

Peoples Movement Assembly- 2012 & 2013 Work

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After two successful Social Forums in Atlanta 2007 and Detroit 2010, and two national convergences of Assembly representatives in February 2011 and the Assembly of Assemblies in March 2012, the Peoples Movement Assembly process enters a new period. The goal of the Assembly process remains to grow social movement as catalysts for change and to build convergence between and among movements. In 2012 as co-chairs of the PMA organizing work, we have made an assessment of the direction and functionality of the PMA process. The process requires slow and steady building where grassroots forces are consolidating toward justice, decolonization, and liberation.

As a community governance and movement building process, the Peoples Movement Assembly has been tested and practiced over 200 times since 2006. Social Movement forces have organized assemblies to analyze conditions, synthesize political positions, and establish shared action plans across every front and many communities. Since the second US Social Forum in 2010, multiple groups have used the organizing process of the Peoples Movement Assemblies to launch PMAs in the South including Youth Assemblies, Preemptive Prosecution PMA, and regional assemblies, the Formerly Incarcerated PMA in February 2011, Detroit's Assemblies in fall 2010 and early 2011, the PMA Southwest Organizing Tour in 2011, the Assembly to End Poverty, National Student Bill of Rights gatherings, the organizing & documentation tour in Fall 2011 'From Wall Street to the South,' and the Queer Liberation PMA in January 2012. The PMA process in 2011 & 2012 has directly engaged over 3,000 people and advanced collaborative organizing efforts on many fronts.

Goals in this next period:

- To document the social movement impact of the social forum convergences and the Peoples Movement Assembly processes over the last 8-10 years. Through critical partnerships with organizations working the assemblies in the current moment, we will deepen the assessment, study, and practice of the Assemblies.
- To provide baseline support to anchor organizations using the Assembly organizing process toward strengthening local, regional, and national movement building efforts and thematic fronts of struggle.
- To initiate specific assembly efforts (rather than coordinate a more generalized process) where forces are moving in the US South, Southwest, Midwest, and the Global South.

Benchmarks:

- Southern Movement Assembly – September 2012
- Preparatory Peoples Movement Assemblies for the WSF Free Palestine – October 2012
- Produce materials and toolkits for organizing and facilitation support – Fall 2012
- Assembly of Assemblies – Early 2013
 - o to convene movement leaders on critical fronts of struggle
 - o to assess the current political moment and create a space for discussion and debate
 - o to launch a renewed USSF planning committee that reflects grassroots movements
- Summer training & study courses for social movement history, organizing, and facilitation
- Decolonization Movement Assembly – Late 2013

Basic Budget for PMA national coordination (verbally submitted to Finance Team in August)

- part-time staff to organize the Assembly of Assemblies = \$15K
- cost of the Assembly (travel, food, space, and materials) = \$10K
- documentation and resource production = \$5K