



Building Bridges: 30 Years of Change Assembly & Gathering

November 15 - 17th - San Antonio, Texas



Goals for the Weekend:

- Deepen solidarity across issues using political analysis and relationship building
- Reconnect with historical allies to understand current strategic efforts and focuses within our work for social, racial and gender justice within our region
- Revisit shared histories, and shifts in the movement for social and racial justice.
- Laugh and dance together in celebration of victories, lessons learned, and cultural appreciation
- Build across cultures/ geography/ language towards a commitment to work with each other towards shifting the current political model
- Collective commitment to healing, transformation, and an intergenerational model to empower youth, transform the political culture, and the way we do our work

Thursday, November 15th, 2018

Time	Description	Location
6:30 pm	Dinner Begins	Main Ballroom
7:00 pm	Welcoming Ceremony from Indigenous Communities and Local Pastor	
7:30 pm	Setting the Moment from SWU Leadership Team	
8:00 pm	Closing and Quick Overview of Activities	

Friday, November 16th, 2018

Time	Description	Location
9:00 am	Breakfast	Main Ballroom
10:00 am	Opening and Grounding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Group Art Exercise 	Main Ballroom
11:00 am	Concurrent Sessions Round 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roots of Change Food Justice Roundtable • Workers' Voices: Analyzing Challenges Faced in the Current Work Environment • Power Mapping Workshop 	Breakout Rooms
11:45 am	15-minute break	
12:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions Round 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Speaks: Pop Ed & Building Environmental Relationships • Paid Sick Time: We will Win!! • Decolonizing Data: Building Community Powered campaigns 	Breakout Rooms
1:00 pm	Yum Yum Lunch	Main Ballroom

2:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions Round 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change, Migration, and Abolitionist Practices • Alternative Economies: What does it look like? • La Lucha Sigue: Reclaim and Recharge Post Elections 	Breakout Rooms
2:45 pm	15-minute Break	
3:00 pm	Build Bridges Part 1: Framing of Current Political Moment and Movements - Fish Bowl and Mapping	Main Ballroom
4:30 pm	Closing of Day: Rest, Relax, and Recharge	Main Ballroom

Saturday, November 17th, 2018

Time	Description	Location
9:00 am	Breakfast	Main Ballroom
10:00 am	Opening and Grounding	
10:30 am	Concurrent Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Break-Out (Caucus) • 30 Years of Organizing featuring SWU Member Leaders 	Breakout Rooms
11:30 am	Building Bridges Part 2: Approach, Opportunities, and Commitments toward Justice - Collective Assembly and Statements	Main Ballroom
1:00 pm	Synthesis: Assessment of what our time together has accomplished.	Main Ballroom
1:30 pm	Closing Informal Lunch	Main Ballroom
6:30 pm	Southwest Workers Union Cultural Night and 30th Anniversary Celebration	Southwest Workers Union's Movement Gallery 1416 E. Commerce

*** The Celebration on Saturday 6:30pm is the only event taking place at SWU offices. All events take place at Bethel AME's Beasley Brown Community Center ***

Track Descriptions and Break Out Sessions:

Workers' Rights Track: *workers' rights, immigration, paid sick time, alternative economies, cooperative building.* Fundamental to the realization and sustainability of Southwest Workers Union for the last 30 years has been the attention given to the voice of the workers. As the organization prepares to shift in its structure and broaden its ability to serve communities:

1. We intend to engage in conversations with workers to more completely understand the kinds of challenges and situations they are currently facing
2. Allow ourselves to learn from the work of other community leaders and organizations that are doing some great work in the community
3. Acknowledge the amazing work that people in San Antonio are doing to create those alternative economies

Session 1: we will hear from 3 workers who will discuss the kinds of situations and challenges they are facing in their current work environment.

Session 2: will discuss recent work by local organizations and leaders to ensure that Paid Sick Time becomes a reality in San Antonio. In August, San Antonio became the latest city to pass an ordinance providing paid sick time to all San Antonio workers. Featuring Joleen Garcia and the Texas Organizing Project

Session 3: will highlight the work of 3 community member/organizations that directly represent what alternative economies can look like. Panelist: Fuerza Unida

Contact: Julio Lopez, Labor Organizer e-mail: Julio@swunion.org

Environmental Justice Track: *This track is to look deeper at how our connection the environment affects our lives and our neighborhoods. Conversations may focus on water protection, stopping fracking, water pollution, air quality, environmental racism, sustainability, climate migration environmental policy, victories and upcoming strategies.*

Session 1: Roundtable discussion about gardening, food and autonomy. Participants will share stories and strategies around creating food access in their community. Panelist: Dr. Adelita Cantu, Chef Ale Tierra, Dr. Liliana Saldaña. Moderated by Brian Gordon

Session 2: In this session we will look at story building, our connection to our water and the way we see ourselves present in environmental justice work. This workshop will focus on skills that help us remember our place and connection to our land and building community campaigns as a holistic practice. Facilitated by Beto Davila De Leon

Session 3: Migration is a climate issue. TRAIN will be looking at how climate change and imperialism are moving people and resources now and how we can stand in resistance and solidarity moving forward as climate change intensifies. Facilitators: Isabel, Ana (Texas Refugee and Immigration Network members)

Contact: Beto Davila De León, E.J. Coordinator email: beto@swunion.org

Nuestra Voz Track: *This track will explore the ways we demand justice and accountability from our elected officials and organize within a western colonial government structure. Conversations may focus on immigration justice, voter rights, gerrymandering, alternative forms of community governance, restorative justice, community engagement, reproductive justice, LGBTQ rights, and political racism.*

Session 1 This session will focus on how our communities negotiate data to drive campaigns forward. Participants will discuss barriers and access to data and learn how not all data is created equal. The second part of this workshop will be a hands on crash course on building a campaign with the Voter Access Network, otherwise known as VAN.

Session 2 Participants will build a collective analysis of the distribution of power among those in positions of decision-making authority. The session will include an assessment of community power in the face of institutional oppressions.

Session 3 The time is now to reclaim elections and recharge our energies to amplify Nuestra Voz, our voice! A panel of former elected officials, former candidates, and community workers and organizers will review November elections results. They'll discuss strategies for amplifying the voices of our communities through organizing, direct action, grassroots candidacy, membership in City boards, commissions, and more.

Contact: Isaac Garcia, Policy Organizer e-mail: Isaac@swunion.org

Building Bridges Part 1 and Part 2: Bridging it together through historical landscapes, and organizing in the current political moment.

These two sessions make up the assembly part of the gathering. The goal is to create connections, commitment and to understand collective next steps. Building Bridges is critically important in addressing all the issues affecting our communities across multiple strategies, and visions. A key component of building bridges is relationships to form deeper trust among organizers, and family through culture, spirituality, region, and issues. Part 1 will use the fish bowl method and power mapping to lay out an analysis, while Part 2 will take that landscape to build the net of how will we protect and ensure the rights of low income, communities of color are not violated, ignored or erased. We don't aim to create a band aid approach but want to create solutions that target the root causes of the issues. Therefore, the following questions will provide guidance for the assembly discussions.

- a) *What is the current political moment? What is the role of resistance groups? Civil Rights Groups? Elected Officials? Youth and Children? Etc.*
- b) *What is the culture of present day organizing? In what forms are communities (groups, orgs, individuals) moving work forward? Is it sustainable and achievable?*
- c) *What are Historical connections, repetitions and strategies for addressing civil rights attacks?*
- d) *How do we hold elected officials accountable now and in future discussions?*
- e) *What opportunities can we uplift to ensure our youth are prepared to lead?*
- f) *What are root causes of the most pressing social issues our communities are facing today?*
- g) *How are we focusing on mental and physical wellness to ensure long term change?*
- h) *What is our responsibility in building models on community governance?*

Healing Space: *Continuous space for self care, reflection and quiet time. Herbal remedies will be present as well as other methods of self care.*

Youth Break Out: *The youth space will focus on issues that our young community is navigating. The youth will explore different means of organizing and visioning for new justice strategies as defined in their own words. Youth will be able to develop their own zine. We will have a small talking circle, about feelings, injustices going in their schools and communities. Screen print, shirts and posters will be available to take home.*

For more information visit www.swunion.org/30years. #swujjustice