



Our Bronx  
Our Plans  
Our Economy

*If we are not planning for our own future,  
someone else is planning our future for us.*



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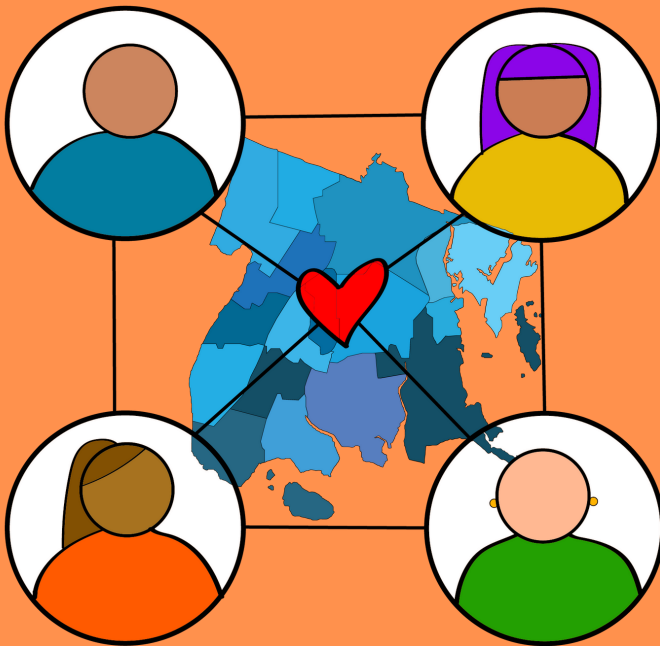


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# What is Economic Democracy?



Economic democracy shifts our economy from one with private and unequal wealth to one where we share in co-owning and governing the major assets in our community.



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# What is Economic Democracy?



Economic democracy moves us from relations of domination to shared authority:

Landlord and Tenant	Co-Owners
Boss and Worker	Worker-Owners
Producer and Consumer	Co-Producers
Leader and Follower	Co-Governance

Economic democracy is about sharing power and wealth in the economy and society.



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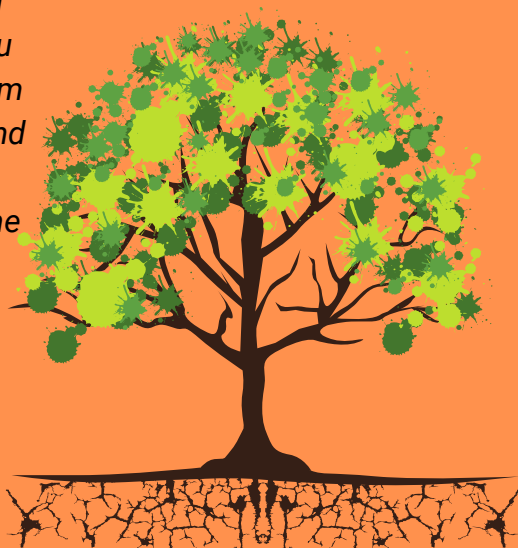
# What Does it Mean to Plan for Economic Democracy?



## Planning Tree

### PROJECTS & OUTCOMES

*These are the leaves and the fruit. Your end results that you hope to see from the hardwork and patience you have put into the work.*



### SECTORS

*The Branches are the sectors in our plan: housing, energy, health, etc. These are the directions in which we will be growing together our Bronx future.*

### VALUES / PRINCIPLES

*The roots and the trunk. This is the foundation - the things that nourish and guide your efforts.*



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# Why Plan for Economic Democracy?



“ ———  
THROUGH THIS  
EDUCATIONAL PLANNING  
PROCESS, RELATIONS OF  
SOLIDARITY ARE CREATED  
THAT PLACE AN EMPHASIS  
ON THE COLLECTIVE MORE  
THAN THE INDIVIDUAL.

PLANNING FROM BELOW ——— ”



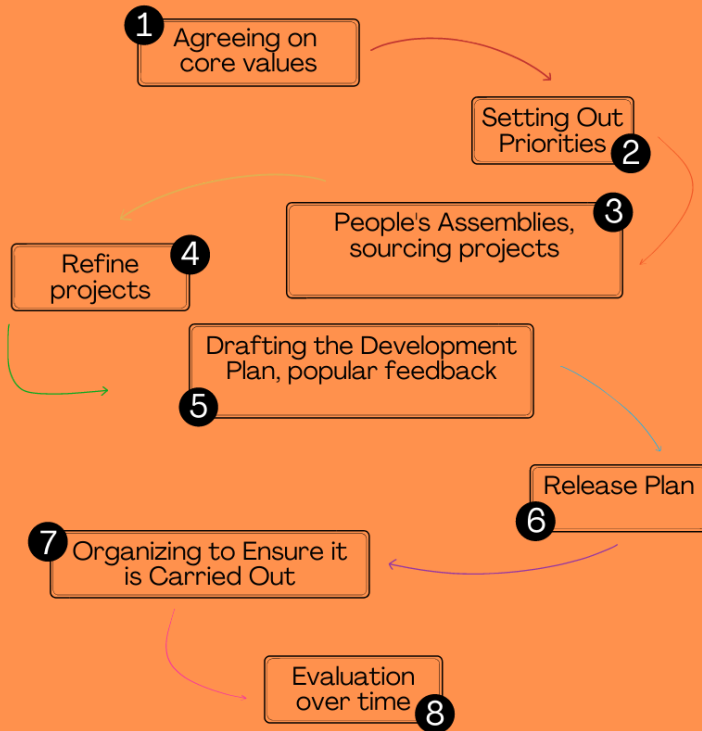
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# Steps in our Planning Process



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# What Are Some Examples of Economic Democracy?



Many grocery stores and delivery jobs are low wage, many do not offer union benefits. Located in Oakland California, Mandela Grocery Cooperative is owned by the workers and works to support local farmers and help them obtain ownership in their food enterprises.

What if our Bronx grocery stores were owned by us in the community, provided good jobs, and met our needs? This will be our future in the Bronx, working together for economic democracy.



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# What Are Some Examples of Economic Democracy?



Homeland foods in Oklahoma is a unionized and 100% employee-owned company, bought by the workers and the union together. Since 2011 this chain of 76 grocery stores, with over 15,000 employees, has expanded to 80 unionized stores.

**What if our grocery store workers in the Bronx were also the owners of the stores, and benefited when the company did well? What else is possible when we share ownership and make decisions together for the benefit of our Bronx communities?**



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# What Are Some Examples of Economic Democracy?



## **What if we shared the ownership and wealth of our local shopping districts together?**

In San Diego, a community came together to organize to co-own a shopping mall that was in need of repair and revitalization. Planning for the Plaza began with 800 neighborhood surveys that assessed what the community needed. At the top of the list was a major chain grocery store, followed by restaurants, entertainment, living wage jobs, and more. The Plaza fulfills many of these needs.

Resident ownership is a significant portion of Market Creek Plaza. The groundbreaking approach transferred 20% ownership to these residents who together invested a total of \$500,000. Another 20% of the Plaza is owned by the resident-led Neighborhood Unity Foundation for their \$500,000 investment.



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# What Are Some Examples of Economic Democracy?



Located in Cincinnati Ohio, Cooperation Cincinnati supports family-sustaining jobs, provides business ownership opportunities for Black, Latinx, and immigrant communities and is accountable to the communities that drive it. In its first few years,

Coop Cincy has created 10 new worker owned enterprises and is working with retiring business owners to create more local businesses owned by the workers. Their work has grown into a statewide collaboration across several other cities.

**Here in the Bronx, we can be the leaders and creators of these new businesses where workers and communities own together! This is the future that economic democracy can bring us.**



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# We Build Economic Democracy by Planning and Organizing Together

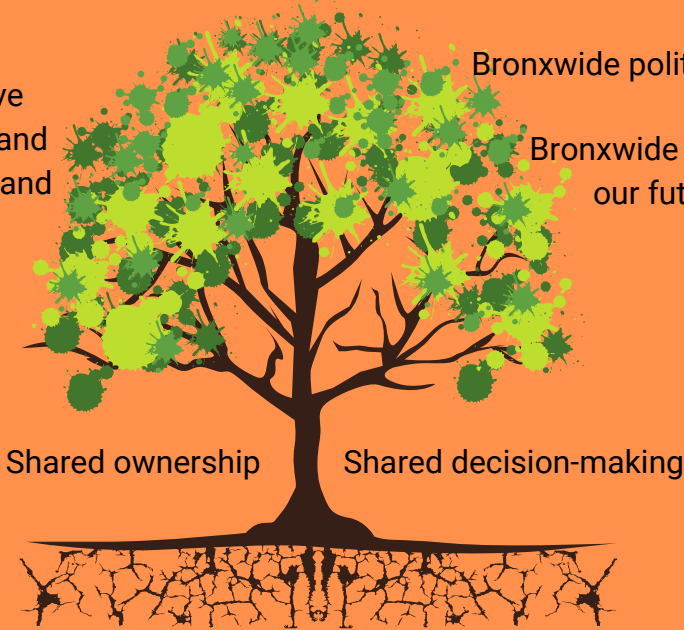


Community-controlled investment    Community-owned innovation space

Cooperative enterprises and community land trusts

Bronxwide political power

Bronxwide plan for our future



Shared ownership

Shared decision-making

Intergenerational approach  
Economic democracy  
Gender justice

Racial justice  
Environmental justice  
Systemic change

We are planning together to grow a big beautiful Bronx where economic democracy is a part of our everyday lives, not just for a few, but for ALL. This means building power together to develop the skills and knowledge in our communities we need to build shared ownership and a Bronx where our young people see a future for themselves and our communities.



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# Examples of Building Power and Plans for Economic Democracy



## 1

### Step 1: Declare Core Values

Read the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration submitted to Governor Ige and Alan Oshima's group tasked with developing and implementing a plan for economic stabilization, recovery, and resilience.

## 2

### Step 2: Set an Action Agenda

The Huliāu Action Agenda offers concrete goals to rebuild our economy in keeping with the principles in the Declaration. Community members like you were encouraged to review and suggest changes to it. Hundreds of suggestions were implemented and a new community version is now available.

## 3

### Step 3: Develop Proposals

The Huliāu Action Agenda was recast into an AAEF assessment tool, which guides individuals, organizations, government, and businesses in planning and decision making about new and ongoing efforts. Individuals and organizations used this tool and offered over 180 proposals for community review, which took place during 14 online sessions. Join in the asynchronous conversation on this AAEF platform.

## 4

### Step 4: Move Forward

Build coalitions with other entities advancing similar proposals, provide the rubric to decision makers, businesses, organizations, and community members, and together take action to achieve the changes in an economic future grounded in 'Āina Aloha.

Launched in May 2020, the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures emerged from a group of Native Hawaiian community members organized around the need to have Native Hawaiian voices, values, and experiences influence the post-COVID economic recovery around 'āina aloha - or "a deep and abiding love for Hawai'i's communities and natural environments." Engaging Hawai'i community members, businesses, and organizations, the group embarked on a series of four collective actions to gather grassroots community input to develop a shared vision for Hawai'i's economic future.



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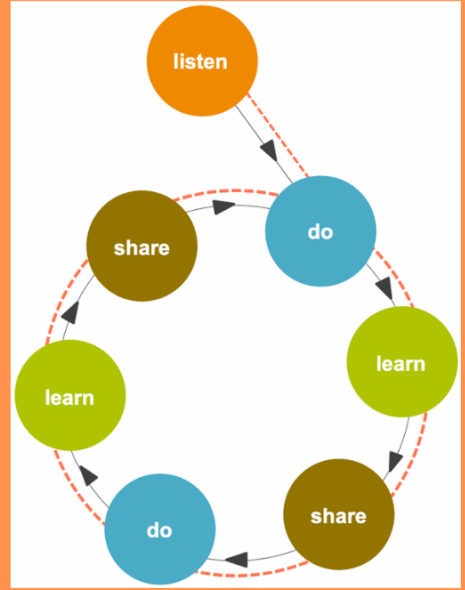
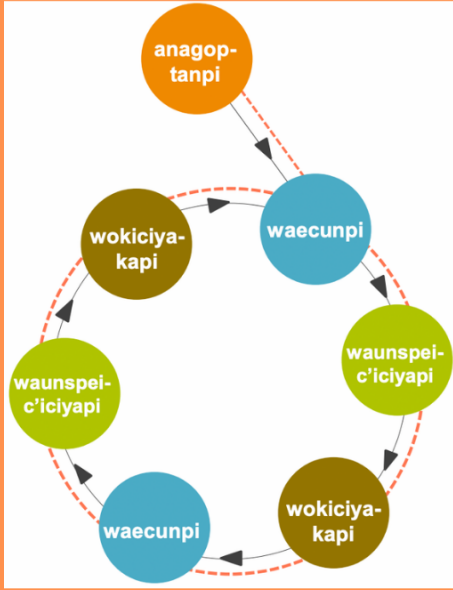
# Examples of Building Power and Plans for Economic Democracy



The Oakland People's Budget initiative seeks to create the largest participatory budgeting model in the country, by giving residents control over the city's \$1.65B budget. Organized by Community Democracy Project, an all-volunteer grassroots campaign that has been working to bring participatory budgeting to Oakland since 2011, the People's Budget would flip the power structure of municipal budgeting by empowering all residents to make informed decisions and vote on the issues that matter most to their communities. The People's Budget would establish a new, decentralized infrastructure of budgeting, transferring power from City Hall to over one hundred newly established Neighborhood Assemblies of 2,500 to 5,000 residents throughout the city. The Assemblies would replace the current role of the City Council and give all Oakland residents an equal say on allocating public money across departments and services, leaving elected officials responsible for overseeing the departments.



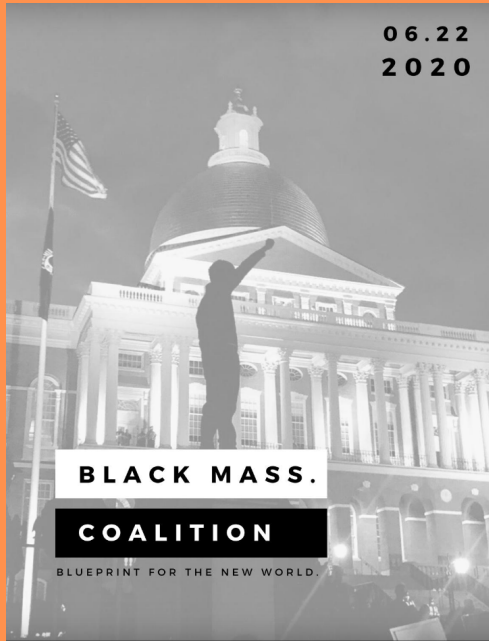
# Examples of Building Power and Plans for Economic Democracy



Completed and adopted by the Lakota tribal councils in 2012, the Oyate Omniciye Oglala Lakota Regional Plan emerged from an intergenerational community engagement process among children, elders, elected officials, community leaders, and other stakeholders. The plan aimed to continue the healing and strengthening of the Lakota people and their knowledge, culture, and language; build shared prosperity and economic opportunities that reignite cultural identity; expand and improve public health, infrastructure, housing, and social services; and honor connections with the Earth and protect her environment. The plan empowered Thunder Valley CDC and its partners to mobilize a united front to integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation and infrastructure investments to support the Oglala Lakota Nation.



# Examples of Building Power and Plans for Economic Democracy



In June 2020, Black and Indigenous leaders in Massachusetts, from grassroots organizations to institutional entities, released a list of demands for the private sector, nonprofits, philanthropic organizations, and state and local governments to commit to and follow through on if “they truly believe that Black Lives Matter.” The coalition offers targeted demands for each sector, as well explanations for why strategies were set and how they can be met. Coalition demands include a \$1B Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Fund; procurement targets for Black and Indigenous-owned businesses; divestment from the prison industrial complex, fossil fuels, and other toxic assets; funds dedicated to buying land for Black and Indigenous communities; defunding state and local police; and expanded Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion measures, among other items.



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