

Notes for May 20th IMPACT meeting on sustainable organizing

Popular Education

1. Personal experience and knowledge of participants
2. Find patterns
3. Add new knowledge and analysis
4. Share practical skills used in home and community
5. Apply knowledge
6. Celebrate!

Community Organizing

- It often starts around 1 issue.
- Can be hard to start the “community”
- Build on connections, even if they are hidden (Bus driver example)
- !!Focus on ISSUES & RELATIONSHIPS!!

How can we organize in a way that gives people energy to create and grow movements?

- Need to take action
- Highlight the success of others for motivation.
- We often become too issue-based and not enough community based (atomization)
- Focus on the positive goals
- Detach yourself from the outcome
- “Come to our meeting” is not successful in retaining people.
- Democracy in a group or meeting takes more time than a top-down model, because everyone has to be a part of it and energized by it.
- Break big goals into smaller chunks
- Have victories
- Connect the previous 2 points with the larger goal
- Personal note: Who are all the inspiring people we know?
- Don’t build relationships just around the problem or issue.
- Appreciate each other
- Try to keep your focus on not limiting the different people that can work with you
- Keep it transparent through the organization (Everyone should see the big picture and how the individual actions lead to the big picture.)
- It can be effective to outreach to others who “feel the boot of oppression” because they are much easier to motivate. They don’t need to be made to see that the boot actually exists.

Personal goals to focus on (where do we go from here?)

- Lots of emphasis on relationships
- How do we bring new people into the community?
- Who wants to be a part of a community (relationships) that focuses on a goal?
- How do we get people to focus on “here” rather than “there” and on what we can do?