The Next System Begins in Community

Ronnie Galvin
Vice-President of Engaged Practice
The Democracy Collaborative

Rgalvin@democracycollaborative.org
FB @Ronald Galvin
Twitter @hopefulcynicdmv
We need a vision that recognizes that we are at one of the great turning points in human history when the survival of our planet and the restoration of our humanity require a great sea change in our ecological, economic, political, and spiritual values.

-Grace Lee Boggs
System in crisis

The US currently facing a systemic crisis—not just political or economic difficulties.

A system designed by and for the 1% has resulted in growing inequality, mass incarceration, and climate catastrophe.

*Traditional strategies to achieve a more equitable, sustainable and just society aren’t working.*
Why a new system, not just new policies?

Long-term, negative trends (ie underemployment, mass incarceration, “throw away” cities, degradation of the environment, etc) as *natural outcomes* of an extractive economic design.

*A new design*, grounded in new institutions and new patterns of ownership, is needed for an economy capable of delivering the dramatically better outcomes we want: equity, justice, democracy, sustainability, health and wellbeing.
The Democracy Collaborative advances a vision of a more democratic economic system where shared ownership and control creates more equitable and inclusive outcomes, fosters ecological sustainability, and promotes flourishing democratic and community life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESEARCH</th>
<th>FIELD BUILDING</th>
<th>ADVISORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reports and publications on anchors, public enterprise, community wealth building, green economy, etc.</td>
<td>Communities of practice, co-learning experiences, metric development, webinars, education &amp; training tools, Community-Wealth.org</td>
<td>Consult on community wealth building strategies:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Cleveland, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Houston, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Rochester, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Tacoma, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Preston, England</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic Trends: Growing Wealth Inequality

U.S. Wealth (Net Worth in Trillions)

Top 400 individuals: 2.02
Bottom 185 million: 1.22

From Concentrated Wealth to Community Wealth Building

Community wealth building is a systems approach to creating an inclusive, sustainable economy where all can thrive. The work is place-based, collaborative, fed by the power of anchor institutions, and built on locally rooted and broadly held asset ownership.

It is about building a new kind of economy that, because of its fundamental design, tends naturally to create inclusion and prosperity for many and not simply for the few.
The Anchor Mission

A commitment to intentionally apply an institution’s place-based economic power and human capital in partnership with community for long-term wellbeing and mutual benefit.
What Are Anchor Institutions?

• Nonprofit or public institutions

• Rooted in place—“sticky capital”

• Economic engines—large purchasers, employers & investors