

United States Social Forum (USSF) Orientation

Procedures/Processes to make and implement decisions:

- The USSF is a movement building process, not merely an event.
- There will be a “social forum of a new type” in 2015. Structurally, that means a multi-site polycentric model. In 2014 we will use the People’s Movement Assembly process and methodology <http://www.peoplesmovementassembly.org> as our principal outreach and educational tool as we build toward 2015.
- The National Planning Committee (NPC) is the body that is the ultimate decision making body of the USSF. It is composed of organizations/networks who adhere to “What We Believe” principles <http://www.ussocialforum.net/about> and go through a formal http://www.ussocialforum.net/new_npc_members_allies. Each NPC member org is expected to have a person participate on the monthly NPC calls (currently scheduled for the second Tues of every month at 9am pacific, 10am mountain, 11am central, 12pm eastern) and also to have a person from their org serve on at least one of the Working Groups (WG) or Committees (listed below).
- When making decisions, the NPC strives for consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, a proposal is passed if it receives a majority vote from those who vote (abstentions do not count towards setting the majority threshold).
- The Accountability Coordination Team (ACT) serves body to coordinate all overall work and hold us all accountable to decisions made. ACT is composed of a representative from each of the existing WG/Committees. Primary responsibility is to create the agenda for NPC monthly calls and to coordinate and integrate the efforts of the Working Groups.
- Creation/Re-constitution of a WG/Committee needs to be formally approved by NPC.
- Proposals are developed in a WG/Committee. Ideally they would be sent to ACT for refinement and to be agendized on the next NPC call for discussion/decision.
- Each WG/Committee creates its own workplan and procedures for making/implementing their decisions.

Working groups/Committees (Chair, contact and meeting times):

Arts & Culture: Shamako Noble shamakonoblemusic@gmail.com

Communications/Technology: Alfredo Lopez alfredo@mayfirst.org

Gender Justice Working Group: Rose Brewer brewe001@umn.edu

International Committee: Jen Cox: jenkwru@yahoo.com

Outreach: Jerome Scott jerome@ssbuit.com 1st Monday of month at 1pm pacific, 10am mountain, 11am central, 12pm eastern

Poverty Working Group: Evelyn Dortch evelyn@wvdawg.org

People’s Movement Assembly (PMA): David Cobb David@MoveToAmend.org 3rd Monday of month at 1pm pacific, 10am mountain, 11am central, 12pm eastern

Resource Development: Monica Beemer monibeem@yahoo.com and Jacqui Patterson jpatters1@yahoo.com

Road to USSF: Walda Katz-Fishman wkatzfishman@igc.org