



# Translocal Organizing

Translocal organizing is **autonomous** and **place-based** organizing that is tied together across communities with a unifying vision, shared strategies and common frames. Through Translocal Organizing, we seek to build to scale not by creating larger and larger organizations with greater and greater concentrated power but by **aggregating to scale** by uniting across places. Rather than creating one big (and clumsy) bowling ball, we are amassing a weighty yet nimble bag of marbles. This makes it harder to stop or disrupt us.

By **decentralizing** our organizing in this way, we can create more diverse structures for organizing based on local context and capacity (we are not forced to all use the same organizing or decision-making models, or depend on the same structures, such as 501c3 or profit status). We do not require top-down direction, and can lean into a leader-full movement more effectively this way. Being decentralized we can create greater diversity, more rapid innovation, and can propagate ideas more quickly.

This, of course requires some shared infrastructure, what we think of as "**connective tissue**." We do not seek to build "super structures" that *direct* local organizing, but rather *living webs of relationship* through which information, interventions and innovations can be shared. And though the connective tissue is important, the least amount of decision-making and power should be held there, and the greatest amount should be held at the local level.

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## Unifying vision:

What is the vision that unites us? For Just Transition, we believe that a core set of rights (Rights of Mother Earth, New Economic Rights - and, of course, the human rights that are codified but not afforded or are violated) is the foundation of the unifying vision. Our vision is the destination on the road we are all on.

## Shared Values:

What are our shared Values that guide the *way* we fight for our rights and access to resources? Some of our shared Values may be...

- Sharing & Caring
- Equity
- Reverence for the Sacredness
- Collective Wellbeing
- Deep Democracy
- Reparations
- The Commons
- Centering the leadership of those most impacted by the system which violates our rights



### **Aligned Strategies:**

Our aligned set of strategies are an evolving set of maps and pathways we forge together to move us toward our vision.

- Shared points of intervention (point of production, distribution, consumption)
- Shared targets (Police Officer Unions, Chevron or a common developer operating in different communities)
- Shared tactics (direct action land reclamation, divestment, occupy, BLM style direct action)
- Some set of shared goals (though always rooted in the local context)
- Shared policies or policy instruments (Rights of Nature ordinances or Local Energy and Climate Action Plans, green zones/JT zones, Divest-Invest policies, eminent domain over underwater mortgages, Community Choice Energy Aggregation, municipal policies to hand over unused parcels to neighborhood groups, land-trusts)

### **Common Frames**

Common frames project our stories with a greater force and an irresistible transformative narrative. Some common Frames may be...

- Common messages, memes, songs, chants, poems, hashtags, and visuals ("Take more land," the "pitchfork" as the shared symbol of land reform or banging on pots, hands-up, #BlackLivesMatter, "I Can't Breathe," "We Got All Our Medicine," sanctuary)
- Common dates/moments (Juneteenth, Reclaim MLK, Earth Day)
- Joint principles or platforms (Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing, Just Transition Framework, Reparations Framework, 5 D's\*)

### **Connective Tissue:**

Connective tissue supports innovation as well as coordination and propagation. It is facilitative rather than directive.

- Communications infrastructure that is facilitated but not directed – shared communications platforms, channels, chat rooms, text groups, etc.
- Information and Strategy Commons - sharing curriculum, policies, successes, challenges and lessons, etc.
- Mobile squads - folks willing to pollinate across communities to propagate lessons and share skills.
- Gatherings and convenings that bring folks together. (PMA processes, transformative training spaces, strategy sessions)

*\* Movement Generation uses the 5 D's to describe what real solutions do: Democratize, Diversify, Decentralize, Damper Down, and (re)Distribute through Reparations*

