

May First/People Link Organizational Profile January 2015

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1. About MFPL

May First/People Link is an organization that redefines the concept of "Internet Hosting Service" in a collective, progressive and collaborative way. MFPL is like a coop: as members, we pay dues, buy equipment and then we all use that equipment as we need to for websites, email, email lists, and just about everything else we do on the Internet.

a. Our Mission

MFPL participates in building movements by advancing the strategic use and collective control of technology for local struggles, global transformation, and emancipation without borders.

b. Our Values

May First/People Link's core values guide us in implementing our mission and ensure its integrity. We have identified the following values as critical to our work:

- Transparency, openness, and honesty ensure that we are building a democratic organization;
- Cooperation, collaboration, and sharing help us contribute to a movement broader than ourselves;
- Equality and respect guide us in building with the diversity of people we need to make a difference;
- Conviction and discipline provide the strength to continue against overwhelming odds.

c. Bi-national, Membership Organization

MFPL formed in May 2005 when May First joined forces with People Link.

People Link started in 1995 as a project of the Institute for Mass Communication. Back when pictures on the web was a new thing, People Link was hosting web sites, setting up email accounts, and providing email discussion lists for activists all over the country.

May First Technology Collective began in 1999 (then it was called Media Jumpstart). A worker run collective from the beginning, MFTC provided technology support to New York City nonprofits, ranging from designing web sites to fixing networks.

In May 2005, faced with funding cuts and increased overhead, MFTC decided it was not able to effectively meet it's mission. However, several of its staff and board members expressed a desire to continue with its social mission of providing technology support to the social justice movement but to now concentrate specifically on the Internet.

With the outgoing Board's blessing May First formed a new board to pursue this goal by combining the skills, experience and the already developed technology, equipment and infrastructure of both organizations to build a new, larger and more ambitious one. In June 2005, MFPL was launched.

In 2006, we held our first meeting of active members of the organization. Fifteen individuals came to together to write our Statement of Unity and to organize ourselves as a membership organization.

In 2008, MFPL formed our first Leadership Committee picked from our most active members and empowered the Leadership Committee to set the political direction of the organization. In 2011, we organized our first annual membership meeting in which the Leadership Committee was democratically elected by the membership, and each year since then we have elected a new Leadership Committee.

In 2011, we received a request from LaNeta, a similar organization in Mexico, that was no longer able to continue hosting over 100 activist organizations in Mexico. With the cooperation of the LaNeta leadership, all organizations were invited to join MFPL and we setup an office in Mexico City. Since then, our leadership and organizing efforts have combined the resources of both the Brooklyn and Mexico City offices.

A list of our current organizational and individual members is included in the next section, *MFPL Membership*.

d. Legal Status and Principle Offices

MFPL is incorporated under section 501(c)3, Public Charity Status 170 (b)(1)(A)(vi) State of New York, USA in 1999 as the entity officially known as Media Jumpstart. Since 2005 MFPL's principle office is located in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. MFPL's workers and volunteers operate largely remotely. In 2010, MFPL merged with LaNeta, a founding member of the Association for Progressive Communication. Since that time, MFPL developed an strategy of building an organizational instance based on Mexico City in charge of promoting new members and alliances in Latin American and being able to handle tax and administrative mexican government requirements; that strategy involved most active members in what currently is called Cooperativa Tecnológica Primero de Mayo / Enlace Popular CV y RL.

2. MFPL Membership

Organizations and individuals can join MFPL as members. Members share all resources at MFPL and are never charged individually for basic shared resources we offer. A member may have as many websites, email accounts and other resources as the member needs without any additional cost.

MFPL membership is the highest deliberative body in our organization. It meets yearly to approve basic plans for work and elect a Leadership Committee to oversee its work in between official membership convergences.

a. Organizational Members in 2015

In January 2015, we had 592 organizational members in over half a dozen countries. Here is a selection of the most recognized.

Country	Member Organization	URL	Date Joined
Mexico			
	Fundación Rosa Luxemburg, México	http://rosalux.org.mx	2011

Country	Member Organization	URL	Date Joined
	Coordinadora Mexicana de Solidaridad con Venezuela	http://solidaridadvenezuela.org/	2011
	Comunicación e Información de la Mujer, A.C.	http://cimacnoticias.com.mx/	2011
	ProDesarrollo Finanzas y Microempresa A.C.	http://prodesarrollo.org	2011
	Centro de Estudios para el Cambio en el Campo Mexicano	http://ceccam.org/	2012
	Agencia especializada de noticias NotieSe: Salud, Sexualidad y SIDA	http://notiese.org	2012
	Occupy: MX toma la calle	http://mxtomalacalle.org	2012
	Red de Comunicadores Boca de Polen	http://bocadepolen.org	2012
	Comité Cerezo México - ACUDDEH	http://comitecerezo.org	2012
	Campaña Nacional Sin Maíz No Hay País	http://sinmaiznohaypais.org/	2012
	Centro de Estudios Ecuménicos	http://estudiosecumenicos.org.mx/	2013
	Amarc México	http://www.amarcMexico.org/	2014
	PODER	https://rindecuentas.org	2014
United States			
	Deep Dish TV	http://deepdishtv.org	2010
	Coalition of Immokalee Workers	http://ciw-online.org/	2006
	Yes Men	http://theyesmen.org	2007
	Progressive Technology Project	http://progressivetech.org	2006
	The Praxis Project	http://thepraxisproject.org/	2006
	CISPES	http://cispes.org	2005
	Community Voices Heard	http://cvhaction.org	2006
	VOCAL NY	http://vocal-ny.org	2008
	Desis Rising up and Moving	http://drumnyc.org	2006
	National Network Against Abortion Funding	http://nnaf.org	2008
	Fellowship of Reconciliation	http://forusa.org	2010
	US Social Forum	http://ussocialforum.net	2006

Country	Member Organization	URL	Date Joined
	Grassroots Global Justice Alliance	http://ggjalliance.org	2009
	National Lawyers Guild	http://nlg.org	2012
	Quixote Center	Http://quixote.org	2009
	Southerners on New Group	<a href="http://southernersonn
ewground.org">http://southernersonn ewground.org	2012
	Southwest Workers Union	http://swunion.org	2007
International			
Nigeria	Sahara Reporters	http://saharareporters.com	2010
Palestine	Stop the Wall	http://stopthewall.org/	2011
International	Association for Progressive Communications	http://apc.org	2012

b. Individual Members in 2015

As of January 2015, MFPL has 273 individual members. Individual members have all of the benefits of organizational members but have half the voting power of organizational members in the annual member meeting, particularly for Leadership Committee members.

c. Mexican Co-op Members in 2015

Our strategy of building our organizing instance in Mexico, brought during 2014 several active members to collaborate and engage to formally create our legal structure. As a result 15 persons from 12 member organizations decided and took part of the diverse aspects of it's constitution.

3. Organizational Structure

MFPL is comprised of both individuals and organizations and is directed by a Leadership Committee comprised of 15 MFPL members who delegate authority to individuals or work teams (or a combination of both) to oversee operations day to day.

MFPL workers are a group of members, most of whom donate their time to the organization. These workers are responsible for administration, the maintenance of our technology infrastructure, technical assistance to members, outreach and recruitment and relations with progressive movements and organizations in both countries.

Because over 500 of our members (more than 65 percent) are organizations in and of themselves, MFPL is a kind of “network” or large coalition of these organizations. As an organization of the progressive movements of both the U.S. and Mexico, we work with other coalitions and networks, in which we often play a leading role in strategic development of those coalitions and campaigns.



Illustration 1: This organogram represents the structure of MFPL as an organization, and as well incorporates the governance mechanisms of the network.

4. MFPL Achievements

Below is a reflection of the positive changes that we helped bring about since 2005. We want to emphasise that no social intervention can be attributed exclusively to the actions of one organization. Nevertheless, we believe that MFPL contributed to the following changes:

- Since 2007, a total of 28,000 activists have converged in the United States for the two United States Social Forums. MFPL has continued to play a critical role in the technology and communications development of the forum process. As a result, the civil society movement in the US has unified various struggles and movements, building new consciousness about problems and issues, developing new leadership and forging new collaboration among issue-based and regionally-specific movements.
- Net Neutrality remains a prominent issue in the US. Recently, FCC Chairman Wheeler adopted language and policy directly from the Media Action Grass Roots Network (MAGNet), of which MFPL is a leading member.
- MFPL trained 10 people of color as system administrators as part of our People of Color Techie Training Program in partnership with the Praxis Project and the Progressive Technology Project in 2012.
- In 2013, the UN Special Rapporteur on Racism issued a report in which access to free software was identified as a critical element to ending racial divides throughout the world. This language was directly adopted following a consultative event at UN Headquarters in NYC, which we attended with the Association for Progressive Communications.

- Since 2011, Occupy groups throughout the US and the world have received cost-free access to our Internet services, mitigating corporate-government surveillance of their political actions. In the summer of 2011, MFPL announced cost-free Internet services to Occupy groups throughout the US and the world. Some, including Occupy Wallstreet Journal, are still active on our servers to this day.

5. Financial overview

In 2014, MFPL's average yearly income was \$150,000 and we had 1.3 full-time paid workers and 865 members.

Compared with 2010, our fifth anniversary, these figures represent significant growth. In 2010 MFPL had a budget of about \$50,000, no paid workers and a membership of under 500.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Income USD		54375	58956	66732	88215	144442	94920	159279	156511	148659
Paid FTE ¹ s	0	0	0	0	0	.2	.4	.4	1	1.3
Workers	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	3
Members	75	213	302	354	430	486	648	761	810	856

a. Sustainability

It's clear that with very little exception, MFPL is completely funded by member dues.

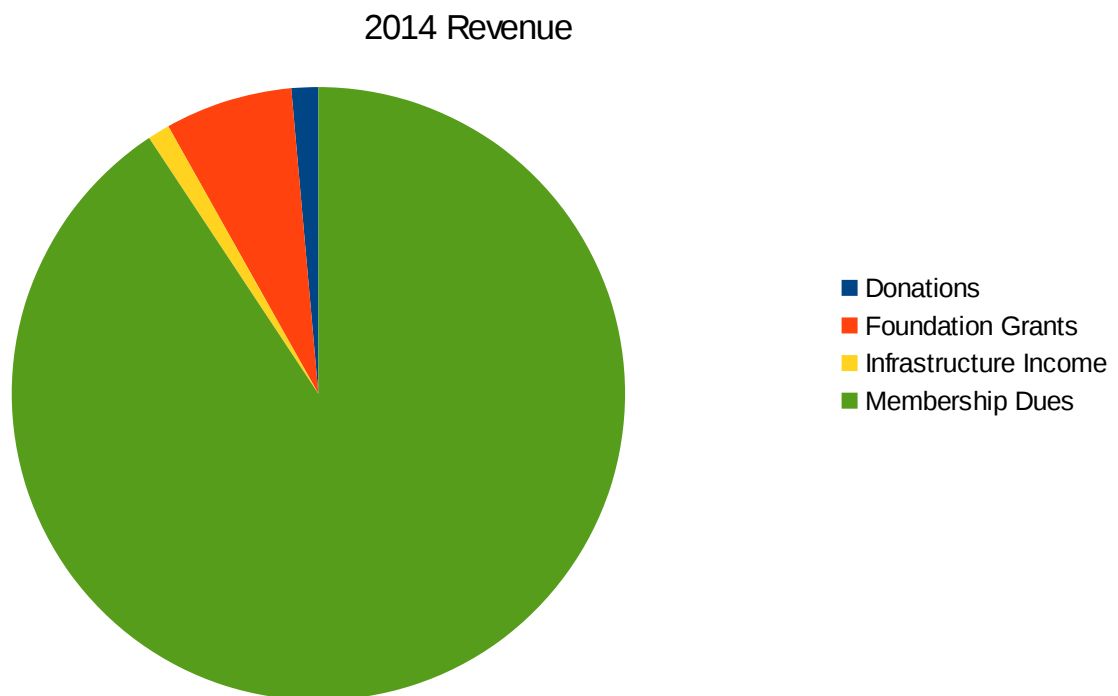


Illustration 2: MFPL is funded largely by its members, who in turn receive a variety of benefits such as website and email hosting.

¹ FTE stands for "full-time equivalent".

Members of MFPL own and share all of the organization's internet services and resources. MFPL staff's job is to fairly allocate the resources as efficiently as possible and adjust membership dues based on usage.

The vast majority of members pay only \$200/year (organizations) or \$100/year (individuals). Dues are collected via online payment platforms or by check on a yearly basis for typical members. Some members require more intensive resources, for which they pay more such as dedicated virtual or even physical servers.²

b. Organizations Who Have Supported MFPL

- The YesMen and YesLab issued a one-time donation to MFPL in 2011 and recommended us to the Kindle Project for future annual contributions.
- The Kindle Project has contributed an annual grant to MFPL since 2011.
- The Praxis Project and The Progressive Technology Project contributed participants in our Techie of Color Training Program in 2012.

6. The Leadership Committee

MFPL's Leadership Committee is elected by members. The members currently serving on the LC are:

Name	Role on LC	Residence	Institutional affiliation	Diversity
Maritza Arrastia		US		Woman, Cuban
Carlos Pablo Correa Hernández		Mexico	Agencia de Información Cooperativa	Mexican
Juan Gerardo Dominguez Carrasco	Chair	Mexico	Asesores para el Cambio Social SC	Mexican
Louis Head		US	Southwest Organizing Project	
Mallory Knodel	Coordinator	Canada	Association for Progressive Communications	Woman
Alfredo Lopez	Coordinator	US		Puerto Rican
Jamie McClelland	Coordinator	US		
Enrique Rosas	Coordinator	Mexico	Rosa Luxemburg Foundation	Mexican
Jerome Scott		US	United States Social Forum	African American
Jackie Smith		US		Woman

7. Workers

MFPL has a large base of volunteers and some paid workers who support the infrastructure and core organizing work of MFPL. The table below represents active workers in 2015.

Role	Name	Location	Diversity
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² For more information about hosting benefits and payment, see <https://mayfirst.org/hosting>

Volunteer; tech support, coordinator	Jamie McClelland	New York City	
Paid; outreach, coordinator	Alfredo Lopez	New York City	Puerto Rican
Volunteer; LC chair, coordinator	Juan Gerardo	Mexico City	Mexican
Volunteer; tech support, coordinator	Enrique Rosas	Mexico City	Mexican
Volunteer; coordinator	Mallory Knodel	Montreal	woman
Volunteer; Co-op chair	Pablo Correa	Mexico City	Mexican
Paid; tech support	Jaime Villereal	Mexico City	
Volunteer; tech support	Daniel Kahn Gillmor	New York City	
Volunteer; tech support	Josue Guillen	Austin	
Volunteer; tech support	Ross Glover	Boston	
Volunteer; tech support	Joseph Lacey	Oakland	
Volunteer; tech support	Greg Lyle	New York City	
Volunteer; tech support	Nat Meysenberg	Baltimore	

8. Online Sources of Information

Current MFPL web-based information sources include:

- <https://mayfirst.org/> is our front page and contains news and information about overall activities mostly English, with some content in Spanish.
- <https://support.mayfirst.org> provides the means to document requests, support, infrastructure design and projects
- <http://servers.mayfirst.org> documents our network deployment

9. Online collaboration

Current MFPL collaboration tools

- <https://social.mayfirst.org> our federated social network platform
- <https://live.mayfirst.org/mexcla/en/1000> our audio-conference with interpretation platform (firefox up-to-date required)
- <https://live.mayfirst.org/?1000> our video-conference platform (firefox up-to-date required)
- im.mayfirst.org our xmpp server
- along others