Unions and Cooperatives Working Together: A Strategic Dialogue

Friday, September 14th, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm
(boxed lunches will be served at 12:30)
Los Angeles Trade Technical College
400 West Washington Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90015-4108

We are a network of unionists allied with the worker co-op movement. We invite you to a strategic dialogue to explore the worker co-op alliance and strategy for organized labor.

Organized and Sponsored by the Los Angeles Union Cooperative Initiative (LUCI) * Union Co-op Council of US Federation of Worker Co-ops * Cincinnati Union Co-op Initiative * 1worker:1vote * Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies at City University of New York * Shared Capital Co-op

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This gathering is for unionists as part of the pre-conference activities of the Worker Co-op National Conference 2018, a convening held every other year with the goal of strengthening worker-owned businesses and building the movement for workplace democracy.

Labor unions are already starting to ally with worker co-ops around the country and around the world.

Many labor unions have found that the worker cooperative business model can be a tool for strengthening unions, organizing workers and building worker power.

- **Cooperatives are a tool to save union jobs.** In Chicago the United Electrical Workers helped workers convert an existing factory to create New Era Windows, which now operates as a worker cooperative.

- **Unions help workers create jobs.** In Madison, Wisconsin, the South Central Labor Federation advocated for a new city-funded cooperative enterprise development program to help low wage workers start their
own worker-owned enterprises. The Federation helped strengthened ties with low income workers and communities of color.

- **Union investment strengthens unions and cooperatives.** The Maine Lobstering Union, a union-coop affiliated with the International Association of Machinists, borrowed $1 million from fellow Machinists locals to help buy a lobster wholesaler. This enables the unionized lobster fishing fleet to better control prices.

- **Unions can organize new members and unionize new companies.** In Denver, CWA Local 7777 helped unorganized taxi drivers form a unionized worker-owned taxi company. The local now has over 1,000 new dues paying members.

  **In breakout sessions, these topics will be addressed:**
  
  Voices from Current Union Worker Cooperatives; 
  Converting Businesses to Unionized Worker Co-ops; 
  Funding and Technical Assistance for Unions Interested in Worker Co-ops; and Union Worker Co-op Curriculum.

This is a challenging moment for organized labor. Union / co-op activists from throughout the country and beyond will attend this pre-conference. **We are inviting you to join us.**


- Register for the Worker Cooperative National Conference September 14th -16th: [https://conference.coop/register/](https://conference.coop/register/)

- Consider having your union be a **sponsor** for our event. Please contact us at (424) 244-0633 or [LAUnionCoops@gmail.com](mailto:LAUnionCoops@gmail.com)

We’ll reach out to you during the summer, but feel free to contact us to discuss this upcoming event.

**We hope you can make it!**

For more information, please contact us at (424) 244-0633 or [LAUnionCoops@gmail.com](mailto:LAUnionCoops@gmail.com)

All the best from the Union Co-ops LA Planning Committee:
Paul Ahrens, Los Angeles Union Cooperative Initiative (LUCI) & IATSE-R
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Lis Ryder, Los Angeles Union Cooperative Initiative (LUCI) & AFSCME
Rebecca Lurie, Murphy Institute at CUNY
Kristen Barker, Cincinnati Union Co-op Initiative & 1worker:1vote
Mark Fick, Shared Capital Co-op
Karla Salazar, Los Angeles Union Cooperative Initiative (LUCI), AFSCME Local 741 & L.A. Young Workers