

DNOVA Summit Planning Meeting

Thursday, February 6, 2025

- ❖ VASEN virtual meeting (2/21)
 - Nairuti and Jeff attending and providing a brief summary of the dinner event
- ❖ USFWC Racial and Economic Justice Council updates from Johanna
 - Fundraising support for SECOSOL
 - \$20K/year (currently funds Johanna's position)
 - Interest in more of a membership-based fundraising model
- ❖ DNOVA Summit 2025: Building Community Power, Growing Community Wealth
 - Planning for 150-200 people (last one had 50 people)
 - Budget
 - Sponsorships/fundraising
 - Eleanor meeting with folks from the Northern Virginia Community Foundation
 - Program - what do we want to do with the space? What do we want to accomplish?
 - Keynote address: Anthony Cook (Georgetown) - working to build a network of cooperative grocery stores in underserved communities in DC; can talk about how to creatively finance this good work
 - Roll call - round robin introductions to get a sense of who we are together
 - Community assembly to establish some discussions - could we do Mentimeter? Or roundtable facilitated conversations? Potential ways to use Decidim?
 - Afternoon session is fairly open - last time, did sharing stories, a panel, and then social hour (at a local spot)
 - Organizations tabling throughout the duration of the event
 - Sunday is workshops and sessions → coming back together for a sort of what's next conversation
 - Logistics
 - Core team at GMU is Eleanor, Sara Aftab (20 hours/week), Ben (lead professor), Katharine Rupp (administrator, logistics management)
 - Booked space at Merter and Horizon halls
 - Eleanor and Sara met with Kelly (who organized the 2022 summit) - got good feedback
 - Admin and finance
 - Media - have a draft digital flyer
 - Staff/volunteers (GMU interns will be supporting a lot of this)
 - Invitation/outreach
 - Logistics (need a lot of support)
 - Trying to get registration together – Ben wants to move DNOVA/NSS infrastructure to Action Network

- Jeff: don't just want people to come together and talk; could Sunday be a VASEN conversation? Sunday should be when we get work done (not just going from session to session).
- Nairuti: getting people to participate in live campaigns on the second day
- Jeff: would be helpful for SECOSOL to be in conversation with BCI; getting coop community together to visualize a plan
- Nairuti: sector-specific conversations on Day 2 based on the DNOVA landscape scan that GMU peeps did; following up on the land/labor/capital conversation on the first day
- Jeff: need to get back in touch with BCI; how do we get all the cleaning coops to cooperate and be able to access contracts within anchor institutions (like public schools, for example)
- Johanna: at the USFWC conference in Chicago, women I went with shared that the first day of panels/speakers was going over their head - felt too academic; what *did* work was a show of our experience of going through the incubator and then feeling abandoned by them, struggles with finding help for taxes, etc. (theater of the oppressed); storytelling felt much more culturally appropriate
- Eleanor: that'll be a tension no matter what, but getting to know each other can build a bridge; working together needs to be built on trust (misconception that this region is just a place where people work); people with similar interests to come together or people who don't know each other?
- Jeff: motivation of Madre Tierra has been housing for those who have survived domestic abuse; ongoing relationships of trust/interdependence = how you build community
- Nairuti: need to get clear on audience, because that will shape the program; my preference is for community residents (not just the nonprofit peeps and academics/funders)
- Pat: we're all about building relationships; to build power, there needs to be education to get people on the same page; to grow the community = opportunities to work together; VOICE as a part of IAL (Saul Alinsky); over the last year, have been learned about the power of allies; relationships + stories + allies
- Pat: Michele Winters for CLTs (as a mechanism for people to be homeowners)
- Eleanor: should be broader than coops / SE; ecology comes to mind; database is also out of date; like the idea of starting to build an invitation list off the database; remember this is just where we're building from (can grow in two years, and so forth)
- Nairuti: need to get clear on audience and socialize that with Ben
- Pat: VOICE is planning a two-day NoVA Labor Federation; what are the goals?
- Jeff: I want to leave this conference with a wider group of SE activists with whom SECOSOL/NoVA Web Development is working.
- Nairuti: When participants leave the summit, how do you want them to feel? What do you want them to do?

- Pat: commitments people should make at the end
- ❖ Next steps/action items
 - Let's start using Decidim for these meetings moving forward...
 - Eleanor to share documents (planning spreadsheet, program, etc.)
 - Eleanor to invite Yolanda to be a part of this process
 - Jeff to email Ben and ask him to be a part of this process
 - Eleanor to share this two-day concept with Ben and what are the goals
 - Eleanor to add "evaluation" (one on Sunday and one six months later)