

Dear Occupy Oakland Community,

Today is June 20, 2012, the Summer Solstice. It is the first day of summer, the longest day of the year, and has been observed by cultures worldwide as a time of renewal, growth, and is considered to be one of the most creative and powerful transition times of the year. No better day than this to share the notes from the first *Occupy Oakland Re-Imagining the GA* gathering with you!

In that light, we eagerly await Occupy Oakland's next unfolding of the GA together. The working group has put a lot of time into this, and was pleased to see so many people turn out. Everyone's sharings and contributions that day were important to moving forward. We acknowledge and are happy to hear that folks are eager to expedite changes. Anything worth doing is worth doing well, so join us at next gathering so we can move forward quickly and with collective wisdom!

If you did not attend the first one, we missed you! Please come on July 14 to help with the next phase.

Especially for those who did not attend the meeting: before you read the notes we wanted to share the following **highlights** with you

- We experienced together, and shared about, the conditions where collective wisdom tends to arise. We also reflected on the fact that, all too often, groups have a habit of falling into collective foolishness (one of 2 places): polarization/separation/fragmentation *or* a false or forced sense of unity/groupthink.
- In either case, smart and wonderful people are working with limited skills and wisdom, simply because other skills and wisdom different from their own have either left or been silenced.
- This is a normal aspect of being human and being in groups. It does not make us good or bad people. It is what we have been trained to do by the systems that oppress us. They want us to keep on being foolish in groups because it helps them maintain control!
- We do not have a lot of practice or experience creating the conditions where collective wisdom is the norm, though many of us definitely have experienced fleeting moments of it. Some at Occupy Oakland. YAY! How can we get in the practice of being in this space MORE OFTEN?
- This first Reimagining the GA (RIGA) gathering we got into the DISCOVER space, and created the conditions that it requires. We needed to learn two things: what worked and didn't work for you in the past? What do we want to see in future?
- Our next RIGA gathering will allow us to collectively move into the SHAPE and PRIORITIZE steps together. We encourage folks to attend that gathering and help make that happen. Now that we have many ideas on table, the group can prioritize and develop concrete proposals for process/function. The working group is setting up a

process for us to do that together at the next gathering.

- If you did not attend the first gathering, please respect the **time, commitment and work** of those that did. After you see the ideas generated at the first gather, if you have ideas to ADD to possible vision for GA, please send them to OccupyOaklandRIGA@gmail.com

All ideas will be presented at the next gathering so the GROUP can work together to prioritize and discuss them

- It may be tempting to lobby for or against ideas that have come up, whether in person, over email or on Facebook. We hope people will hold off on such debates and come to the gathering with an open mind, trusting that together we will come up with and work through the best ideas. The working group strongly believes this part of the conversation should happen **in person** to make more effective use of people's time and to draw upon collective wisdom. Also, the working group folks want to focus their time and energy on planning for next event and not get pulled into moderating individual discussions on the Facebook page.

The working group has put a lot of time into this, and extends a warm invitation to join us at next meeting so we can move forward. If you are interested in the RIGA process or contributing to the working group, please email us at OccupyOaklandRIGA@gmail.com to join us at our meetings. Otherwise we look forward to seeing you at the next gathering. More soon. Stay tuned!

In gratitude,

Members of the Re-Imagine the Occupy Oakland GA Working Group

Report back of June 16 follows:

---Agenda for the day

---Facilitated speak out sharings transcribed

---"Graffiti Wall" visioning exercise transcribed

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| AGENDA of June 16 2012 RIGA |
| People Gather, Eat. Music Playing. --AMAZING food and ice cold chai tea. Thank you! --Occupella in the house kicking us off right! Woot woot! |
| Welcome and Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WELCOME!• Survey Results• Listening Booth for those who prefer to share one on one rather than in large group |

- Review Agenda and Shared Agreements

About this gathering...

---one things people appreciate about GA is value community. Today is chance to experience our community in a different way
---today is an invitation, trying on, experiment
---there will be future meetings to continue process. Not like we are expecting to decide everything today
---this is not binding, and no expectation that what we are trying on today is what GA should or will become. We are simply creating the space and conditions where imagination and creativity, conditions for collective wisdom to arise for what might be, what could be in the future

Shared Agreements

- One Mic! One person speaking at a time
- Assumption that TOGETHER we are SMARTER and STRONGER than any one of us alone
- Teach and be Teachable (aka TeachABLE): willingness to offer, listen, learn and engage in dialogue)
- Step Up/Step back. Know who you are and which if these is relevant to you.
- BOTH/AND thinking; Curiosity! Imagine you are an anthropologist trying to understand other people. (as opposed to either/or thinking, only one truth and only you have it!)
- Confidentiality. Modified by group to: Responsibility with how you share AT this event, and ABOUT this event. Share info but refrain from using names people
- Respect Process, Respect Each Other
- HAVE FUN!

Opening Game – Brain Teaser Activity FUN!

Acronyms Game. 3 lightning speed rounds. Observations about collective wisdom and what is possible when build on skills and wisdom of all those present. Same amount time each round but lots more info available to us

Round 1: max individual got was 8/23

Round 2: max team of 4 got was 12/23

Round 3: max whole team got was 21/23

Collective Wisdom & the Trap of Collective Folly

What conditions make for Collective Wisdom?

- Deep Listening
- Suspension of Certainty
- Seeing Whole Systems/Seeking Diverse Perspectives
- Respect for Others/Group Discernment
- Welcoming all that is Arising
- Trust (Action happens at speed of trust)
- Step Back to see Beauty in Us and All Around Us

What does Collective Folly look like? Two Patterns Typically Emerge

1. Movement toward SEPARATION and FRAGMENTATION

- Resist new ideas or new people
- Label them “not me” or “not us”
- Ignore or dismiss divergent perspectives or data
- Welcome only data that confirms what we know or want
- Leads to POLARIZATION. “Other-ing”, they are heretical, dangerous, evil.
- At extreme, others are not human, worthy dignity, threat to us.

2. FALSE AGREEMENT and APPEARANCE OF UNITY

- People choose to silence themselves in order to conform, Culture of conformity or you are out
- Differences exist in all groups. Unrealistic to expect otherwise. In collective folly, group prevents different wisdom or perspectives from being acknowledged
- Group prevents any new data or perspectives that could be helpful, contribute to understanding. Prevent them being heard or even considered by others
- As result these conditions, people choose to:
 - SEPARATE/LEAVE, or
 - STAY and remain SILENT and withhold their ideas or thoughts or
 - SABOTAGE what group is trying to accomplish, figure out together

Pair and Share:

- What is a memory you have of a time (not OO) when you were part of a group that was in the groove being creative and effective, jiving off each others wisdom and energy?
- What is a memory of group (not OO) where you saw them go into collective folly (groupthink, polarization, breakdown, etc).
- We will get to sharing about OO in next section agenda, so hold that thought!
- Choose one memory/experience and share with a partner. Practice deep listening without interruption. Switch.
- Group Discussion and insights from sharings.

Facilitated Speak Out

- OO is amazing, and has brought ppl together with intention change world. Have exhibited aspects of both collective wisdom and collective folly
- Opportunity to choose what comes next. Be intentional with this.
- Speak out is opportunity to have people feel heard, and to learn from our prior experience for what we decide to build next

Guidelines for how folks should share

- Speak in “I” statements, speak to you personal experience, what YOU saw/felt.
- Do not use names or single out individuals, but speak to your experience
- Based on what happened, share if have thoughts about what you would have liked to have happened in situation you are sharing about

- Beneficial not to use hand signals right now. Impacts and distracts people sharing freely
- Pay attention to your own body language as others are sharing. No eye rolling, boos, etc. Impacts and distracts people sharing freely
- One Mic. No interrupting
- Think about sharing as being in service to the group
- Offering from others: distinguish between what was observable/what happened VS. your story or interpretation of what happened. (People have different perspectives about what facts or observations actually mean to them, and that is expected. Beginning point for dialogue)

SEE BELOW FOR NOTES FROM FACILITATED SPEAK OUT SHARINGS

Collective Visioning Activity

Get creative! Guided exercise:

Accomplished a lot together already and even more available to us ahead. What does the next phase look like? Its June 2012 now. Imagine this group is traveling together in space and time together.

SEE NOTES BELOW FOR OVERVIEW OF VISION POST ITS

Next Steps and Closing Activity

- Next meeting will be July 14. Place to be announced
- Seeding next phase. Offered attendees bean and corn seeds to take home
- This was place to celebrate and learn from past, brainstorm ideas for future. Working Group will continue meeting to plan for next gathering, type up notes from this gathering. Invitation to join us if you are interested in supporting this process.
- Staying in touch:
 - Re-Imagining the GA Working Group on Facebook (for emails)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/120210068110123/>
 - We will create a email acct for folks who are not on facebook and prefer to contact us by email. It is: **OccupyOaklandRIGA@gmail.com**

Announcements from audience (Did not take notes on this)

--Head Heart Feet Activity (Evaluation)

- Head: One thing learned today
- Heart: One thing felt today
- Feet: One thing you will do after today (taking action or moving your feet)

After Party!

P.S. We had someone visiting from another Occupy. She said there is a Sept 17 gathering planned in NY to celebrate anniversary of encampment at Zuccotti.

FACILITATED SPEAK OUT SHARINGS

Note from facilitators: these are unedited. Please note that not everyone was able to stick to agreements about how to share. We are imperfect humans, trying on a new way of being together! So as you are reading these comments, please remember these are not absolute truths but personal experiences, even if the speaker forgot to share in that manner. Everyone's perspective was honored, listened to without interruption, and is considered a contribution to the whole. As you read, look both for the wisdom being offered, and the limited practice we all have in making space for collective wisdom to arise. We are all a work in progress!

- ✚ Concerned about participation of underrepresented, un-emancipated minors. Would like to see different corners or spaces. One kids, one without kids, another corner folks with Aspergers or other conditions. Folks would have ability work out for themselves what level loudness want, age spectrum, etc
- ✚ When 1st walked up tents city hall was most beautiful experience ever had. I am basically loner but I want to be a part of this movement, part solution. Really felt included even when I was sitting by myself. Able share opinions and feelings, a forum to express myself. World being destroyed by 1%. Normally I am scared when reading news, thinking about this. In group like this I am not as scared. Want more people and spaces where I am not scared.
- ✚ I came to OO Nov 9 and 10. Participate in many committees, have attended 25-30 GAs, seen many/diverse sets proposals, many passed. Need to acknowledge good too. Space shy people speak. One most amazing experiments Oct-Jan, many. Other people using excuses not to participate
- ✚ Tribalism vs collectivism. Gas, would never have meetings like this in Native community. Racial boundaries are like Berlin Wall. People continuing occupation in plaza not supported, never seen frontline warier not supported like in OO. Saddens me. All got was \$100, ridiculous and embarrassing, failed support us. Elder in native community, treated like peon, indigenous to this land. Would never talk elders this way in my community. Need to decolonize
- ✚ Just returned form NATO, Occupies nationwide. Recurring theme Gas is descending into petty bickering, drama. Destroys GA. Doing something right here in Oakland, compared to other GAs. Bad rapport co-workers and unprofessional behavior other places, GA here less of that compared other places.
- ✚ Glad this space happened today. Safe space to talk and share. Wish would have happened sooner. Came out OO, I tend talk a lot and I know I need to pay attention to stepping back, listen more. My experiences: 1. Lungs damaged from smoking, affected my health. Often could not stay OO because of inhaling smoke. Even when smokers move away, impacts my health and can't breathe. Incense also affects me. Doctors telling me to stay away to protect my health. Cigarette smoke bad health. Want to establish physical safeness for people health issues. 2. Tried to sleep at OO. Could not get any sleep there because of noise. Anted to stay but I could not. 3. More dialogue in small and large groups. Learn from each other. I need to learn to hear/listen to other people better myself.
- ✚ Checking out at beginning. Like someone said earlier, us young folks are doing a lot, not helping us out. Made our own committee because not being supported. Need be open

mindful to what young people are doing. Support them, instead talking badly about them. Decolonize and POC groups wouldn't exist if we were honestly looking at race issues. This is about our future, not about now. Put our small issues aside and look at future. Quit talking bad about each other and leaving. Everyone is a piece of the puzzle. Accepting differences.

- ✚ Went to OWS commune. Was about the camps, mutual aid. No one wanted to acknowledge this. No way they would let them stand. So scary. Many people in camp weren't going to GA, making sure camps could go on. GA not people on the ground. Need keep building stronger and better mutual aid for our communities. Really threatening. Need to get together, talk, share
- ✚ Nervous being up here. Shut down large groups, GA. I love this movement. Recognition is needed. Lot work doing still in committees, and in communities. I am more involved in my neighborhood than ever have been past, because of OO. My main concern is vandalism, my experiences OO have been hard. Building mass movement hard when afraid to be there, feels like loose cannon. I talk others. They want to join/be with us, and we scare them. So unnecessary. I don't agree with all people actions, and I still respect all work they put into this. Want to see discussion on what builds and hurts a movement
- ✚ Have evolved since Oct but we haven't had quorum long time. Need better sound system, better place meet. GA rarely had more 200 people ever except Oct. How many did we lose, many people stopped coming. Insurrectionist crowd, personal attacks and people's behavior. Even labor solidarity committee arguments, large drop in number people coming. We are in lull now, dramatic ebb and flow. Past movements also had ebbs and flows. Anti-repression, cook outs, OO Patriarchy, fast food worker assembly work moving ahead. Some great work getting done also. Heard there is a proposal dissolve the GA. Need political center and decision making body, place come together. Not perfect but need it or lack relationships and common points between our work, no way come together. Need recreate energy before people drifted off, need figure out how get people come back. GA structure itself may not be the primary reason that left.
- ✚ Part of Facilitation WG. The GA is means to an end. Not end in and of itself. Going less, lately feeling like it's less relevant, not reaching quorum either. Still go because want to be connected OO, throw weight behind it. Indicator general level enthusiasm. Can't even make a decision to lower quorum because we don't have quorum to pass it! Need try differently, open it up. Like the model in general. Also all over country attendance GA is down, see the larger context. Everyone expected things explode again in spring after winter, didn't happen. OO kept up winter more other places. Dropped MayDay. Numbers for actions in general down as well. Concerned that friends believe OO is dead, over it and done for them. May be the only opportunity in my lifetime. Want to keep it happening
- ✚ I have been there less, but because taking time to do other things. Lot of us had ideas. Expected country explode, didn't happen. How are we going to exist right now? Stories of people beginning other revolutions, don't hear these. We are just at the beginning of this. The things happening to us are not new, infighting and divisiveness all been done before previous movements. Need to not explode in anger and outrage every time something happens to us. Don't know why or what to do about divisiveness. We don't have ways or guidelines about how we treat each other. Because we are part of a dysfunctional society, not taught how do this. Affirm this is how we treat each other. Like don't pick fights with each other in front of police. Don't pit people against each other. All of Us or None has rule to not put self interest about the whole. Humans make mistakes, need to say and talk

about it. Say this is why we don't do this. Whole world is erupting and changing right now. Don't burn out infighting, we have potential create something really magical now.

- ✚ Haven't been GAs in a while. Upsetting and offsetting, made me not want to come back. Particular issues around access and transparency. People speaking, run and line up side stage, excluding to those not physically mobile, elderly, etc. People that speak being intimidated. Being booed, shouted down. Not appropriate, disrespect for each other. Applause is flip side that, some get applause others not. Access to agenda ahead of time. Rules of process not clear, transparent. Always changing. Rules for how proposals move up and down agenda too. People sponsoring proposal know when on agenda, others not. Imbalances and unequal lobbying. Access to facilitators for input process. Online forums for facilitation committee. GA not accessible, people say come to facilitation committee and propose a solution then. If facilitation meeting and GA not accessible to someone with disability, then becomes circular thing. Can't come to place or time to express what think or a solution. Language is dismissive, not honoring participation.
- ✚ Really glad for this time today. Not everyone wants to be at GA. Have a hearing disorder, chaotic and loud environments difficult for me, hard when more 1 person is talking. When I was able attend, was shocking to me how disrespectful people were to people sharing. Giving their opinion and were being shut down, yelling at them and facilitators not doing anything about it. I am someone that needs to step back. I tend step up a lot. Need learn listen deeply. Agreements for how to treat each other is really important. Also acknowledge that not all cultures show respect the same way. I and my father were scientists and we never interrupt each other. In many other communities interrupting not considered disrespectful. Truth is it will take more 100 of us in Mosswood Park to fix this. Need all of us to pitch in, each to our own limited ability, without judging differences in ability. Need way handle disagreements
- ✚ I've had lifetime waiting for Occupy. J28 police, hand grenades, tear gas, people retreating. But not panicked, people looking after each other. Asking how are you doing, offering stuff stop burning in eyes. Impressed people go out and face this. Dangerous but people out there
- ✚ Live in Davis, learned a lot. Targeted as individual online, object ridicule. Sinister games online created by police and govt. Spoke out drug deals, press. I am 75 years old. Our lives being taken over through community groups, positions on council, electeds. Need support other parties like greens, not just democrats.
- ✚ From Nashville and a University Occupy, visiting. Outside reflections other Occupy. People believe OO is 2nd front movement, after OWS in NY. We watch you every day. Hasn't died here like it did in Nashville. Racial insensitivity, LGBT, feminists, being knocked down at plaza. All over, movement being wrecked racial issues. From our perspective OO doing well. Mix of older and younger people more here than other occupations. In Nashville elders left.
- ✚ Inspired by OWS. Bankers steal poor every day. No matter the infighting or personal disagreements, we have one common enemy. Need be in unity, find ways work together, agree to disagree. Come together as people advance forward, get past systems that are persecuting us. I am humanist. Everybody has unique skill set. Come OO and find your art. Work with people, make them feel good about what they are doing. System does not care about humanity. Need create our own economic movement. I love everybody. Feel free come and talk to me.
- ✚ I need movement desperately. People here today, the ones that came and left, the ones that never came. I found things here that haven't found elsewhere. Capitalism being

replicated here all time. Need to do something explicit and intentionally. Takes work, want see it. Want see kind of relationships we want, not the kinds of relationships capitalism wants us to have. Capitalism need us to maintain this way

- ✚ OWS GA different here OO. Show, emcee, audience, passive people. Shocked 90% consensus. Part media, facilitation, web committees. Building mass movement only way, and only way do that is nonviolent movement. OO not taking up that position. One authors NonViolence proposal, turned down with 33% vote. Joined Nonviolent committee. As long as no NonViolence position, don't see a future. Occupy Bay Area United committed to nonviolence, important if we are to build mass movement
- ✚ Been going different occupy encampments. Fantastic things happening all across country. All occupations need to talk more frequently, share ideas. Reminder you are not alone. Each Occupy is one thread ideas, held together by people and their dreams. If we weave them together cannot fail
- ✚ Cried at October 1 Occupy action. Thrilled and excited. Involved in activism since 10 years old, which was way back during Spanish Civil War (I am 85 years old now). Exciting thing for me is involvement young people. I always knew it was not in the cards for occupation be in the park forever. Couldn't last. I do know nothing good happens without endless organizing, ringing people's doorbells, footwork to reach out day after day. We got lost somehow, became antipolice movement rather than occupy about banks, corporations, foreclosure, health care. Not much about what movement OWS about. No way mobilize without focus on Nonviolence organizing. What has happened is we organized many Oaklanders to organize to want more police on the streets. Need people to come back. Kids, grandparents, etc. Fearful of what happened.
- ✚ People are occupying banks, foreclosures daily. Keep in mind not to be discouraged. Police are the ones who made police a priority for us. 1% don't know how survive without us, can't cook or grow own food. Don't tell me I am an armchair activist. If I was, wouldn't see me at actions, with bruises, in Santa Rita. Daughter was beat up. People at GA would not let me use mike to get ride home for my daughter. Took hours to get to her. Anti-repression committee appreciate work doing. Some of us made a pact to come today only if the others came with us. Don't judge others, don't get to judge whether they are doing enough work for the movement. Need to create community. 1% counts on us not doing this. Needed helped for months, sick, needed food, in hospital, motorcycle needed repairs. Need honor fact that people need to pay their bills and to survive. Need to do direct trading, acknowledge work others are doing. Celebrate accomplishments.

"Graffiti Wall" Visioning Exercise From Re-Imagine GA Gathering

Note: These lists were transcribed from the post-it notes attendees placed on the Graffiti Wall at the end of the Visioning exercise. Post-its were responses to the invitation to imagine a GA in June 2014 that is a success. Each Top level Bullet represents 1 post-it note, and divided into similar categories.

I. Organizing

- outreach into community
- existing and new organizations such as unions and faith-based feeling they are part of this also

- kittens, many, many kittens
- the people united will never be defeated
dare to struggle,
dare to win
- 1. small distinctions R irrelevant!
2. point is to make an impact on this system that “wakes” up the people at large—nationwide, i.e., general strike
- positive perception reflected by large numbers of participants in actions
- an OO that coordinates with other Occupy movements
- “I’m really glad we had that nationwide strategy process back in the fall of 2012-look where we are now!”
- We will be in constant communication with movements in Egypt, Spain, Greece, et al.
 - We will re-convene as a UNIVERSITY. Everyone will be a student (learning to listen) and everyone will be a teacher.
 - Our focus will be future generations. We will occupy the future. The Iroquois 7th Generation principle will be our guide (no important decisions without considering effect 7 generations to come)
- Educate the general public about the issues of concern
- Educate people on the issues
- Political education for all
 - what is anarchy
 - what is reformism
 - what is DOT
 - what is NV direct action
- Understanding of the components of capitalism—deep enuf for change.
- revolutionaries are more interested in building credibility with workers and neighbors than with other revolutionaries
- an OO that conducts regular on-going actions which highlight the concerns of the 99%
 - An OO that publicly is on record as disassociated from the FTP demonstrations and policies
 - An OO that does not label city govt or the police as enemies.
 - That seeks dialogue and resolutions around common interes
 - An OO that reaches out to labor and other people-oriented interests
 - An OO that resolves present conflicts and presents one unified Occupy Oakland
- idea sharing from different groups and formations within struggles
- social change umbrella
 - synergy of collective influence
 - safe space to express and strategize

- actions of mass group have clear goals, outcomes, strategies

II. Non violence concerns

- We all know that provocateurs use instigated violence to discredit our movement. If we establish a non-violent foundation then we will be able to keep the destructive powers of infiltration more isolated by surrounding any action of violence with peace, safety. To not support the infiltration into the movement.
- Join the People's Non-Violent Union (Movement):
 - Non-violence means allowing other friends/colleagues/humans and womans/comrades/activists who are with us in this movement to do as they see fit>therefore, we are non-coercive in our non-violence. Join the People's Non-Violent Union, the P.N.V.U. and Occupy!
- Non-Violence
- No violence
- Diversity of tactics
- Diversity of tactics
- Respect and non-violence commitment
- Occupy Oakland has made a pledge to Non-Violence and 200,000 people have been trained
- GA in Oakland is non-violent blue print for Occupy's all over the globe
- Clear statement: all official events are non-violent
- An OO that people feel safe to attend An OO where people feel welcome
- An OO that people seek out and want to attend An OO with a founding principle of non-violence
- No to Non-violence code
- Patient Persistent Non-violent action for change
- adapt to diversity of views re: actions by agreeing to a separation of time and space to avoid increased polarization and waste of energy with infighting
- Have separate actions where vandalism etc. is permitted and other actions where people can count on a commitment to non-violent behavior for the event.
- Those who support non-violence need to be able to hold actions where non-violence is respected.

III. Visions of the GA

- The general assembly reflected the casual social nature of human relations and people modeled kindness, compassion, respect, dignity, courage and love to create the culture in which peace can flourish.
- Marches devolve into neighborhood GAs like in Egypt, Greece, Argentina, Spain.
- OO General Assemblies that rotate through various communities, preceded by a march through surround neighborhoods to the GA site.
- Mostly general assembly of neighborhood assemblies
- Create occuppies in each neighborhood 2014
- Peoples mic is working and everyone is paying attention.
 - No one is running from the police who have joined us after their union was shut down.
- All City officials have become part of Occupy Oakland and attend GA
- 2014: I think I saw Ron Dellums there in a tinck(?) suite
- Leaders would think of themselves as servants
- real-time online GA.
 - Let's include more people
 - Occupy is not a place. It's a movement.
- the GA is a means to an end—defeat of capitalism
- It's an Oakland GA—not an Occupy GA
- IN A BUILDING
- GA is held in the Coliseum. Shuttle buses and BART bring people to and from
- We're here at the Oakland Coliseum and the Revolution is underway!
- Occupy has a regular broadcast on NPR
- "Thank you to the taking-over-the-banking-system committee for your report. Now we will hear from the taking-over-the-energy-system committee!"
- a central stage was not needed, people knew each other and used the space to communicate, cooperate and fit into a community that was welcoming and supportive and based on shared humanizing values not rigid rules
- We adopt a space outdoors? under trees?
 - We have a beautiful space with all creature comforts, sound, visuals, bathrooms. It is safe. You can eat and you can participate. We have a respectful code of conduct. We welcome all and we gently remind ourselves of the process.
- ABUNDANCE land, space, shelter, food, free store, etc. (farm) System of exchange, sharing
 - DIVERSITY

- of people
- of communication styles
- of experience
- AGREEMENTS explicit, not assumptions

- Create a space to share with all/hear all
- The “really big GA” might happen monthly-1000s of people—somehow there would be a way that speakers would be concise, intelligent and thoughtful and most of the 1000’s would trust that their point of view would be expressed OK.
 - There would be a smaller group (20-50) that would meet more often
 - There would be more understanding of various basic realities so we could use our time to go beyond the basics.
 - Everyone who wants could be in a suitable small group—“suitable” meaning reasonably compatible taking an appropriate amount of time (meetings daily? every 2 months? Different people have different availability of time.)
- Dancing in the streets
 - Mutual aid everywhere. Food! Medicine! Debates! Skill shares! Free market!
 - Build the commune! Make the capitalists irrelevant.
 - General Strike!
 - Central space for our community!
 - GAs are about community!
 - Only make decisions when there are decisions.

IV. Interacting at GA—what we’d like to see

- people assuming good intentions
- respect for all viewpoints (no booing)
- No booing @ GA’s! I have felt terrified of being in front of a GA—they have not been safe. How to have welcoming
- No Goddam yelling!
- respectful listening
- Discuss discourse engagement
 - Inquisitive inquiry What are we learning?
 - Actively listen
 - Change our minds with new information
- LARGER ATTENTION SPANS!
- elders listening and being listened to
- we need to have more modeling of how to disagree/debate in a totally respectable and dignified manner towards each other

- It works to have a well communicated COVENANT of how to be with each other: principles of respectful engagement
- call out people who disrupt the process
give/assign these 'disrupters 30 minute increments of volunteer work for each disruption
- "Hey! where did all the a-holes and idiots go?"
- a process and a space for restorative justice when activists hurt each other and/or the movement
- conflict/resolution coaches to help settle grievances
- If we're going to include everyone that means anti-social, trust issues, desperation, anger, poor social skills will need to be addressed in a healthy way.
- I'd like to see some sort of mediation for people or groups that have disagreements, and they should be able to get to talk about their issues (outside GA) for hours and hours, until they feel their concerns have been addressed, or at least to the greatest extent possible. Like true, in-depth conflict resolution, to keep our community together. It could take days and multiple meetings to resolve some things.
- space for conflict resolution and listening
- Study communication theater of oppressed book, non violent communication. Folks who want to work on process can study work on it. Share strategies.
- honesty
- Practice
- Persistence
- Patience
- Play
- Purpose
- spirit of joy with serious purpose and care for each other
- know the people we are working with
- room for different perspectives within one movement

V. Participants at GA

- I want to see thousands
- total diversity with no one even noticing
- great participation from lower income/oppressed communities in Oakland/East Bay
- Immigrant families and day laborers with hope and translation feeling protected and welcomed

- MULTI-LINGUAL GAs with translation (also hearing impaired)
- neighbors and co-workers are at the GA
people were making sure they communicated without jargon so everyone could understand
- solidarity with people of color, LGBTQ, women. Can't defeat capitalism without this.
- kids, families, few and friendly cops
- child friendly
youth friendly
family friendly

VI. Specific suggestions for changes

- name tags mandatory
- welcoming forum
- Welcome and INTRODUCTORY PROCESS for newbies because we're functioning so differently than the dominant system.
- allowing for more audience input is good but should keep it to 1-2 minutes
- 50 minutes G.A. 10 strict minutes relief time
- accountability
- deliberation
- nothing decided in a hurry
- proposals have at least two public hearings after being published in advance
- agendas in advance with a deadline for item submissions would be helpful
- An OO that functions democratically, where actions are presented to the general body for approval in advance.
- No more emergency proposals. Proposal discussed at multiple GAs before vote.
- space for dissenting "no" votes to speak to why they voted no
 - space for friendly amendments and counterproposals to address those concerns
 - space for dialogue and friendly amendments and counterproposals within financial proposals
- LEADERFULL. All voices have space, all want to listen, hear.
- respectful dissension
- Move action announcements earlier in GA
 - White board for list of upcoming actions
 - Being purposeful about GA existing largely to facilitate plugging into actions, events

- lower quorum?
 - one or 2 big meetings a month?
 - I don't know, I hate these ideas. I just want us to be excited about being Occupy Oakland again.
- Who: 15 seconds
 - What: 15 seconds
 - When: 15 seconds
 - Where: 15 seconds
 - Why: 15 seconds
 - How; 15 seconds
 - The best design is simple
- no mass decision making
- “Open structure decision making”
 - Not exclusive consensus 100-90% decision making
 - Emphasize small group decision making that decides the structure that is best for them
 - Recommend consensus if they have a lot of relationship, know each other and have a lot of communication training
 - Focus on communication training
- Decentralize centralized structure
 - more decision making in small groups
 - have a steering committee of elected representatives of small groups—each rep can be transparent, accountable and rotate so more people can practice leadership and speaking
- Occupy Oakland needs to develop a culture of dedicated working groups and retain General Assemblies as it transitions toward a spokes council model—or develop a mixed model. Events committee will begin to book speakers and performers to keep attendance at GAs high.
- Affinity groups (arrow) spokescouncil
- Form affinity groups. Easier to work things out. Affinity groups meet with GA from time to time.
- Lots of people, masses of people, in many circles (illustrated). Then people move into different circles.
- 1 shift emphasis of GA to public forum
- 2. world cafe type processes that build common ground and understanding among diverse groups
- do a world cafe and come up with concrete projects to work on
- create space for small group discussions
- people were not just talking but they were building things and making useful crafts. People were teaching each other these skills by helping them to work alongside.
- appreciation

- emotional safety
- honor
- dogmas are challenged such as:
 1. We have no leaders
 2. We can't have delegates that communicate with authorities or meet with them
 3. That we can act anyway we want
- mutual aid
 - food for all (potluck)
 - really free market
 - social interaction
 - other services
 - GAs should be a facilitator for the community, not always a deliberative body. Unless there are critical "all hands on deck" decisions to be made, occupiers should mingle, talk, laugh, argue and eat with one another
- backyard gardening (4 food) teachouts
ride share/skill share organizing
- more support for folks that need help (transportation, food, etc.)
- share without limits
- Banner at every meeting/action
- There needs to be a banner at every GA and every rally that reads "Occupy Oakland" (it's something we so often forget to do).
- MUSIC

VII. Facilitation

- participation in facilitation by lots of people
- GA runs without needing a "facilitation committee"—Everyone is empowered to facilitate
- need excellent fair highly skilled consistent facilitation at every GA and committee meetings
- facilitators not physically separated from attendees
 - use peoples mic
 - use hand signals
 - facilitators remain neutral always, never be on stack unless withdrawing from facilitating that particular GA
 - facilitators never use bully pulpit
- *Appreciations for facilitators at gathering*
- Excellent gathering today and skilled facilitators. Would have spent a little less time teeing(freeing?) up the process for speakers.

- Thanks, facilitators!
- It is so hard to be a facilitator. Thank you to everyone from the facilitation working group.

VIII. Miscellaneous

- Food coops, be informed by what has worked in past movements.
Less eurocentric planning
Let's do what we can agree on
- I feel like we should be playing these idea sheets like cards, and there should be dice, fiducial-marks, music, money, and adult beverages involved PPP(OGs)
- "Why crawl through life, when we were born to fly." -Rumi
Imagine dialogue create learn love grow
- Began YMGD unity actions
- Sacred geometric organization/movement
 - Systematically organizing according to principles and values for each individual
 - Constructing physical spaces to add to in the community
 - Showing up in numbers to occupy offices in an entire building all day long to go up their structure and hack their system until it works for everyone.
- Pain, sadness, trees
 - I brought love, hope and faith to my heart
 - Live
 - Love
 - Laugh
 - Fun
 - Home
- Expanded civil liberty
 - Increasing economic equality
 - A healing planet
 - Peace
- Envisioning a future where we all grow and share food
- middle and high school students taking first steps in activism and leadership
- @ marches use walkie talkies or cell phones to communicate with front and back of march and in between to keep people TOGETHER!
- we need to post our photos and stories and poems on Indybay
- self organize and stay in touch
- mass coordinations of actions—mutual support

IX. Head heart feet

Head—one thing you learned today

- Group foolishness section was great. I am grateful to you all! I love you all! thank you, thank you, muchas gracias, OK Elise, aka Sistah and Dogwood.
- Not to expect too much to occur quickly at Occupy Oakland. 2014! Really! The 3rd world war could be over by then.

Heart—one thing you felt today

- I do so much appreciate the space that was created and the intention of today. Thank you. If I can offer a point of criticism, I'm concerned that this meeting did not make real time/space for concrete proposals to make changes to GA
- Positive 4 the future of the movement
- I wish we would have spent the bulk of our time on concrete proposals and dialogue around them. Again, I do appreciate this meeting, but it feels to me like spinning our wheels.
- Grateful Occupy movement is making continued effort
-Anger that more "aktion" is not readily occurring.

Feet—one thing you will do as a result of being here today

- in 2014
 1. Occupy movement has re-established in USA, Mexico, All EEUU, Russia and former Soviet republics
 3. Obama has been cheated out of re-election by Republicans
 4. Mood is dour, anger is in air.
 5. Global depression has set in as EU, US, Chinese, Indian economies have all contracted severely starting with default by Italy, Greece and Spanish sovereign debt.
 6. 5 of 6 largest US banks insolvent, US unemployment at 15%
 7. Homeland Security/CIA are everywhere. Google, Facebook and Twitter known to be compromised and used to "track" locations and identities of Occupy movement membership
 8. Occupy, Anonymous, PETA, Earth First declared to be terrorist organizations
 9. Occupy movement uses modified TOR (?) network to communicate "anonymously" between groups nationally and internationally.
 - 10.. Occupy Oakland has spearheaded squatting on empty foreclosures to ameliorate growing US homelessness.
 11. MAPS of video surveillance camera locations in major US cities is completed and distributed via offshore web ___(?) hosting.
 12. Massive demonstrations, sit-ins in tradition of M. Gandhi are routinely held to shut down:
 - major ports
 - bridges and freeways
 - insolvent banks
 - insurance companies AIG/Sutter/Aetna, etc.

-airports

to wake up America!

13. Sit-ins at all major US 4 year public institutions to protest exorbitant tuition increases and privatization (UCLA Skool of Business) of public “professional” schools, i.e., UCSF Medical, optometry, dental, business, law, journalism (effectively making grad skool available only to elites.
14. Prepare to play hardball for real.