

# Workshop 3a: Solidarity Economy Projects, Practices, and Models

*Session A: Getting By, Getting Ahead, or Getting Together?*

## Learning Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

*Participants will leave this workshop with...*

- Clarity around the distinctions between, and impacts of:
  - Survival economics (Getting by)
  - Competitive economics (Getting ahead)
  - Solidarity economics (Getting together)
- Familiarity with, and deepened understanding of, a range of solidarity economy projects
- Shared capacity to assess economic projects through a community solidarity lens
- Insights into the opportunities, benefits, fears, challenges, concerns of working together for economic advancement

## Materials

- Chart paper posters
- Markers

## Preparation

- Print Economic Project Cards: [http://movementgeneration.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/BuildingEconomyforPeopleandPlanet\\_Workshop\\_wCards.pdf](http://movementgeneration.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/BuildingEconomyforPeopleandPlanet_Workshop_wCards.pdf)
- Create poster with instructions for small groups in the “Analyzing Economic Projects through a Community Solidarity Lens”

## Agenda

### 1. OPENING CIRCLE (Seeds) = personal connections

<b>Why Circles?</b>	<b>Time: 5 min</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Form a standing circle</li> <li>2. Ask everyone to look around the circle. Let them know we will always start and end these sessions in a circle. <i>Why? What is it about circles? What do circles have to teach us?</i></li> </ol>	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To harvest the wisdom inherent in circles (and Nature) to begin thinking about the</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Take answers from the group and repeat back what people say in a way that validates the comments. For some points people make, you may want to build on their point with related and relevant ideas.</li> <li>4. Scribe ideas from the group... These are the beginning of the group's on-going brainstorm and analysis to develop a list of values, principles and practices of the solidarity economy</li> </ol>	<p>values, principles and practices of the solidarity economy</p> <p>To cultivate cohesion within the group</p> <p><u>Facilitator's Notes:</u></p> <p>There is an inherent power in circles. When we come together in circles, we show up as our full selves. Circles remind us of our human values, like unity, equality, connection, love, and inclusion. Even when we aren't in the shape of a circle, we invite those values in and make sure everyone feels included, valued, and protected.</p>
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## 2. FIREBUILDER (Preparing the soil) = relationship and trust building

<p><b>Pair Share: Getting by</b></p>	<p><b>Time: 10 min</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask people to cross the circle and pair up.</li> <li>2. Invite each partner to take 3 minutes to share about one job or school experience they have had that was all about "getting by."</li> <li>3. Time the 3 minutes and let people know when to switch</li> </ol>	<p><u>Purpose:</u></p> <p>Relationship and trust building</p> <p>To create mental pictures that will help creating the first frozen image in the next exercise</p> <p><u>Facilitator Notes:</u></p> <p>You might want to share your own example of a job you have had that you did just to get by</p>

## 3. BRIDGE EXERCISE (Planting the seeds) = connecting personal experiences to the big picture

<p><b>Image Theater: Getting by, Getting ahead, Getting Together</b></p>	<p><b>Time: 20 min</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Form a standing circle</li> <li>2. Introduce the group to image theater: <i>Let's create a snapshot of what it looks like to do work that's about "getting by," also known as survival economics. The way we will do that is this. One person will start us off by coming into the middle of the circle and striking a frozen image of what "getting by" has looked like to him or her. (Go into the middle and give a sample pose). Then, one person at a time will enter into the middle and add on to the image the first person started. You can add yourself in relationship to the other people in the image or not - its up to you. Your images can be literal (strike a literal pose), or they can be poetic (strike a more metaphorical pose). Are there any questions about how to play? Don't think too much - let's see what we come up with. Not everyone will come into the image. The people who aren't in the image will reflect on what they see in it.</i></li> <li>3. Prompt the group to begin the first image <i>Okay great! Whoever is ready will start us off.. We will play silently until the image is formed.</i></li> <li>4. Once the image is complete, ask the people outside the image to share what they see in it. <i>What are these actors telling us about what it means to be focused on "getting by?"</i> Scribe the thoughts</li> <li>5. Allow the actors in the image to relax by giving them a round of applause</li> <li>6. Ask the actors in the image if they have anything to add to the description of "getting by" based on their experience in the image. What did it feel like?</li> <li>7. Prompt the group for the second image: <i>Great! Now let's form an image of what it looks like to be "getting ahead," also known as competition. We will play the same way as we did with the last image. Whenever someone is ready to start us off we will begin...</i></li> <li>8. Repeat steps 4-6</li> <li>9. Prompt the group for the final image: <i>Okay! Should we do one last image? Let's create an image of what it means to be "getting together," also known as solidarity economics.. What does it look like to be collaborating with our neighbors to meet each other's economic needs?</i></li> <li>10. Repeat steps 4-6.</li> </ol>	<p><i>This workshop has been adapted from exercises designed by: Center for Popular Economics. Stepping Stones to Creating a Solidarity Economy.2004. <a href="http://www.populareconomics.org">www.populareconomics.org</a></i></p> <p><u>Purpose:</u></p> <p>To further deepen the group's shared analysis of the distinct qualities inherent in survival, competition, and solidarity</p> <p>To prepare the group for the next exercise</p> <p><u>Facilitator Notes:</u></p> <p>When you use, image theater, you are working with the group to create microcosms of the real world for the group to reflect on. By embodying concepts, people are able to tap into deeper insights than if they just discuss them verbally.</p> <p>The three posters that are created will be helpful for the next exercise so keep them up and visible for people to refer to</p> <p>Reflection questions for the actors in each image:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; What did it feel like?</li> <li>&gt; What did you experience?</li> <li>&gt; What was challenging?</li> </ul>

#### 4. BIG PICTURE LEARNING (Sun and Water) = New learning/big picture content

<b>Analyzing Economic Projects through a Community Solidarity Lens</b>	<b>Time: 1 hour</b>						
<p><b>Instructions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Present each group with a stack of economic project cards (with a mix of getting by, getting ahead and getting together projects)</li> <li>2. Show the groups a poster with the following instructions and talk through it:</li> </ol> <p><b>STEP 1</b> - Separate cards into 3 piles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Getting By</li> <li>● Getting Ahead</li> <li>● Getting Together</li> </ul> <p><b>STEP 2</b> - Select one Economic Project from the “Getting Together” pile that is relevant to our community</p> <p><b>STEP 3</b> - Write up a SWOT chart</p> <p><b>STEP 4</b> - Present Solidarity Economy project and SWOT assessment to the whole group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Support groups to do their SWOT assessment through a community solidarity lens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>STRENGTHS:</b> How does it address the economic challenges of our community? How does it bring community members together?</li> <li>● <b>WEAKNESSES:</b> What gaps or challenges do you see in this model that limit its ability to address our communities economic challenges or bring community members together?</li> <li>● <b>OPPORTUNITIES:</b> How is this model relevant to the opportunities you see in our community to advance a solidarity economy?</li> <li>● <b>THREATS:</b> What could threaten the success of this model in our community?</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p><i>This activity is adapted from Movement Generation Justice &amp; Ecology Project's Building Economy for People &amp; Planet curriculum</i>  <a href="http://movementgeneration.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/BuildingEconomyforPeopleandPlanet_Workshop_w_Cards.pdf">http://movementgeneration.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/BuildingEconomyforPeopleandPlanet_Workshop_w_Cards.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>To practice critical analysis of economic project through a community solidarity lens: what is most relevant to the assets and challenges of our community?</p> <p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <p>Have one person assigned to each group that has been prepped for activity, knows the models presented in some depth, and to take notes and give prompts if necessary</p> <p>Posters could look like this:</p> <p>Group:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1040 1354 1412 1785"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1040 1354 1203 1476">Model:</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1354 1412 1476">Why we chose it:</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1040 1476 1203 1627">Strengths:</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1476 1412 1627">Weaknesses:</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1040 1627 1203 1785">Opportunities:</td> <td data-bbox="1203 1627 1412 1785">Threats:</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Model:	Why we chose it:	Strengths:	Weaknesses:	Opportunities:	Threats:
Model:	Why we chose it:						
Strengths:	Weaknesses:						
Opportunities:	Threats:						

## 5. CREATING CONTENT (Harvest): Analysis and/or action steps

<b>Present findings</b>	<b>Time: 25 min</b>
<p><b>Instructions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Each group presents:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The card they selected and why</li> <li>b. The selected project's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Facilitator scribe the principles and practices</li> <li>3. For the whole group reflection, gather everyone around the posters that the groups presented and discuss:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What it challenging for your group to choose a Solidarity Economy project to focus on? How did you decide?</li> <li>b. How was it to collaborate on the SWOT assessments? What kinds of communication helped you be successful on it? What kind of communication was not so helpful?</li> <li>c. After hearing about the different Solidarity Economy projects we selected as most relevant to our community, what is standing out to you?</li> <li>d. What principles and practices are you seeing in these different projects? (ex: cooperation, shared leadership)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>To gain familiarity with a range of solidarity economy projects</p> <p>To begin identifying principles and practices and the solidarity economy we want to build</p> <p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <p>Pacing is important here... You want to make sure groups are concise and to the point, while giving them enough time to fully express their analysis...</p>

## 6. CLOSING CIRCLE (Saving Seeds) = Reflection

<b>Hopes and Fears</b>	<b>Time: 15 min</b>
<p><b>Instructions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Form standing circle</li> <li>2. Ask participants to in their mind pick one model that appealed to them</li> <li>3. Take a few minutes to think on one reason that makes you afraid that it could never happen, and then one reason why you believe it could happen</li> <li>4. Harvest answers</li> <li>5. Thank everyone for their honesty</li> <li>6. Share with the group the goals for next session:</li> </ol> <p><i>Next session, we will continue to work with the Economic Project cards to deepen our understanding of what's possible and to develop a full list of the principles and practices that we want to have guiding our solidarity economy...</i></p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>To externalize our hopes and fears</p> <p>Relationship building</p> <p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <p>Ask everyone to be brief and to speak from the heart</p>