

USSF2010 WORKSHOP - Control of Public Media as a Social Justice Issue: Lessons from Latin America and the U.S.



Facilitators: James Owens, Scott Sanders
Thursday June 24, 2010 | 3:30 - 5:30PM
Cobo Convention Hall: D2-09 1 Washington Blvd, Detroit, MI
 with help from Chicago Media Action www.chicagomediaaction.org & Media Alliance www.mediaalliance.org

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Featuring activists from the front lines of struggles for community-controlled media, this workshop explores why the contest to control the means of communication is a life or death struggle. This workshop calls out to social justice movements to 1) strengthen existing movement based media 2) build communication networks between our movements across boundaries and 3) demand democratic control of public media channels. In the hands of social justice movements, media can be a means to build cultures of direct action and community self-organization and to create new social conditions. This workshop interrogates professional authority as a cultural force that enables neo-liberal capitalism and restrains social justice demands. So-called impartial professional authority build a democratic system of communication. Only when marginalized and oppressed communities participate in shaping media systems & content can we build a culture of solidarity and justice. Another world is necessary and to build it we need another media!



What is the US Social Forum? The US Social Forum (USSF) is a movement building process. It is not a conference but it is a space to come up with the peoples' solutions to the economic and ecological crisis. The USSF is the next most important step in our struggle to build a powerful multi-racial, multi-sectoral, inter-generational, diverse, inclusive, internationalist movement that transforms this country and changes history. <http://www.ussf2010.org/about>

INCLUDING: Gerardo Torres, a member of the International Commission of the National Front of Popular Resistance of Honduras (FNRP). He is a member of The Political Organization Los Necios (OPLN). The OPLN was founded 10 years ago as a youth and student organization and has been an important part of the social movements before and after the June 28 coup. The OPLN has historically played an important role in political education and in independent media.

* Roberta Rael, with the Youth Radio Raices Collective of KUNM-FM in Albuquerque; Speakers from Radio Populares and La Voz de Los de Abajo will discuss how new community radio stations in Latin America supports new political agency for dispossessed communities.

* Scott Sanders has co-founded a number of Chicago based media activist organizations, and led efforts to constitute public community media centers with member elected boards. He also led campaigns resulting in the only FCC fine of a major public TV station concerning commercialism.

* James Owens is an organizer, media coordinator and researcher active in movements against war and for housing and human rights. He also co-founded peace and media organizations, including Chicago Media Action.

"A Neutral Network Alone Will Not Build a Just Media System for Us and Neither Will Professional Journalists: Control of Public Media as a Social Justice Issue" by: Scott Sanders and James Owens <http://www.truthout.org/control-public-media-a-social-justice-issue57713>