



# encuentro 5

**MOVEMENT BUILDING IN THE HEART OF BOSTON**





# Goals

- Build a multi-issue space
- Support emerging projects
- Encourage intra-left cooperation
- Build a broad movement
- Challenge the "system"





# Organizing Propositions (1)

- Social movements emerge outside of formal advocacy structures and organizations
- They involve ordinary people mobilizing resources from their daily lives, institutions & networks
- Social movements and their organizations *may* coexist in a virtuous circle for social change

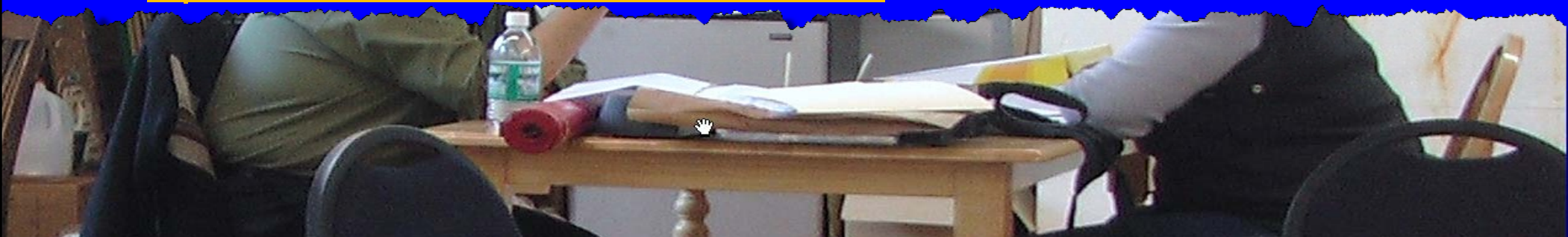






## Organizing Propositions (2)

- Key resources like meeting spaces, databases, media lists, organizing tools & techniques, etc. can facilitate/amplify emerging movements' growth and impacts
- Spaces like encuentro 5 can provide organizational memory & continuity for social movements
- Just as important as strategic thinking is the creation of opportunities for serendipitous and spontaneous connections



## Organizing Propositions (3)

- Broad, flexible definitions of the progressive project are necessary to:
  - Reach large numbers of people
  - Encompass new growth areas for movement building
- Building large coalitions and networks requires investment in dialogues and peace making
- Organizers and activists need to be challenged by:
  - Creative organizing projects
  - Theorizing about their work





## Social Theory (3)

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## Cost Theory for the e5 Project

1. Provide common space for free
  - < assist emerging social movements >
2. Keep rents low
  - < support grassroots non-profits >
3. Sharing resources
  - < facilitate cooperation, networking... >
  - < promote serendipitous outcomes... >
4. Rents & funds saved subsidize open space
  - < the "virtuous circle" >







## Achievements (1)

- Held ~250 events and meetings
- Office space for 10 diverse non-profit projects
- Consistent availability for projects
- Organizing platform for May Day, other immigrants' rights events and many major antiwar events held in Boston
- Utilized by almost all progressive currents

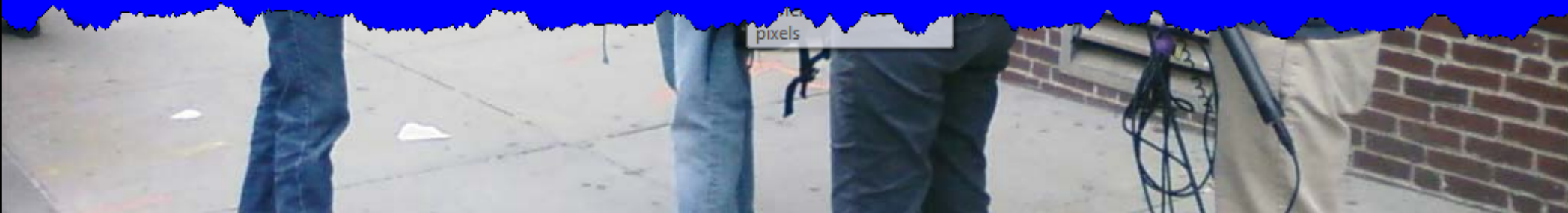






## Achievements (2)

- Established a 10-seat computer lab
- Installed a central A/C system
- Launched the “Labor Leads Conversations”
- Server hosts websites and lists for 23 national, regional and local organizations & projects
- Developed a community of about 130 activists who regularly use e5 for events and activities
- Built significant cooperation between diverse users of the space



The background of the slide features a central blue rectangular area containing text. Above and below this area are horizontal strips of abstract, textured images that look like torn pieces of paper or canvas. The top strip shows a mix of brown, tan, and blue tones. The bottom strip shows a similar mix, with a prominent yellowish-brown area on the right and blue on the left.

# Challenges

- Getting financial support from base
- Uneven work load across partners
- Difficult to keep an uncluttered space
- Political interference on Palestine
- Generating buy-in from some beneficiaries of the space





# Financials: Core Expenses

- Pay \$3,100 rent
- Pay \$450 electricity
- Pay \$600 loan
- Pay \$433 janitor

(monthly)



# Financials: Other Expenses

- Pay \$200 phone & internet
- Pay \$100 copier
- Pay \$50 printers/faxes

(monthly)







# Financials: Sustained Income

- Receive \$2,300 "rents"
- Receive \$400 event donations

(monthly, without  
additional funding)



# Fundraising Work

Core Expenses      \$4,583

Rent Income      - \$2,400

Funding Goal      = \$2,183







# Four Fundraising Elements (1)

## 1. Big Events (3x year)

- < aim for \$6,000 – 12,000/event >
- < connect with organizing & advocacy >
- < build mailing list >

## 2. New Tenants (4 – 6)

- < raise at least \$1,200/month >
- < expand cooperation among orgs >







## Four Fundraising Elements (2)

### 3. Monthly Donors (20 – 40)

- < build an individual "member base" >
- < raise between \$400 & \$800 a month >

### 4. Major Donors & Grants

(House Parties, Presentations, etc.)

- < 10 – 12/year >
- < build base, connect with advocacy >







# What happens with additional funds?

- Physical space improvements
  - Disability access
  - Buy a portable stage
  - Improve audio-visual systems
- Increase the staff time devoted to organizing space
  - Improve upkeep & maintenance
  - Increase space utilization on week days
  - Deepen cooperation with similar projects





## Next Step: the Du Bois Forum

- Model after the Brecht Forum (New York), Center for Political Education (San Francisco)
  - Connect existing base of organizers and activists using the space with other thinkers and cutting-edge intellectuals
  - Expand ties with other progressive centers
  - Collaborative theorizing and knowledge generation between organizers and full-time intellectuals





# Portable/mobile stage



~ \$1,500

