

Roots in the Movement, A Revolutionary Congregation – Mission and Values

Together, the vast majority of people on this planet could rise beyond the hierarchies and oppressions that bind us. Together, we could build a more free, just, and cooperative world. There will come a time when we are enough, and when we are ready. Until that time, we will prepare.

Our Mission

Roots in the Movement is an open community of people who congregate together around our shared desire to build a transformative social justice movement. Through popular education, relationship building, and cultural activities, we aim to support and mutually inspire each other in the long and difficult struggle for a better world. We consider ourselves as just one part of a much larger liberation movement.

Our Common Values

We believe that another world is possible. The global society that we all currently share has never been inevitable. It is the product of thousands of years of history, thousands of years of human relationships and human activity. And so, through human relationships and human activity, our society can be changed. It can be vastly improved. Working together, we can build a global society that better fulfills our common needs, dreams, and desires.

We are radical. Radical means to go to the root. To truly build a better world together, we believe it is necessary to look at the roots of what does not work in our current world. What we see when we look with this radical lens is a society that is built on unfair, oppressive social systems, which demand to be replaced.

We reject the hierarchy and domination of our current society. When we look closely at the injustices of our society—now and in the past—we see time and again that there are systems which divide us all into different categories, which create hierarchies that favor a few over the rest, and which impose constant, often violent patterns of domination and exploitation. We reject all of these systems of social privilege and oppression, including the systems of patriarchy, white supremacy, heterosexism, capitalism, statism, imperialism, ableism, ageism, ecological domination, and religious oppression.

We embrace complexity. When we look at these many social systems at the roots of our society, we recognize how incredibly complex they are, and how they reinforce and tie themselves together on personal, interpersonal, and institutional levels. We recognize that these systems are infused into every aspect of our lives and our communities, and that none of us are immune to their dangerous effects. We are not afraid of this complexity; instead, we wish to face it directly together, not shying from how it might affect us as individuals, as groups, and as whole social movements and communities.

We are committed to community-based values. We believe that people are happier and healthier when they live in social structures based on community-based values like freedom, cooperation, equality, participation, creativity, curiosity, physicality, spirituality (of some sort or another), and ecology. We believe the primary mission and responsibility of society is to support and strengthen communities, with structures that nurture the healthy growth of empowered, passionate, inspired, and community-rooted individuals. This means that we will work for a future society structured around: the equality of sexes and the fluidity of gender and sexuality; racial justice; social ownership and participatory control of the economy; individual freedom without fear of incarceration; participatory democracy; global confederalism[use a clearer word]; religious plurality; youth and elderly dignity and empowerment; and a sustainable, interdependent relationship with the planet.

We have our roots in the movement. As individuals and as an organization, we draw strength from the histories of all of our peoples' various movements for social and environmental justice. Our collective stories of resistance and liberation stretch back many thousands of years, to the very beginnings of humanity, and we believe that being rooted in these histories can be one of our greatest strengths. We strive to infuse our movement roots into our daily organizational practices, so that all of us can understand how our actions are connected to an ecosystem of movements that stretches far beyond ourselves and our generation.

We believe in the strength and wisdom of our own communities. We are a neighborhood-based organization. We believe that our neighborhoods are fertile fields for the development of new community leaders, new community institutions, and new levels of community power that can eventually become city-wide power, county-wide power, state-wide power, and eventually even national power. Our neighborhoods contain the life, the spirit, the beauty, and the collective history to be foundations for building and strengthening our larger social change movements.

We are only whole when all are participating. The process of building a new society is really a process of building new lives for ourselves, lives that are based on cooperation and mutual inspiration. We can only build these kinds of lives by working together, in organizational structures in which all of us can participate, be challenged, and grow. Leadership by representatives or committees may sometimes be more efficient or even necessary in quick, narrow circumstances but we hold direct, participatory democracy and authentic diversity to be our core values. Further, we seek to sustain ourselves through the commitments of our entire, active membership, not through the professionalized channels of the non-profit system. Finally, we hold childcare, youth programs, and elders programs as ongoing priorities.