NEWS FROM MAYFIRST/PEOPLE LINK • SPECIAL EDITION, USSF 2010

Principles for Developing Technology for the US Social Forum in 2010 ¶

The following principles were collaboratively drafted on March 26, 2009 in Detroit by approximately 30 representatives of the local organizing committee, local anchor organizations, the National Planning Committee, and May First/People Link. These draft principles were proposed for approval by the National Planning Committee as a urgent initial step to developing the technology for the social forum. Over the course of 10 months, these principles were edited into their final form with input from countless organizers. The World Social Forum Charter of Principles has been referenced where appropriate. Not only are these principles of technology for guiding the organizing work of the Detroit US Social Forum, but can provide a political platform for organizations and individuals with a strategic approach to online organizing.

- 1. We provide free and open access to all, including people unable to travel to the forum or organizing meetings. Ease of use must mitigate the online technology divide in addition to the incorporation of multiple means of communication. (consistent with Charter of Principles 3, 8 and 14)
- 2. The technology that is collectively developed in this environment is useful beyond the Forum itself. It will continue to provide the means to collaborate and share information among participants and their organizations. (consistent with WSF Charter of Principles 2)
- 3. All technology users and developers commit to transparency, thus empowering cooperation and collaboration at every level of the organizing process. (consistent with WSF Charter of Principles 11)
- 4. Technology decisions implement and build free and open source software, which is free of corporate control, non-proprietary, and owned and maintained by communities of developers and users. (consistent with WSF Charter of Principles 4)



- 5. Technology is integrated into the process of organizing. USSF organizers recognize technology as an organizing process in itself. Technology is integrated with offline, face-to-face communications whenever feasible. (consistent with WSF Charter of Principles 14)
- 6. Multiple languages, handicap accessibility, and cultural expression informs our decision-making. It is essential that people of color and directly-impacted communities have access. (consistent with WSF Charter of Principles 9)
- 7. Technology and media is organized by a culturally diverse working group of the USSF, empowering the collaboration across gender, race, class and geographic region. (consistent with WSF Charter of Principles 9)
- 8. Technology decisions promote a safe participatory experience that allows broad contribution and respects diversity of opinion and experience, while doing no harm to others. (consistent with WSF Charter of Principles 8, 10)
- 9. Online outreach between participants and their organizations strategically proliferates, shares, and exchanges information about the USSF with blogs, document libraries, FAQs etc. While critically using popular culture and applications such as Facebook, Twitter & YouTube, the USSF commits their energy to developing free and open source alternatives.
- 10. Information is power. Participants must have control over their own data. Data policies guide how contacts collected for the USSF are made available for organizing purposes.



We are May First/People Link ¶

Statement from our Co-Directors ¶

We're May First/People Link, one of the largest progressive Internet membership organizations in the world, and two years ago, to concentrate on a we've been involved with the Social Forum since the first Forum in 2007. This year, May First/People Link volunteer staff and members lead the Information, Communications and Technology Working Group: the team that plans, installs, and maintains all information technology systems.

We do a lot of things as an organization, including sharing the resources to provide Internet activity for all our members. We have about 300 organizations and 100 individual members now; altogether our "member base" (based on email accounts) is over 2,000.

But what we do with the Social Forum is among our most important activities. We invite you to take a look at the list of workshops our member organizations are sponsoring during this Forum. That's part of what we do.

This Social Forum comes at a time of enormous crisis and opportunity. All the systems most of the human race has relied on for its survival are in crisis: government, economy and climate/environment. The human race is answering by developing movements and initiatives like the Climate Change movement and, of course, the Social Forum movement. And it has developed highly powerful and innovative technologies to allow it to build those movements the most prominent of which is the Internet.

May First/People Link considers its work intertwined with that of the Social Forum and we are committed to it and the many other initiatives arising world-wide. We are heavily involved in the World Social Forum movement, have done tech work at many Forums all over the world and serve on the Technology Committee of the WSF.

We are also involved in the Climate Control movement out of Cochabamba, Bolivia.

This work flows from the decision, made by our Leadership Committee "hemispheric initiative" which recognizes that the United States cannot continue in the isolation we've existed in for so long but must collaborate with the rest of the Hemisphere as equals if we are to survive. And that's why our approach to technology mandates our sharing the technological resouces we have with the rest of the world and collaborating with technologists worldwide to further develop those resources.

Additionally, we are among the sponsors and organizers of the World **Techie Congress** initiative, an effort to bring together technologists country by country to forge a "Techie Document of Rights and Responsibilities", helping describe our responsibilities toward the rest of the progressive movement and the movement's responsibilities towards us. The United States Techie Congress is taking place at this Social Forum.

Finally, there's you. As a progressive activist you or your organization probably uses the Internet. If that's the case, you belong in May First/People Link. Not only do you become part of an organization that is doing the political work we've described but you get access to some of the best technology resources -- web, email, list, etc. -available and it's all free. You pay your dues and get all the resources you need.

That's one way we're different; check out our website to find out more. During the Forum, stop by the People's Media Center and say hello (some of us are always around there). And, on behalf of the Leadership Committee of May First/People Link, welcome home!

Membership Agreements ¶

All May First/People Link members agree on some points and accept a few responsibilities. These are included in our Statement of Unity and our Membership Agreement.

Statement of Unity ¶

- 1 We understand technology as the tools human beings have developed throughout our history to survive and move forward.
- 2 We believe that people have the right to a peaceful and just world in which we have a decent life, can be productive, are free of exploitation and feel secure.
- 3 We believe that we are denied that right in a world of social, political, and economic under-development, exploitation, repression, environmental destruction and war.
- 4 We believe that today the conditions exists where we can finally reverse this situation and build the world we deserve.
- 5 We believe that because technology is the product of collaboration by people all over the world throughout history, it rightfully belongs to all people and all people should control it.
- 6 We believe the Internet is part of that technology and, as such, it should be accessible to everyone, used for everyone's benefit and controlled by all people.
- 7 We believe the attempts by a few to commercialize the Internet, divert its development and restrict its use run counter to the collaborative spirit of the Internet and contradict the best interests of humanity.
- We believe that it is an important priority of humanity to assume control of the Internet, expand on it 4 Our directors will communicate and use it productively.

- 9 Because our beliefs and activities reflect a commitment to this idea of the world and the Internet, we believe that progressive and social justice activists must be at the forefront of the struggle to take control of the Internet, to use it fully and creatively to pursue our goals, and to expand its capabilities to enable our constantly growing and even more complex organizing and communications needs.
- 10 To make this happen, we need a movement that reflects this thinking and approach to the Internet and unites all social justice activists using the Internet.
- 11 With May First/People Link we want to begin and continue the creation of this movement

Membership agreement

May First/People Link is a very diverse organization and our Statement of Principles and membership services reflect our goal of uniting all progressive and social justice activists. In that context, our members expect some things from each other and our staff.

What members can expect of our organization and staff:

- 1 Our organization will upgrade, maintain and expand all equipment and software based on members' needs and our capability.
- 2 Our organization will assure that all our networks and systems are functional and that, in the case of an outage or problem, our staff will prioritize repairs, fixes and substitutions when necessary.
- 3 Our staff will provide full, responsive and respectful technical support as described in our FAQ.
- with the entire membership regu-

larly and openly on organization issues and developments and report any emergency situations, their status and what we're doing about them to the entire membership when an emergency arises.

What our organization and staff expects of our members:

- 1 As members, we respect the boundaries of taste, decency and respect for all peoples in the content of websites and other communications.
- 2 Members pay our dues in a timely fashion as one of our key ways of supporting our organization.
- 3 Members support each others work when and however we can given our own programs, strategies, goals and resources.
- 4 Members treat our staff with respect and sensitivity to the enormous amount of work they contribute to our organization.
- 5 Members participate in the growth of our organization by encouraging other people they know to join.

Leadership Committee

Our Leadership Committee is the primary decision-making body of MF/PL responsible for setting priorities, developing strategy, approving budget and appointing the Co-Directors. It meets face to face once a year and is in continuous contact by email. Its members:

- Alfredo Lopez, May First/People Link
- Amy Dalton
- Christy Thornton, NACLA Report on the Americas
- Daniel Kahn Gillmor
- Louis Head, Cuba Research & Analysis Group
- Hilary Goldstein
- Jamie McClelland, May First/Peo-
- Josue Guillen, Progressive Technology Project
- Linda Thurston, War Resisters League
- Liz Mestres, The Brecht Forum
- Mallory Knodel, May First/People Link
- Makani Themba, The Praxis Proj-
- Sam Anderson

Form Here??





Website Suite ¶

This year's USSF makes innovative and unprecedented use of the World Wide Web and related Internet capabilities.

We have over a half dozen interconnected web sites, including: the primary information site

(www.ussf2010.org), the registration and donation site

(community.ussf2010.org), the organizing and workshop registration site (organize.ussf2010.org), the Assemblies, Brigades, Caravans, and Detroit Expanded site

(abc.ussf2010.org), the video site (video.ussf2010.org) and many more.

Putting together this suite of websites was a central project of our ICT team for almost a year -- planning, exploring, researching capability and then finally doing the coding and testing. When the sites were launched, they went into immediate use as thousands of people began registering and Social Forum organizers began publicizing and announcing.

The USSF's approach to technology is based on an understanding that a significant part of our life in this country is the result of a vicious and consistent exploitation of the labor and resources of the rest of the world. This has given our society technological capabilities and resources that can be used by the rest of the world to rectify these injustices. Our development of these website resources not only serves the USSF's needs but provides a resource and technology that is shared with the rest of the world.

Peoples Media Center

Reflecting an alternative vision of media -- that everyone creates news and everyone should be able to record and report on it -- the People's Media Center (PMC) is a centerpiece of Social Forum thinking and innovation. Developed jointly by the Communications Working Group and ICT, the PMC contains video and audio

editing areas, computers for storing media, blogging and other communications, quiet rooms for on-site interviewing, training areas and a distinct briefing area for daily press briefings about the Forum.

It's also expected to be a magnet area for journalists, media activists and anyone else interested in media

All the dozens of computers in the PMC have been donated to the Forum by supporting organizations and have been reconfigured with only Free and Open Source Software, one of the Forum's hallmarks. And ICT Working Group members are on hand to provide technical support when needed and training when scheduled.

Web Streaming ¶

The concept of "Detroit Expanded" takes on a whole new meaning at this Social Forum which is being broadcast live for eight hours a day to the entire world via the Internet. This is the first Social Forum to do this and we are taking the lead from the recent World People's Conference on Climate Control and the Rights of Mother Earth during which May First/People Link members Jamie Mc-Clelland, Mallory Knodel and Maritza Arrastia collaborated with techies from various countries in the Hemisphere to put together a consistent live streaming via the Internet.

Part of the Social Forum's task is to put together a system for arranging, managing and creating programming for what is, effectively, a live broadcast TV station. Much of that task falls to the Communications Working Group which is arranging scheduling and producing the "TV Guide" page on the USSF's website.

While there are obvious "programming choices" being made, like the opening ceremonies and the nightly Plenaries, many other choices are being made driven by the idea of truly encouraging "people's media" -- shows by participants, on the spot in-

terviews, special programs, multiple workshop shows, etc. All that is part of the ongoing work of the Forum.

SMS ¶

"Short Message Service" is a protocol that allows for the transmission of short messages to any on-line device, including cellphones. At the USSF 2010, we are using SMS to provide a user-configured "announcements and reminders" broadcast system.

Using a special form on our website, you can select which workshops and events you are interested in and the system will send a short reminder message to your cell phone before the event takes place.

In combination with our searchable on-line calendar of USSF events, the SMS system connects everyone with the day to day goings on at the Forum.



Techie Congress ¶

Come to the May First/People Link Assembly! Thursday, June 24, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Cobo Hall: W2-58

Never has our work as progressive technologists been more important.

A system struggling for its own survival, at the expense of humanity, greedily seeks to turn every idea into a distorted profit-making caricature of what it originally was.

The Internet humanity has built, under our collaborative leadership, is now threatened by a morass of profit-making schemes, rabidly self-protective proprietary software, and repressive laws that obliterate the spirit and letter of the First Amendment from on-line activity.

With their avalanche of limited, glossy and ultimately entrapping social software, corporations are profiteering on human communication while fencing it into a superficial, choiceless chorus line of faces and self-descriptions.

All the while, the human race continues to make and change history by using the Internet for the reasons we created it: the massive communication of our ideas and knowledge and the collective, collaborative search for the truth of our world and its future.

And it continues to look to us for alternatives, information and leadership.

But, while our importance has never been greater, the principles of a free and open Internet are not yet recognized as a critical part of the progressive agenda. Now is the time to change this.

We want to build a set of principles that we can all share and that the progressive movement will agree to live by. We want to write and ratify an "agreement with the progressive

movement" that is a commitment the entire movement will live by.

And the entire movement is here, in one place, at the United States Social Forum in Detroit.

So we are making this call to all techies who support the principles of the Social Forum to gather in Detroit at the Forum for a four-hour Progressive Techie Congress that will wrap up a four month process of discussion and thinking online around these principles.

After that Congress, we will distribute the principles to everyone at the Social Forum and propose them to the USSF's People's Movement Assembly for ratification. On that basis, we will begin to build the kind of relationships inside the movement that will move us all forward.

List of Workshops by MayFirst-PeopleLink Members

		Más allá de los "jueguitos": La Educación Popular como Metodología para el Desarrollo de Liderazgo, la Organización Comunitaria de Base	Colodivo Flatlandor
Wayne County Community College: MPR	Jun 23 2010 - 3:00pm - 5:00pm	y la Construcción del Movimiento BuildTheWheel.org: Sharing Political Education Workshops, Trainings and Resources	Partnership for Immigrant Leadership and Action
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	Jun 23 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	We Call These Projects Home: Taking Action to Realize a New Vision for Public Housing	Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Work Group - Right to the City c/o FUREE
	Jun 23 2010 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Occupy Everything: Transforming Public and Popular Education through Antiauthoritarian Praxis	Institute for Anarchist Studies
	Jun 23 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	Psychiatry as a Form of Social Control Psychiatry as a Form of Social Control Psychiatry as a Form of Social Control	Freedom Center
	Jun 23 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm Jun 23 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	Domestic Workers Bill of Rights Campaign: Transforming Relationships, Building Power, and Reversing a History of Injustice	Domestic Workers United Rude Mechanical Orchestra
	Jun 23 2010 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Tactical Spectacle! Radical Street Bands and Solidarity Organizing We Are Not Your Soldiers - Bringing Reality and Resistance into Classrooms with Anti-War Veterans	World Can't Wait
	Jun 23 2010 - 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Standing Up for Women's Right to Abortion in 2010	World Can't Wait
	Jun 23 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	Body Politics: Toward a Radical Redefinition of Freedom/Movement/Beauty	The Praxis Project
	Jun 23 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	Grassroots Participation in the Redistricting Process: A Strategy for Building Power	The Praxis Project
	Jun 23 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	Right to the City-NYC's Policy Platform & Condo Conversion Campaign	Right To The City
	Jun 23 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	Building Arab and Black Solidarity	WESPAC Foundation
Cobo Hall: DO-03A	Jun 23 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	Beyond "Silly Games": Popular Education as a Methodology for Leadership Development, Grassroots Organizing and Movement Building	Colectivo Flatlander
Cobo Hall: W2-68	Jun 23 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	The Coalition of Immokalee Workers: Fighting for Fair Food	Coalition of Immokalee Workers
WSU Prentis: 15	Jun 23 2010 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Technology Organizing and the USSF	Openflows
Cobo Hall: DO-02A	Jun 23 2010 - 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Building Mass Membership Based Muslim, Arab, South Asian Community Organizing in the U.S.	DRUM- Desis Rising Up & Moving
WSU Old Main: 129	Jun 23 2010 - 3:00pm - 5:00pm	War on Drugs, Policing and Drug User Health	NYC AIDS Housing Network (NYCAHN)
Cobo Hall: D2-08	Jun 23 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	Our Radical Mental Health as Activists	The Icarus Project
Cobo Hall: W1-53	Jun 23 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	Strategic Framing and Messaging	Global Action Project
Cobo Hall: W2-68	Jun 23 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	Up South Down South People's Movement Assembly	Project South
Cobo Hall: W2-58	Jun 23 2010 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Pollution Has No Borders: Black, Chinese and Latino Youth Organizing for Environmental Justice in San Francisco	PODER People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Ed
Cobo Hall: M2-30	Jun 23 2010 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Ending the War on Gangs	nomic Rights Youth Justice Coalition
Cobo Hall: D3-27	Jun 23 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	The Art of Community Rebuilding: ROOTS in West Baltimore	Alternate ROOTS
Cobo Hall: W2-58	Jun 24 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	U.S. Techie Congress	May First/People Link
Cobo Hall: W2-64	Jun 24 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	Direct Democracy and Autonomy: Collectives, Assemblies, Self-Organization	Institute for Anarchist Studies
Woodward Academy: 1475	Jun 24 2010 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Banks must pay: An overview of the financial transactions tax	Health GAP
Woodward Academy: 1472	Jun 24 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	AIDS Isn't over: Solidarity in the fight for justice for people with AIDS worldwide	Health GAP
UAW Building: Lincoln	Jun 24 2010 - 3:00pm - 5:00pm	The Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement: Inspiring Social Justice Activism	Adalah-NY: The New York Campaign for the Boycott of Israel
Cobo Hall: D2-10	Jun 24 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	Banderas de Unidad: What the U.S. left can learn from the Salvadoran revolution about building an effective and unified grassroots political force	CISPES, Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvad
Cobo Hall: W2-61	Jun 24 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	HIV/AIDS & Social Justice	NYC AIDS Housing Network (NYCAHN)
Cobo Hall: DO-01B	Jun 24 2010 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Ending the Afghanistan War	United for Peace and Justice
WSU Old Main: 1129	Jun 24 2010 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Immigration Detention 101	Detention Watch Network
Cobo Hall: O3-45	Jun 24 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	Prison Justice People's Movement Assembly	Resistance in Brooklyn
Cobo Hall: W2-69	Jun 24 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	UFPJ: Shaping, Building and Moving Beyond War to Meeting Human Needs and Aspirations.	United for Peace and Justice
Cobo Hall: W2-66	Jun 24 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	Urban Congress 2010	Right To The City
Cobo Hall: D3-22	Jun 24 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	False Solutions and Real Solutions to Climate Change	Institute for Social Ecology
Cobo Hall: DO-7B	Jun 24 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	Historic Moment for Funding Social Justice Organizing in the 21st Century	Funders Network on Transforming the Global Economy (FNT)
Cobo Hall: D3-26	Jun 24 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	Multilingual Strategies for Movement Building	Colectivo Flatlander
	Jun 24 2010 - 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Theater of the Oppressed: Image Theater 1	Theater of the Oppressed Laboratory (TOPLAB)
	Jun 24 2010 - 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Walmart: Short Term Choices vs. Long Term Reality	United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)
	Jun 24 2010 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm	Challenging Robotic Empire: how we can unplug the new machinery of military/police control through community resistance	Alliance to Resist Robotic Warfare & Society (ARROWS)
	Jun 25 2010 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm	For a Health System based on Equity and Solidarity: Building a Movement for the Human Right to Health in the U.S.	National Economic & Social Rights Initiative (NESRI)
	Jun 25 2010 - 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Homeless Resistance	Picture the Homeless
,	Jun 25 2010 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Immigrant Rights as a Matter of Reproductive Justice	National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
	Jun 25 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm Jun 25 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	The right to decent work and the Universal Periodic Review	Human Rights Project at the Urban Justice Center Human Rights Project at the Urban Justice Center
	·	Mobile Voices: Cell-phone based community journalism	,
WSU Old Main: 1305 Wayne County Community College: 124	Jun 25 2010 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Everybody's voice, nobody's noise: Democratic communication to build movements	REUDIE MADO CHIME a Framo
The second secon	·	Social movements, surveillance, and secure communication alternatives	People Who Give a Damn Riseup Collective
	·	Social movements, surveillance, and secure communication alternatives. Collective Liberation and Radical Mental Health	Riseup Collective The Icarus Project
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Cobo Hall: W2-70 Cobo Hall: DO-5B	Jun 25 2010 - 3:00pm - 5:00pm Jun 25 2010 - 10:00am - 12:00pm	Collective Liberation and Radical Mental Health	Riseup Collective The Icarus Project
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