

Workshop 6b: Movement Building & Community Organizing

Session B: Finding Interdependence in Organizing

Learning Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

Participants will leave this workshop with...

- Increased understanding of the concept of interdependence (and other principles and patterns of living systems) and how it relates to organizing and the solidarity economy
- Final design of the Participatory Action Research Project
- Increased communication and organizing skills

Materials

- Machine and Rainforest Cards (enough for half the group to receive a Machine Card and half the group to receive a Rainforest Card)
- Copies of the Handout, "The Principles and Patterns of Living Systems"
- Copies of the Handout, "Participatory Action Research"
- Flipchart paper and markers (or white board)

Preparation

- Create about name plates for each of the stakeholders and key allies the group brainstormed last week by punching two holes at the top of half a sheet of paper or card stock, and tying a piece of yarn from one hole to the other so it's long enough for an adult to wear it around his/her neck. NOTE: if you did not get a chance to brainstorm people last week, simply create blank name plates.
- Prepare a poster with the Objectives for the Mutual Support Mingle:
 - Share a little bit about yourself, what you do, and what you care about
 - Learn about the other person
 - Identify one way in which you are already interconnected
 - Come up with one way you can be of mutual benefit to one another (e.g. a trade you can make, a favor you can exchange, an agreement you can make). The important thing is finding a mutual benefit - a win-win exchange.
- Prepare a poster with the Decision-Making Process the group agreed on written out

Agenda

1. OPENING CIRCLE (Seeds) = personal connections

Living Systems vs. Mechanical Systems	Time: 20 min
<p><i>Instructions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the goals of today's session 2. Pass out the Rainforest and Machine cards, make sure there is an even number of people with the Machine card as with the Rainforest card 3. ASk people to make sounds that they think they the image on their card would make... And to use these sound effects to find the other people in their group 4. Once all the people with Machine cards are together and all the people with Rainforest cards are together, ask the groups to reflect on the systems represented on their cards and to each share one quality they believe that system has. 5. Once everyone has brainstormed the qualities of that system, ask each group to develop moving image that represents the qualities of that system. The way they will do this is, one person will start off with a repetitive sound a movement from that system, and one by one people will join in adding another repetitive sound and movement until the system is complete. 6. Invite each group to share their moving representation of their system. After each performance, ask the whole group to reflect on the qualities of that system - what do they notice? 7. Share the "Patterns and Qualities of Living Systems" handout and discuss: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How do the patterns and principles of living systems relate to the practices and principles of the solidarity economy? b. Interdependence is a fact in any economy, but it is more visible in the solidarity economy - what is interdependence and how can we cultivate it in our neighborhood? 	<p><i>Purpose:</i></p> <p>To connect the principles and patterns of living systems to the principles and practices of the solidarity economy.</p> <p>To highlight the reality of interdependence</p> <p><i>Facilitator's Notes:</i></p> <p>You may need to coach the groups around creating their moving images, by modeling for them what a repetitive sounds and movement could be and how each person could build off that sound and movement with their own repetitive sounds and movements</p>

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

Mutual Aid Mingle	Time: 10
<p><i>Instructions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remind the group that last week you brainstormed the people who are essential to carrying out your solidarity economy project.* 	<p><i>Purpose:</i></p> <p>To build on the concept of interdependence to find opportunities for mutual support</p>

<p>2. Lay the name plates out on a table or the floor and ask people to choose one and put it on. If there aren't enough for everyone, others can play themselves.</p> <p>3. Ask people to take on the characters of the their name plates (or just be themselves if not wearing a nameplate) and find a partner. With their partners, they have four objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Share a little bit about yourself, what you do, and what you care about Learn about the other person Identify one way in which you are already interconnected Come up with one way you can be of mutual benefit to one another (e.g. a trade you can make, a favor you can exchange, an agreement you can make). The important thing is finding a mutual benefit - a win-win exchange. <p>Examples of how we might already be interconnected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You work at a restaurant where I eat Our children attend the same school We breathe the same air :) My cousin works at the business you started <p>Example of mutual support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Trading goods</u> (I will trade you eggs from our chickens for oranges from your tree) <u>Trading services</u> (I will trade child care for computer tech support) <u>Agreements</u> (We will send our friends and neighbors to your store if you will invest in our solidarity economy project) <u>Exchanges</u> (We will advertise your restaurant at our event if you donate food for it) 	<p>To prepare for final preparation of the Participatory Action Research Project by exploring the needs and interests of the people they might conduct research on</p> <p><i>Facilitator Notes:</i></p> <p>*If you did not have a chance to brainstorm the key players last week, go ahead and do it now. Add the names to the name plates as you brainstorm them.</p>
--	--

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

<p>Mutual Aid Mingle Reflection</p>	<p>Time: 10</p>
--	------------------------

<p><i>Instructions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Come back to the larger group and reflect: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How was that? b. What did they learn about the different players? c. What were some examples of mutual benefits you came up with? 	<p><i>Purpose:</i></p> <p>To share insights</p> <p><i>Facilitator's Notes:</i></p> <p>You can decide whether or not you want to scribe the mutual benefits that were generated...</p>
---	---

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

<p>PAR Project Planning</p>	<p>Time: 1 hr</p>
<p><i>Instructions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gather everyone around the poster paper where you have been taking notes on the PAR Project brainstorming 2. Remind the groups that you have been over the last few week laying the groundwork for a Participatory Action Research Project, and today we hope to finish the planning phase 3. Pass out the PAR Handout 4. Go through each of the major planning sections, reviewing what you have already brainstormed and making final decisions about each piece of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strategy b. Research c. Communications (NOTE: you can leave final decisions on communications until after you have completed the research) 	<p><i>Purpose:</i></p> <p>To apply the principles and practices of the solidarity economy and the insights around the key players to the completion of the PAR Project planning</p> <p><i>Facilitator's Notes:</i></p> <p>As you are making decisions about things like research questions and research methods, prompt the group to think about the people they will be engaging (i.e. those who are essential to the solidarity economy project) so they can craft the questions and methods to meet the needs and interests of those folks.</p> <p>Prompt the group to think about ways in which the way you carry out this research project can build strategic alliances AND model the principles and practices of the solidarity economy (i.e. those the group generated during section 3 of this curriculum)</p>

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

<p>Decision-Making</p>	<p>Time: 20</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refer the group to the decision-making process you have agreed to (written on flip chart paper). Review it. 2. Use the decision-making process you have agreed on to make the final decisions on the core aspects of the PAR project 3. Celebrate the group for their insights and diligence to see the planning of this project through 4. Let the group know that next week you will decide on roles and responsibilities 	<p><i>Purpose:</i></p> <p>To practice applying the skills of collaborative decision-making to this project</p> <p><i>Facilitator Notes:</i></p> <p>Focus on supporting people to participate well in the collaborative decision-making process.</p>

6. CLOSING CIRCLE (Saving Seeds) = Reflection

<p>Interdependence is Key to Organizing</p>	<p>Time: 10</p>
<p><i>Instructions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In a standing circle, ask the group to popcorn out some of the solidarity economy skills they used today 2. Remind the group that organizing is about building leaders, allies, strategy, and ultimately about building power. 3. Ask, <i>How do the principles of the solidarity economy, like interdependence, support organizing?</i> 4. Take answers and celebrate each one <p>Some ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When we know we are interconnected, we are more likely to work together • Helping people see our interconnectedness is an important leadership quality • Finding mutual benefits helps us build strategic allies • Understanding how people are interconnected helps us think of whole systems solutions 	<p><i>Purpose:</i></p> <p>To make the connection between interdependence and other solidarity economy principles and practices and the principles and practices of organizing</p> <p><i>Facilitator Notes:</i></p> <p>Totally fine if the group comes up with completely different ideas...</p>