

Thoughts Regarding Workshop Structure: Towards Planning Our Work and Working Our Plan

Dearest Workshop Presenters,

The workshops that you will be presenting at the conference are the heart and soul of the whole affair. The following are some reflections for you to consider regarding the structure of the workshops:

Who's coming to the conference?

We have participants from a variety of backgrounds across the country including organizers from major immigrant, labor and community organizations, day laborers, students and peace and global justice activists.

To ensure that the workshops are useful to everyone, remember: SIMPLE, CONCISE, CLEAR. We should all work to develop easy to understand formats with good visual materials and handouts. It is important to keep in mind that we all come from different backgrounds; assume that for some participants this might be the first time they have been exposed to the issue that your workshop explores. Translators will be among us, but materials should be translated as much as possible.

Regarding Audio and Visual Equipment:

Since American University DOES charge for the use their A/V equipments we have arranged to have A/V equipment set up in Ward 1, which is the only room set up with A/V, meaning that we will need to coordinate amongst ourselves to make sure that everyone who needs it will have access to it. If you want to show a film and/or have a PowerPoint presentation, and have access to your own equipment, please consider bringing that equipment.

Workshop Timelines:

Each workshop will be 90 min to be utilized as you see fit. One of the most important goals of this conference is to organize a national campaign strategy. It seems important therefore that each workshop dedicate some time to developing concrete strategy proposals. Towards this end, a suggested workshop timeline could be:

10 Min: Introductions

40 Min: Workshop/Panel Presentation

30 Min: Q/A, Brainstorm Campaign Strategy (Draft a proposal and appoint a spokesperson to present it at the plenary strategy sessions.)

10 Min: Wrap up the workshop, point participants to the next workshop sections.

Regarding the Goals of the Workshop?

We have gathered to develop a national campaign strategy. That strategy will be come out of the concrete campaign proposals that are the result of each workshop. Therefore, workshop participants need to have quality time to discuss what our collective next steps will be. There is a

lot to discuss regarding how we will work collectively to accomplish our goals. Anyone who wants to propose a campaign strategy on-line, please do so, that way conference participants can spend their Saturday and Sunday afternoons (7/29, 7/30) discussing how to implement and take ownership of the proposals (as well as how to divide up the work.) If we can do this, we can spend Sunday Afternoon's Strategy Assembly doing final discussion and decision making.

Regarding Proposal Formulation/Decision Making Process:

Step One: Formulating Proposals

Campaign proposals will hopefully be the result of the workshops and any pre-conference on-line submissions that will be distributed during the workshop for consideration.

Step Two: In-Depth Discussion/Modifications of the Proposals, And Creating Working Groups

Proposals will hopefully be refined in our Strategy Sections and our Caucuses.

Our strategy sections include (but are not limited to) Legislative, Community, Border, Education & Outreach, Labor, Multi-Ethnic Organizing, Student/Youth, Diverse Tactic, Interfaith and Community Support.

Our caucuses include (but are not limited to) Women, LGBT, Mid-Atlantic Region, Mid-West region, West Coast Region, South East/Gulf Coast Regions.

Step Three: Decision Making Process at the Sunday Strategy Assembly (Ward 1 Auditorium, 2 - 4 PM)

Campaign proposals will be presented to the plenary. Discussion, Q/A, clarification and adoption of the proposals will follow. The adoption of the proposals will follow a modified consensus process, unless there is strong disagreement among participants that that be the case. Modified consensus is simply the notion that we, as a community, will strive for consensus. If unresolvable conflicts arise, a vote will be taken. In order for the adoption of a proposal to be passed by the community, within the context of a vote, there must be a super majority (2/3 or 66.67%). Based on the passed proposals we will lay down our 6-9 months campaign strategy and create working affinity groups to put our plans to work. Does that sound right to everyone? Feedback!!!