issues and struggles.
- Believe the USSF must create space for the full and equal participation of undocumented migrants and their communities.
- Believe the USSF should link US-based youth organizers, activists, and cultural workers to the struggles of their brothers and sisters abroad, drawing common connections and exploring the deeper meanings of solidarity.
- Believe the USSF is important because we must have a clear and unified approach at dealing with social justice issues, and meaningful positions on global issues.

- Believe that a USSF sends a message to other people's movements around the world that there is an active movement in the United States opposing U.S. policies at home and abroad.
- Believe that the USSF will help build national networks that will be better able to collaborate with international networks and movements.
- We believe the USSF is more than an event. It is an ongoing process to contribute to strengthening the entire movement, bringing together the various sectors and issues that work for global justice.

### **World Social Forum Charter of Principles (8.6.02)**

The committee of Brazilian organizations that conceived of, and organized, the first World Social Forum, held in Porto Alegre from January 25th to 30th, 2001, after evaluating the results of that Forum and the expectations it raised, consider it necessary and legitimate to draw up a Charter of Principles to guide the continued pursuit of that initiative. While the principles contained in this Charter – to be respected by all those who wish to take part in the process and to organize new editions of the World Social Forum – are a consolidation of the decisions that presided over the holding of the Porto Alegre Forum and ensured its success, they extend the reach of those decisions and define orientations that flow from their logic.

1. The World Social Forum is an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and interlinking for effective action, by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neoliberalism and to domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism, and are committed to building a planetary society directed towards fruitful relationships among Humankind and between it and the Earth.
2. The World Social Forum at Porto Alegre was an event localized in time and place. From now on, in the certainty proclaimed at Porto Alegre that "another world is possible", it becomes a permanent process of seeking and building alternatives, which cannot be reduced to the events supporting it.
3. The World Social Forum is a world process. All the meetings that are held as part of this process have an international dimension.
4. The alternatives proposed at the World Social Forum stand in opposition to a process of globalization commanded by the large multinational corporations and by the governments and international institutions at the service of those corporations interests, with the complicity of national governments. They are designed to ensure that globalization in solidarity will prevail as a new stage in world history. This will respect universal human rights, and those of all citizens - men and women - of all nations and the environment and will rest on democratic international systems and institutions at the service of social justice, equality and the sovereignty of peoples.

5. The World Social Forum brings together and interlinks only organizations and movements of civil society from all the countries in the world, but it does not intend to be a body representing world civil society.

6. The meetings of the World Social Forum do not deliberate on behalf of the World Social Forum as a body. No-one, therefore, will be authorized, on behalf of any of the editions of the Forum, to express positions claiming to be those of all its participants. The participants in the Forum shall not be called on to take decisions as a body, whether by vote or acclamation, on declarations or proposals for action that would commit all, or the majority, of them and that propose to be taken as establishing positions of the Forum as a body. It thus does not constitute a locus of power to be disputed by the participants in its meetings, nor does it intend to constitute the only option for interrelation and action by the organizations and movements that participate in it.

7. Nonetheless, organizations or groups of organizations that participate in the Forums meetings must be assured the right, during such meetings, to deliberate on declarations or actions they may decide on, whether singly or in coordination with other participants. The World Social Forum undertakes to circulate such decisions widely by the means at its disposal, without directing, hierarchizing, censoring or restricting them, but as deliberations of the organizations or groups of organizations that made the decisions.

8. The World Social Forum is a plural, diversified, non-confessional, non-governmental and non-party context that, in a decentralized fashion, interrelates organizations and movements engaged in concrete action at levels from the local to the international to build another world.

9. The World Social Forum will always be a forum open to pluralism and to the diversity of activities and ways of engaging of the organizations and movements that decide to participate in it, as well as the diversity of genders, ethnicities, cultures, generations and physical capacities, providing they abide by this Charter of Principles. Neither party representations nor military organizations shall participate in the Forum. Government leaders and members of legislatures who accept the commitments of this Charter may be invited to participate in a personal capacity.

10. The World Social Forum is opposed to all totalitarian and reductionist views of economy, development and history and to the use of violence as a means of social control by the State. It upholds respect for Human Rights, the practices of real democracy, participatory democracy, peaceful relations, in equality and solidarity, among people, ethnicities, genders and peoples, and condemns all forms of domination and all subjection of one person by another.

11. As a forum for debate, the World Social Forum is a movement of ideas that prompts reflection, and the transparent circulation of the results of that reflection, on the mechanisms and instruments of domination by capital, on means and actions to resist and overcome that domination, and on the alternatives proposed to solve the problems of exclusion and social inequality that the process of capitalist globalization with its racist, sexist and environmentally destructive dimensions is creating internationally and within countries.

12. As a framework for the exchange of experiences, the World Social Forum encourages understanding and mutual recognition among its participant organizations and movements, and places special value on

the exchange among them, particularly on all that society is building to centre economic activity and political action on meeting the needs of people and respecting nature, in the present and for future generations.

13. As a context for interrelations, the World Social Forum seeks to strengthen and create new national and international links among organizations and movements of society, that - in both public and private life - will increase the capacity for non-violent social resistance to the process of dehumanization the world is undergoing and to the violence used by the State, and reinforce the humanizing measures being taken by the action of these movements and organizations.

14. The World Social Forum is a process that encourages its participant organizations and movements to situate their actions, from the local level to the national level and seeking active participation in international contexts, as issues of planetary citizenship, and to introduce onto the global agenda the change-inducing practices that they are experimenting in building a new world in solidarity.

Approved and adopted in São Paulo, on April 9, 2001, by the organizations that make up the World Social Forum Organizing Committee, approved with modifications by the World Social Forum International Council on June 10, 2001.

**Appendix 5  
Final Financials USSF3**

<b>*Gross Profit</b>	120,481.68
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>Awards and Grants</b>	
<b>Cash Awards and Grants</b>	111,490.33
<b>Total Awards and Grants</b>	<u>111,490.33</u>
<b>Business Expenses</b>	
<b>Bank and Credit Card Fees</b>	325.00
<b>Total Business Expenses</b>	<u>325.00</u>
<b>Charge backs/ Retrievals</b>	625.00
<b>Contract Services</b>	
<b>Contract Labor - 1099 &amp; Foreign</b>	7,372.00
<b>Total Contract Services</b>	<u>7,372.00</u>
<b>Operations</b>	
<b>Fiscal Sponsor Fee</b>	5,875.44
<b>Total Operations</b>	<u>5,875.44</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>125,687.77</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>-5,206.09</u>
<b>Net **income</b>	<u><u>-5,206.09</u></u>

**\*Total income USSF3**

**\*\*Final income USSF3**