# Built Environment Strategy Discussion

**History/Context**
- Community Thriving and Culture Shift
  - Urban areas with density and population issues
  - Communities turning individualistic with technology; never starting conversations with strangers
  - Future Context: Water pollution; Enbridge/keystone pipeline threatens MN great lakes aquifer; Global Warming; Population Issues; Bees are dying
  - ⅓ of citizens oppose everything; ⅓ are in favor of most things; ⅓ are fence-sitters and will listen
  - Oppression, gentrification, reparations for hurt; the cultures relevant to the land
  - From: Reductionist non-human world view
  - Negative: systematic marginalization; reign of global psycho capitalism; stolen land/colonization; legacies of wealth; racism - Positive: Credit-unions; labor justice; mutual aid societies; cooperative housing; black and other minority cooperative history
  - We look at successful projects and learn from them. Look at unsuccessful places and understand why they don't work for people
  - History Lessons: No more Genocide; No slavery; No exploitation! No displacement of families; The planet and Nature are valid on their own… we are part of that; meant to share and enjoy!
  - Be the change you want to see in the world. - Ghandi
  - historically, humans have lived in community-depended on one another
- Coops
  - We should study examples from the past including Mondragon in Spain & cooperative experiments in this country
  - Coops have been a tool of economic empowerment; cooperative living has been practiced by our ancestors -> we all do better when working together. Coops!
  - 1960's Coop movement; Charles Eisenstien - socio economics - "Inter Being" - socialism is OLD paradigm
  - Cooperative development: abundant opportunities for people to be able to meet their needs (food, material, community, work) through cooperatives; people's work, housing, consumption, etc. being interdependent + based in relationships, community
- Community Development
  - The way our infrastructure is historically set up

**Vision of Success**
- Community Thriving and Culture Shift
  - Food sustainability Locally
  - Locally produced, ecologically sustainable energy
  - Building a team to play soccer

- ○ Healthy happiness
- ○ Intentional communities have been practiced by many of our ancestors - kilbuts, hunter gatherer societies/ what the presenter Louis was talking about in Southside Chicago
- ○ success to me is waking up and not worrying
- ○ reducing crime based on the employment rate of our coop + reduced flooding, beach closings, and storm water pollution
- ○ Total transformation of society to one of cooperation, collectivity, and democracy
- ○ Love is the Guide. Integration - Whole systems make visible the invisible; Evolution and Freedom to be sustainable and Just World for the People & Planet
- ○ I want to see people enjoying what they know & what is new
- ○ Have general agreement on process of thinking about change
- ○ Optimized energizing perceptions and experiences. Regenerative
- ○ Everyone has a safe, healthy, "green," energy efficient place to live, which is beautiful! This housing would be cooperatively owned. The ownership piece would provide stability, and enhance community pride.
- ○ Re-define 'economy,' how it is measured and how it is reworded!; Re-define how we relate as community - we should not primarily relate through monetary relationship
- ● Community Development
  - ○ Want planning commission/city councils to have a scorecard that helps them evaluate the extent to which a project/plan contributes to & fosters community development in a meaningful way
  - ○ Enough Community support to attract significant resources but not trying to get complete consensus
  - ○ A success in cooperative development would be a ton of cooperative businesses helping each other out and creating a strong community, allowing community development to thrive and community workers to have high-value jobs
  - ○ Success for zoning would make mixed-use developments dominant and be an easy alternative to current building organization
  - ○ I want to be a voice in the green infrastructure movement/renewable energy able best utilize my skills to better my community
  - ○ Having a comprehensive set of policies that reflect a real vision of community justice and cement a criteria way of physical development in the structure of cities' government. Make it nearly impossible to continue doing terrible development
  - ○ Zoning policies would support the kind of built environment that neighbors wish for and want to be a part of
  - ○ City ordinances would allow for forum-based design rather than arbitrary math, based on ordinances for sites
  - ○ Creating more housing cooperatives as a model for sustainable community development, an opportunity for the tangible reimagining of the social and economic status quo. New status quo Coops!

- ○ I don't really have any idea of what success looks like for cooperative development BUT MAYBE IT WOULD BE COOL IF: there were cooperative developers; co-ops make new developments from scratch, instead of just inheriting old buildings?

- ● Coops
  - ○ Start with existing co-ops in the community - meld those with crowdsourcing techniques to fuel initiatives
  - ○ Self financing cooperative movement. Money and resources, including education, are cycled within a new emerging economy that honors people and planet
  - ○ ((interpreted, based on image)): Build cooperatives - - change broader mindset - - more people eager to make change/be proactive
  - ○ I want growth of the cooperative housing movement (Co-op2!) so that we can collectively bring down the alienating visions ingrained in us by capitalism - that we can be more interdependent & considerate of one another and the natural environment as we pursue our goals

**Questions to Tackle:**
- ● How to support Cooperative Development through policy?
- ● How to translate Community Master Planning into zoning Policy?
- ● How can separate site developments work together to impact zoning policy in favor of mixed use?
- ● How can Community Engagement around site redevelopment be more relevant and empowering to people long term?
- ● How to build a good team before development? - Being intentional about who is in it and what kind of power they have
- ● How can high-value job creation be tied to site financing?
- ● How to support Cooperative businesses in community development
- ● Language
  - ○ Defining community and community development?
  - ○ Emotional Language
  - ○ How to talk about comm dev in a way that is inspiring and grounded in the practical
  - ○ How do we make our built structures yummy and irresistible?
  - ○ How to talk about Whole Systems lens - "Ecology" and "social economics"
- ● Community + Developer
  - ○ Accountability for Developers?
  - ○ How do we ensure community ownership?
  - ○ How can community site development be creatively financed so that the vision is not compromised by the developer?
  - ○ How can the community BE the developer?

# Breakouts

*Coops! Grocery, Worker, Housing, youth Coop, (a group, a place)*

1. Working Well
   - -All understand what the coop does and why
   - -collaboration- shared meals
   - -creativity
   - -coop movement is strong, not alone
   - -coop loans: coop specific financing
   - -practical shared space
   - -supportive community/learning to deal with people
   - -housing coop
   - -tool for social change
   - -for all ages, families, students, all generations
2. Not Working
   - -supporting members being present
   - -work coops>established clients>tools>resources
   - -member accountability> youth?
   - -consensus as strategy? Balance of input/efficiency
   - -balancing "individual" and "coop" needs
3. Major Challenge/Opportunity for Growth
   - -cooperative movement fucking other coops >> LAND
   - -how we support our members?
   - -legal aspects> sustenance or growing income, supporting youth
   - -involve community in cooperative ownership

*Turning Community Based Planning into Policy*

1. Working Well
   - -good policies with amenities and what you're doing
   - -hands on and together
   - -financially supporting what you support
2. Not Working
   - -not enough communication
   - -not enough effort to follow through with comprehensive plan by city or officials
   - -public is not apart of decisions
3. Major Challenge/Opportunity for Growth
   Challenges
   - -moving from idea to action
   - -identifying true weight of desire
   Growth

-making project accessible to anyone
-plan has a lot more that could be built onto it

*Language for Talking about Community Development + Building Effective Teams*

1. Working Well
    a. "Regenerative" = beyond sustainable
2. Not Working
    a. Talking in the abstract
3. Breakthrough Strategies/ What can we do differently?
    a. Weave new stories that are grounded in experience
    b. What are our shared principles
        i. biomimicry?
    c. Connect with those who have shared ideas already doing shared work

*Building Effective Teams*

1. Can't pick team superficially
2. Discernment
3. Plug in people where their gifts work well
4. Identify a common Goal