

Workshop 3b: Solidarity Economy Projects, Practices, and Models

Session B:

Learning Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

Participants will leave this workshop with...

- Development of a set principles and practices the group has agreed on to guide them in the building of a solidarity economy
- Deepened understanding of the range of Solidarity Economy projects
- Increased clarity around the political feasibility of solidarity economy projects today
- Increased skill in creative collaboration
- Reflection on collaborative communication practices
- Recognition of familial wisdom that we can draw on to develop our approach to solidarity economics

Materials

- A sheet or tarp for the “Magic Carpet” exercise (Note: The size of the tarp should be defined by the number of individuals in the group. The smaller the tarp the more challenging the exercise!)
- The posters created during the sessions that have come before this...
- As reference, have a couple copies of each of these present in the space:
 - Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing: <http://www.ejnet.org/ej/jemez.pdf>
 - EJ principles: <http://www.ejnet.org/ej/principles.html>
 - Brazilian Solidarity Economy Principles: <http://www.resilience.org/stories/2013-09-05/brazil-blossoms-as-solidarity-economy-beacon>

Preparation

- Prepare a poster with the interview questions for the “Remembering Familial Wisdom” exercise
- Prepare cards with different economic solutions written on them (5-8 capitalist economy solutions and 5-8 solidarity economy solutions) -- OR use the ones provided
- On a large poster paper, draw three intersecting circles, [as found here](#)
- Prepare chart posters with the following titles and subtitles (to use for scribing during the “Values, Vision, and Principles” exercise):
 - False Economic Solutions (Values, Principles, and Practices)
 - Economic Solutions our Community Really Needs (Values, Principles, and Practices)

Facilitator’s Agenda

1. OPENING CIRCLE (Seeds) = personal connections

Connection Circle	Time: 10 min
<p><u>Instructions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form a standing circle 2. Share the goals of the session today: <p><i>By the end of today's session we will have a set of principles and practices that will guide us in development of our own solidarity economy projects...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ask participants to share anything they remember from the last session that might help us with our goals for today 4. Get everyone ready for the next exercise by saying something like... <p><i>Well, the best place to start is with what we have learned from our families...</i></p>	<p><u>Purpose:</u></p> <p>Connect the goals of last session to the goals of today's session</p> <p>Participants understand how each session is building on the next</p> <p><u>Facilitator Notes:</u></p> <p>Anything people share about last session is relevant and worth mentioning</p>

2. FIREBUILDER (Preparing the soil) = relationship and trust building

<p>Interviews: Remembering Familial Wisdom</p>	<p>Time: 20 min</p>
<p><u>Instructions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask everyone to pair up with someone in the group who they know the least 2. Let partners know they will interview each other for 5 minutes each. They can use the questions on the poster: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > In what ways has your family (however many generations back) been able to survive through hard times? > What strategies have you witnessed or seen family members use to make sure people had what they need? > What makes you most proud of your family? 3. Time them and after the first 5 minutes is up, let them know to switch 4. After they have each had the chance to interview each other, bring the whole group back together to debrief: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>How was it to share? How was it to listen?</i> b. <i>What values or practices did you hear from your partner that you think are important for our own solidarity economy work?</i> 	<p><u>Purpose:</u></p> <p>To acknowledge the wisdom in our own families</p> <p>To begin the process of identifying principles and practices to guide our solidarity economy efforts that are grounded in our familial</p> <p><u>Facilitator Notes:</u></p> <p>Be prepared with your own answers to the interview questions so you are prepared to help people if they get stuck</p> <p>Some people might be separated from their families - in which case they can think about lessons learned from anyone they respect</p> <p>This exercise could bring up traumatic memories for people. Be prepared to create space for people to take care of themselves.. This might look like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Time to talk to you or someone else from the group ● Time to write in a journal ● Time to reflect on their own and then talk to someone <p>Focus on giving the person space to share how they are learning to release and learn past traumas so they can experience the gifts of today...</p>

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

<p>Flip the sheet/Magic Carpet</p>	<p>Time: 20 min</p>
<p><u>Instructions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Layout a sheet or tarp on the ground and have all members stand on it 2. While standing on top of a completely open tarp, let the group know they have 10 minutes to turn the tarp over and get everyone standing on the opposite side of the tarp without anyone stepping off the tarp. <p><u>Debrief Questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was difficult / easy about the task? • Who took the lead? • Did everyone agree with what they needed to do? • Did anyone have any ideas but were not able to share them? • If you were going to do the task again what would you do differently? 	<p><u>Purpose:</u></p> <p>To create a shared experience that will help us reflect on the practices of the solidarity economy</p> <p>To continue building cohesion within the group</p> <p><u>Facilitator Notes:</u></p> <p>If the group is not able to successfully turn the tarp over within the ten minutes, it is okay. Let people pull out the lessons from the experience during the debrief. Make sure to schedule another time for the group to try again now that they've had a chance to reflect.</p>

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

<p>Three Circles of Economic Solutions</p>	<p>Time: 45 min</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Show the group the three circles diagram and explain that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the circle on the left represents economic solution that might seem good at first but that really don't solve the economic problems of the community b. the circle on the right represents solutions the community really needs to solve their economic problems in the long term c. <i>The middle circle includes both false and real solutions and it represents those solutions that are politically realistic, meaning they have enough support to actually be implemented right now (hoy en día). Explain that the middle circle can move over time as we organize and work to build support for the solutions our community really needs and as we</i> 	<p><i>This activity is adapted from Movement Generation Justice & Ecology Project's 3 Circles Strategy curriculum</i></p> <p><u>Purpose:</u></p> <p>To identify the economic solutions our community really needs</p> <p>To reflect on the principles and practices inherent in those solutions and/or the principles and practices that influence our decisions around what</p>

educate people about the false solutions that don't really meet the long-term economic needs of our community.

2. The next step is to ask people to read through the economic solutions cards and place them on the diagram where they believe they belong (real solution? False solutions? Politically realistic?) And you can do this in a number of ways:

- a. Divide people into small groups (each with their own set of cards and their own diagram).. Give them 20 minutes to place the cards where they think they should go and then come back to the whole group to discuss and share their thinking... OR
- b. Conduct the whole process as a whole group, passing out the cards so each person has at least one card to put on the diagram. As each person shares where s/he thinks the card belongs, ask him/her to share why

3. Whole group discussion: Reflect on the completed diagram:

- a. *Look at the solutions we put in the false section... Why don't we think these solutions will solve the economic problems of the community in the long term? What are the principles and practices inherent in these economic models?*
- b. *Now, let's look at the solutions we think the community really needs to solve our economic problems. What do you notice about these solutions? What values do these solutions hold? What principles and practices are inherent in these solutions?*
- c. *Lastly, let's look at the what solutions we think are politically realistic and which ones are not.. What do you notice? What economic values, principles and practices are dominating right now? What does this say about the kind of work we will need to do to build support for the economic solutions our community really needs?*

4. To conclude, share a few thoughts.. Here are some sample talking points:

Just because something is politically realistic doesn't mean that it will automatically happen.

If we don't say what we really want, and don't start building towards it, it will never happen. We have to name what we really want.

We then have the invest time, resources, infrastructure & energy into this 'naming' of what we want.

We are going to reach for What we need, What we believe is necessary!

solutions the community really needs

Facilitator Notes:

The most important part of this exercise is the thinking and discussion that go into deciding which solutions will or will not solve the economic challenges of the community and to identify the values, principles and practices inherent in those solutions. This is helping the group begin to develop the principles and practices of the solidarity economy the want to build.

No need to worry if you disagree with some of the ideas and decisions the group puts forth. See this as a living process that you can keep coming back to as the group deepens its understanding of solidarity economics and continues developing shared values. Treat every disagreement as a chance to dig deeper (not a chance to teach people your way of thinking). Ask, don't tell.

Posing critical questions to the group is the best way to navigate multiple perspectives. Your job as the facilitator is to create a space in which people can develop their own analysis over time.

Note some of the values that might come up for false economic solutions: competition, winner take all, hoarding, quick fixes, dependence on big corporations, exploitation of resources, etc.

Some of the values that might come up for the solutions we really need: health (could be personal or planet), love, caring, cooperation, sharing, interconnection, etc.

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

Generating Principles	Time: 25 min
<p><u>Instructions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perhaps after a short break, bring everyone back into a whole group circle and pass out 5 sticker dots to each person 2. Say, <i>Now let's take a look at the values, principles, and practices that we have started articulating to describe what is important to us as we build our own economies in our neighborhoods</i> 3. Give everyone 10 minutes to walk around the room looking at the notes that have been scribed on posters, and to place sticker dots on the values, principles, and practices they think are most relevant and important to focus on as we build our own solidarity economy in our community 4. After 10 minutes, bring everyone back together to reflect: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>What do you notice about the values, principles and practices the group has selected?</i> b. <i>Share some of your own thinking about why you selected the ones you selected and how it connects to the solutions you think our community really needs</i> c. <i>Are there any values, principles and practices you think might be missing? (add them)</i> d. <i>How might some of these values, principles and practices look in our daily lives?</i> 5. Let the group know the next steps with this evolving set of values, principles, and practices: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. One of us will type the up to bring back to the group b. We will continue evolving these over time c. We can use them to guide the development of our projects and also to help us evaluate the success of our work together over time, especially as we work to help shift the the politically realistic circle over to the economic solutions we believe our community really needs 	<p><u>Purpose:</u></p> <p>To refine the list of values, principles, and practices that will guide our work</p> <p>To continue thinking critically about how we are shifting from competitive/exploitative values, principles and practices to generative/unifying values, principles, and practices</p> <p><u>Facilitator Notes:</u></p> <p>At this stage, it is not important to differentiate too much between values, principles, and practices. This could create too much unnecessary dialogue that could distract from the current task at hand which is to tease out the values, principles and practices of the solidarity economy</p>

6. CLOSING CIRCLE (Saving Seeds) = Reflection

Action Circle	Time: 15 min
<u>Instructions:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Form a standing circle2. Ask everyone to choose one value that is resonating most with him/her and to decide on one way s/he can put it into action in the next week3. Whomever is ready to share first can start and then move to the left	<u>Purpose:</u> <p>To recognize we can start now cultivating the values, principles and practices of solidarity</p> <u>Facilitator Notes:</u> <p>Keep it brief and upbeat</p>