Mayfirst Solidarity Movement: Resource Guide

Ongoing

Generated November 20, 2026 · 9 open facilities · closed facilities are not listed · call before you go: details change quickly

MA

Southend Technology Center [mutual aid, education, tech support/supplies, direct action]

Volunteer Camp · Open

Boston, MA

Web southendtechcenter.org/sample-page-2
Service Temporary

Tech center, organizing around democratic cooperative principles...

covid 19 response
source: https://www.liberationnews.org/ppe-for-the-people-campaign-to-produce-and-distribute-masks-in-boston/

'PPE for the People' campaign to produce and distribute masks in Boston
By Susan Klimczak (SETC) and Joe Tache (PSL)
Apr 13, 2020

3D printed N95-style masks. Photo by South End Technology Center. Used with Permission.

The South End Technology Center @ Tent City and the Boston branch of the Party for Socialism and Liberation announce our campaign, "PPE for the People." We are producing and distributing protective masks to frontline workers and people living in Boston's oppressed communities, who are suffering disproportionately during this COVID-19 pandemic.

As Mel King, the founder of SETC always says, we want a city and a world that works for everyone. We cannot stand by and watch as this crisis lays bare the profound inequity and injustice in our city and country for all to see. Our Love for the People calls us into action; to both serve our communities and raise demands for a new form of society organized around human needs, rather than corporate profits.
a volunteer sews olsen masks at a sewing machine.

PSL and SETC volunteers make masks. Photo by South End Technology Center. Used with permission.

Both in Boston and across the country, new data reveals an alarming trend that COVID-19 is infecting and killing people of color at a disproportionately higher rate. As the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams recently pointed out, Black, Latino and Native American people are not biologically or genetically predisposed to get COVID-19. People of color are predisposed to higher risk of exposure because most do not have jobs that allow them to work from home; because of inequities in healthcare and income that make them more likely to suffer diseases that put them at risk for severe complications from the virus; because — in the case of those living in places like the Navajo Nation and Detroit — they experience a lack of access to water for recommended frequent hand-washing. As of April 9, in Boston, 72% of those who have tested positive COVID-19 are people of color.

The question of wearing masks is also complicated by racism. People of color are increasingly saying that they don't feel safe wearing masks. In a Boston Globe op-ed, Aaron Thomas wrote that the practice "could lead to unintended attention, and ultimately a life-or-death situation…[and that] the fear of being mistaken for an armed robber or assailant is greater than the fear of contracting COVID-19." On the other hand, on April 11, a man in Philadelphia was dragged off of a public bus by police for not wearing a mask. This pandemic is shaped by capitalism and racism, and the fight against racism must be at the top of the list of priorities for any COVID-19 response.

Overall, as COVID-19 continues to rapidly spread in Massachusetts, workers in health care, grocery, custodial, food service and other sectors have clearly expressed their desperate need for personal protective equipment, including masks. Some of our most vulnerable such as elders, returning citizens and folks in recovery also have expressed needs. Additionally, on April 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officially recommended that all individuals wear face coverings in public settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain, as it is in cities like Boston. Clearly, the need for protective masks and the need to address the inequities and injustices at work in our community is dire, and demand will only increase as Massachusetts approaches its COVID-19 "surge."

SETC youth, staff and volunteers, along with PSL organizers are fabricating four types of masks with laser cutters, 3D printers and sewing machines in Fab Lab Boston:

3D printed face shields with clear protective covers
sewn Olson face masks with filters inserted in pockets that can be fitted with skin-safe double-sided tape for those at higher risk for exposure
sewn face masks for everyday use by the people
and 3D printed N95-style masks that have demonstrated a potential to pass fit tests with proper filtering.

A young man wears a 3d printed face mask and holds two hand sewn masks

Photo by the South End Technology Center. Used with permission.

PPE for the People has already provided over 150 masks to people like the residents and Community Table workers at the Haley House, who are serving 70 free meals per day during the pandemic, to workers in the temporary shelter tents set up for people experiencing homelessness in Lower Roxbury, to young people distributing meals to elders at Madison Park, to nurses, to grocery workers, to families living in subsidized housing and to workers serving students with disabilities. The campaign will be expanding distribution in the coming days and weeks. Essential workers and families, particularly in Grove Hall, South End and Roxbury, are encouraged to reach out if their work and/or living conditions puts them in need of protective masks.

While the PPE for the People will do everything in its power to provide masks to those who need them, the campaign will inevitably be limited in scope. Neither the SETC nor the PSL — or the entire network of Boston area Fab Labs and makerspaces — have the manufacturing capacity to meet the vast need for masks in Boston. Ultimately, the responsibility and moral imperative for addressing this crisis falls on the U.S. government. Both Governor Baker and Donald Trump have special powers to take immediate action on this issue. As reported by The Boston Globe, the state of emergency currently in place in Massachusetts allows Governor Baker to "take possession (1) of any land or building, machinery or equipment…which may be necessary or convenient… for the better protection or welfare of the commonwealth or its inhabitants." The Defense Production Act of 1950 grants President Trump similar powers to rapidly ramp up the production of critical goods, as well as set price controls, nationally. Organizations including the Party for Socialism and Liberation and at least 18 U.S. Senators have called upon President Trump to fully invoke the Defense Production Act.

A massive intervention is required to slow the spread of this pandemic and reverse the disproportionate impact it is having on oppressed populations. To this end, the organizers of "PPE for the People" demand the following:

The state and federal governments must compel companies that otherwise prioritize their profits over societal wellbeing to produce critical goods: COVID–19 test kits, ventilators, protective equipment and medical equipment at cost to meet the urgent need.
Provide free testing for the whole population.
Free testing only works with free treatment. Healthcare must be provided for free for all.
All essential workers must be provided PPE, paid sick leave, and hazard pay.
Provide secure housing for all. Empty dwellings should be immediately seized to provide shelter for all people without housing.
Release massive numbers of incarcerated people including but not limited to those in pretrial detention, elderly and other at–risk prisoners, and ICE detainees.
Native reservations, Black, Latino and other oppressed communities must be guaranteed equal access to treatment.

Our collective goal is that this city, our communities and world WORK FOR EVERYONE. The goal is NOT a return to what was "normal" before the pandemic. We believe that this crisis gives us the opportunity and moral imperative to change the persistent injustice and inequities exposed by this pandemic. This is, as theologian and Co–Chair of the Poor People's Campaign Liz Theoharis has pointed out, "a call to come together in new ways in order to survive, hold the powerful responsible for their unjust policies and the lies they've told to cover up injustice, and rebuild on foundations of love and justice" (Sojourners Newsletter). PPE for the People will be a local outlet for community and solidarity, and a step on the path towards a total transformation of our society.

For more information, follow the SETC and PSL on social media. Facebook: facebook.com/pslboston; Instagram: @southendtechnology center, @bostonpsl; Twitter: @zackboston.

Media contacts: Susan Klimczak and Michael King (SETC, miguelkingone@gmail.com & klimczaksusan@gmail.com, 617–578–0597), and Joe Tache (PSL, j.b.tache@gmail.com, 617–297–8372).
boston, COVID–19, PPE

Services offered: Communications, Technical Support, Volunteer Services; Masks, Face Masks, N95 (w/Respirator/Cartidges); Masks, surgical masks, cloth; Tech, Data Solution Architects, Humanitarian; Training, Activism; Training * (ANY/ALL Types of Instruction) ; Training Classes, Computers Skills
Campaigns: 2020/2021 Pandemic, Coronavirus/COVID–19; Economic Solidarity and Cooperativism; Mayfirst Solidarity Movement
Updated Apr 14, 2020 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/10278

Agaric.coop [solidarity oriented techies, web design, custom online tools, fomenting cooperation]

Open Business* · Open

Boston/Cambridge, MA
Web www.agaric.coop
Service Temporary

[see WAY more at the website above]

What are Agaric's initiatives, you ask?

We do much more than build websites. We build tools that work for the social change we want to see. We teach and empower others to use digital technology safely, responsibly, and effectively. We participate in building and supporting communities that are founded on democratic–ownership and knowledge–sharing. We engage in a plethora of movements, and we look for ways to

bridge the gaps between them. Akin to the mushrooms after which we are named, we work across vast nutritive networks so that we can bring nourishment to our human ecosystems. This page is our feeble attempt to showcase the meaning behind Agaric Tech Cooperative.

Services offered: Business Services, Co–Op oriented; Local Businesses, Social Enterprises; New "Business" Models; Social Enterprise (low–profit BUSINESS); Social Event *(any/all types) see also category "Events"; Tech, Data Solution Architects, Humanitarian
Campaigns: Agaric Technology Collective, a worker–owned cooperative [Co–op]; Alternative Societies; Center for Global Justice; Co–Operative Businesses, Coops, Co–ops, Cooperatives; Economic Solidarity and Cooperativism; Mayfirst Solidarity Movement; Social Activists/Organizers; Social Change Initiative
Updated Nov 15, 2026 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/10400

MI

Detroit Community Technology Project

Walk–in Resource · Open

Allied Media Projects; 4126 Third St, Detroit, MI 48201
Web www.detroitcommunitytech.org
Service Temporary

From hosting Data DiscoTechs in each district of Detroit to helping Digital Stewards and their neighbors design resilient communications infrastructure and Gigabit apps, we strive for a future where people who have been marginalized from political and economic power can use technology to shape the future of their lives, neighborhoods, and regions.

Our Story

Detroit Community Technology Project was born from a legacy of coalition work and collaboration, building on Allied Media Projects' (AMP) nine year track record of digital media education and community technology building in Detroit.

Allied Media Projects partnered with the Open Technology Institute of the New America Foundation in 2012 to create the Digital Stewards (DS) Program, which trains neighborhood leaders in designing and deploying community wireless networks with a commitment to the Detroit Digital Justice Principles. To date, DCTP has implemented the DS training with leaders from seven Detroit neighborhoods, followed by four Equitable Internet Initiative neighborhoods in both Detroit and Highland Park. DCTP has supported 11 more community groups internationally to adopt and modify the training for their own contexts. As our principled approach and the Digital Stewards program continued to find firm footing in community, new people–based resources and programming grew, aimed at enabling community participation in online economies, education, and safe navigation of online spaces. DCTP formed officially in 2014 to encompass broader community technology education and organizing work and to share best practices.

After many iterations in Detroit and New York, the Digital Stewards Program began to see new life as Gigabit fiber was introduced in the city of Detroit, threatening to widen an already oppressive digital divide. In 2015, DCTP introduced the Equitable Internet Initiative (EII), our attempt to redistribute power, resources, and connectivity to the most marginalized of Detroiters. We began with partners in three neighborhoods: Islandview, North End, and Southwest. As neighborhood–level strategy played out to help bring more Detroiters online in a meaningful way, DCTP shifted focus to also address how Detroiters were impacted by broader systems of data collection and surveillance technologies, both on and offline. How much did folks know about their digital data bodies? How much could they protect themselves? The Data Justice Program was introduced in 2016, just as the city was ramping up promotion of Detroit's Open Data portal. It quickly blossomed into a vital companion to EII and the work of the Detroit Digital Justice Coalition.

The Digital Stewards curriculum has inspired many other community technology curricula used within, and in conjunction with, DCTP's programming. These include a Consentful Tech curriculum built with the Consentful Tech Project, and the Next Gen Apps curricula developed by EII anchor organization Grace in Action and their Radical Productions team. As we continue to learn and grow, DCTP remains committed to decentralizing our resources and experience, and making community technology accessible across Detroit and the world.

Services offered: Tech, Computer Networking Services
Campaigns: Black Community; Economic Solidarity and Cooperativism; Ending Extreme Poverty; Ending Gross Inequity; Mayfirst Solidarity Movement; Neighborhood Network; Social Activists/Organizers; Social Change Initiative
Updated Mar 30, 2021 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/10408

TN

Highlander Research and Education Center

Volunteer Camp · Open

New Market, TN 37820, New Market, TN
Phone (865) 933–3443
Web highlandercenter.org
Service Temporary

hrec @ highlandercenter. org

We are a catalyst for grassroots organizing and movement building in Appalachia and the South. We work with people fighting for justice, equality and sustainability, supporting their efforts to take collective action to shape their own destiny.

Transformative Justice via a Social Solidarity Economy

We're exploring our economic and governance systems through a participatory, community–based process to create knowledge and share solutions that foster community, equity and healthy communities.

Movement Accompaniment + Support

We're supporting grassroots organizing and movement building from workshops and residencies on Popular Education, Political Education to Direction Action Trainings and Technical Assistance.

Incubate & Innovate Radical Work

We're building capacity for grassroots organizations through Strategic Partnership, Movement Anchorship and Fiscal Sponsorship.

Intergenerational Leadership

Our Seeds of Fire Program and Children's Justice Camp are promoting youth–centered, youth–led spaces, providing guidance, mentorship, political education and skill–based trainings that give room for young people to take the resources they need and work towards a just future.

Services offered: Facility: Community Center; School * (ANY/ALL Types)
Campaigns: Economic Solidarity and Cooperativism; Mayfirst Solidarity Movement; Social Activists/Organizers; Social Change Initiative
Updated Mar 30, 2021 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/10406

Worldwide

Agaric / Co–op Resources, List of free software and how to use it

Info/Hotline · Open

Web coopguide.org/node/3
Service Permanent

Resources
Submitted by FreeScholar on Tue, 02/16/2021 – 01:10

2020 has seen many people and organizations, de–funded, de–platformed (kicked off of popular platforms like Facebook and Twitter) People are scared, broke and confused as to the future financial health of their families. Many developers have lost projects because their client's income has been cut off. This is Capitalism and unfair business practices at work.

GET FREE: Here is a site that will help you choose the best GNU/Linux operating system based on what you need.

There are tactical and logistical efforts we can use to create value within our communities, and we do that by cooperating, not competing.

CoopGuide will work to reveal the achievable dreams of Cooperators, not just list profiles. Come meet us at the Weekly Show and Tell with Agaric – skillshare and discussions.

Agaric is a worker–owned web technology cooperative since 2006 – One member = One vote. Here are a few links to free software tools and some cooperative networks recommended for learning more about being a tech worker–owner. You may add resource links in the comments!

Agaric.coop

Services offered: Advocacy, Privacy/Ethics; Advocacy, Privacy/Ethics, GOOD PRIVACY POLICY; Advocacy, Privacy/Ethics, GOOD PRIVACY POLICY, for advocacy groups; Assistance, for non–profits, Collaboration Tool; Business Services, Co–Op oriented; collaboration tools, FREE, ANY/ALL types; Disaster Tech Planning Groups; Services, Tech, Computer Consulting Service
Campaigns: Agaric Technology Collective, a worker–owned cooperative [Co–op]; Economic Solidarity and Cooperativism; Mayfirst Solidarity Movement; Social Activists/Organizers; Social Change Initiative
Updated May 3, 2021 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/10404

Co–op Guide [connecting cooperative technologists]

Info/Hotline · Open

Web coopguide.org
Service Temporary

Working together on projects is one of the most important goals of our tech coop. It is also the 6th Cooperative Principle, Cooperation among Cooperatives. CoopGuide is a work in progress being built to facilitate team members in locating each other and getting familiar with each other's skills. The idea for this site came from discussions at Agaric's weekly Show and Tell

gatherings.
Campaigns: Mayfirst Solidarity Movement
Updated Mar 29, 2021 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/10403

Mayfirst Movement Technologist network [solidarity oriented techies]

Info/Hotline · Open

Web outreach.mayfirst.org/techstatement
Service Temporary

Movement Technologist Statement

We work with information technology. Some of us are movement technologists –– people who bring their political commitment to developing technology and tech capacity for social justice organizations and communities. Others are movement activists who use technology in our work.

We were among over 50 technologists and organizations of diverse types that gathered at the Highlander Center in Tennessee in May 2017 to discuss the concerns we have arising from and affecting our work, express our various views on the reasons for and impact of those concerns and build consensus among us about how to address those concerns given the political moment in which we find ourselves.

About 90 percent of those gathered were people of color. More than half were women. A large percentage of us were gender non–conforming and LGBTQ. The gathering reflected the demographics of most people who do movement technology and, because of that, we feel both empowered by and responsible for the growth and direction of this field.

So the people making and signing this statement do so in honor of the Highlander gathering and seek to draw some lessons from it. We aren't representing everyone who was there but we believe the following statement reflects the spirit of the conversations and thinking that took place at the gathering.

Our experience tells us that, to make the fundamental social changes necessary to human survival, our movements need to change some of the ways we approach technology, technologists and the role of both.
The Moment

Technology has brought us to the place where we are.

In the hands of the world's ruling class, technology has helped ravage societies, pervert the use of science, accelerate climate crisis and displace much of the working people from their jobs. It has permitted the most massive intrusion into privacy and disruption of fundamental civil rights in history. It has allowed our government to create a police state in waiting.

At the same time, technology has developed a world–wide collaborative community, modeling the culture of a new society through the way software is developed, tested and perfected. It has provided the human race with its most effective and fastest communications in history, nurturing communities, networks and mass movements and making possible almost immediate response to oppression and repression. It has made counter–speech more powerful and information completely accessible.

In the hands of the world's people, technology can now help us get to where we want to go.

In the right hands, technology brings people–powered solutions of many of the major human problems. From housing, to hunger, to climate catastrophe, to disease, to education oppression, to the very core of democratic culture...using technology we can solve these problems and make possible the world we seek to build.

Technology also makes it possible for us to struggle for and build that world.
The Challenge

Historically, technologists and the role of technology have been excluded from wider political discussions in our movements. There is one thing needed to start developing a deeper relationship between technologists and technology and the broader movement: movement technologists and movement activists must develop a deeper collaboration emanating from an understanding that we are both essential parts of building powerful movements.

Effectively, our movement should consider its technologists as the primary sources of information about technology, moving away from the toxic dependence much of our movement has on corporate technologists and tech companies. At the same time, movement technologists and tech organizers should be invited to lead the way on new tech practices and platforms for our movements, moving away from the all too prevalent tendency of developing software and other tech solutions without direct input from non–techie movement activists and organizers.

Super–funded technology organizations run by white men must no longer dominate training, movement organizing, conferences and projects –– including software development.

The days of technologists trained at and working for large organizations and foundations parachuting into local communities and community organizations to provide quick "solutions" without explanation, orientation or consultation, all while ignoring the talent and capability within those communities and organizations must come to an end.

To be clear, many of the people who "parachute" into frontline communities to provide tech solutions may be well–intentioned and truly helpful and productive. But the model does nothing to engage in deep partnership, build real power or develop the capabilities and capacities of our movements and communities. Parachuting is a service strategy; not a movement–building

strategy. In the 21st century, a new approach is needed.
The Program

Currently technology is being developed, controlled, and owned by the ruling class and used in their interests to maintain a brutal system of superexploitation and oppression. We want a shift in the underlying logic of how technology is created and used. Instead of being used as a tool to divide and conquer, we believe technology must be taken back by the people and used as a tool of liberation. That communities on the ground should have access to the power to develop, control, and own technology.

The implementation of that vision will require the kind of movement relationship we've been speaking about. While the development of that relationship is progressive and will require continuous work, there are some steps needed right now. We agree that anyone who believes in the right of communities to self–determine their conditions should agree to these steps:

Our role and experience as Movement technologists, especially people of color, women, and LGBTQ people, in the movement should be respected and expected, that our opinions and knowledge be listened to and sought out. This means we should be included in conferences and convergences, networks, software and technology development initiatives and all other major movement tech initiatives through a principle of radical inclusivity.
That our leadership be accepted and encouraged. We should be included in networks and places of decision making and power within our movement from the start. Building a truly progressive movement requires the leadership of technologists grounded within movement networks and guided by this framework.
That our movements expect us to prioritize their needs and insist that we comply with that responsibility. Software Technology development, training, and its strategic use in movement building is not merely a hobby, pastime or job. It is a political responsibility and, to comply with that, we need to listen carefully to what our movements are telling us about their needs, discuss thbr />ese with them seriously, implement what is needed and engage our movements in full testing and beta–changing procedures.
That our change movement and the philanthropic institutions that support it, seriously support the development of technology from inside our movements expanded, unrestricted, and movement–directed funds. Techies coming out of movement organizations know their communities, organizations and the needs of their movement; they are the best candidate for technologist development. They will also stay in their communities and organizations building those movements rather than being lured away by industry jobs and salaries.

At this point, there is literally no support for development of this type of program. It should be an absolute priority.
The Conclusion

We believe these steps are essential to the future independence and usefulness of information technology and for the success of our connected struggles. This is a radical invitation into new ways to practice and resource the technological leadership to face the struggles ahead with stronger, more strategic, and more successful movements.
Original Signers:

(in alphabetical order)

18MR.org (18 Million Rising)

ActSecure

Aspiration Tech

Bex Hong Hurwitz

Center for Media Justice

Cooperation Jackson

Dalit American Coalition

Data for Black Lives

Detroit Community Technology Project

Emmi Bevensee

Equality Labs

Film, Inquiry, Research, and Medium Education (FIRME)

Generation Justice

Highlander Research and Education Center

May First/People Link

New Afrikan Spiritual Mindset Awareness Institute

Nima Fatemi

Palante Technology Cooperative

Project South

Progressive Technology Project

Sarah Aoun

Stop LAPD Spying Coalition

Sustainable & Equitable Agricultural Development

TechActivist.Org

War Resisters League

Do you want to sign on to this statement? [see link above]

Services offered: Business Services, Co–Op oriented; Services, Tech, Internet Services
Campaigns: Agaric Technology Collective, a worker–owned cooperative [Co–op]; Economic Solidarity and Cooperativism; Mayfirst Solidarity Movement; Social Activists/Organizers; Social Change Initiative
Updated Mar 29, 2021 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/10401

Radical Connections Network [solidarity oriented techies]

Info/Hotline · Open

Web radicalconnections.net
Service Temporary

Radical Connections Network

We are a community of people who work with technology and are committed to building a just, democratic and sustainable world. Most of us are people of color, more than half women and a substantial percentage of us are LGBTQ and gender non–conforming.

Many of us identify as movement technologists, people who bring their political commitment to developing technology and tech capacity for social justice organizations and communities. Some of us consider ourselves movement activists who use technology in our work. But no matter how we choose to describe our relationship to technology, all of us agree that it is time to bring folks like us together in a gathering that reflects our work, our commitment and our culture.
Campaigns: Agaric Technology Collective, a worker–owned cooperative [Co–op]; Black Community; Economic Solidarity and Cooperativism; Ending Gross Inequity; Mayfirst Solidarity Movement; Social Activists/Organizers; Social Change Initiative
Updated Mar 29, 2021 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/10405

Other locations

Data for Black Lives

Info/Hotline · Open

Web d4bl.org
Service Temporary

About Us

Data for Black Lives is a movement of activists, organizers, and mathematicians committed to the mission of using data science to create concrete and measurable change in the lives of Black people. Since the advent of computing, big data and algorithms have penetrated virtually every aspect of our social and economic lives. These new data systems have tremendous potential to empower communities of color. Tools like statistical modeling, data visualization, and crowd–sourcing, in the right hands, are powerful instruments for fighting bias, building progressive movements, and promoting civic engagement.

But history tells a different story, one in which data is too often wielded as an instrument of oppression, reinforcing inequality and perpetuating injustice. Redlining was a data–driven enterprise that resulted in the systematic exclusion of Black communities from key financial services. More recent trends like predictive policing, risk–based sentencing, and predatory lending are troubling variations on the same theme. Today, discrimination is a high–tech enterprise.

Services offered: Information Resource, Demographic Information; Management, Disaster Consultant; New "Business" Models; Tech, Data Solution Architects, Humanitarian
Campaigns: Black Community; Black Lives Matter; Economic Solidarity and Cooperativism; Ending Extreme Poverty; Ending Gross Inequity; Mayfirst Solidarity Movement; Social Activists/Organizers; Social Change Initiative
Updated Mar 30, 2021 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/10407