Remaking the Economy
Mutual Aid: 3 City Case Studies

October 28, 2020

Steve Dubb, Nonprofit Quarterly, Boston, MA
Danielle Mkali, Nexus Community Partners (Minneapolis-St. Paul)
Mike Strode, Kola Nut Collaborative (Chicago)
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#RebuildTheEconomy
Coming soon!

Remaking the Economy series, special post-election edition

Where to Now—and Beyond

Thursday, November 12th, 2-3 pm ET

Steve Dubb, Nonprofit Quarterly, Boston, MA
Dr. Gar Alperovitz, Democracy Collaborative, Washington, DC
Laura Flanders, *The Laura Flanders Show*, New York, NY
Dr. Stacey Sutton, University of Illinois, Chicago
What is Mutual Aid?

A practice and politic that emphasizes solidarity rather than charity.

- Solidarity = Done with/together
- Charity = Done for

*Graphic: Ricardo Levins Morales/Lila Watson*
Mutual Aid Principles

- Solidarity not charity
- Liberation not recuperation
- Autonomy & power building
- “Everything for everyone, nothing for us.” -Zapatista proverb
- Cooperation not competition
- Lead by asking

*Graphic: Monica Trinidad*
A Brief History of Mutual Aid

In North America

Indigenous lifeways and sovereignty; Black thrivance and power.

-Regan De Loggans

The Afronaut mural, Will, Jennifer & Alexa Condry
Mutual Aid by Other Names

- Sovereign Nations
- Maroon Communities
- Konbit
- Free African & Secret Societies
- Sociedades Mutualistas
- Fraternal Lodges and Societies
- Voluntary Associations

“They tried to bury us, but they didn’t know we were seeds.” — Mexican Proverb
Twin Cities (Minneapolis & St. Paul) Mutual Aid efforts
Major events....

• Covid-19 increased the need for and visibility of mutual aid networks.

• The uprising in response to Mr. George Floyd on May 29th went on for days.

• Call outs of sexual harassment, assault in art, music and non-profits begin in mid June.

• Unemployment disproportionately impacting BIPOC communities.

• Housing encampments: We have award-winning parks yet lack housing for our people.
Diverse mutual aid responses

• Individuals

• Informal networks

• Resource/Space/Time

• What are nonprofits’ roles?

• What are funders’ roles?

• Who is leading mutual aid?

• Challenges

• The promise of mutual aid in the Twin Cities
Time Travelin’

A Brief Journey Through the History of a Kola Nut
Kola Past
Kola Present

NEW ECONOMY COALITION

just Chicago

Movement Monday, The Ugoma Hour

The Kola Nut Collaborative

Chicago Mutual Housing Network

Building Home Together

4LIB

CO-OP

D S A

SOLIDARITY NETWORK

ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE.
Kola Future
Pre-COVID-19: Mutual Aid in Metro Atlanta
Our Values

- Focus on Black, Indigenous, and other Peoples of Color, with special attention paid to gender, sexuality, class, immigration statuses
- Radical trust in our people
- Prioritize community needs over donors’
- Utilize a wealth redistribution framework
- Encourage employers to prioritize their workers over giving to the Fund
- Ensure that funds reach communities outside of city centers and major suburbs
Our Vision: Alternative Systems for our Future

We envision interdependent ecosystems of individuals, families, and communities in an abundant, loving and joyful Metro Atlanta region. Ecosystems where our communities' structures and institutions are life-affirming and are aligned with Mother Earth. Communities where we all are valued, supported and nourished.

www.atlantamutualaid.org
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Please complete your brief evaluation
Thank you!