

SolidarityNYC

An organization that exists to connect and support solidarity economies in New York City.

Want to find out how to get involved in the solidarity economy in your neighborhood?

Visit www.solidaritynyc.org for a map of local businesses, community groups, and institutions that are leading the way to a more progressive New York and for ways that you can get involved promoting an economy that puts people before profit.



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The Solidarity Economy's values-based, big tent organizing approach enables groups to build real economic relationships between producers, solidarity-committed investors, retailers, and consumers; and then link to other grassroots social movements in networks of mutual support and exchange.

We believe that it is not enough to be “against”, nor is it enough to create. We must build social movements that encompass and connect many forms of action:

► DEFENSIVE ACTION

To protect ourselves and our communities from immediate harm;

► OFFENSIVE ACTION

To challenge the current structures of oppression and exploitation in all of their racist, sexist, classist, homophobic, and otherwise exclusionary forms;

► HEALING ACTION

To work through and recover from the pain and brokenness that we have imposed on ourselves and others have imposed on us in so many ways; and

► CREATIVE ACTION

To build alternative structures that meet our daily needs and help us secede from the oppressions of the dominant society and economy; and

► TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION

Personally and collectively becoming the change we want to bring to the world.

Solidarity is working together for the common good. As New Yorkers we are unique in our ideas, our culture, food and language. This is manifested in what each individual brings to this great city. We are bounded by the essential needs of food, housing and income. Yet as New Yorkers we are proud to share our resources and help those in need. This is what being a New Yorker is all about.

KAREN WASHINGTON

La Familia Verde Garden Coalition

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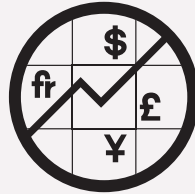
The process of taking active responsibility for our relationships in ways that foster diversity, autonomy, cooperation, communication, and shared-power.

ECONOMY

The many different ways in which we human beings collectively generate livelihoods to meet our needs in relation with each other and with the rest of the Earth.

SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

Interconnected and diverse ways of generating our livelihoods that encourage and embody practices of solidarity. An “economy of economies” that resists individualistic, competitive, and exploitative economics.



WHAT IS SOLIDARITY?

Solidarity is a collective process of taking active responsibility for our inter-relationships on both a local and global level. This is how we empower ourselves and take control of our lives. When we practice solidarity, we recognize:

- ▶ That our fates are bound up with the fates of others, both human and non-human;
- ▶ That our interconnections—sometimes profoundly unequal and oppressive—demand conscious action and transformation.

Through solidarity,

- ▶ We recognize the diversity, autonomy, power, and dignity of others.
- ▶ We come to understand that our struggles to be free and joyful are interdependent, not separate or distant from one another as we may have thought.
- ▶ We begin to develop an ethical practice of shared struggle that crosses race and ethnic lines, class lines, sex and gender lines.

Participants come to realize that they share such values as:

- ▶ Unity-in-diversity
- ▶ Shared power (as opposed to power-over)
- ▶ Autonomy (always both individual and collective)
- ▶ Communication (horizontal, not top-down)
- ▶ Cooperation and mutual-aid (shared struggle)
- ▶ Local rootedness, global inter-connection

CAN YOU IMAGINE AN ALTERNATIVE NYC ECONOMY BUILT ON THAT KIND OF SOLIDARITY?

Alternatives to economic and social exploitation are growing strong across the globe, especially in places like Brazil, Quebec, Northern Italy, and the Basque region of Spain. They call it Solidarity Economics, a grassroots form of cooperative economics. It is working throughout the world, connecting thousands of local alternatives together to create large-scale, viable, and creative networks for both economic and social change.

CAN WE DO THAT HERE IN NYC?

It'll be a challenge, but it is already happening. From the North Shore on Staten Island to Tremont in the Bronx to Sunset Park in Brooklyn to Long Island City in Queens to the Lower East Side of Manhattan, people and local organizations and businesses are working together, building new kinds of projects and institutions to help themselves and their communities. They are taking charge of their local economies.

CONSIDER THIS:

In June of 2011 four City Council districts began to implement Participatory Budgeting programs in which local citizens will decide on how million-plus dollars will be spent on capital projects in each of their districts. They will vote in March of 2012.

Who would have believed this could happen? But some people did, and now it's happening.

YOU MAY VERY WELL ALREADY BE DOING WHAT IS KNOWN AS SOLIDARITY ECONOMICS:

▶ HOUSEHOLDING ECONOMIES

Raising children, offering advice or comfort, resolving relational conflicts, teaching basic life skills (such as how to talk!), cooking, sewing, cleaning the house, building the house, balancing the checkbook, fixing the car, gardening...

▶ BARTER ECONOMIES

Trading services, swapping one useful things, “returning favors”, exchanging plants or seeds, local currencies, time banks...

▶ COLLECTIVE ECONOMIES

Potluck suppers, carpooling, lending and borrowing, consumer co-ops as well as health care collectives, community land trusts, and more).

▶ GATHERING AND SCAVENGING ECONOMIES

Hunting, fishing, and foraging; recycling; second-hand stores, salvaging from demolition sites, using old car parts, garage sales, street fairs.

▶ GIFT ECONOMIES

Giving some of our resources to other people and to our communities: volunteer fire companies, community food banks, giving rides to hitch-hikers, having neighbors over for dinner.

▶ WORKER-CONTROLLED BUSINESSES

Self-employment, worker co-ops, family businesses, worker-owned companies.

▶ SUBSISTENCE BASED BUSINESSES

Thousands of very small providing livelihood to the owners and providing a basic service to the larger community with no interest in maximizing wealth.