

**East Michigan Environmental Action Council
Environmental and Social Justice
Community Commons**

Information Requested

Please provide full identification of the person(s) responsible for the proposal submitted: name(s), address(es), telephone number(s), and e-mail address(es). Also, please provide a brief statement of your organization's purpose, mission and proven track record of success. In addition, please supply the name(s), address(es), and phone number(s) of two personal and two professional references who can corroborate your success.

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Organization Purpose/Mission

The East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC) began in the late 1960s in response to environmental concerns in Southeast Michigan. A cornerstone of EMEAC's formation was the belief that informing the public and engaging them in addressing environmental issues would lead to solutions to environmental problems. EMEAC has a proven track record working in the legislature, in the courts, in township halls and in schools to protect air and water quality, wetlands, natural areas, farmlands and wildlife. We provide legislative and regulatory advocacy, public information and environmental education opportunities throughout southeast Michigan. EMEAC coordinates school environmental education programs from elementary to high school levels.

We work to improve the quality of life, health and the built environment of low-income, people of color most impacted by pollution in Detroit and the surrounding area through equitable environmental policy. We work to end Environmental Racism: policy decisions that disproportionately and negatively impact low-income, and people of color communities.

Organization Record of Success

EMEAC has a record of success in carrying out its work and has left an imprint on the people, organizations, policymakers and institutions with which it has worked. EMEAC's successes include:

- EMEAC has been able to thrive and expand in a difficult economic climate, while engaging in work that fills an essential gap in the city of Detroit. Its great work remains relevant in the city of Detroit and increasingly around the nation and world.

EMEAC grew from an organization with a small budget (\$30,000) and staff (.5FTE) in 2005 a \$1.6 million organization (includes collaborations) with 8 full and 10 part time staff.

- EMEAC’s track record in the community led to it to its being selected to co-ordinate – with 3 other ‘anchor organizations’ – the 2010 United States Social Forum, which hosted (in Detroit) almost 25,000 activists, educators and community members from around the world.
- EMEAC sent staff members to the World Summit on Climate Change in Cancun, Mexico and a delegation to World Social Forum in Dakar, Senegal. In Dakar, members of the delegation served on panels, spoke in organizing spaces, and have been a part of ongoing efforts to further the principles of the forum.
- For the past 3 years, EMEAC’s ReMedia program has sponsored Green Screen Film Festival, an environmental film festival and competition that features youth-created/produced environmental justice films – more than doubled between 2008 and 2010. Film entries rose from approximately 7 in 2008 to 17 in 2010.
- EMEAC’s Stand Up! Speak Out! program led a city-wide diesel campaign which led to a city referendum to limit diesel pollution.
- EMEAC has developed and is holding leadership in several collaborations: Food Justice Task Force; Detroit Digital Justice Coalition; Detroit Media Economy Collaborative; Environmental Justice Task Force; Zero Waste Detroit; Green Task Force; Allied Media Project; and Bioneers Detroit. Through its collaborations, EMEAC has been a critical force behind the environmental justice movement in the city of Detroit.

References

Professional References	Personal References
Hugh McDiarmid, Jr. 22642 Power Rd. Farmington, MI 48336 (248) 660-4300	Stephanie Guilloud Project South 9 Gammon Ave. Atlanta, GA 30315 (404) 622-0602
Michael Leon Guerrero Grassroots Global Justice Alliance P.O. Box 1799 San Pedro, CA 90733 (424) 675-5419	Elena Herrada Master’s of Social Change Coordinator Marygrove College 8425 West McNichols Detroit, MI 48221 (313) 927-1200

Option of Interest

- | | |
|--|---------|
| Option A: Purchase of the Buildings | _____ |
| At what amount will you offer to purchase the buildings? | _____ |
| Option B: Donation of the Buildings | _____ ✓ |
| Option C: Long-term Leasing of the Buildings | _____ |

Proposed Uses

Please describe your proposed use or uses of the 1st UU buildings and explain why your plans are compatible with 1st UU’s values and mission, as well as its vision for future building use. Include information about how your efforts will impact the surrounding neighborhood/community.

Our vision is to transform the Unitarian Universalist Space into a multi-use UU space and Detroit Grassroots Hub that would embody the principles and values of the Unitarian Church and our Environmental Justice and Social Justice Principles. Toward that end, we propose to use the space in the following ways:

1. Office space for East Michigan Environmental Action Council and several grassroots organizations with which EMEAC collaborates.
2. Space for entrepreneurial ventures by grassroots collaborative partners.
3. Community space for grassroots activities and events

Proposed Use: Office Space

EMEAC proposes to continue using space in the UU building for administrative purposes and to support the efforts of its 3 programs: Greener Schools, ReMedia and Stand Up! Speak Out! Each is briefly summarized below.

1. The **Greener Schools Program** supports the academic development of students in participating Detroit-area public schools through programs in which students help to design, create, care for and use nature areas on school grounds. Since beginning in 2009, Greener Schools has helped to expand the green community space around schools, increase awareness of biodiversity issues in Detroit, and improve skills and confidence to solve environmental issues within and around its participating schools. Greener Schools programs and efforts include implementation of the Multicultural Environmental Arts and Science (MEAS) curriculum, Ugliest Schoolyard Competition, and Gardening Angels.

2. **ReMedia** is an environmental justice media program. With a multi-disciplinary, community-based program design, ReMedia integrates environmental education, multi-media production, media literacy, green technologies, popular education, social networking, civic engagement and social consciousness as a means to create change on both individual and systemic levels. Its programs empower Detroit youth and adults by providing the technological tools, skill development, and resources that will enable them to contribute to community sustainability through informed action. ReMedia offers trainings on how people can create a platform to create a collective voice, practice civic engagement and engage in community advocacy. Participants learn how to identify environmental justice issues and problems, and then create and implement solutions. Now in its third year, ReMedia has been enthusiastically received and embraced by public and charter schools, community organizations, environmental justice advocates, middle and high school students, and community residents.
3. **Stand Up! Speak Out! (SUSO)** is a community empowerment program that contributes to community sustainability through informed action. SUSO builds upon relationships and resources that exist throughout Detroit to create a stronger platform for a collective voice. Participants identify issues of community concern and create and implement solutions to these problems. SUSO includes three phases: (1) Educate/Vision, (2) Create, and (3) Activate. Participants work to “educate, create, and activate” themselves, their peers, and their community. First, participants discuss multiple issues going on in Detroit, how their communities are organizing around them, and their solutions to these problems. Second, in collaboration with EMEAC’s ReMedia program, participants will create educational tools that highlight their issues of concern and proposed solutions (via film, public service announcement, poetry slam, play, etc). They also receive leadership training on how to effectively address and speak to these issues. Third, participants put their educational tools to use presenting it to their peers and community.

In addition to administrative purposes, EMEAC will offer workshops and classes, host meetings, and use the space to raise funds to support its programs and fund renovations. We would also like to share the space – at an affordable cost – with several grassroots organizations with which EMEAC partners. Community partners are presented below with a brief description of their mission and key programs. Additional information on each is provided in the appendices.

1. **Detroit Grassroots Cultural Arts Center:** Once settled in a new home, the DGCAC will serve as a multicultural visual, performing and literary arts center that provides access to information, equipment, services, and programming to members of the community. Activities are designed to educate and encourage grassroots activism while creating a community space that supports diverse

progressive arts for Metro Detroit residents of all ages and backgrounds. The DGCAC consists of the Detroit Liberation Library, People's Community Theater, and the Detroit Film Editing Studio.

2. **Fender Bender Detroit:** Fender Bender is an inclusive bicycle building and mechanic training organization with focus on creating a safe and nurturing space for women, trans and genderqueer people to learn bicycle repair skills not only as a means of transportation but also as a tool to address relevant social issues. Its staff demonstrates how to safely ride in the street and connect cyclists with other bicycle enthusiasts in continuing to maintain, make accessible and develop the bicycle culture in Detroit. Its main program activities include:
 - a. Community bike repair and maintenance classes that focus on the anatomy of the bike, the functions of each of its parts and basic maintenance/repair.
 - b. Information sharing with community members interested in learning about road safety, Detroit-area greenways, and city policy concerning non-motorized transportation.
 - c. Mobile shop service for community events in and around the city of Detroit.
3. **Media Arts Cooperative:** The East Michigan Environmental Action Council in partnership with the Detroit Media Economy Collaborative have formed a cooperative that will train multimedia educators and producers, provide budget friendly studio space to Detroit based artists as well as host and co-create a multimedia arts cooperative. Once prospective cooperative members demonstrate proficiency and have a solid plan for success, EMEAC will support the development of a revenue generating cooperative that specializes in the development of fine art and multimedia products. The cooperative will target Midtown residents, local nonprofits, and grassroots organizations as a customer base.
4. **People's Kitchen Detroit:** People's Kitchen Detroit emerged from the work of Detroit Evolution, which helped to create a space where community members shared tools, techniques, information and inspiration to create sustainable lifestyles and practices. Founded by Angela and Gregg Newsom, the People's Kitchen Detroit (formerly Detroit Evolution), believes that having safe, healthy and affordable food options, so the community itself can be healthy, is a basic human right. Its vision is to create a safe, healing space in which Detroiters can reconnect with their community, the earth and themselves, and to learn how to step down from the high stress, destructive and unsustainable nature of the

standard American lifestyle. Key activities of the People's Kitchen Detroit include:

- a. Formation of the People's Kitchen Accountability Board, which is designed to address racial disparities in organizational leadership and governance by fostering a respectful and historical perspective through cultural programs and sharing within the Midtown community. This means reflecting the racial and economic demographics of the city, holding a space for healing (around racial justice) and seeking innovative practices that promote equity.
 - b. Vocational training will be provided to employees of the kitchen, as well as community members using its services, through a partnership with Restaurant Opportunities Center, Michigan.
5. **Whole Note Healing Space:** Inspired by the People of Color Environmental Justice's *Principles of Working Together* and the Health and Healing Justice Organizing Principles created at the Healing Justice Peoples' Movement Assembly of the 2010 US Social Forum, the Whole Note Healing Space will bring health and healing practitioners, resources, information and support to a community besieged by financial, emotional social and physical stress and trauma. Specifically, staff and volunteers will offer workshops on such topics as self-care, peacemaking and community renewal, dance, and art expression. In addition, the Healing Space will invite various healing arts practitioners (i.e., massage therapists, reiki healers, acupressure practitioners, etc.) to provide free or low-cost services to members of the community.

In addition to inviting partner organizations to share space in the UU buildings, EMEAC will continue to support the efforts of the Sugar Law Center as we value its commitment to social justice, human rights, etc.

Proposed Use: Grassroots Entrepreneurial Ventures

In addition to using space for administrative offices of grassroots organizations and their non-profit activities, EMEAC proposes to use the UU space for several entrepreneurial ventures of partner organizations. Brief summaries of entrepreneurial activities are presented below, however more in depth descriptions appear in appendix 1.

Media Arts Cooperative

The Media Arts Cooperative seeks to empower community members, particularly those traditionally absent or misrepresented in mainstream media – such as people of color, women, LGBTQ, and disabled populations – to create/produce art, media and technology by having access to:

1. *Rental Studio Space*: Affordable rental space will be made available for Detroit based artists. Preference will be given to those in alignment with the Environmental Justice and Social Justice Principles.
2. *Arts workshops*: Fee based art workshops will be offered to participants quarterly. Workshops may include crafts, mosaic creation, ceramics, mural creation, scrapbooking and the like.

The Media Arts Collective will generate additional revenue through sales of:

1. *Multimedia services/projects*: Members of the cooperative will develop multimedia products for based on consumer needs.
2. *Arts projects*: Message based art work that is in alignment with the work of East Michigan Environmental Action Council and our partners will be produced to support programs, projects, and campaigns. After the art has been used for programmatic purposes, it will be sold as a means of generating funds.

People's Kitchen Detroit

The People's Kitchen Detroit is interested in creating access to healthy foods at a low cost by implementing the following initiatives.

1. *Community Café*: Operating as a “popular kitchen,” healthy and fresh local food will be served Monday through Friday on a sliding and volunteer based scale. People's Kitchen Detroit will prioritize the use of Detroit grown produce and food products from such local sources as Freedom Freedom Growers, D-town Farm, Earthworks, Rising Pheasant Farms, and Grown in Detroit Collaborative, among others.
2. *Healthy Kitchen Classes*: People's Kitchen Detroit Healthy Kitchen classes will focus on food preparation for a variety of health and dietary concerns, emphasize locally grown produce and provide participants with resources to empower them to make healthier choices. In addition, classes will also center on meal planning, budgeting, nutrition and food system education will further deepen one's understanding of what it means to eat sustainably.
3. *Communal Cooking Sessions*: Communal Cooking Session participants will pay a flat rate to take home one week worth of meals they had a hand in preparing. This will decrease not only the cost of the food, but the time it takes one individual to prepare it. Communal cooking also connects community by establishing a healthy food support system.

4. *Preservation Sessions:* The Preservation sessions will teach participants the importance of preserving the harvest through canning, dehydrating, fermenting and other means. Members will be able to bring in their own harvest to preserve, or participate in a group preservation session in which they will take home a share of the finished product.
5. *Kitchen Rental:* This service provides an opportunity for small food businesses to obtain affordable kitchen space. Rental will be on a sliding scale from \$10-25 per hour. Rentees must share in the principles of food justice. Time-banking will be another option for acquiring kitchen space through service to one of our partner communities or in the kitchen at UU.
6. *Healthy Food Pantry:* People's Kitchen Detroit would like to create a food co-op that can support the People's Kitchen & Cafe, become a hub for grassroots food distribution and facilitate the reallocation of resources and funding from Cluster 4 to neighborhoods that the city intends to decommission. A community owned co-op in the middle of Midtown would not only create a successful revenue stream, but would also stand strong as an example of grassroots energy in the belly of what appears to be Detroit's first corporate owned and branded enclave.

Whole Note Healing Space

The Whole Note Healing Space will devote several hours per day to healing arts practitioners to provide services at reasonable and affordable prices to members of the community. The fee structure has not yet been developed.

Proposed Use: Community space

A third way that EMEAC proposes to use the UU buildings is to make them available to members of the community and grassroots organizations for meetings, events, and services. Some examples of events for which community members can request building use include:

1. **Educational Events:** Members of the community may reserve space for educational workshops, learning circles, public discussions, conferences, support groups and other learning/sharing events.
2. **Meetings:** Community members may reserve space for meetings, planning sessions, and related gatherings.
3. **Services:** Space will be available to members of the community for religious services (i.e., UU Sunday services) and ceremonies (i.e., weddings).

Impact on Surrounding Community

Improvement of Detroit's environment and economy is vital to the success of our state and nation. Michigan has had the highest number of unemployed people in all 50 states for nearly four years, with Detroit's unemployment most recent rate at 19%. Thousands of living wage jobs have been permanently lost in the automotive industry and related sectors. In addition, Detroit suffers some of the worst environmental problems in the state. The city suffers from pollution of its land, air, and water.

What is happening in Detroit and in Michigan is happening all across the United States. Detroit is a harbinger for the rest of the country, and "as goes Detroit, so goes the nation." That is why it so important that Detroit blaze a trail and set strong environmental policies that will help the economic and environmental viability of our city. Detroit must take this opportunity to set itself apart as a city of innovation that taking major steps toward improving our environment. The Community Commons is a step in the right direction.

1. **Access to Programs and Services:** Members of the community will have access to the programs and services provided by partner organizations. Though EMEAC's and its partner organization's activities have city-wide reach, its location in the Midtown community will make it especially accessible to neighborhood residents. A description of partner's programs and services is provided in the Appendices.
2. **Creating Common Space:** Now more than ever poor and working urban communities are confronted with many challenges. In most cities, people with means are seeking to profit from space normally held in common—our air, water, food, transportation, public space, schools, the internet and information technology, wilderness, and even our culture and history. Privatization for the benefit of corporations does little to benefit the common good, and often we lose access to resources our communities need to survive. Over the past decade we have witnessed the privatization and corporatization of space in the mid-town area, which has driven up housing prices and forced many with deep roots to flee.

EMEAC and its partners seek to fill the need for grassroots organizations with the commitment to social, economic and environmental justice to have a presence in this part of Detroit. It is important that the interests of the people, as opposed to those of private interests, be preserved, supported and lifted up.

3. **Stabilizing Community Presence:** With the Medical Center and Wayne State University buying up property in the Midtown area, EMEAC can help to preserve public space and services for community residents.
4. **Stronger Collaborations:** EMEAC intends to continue its support for and collaborations with grassroots organizations and nearby small businesses. The location of the UU building and its capacity to provide a home to several

community-based groups provides an ideal environment for the cross-pollination of ideas, sharing of resources, support for activities, and planning future efforts. This, combined with the reality that EMEAC already engages in collaborations and fully believes in its potential to strengthen the impact of its efforts, makes the UU space ideal.

5. **A Model for Sustainability:** The *green* practices of EMEAC and its partners will be posted in the buildings and shared with others. For example, interpretative signage will be posted in common spaces about how energy savings are being made by the renovations we intend to make. Additionally, EMEAC will host public workshops on affordable models of energy efficiency, becoming more food secure, etc.

Compatibility with UU's Values and Mission

Although there is no definitive consensus on Unitarian Universalist beliefs, it appears that the following 7 principles encapsulate UU'S values:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Inclusive of and in addition to these principles, the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit intends to be a “strong liberal religious presence in Detroit for the well-being of our city and our region” because its members are committed to being a vital part of a healthy Detroit. Its leadership and members value such qualities/realities as integrity, justice for all, the search for truth and meaning, and courage to confront the powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming force of love. EMEAC not only embraces such values in principle, but also in practice. The pursuit of justice, for example, lay at the core of EMEAC’s work in schools, communities and the collaborations of which it is a part. Each of EMEAC’s programs seeks to raise awareness about social and environmental justice issues, as well as equip people with the tools necessary to conduct their own analyses, draw their own conclusions and create their own change. Even the manner in which organizational meetings are held reflect the

importance of the principle of justice. All members of the staff are invited to help create the agenda, to report on activities over which they have been granted the authority to carry out, and to offer input on decisions and recommendations for change. The demographic composition of staff is diverse and reflective of Detroit in terms of its socio-economic realities. Thus justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love truly mean something to EMEAC.

Although EMEAC focuses primarily on environmental justice, it connects its work with other justice organizations and movements that address gender identity/lifestyles, food security, racial equality, class equity, and social and environmental justice. In addition, EMEAC connects with organizations and movements in other parts of the country and world through conferences/forums, including those hosted in the Detroit such as the Allied media Conference and the US Social Forum.

EMEAC approaches building power and leadership in a collaborative manner. Change is possible only through the collective efforts of many people. EMEAC has partnered with no less than 150 organizations over the past 6 years with the aim of pooling intellectual and material resources to examine and address various social and environmental justice issues.

EMEAC's History with UU

EMEAC has deep roots with and high regards for the Unitarian Universalist Church and in preserving the historic nature of the Cass building and the important role it has played in community organizing and serving as a gathering space for progressive grassroots organizations. The Executive Director of EMEAC became an activist in the late 1980s, inspired largely by the principles of justice she learned about and experienced as a member of the UU Church. Diana was a youth leader in Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) at the East Lansing UU Church - leading youth workshops at regional and national council. She brought the principles and values of YRUU organizing to her current organization of 18 staff which has led to an open, safe and trusting work environment.

EMEAC's Associate Director Lottie Spady was baptized in this very building as a Unitarian because of the churches' acceptance of biracial families. In addition, its bookkeeper, Suzanne McGill, has been a member for many years and served as the treasurer of the UU board in 2005.

Vision for Future Building Use

EMEAC's vision is to transform the Unitarian Universalist Space into a multi-use space and grassroots community hub that would embody the principles and values of the Unitarian Church and our Environmental and Social Justice Principles. It will do this in collaboration with partner organizations, the plans of which are outlined in the section *Proposed Use* and in the appendices.

In addition, EMEAC will embody these values by making renovations and building improvements that are as respectful to the environment and building structure, historical

significance, investment and safety. Thus we envision creating a *green building* that can serve as a model to other individuals and organizations. The intention of transforming the UU buildings into green ones is to use all of the laws of thermodynamics to our best advantage. We will incorporate as much insulation as possible to reduce the conduction of heat to the environment; reduce drafts by sealing the building well and incorporating ventilation where and when we want it, by directing and controlling convection; and we can take advantage of the radiant energy from the sun in winter through passive solar design. EMEAC will, among other things, coordinate with experts in green technology to increase energy efficiency through the use of electronic programmable thermostats; installation of CFL and Energy Star appliances in kitchen; use of low VOC / No VOC paints; re-glazing of the windows; replacement of heating units; and installation of occupancy sensors.

EMEAC's architect, Ken Moody, has drawn up a vision for building use (Appendix 2) and incorporated a few of the energy efficiency plans and green renovations. A step by step plan is outlined in his vision.

Energy Audit

Before carrying out energy or green design retrofits on the three building complex EMEAC will begin with an energy audit by We Want Green Too, as well as a complete building inspection. The We Want Green Too's members have been trained to conduct energy audits and between them and our architects and building professionals we are confident that the data collected will accurately reflect the condition of the buildings. This data will be used to inform the specific renovations our team will craft. Also important to the development of an energy-saving renovation strategy is input from each of EMEAC's partner organizations (e.g., grassroots organizations that will share space in the UU buildings). Each collaborative partner will respond to questions around the goals of the energy audit so we can make sure all needs are being met. The energy saving goals include:

- Improving overall comfort;
- Reducing the energy bill;
- Doing our part to slow climate change; and
- Implementing affordable energy and greening improvements that can serve as a model to the community.

The Green Team

EMEAC has begun to pull together a team of experts in green design and construction. The Team includes Kim Moody (mentioned above), as well as Community Green Builders, We Want Green, Too! and others listed in the table below.

Name	Phone	Skills and team responsibility
Ken Moody	313-399-6754	Building design architect, Ken Moody Associates
Howard Johnson	313-333-1004	Professional plumber (retired from DPS)
Gloria Lowe	313-408-4988	President, We Want Green Too - Specializes in greening homes and buildings
Carlos Nielbock	313-282-4964	Artist, Architect and metal worker (wind turbine projects)
Mutope A' Alkebu'lan	313-675-4033	Green construction
Cornelius Williams	616-302-0319	Green construction
Chazz Miller	313-334-2919	Green heating and cooling professional

We Want Green Too! is a learning and training collaborative. The work is done by disabled veterans and individuals overcoming substance abuse issues (many of whom are veterans). This work has been healing and has allowed individuals to reconnect to their communities and become responsible citizens once again.

In general, the construction and renovation work can be done by training community persons to engage in the retro-fitting of the building. Not only will the building get a new face, but it will bring the additional value to the community of having been renovated by members of the community.

In the very near future EMEAC intends to expand its Green Team to fill in gaps in expertise. Toward that end, we will:

- Look for an insulation contractor with expertise in the installation of cellulose and/or spray foam;
- Identify a local window company that will advise us on windows best suited for the unique structure of the UU buildings;
- Talk with a variety of heating, ventilation and air conditioning contractors regarding our energy saving goals and commitment to green building to identify the most appropriate systems for the buildings; and

- Explore local solar and geothermal companies whose practices align with our goals.

The green construction team would begin by installing radiant floor heat tubing on the underside of the sanctuary's floor and heating it with solar thermal energy placed (out of sight from road) on the roof of the classroom space and/or the tower roof. This will greatly reduce the gas consumption in the space. For the offices and the classrooms we believe that solar air heating system would make it a comfortable space and also save on natural gas. Changing out the lighting to at least T-8 and compact florescent would save on electricity, while installing perhaps 22KW of solar PV and changing out the lighting to LEDs would save even more on electricity.

The kitchen is that the southwest wall could be opened up with an archway and the southwest room could be part of a kitchen expansion. If there is enough solar gain for this perhaps there could be a solar oven installed on the south wall of the kitchen.

Experience

Please explain in detail and document (free form no longer than 5 typed pages, please) how your experience qualifies you and your organization as capable of satisfactorily performing the duties required to manage and upkeep 4605 Cass Avenue. In addition, please supply the name(s), address(es), and phone number(s) of two personal and two professional references who can corroborate this experience. In the case of Options B and C, prospective owner/lessee must furnish a plan for immediate and longer-term upgrades to 1st UU buildings and demonstrate an understanding that maintenance and reasonable upgrades are their responsibility.

EMEAC's Capacity to Grow Programs

Diana has taken EMEAC from a small environmental organization of ½ staff person and a \$30,000 budget to an 18 staff person, \$1.6 million dollar organization that led the US Social Forum, as well as leads many large scale collaboration efforts including the Food Justice Task Force, The Detroit Media Economy Collaborative (see attached article), Greener Schools, and Stand Up Speak Out youth organizing program.

- EMEAC grew from an organization with a small budget (\$30,000) and staff (.5FTE) in 2005 a \$1.6 million organization (includes collaborations) with 8 full time and 10 part time staff.
- Strategic collaborations have substantially increased over the past 5 years. Currently, EMEAC plays a key leadership role in nearly 10 formal collaborations [see *Strategic Collaborations* below], while working on environmental and social justice issues with many other organizations.
- EMEAC's Greener Schools programs increased the number of schools it serves from 1 in 2008 to 4 in 2010. In addition, programming has expanded to include media training (with ReMedia), leadership development (with Stand Up! Speak Out!), and Senior Engagement, a new program designed to bring senior citizens and youth together to document oral histories and share gardening knowledge with one another.
- The ReMedia program trained 10 Community Environmental Fellows in Detroit and 10 in Grand Rapids in 2010. They were trained in the use of documentation and analysis of community needs to determine root causes. In addition, they were trained to work with youth, other community members and environmental organizations at each stage of policy development

EMEAC's Capacity to Hold Strategic Collaborations

EMEAC aims to create a space that strengthens grassroots organizations and community members committed to social and environmental justice. EMEAC firmly believes that

only through collective efforts can meaningful change be made. Its beliefs are supported by a strong history of holding critical roles in strategic collaborations. Some of them include:

1. **Allied Media Project:** EMEAC partners with AMP to form the lead team of the DMEC.
2. **Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit:** We have supported the work of the Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit by helping to plan its annual conference and participating as workshop facilitators/presenters and conference participants for the past few years. We also are looking to increase our partnership and collaboration with Bioneers through sharing resources and best practices for communities working in schools for social and environmental justice.
3. **Detroit Digital Justice Coalition:** EMEAC is in a leadership position in the form of DMEC, mentioned below.
4. **Detroit Media Economy Collaborative [DMEC]** believes that communication is a fundamental human right and seeks to secure that right through activities that are grounded in the digital justice principles of: access, participation, common ownership, and healthy communities.
5. **Detroit Public Schools Community Partners:** EMEAC has several programs in the Detroit schools from our program with Fender Bender women's empowerment workshops to the 'Ugliest Schoolyard' landscape architecture program where students design the outdoor classroom that is rooted in their culture and community and developed in their dreams. We are committed to working in the public schools even though so many schools have been closed in the last year. We are doing our best to work with the administration, schools board and curricula coordinators to see how our programs can help keep schools open and lead to educational transformation as education is key to sustainable social change.
6. **Environmental Justice Task Force** is an effort by Detroit City Councilman Ken Cockrel to promote green initiatives in Detroit. The task force focuses on water, energy efficiency and alternative energy sources, and green construction. EMEAC serves on the task force to ensure a community voice and an environmental justice vision are part of cities plans.
7. **Food Justice Task Force** is a consortium of People of Color led organizations and allies that share a commitment to creating a food security plan for Detroit that is sustainable; that provides healthy, affordable foods for all of the city's people;

that is based on best-practices and programs that work; and that is just and equitable in the distribution of food, jobs and profits.

8. **Michigan Environmental Council:** We believe that our involvement and leadership in the council bridges the gap between environmental and environmental justice organizations and brings key social justice connections to environmental campaigns and policies.

9. **USSF 2010:** As mentioned above, EMEAC was one of four anchor organizations for the USSF 2010 – nominated by the USSF National Planning committee as an organization that plays a significant base and movement building role in the city, supporting and leading existing collaborations locally and as an example of the USSF principles around leadership by people of color and functioning under truly collaborative leadership.

10. **Zero Waste Detroit** is a coalition of local organizations advocating curbside recycling, a materials recovery system that would bring new jobs and economic development to the city, and an end to waste incineration. EMEAC lead the clean air good jobs and justice campaign and march during the USSF June 26th 2010.

EMEAC’s Success

In addition to being able to grow capacity and create/maintain strategic collaborations, EMEAC has experienced successes through its efforts in the community. In the table below a few of these successes are highlighted.

Organization/Program	Examples of Success
EMEAC (as a whole)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EMEAC formed the Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Council at the beginning of 2006 to engage area youth in environmental stewardship activities and advocacy ▪ Has been able to thrive and expand in a difficult economic climate, while engaging in work that fills an essential gap in the city of Detroit. ▪ Co-coordinated – with 3 other ‘anchor organizations’ – the 2010 United States Social Forum, which hosted (in Detroit) almost 25,000 activists, educators and community members from around the world.
Greener Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EMEAC formed the Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Council at the beginning of 2006 to engage area youth in environmental stewardship activities and advocacy ▪ Engages over 100 youth each year in participatory design and landscape architecture, through neighborhood interviews, poetry, culture and art; in collaboration with senior community members. ▪ Expanded programming over the past 2 years to include an oral

Organization/Program	Examples of Success
	<p>histories project and senior gardening program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Has trained over 40 teachers in strategies for incorporating environmental justice principles and lessons into classroom instruction.
ReMedia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participation in Green Screen – EMEAC’s environmental film festival and competition that features youth-created/produced environmental justice films – more than doubled between 2008 and 2010. Film entries rose from approximately 7 in 2008 to 17 in 2010. ▪ Is a key partner in a collaborative that received a \$2 million federal grant to lead the adoption of broadband technology in the city of Detroit, which will further its impact.
Stand Up! Speak Out!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Led the diesel campaign which led to a city referendum to limit diesel pollution that impacts children’s health. ▪ Led 4 Lansing Action Days, where youth talked with their representatives about children’s environmental health issues. There were close to 50 youth per trip. Leading up to it, SUSO lead leadership trainings that taught – background information, talking points, how to speak with legislators, etc. ▪ SUSO grew from a single program to become a full blown youth organizing program that cuts across all EMEAC program areas.
Collaborations	<p>EMEAC has developed/holding leadership in several collaborations: Food Justice Task Force; Detroit Digital Justice Coalition; Detroit Media Economy Collaborative; Environmental Justice Task Force; Zero Waste Detroit; Green Task Force; Allied Media Project; and Bioneers Detroit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food Justice Task Force: EMEAC formed the Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Council at the beginning of 2006 to engage area youth in environmental stewardship activities and advocacy 2. DDJC/DMEC: As a lead partner in the Detroit Media Economy Collaborative, EMEAC is helping to train 3 groups of people in digital media – entrepreneurs, teachers, and youth. The teachers trained in digital media will bring the media and technology learned into their classroom to their students. P3A is one of the schools that EMEAC is offering the teacher training to. 3. Environmental Justice Task Force: Introduced the resolution developed by the Zero Waste Detroit coalition to City Council in 2008 – the resolution passed. 4. Zero Waste Detroit: Organized demonstrations to urge the Mayor to support New Business Model for Detroit Solid Waste – efforts resulted in City Council adopting it in 2008; Organized the <i>Clean Air, Good Jobs, Justice</i> march in 2010, which drew over 1,200 environmental justice activists from

Organization/Program	Examples of Success
	<p>around the country; Hosted informational sessions in the Detroit Public Schools about the pilot curbside recycling programs on the east and west sides of the city;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Green Task Force: Hosts meetings for stakeholders interested in ensuring Detroit’s anti-idling ordinance is enforced. 6. Allied Media Project: Successfully host a conference that impacts over 1000 people annually – 7. Bioneers: Every year hosts a conference...helped to create the youth tract for Bioneers

References

The personal and professional references listed above are the same that can speak to the EMEAC’s experiences.

Professional References	Personal References
Dr. Michael Spencer University of Michigan School of Social Work 1080 South University Ann Arbor, MI 48109 (734) 764-7224	Linda Campbell Building Movement Project 4750 Woodward Ave. Detroit, MI 48201
Gloria Rivera Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit 4750 Woodward Ave., #306 Detroit, MI 48201	Malik Yakini Detroit Black Community Food Security Network 3800 Puritan 48238 (313) 345-3663

Finances

EMEAC has complied the following financial records as demonstration of financial stability:

- a. Organizational and proposed budgets (4 spreadsheets – Appendix 3)
- b. 501(c)3 status (Appendix 4)
- c. Articles of Incorporation, founded 1963, incorporated 1971 (Appendix 5)
- d. Financial Statements 2009 last published financial audit, statements from the last 30 years are available upon request (Appendix 6)
- e. Bank statements for the last 6 months, statements for the last 3 years are available upon request (Appendix 7)
- f. Annual report 2009, 2010 (Appendix 8)
- g. 990 2009 (Appendix 9)
- h. Endowment balance sheet (Appendix 10)
- i. Green Screen DVD

In the last month EMEAC has reached out to its network of national organizations and foundations to gauge interest in support of a Community Commons endeavor. We found the support to be overwhelming; even emotional. You will see from the attached letters of support (Appendix 11) that we have national organizational support and very generous soft commitments from local and national foundations. 14 letters are enclosed with this proposal and 4 will be sent directly to your office. We have held 5 funders calls and you will see in our proposed budget the commitments will take us a long way in realizing the Community Commons vision.

Appendix 1: Proposal for Partnerships

Proposal for Partnership – People’s Kitchen Detroit

A Kitchen To Feed Us All!

People’s Kitchen Detroit has emerged from the work of Angela and Gregg Newsom as Detroit Evolution, who have offered Food Education, Healthy Local Catering, Yoga, Bodywork, and Sustainable Lifestyle Training since 2006. Detroit Evolution has made a commitment to pursuing and lifting up sustainable lifestyles and practices. One of our consistent goals is to create a space where many communities can gather together to share tools, techniques, information and inspiration.

In addition to connecting with Detroit’s vibrant grassroots agricultural and entrepreneurial heroes, Detroit Evolution have been widely recognized in the media as a tasty and healthy alternative for the people of Detroit. In 2008, Detroit Evolution’s reasonably-priced and locally-sourced “lunch club” was voted the best vegetarian cuisine in Detroit in WDIV’s “4 The Best” contest. Our dedication to sustainability, raising awareness of rampant race and class-based disparity in Detroit, and commitment to being in service to our fellow Detroiters has been recognized in *The Michigan Citizen*, [The Metrotimes](#), [Model D](#) and [Hour Detroit](#) (pdf).

The seeds of People’s Kitchen Detroit have been planted and nourished through a dedication to the co-creation of a sustainable and equitable local food system. As active partners and facilitators of the **Detroit Food Justice Task Force** and the **Undoing Racism in the Detroit Food System** gatherings, we strive to stand as a viable and mindful alternative to unhealthy and oppressive cultural norms. The Michigan Environmental Council, University of Michigan Road Scholars, Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit, Building Movement Project and many others have shared Chef Angela’s healthy, locally-sourced food to promote social change at their events.

The People’s Kitchen’s deepening connection with East Michigan Environmental Action Council and the other partners preparing this proposal, reflects our emphasis on collaboration and community. While the well rooted work of Detroit Evolution comes to fruition as the People’s Kitchen, we are honored to lift-up and celebrate our connections with diverse communities, organizations and individuals in Detroit.

In November 2010, People’s Kitchen Detroit was a part of a collaborative five million dollar, five year grant awarded by the USDA to fight childhood obesity. Our innovative and accessible programs will be launched in May 2011, as part of this collaborative research project, that includes EMEAC, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, Creative Community Pathways, Building Movement Project, Catherine Ferguson Academy, and Freedom Freedom Growers. People’s Kitchen Detroit will use a portion of the grant funds to purchase equipment to make necessary upgrades to bring the church kitchen to commercial status.

Breaking bread and sharing with others through this historical and beautiful space also offers the opportunity of immediate growth for People's Kitchen Detroit. We consider the opportunity to ground our ongoing work at the church to be not only relevant to the success of the kitchen, but also to the benefit of the promotion of social and environmental issues in Midtown, the entire city and region. Through updating and licensing the existing church kitchen and facilities, People's Kitchen will hold space for a revenue generating community-owned business that promotes social justice and stands in the face of the corporate leanings of the neighborhood.

While this proposal is being considered, People's Kitchen Detroit is planning to rent office space within the church for our research and program development.

Vision, Values & Accountability

Vision

Food is the center of a community. Our communities should have safe, healthy and affordable food options, so the community itself can be healthy. We believe it is a basic human right. Our vision is to use our business model to create a safe, healing space in which Detroiters can reconnect with their community, the earth and themselves, and to learn how to step down from the high stress, destructive and unsustainable nature of the standard American lifestyle.

We are dedicated to serving the highest quality, locally grown and produced food at affordable prices, where no one would be turned away for lack of funds. Dignity will be upheld and alternative means of payment will be explored, including time banking and volunteering. We are dedicated to providing a space where Detroiters can learn how to prepare healthy food for their families, how to preserve the harvest, and how to live in concert with the seasons.

We are dedicated to open source, sustainable business practices including fair wages, sourcing locally, composting, and recycling. We will use a portion of our profits to provide micro-loans to community members striving to start local food businesses and small farmers for hoop-houses to extend the growing season or other means to increase their ability to grow high quality produce.

People's Kitchen Detroit is inspired and informed by the work of One World Everybody Eats (<http://www.oneworldeverybodyeats.com/>), The Stop Community Food Centre (<http://www.thestop.org/>), The Healthy Food Bank in Toronto (<http://healthyfoodbank.com/about/>), Fresh Choice Community Kitchens (<http://www.communitykitchens.ca/main/>), Brazil's Community Kitchens (http://www.paho.org/english/dd/pin/Number20_article05.htm), Community Kitchens Northwest (<http://www.communitykitchensnw.org/>), and The Comfort Cafe Community Kitchen (<http://www.thecomfortcafe.net/>).

Values

People's Kitchen Detroit is informed and inspired by the Earth Charter, the People of Color Environmental Justice "Principles of Working Together", Humane Education and the City of Detroit Policy on Food Security.

Our deep commitment to social and environmental justice principles, as well as undoing the systemic racism that penetrates every aspect of our society, manifests in this space as a place to reach out to the college, business and art communities and act as a valve for activism, justice, spirituality, art and civic engagement with the rest of the city.

To make any serious steps towards decreasing the disparity between Detroiters we must not set our sights exclusively on assisting marginalized individuals and communities. To live with one another in the close proximity of an urban environment we must help our neighbors and, at the same time let go of superfluous aspects of the standard American typical lifestyles, to "live simply so that others can simply live." We strive to live these principles as a model for sustainable and ethical practices in both our personal and business lives.

People's Kitchen Accountability Board

In order to co-create sustainable communities in Detroit we must openly address racism and hold space for healing and seek innovative practices that promote equity. We have seen many community organizations that share in predominantly African-American and People of Color neighborhoods whose board of directors are predominantly white. For The People's Kitchen, striving to create a business model that stands against racial disparity demands the creation of off-the-map systems of accountability and community engagement. Through an Accountability Board that reflects the racial and economic demographics of the city we strive to foster a respectful and historical perspective within the Kitchen, and through our cultural programs and sharing, with the Midtown community. These practices and the growing respect they engender sends a clear message that Detroit is not a blank canvas and that successful ethical businesses are businesses that are accountable to the entire community.

The Great Potential of Community-Owned, Justice-Centered Business

Our potential clients reflect the overall demographics of Midtown, but our active work to increase access to healthy local food will attract health conscious people from all over the city. The success of healthy, locally-sourced food businesses in Midtown is a great factor in our desire to provide a community-owned and justice focused business at the First Unitarian Universalist Church. Recently, Whole Foods announced it's decision to open a store in Detroit. While the increase in health food in Detroit is welcome, People's Kitchen Detroit will stand as a grassroots alternative to this and other corporate forces that are striving to "revitalize" Detroit but in actuality, increase disparity.

Revenue Generating Operations

Community Café

Operating as a "popular kitchen", healthy and fresh local food will be served Monday through Friday on a sliding and volunteer based scale. Healthy food is a basic human right for all, and with this belief in practice a community takes care of itself and the space that serves it. Many of these models including One World Everybody Eats, have not only survived, but thrived. Our focus will be on Detroit grown produce and food products

including Freedom Growers, D-town Farms, Earthworks, Rising Pheasant Farms, Grown in Detroit Collaborative, among others, furthering connections and expanding the network.

In addition to bringing the existing church kitchen to commercial status, we will also seek additional funding to upgrade McCallister Hall as the main dining area for the Cafe. We will serve cafeteria style, and will need the necessary equipment to do so. Other upgrades such as replacing the single-paned windows with more energy efficient ones, additional seating and a fresh coat of paint with food justice murals will be made to improve the overall look and feel of the space. We will explore a variety of funding resources, including Phase 2 of the USDA childhood obesity grant, the FJTF Implementation Grant with the Kresge Foundation, and alternative means such as online crowd funding or community membership shares.

Healthy Kitchen Classes, Communal Cooking & Preservation Sessions

Many of us are disconnected from our food system and from the earth itself. By shifting and bringing food into our awareness, many people become empowered to create change within themselves and in their communities. Food Education is central to every aspect of our work. Rather than keep recipes or techniques private, the People's Kitchen believes in open source information and strives to raise awareness of health and justice through regular kitchen classes, Communal Cooking and Preservation sessions.

Our Healthy Kitchen classes will focus on food preparation for a variety of health and dietary concerns. We will emphasize locally grown produce and provide participants with resources to empower them to make healthier choices. Offering meal planning, budgeting, nutrition and food system education will further deepen one's understanding of what it means to eat sustainably.

In our Communal Cooking sessions participants will pay a flat rate to take home one week worth of meals they had a hand in preparing. This will decrease not only the cost of the food, but the time it takes one individual to prepare it. Communal cooking also connects community by establishing a healthy food support system.

The Preservation sessions will teach participants the importance of preserving the harvest through canning, dehydrating, fermenting and other means. Members will be able to bring in their own harvest to preserve, or participate in a group preservation session in which they will take home a share of the finished product.

Kitchen Space Rental for Small Business Start-ups

This service provides an opportunity for small food businesses to obtain affordable kitchen space. Rental will be on a sliding scale from \$10-25 per hour. Rentees will share in the principles of food justice. Time-banking will be another option for acquiring kitchen space through service to one of our partner communities or in the kitchen at UU.

Healthy Food Pantry - Holding Space for Grassroots Food

People's Kitchen see an opportunity in the First Unitarian Universalist space for a successful food co-op that can support the People's Kitchen & Cafe, become a hub for grassroots food distribution and facilitate the reallocation of resources and funding from Cluster 4 to neighborhoods that the city intends to decommission. A community owned co-op in the middle of Midtown would not only create a successful revenue stream, but would also stand strong as an example of grassroots energy in the belly of what appears to be Detroit's first corporate owned and branded enclave.

This is where the lessons the Food Justice Task Force is learning, in holding space for communities to map their resources and connect with one another around food, is vital. The Task Force is working with their partners, like Creative Community Pathways and Earthworks, to build respectful relationships with families and communities around food. By lifting up existing resources and getting real about what is needed right now to shift power, the Task Force is writing a Food Plan for Detroit which will seed, and support a healthy food resource network.

Non-Revenue Generating Programming

Vocational Training

People's Kitchen seeks to provide employees of the kitchen, as well as community members that use our services, the opportunity for food service trainings through our partnership with Restaurant Opportunities Center, Michigan, who is opening their Colors Restaurant in late summer of 2011.

Off-site Programs with Partner Orgs

Through the Child Health Incubator Research Project [CHIRP] and Food Justice Task Force collaboratives, we will provide a variety of offerings custom fit to each of our partner communities. PKD's veggie oil/biodiesel mobile kitchen will serve as an exciting way to move food and share with communities. We will use bikes when possible to promote sustainable transportation.

- Nutrition education
- Meal planning and budgeting
- Communal cooking sessions where participants will take home a week's worth of meals for a small donation
- Youth and Adult cooking classes
- CSA program
- Hands on Food Literacy/Culinary Support
- Working visits to local farms to make the connection to the Earth
- Food system education series with a emphasis on Undoing Racism work
- Creating media strategies and campaigns for a Healthy Detroit

Appendix #: Proposal for Partnership – Fender Bender Detroit

Fender Bender Detroit would use a space at the UU as a bicycle repair/skill building shop for members of the women, tran and genderqueer community of Detroit, particularly the Cass Corridor, as well as youth earn-a-bike classes. Our goal is to create a warm and nurturing environment where people feel welcome and confident to ask questions and share ideas/skills on how to maintain bicycles. We would offers free classes and workshops that would teach people how to repair and maintain their bike for safe and smooth riding all year long.

CLASSES

Our class setting focuses on specific functions and parts of the bicycle. Each class would consider how a certain part works and go over trouble shooting tips and ways to fix it with the proper tools. This class is a curriculum style learning experience and requires enrollment. Classes would happen during a 7 week period of time and end with a certificate of completion and a bike repair tool kit. Class capacity is 8 people with 2 mechanics on hand so we can provide quality service not quantity. Anyone under age 11 is required a signed permission slip and telephone confirmation from guardian to attend.

DROP-IN

Open shop is a 3 hour drop-in style workshop that can be joined at any point within those 3 hours. During open shop people of any knowledge and skill level can bring in their own bicycle to work on. We have trained mechanics and bike repair tools/stands on hand. Our mechanics/tools can assist with minor or major bike injury to help guide/teach a cyclists how to nurse their bike back to health. Drop-in capacity is 6-10 people with 2 mechanics on hand (it will depend on participant's skill level and how much mechanic assistance they need). Anyone under age 11 is required a signed permission slip and telephone confirmation from guardian to attend. We keep record of every participant, bike type and what was accomplished on a sign in sheet.

INFO SHOP

We'll also provide a variety of bicycle literature from maintenance guides to road safety and greenway maps of the city, also policy in city government concerning non-motorized transportation. There will be bicycle art books and info on repurposing/recycling of parts and also helpful guides on creative ways to connect with other bike enthusiasts and host bike advocacy events. We encourage folks to use the space as a place for conversation and to brainstorm/imagine a more bicycle rich future in the city of Detroit. In the future we would like the info shop to be a lending library.

SET UP OF SPACE

The shop space will contain and be storage for our advanced mechanic tool sets, two repair stands, one truing wheel stand, and two work benches. Tools will be stored in a strolling tool shed and tool boxes for easy accessibility during our mobile shop service

and also so that tools/parts, etc can easily be put out of the way, and make room for other projects to happen there as well: shared space. Having a 30ft. x 30ft. space would provide adequate room for repair and to move around comfortably. Access to a gender neutral bathroom is important. A first floor room is preferable for handbike up and down flights of stairs. A door that can be unlocked for public entry during our class times preferred.

FUNDRAISING

We recently began applying for grants with EMEAC that would fund our educational and interactive projects with the women/trans/queer community and youth. We plan to continue seeking additional grants/funds that would fuel our open shop hours, as well as the maintenance of our mobile bike shop unit, new tools, educational material, and a few paid staff that would serve as the mechanics and classroom assistants. We also take interest in using space at the UU for community fundraising events for Fender Bender. Things such as a bike art auction, a bicycle soup dinner party and pedal powered blender demonstrations. We will pre-sell tickets or have an entry fee and things for sale for such events.

Proposal for Partnership – Whole Note Healing Space

Whole Note Healing Space will function to bring resources, information, and support to a community that is besieged by financial, emotional, societal, and physical stresses and traumas. The Whole Note Healing Space is informed and inspired by the People of Color Environmental Justice “Principles of Working Together” and the Health and Healing Justice Organizing Principles created at the Healing Justice Peoples’ Movement Assembly at the 2010 US Social Forum.

US Social Forum

Detroit has a rich legacy of wholistic healers, nutritionists, body workers, and others who build community around empowering each person to take care of their own bodies, minds, and lives. The Whole Note Healing Space comes directly from the hard work and collaborations that took place to build the 2010 US Social Forum in Detroit. **US Social Forum Healing Justice Practice Space** created a free multimodal practice space to respond to trauma and triggers for organizers; to accept that many of us are tired and burnt out and have not fared well on responding to conditions of our movements and communities by putting our literal bodies on the line. The Healing Justice Practice Space at the US Social Forum was a large room sectioned off for different practices simultaneously that gave us ample space to respond to the conditions of Detroit including; acute asthma, diabetes, and nutrition while also responding to the conditions of our lives and movements (eg. depression, burn out, and survivors of emotional, physical, sexual and psychological abuse and trauma).

In our political and practical application of healing justice we also created a People’s Movement Assembly: a four hour interactive session to imagine new strategies and unlikely alliances towards building action. **The questions we began grappling with at the PMA included:** How do we redefine what it means to be healthy that is not profit driven or derived from one type of body, and one type of wellness? How will we sustain, renew and uplift healers and traditions that are being co-opted, displaced, replaced and criminalized?

The organizers from Detroit worked with healers, activists, patients, and change agents from around the country. These relationships inspired us but it was the struggles of our own community members with diabetes, chronic fatigue, lupus, kidney failure, and other concrete issues that mobilized us into action.

Healing Justice Practice Space

We will invite the community into a multidimensional space where tools of self-care can be practiced and taught. We recognize that many in Detroit do not have health insurance and there are many obstacles for people to receive medical care in the health care system. Our commitment to healing justice compels us to look to new models of wellness. We will work with massage therapists, acupressure, dance and expression, and other healing

arts. This practice space will support local entrepreneurs while remaining committed to low-cost services for working class and community folks

Self Care

The Whole Note Healing Space will host support groups and classes

Peacemaking and Community Renewal

Peacemaking Circles work to build community and resolve conflicts. They draw upon the wisdom of our elders and indigenous teachings to generate wholeness in our community. Peacemaking Circles are one form of ritual designed to build community, heal harm, share wisdom, and bridge chasms in the movement. We use Peacemaking Circles in our community, families, schools, the judicial system, and many more places to heal historical wounds and build stronger foundations for justice. Peacemaking Circles will be used for the healing of historical trauma and to forge connections that have been broken in organizations, communities, and homes.

Proposal for Partnership – Media Arts Cooperative

East Michigan Environmental Action Council in partnership with the Detroit Media Economy Collaborative will train multimedia educators and producers, provide budget friendly studio space to Detroit based artists as well as host and co-create a multimedia arts cooperative. Once prospective cooperative members demonstrate proficiency and have a solid plan for success, East Michigan Environmental Action Council will support the development of a revenue generating cooperative that specializes in the development of fine art and multimedia products. The cooperative will target midtown residents, local nonprofits, and grassroots organizations as a customer base.

Mission: to empower community members, particularly those traditionally exempt or misrepresented in mainstream media, such as people of color, women, LGBTQ, and disabled populations, with equal access to art, media and technology; as producers as well as consumers.

Rationale: The development of a multimedia media arts cooperative will provide valuable skill building and business training to native Detroiters who are traditionally marginalized and face increasing gentrification in Detroit's Midtown area. Additionally, the location of the building will provide access to one of Detroit's wealthiest communities as a consumer base. Employing this strategy will empower those normally left out of economic opportunities to enrich Detroit and contribute to the local economy.

Components of the Training Program

Multimedia Training

Participants will receive multimedia training in film making, website design, graphic design or audio techniques based on their interest. The curriculum employed will provide participants with a hands on project based experience designed to prepare them to become professionals in the multimedia track of their choice. As a final project participants will then be paired with professional multimedia experts and assigned to work actual projects; thereby developing customer service skills, a sense for how to create under deadlines, and a general feel for how multimedia creation takes place in the business world.

Business Readiness

Participants interested in joining the cooperative will be trained in basic business administration skills. This training is designed to give multimedia professionals a framework to develop entrepreneurial skills. This training will include how to work from a cooperative framework, finances and book keeping, quoting and invoicing, customer service skills and marketing and customer recruitment.

Components of the Cooperative

Administration

This component of the cooperative includes the generation of customers, customer service, invoicing, quoting, marketing as well as managing finances.

Rental Studio Space

Affordable rental space will be made available for Detroit based artists. Preference will be given to those in alignment with the Environmental Justice and Social Justice Principles.

Multimedia Production

Members of the cooperative will develop multimedia products for based on consumer needs.

Art Production

Message based art work that is in alignment with the work of East Michigan Environmental Action Council and our partners will be produced to support programs, projects, and campaigns. After the art has been used for programmatic purposes, it will be sold as a means of generating funds.

Art Workshops

Fee based art workshops will be offered to participants quarterly. Workshops may include crafts, mosaic creation, ceramics, mural creation, scrapbooking and the like.

Proposal for Partnership – Detroit Grassroots Cultural Arts Theater

Summary: The Detroit Grassroots Cultural Arts Center (DGCAC) will serve as a multicultural, visual, performing and literary arts center providing access to information, equipment, services, and programming that educates and encourages grassroots activism while creating a community space that supports diverse progressive arts for Metro Detroit residents of all ages and backgrounds. The DGCAC consists of the Detroit Liberation Library, People’s Community Theater, and the Detroit Film Editing Studio. It will fill a deep need in the community:

- a grassroots based community theater that supports progressive cultural arts
- a social justice library to encourage informed civic participation that will uplift the community and provide a meeting space for organizations, youth, educators, and artists
- editing studio, film equipment rental and workshops that offer an opportunity for the grassroots community to tell their own stories through video, film and music

Mission: During a time when art programs are being eliminated from our schools; festivals, cultural arts venues, community centers, and city parks are closing, the Detroit Grassroots Cultural Arts Center would bring much needed progressive grassroots based arts that represent the voices of the community. The center will use culture as a tool to educate, revitalize, and inspire the community.

Program Rational: The Detroit Grassroots Cultural Arts Center is an institution that will reflect the United States Social Forum’s (USSF) commitment to the convergence of social justice through positive cultural programming. DGCAC (formerly the Detroit Women of Color, Inc) played a leadership role in producing the cultural arts programming during the USSF held in June 2010 in Detroit, Michigan. The forum brought various forms of progressive visual and performance art to educate, strengthen, and entertain the community. Areas of interest included hip hop, spoken word, jazz, R&B, reggae, gospel, world music, dance, painting, sculpture, murals, mixed media, a creativity lab for cultural workers, and film representing diverse communities.

The Detroit Grassroots Cultural Arts Center will also use the South Broadway Library in Albuquerque, New Mexico as a model. It opened as the Albuquerque Model Cities Library and Cultural Center in February 1970, in a 2000 square foot facility. In 1994 a long anticipated new South Broadway Cultural Center building was completed. The 23,000 square foot space comprises a 310 seat theater, an art gallery, a dividable multipurpose space, and a 10,000 square foot library.

The collections of the South Broadway Library contains approximately 54,000 items, including books, magazines, newspapers, audio books, and DVDs. The cultural center had a powerful impact on the communities that it served. As the center developed the neighborhoods surrounding the cultural center were revitalized as well. The Detroit Grassroots Cultural Arts Center hopes to have a similar impact in our community.

The following business plan describes the need for and design of a grassroots based nonprofit that uses the arts, knowledge, and progressive programming to uplift the community.

Detroit Liberation Library (DLL)

Detroit Liberation Library was founded during the United States Social Forum. Participants of the USSF (2010) and Detroit residents were asked to donate books related to social justice and culture. A few thousand books were collected from all over the country. Bookstores, organizations, book collectors, artists, and individuals continue to donate books, films, music, and more to the library. DLL is committed to supporting intellectual freedom, providing democratic access to information, and fostering community engagement. The library will also be a space for Detroit residents and students to do research and apply for jobs online. The library will facilitate an adult literacy and educational tutoring for students of all ages. Organizations and groups working for social justice will meet at the library. The DLL will host the Detroit Intergenerational classes facilitated by seasoned activists in the labor, civil rights, and other social justice movements. There will be monthly lecture series related to social justice, education, and the revitalization of our community. DLL will feature the visual art of local artists. The library will be staffed by part time workers and volunteers from Wayne State University's School of Library and Information Science, community volunteers, the Goodyear work program, Progressive Librarians Guild and other library associations.

The People's Community Theater

The People's Community Theater will stimulate open dialogue and exchange between Detroit residents from diverse backgrounds and cultures through lecture series, film festivals showcasing independent local, national and international films. Spoken word, musical and theatrical performances, conferences, workshops and more will also be featured. The theater will be a source of income for the Detroit Grassroots Cultural Arts Center and a site for progressive arts in the community. Our focus will be programming that is entertaining, inspiring, and empowering.

DWC, Inc Studios

The Detroit Film Editing Studios will provide independent filmmakers access to rental film/video and editing equipment. Professional film editing services will also be available. The studio will feature workshops and lecture series facilitated by successful individuals in the film industry. The Detroit Film Editing Studio is dedicated to giving Detroit citizens, filmmakers, and local businesses tools to take advantage of the opportunities created by the Michigan Film Credit and the burgeoning film industry in Michigan. The studio programming and services will provide additional revenue to