



encuentro <u>5</u>

The First Year - A Report

In the spirit of World Social Forum, encuentro 5 is a space for progressive movement building in the heart of Boston's Chinatown. On one floor, e5 brings together organizations from diverse sectors, fostering an ongoing exchange of skills and experiences. With physical space hosting offices and a core technology infrastructure, e5 promotes the pooling of resources so organizations can focus more on their campaigns. e5's 2000+ square foot multi-media event room provides a much-needed venue for cultural and political programming to help attract and inspire new people to our movement. For emerging projects, e5 provides initial resources to help ensure early success.



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1. Introduction: Onto the Streets!

March 24, 2007—It came together on the streets of Boston, as the promise of an organizing platform

divides and re-

was transformed into <u>action</u>, with 5,000 people marching to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. How did this action come about? The organizing of the "March 24 Coalition" illustrates the resources that encuentro 5 (e5) provides and the role it plays in movement building.

The city-wide "March 24 Coalition" began meeting weekly at e5 in January, with a strategy that cut across organizational

Antiwar marchers turning on to Cambridge Street, Downtown Boston, 3/24/07



Returning to Boston Common after marching through Boston's historic Faneuil Hall area and Financial District, 3/24/07

energized the antiwar movement. Their specific objective was to <u>build relationships</u> that in turn result in more significant antiwar activism on a *regional* scale. Ending 4 years of relative quiescence on the streets, the mobilization left the local antiwar movement poised to expand the scope of its activities on a regional scale over the summer and into the fall. In the run-up to March 24, e5 became an <u>organizing headquarters</u>, hosting phone banks, press events, and

subcommittee meetings. More important, it

served to <u>bring in other coalitions</u> and organizations that use e5 for meetings and office space, and reached well beyond



In addition to the above Boston Globe article, the

Herald and local TV covered the action.

the "usual suspects"; e5 helped the Coalition reach children who attend martial



arts classes on Saturday mornings, dancers, drummers and visual artists for whom e5 has become a regular <u>cultural hub</u> for painting, classes and rehearsing, and local puppeteers and stilt walkers who first found out about the rally because they were part of a regional anarchist gathering meeting at e5. As a consequence of the <u>regional networking</u> going into the event: the antiwar movement is planning coordinated activities around the New Hampshire presidential primaries, and will be joining the 43rd president on his summer vacation in Kennebunkport, ME this August!

March 24 is just *one of many* projects which have flowered at e5 over the past year. With careful planning and deliberation, good faith and determination, e5 has drawn together a community of ten "resident" organizations, five city-wide coalitions and several other formations, and has hosted an array

of cultural activities (drum circles, poetry & book readings, arts exhibitions, etc.). e5 has also successfully pooled key resources and established a "virtual presence" for itself and a large number of other organizations via a dedicated internet server. Beyond e5 itself lies an informal network of organizations with similar aspirations albeit with different emphases. This report reviews the activities of e5, and its prospects for the future. In all, it will be seen that e5 has surpassed its year one movement-building objectives.

When I have a 'how to' question, there is always someone to reach out to. As small non-profits, we are all dealing with similar issues and have found different answers to the same questions. Sharing those "answers" really makes a difference...

- David Dolev Jewish Labor Committee

2. Background: History & Goals

e5 is a project of Massachusetts Global Action (MGA), an organization committed to challenging corporate globalization in the region and to promoting democratic

alternatives. Within this broad mission, MGA participates in labor, antiwar, and pro-immigrant mobilizations, and as well as runs campaigns on water and militarism. Cutting across issue areas, MGA helps foster the social forum process, as a mechanism for networking, dialogue and movement building. In 2005, after the organizing of the Boston Social Forum, MGA identified the clear need for a permanent physical and *political* space to promote positive exchanges between diverse organizations and movements via spontaneous interactions that happen when groups share physical space and resources.

In addition, MGA recognized the importance of strengthening volunteer-based formations (VBFs). As even a cursory reading of history suggests and experience confirms, large social movements are energized and built by regular working people for whom organizing and social-change work is but one aspect of their lives. In other words, the kinds of volunteer-based formations (VBFs) that arise in response to specific emergencies or ruptures are able to capture and animate public sentiments in much more authentic ways than either the larger bureaucratic organizations of the advocacy non-profit world

or party-building projects. In fact, these formations are able to unleash much more social energy—often by orders of magnitude—than that which paid functionaries or even committed cadre can muster. In the light of this observation shared by MGA, a space was needed to facilitate the formation and growth, financial viability, administrative continuity and logistical efficacy of these VBFs in ways that

...for e5, they provide an additional bounty: programming and social interactions between their memberships and constituencies...

maintain their autonomy, spontaneity, and political authenticity. In many ways, e5 has taken up this challenge with a degree of success that has surprised even MGA and its allied VBFs.

In its first year, e5 aimed to overcome the financial challenges and build the necessary political support for sustaining and transforming the physical space that it occupies. In addition, achieving significant name-recognition and support from the broader progressive community was an important objective.

These objectives set measures for achieving a critical mass of resident organizations, a dollar amount on financial and inkind support, and the diversity of progressive currents using e5.

3. Resident Organizations

Ten organizations now use e5 as office space. As distinct from other contributors to the project, they provide monthly rental income and share important—often mission critical—resources with each other and the project as a whole. As important as each organization's primary mission is, for e5,

e5 "serves as a super-groovy shared work/gathering/ event space for many local progressive organizations" - Dollars & Sense

the groups provide an *additional* bounty: programming and social interactions between their memberships and constituencies. The resident organizations include projects that MGA has welcomed and supported by subsidizing their rents and initial office setups with a view to nurturing promising initiatives. We have identified several criteria that these "startups" should meet:

- The initiative must involve communities traditionally excluded from social power; these include, for example, working people, communities of color and women;
- The initial personnel and/or participants should be drawn from the target constituency;
- The medium- and long-term financial stability of the initiative as a staffed entity must be reasonably established (via development of cash-flow projections; identification of revenue streams and/or existing/future pledges support; demonstration of a viable dues-paying membership plan; etc.);
- The initiative should have the potential to identify and challenge existing unjust social relationships and patterns of power; and
- Alternative and democratic models of social relationships should be prefigured in the initiative's practices.

Logic of Mix

In identifying resident organizations, e5 has noted complementarities and synergies while avoiding areas of duplication and competition. As a result, the organizations range in structure from support organizations that serve a wide range of individuals across institutions (e.g. the

Every time I come into encuentro 5 for a class, I quickly catch up on what else is happening around the city.

Now I also drop off announcements about stuff at my school and church.

- Hapchida-do student

Women's Institute for Leadership Development that focuses on women in the broad labor movement) and those that have a very concentrated constituency (e.g. the Chinatown Residents Association). Advocacy issues present another salient axis, ranging from the broad movement-building frame of MGA to the intense universal health-care advocacy focus embodied by Mass Care.

Another distinguishing feature of the e5 approach has been to keep the door open to emerging *cultural* organizations, particularly those involving young people. This interest represents a challenge given the

often transient character of both cultural and youth organizations. Related to and possibly a driver of this transiency are the severe economic challenges that insurgent cultural movements face in their early stages.

Above all else, the e5 *mix* represents formations whose organizational culture is oriented toward cooperation with allied groups while retaining their distinct identities and mission.

Organizations and their Issues

The 10 resident organizations are:

- Asian American Resource Workshop
- Chinatown Residents Association
- Citizens for Participation in Political Action
- Dollars & Sense The Magazine of Economic Justice
- Envizion Artists
- Jewish Labor Committee
- Mass Care The Massachusetts Campaign for Single Payer Health Care
- Massachusetts Global Action
- North American Alliance for Fair Employment
- Women's Institute for Leadership Development

Collectively, these organizations address the challenges posed by economic justice, health care rights, gender equality, worker organizing, youth empowerment, alternative globalization, and racial justice.

4. City-Wide and Regional Coalitions

In addition to a meeting and event space for local coalitions, e5 provides phone-banking facilities, websites, copying, and publicity. We also host press conferences and act as a media hub (dropping press releases and media advisories via fax and e-mail to up-to-date local and regional press lists), mailing and packaging facilities, on-demand office space. These are elaborated in the "Resource Sharing" section.

Different from the resident organizations, are the VBFs or City/Regional Coalitions that use e5 as their base of operations and event headquarters.



The Stop the Wars website is designed and maintained by e5/MGA staff



Sergio Reyes & Dorotea Manuela prep for MC'ing on May Day 2007

It's very important for unfunded, all-volunteer movements such as the movements for peace, for immigrant rights, for the rights of women and people of color, to have the kind of space and resources to share that e5 provides to us...

Kaveri Rajaraman

MGA board member

Who is involved?

- Greater Boston Stop the Wars Coalition
 - Mobilizations
 - Condoleezza Rice & Dick Cheney
 - First Night Against the War
 - War Profiteers
 - March 24
 - Office
 - Records
 - Petitions
- Boston May Day Coalition (Migrant Rights)
 - Office
 - Rapid Response Netwok
 - Meetings
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Bolivarian Circle
 - Meetings
 - Events
- Boston Organizing Committee for the WSF
 - Biweekly meetings
 - Organizing support for 50-person delegation to 2006 WSF, Caracas
 - Ongoing events

Other formations holding events at e5

The following organizations have also used e5 as a meeting, training and/or organizing space:

- Industrial Workers of the World
- INCITE! Women of Color Network
- ANSWER-Boston
- World Can't Wait
- Middle East Crisis Coalition
- American Friends Service Committee
- National Lawyers Guild
- Committee in Solidarity w/the People of El Salvador
- Organizers of Color Initiative
- Eastern Massachusetts Jobs with Justice
- North East Anarchist Federation
- Boston IndyMedia

Union Busting is Disgusting! May 17, 2007



IWW members readying themselves for a pro-worker action at Starbucks



Outside a Starbucks across from the MBTA's Boylston Stop.



Preparing for May Day 2007.

5. Resource Sharing

At a fundamental level, the work of social movement organizations is to marshal and make effective use of resources normally denied to their constituencies. In other contexts, for example in the business world and government, these resources are readily accessible and taken for granted. The same is true for wealthier non-profits that eschew a critical perspective of current social relations. For the resident organizations and allied coalitions, however, the sharing of resources frees up time and energy to focus on mission-critical social-change campaigns. The detailed overview that follows describes the actual resources being shared and our plans for their expansion.

Internet Connectivity/Wireless Hub

We operate a mixed Windows, Linux, Max OSX network via wireless and 10/100 ethernet that shares printers and an internet connection. At present the wireless hub is unencrypted and open access. The internet connection is via high speed, Verizon-supplied DSL. Recently, increased public usage (during events, etc.) has resulted in higher download traffic and also increased upload traffic to accommodate VOIP. As the costs change, it may be economical to increase our capacity via dedicated hi-speed connections (at the T3 or better level). If a dependable VOIP solution becomes available, then the cost of operating our phone systems can be folded into the internet costs resulting in thousands of dollars in savings on an annual basis.

Web Presence Provider (see appendix 3)

MGA has made its web server available to resident organizations and allied coalitions. The physical server is located off-site and has multiple redundant internet connections to ensure 99.9% uptime. The server itself is a late model dual Intel Xeon system with SCSI hard drives and low latency. Appendix 3 provides screenshots of the hosted websites.

••| Boston the view from 33 Harrison Ave Bookstores Vegetarian & Veg · Cheap stays Radio Stations "Welcome to Boston" Brochure To Schedule a Meeting or Reserve the Submit Reset Reserving e5 space via our website

Fax, Scanning, Copying & Printing

e5 operates several copying machines and high speed printers, in addition to a shared fax (used primarily for receipt of faxes; individual PC-fax cards allow for blast fax broadcasting). Occasionally, resident organizations have shared their media lists with each other and allied coalitions for the blast faxing and mass e-mailing.

Our copier services are available for smaller jobs. Given the present scale of resident organizations'

needs and the episodic nature of extremely large runs, e5's copying costs work out to about 5 cents apiece (a little more expensive than a large commercial outlet, but in line with local print shops).

Recently, a large format poster printer was offered to local peace and justice organizations by Daniel Kelley, a local activist. It is housed at e5 which ensures its availability to local organizations for only the cost of ink and print media.

Mailing/Package Processing

With *Dollars & Sense* magazine shipping books from e5 and Mass Global Action's much smaller scale distribution of *Reclaiming the Ivory Tower*, it became necessary to set up a processing area (with packaging materials, labeling equipment, etc.) for routine order fulfillment in-house. We have also set up an account with the major unionized shipper – UPS. This facility is available to all the organizations and its utility has been demonstrated time and again during campaign drives, especially by the allied coalitions or VBFs.

"Welcome to Boston Brochure"

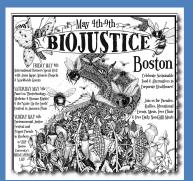
As a hub for several regional gatherings, e5 has had to provide reference materials for out-of-town visitors. Where nothing was immediately appropriate for the kinds of folks attending meetings at e5, MGA board member, Susie Husted compiled the brochure that connects folks with housing, transportation, bookstores, eating places, etc. This is available for download from www.encuentro5.org.

Conference Facilities

Across the 6,000+ square feet of e5, several discrete meeting areas have been set aside with conference and smaller size tables. This permits several breakout groups to meet in parallel outside the 2,000 square foot event space. Tripods for note taking/displays, stationery and other basic equipment are made available as needed. This resource is exploited daily.



Live online chat with e5 staff is available via our website



Recently e5 served as a convergence space for activists challenging the profit principle that drives biological research. Throngs of young people from all over the US turned out for BioJustice 2007.



Councillor Felix Arroyo, Grace Ross and other activists hold a press conference at e5 (3/23/07).

Teleconferences

MGA maintains a conference call dial-up number that permits larger regional and national conference calls to be held on an as needed basis. This has proved essential for the Social Forum and regional work.

6. Organizing Platform

At short notice, e5 has acted as an organizing platform for a host of events. In these instances, organizers have used e5 for press conferences, organizing meetings, banner and poster making, training workshops and as a rendezvous point. This role is accentuated by e5's proximity to the Boston Common, a site of many city-wide and regional rallies. Among the larger scale events that e5 has served are:

- May Day Demonstrations (2006 and 2007)
- Bio Justice (2007)
- Antiwar Rallies (see Appendix 1)
- Anarchist "Community Relations" Meeting (2007)

7. Skills Building Platform

Several workshops and training sessions have been organized to share fundamental skills. The workshops are open to all resident organizations, allied coalitions and community partners.

e 5 is housed in a former textile factory. UNITE-HERE! the trade union that runs the building took ownership in the 1940's heyday of industrial unionism. An original Singer sewing machine remains at e5 awaiting restoration in tribute to the workers who have gone before us.

Fundraising Training

Recognizing that most donations come from grassroots giving by individuals, e5 organizers have conducted training sessions to enable its resident organizations to grow, cultivate and serve their potentially large member bases.

Internet Presence & Computer Literacy Training

Powered by TecsChange-donated computers, e5's nascent computer lab is used to train community activists and young people in the use and development of websites, e-mail lists and web-based bulletin boards. In some cases, individualized basic computer literacy has been generated using a dialogic, problem solving approach. This has included trainings in the use of basic graphics and text processing software.

8. Donors, Partners & Supporters

Key organizations and individuals have played an important role in sustaining e5. For example, while MGA personnel have provided the day-to-day resources, organizations like TecsChange (Technology for Social Change), especially in the person of one of its founders, Charlie Welsh, has been a regular presence enhancing the space's technological capacity in ways that are meaningful for activist, campaign-oriented organizing. For folks familiar with e5, Charlie's obvious contributions extend well beyond our technology capacity.

Our networking equipment and a majority of our PCs and printers have all come through our relationship with TecsChange. In addition, our computer operating systems have been donated by Canonical as part of their Ubuntu/Kubuntu GNU Linux distribution; where unavoidable, propriety software licenses have been purchased through TechSoup.org.

Individual activists, donors and partners have been critical to e5's work. Especially praiseworthy for their support and guidance are Felix Arroyo, David Barsamian, Eli Beckerman, Jason Berube, Elena Blanco, Christina Brinkley, Begwe Browne, Gabe Camacho, Darryl Cane-McCalla, Kathy Casavant, Jackie Cefola, Karen Chen, Noam Chomsky, Pasqualino Colombaro, Andrea Condit, Brian Corr, Ben Day, David Diaz, Kendra Fehrer, Rezwan Ferdaus, Marilyn Frankenstein, Janet Gee, Joe Gerson, Nick Giannone, Amatul Hannan, Emily Hardt, John Harris, Sandra Harris, Becky Herst, Hui Min Zhao, Greg Jobin-Leeds, Pat Keaney, Angela Kelly, Marie Kennedy, Dan Kontoff, Kate Krovatin, Richard Krushnic, Van Lawtown, Liam Leahy, Elisabeth Leonard, Dave Lewit, Mike Liu, Robin Lloyd, Kim Lompour, Pong Louie, Alice Lovelace, Chris Manschreck, Dorotea Manuela, Duncan McFarland, Luis Melendez, Aileen Montour, Kira Moodliar, Brian O'Connell, Myriam Ortiz, Nilda Ortiz, Terri Oshiro, Amanda Parkhurst, Bhavin Patel, Bill Perkins, Cynthia Peters, Nate Peyman, Thomas Ponniah, Jason Pramas, Mike Prokosch, Guillermo Quinteros, Kaveri Rajaraman, Sergio Reyes, Norma Rosario, Grace Ross, Libardo Rueda, Betsy Rueda-Gynn, Paul Saba, Lilia Sanabria, Karen Slater, Aaron Tanaka, Fabrizia Torazzi, Roberto Torres Collazo, Tamara Trejo, Chuck Turner, Taina Vargas, Randy Viscio, Nalda Vigezzi, and Ellen Wallace. Warren Pepicelli and Sam Gurlieo of UNITEHERE! New England Region Joint Board have been generous with their time and support for non-profit growth at 33 Harrison Ave, home to e5. Susie Husted and Jonathan Leavitt, both MGA board members and founders, have been very supportive in providing both labor and guidance. Important institutions contributing to e5 include the Solidago Foundation, SEIU Locals 1199 and 615,

UAW Local 2320, The Middle East, The City School, The Reagan Babies, Fluttr Effect, Boston Restores, and The Foundation.

9. e5 beyond e5

The complete mix of activities and resources offered by e5 is unique in the Boston area. However there are other vital projects with similar overall goals albeit with different emphases. This is also true on a global scale: many "open spaces" are being pioneered to prefigure a just and humane social order. For this reason e5 proactively reaches out to potential partners.



Connecting with other spaces in the city

In the Greater Boston area, these centers include the Lucy Parsons Bookstore (South End), Spontaneous Celebrations (Jamaica Plain), the Community Church of Boston (Back Bay); the Democracy Center (Harvard Square), American Friends Service Committee (Porter Square), and Third Sector New England (South Station). All act as movement-building spaces albeit with different emphases from e5. Aside from informal contact with organizers of these spaces, e5's website links to them. In the future, a more formal network is necessary. There are a range of common concerns that may best be addressed by

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pooling resources. These range from zoning and permitting issues to information sharing about contractors, service providers and potential tenants and clients.

Connecting with other spaces globally

In dialogue with activists around the world, particularly with folks operating in urban areas and in coastal regions, one issue comes through quite powerfully: the radical privatization and the annihilation of public spaces together escalating real estate prices has denied people access to spaces for meeting and building community. At the same time, other spaces have emerged—often in areas laid to waste by deindustrialization or currently overlooked by the speculating gaze of potential landlords—that afford working people opportunities for networking and movement building. Two opportunities from e5 to make these global connections arise out of our participation in the World Social Forum process: the USSF and the Global Week of Action that will replace the 2008 WSF.

USSF 2007 - The First US Social Forum

Together with the Brecht Forum (NYC), the Center for Political Education (San Francisco) and Rabble.ca (Toronto), the Center for Global Justice (San Miguel de Allende, Mexico), MGA is organizing a two-session workshop series on "movement-building spaces" at the United States Social Forum (Atlanta, June 27 – July 1, 2007). A goal is to initiate an national information-sharing network of similar projects.

World Social Forum

Since 2001, the World Social Forum has been an annual event for the global progressive movement. In 2008 it will be replaced by a global week of action before resuming in 2009. At the USSF, MGA will explore linking e5 up with other similar institutions in a virtual forum that will take place in 2008. This follows a proposal by one of the leading social forum thinkers, Boaventura de Souza Santos of Portugal. He calls for a virtual "Popular University of Social Movements." In preparing for this event, e5 will continue to host social forum-related events, report back and workshops (see Appendix 2).

10. Errors and Lessons Learned

In three instances e5 stewardship was severely challenged; these provided both <u>enduring lessons</u> for the staff and <u>changes in practice and policy</u>.

In one case,e5 staff failed to enforce residency guidelines for an organization renting office space and sharing the e5 resources. This weakened the overall project's financial strength and raised concerns with other resident organizations, and the project's landlord with whom a long-term relationship is critical. Once resolute action was finally taken, the staff revised its method of operation to ensure consistent compliance with residency guidelines for all organizations, and <u>increased the initial commitment</u> that potential resident organizations must make to demonstrate their good faith as partners in the e5 project.

Another failure involved permitting a promoter to use e5 for a cultural engagement. The event extended beyond the hours that e5 agreed to and the volume was unexpected but the low staffing level made it impossible to shut down the activity without endangering the staff and the physical space. This resulted in loud music at unacceptable hours, increased staff time well beyond sustainable levels and temporarily

strained relations with neighbors. External event organizers are now required to <u>place a deposit</u> with e5; in addition, realistic assessments of staffing and security needs are now <u>required before major events</u>.

The third instance of failure involved all parties acting in good faith. A large gathering of young people were using e5 as a platform for an important activity that e5 sees as consistent with its mission. However, cultural differences between the guest organizers and the rest of the organizations hosted at e5, and a significant overlap with regular office hours over several days resulted in severe strains. These extended to the building's landlords and likely involved other tenants at 33 Harrison Ave. Accordingly, the staff has revised its guidelines and consultation process before permitting similar events and especially ones on the scale of the problem event.

Regular, serious reflection is built into the e5 ethos, these may not prevent failures, however they are likely to minimize their repetition.

11. Staffing

MGA has provided the staff for the work and coordination of the work of e5. Their experience in coalition and network-building, in addition to practical on-the-ground organizing has be instrumental in

Kim Foltz and Suren Moodliar: Both have worked as trade union organizers, served as leaders in social change-oriented and economic justice formations, carried out both community organizing and international pressure-group work including corporate campaigns. In addition to the practical organizing, they have contributed to serious reflection on some of the key issues confronting the progressive movement. This includes joint work on the social forum process, the organizing of structured networks, and the debate around immigration and outsourcing. A unifying thread of their practical and theoretical labors is a search for mechanisms that lead to greater cooperation, coordination and efficacy for those excluded from power.

developing the relationships to sustain e5.



Suren Moodliar and Kim Foltz, together with fellow Boston Social Forum organizer, Jason Pramas, wrote a widely read paper, "The Future of the Social Forum Process: Modest Reforms Needed" (2005) It was translated into several languages and prompted much

12. The Future: Governance, Expansion, Change

The project's history as a facet of Mass Global Action is but a starting point. e5 will develop an independent governance structure and economic autonomy over the next 2 years. Until then, MGA will remain the fiscal sponsor, financial guarantor and staff provider for the project. An algorithm that weighs the participation of e5's distinct stakeholders, primarily but not exclusively the resident organizations and allied coalitions, as democratic "citizens" of the e5 polity will have to evolve.

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Another direction of growth will build on the current networking with other similar centers. At the local level, this could involve concerted activity to ensure that regulations and zoning laws conducive to e5-type spaces evolve. At the global level, this could mean coordinated speaker tours (integrated reservation systems, etc.), technology dissemination (particularly at the software level), and information sharing.

There are two MGA projects that are planned to be housed at e5 as soon as a viable funding stream is developed. Both are designed to integrate into the existing organizational framework and exploit e5's strengths. The <u>Downtown Workers Center</u> will serve immigrant, youth and elderly workers in the downtown retail and other service industry jobs. e5's network of allied organizations and the resident organizations' diverse skills are likely to play a vital role in the project's success.

The second venture, with a more distant launch date (likely 2nd quarter, 2009), is the <u>Du Bois Forum</u>, inspired by the Brecht Forum (NYC), the Resource Center for the Americas (Minneapolis) and the Center for Political Education (San Francisco). It involves connecting cutting edge social science and arts with organizers and activists through a variety of activities including classes, workshops, lectures, debates, publishing, and research. In these, the Du Bois Forum will build on e5's existing rich mix but supplement it with a deliberate strategy and emphasize intended intellectual and practical outcomes (i.e. beyond the individual event in and of itself).

Both projects will have to establish funding streams that allow them to contribute fully in terms of rent and other costs to e5. Nonetheless, each represents a crucial movement-building pathway that e5 is designed to support.

13. By Way of Conclusion

Many, many events! Enormous effort. Prodigious enthusiasm. Much movement, networking and activity. But what does it signify? Does the foregoing add up to something more?

Our narrative suggests that it does. At the most vulgar level, measured in terms of the increased depth and robustness of the volunteer-based organizations (expanded mailing list, contact networks, innovative structures like the May Day Coalition's Rapid Response Network and larger scale actions), the smooth operation of the resident organizations, the deepened organizer education (intellectual and skills development); robust networking afforded by regular interactions between politically and socially diverse groups and individuals, e5 is living up to its promise as a movement-building space. In our social context, e5 is something more important. Coming at a time of ever-contracting public spaces, civil liberties and economic opportunity, e5's achievement is also a contribution to a realistic politics of hope!

Focus: e5 as a Cultural Destination

With a degree of improvisation and careful timing, the space has been used for rehearsals and performances (mostly fundraisers in the latter case). However, absent further development of the physical space, e5's cultural potential is limited by accessibility and sound (volume) concerns. By the end of 2007, e5 hopes to have completed modifications to the space that will permit an expansion of its role as a cultural venue.

SUN CAIL IN

Music & Dance

The well-known and politically sophisticated troupe ¡Presente! rehearses its unique blend of music, spoken word and theatre at e5. The group both moved and challenged

marchers on March 24, welcoming the protestors back to Boston Common with a somber and sober reminder that the war continues at home too. Recently, the African Dance Troupe has also practiced at e5, taking advantage of the 40+ feet of linear space in the event area.

Visual Arts

In addition to a burgeoning political poster collection (complementing the several thousand volume library), several artists are using e5 to showcase their work. This is still in the experimental stages as e5 continues to transform its physical space.



Mura

Local muralist, Darrel Ann Cane-McCalla has begun work on an exciting and visually arresting project. Among the themes that it evokes is the now legendary 1950s march of South African women on the white-ruled parliament of the time. Then Lilian Ngoyi and Helen Joseph defiantly declared, "When you have struck a women, you have struck a rock!"

3rd Sunday Batey Drum Circle

Organized by artist, photographer and activist Taina Vargas, the *Batey* (pronounced bäh tay) is inspired by the pre-Colombian Caribbean peace-making tradition and drum circle of the same name (in a *Taino* dialect). Drawing scores of artists and young people, the monthly event becomes a zone of engagement between folks from diverse artistic disciplines and traditions, many communities and interests. "This is about living the alternative that our communities



dream about," says Taina Vargas. "It is," she continues, "valuable in its own right, but for may it is also

be a stepping stone to deeper exploration." Envizion Artists' Khari Moran adds, "It is all about the vibration...there are moments when we begin to vibrate as one!"

On the third Sunday of every month, Taina sets out a table with a large sheet of blank paper and pastel crayons, then she burns Sage as a cleansing incense... With other folks drifting in, carrying with them their artistic expressions (photo displays, crib sheets with cues for their spoken word performances, costumes and other regalia), she sets up the drum circle...







Sofia expresses the moment

Soon e5 is set in motion; drums marking polyphonic rhythms evolving into "talking exchanges" while others' vocal harmonizing complete an aural spectrum that faithfully evokes the vivacious colors and textures on the nearby tables of emerging canvases... Almost seamlessly individuals precipitate out of this *sight-sound-scent* ether, dancing to and inspiring the polyrhythmic beat of their chosen drummers... their flowing or even staccato movements are animated by artistic sensibilities spanning formal dance and

ballet through yoga, break dancing and even a *kata* or two drawn from Brazilian and Eastern pugilistic forms.

Just then a shift is mood is possible. Al's

prose recalling Toussaint or mourning Sean Bell soars from words merely uttered to full bodied, magisterial statements undergirded by a now softer, but ever steady drumming... And, as it drifts into stream of



consciousness-like declarations, the pace picks up and the beat reasserts itself... So it is that the 3rd Sunday *Batey* is valued both as a "thing of itself" and space for free expression and expanding collaboration... a multidisciplinary place of improvisation and innovation, a jazz of real life... an avant-garde unconcerned with and even rejecting that status, authentic and accountable to that moment in time and space.

An interesting counterpoint to contemporary commercial youth culture, the

An interesting counterpoint to contemporary commercial youth culture, the *Batey* is an alcohol and substance abuse-free zone. In fact, the 20-30 people who are the multigenerational core of the *Batey* include many who provide youth services in Chelsea, Roxbury, Roslindale and Jamaica Plain. Still others

are counselors and criminal justice-reform advocates. In all, they are a growing part of the e5 milieu and they are also making their way into other aspects of the space's community.

Martial Arts

Envizion Artists offers *Hapchida-do* classes to young people early evening on Wednesdays and Fridays. The martial art is a combination of traditional Japanese *Aikido* and Korean *Taekwondo*.

The program is still in its pilot stages with the local instructor also teaching classes in Roxbury and Dorchester as well. To date, Norway-based Sensei Lester Goodwine who accredited by the World Martial Arts Federation has organized 2 weekend-long workshops at e5.

Hapchida-do is also an adaption to current realities of young people. It seeks to prepare young people to "handle violent situations efficiently with a de-escalation strategy, increase



their sense of self confidence, and [to] provide them with practical techniques to defend themselves."

Soon Jericho Boston will be joining the space with their own workshops which include a strong component on self defense for women.

Book Releases/Author Appearances

- "A Cowboy in Caracas" with Charles Hardy (Curbstone Press, 2007)
- "The Color of Violence" with Andrea Smith (South End Press, 2006)
- "The Rule of Property" with Karen Coulter (Apex Press, 2007)



Jorge Marin (right) of the Boston Bolivarian circle shares a thought with Charles Hardy, author of *A Cowboy in Caracas*.

Appendix 1: e5 & Antiwar Activities

Consistent with its location in a country waging several offensive wars, encuentro 5 has become a hub for antiwar activities. This role is highlighted in the media coverage of events organized out of e5. An important photo-essay on the Boston.com website appeared during the run up to the March 24, 2007, demonstration. While many activists rightfully disagree with the spin that Boston.com editor saw fit to impart, the extensive coverage suggests the importance of this work.

Boston.com's photo essay

In the run up to March 24, the coalition launched an intense media drive, one of the fruits was a review, featured on Boston.com, covering the antiwar movement in a 27-slide essay. A third of the slides featured work of the Stop the Wars Coalition.



On January 11, 2007, the Stop the Wars Coalition (STWC) organized a zap action at the nearby Park Street T-stop to protest the impending "surge."



The STWC banner, now a regular e5 resident, was also featured on display in our event.



Anne Sung from Students for Peace at a M24 meeting.



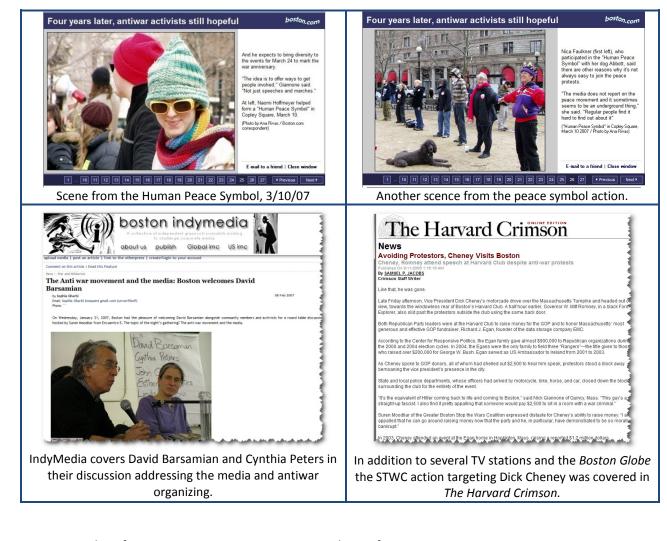
MGA/e5 staffer Suren Moodliar helped organize a STWC action on "First Night" in Boston. Thousands of stickers were displayed by the marchers (12/31/07).



Nick Giannone of STWC photographed at one of the organizing meetings for the march and rally.



Nick Giannone organized a large Human Peace Symbol in Copley Square.

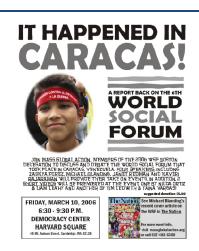


See appendix 2 for more antiwar activities organized out of e5.

Appendix 2: Events & Actions Organized @ e5

Over the past year, when coupled with classes and regular meetings, e5 has hosted events and organized others at different locations at a rate of 4-5 a week. The following are reduced size reproductions of event leaflets involving e5 and/or designed by our staff for events planned by e5-based coalitions and networks.







Antiwar events



Stop War Crimes!

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Saturday, March 11, 2006

10:30 a.m. JFK Library

s: Greater Boston Stop the Wars Coalition - WSF 2006 Boston Delegation for March 18, 2006 – International Day of Action against the Wary Organizing meeting for JFK lon, Tueckly, February 28, 2006, Venue: 33 Marrison Ave, 3" floor, Boston, 02111, 6330 p.m. Fo station calls 617-06-2061





















CITY-WIDE PLANNING MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2006, 6:30 PM 33 HARRISON AVE, 5TH FLOOR, CHINATOWN, BOSTON

¡Alto a las Guerras y a quienes se lucran de las Guerras!

¡Movilízate el Sábado 18 de Noviembre!



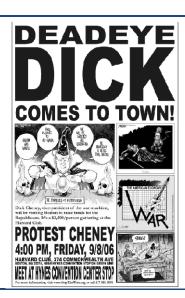


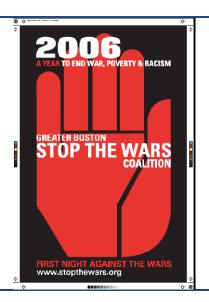
volume and prepare for the next phase of our campaigns.

Bands, Videos, Dancing, Tabling, Food & Drinks

Friday, June 23rd, 2006 7:00 p.m. until late... encuentro5

Que to the Orange Line's Chinatown T Stop, Green Line Boylsten Stop and Downtown Crossing on the Red Line
There is a 516 auggested directors in Sea of a cover change.





As the occupation of Iraq entres its 4th year and Alghanistan its 6th, the brulan lightmare continues with plans being made to altack from and possibly Wenezuela.

Here at home a war is being waged against immigrants, people of color, and working people in general Revelations about Washingion's domestic spyling operation indicate that millions of us are on the last of suspected terrorists. The War on Terror' continues to be used as the justification for the peneral assault on our human rights and thing conditions.

However, these ellacks by the war makers have not gone unanswered. Massave mobilizations by the immigrant community and anti-lever movements have taken place. In this exciting context, the Greater Boston Stop the Was Coalition will be discussing plans for action in the summer and fall.

JUNE 4, Ob [SUNDAY]

ENCUENTRO 5 @ 33 HARRISON AVE CHINALOWN, BOSLON, MA 02111 LUNCH, REFRESHMENTS & NOTEPAPER PROVIDED

WAR IS PEACE



AN EVENING OF MUSIC, POETRY, PERFORMANCE ART, VIDEOS AND MORE

AUGUST 12 - 9PM UNTIL...

@ENCUENTRO 5 - 33 HARRISON AVE. - CHINATOWN

ELEMENTAL ZAZEN * THE PEASANTS * MERCEN THE DIAMOND MINES * MITRA SHANTI

GREATER BOSTON STOP THE WARS COALITION SUGGESTED DONATION \$5-10

STOPTHEWARS.ORG

THIS FUENT IS A FIINDRAISER FOR THE



SATURDAY, DEC 9, 2006 8:00 PM TILL MIDNIGHT SPONTANEOUS CELEBRATIONS 45 DAMPORTH STREET, JAMAGA PLAIN, MA 0213 PAGEORY 45 DAMPORTH STREET, JAMAGA PLAIN, MA 0213 dancing, massage and more. \$10 DONATION TO BENEFIT STOP THE WARS COALITION

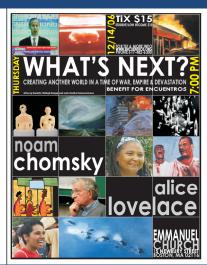
ENDING THE WAR WHICH WAY FORWARD? A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH PEACE MOVEMENT LEADERS

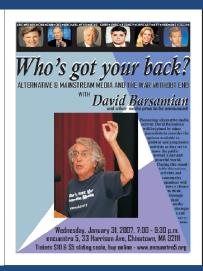
SAVE THE DATE!



FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2007 7:00 - 9:00 PM CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 85 SEAVERNS AVE, JAMAICA PLAIN, 02130

e5 fundraisers



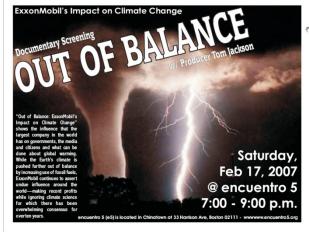


Other events









MASSACHUSETTS GLOBAL ACTION



Until Justice Runs Down like Water!

WORLD WATER FORUM

OLIVIA ZINK



DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2006

PLACE: encuentro5 TIME: 7:00 - 9:30 P.M.



encuentro5 33 HARRISON AVE, 5TH FLOOR CHINATOWN, BOSTON, MA 02111

PROTEST!

War Criminal Alvaro Uribe Comes to Town

Alvaro Uribe Colombia's President & George Bush's point man in the Andes is coming to town. We're going to challenge him outside his speech near Park Street:



- In 1995, as a governor, Uribel institution aliand paramilitary death squads that where murdered, "disappeared," detained, and drow thousands out of the region.

 Political assassinations.

 Political assassinations.

 Combined assassinations.

 Co
- - Friday, November 17
 - 3:30 PM
 - Park Street T Station







A Compelling presentation by

Briel Leiville

Haitian Community Organizer (RATRAP, health clinics), Activist and former Mayor of Fonds des Blanc

Friday, September 15, 2006 7:pm – 9:pm "Encuentro 5" – 33 Harrison Ave. Chinatown 5th floor

Orange line: Chinatown Stop - Green line: Boylston Street Stop

Sponsored by The World Social Forum Boston Organizing Committee



claudia torrelli

Thursday, September 28, 2006 7:30 p.m. in Chinatown at encuentro 5

33 Harrizon Ave. 5th floor Bozton. MA 0211



· Plus an update on the case of the Cuban Five political prisoners

Tuesday, March 6, 2007, 7:00 pm

33 Harrison St., Boston
(offices of Encuentro Cinco)
between Essex and Beach Sts., T stop: Orange line "Chinato

\$6-10 donation

Sponsor: A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism)
To get involved in the anti-war March on the Pontagon: 857-334-508 4, Besten@an

BOSTON STRATEGIC RESISTANCE a forum on anarchists and community relations

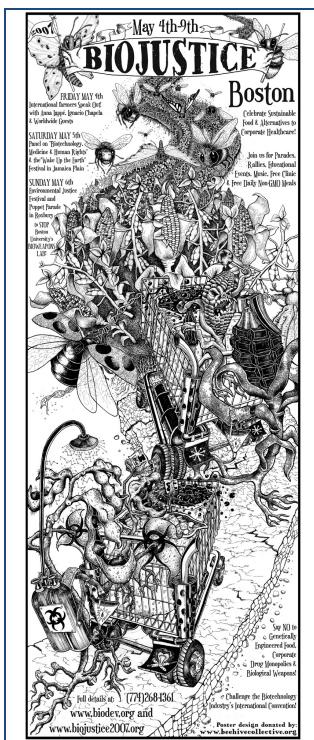
Saturday, January 27th from 12pm-4pm

Encuentro 5 33 Harrison Ave, 5th Floor Chinatown, Boston

Confirmed panelists: Camilo on Homes Not Jails Charlie on Bio-L ab Dominic on Boston Angry Tenants Union

Refreshments will be served (contributions welcomed)

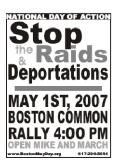
On Saturday, January 27th from 12pm-4pm at Encuentro 5, Boston Str Resistance, an ad hoc organizing committee of anarchists and nti-anhoritans, home parsipate wor

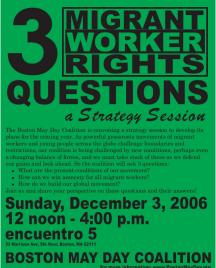


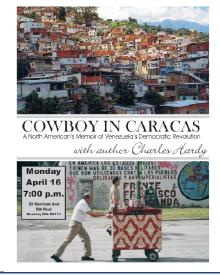
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2006 EVENT: Apocalypse Soon for Public Media? An On-line Community Discussion featuring Live Podcasting and Blogging Wednesday, May 17th, 2006, 6:30-8:30 p.m. [Boston-area folks invited to be in the live audience] 33 Harrison Ave., 5th Floor Boston, MA 02111 -- corner of Harrison Ave. and Beach St. in Chinatown, 3 blocks from the Boston Common --The Community Media and Technology Program at the UMass Boston College of Public and Community Service, the Tactical Media Group, and Massachusetts Global Action are presenting a communications policy discussion and community meeting. Partial List of Commentators: • Andy Carvin: Founding Editor, Digital Divide Network, Blogger, PBS Learning.Now • Dan Coughlin: Director, Manhattan Neighborhood Network <u>Alyce Myatt</u>: Strategic communications planner and advocate for independent media organizations and the philanthropic • Fred Johnson: Director, Community Media and Technology Program, College of Public and Community Service, UMass Boston. · Chuck Sherwood: Principal, Community Media Visioning Partners, a Public Sector consultancy serving Local Franchising Authorities and PEG Access Management Organizations. In an effort to make this discussion accessible for those interested











WHICH WAY FORWARD FOR THE **IMMIGRANT RIGHTS MOVEMENT?**



Jesse Diaz Jr. - Los Angeles March 25 Coalton Gabriel Gamacho - AFSC - Frojed Yvice Dorotos Manuela - Boston Roca Parko Human Righto Day Coaltion Tim Costello - Global Labor Strateges

Tim Costello - Goola Labor Sitteleges
Ana Amaria - Essieri Mass Jobs with Justice
Carl Proper - UNTERFER
Sergio Reyes — Doston May Day Coelition
Maria Elena Letona - Certro Preserte
Michael Liu - Asian American Resourse Workshop
Elways Ohne - MA Immigrant and Refugeo Advosacy
Coelition MIRIA
Representative - United for Justice with Peace

Jesse Diaz Jr.

Friday August 25 7:00 PM



(Chinators spor no Cross Inc) and Sojettes step on the Orese Inc) No human being is illegal!

For more information (617) 407 0400 info@bostonneydey.org www.bostonneydey.org

Appendix 3: Websites and Lists Hosted by e5

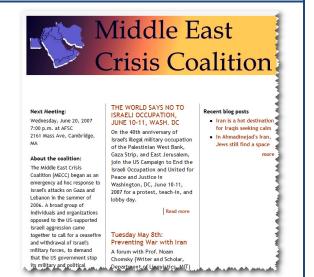
e5's server hosts several organizations' websites and mail servers. This includes 2 very active e-mail lists: act-ma and adj-l. The former is a 10-year old peace and justice events list serving Massachusetts while the latter is the premier nationwide list serving contingent faculty, who are now the majority of US college-level teachers. Since 2005, all the internal lists for the US Social Forum have been hosted from our server as was the website (now hosted and administered by May First/People Link). In addition to MGA's own website and lists, e5/MGA staff design and operate most of the websites that are hosted.

Why provide internet presence services?

We have approached these services as part of a strategy designed to lower the costs of startup for volunteer-based organizations and frameworks. As more advanced services are required, the organizers are expected to develop their internal capacity to administer and grow their internet presence. In the interim, particularly for single events, we have adopted a quick-and-dirty utilitarian approach to internet services.







E-mail Listserves

The lists are hosted on the e5/MGA server.



2007 Archives by subject

- Messages sorted by: [thread] [author] [date]
 More info on this list...

Starting: Tue Feb 13 04:53:38 PST 200 Ending: Thu May 24 13:56:52 PDT 200 Messages: 312

- [act-mal (no subject). Joff Monzelli [act-mal (no subject). Joff Monzelli [act-mal (no subject). Joff Monzelli [act-mal (no)]. Immigrants & Immigration Policy. CCI Brown Bang (Tues). Jonet Gilleapie [act-mal (n)). 4 CCI Brown Bang Ammetris for Prisioners of Katima (Wed). Junet Gilleapie [act-mal (n)). 4 Mohbers Meeting. Antl 11 March on the Pettagon. Baston Toops Out Now Coalition [act-mal 2]: 16 From Somala to Darfur US Importation Tabletess Grip on Africa. Joston Militant Labor [act-mal 2]: 17 MON fore \$\$55 for the Darby Bornton Propos Out Now Coalition [act-mal 2]: 18 RADIO with a VIEW featuring Peter Schumann and Howard Zinn (10m. david at ibitra [act-mal 2]: 18 Pacified Stundar Monring Radio. Charle Wolch
- [act-res] 2/20-2/21 Annual Hamele sness Marathon radio broadcast, linda ninkow....



October 2006: [Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date] [Gzip'd Text 129 KB]

September 2006: [Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date] [Gzip'd Text 72 KB]

Andrew and real control of the second

[Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date] [Gzip'd Text 56 KB]

[Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date] [Gzip'd Text 35 KB]

[Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date] [Gzip'd Text 38 KB]

[Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date] [Gzip'd Text 23 KB]

[Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date] [Gzip'd Text 30 KB]

A CAMPAGE

August 2006:

July 2006:

June 2006:

May 2006:

April 2006:

December 2006 Archives by thread

- Messages sorted by: [subject] [author] [date]
- More info on this list...

Starting: Sat Dec 9 15:45:07 PST 2006 Ending: Fri Dec 22 10:54:03 PST 2006 Messages: 50

- [adj-1] COCAL national/international network Joe Berry
 - [adj-1] COCAL national/international network. Mary Ellen Goodwin
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- - [adj-l] unemployment question Joe Berry June Nover to quee losse q tu

