

**Feasibility Report
World Peace Forum
2006**

Prepared For:
City Manager
City of Vancouver

March 13 2005

Prepared by:
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Introduction

In November 2004 the Vancouver City Manager retained IdeaWorks Consulting Inc. to undertake a feasibility study on holding a World Peace Forum in Vancouver in 2006, including:

- An assessment of the interest at the national and international level in supporting and participating in such an event;
- An assessment of the feasibility of the proposed format, duration and theme as adopted at the preparatory conference being held November 26 and 27, 2004;
- An analysis of the budget necessary for the proposed event and identification of possible sources of sponsorship and partnership from the non-profit and private sectors to achieve the budget;
- Recommendations on whether the City should be involved in holding the Peace Forum, and if so, how the City should be involved and what are the necessary steps of engagement; and
- Liaison with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Peace and Justice Committee on the feasibility study.

In carrying out this task IdeaWorks worked with Casper Communications, a firm with extensive experience planning and executing conferences. IdeaWorks and Casper Communications (IWC) attended a preparatory conference held November 26th and 27th in Vancouver, met with key volunteer and staff members planning the Forum, and met with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Peace and Justice Committee separately and together. In addition, IWC reviewed available information about other socially oriented conferences, for example those held in Mumbai, Porto Alegre and in Boston in 2004.

IWC received a draft Plan for the Forum on February 4th 2005, and a proposed budget on February 7th. We reviewed the draft Plan with members of the World Peace Forum group, clarifying and updating our comments as necessary to produce this final report.

As the Forum Plan evolved, two distinct portions emerged: a request for the City to fund and host an international gathering of civic government-related peace activists, and a request for the City to endorse and fund a planned World Peace Forum.

Background

Organizing Structure

Planning for the World Peace Forum 2006 is being led by a Joint Steering Committee (JSC) including:

- Four members from the World Peace Forum Society;
- Three members from the City of Vancouver's Peace and Justice Committee;
- Two independent members; and
- A representative of the Simons Foundation, which has provided funding for the process to date.

The JSC intends to assemble an International Advisory Board to advise and assist on matters concerning regional involvement in the Forum, including, including city and civil society representatives from northern and southern jurisdictions. The Advisory Board has not yet been assembled.

The Forum Plan includes six senior staff positions, to be retained for periods ranging from 7 to 17 months. The positions are:

- Executive Director;
- Fundraiser;
- Promotion, communications and media coordinator;
- Programming and outreach coordinator;
- Volunteer and billet coordinator; and
- World Peace Forum/World Urban Forum Logistics Coordinator.

In addition the Plan includes two administrative support staff and three interns, and notes that “many hundreds” of volunteers will be required.

Event Structure

The World Peace Forum is planned to run from June 23 to June 28 2006, with an expected attendance of 3,000 people from around the world.

The Forum is planned to start with a joint session at BC Place Stadium linking the just-ending World Urban Forum with the World Peace Forum.

During the course of the Forum several types of activity are proposed. These include:

- Events (talks/seminars) featuring notable national and international speakers at larger venues;
- Plenary sessions focusing on core program themes. These include Cities for Peace, Global Militarism, and City-Communities Collaboration; and
- Seminars and workshops running concurrently with the core programming on a variety of themes as initiated and prepared by participants.

A cultural component is proposed to occur in or alongside many of these activities, either as a prominent part of the program presentation, or as a concurrent activity at Forum sites. Specific cultural events (i.e. a program designed by Judith Marcuse) are noted as examples, although no specific details are included in the Plan.

The closing ceremony is described in a general way as including the best of the cultural performances and “Adoption of Strategies for Peace and Justice”.

Event Theme

The theme of the World Peace Forum is “Cities and Communities: Working together to End War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World.”

- Two of the proposed core program themes of the conference are Cities for Peace, and City-Communities Collaboration.

Venues

The Plan states that the University of British Columbia will be the primary site for Forum activities, with schools, parks and Vancouver Public Library facilities also being used. Certain key events (the opening ceremony, keynote speakers) will occur at more high profile venues i.e. BC Place and the Orpheum.

The Plan indicates that 1,000 delegate rooms at UBC have been booked.

Budget and Economic Benefits

The JSC has prepared a budget of \$2,180,000 for the Forum.

Funding Strategy

To date, planning activities for the World Peace Forum have been funded by grants from the Simons Foundation.

The JSC Plan identifies eight general sources of funds:

Source	Amount	% of Total Budget*
Simons Foundation	\$350,000	16%
Individual donors	\$150,000	7%
Non Profit Conference Sponsors	\$100,000	4.5%
Foundation Partners	\$100,000	4.5%
Federal Government	\$350,000	16%
Business	\$100,000	4.5%
City of Vancouver	\$150,000	7%
School Board, Parks Board, Library	\$100,000	4.5%
Registration	\$510,000	23.5%
Translink	\$35,000	1.5%
Revenue from Cultural Events	\$110,000	5%
Website Partnership	\$25,000	1%
Other Government	\$100,000	4.5%

* Percentages are rounded to the nearest .5%

Economic Benefits

The Plan outlines the expected economic benefit to the City from hosting the Forum. It sets out a standard economic benefits analysis for the Forum based on 25,000 hotel room nights, generating over \$7 million in direct spending and \$4 million in tax revenue.

We have suggested to the WPF that they revise these figures to reflect their plans to billet many of the participants. These accommodation arrangements would significantly lower the room night/benefit calculation.

There is no question that a Forum bringing 3,000 people to Vancouver will benefit the City economically. However, the figures provided in the current Plan overestimate the benefits from hotel room rental and associated spin-offs.

Feasibility Study Questions

An assessment of the feasibility of the proposed format, duration and theme as adopted at the preparatory conference being held November 26 and 27, 2004.

Plans

The preparatory conference did not adopt a format or theme for the Forum during its November session. The JSC prepared a Plan including these elements in early February 2005, and then revised them through to March 2005.

The Plan proposes that the City of Vancouver fund and host the general assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, and a joint meeting of representatives from the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace. It is not clear whether these activities would be held before, during or after the Forum itself.

The Plan then asks for funding for the World Peace Forum. The format of the Forum includes a range of activities, including:

- Events (talks/seminars) featuring notable national and international speakers at larger venues;
- Plenary sessions focusing on core program themes. These include Cities for Peace, Global Militarism, and City-Communities Collaboration; and
- Seminars and workshops running concurrently with the core programming on a variety of themes as initiated and prepared by participants. Currently the organizers have received suggestions for themes ranging from Building a culture of Peace, to Impunity and International Law.

The Forum is planned for June 23-28, 2006. The theme is “Cities and Communities: Working together to End War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World.”

Structurally, the proposed Forum format is a hybrid. The plan to have a large number of seminars and workshops initiated and managed by participants is a feature of conferences like the World Social Forums. The selection of a single topic, even one as broad ranging as Peace speaks to a more traditional conference style, and mandates more structure and management of the agenda than exists in the World Social Forum format. Both approaches have positive and negative elements, and combining the two creates its own special challenges. Some of these are discussed further in our assessments below.

The staging of this Forum in conjunction with the World Urban Forum is consistent with the World Social Forum practice, which was initiated as a parallel event to the Davos economic summit. Similarly, the plan to hold many workshops and seminars and include cultural and arts events as an integral element is also typical of this format.

The selection of a theme moves the format into more traditional territory than the World Social Forums, where “Another World is Possible” is the only guidepost for discussion. The formal linkage with the World Urban Forum and the agenda’s intentions to refine strategies and adopt them at the closing ceremony are also features not found at World Social Forums.

Assessment

Request for the City to host the general assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and to host a joint meeting of representatives from the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace.

This request is accompanied by a funding request for \$50,000. Forum organizers have confirmed that the recommendation is for the City, rather than the Peace Forum organization, to plan and fund these events.

The specifics of how these meetings might be structured, how they might fit with the World Urban Forum agenda and the World Peace Forum structure are not outlined in this Plan. Indeed, it is too early to know these details, and it will involve considerably more work to define a pragmatic and useful approach to the City’s suggested role.

However, there is an obvious potential for linkages between the World Urban Forum, the World Peace Forum and the suggested meetings of mayors and other officials suggested in the Plan. If Council chooses to accept this request, it would require further research and scoping before a final funding decision was made, and a commitment continued work through to 2006 to ensure a successful event for the City.

Linking with World Urban Forum

The idea of linking these events with the work of the WUF is valuable, since it allows access to delegates from cities around the world who might not otherwise

be available for a stand-alone peace conference. However, since the WUF program is still unclear, this linkage may not prove as strong in the long term.

Length

The proposed length of the Forum is consistent with other events of this kind, although rather on the long end of the continuum. Appendix A sets out some other major conferences, their lengths and budgets for comparison. As a conference schedule lengthens, the biggest challenges are the cost to participants for lodging, food and other necessities, maintaining a volunteer workforce for that time, and the need to program throughout the length of the event

Format

In general the hybrid format proposed here could be successful for an event of this type, but it requires both an intense and widespread organizational effort to accommodate the World Social Forum portion, and focused, politically sensitive organizational work to accommodate the needs of the more traditional program elements.

As an example of the former, the Boston Social Forum started planning their event 20 months in advance and over 300 organizations ended up helping to stage over 550 events during the course of the three-day Forum.

The Peace Forum has communicated with a wide variety of individuals and organizations around the world, but beyond an intent to establish an International Advisory Board whose tasks will include ensuring north/south balance and establishing international and regional processes necessary to make the WPF a success, their Plan does not indicate how the necessary linkages for the workshop/seminar portion of the Forum will be developed.

The more traditionally structured portions of the Forum are also not fully developed. This would ordinarily not be a great concern at this stage of program development. However, without a clear focus and plan, the organizers run the risk of having the intense demands of managing the workshop/seminar portions overwhelm the more conventional portion of the program.

An assessment of the interest at the national and international level in supporting and participating in such an event.

Plans

The JSC has received written support for the planned World Peace Forum from over 40 organizations in British Columbia, over 20 Canadian organizations, over 20 International organizations and numerous individuals. Among these are:

- The British Columbia Federation of Labour;
- The Arab Women's Solidarity Association;
- The Canadian Peace Alliance;
- International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War;

- Project Ploughshares;
- John Polangi - Canadian Nobel Laureate; and
- Lillian To - SUCCESS.

To date, these expressions of support have not included a commitment to financial or in-kind contributions.

Eight organizations have confirmed plans to hold events, meetings and conferences simultaneous to the Forum. These include:

- World Peace Council North American division with invitation to other Peace Councils;
- International Association of Peace Messenger Cities General Assembly;
- Joint meeting of Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace;
- Canadian PUGWASH Annual General Meeting;
- United Nations Association of Canada National Meeting;
- International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War General Meeting;
- International Peace Research Association Conference in Calgary; and
- The World Federalist Movement Annual Conference.

Assessment

Endorsement and active participation by diverse organizations is critical to the success of a conference that has a significant workshop/seminar component modeled on the World Social Forum.

As a point of comparison, the Boston Social Forum, held in July 2004 in conjunction with the Democratic National Convention, ran for three days, attracted over 5,000 people and was organized by over 300 groups ranging from labour unions to neighbourhood arts co-ops. Many of these organizations were intensively involved for over a year prior to the event.

The JSC has received endorsement from a number of significant organizations and individuals, as well as a number of smaller local or affiliated organizations. This level of involvement is not yet sufficient or structured enough to support the kind of work required to manage the workshops and seminars that are a key feature of a Forum of this type.

Developing the level of participation and work sharing necessary for this type of conference format requires a significant lead time, and it would ideally already be in place at this stage of development for a conference of this size and type. The current Plan does not indicate that this is in place, or a clear plan for how it would happen.

An analysis of the budget necessary for the proposed event and identification of possible sources of sponsorship and partnership from the non-profit and private sectors to achieve the budget.

Plans

The current budget for this event is \$2,180,000.

The JSC has prepared a draft budget setting out line items.

Currently a detailed fundraising and sponsorship development plan does not exist. The Plan states that upon City Council's endorsement of the project, a fundraiser will be hired and a fundraising plan will be developed.

Assessment

3 iterations of the project budget were received for analysis, and were regarded, in consequence, as a rolling draft. It is anticipated the additional changes to the project budget will be required as the World Peace Forum organizers continue to refine and adjust their plans for the project. In particular, the most recent iteration of the project plan has revised its conference population estimates, from 5,000 to 3,000 full delegates and "5,000 one-day delegates." This will require new estimates for many of the expense line items in addition to revised expectations for revenues based on delegate registrations.

In addition:

- The current budget does not properly distinguish between various types of revenue. There are not sufficient indications of which portions of revenues are expected as cash, and which as in-kind contributions.
- Some items that should be separately accounted for are not; i.e., the cost of the various venues is included in a single line. At this stage, projected venue fees should be separately noted.
- There are significant line items that are not currently listed, including security, outdoor tenting, sanitary and other facilities, and audio-visual infrastructure.
- With respect to food and beverages for delegates, the project organizers have explained that they intend to offer modest coffee breaks by means of sponsored providers. These remain expenses, and should be properly reflected in the budget, both in the expense and projected sponsorship columns. It remains IWC's position that adequate food and beverage facilities must be provided to accommodate a conference population of 3,000 full delegates and as many as 5,000 "one-day" delegates. It is unreasonable to expect existing service providers (i.e. UBC food services facilities) to efficiently accommodate substantial increases in traffic during restricted time periods (i.e. 11:30am – 1:30pm). Given the substantial costs for food and beverages, the project may wish to consider fee-for-service facilities, for example, out-of-doors food fairs, to accommodate the conference population.

It is true that budgets can vary widely for conferences, depending on the structure and policy decisions of the organizers. Attached as Appendix A is an informal outline of the relative costs of various large conferences.

The lack of a developed fundraising plan is a considerable issue. Certain structured preliminary activities should have occurred at this point in planning. For example an organized preliminary approach to key funding agencies would help prepare the ground for more formal funding requests in 2005, but there is no indication that this has happened.

Businesses, foundations and governments all operate on funding cycles, and often have only a single window during the year when Boards and Committees review and allocate grant dollars. Hiring a fundraiser, developing a plan and preparing grant application materials is likely to take some weeks. This lack of preparatory work and the late timing of fundraising activities puts the Forum at risk of missing funding opportunities.

In addition, certain funding options are not listed, including the provincial government and related provincial agencies.

Recommendations on whether the City should be involved in holding the Peace Forum, and if so, how the City should be involved and what are the necessary steps of engagement.

Plans

The City of Vancouver is being requested to host and fund the general assembly of International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and a joint meeting of representatives from the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Mayors for Peace and Cities for Peace. The City is also being asked to endorse the World Peace Forum and provide funding for the organization of the Forum.

Assessment

Policy/Format Issues

The Plan uses as background the City of Vancouver's extensive history in endorsing peace-related activities, ranging from endorsing the Walk for Peace to holding a public forum on nuclear war, arms control and peace. In this context, the general request for a City endorsement of peace-related activities is consistent with decisions of previous Councils over the past twenty years.

The request to fund and host the Cities and Mayors events should be considered as a stand alone item. Although associated with both the World Urban Forum and the World Peace Forum, by virtue of being held during the same time period, the City, not the Peace Forum, would sponsor these meetings.

There is currently no specific plan in place for these meetings, although the organizations have indicated their intention to meet in conjunction with the Peace Forum in Vancouver. Without some specific details about what this could entail, the City is not yet in a position to have confidence in the budget proposed, or to commit the funding outright.

As noted above, though, there is an obvious potential for linkages between the World Urban Forum, the World Peace Forum and the meetings of Mayors and other officials suggested in the Plan. If Council chooses to accept this request, it would require further research and scoping before a final funding decision was made, and a commitment to continued work through to 2006 to ensure a successful event for the City.

The request to endorse the Peace Forum itself presents some challenges for the City. Events patterned on the World Social Forum format are, by their nature, freewheeling exchanges of information and ideas, and there is always a risk of conflict and ad hoc activities taking on a tone or character that the City may not support.

The Forum Plan sets out a draft Code of Conduct, with commitments regarding respectful behaviour toward all participants and a non-tolerance statement regarding “hate speech” and other unacceptable activities. This provides a useful benchmark for all activities associated with the Forum, and should provide the City with some comfort about the range of opinions and comment during the event.

With the Code of Conduct in place, and with the City placed in a role of financial sponsor (as opposed to co-host or sole sponsor), the idea of endorsement becomes more manageable. Indeed, with a strong Code of Conduct statement to provide comfort about the overall tone and intent of the Forum, further participation by individual members of Council, as well as other elected representatives could be planned with more confidence.

At the Boston Social Forum, for example, two city Councillors co-sponsored a resolution welcoming the event to the City and various local, state and national politicians attended, participated and spoke. An extract from the Boston Social Forum’s program is attached as Appendix B. It provides a sense of the open and flexible nature of these events.

The Plan also requests the City to designate a staff person to work and liaise with the World Peace Forum and World Urban Forum, and adopt ‘peace and sustainability’ as the theme for the City of Vancouver banners in the spring of 2006. The selection of City banner themes is a separate decision item that should be handled through the normal process. The designation of a staff person (or equivalent resource) will be required should the City plan to hold the civic leaders meetings. If the City declines to host those meetings, then the allocation of staff resources to the other activities mentioned will need to be assessed.

Budget Issues

As noted above in the budget section, the specific financial ask of the City is not thoroughly outlined in the JSC’s Plan. There is a \$150,000 line item in the budget, but there are no indications of how much is cash (except for the \$100,000 grant program), how much is in-kind and where exactly it will be allocated. For example, there is not an estimate of how many City venues might be requested, for how many events.

The City’s policy regarding funding for events is under review at this time, including consideration of what might qualify as a civic event. Although in-kind

use of facilities has been provided in the past for City-sponsored events, the proposed Forum would be a uniquely large example of such a request. In-kind venue contributions do not cover other costs such as staff, clean-up, security, AV equipment etc. for those spaces. These latter items are not set out separately in the budget, so it is not clear if they are part of the request to the City.

Set against this somewhat unclear budget is the lack of a fully developed fundraising plan, and the single-source funding of all activities so far. Any event of this size faces considerable risks of cost overruns. Participants and organizers become enthusiastic, and the open program nature of the workshop/seminar sessions invite more, rather than less participation.

A more developed fundraising plan, and some progress on fundraising would provide more confidence that plans were in place to accommodate an event of this size, and provide insurance against worries about further funding requests in the future.

In summary, the current Plan put forward by the JSC sets out requests of the City that are manageable, and consistent with activities endorsed by past Councils. However, certain final elements would be advisable:

- An agreement to to host civic leaders' meetings would require further work to define specific format and funding questions, and continued involvement from the City through to 2006. At this stage of planning an endorsement in principle, subject to final approval once attendees and budget have been confirmed by the City would be an appropriate response.
- An agreement to endorse the World Peace Forum is appropriate, given the level of planning that they have done to this point, and in particular their commitment to a clear code of conduct for the activities associated with the Forum. However, a final Code of Conduct and engagement plan for the Code should be made available to the City Manager prior to formal endorsement.
- The budget and fundraising plans are not yet developed to a degree that supports Council's approval of the funding requested. A staged funding process, with disbursements based on benchmarks (either matching new fundraising as it comes in, or releasing tranches of funding at certain fundraising milestones) would be an appropriate way to support the Forum process, while ensuring that the City does not become a disproportionately large source of financial support for this ambitious project.

Liaison with the Chair and Vice Chair of Peace and Justice Committee on the feasibility study

IWC met with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Peace and Justice Committee, separately and together, to discuss their view of the Forum and review the Plan.

Appendix A

Conference Costs

This is an informal listing of large conferences and some of the costs and issues associated with them. It is very difficult to obtain accurate estimates for these events, since large in-kind contributions are often involved, and particularly in the case of World Social Forum events, many of the costs are absorbed by other agencies, and never accounted for the by the organizers.

Canadian Harm Reduction Conference			
Length	Budget	Delegates	Staff and Volunteers
3 days	\$477,000 C	350	100
<p>The conference's lead agency was Toronto Street Health. A planning committee, with 12 member organizations from across the country managed the overall decision making for the conference, supported by a number of sub committees and individuals.</p> <p>Significant expenses included: conference facilities and food; scholarships/travel subsidies; printing of conference materials; translation services; conference coordination; research & evaluation; curriculum.</p>			

International Harm Reduction Conference 2006			
Length	Budget	Delegates	Staff and Volunteers
4 days	\$1.5 million C	1,500	Unknown

Boston Social Forum July 2004			
Length	Budget	Delegates	Staff and Volunteers
3 days	\$200,000US	5,000	Unknown
<p>Organization began in 2002. For the first year the Campaign on Contingent Work (a labour/community non profit) was the fiscal sponsor and provided staffing. The North American Alliance for Fair Employment and the Service Employees International Union played a significant organizing role. Finally 300 organizations were involved in staging the forum.</p> <p>Over 60 percent of the \$200,000 raised to put on the BSF came from BSF registrations, tickets to BSF benefits, and small donations. About 25 percent came from the Service Employees International Union, and about 15 percent came from 4 small foundation grants, and 3 donations from wealthy individuals. Online fundraising played a major part, and was coordinated using groundspring.org - a Tides Foundation related organization.</p>			

...Conference Costs

2004 International AIDS Conference			
Length	Budget	Delegates	Staff and Volunteers
6 days	\$17 million US	14,300	1,400
Organized by the International AIDS Society, Thai Ministry of Public Health, and a number of other large organizations.			
Significant expenses included: facilities rental; technical equipment & staff; local & international scholarships; printing of conference materials; translation services; and security			

World Social Forum (Porto Alegre) January 2005			
Length	Budget	Delegates	Staff and Volunteers
5 days	\$6.7 million C	155,000	2,800 volunteers
Conference is organized by an international secretariat, a national organizing committee (containing 23 organizations), and many socially active groups.			

Appendix B

The boston **SOCIAL FORUM** welcomes you

The organizing of the Boston Social Forum (BSF) began with a humble proposition: we do not have *the* answers, if the right people come together in the right way, they will develop at least some of the answers, and perhaps even a new societal vision. And certainly, they will build on existing organizing projects and create new ones. With this in mind, the **Boston Social Forum** welcomes both you and the World Social Forum (WSF) process.

Following the model of the WSF, the **Boston Social Forum** is not a platform, not an organization, but an "open space... a meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and interlinking for effective action by groups and movements... committed to building a society centered on the human person." While the Forum will issue no final statements or declarations binding on all its participants, it will doubtlessly spawn many projects and new relationships.

This is the case with the run-up to the forum, with events involving thousands and bringing personalities as diverse as Felix Arroyo, Michelle Shocked, Diane Dujon, Howard Zinn, Noam Chomsky, and Chuck Turner, and cultural moments including showings of *The Corporation* and *Fahrenheit 911* and a 24-hour 4th of July "Celebration of Interdependence" music-a-thon. Organizing stretched from the Socialist Scholars Conference in New York through to festivals in Maine, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. Social Forums from as far afield as Turkey and Brazil sent their greetings and best wishes for successful forum on American soil.

As with other social forums, a majority of the nearly 600 events listed in this program are self-proposed—autonomously developed by their sponsoring organizations and not coordinated by any central body. Nonetheless, the Forum also features a number of collaborations and conferences that developed as part of the **BSF**-planning process: an Active Arts Youth Conference, organized by hip-hop activists; an International Peace Conference, drawing activists, parliamentarians and organizers from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America; three subject-area tracks—economy, immigration, and education—developed into full-fledged conferences (one with a bold and assertive title, "Other Economies Are Possible!"). Also organized are conferences

dealing with international crisis areas like Haiti and Palestine, and the Women's Web, exploring ideas from a woman's point of view. The major convocations of the **Boston Social Forum** will feature simultaneous translation into Spanish, ASL, and possibly other languages. Close attention has been paid to making the Forum compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Future forums, however, will have to improve accessibility to people speaking languages other than English.

The events, organized into more than thirty subject areas, do not take place in a vacuum; instead, they address real problems associated with the neo-liberal package of deregulation and privatization, destruction of the public sector, punitive welfare and justice policies, and corporate globalization. The people of New England attending the forum will find that the real-life struggles they face—including the bankrupting of local government, outsourcing of their jobs, privatizing of their water and power, denial of their civil, labor and human rights—are reflected in the programming. They will also find many approaches to challenging the ultra-aggressive military posture of the United States, as it continues projects in Iraq and the greater Middle East, subverting democratically-elected governments in Venezuela and Haiti, all while averting its eye to ongoing genocides in Sudan and elsewhere.

Where the World *Social* Forum began as a positive response in the Global South (held Poto Alegre, Brazil) to the gathering of world capitalists in the World *Economic* Forum (held in Davos, Switzerland), the **Boston Social Forum** sharpens the contrast between the polar parties of Davos and Porto Alegre, held as it is on a public university, bringing together labor, peace activists, immigrants, people of color, environmentalists and intellectuals, all at the same time that one-half of the US power structure gathers in the same city, Boston. Speaking truth to power, the forum will demonstrate that another world is possible from within the proverbial belly of the beast. *Another world is possible.*

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Special Tours

Friday, July 23, 2004 Environmental Justice Walking Tour – Roxbury

While the media spotlight shines on downtown, residents in many of Boston's communities of color and lower income neighborhoods continue to struggle for a clean and healthy environment where they live, work and play. Join us on a walk through and around Roxbury's Dudley Square. We'll visit some of the key sites in the battle for better public transportation, breathable air, sustainable re-use of vacant or abandoned land. Your guides will be staff of Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE), a Roxbury-based environmental justice group. Please reserve your spot in advance by calling or emailing Warren Goldstein-Gelb at 617.442.3343 x231 or email: warren@ace-ej.org. Meet at 10 am, July 23 (Tour will last about an hour and a half) ACE office, 2181 Washington Street, Suite 301, Roxbury MA

Saturday, July 24, 2004 History of Roxbury—from Colonial Times to the present time with Byron Rushing, State representative, leader

Join Representative Byron Rushing, on an engaging and thought provoking tour highlighting Roxbury's history. We will journey back in time to learn about Roxbury's rich past—native peoples, colonialists, Roxbury's part in the American Revolution, the many immigrant groups who made Roxbury home, the African American and Caribbean migration, and the legacy of social activism and the struggle for justice and equality continuing today. Leaving from the iron sculpture at the entrance to UMASS. Cost \$6 Pre-register by calling 781-861-8893 or buy tickets on our website www.discoverroxbury.org. 5:45PM-7:30 PM



Convocations

Gymnasium-Clarck Athletic Center

Friday 23

7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

Billie Jean Young
Winona LaDuke
Rabbi Michael Lerner
Eric Mann
Paul Farmer
Angela Davis
Achin Vanaik
Manning Marable
Sangita Nayak

Saturday 24

10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Ruba Eid
Anna Burger
Granny D
Guglielmo Epifani
Walden Bello
Akinbode Oluwafemi
Robert Haynes
Diane Dujon
Margaret Prescod
Paolo du Marke

Sunday 25

12.30 pm to 2.30 pm

Robert Reich
Dennis Brutus
Sonia Sanchez
Shujaa Graham
Jim Hightower
Maude Barlow
Gyung-Lan Jung
Rae Street

Overall Schedule Outline

Friday, July 23rd

1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Registration Opens
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Events I
3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Events II
4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Events III
6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Break
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Opening Convocation
9:00 – midnight Community Based
Events/Concerts/etc

Saturday, July 24th

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Registration Opens
8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Events IV
10:00 – 12:30 p.m. Saturday Convocation
12:30 – 1:00 p.m. Break
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Events V
3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Break
3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Events VI
5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Break
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Events VII
7:30 – whenever Community Based
Events/Concerts/etc

Sunday, July 25th

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Registration Opens
8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Events VIII
10:00 – 12:00 p.m. Events IX
12:00 – 12:30 p.m. Break
12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Closing Convocation
2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Events X

Tracks/Subject Areas

Tracks	Abbr.	Tracks	Abbr.	Tracks	Abbr.
Active Arts Youth Conference	AAYC	Funding Our Movement	FOM	Other Economies are Possible	OEAP
Anti-Poverty Track	AP	GLBT track	GLBT	Peace	PEAC
BSF Film Series	FILM	Global Justice	GLBJ	Science & Technology	SAT
Challenging Corporate Power	CCP	Haitian Development		Strategic Non-Violence	SNV
Climate Change	CLCH	Health	HLTH	Student & Youth	SAY
Criminal Justice/Domestic Repression	CJDR	Immigration	IMM	Water	WAT
Culture	CUL	International Peace Conference - A World Working Together For Peace	IPC	Women's Liberation	WOML
Democracy	DEM	Israel-Palestine Conference	ISPA	Women's Web/Feminist Agenda	WWFA
Economy	ECON	Lifestyles & Personal Choices	LPC		
Education	EDU	Localization	LOC		
Environment	ENV	Media	MED		
Faith	FAI	Movement Building	MVTB		
Fund the Dream	FTD				

Special Offsite Events

Friday, July 23, 2004, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Play: Fannie Lou Hamer's "This Little Light of Mine"
hosted by City Councillors Felix Arroyo, Chuck Turner and Charles Yancey
The Harriet Tubman House
565 Columbus Ave, Boston, MA 02118
Free

Saturday, July 24, 2004, 8:00 p.m - 2:00 a.m

Benefit/Party: Another World is Possible
The Middle East Restaurant/Club & T.T. the Bear's Place
Performances by Billy Bragg, The Foundation, The Reagan Babies & many more.
\$30, tickets available from the Middle East and via Ticketmaster

Convergence Zones

More than the events listed in this program, the forum is about spontaneous networking and relationship building. To facilitate this process, the organizers have designated a "convergence zone directory." At this location, anyone can choose a space on the BSF site and list it as a meeting space for people who share their outlooks and/or identities and/or intellectual interests and/or geographies. Visit to directory to see spaces that others have created or to initiate one of your own.