

US Social Forum Evaluation Guide
DRAFT: April 14, 2010 (J. Smith)

The Documentation and Evaluation committee of the USSF is working with a team of scholars and students to document and assess how well the process of organizing and convening the 2010 USSF in Detroit has contributed to achieving the four key goals of the USSF, including:

- 1) Contribute to movement-building in the United States by:
 - Strengthening local movement capacity
 - Building stronger relationships and collaboration between movements
 - Advancing a common agenda for action and transformation
- 2) Support organizing and movement building in Detroit
- 3) Create a space for social movement convergence and strategic discussion
- 4) Deepen our commitment to international solidarity and common struggle

The research team is led by scholars at the University of California-Riverside (Christopher Chase-Dunn and Ellen Reese), Northeastern University (Jeffrey Juris), Florida Atlantic University (Marina Karides), the University of Michigan (Barbara Kritt, John Mathias, Federico Pous, and Bruno Renero-Hannan), University of California-Irvine (Scott Byrd), and the University of Notre Dame (Jackie Smith), and accompanied by students from those universities and others around the United States.

The team will coordinate students and scholars who will be collecting survey data, interviewing leaders and participants, and observing a sample of workshops and cultural events at the USSF. Researchers will collect additional information from relevant Working Groups and will consult with USSF Working Group chairs and NPC organizers on the findings. The team will collaborate with NPC and Working Group organizers in developing analyses and reports on the USSF. These reports will be made available to the NPC member organizations and the general public.

GOALS and Indicators	Method1	Method2
1) Contribute to Movement-Building in the United States <i>Strengthen local capacity to improve social conditions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering skills-building workshops and cultural events • Offer workshops that help further develop Black, Immigrant and Indigenous Nations solidarity • Generating the creation of new alliances among local movements • Media coverage (nat'l and local) of USSF and social movement issues <i>Build stronger relationships and collaboration between movements</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage groups and movements that were not part of the 2007 USSF • Bring people and organizations of Arab and Muslim descent in the National Planning Committee • Formalize relations with Indigenous Nations 	Observations Observations Observations ?? Registration NPC-EVAL NPC-EVAL	NPC-2 NPC-2

Comment [j1]: FROM MARINA: The evaluation indicators should specify gender and race, etc. Below are the sections that may be able to include gender, feminism and race, indigenous, more specifically. Under 1, collaboration across movements can mean (and I think does for some groups) only across labor rights and economic issues like housing. It could be thickening connections within GGJ and other networks or with other networks but does less to include groups marginalized by social inequalities. So offer workshops that generate collaboration among different racial groups or between feminist organizations and labor rights organizations.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer workshops that generate ongoing collaboration across movements • Offer workshops that share lessons about movement collaboration • Offer workshops with skills building relevant for cross-movement collaboration <p>Advance social movements agenda for action and transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer workshops that enhance participants understandings of local-global links • Offer skills-building workshops on tactics relevant to global context • Provide structure for ongoing collaboration and communication among movements • More effectively use the Internet and independent media to shape and influence the public conversation in ways that convey momentum and hope 	<p>Observation</p> <p>Observation</p> <p>Observation</p> <p>Observations</p> <p>Observations</p> <p>Post-USSF</p> <p>NPC-EVAL</p>	<p>Post-USSF</p> <p></p> <p>NPC-2</p> <p>NPC-2</p>
<p><u>GOALS and Indicators</u></p>	<p><u>Method1</u></p>	<p><u>Method2</u></p>
<p>2) Support organizing and movement building in Detroit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater representation of LOC on NPC, and greater visibility of local struggles • All DLOC and anchor members emerge stronger • Lasting local movement/emancipatory projects in Detroit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Centro Obrero silkscreening business *Library *Bicycle system *Political campaigns /struggles prioritized by Detroit PMA *Others? • Local media coverage of social movements/USSF and movement issues • Offering workshops to sensitize participants about Detroit's conditions/struggles & parallels with other locales 	<p>DLOC-Doc</p> <p>DLOC-Doc</p> <p>DLOC-Doc</p> <p>??</p> <p>DLOC-Doc</p>	<p>NPC-2</p> <p>NPC-2</p> <p>NPC-2</p> <p></p> <p>Observations</p>
<p><u>GOALS and Indicators</u></p>	<p><u>Method1</u></p>	<p><u>Method2</u></p>
<p>3) Create a space for social movement convergence and strategic discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase attendance and double the numbers: 25,000 delegates & double the international delegate participation • Mobilizing diverse movements to attend the USSF • Providing workshops that bridge diverse movements • Providing workshops that allow strategic discussions • Providing workshops that model diverse, representative movement building that is cross-cutting, democratic, and effectively integrates process and outcomes 	<p>Registrations</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Observations</p> <p>Observations</p> <p>Observations</p> <p>NPC-EVAL</p>	<p></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring smooth operations and logistics at USSF • Sustaining NPC and developing process for expanding and enhancing its ability to be led by those most excluded from mainstream political process; • Local and national media coverage that offers positive assessment of movements and their potential (vs. cynicism and coverage of anti-social movements like tea party) • Provide workshops and plenaries that develop a collective systemic understanding and analysis of the current economic and political moment • Provide workshops/plenaries that create a shared vision of the society and world that challenges poverty and exploitation, all forms of oppression, militarism and war, and environmental destruction. • Rethink program design, content, and format – self-organized process, plenaries, open space – so that form follows function, so that program supports movement convergence • Increase Language Access capacity • Greater infusion of art and culture throughout the program and experience 	Post-USSF ?? Observations	
GOALS and Indicators	<u>Method1</u>	<u>Method2</u>
4) Deepen our commitment to international solidarity and common struggle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying lessons from USSF process and possible contributions to World Social Forums • Promoting and supporting U.S. Participation in World Social Forums • Clarify the relationship between the USSF process and the Peoples Movement Assembly (PMA) process: PMA is a methodology and is within the USSF process • Offer a clear “orientation” to the USSF process 	Observations Post-USSF NPC-EVAL Observations	Post-USSF

Comment [j2]: Under 2 “developing a collective systemic understanding and analysis of the current economic and political moment” seems too monolithic to me and counters the original spirit of the social forums of multiple alternatives. I am sure that many NPC member organizations are not seeking a certain analysis, but I am fairly certain some are. Groups are at the USSF because they have already have a shared vision. In this collective systemic analysis race and gender should be included specifically

Methods

DLOC-Doc	Detroit Local Organizing Committee Documentation Team (led by U of MI scholars)
Survey	University of California-Riverside survey of USSF participants (500-600 surveys of randomly sampled participants at opening march, registration area and common spaces)
Observations	University of Notre Dame-supervised collection of observations at random selection of workshops and cultural activities (min. 10% coverage)
NPC-EVAL	Post-USSF NPC debriefing meeting (June 28)
Post-USSF	Post USSF interviews (and possibly focus groups) by research team
NPC-2	Fall 2010 meeting of the NPC to review Survey and Observation results and advance assessments of USSF impacts
Registration	Registration data
??	Need process for evaluating media coverage of the USSF

Source for some indicators: “USSF Vision and Goals 2010” http://wiki.ussf2010.org/wiki/Vision_and_Goals_2010