

ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE
ANOTHER US IS NECESSARY

US SOCIAL FORUM

JUNE 22-26, 2010

DETROIT, MI



Design Action Collective

WWW.USSF2010.ORG
TOLL-FREE: 877.515.USSF



USSF Detroit office: 23 E. Adams, 4th Floor, Detroit, MI, 48226
DetroitInfo@ussf2010.org • (877) 515-8773

Media Contact: Adele Nieves, adele@ussf2010.org, 586-899-3346

Amidst National Political Transformation, The UNITED STATES SOCIAL FORUM Brings New Hope for Change

Thousands to gather in Detroit to promote democracy, diversity and justice

05.03.2010 – DETROIT – As the Detroit Mayor plans to bulldoze 10,000 homes and empty buildings in the city, as British Petroleum causes a massive oil spill off the coast of Louisiana, and as Arizona lawmakers target Latino immigrants to create an apartheid state, people across the country are responding to these crises with demands that address root causes and promote real transformation. The US Social Forum (USSF) will be an incubator for these and other solutions that our people so desperately need. On June 22-26, 2010, thousands will gather in Detroit to help transform one of the cities hardest hit by the global economic and environmental crisis. And by doing so, they also hope to strengthen a growing global movement for change.

The USSF will be a national stage on which global citizens will strategize to produce sustainable social reforms in education, transportation, employment, immigration and environmental issues. Grown in part from the lessons of the World Social Forum process that began in Porto Alegre Brazil in 2001 as civil society's alternative to the annual World Economic Forums in Davos, the USSF is arguably the largest non-partisan political event in the country. The second United States Social Forum (USSF) will attract organizers, activists, artists and others to build housing and mobile computer labs, create urban gardens, and take actions to generate dramatic change.

“Detroit will welcome everyone who feels the time is now to find ways out of this crisis that work for working people, not for Wall Street bankers,” said Marian Kramer of the Detroit-based [Michigan Welfare Rights](#). “Detroit is ground zero of our failed economy – with almost 30% unemployment, and severe, ongoing environmental threats to our air and water. But we're also a city of solutions, as this Social Forum process will show.”

Some of these solutions include [East Michigan Environmental Action Council's](#) (EMEAC) part in winning stronger water regulations and the promotion of “green chemistry,” and Michigan Welfare Rights' efforts to ensure people receive the economic support they deserve, and to



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prevent unjust utility shut-offs. Detroiters, especially youth, are organized and committed to finding people's solutions for a wide range of challenges, including media access, sustainable and local food resources, education alternatives, community safety, and immigrant rights. The citizens of this resilient city are working to create a new reality for themselves.

The USSF is designed to both support the replication of these movements on a nation-wide scale, and create a space where movements from across the country and international allies can converge and learn from one another. Attendees will participate in workshops, demonstrations and public actions that will lay the groundwork for continuing local and national change.

"The USSF is a big tent for real change," said Steph Guilloud from Project South (Atlanta).
"People from all walks of life will join under the banner of building a more vibrant civil society from the ground up, and creating a world that will be livable for our children and grandchildren."

For more information and registration, visit www.ussf2010.org or call 877-515-8773.

2010 UNITED STATES SOCIAL FORUM FACT SHEET

Over 20K people. Over 1500 creative actions. 2 weeks to redefine democracy.

The **US Social Forum (USSF)** is a social movement building process. It is not a conference but it is a convergence space to come up with the peoples' solutions to the economic and ecological crisis. The USSF is the next important process for social movements on the cutting edge of democratic participation.

The **2010 USSF in Detroit, MI on June 22-26** is not just one event but a series of actions, mobilizations and activities that occur before during and after the USSF meant to 1) **Create** a space for social movement convergence and strategic discussion 2) **Build** stronger relationships and collaboration between movements 3) **Advance** social movements' agendas for action and transformation 4) **Deepen** our commitment to international solidarity and common struggle and 5) **Strengthen** local capacity to improve social conditions, organizing and movement building in Detroit! *Learn more at www.ussf2010.org/about*

The **USSF is also part of a global movement** on the rise. The World Social Forum (WSF) has become an important symbol of global movement convergence and the development of alternatives to the dominant paradigm. Over the past nine years, the WSF has gathered the world's workers, peasants, youth, women, and oppressed peoples to construct a counter-vision to the economic and political elites of the World Economic Forum. *Learn more at www.forumsocialmundial.org.br*

The last USSF gathering in Atlanta in June 2007 drew 12,000 people that came together in the belief that if "*Another World Was Possible!*" then "*Another US Was Necessary.*"

This year in Detroit we are expecting nearly 15,000 individuals and over 1,300 organizations to participate in over 1000 workshops, assemblies and trainings and 300 cultural events and performances. The 2010 USSF will prove to be one of the largest gatherings of progressive grassroots activists and organizers in the US ever. To learn more about the events and happenings during the USSF *stay tuned to www.ussf2010.org/program*

Events will also include:

People's Movement Assemblies
People's Media Center at Cobo Hall
Cultural Performances in Hart Plaza
Art-making & Dance areas in Hart Plaza

A USSF Progressive Film Festival
Detroit Movement Tours
A Youth-run Space at Cobo Hall
The Children's Social Forum

To follow other self-organized events and mobilizations before, during and after the USSF, including People's Movement Assemblies, work projects and brigades, people's and bike caravans and marches to the USSF, and Detroit Expanded events, go to abc.ussf2010.org

Press Contact: Adele Nieves

adele@ussf2010.org

MI: 586-899-3346

USSF Everywhere

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USSF Hotline

877-515-USSF (8773)

info@ussf2010.org



USSF People's Media Center Fact Sheet

ANOTHER U.S. IS POSSIBLE! A PEOPLE'S MEDIA IS NECESSARY!

The **People's Media Center (PMC)** at this year's US Social Forum in Detroit seeks to keep up with the evolving media landscape by once again changing the relationships between media, cultural workers and the movements they cover. The PMC will serve not only as a hub for traditional, new and people's journalists in this new media world to connect and share, but also a space for many story-telling, cultural and artistic activities to take place throughout the Forum. With daily press briefings and a diverse speaker's bureau, the center will also seek to connect grassroots organizers and leaders with mainstream journalists to generate widespread coverage of the ideas, events and people of the USSF. *Keep updated for a schedule of workshops and trainings and Join us at www.ussf2010.org/pmc*

The People's Media Center Declaration and Organizing Principles

In acknowledgment and celebration of the critical and valuable role people-produced media has played in advancing our movements and creating another world, the PMC will break new ground in growing alliances, supporting our host city, and building relationships to further our efforts and deepen the connections between art, culture, media, and transformation.

Understanding that WE, as activists, artists, community organizers, media makers, are the change agents we have been waiting for... the PMC has created these living principles to address and challenge hierarchy within our movement. Recognizing that individuals and organizations with differing abilities, purposes, and resources are all welcome within this space, we are all committed to overturning institutional imbalances which can lead to division and impair the quality and quantity of stories being generated and shared before, during, and after the USSF. For us, institutional imbalances means that many voices have been traditionally denied access to media outlets, and media-making resources that guarantee that access, as a result of oppression and exploitation. Therefore, we accept the responsibility to ensure that those who have been denied such access based upon race, class, sex, age, creed, ability, criminal history, sexual orientation, and immigrant status will be prioritized.

- 1. Accessible Space:** The PMC will be accessible, welcoming, and secure for all attendees, audiences, and communities in and around Detroit and beyond through Detroit Expanded. It will be accessible to all people with a diversity of languages, skills, resources, and abilities.
- 2. Production Environment:** The PMC will encourage all Forum attendees to document the USSF using TV, radio, online video, blogging, print productions, photography, mobile blogging, podcasts, websites, databases, and/or any other creative form(s) of expression and information sharing.
- 3. Learning Environment:** The PMC will provide an easily-accessible and welcoming space for Social Forum attendees of divergent backgrounds to learn and teach media production. The PMC will facilitate resource and skill sharing.
- 4. Meeting Space:** The PMC will be a space for networks, organizations, crews, and ad-hoc groups to meet and plan, produce, recruit, and collaborate.
- 5. Community Resource:** PMC equipment, organizing principles, and volunteer energy will be left in Detroit for local media justice organizations.
- 6. Collective Use:** As co-users of, and co-creators within, the PMC, we collectively acknowledge that we are all experts at our own experiences and will all share in this environment of radical living and learning.



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Sampling of USSF Spokespeople

Keisha Brooks

peaceandharmonycenter@gmail.com

Keisha Brooks, founder of the Peace and Harmony Center, is working with the Hush House to coordinate the tent city for the USSF. Keisha practices alternative therapy work to help people fulfill their potential. Keisha is excited about the US Social forum because the process allows everyday people to perform at their highest potential for the good of humanity. Keisha hopes this will help empower people to be accountable for their community, reclaim their place and voices for basic human rights, such as the right to live in a clean safe environment. Detroit is one of the most creative places on earth and the people here are extremely resourceful.

Although the economy has dropped people are still finding creative ways to live and thrive. I love that about Detroit!



Adrienne Maree Brown

adrienne@ussf2010.org

Adrienne Maree Brown is the executive director of The Ruckus Society, which brings nonviolent direct action training and action support to communities impacted by economic, environmental and social oppression. She is also a National Coordinator for the 2010 US Social Forum. She sits on the board of Allied Media Projects. Adrienne facilitates the development of organizations throughout the movement (most recently Young Women's Empowerment Project, New Orleans Parents Organizing Network, ColorofChange.org and Detroit Summer). A co-founder of the League of Pissed Off/Young Voters and graduate of the Somatics and Social Justice, Art of Leadership and Art of Change yearlong trainings, Adrienne is obsessed with learning and developing models for action, community strength, movement building and transformation.





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William Copeland

williamwholenote@gmail.com

William is one of the local coordinators of the 2010 US Social Forum. He is excited about the opportunities the US Social Forum process brings for relationship building and coalitions, and about the USSF being located in Detroit, where our struggles and organizing can deepen the national discussion about the contemporary nature of capitalism and where activists can reaffirm their work for human dignity and the step-by-step, community-by-community process of building a "safety net" for human survival and wellbeing. Will is excited for the work brigades and work projects, inspired from the lessons of Project South, where USSF attendees can work with a Detroit organization and contribute to the city, not just attend the USSF. He is also excited for our action protocols by which we are asking the activists to join us in solidarity in local actions and not come to act upon the city, to save it, or use it as a blank canvas. People should come to Detroit because we need organizing strategies that responds to the economics of our situation. Lastly the knowledge that "another US is necessary" is bone-deep and fills the culture of Detroit. All are welcome to not just attend the USSF but to build with Detroiters and learn to love our community.



Flor Crisóstomo

FloResiste@gmail.com | www.floresiste.net

“Mi nombre es Flor Crisóstomo, Soy indígena Zapoteca de Oaxaca México. Mi situación actual es la movilidad constante dentro de US debido a la persecución y criminalización por parte leyes migratorias rotas, que el gobierno Estadounidense ejecuta a diario dentro de nuestras comunidades y familias. Mi historia, es solo una de las millones que reflejan la falta de voluntad política por parte de los gobiernos, que nos han empujado a vivir en condiciones inhumanas en el mundo. Mi labor a diario, es seguir dando a conocer. Dentro de los movimientos de justicia social y sobre todo a los jóvenes. Las grandes problemáticas que atravesamos como pueblos indígenas desplazados dentro de US. Debido a las políticas comerciales y sociales impuestas por las grandes potencias del mundo en nuestros pueblos de origen. Y el gran





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efecto que han tenido dentro de nuestras familias, las actuales crisis de migración que se viven en el mundo. Personalmente me siento muy emocionada de haber recibido la invitación a participar dentro del Foro Social US. Porque sabemos que miles de organizaciones a traves del país escucharemos, reflejaremos y trabajaremos juntos para encontrar soluciones a las problemáticas que como pueblos atravesamos; en las actuales políticas que nos reprimen y criminalizan dentro y fuera de estas grandes potencias. El impacto que hará este foro dentro de mi trabajo. Es poder aprender, enlazar y distribuir el mensaje de otras comunidades que somos de igual manera afectados y con esto poder involucrar y acercar más recursos a nuestras comunidades. Es muy importante. Que organizadores de las diversas comunidades, organizaciones, iglesias, fundaciones, pero sobre todo Jóvenes, familias e individuos hagan acto de presencia en este foro que se llevara a cabo en Detroit Michigan del 22 al 26 de Junio. Para poder conocernos personalmente y trabajemos en buscar soluciones colectivamente para brindar ideas y recomendaciones, para hacer un mundo justo que sabemos es posible para nuestras nuevas generaciones.”

Louis Head

[SouthWest Organizing Project](#)

office 505-344-5049 | cell 505-463-0439 | elhead@unm.edu

Louis Head grew up in Saginaw, Michigan and has resided in New Mexico since 1981. He served as a staff organizer with the Albuquerque-based SouthWest Organizing Project from 1982 until 1998, and more recently served four years on that organization’s Board of Directors. In 1998 he co-founded the Cuba Research & Analysis Group, which under his direction organized a variety of exchange projects between US-based institutions and their Cuban counterparts, and engaged in applied and strategic research related to US-Cuba and multi-lateral relations. The organization later co-founded US-Cuba Cultural Exchange, which organized artists and arts presenters to successfully push for renewed cultural ties with Cuba. He presently represents SWOP on the National Planning Committee of the US Social Forum, and is co-chair of the NPC’s International Solidarity Team. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1981 with a BA in Political Economy.





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B. Loewe

773.791.4668 | bloewe@onpointconsortium.org

Prior to serving as National Field Organizer for the 2010 US Social Forum, B. Loewe acted as Planning Director for the Latino Union of Chicago from 2003 to 2009 where he led campaigns that ended the wrongful arrest of corner day laborers in Cicero and passed the strongest local protections for undocumented residents in the country. Drawing on more than a decade of experience in labor, criminal justice, agricultural, student, and global justice organizing on the East and West Coasts and most proudly in the Midwest, B. is honored to do the daily work of making another world possible.



Kim M.

Central District Organizing Project
office 219-886-1522 | cell 708-415-5019

Kim is an outreach coordinator/organizer at the Central District Organizing Project (CDOP), based in the historic Midtown/Central District neighborhood of Gary, Indiana. We are a grassroots, community organizing group working to mobilize Gary residents to tackle local problems through direct action organizing, holding public officials accountable to the city's residents. As outreach coordinator Kim reaches out to connect CDOP with residents, organizations, and the media, encourage collaboration, and as an organizer I assist with our community organizing efforts. Kim is the lead person in organizing CDOP's participation in the USSF, and very active in the NWI Road 2 Detroit network. The USSF gives the everyday people of Northwest Indiana (aka The Region) the opportunity to network and build with community activists from across the country to share knowledge, strategy, and moral support. The USSF is a great vehicle to build the solidarity necessary to create true social change here and across the U.S. The process of building our "NWI Road 2 Detroit" has created the necessity for us to build stronger connections between local individuals and organizations in The Region. We are excited, and even plan to host a PMA. In the aftermath of our USSF experience, we can continue to build from our unified effort so that we can expand the activities and the reach of the social justice movements happening in The Region. Since the USSF is multi-issue, multi-cultural, multi-platform event with everything from workshops to art to music to film festivals, I think there will be something there for anyone who is looking for inspiration and support to create ways to impact his/her community back home. We need each other now more than ever.





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Mallory Knodel

mallory@mayfirst.org

Mallory Knodel is National Technology Coordinator for the US Social Forum and with May First/People Link in NYC. Mallory organizes technology for social change by developing Internet software and websites and bringing media makers, technologists and activists together to collaborate on strategies and approaches to people-centered, accessible technology. Her work and the work of her organization is based in horizontalism and principles of the Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) movement. Mallory believes that the second US Social Forum is an incredibly important project for two reasons. First, it is important to highlight the particular struggles and achievements of post-industrial urban cities like Detroit Michigan. Second, the global community must use this gathering to converge with one another beyond borders, to continue the work of the alter-globalization movement, and to strengthen and create alternatives to vertical structures of capital, trade and technology.



Adele Nieves

586-899-3346 | adele@ussf2010.org

Adele Nieves is the National Communications Coordinator for the US Social Forum 2010. She is also a community organizer, independent journalist and mixed media maker. She covers stories and issues often overlooked by the traditional media, as they are usually of the greatest consequence for the majority of people. Adele is also a core organizer for the *Cyberquilting Experiment*, A women of color network stitching movements together and examining how the Internet can be used as a resource for social justice work and movement building activities. She is a partner and editor for VidaAfroLatina.com, a digital media publication featuring news and views by and about Afro-Latinos in the United States and throughout the Americas, a member of the editorial collective *Critical Moment*, a newsprint magazine working to provide a forum for education, debate, and dialogue around the political issues affecting communities in the Southeast Michigan area and is on the advisory board of the Allied Media Conference, which focuses on participatory media as a strategy for social justice organizing.



In 2008, Adele and her partner at Liquid Words Productions produced, recorded, and mixed a compilation CD of poetry, spoken-word, and song by women of color as a fundraising tool for single



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mothers of color to attend the Allied Media Conference in Detroit in July 2009

Jerome Scott

404.312.2178 | jerome@ssbuilt.com

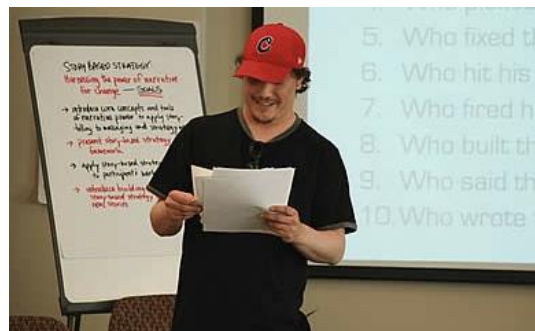
Jerome Scott, a native Detroiter, was radicalized during his Viet Nam War experience, worked and organized in the auto plants of Detroit in the 1960s-70s, and was a founding member of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. He moved South to Atlanta where he was a community organizer, popular educator and author since the late 1970s. He was a founding member and former director of Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty & Genocide in Atlanta, GA, the anchor organization for the 2007 US Social Forum. Jerome serves on the National Planning Committee of the US Social Forum and is active in social justice movement organizations, including the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. He brings a deep working class history of struggle to the struggle for a new world and another United States.



Karlos Gauna Schmieder

510.768.7400 x12 | karlos@centerformediajustice.org

Before joining the Center for Media Justice, Karlos Gauna Schmieder worked for nearly a decade as a community and communications organizer with SouthWest Organizing Project (SWOP). As cochair of communications for the 2007 U.S. Social Forum, he coordinated media strategy for the groundbreaking event. Karlos is currently a member of Progressive Communicators Network's Leadership Council and cochair of communications working group of the 2010 U.S. Social Forum.



Hakiym sha'ir

513-226-3476 | hakiym.shair@gmail.com

Hakiym Sha'ir is very excited about the opportunity to be involved in the USSF media project. Hakiym is a spoken-word artist, human rights activist, educator, and lover of love. Hakiym is a full-time student at the University of Cincinnati, studying International Law, and certified academic tutor and mentor. Hakiym is the current President of the Cincinnati Chapter of Hip Hop Congress and work on Mayor Mallory's Young Political Kitchen Cabinet on the Arts/Entertainment committee. Hakiym was an

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AmeriCorps civil service volunteer in the Public Allies program in 2008. Through the program I was certified as a Foreclosure Prevention Specialist at United Way. Hakiym runs the Lyrical Insurrection Artist Showcase and Network, voted Cincinnati's Best 2005-2007, and awarded in Cincinnati Magazine "Spot #30 out of the top 101 things to do in Cincinnati. Organizing a global issue will take the bias out of competition in our own city. I feel that when we come together for a national issue, like voting for president, the change will be seen and felt in the after effects of the campaign. When people work together they learn something new and this creates a positive effect in local communities. Detroit is one of the hardest hit cities in the US by the economic storm. Detroit used to be thriving, for it is the former "Motor City and home of Motown Records. As victims of big business making billions in short-term profit and the people taking long-term losses, the city has died. People should come to "resurrect" the people of Detroit.



Cindy Wiesner

Grassroots Global Justice Alliance/Alianza Popular por la Justicia Global
305.735.3256 | cindy@ggjalliance.org
www.ggjalliance.org

Cindy Wiesner, is a queer working class Latina originally from Hollywood, CA. A community activist and organizer for the last 20 years, she has organized with HERE (Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union) Local 2850 and POWER (People Organized to Win Employment Rights). She worked as a trainer and organizer for GenerationFIVE. Has served on the boards of the Youth Empowerment Center, Women of Color Resource Center and GenerationFIVE. Cindy was also the leadership development director at the Miami Workers Center and currently is the





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political coordinator for Grassroots Global Justice Alliance (GGJ). She represents GGJ on the National Planning Committee of the US Social Forum and also on the Hemispheric Council of the Americas Social Forum and the International Council of the World Social Forum.



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SOME NEW ALLIANCES THAT FORMED AT THE FIRST US SOCIAL FORUM IN ATLANTA 2007

What exactly came out of the first US Social Forum (USSF)? With thousands of workshops, more than 10,000 participants, and countless informal relationship-building and strategizing sessions, it's impossible to recount everything that came out of the first social forum. But 3 new alliances serve as a great example of the concrete coordination, infrastructure development, and campaign work that would not have been possible without the incredible convergence opportunity that is the USSF.

The [National Domestic Workers Alliance](#), the [Right to the City Alliance](#), and the [Media Action Grassroots Network](#) are three alliances connecting deep local grassroots organizing across region to build national power for change. By coordinating fights for domestic workers' labor rights, struggles for housing rights and economic justice, and fights for equal access to the internet and other critical communications outlets, these 3 alliances are but just a few examples of the future the USSF is helping to build - a future of true democracy driven by collective problem-solving, led by poor and working class communities, and working for solutions that support human rights and dignity for all.

Some Stories About the Alliances

National Domestic Workers Alliance: <http://blog.aflcio.org/2007/07/09/national-alliance-of-domestic-workers-formed-at-social-forum/>

Right to the City <http://inthemiddleofthewhirlwind.wordpress.com/building-power-in-the-city/>

MAG-Net http://www.huffingtonpost.com/malkia-a-cyril/a-new-civil-rights-mandat_b_462110.html