HUMANS OF Solidarity economy
an economy that works for all
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#HOSE

THE COWRY COLLECTIVE

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Solidarity Economy STL

Mutual Aid Network

thecowrycollective.org

solidaritystl.org

mutualaidnetwork.org
Solidarity Economy St. Louis is a coalition of social justice organizations, small businesses, and individuals striving to build and grow a "solidarity economy;" that is, an economy that embodies the values of social justice, ecological sustainability, mutualism, cooperation, democracy, and innovation while resisting the notion of "every person for themselves."
**Our Work**

**1: Coalition and base building**
Growing our network through social events, canvassing, skillshares, etc.

**2: Capacity building**
Supporting member groups with community outreach, collaboration, travelling opportunities, and fundraising.

**3: Campaigns**
Building political and economic power through the implementation of solidarity economy practices and the opposition of policies which harm our communities.

**We Are**

- Solidarity Economy STL
- THE SOWHOMOS ORGANIZING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
- MORE
- The Cowry Collective
- Roots Coop
- Yeyo Arts Collective
- Citizen Zen Charity
- Metro Trans
- Twin Project
- Sweetart
- + more...
What is TIME BANKING?

Our Mission:
The Cowry Collective Timebank (CCTB) is a network of people engaged in reciprocal exchange of services, skills, and goods through a timebank where the currency is an hour of time for everyone. Through membership in the CCTB people: create and strengthen community bonds, create economic freedom by providing an alternative means to get needs and desires met, and encourage creativity in redefining self-sufficiency, interdependence and valuation of time. The CCTB introduces a paradigm where members reflect on the available resources in their lives moving from a perception of scarcity and lack to abundance and wholeness.

"Every day is a bank account, time is our currency. No one is rich, no one is poor, we've got 24 hrs each." — Christopher Rice

Cowry shells were used as currency for centuries across the world throughout Africa and in China and continue to be used ceremonially among indigenous peoples of North America. By naming ourselves, The Cowry Collective, we give reference and reverence to these practices.
Our Values

Assets: Everyone has capacity to contribute to the well-being of our community.

Work: We who carry out vital roles including raising healthy children, helping keep their communities safe and caring for those more vulnerable, need to be validated and rewarded for our essential work.

Reciprocity: We need each other. Giving and receiving are part of building positive social relationships & communities.

Social Capital: When we belong to a mutually supportive and secure social network, we bring more meaning to our lives and new opportunities to rebuild trust in one another.

Respect: Every human being matters. We all deserve respect from each other and civic institutions.

*From Timebanks USA*
WE AIM TO:

1. Make the solidarity economy practices that already exist in STL more visible.

2. Be a space where people and organizations can share best practices, collaborate, and mutually support each other in our pursuit of a more just economy.

3. Lead campaigns that fight back against the injustice inherent in our current economic system and win resources for our solidarity economy. We want to build political and economic power.

4. Function as an outreach and recruitment mechanism for existing solidarity economy initiatives. We want to build an organized base of individuals who are knowledgeable about, engaged in, and fighting for the solidarity economy.

5. Inspire the development of NEW SOLIDARITY ECONOMY INITIATIVES.
Meet: Chinyere E. Oteh

Capitalism means compromise to me. Compromising your happiness or your path to full self-actualization because you are in survival mode or a survival program. In this mode you are concerned chiefly with how you earn money to pay bills and keep a roof over your head. Our dreams often come second to surviving. Our thriving comes second to our surviving.

In a solidarity economy we honor that our happiness, success, health and wealth are bound up in each other and that we are not winning until the weakest of us are uplifted.

First time trying a smoothie and they came back for seconds!!! Winner!!!

The priceless assets in my portfolio.

Solidarity economy means uniting across our perceived and real lines of economic and political justice.

I was born in Florissant, MO and grew up in St. Louis, the suburbs of Detroit and the suburbs of Washington DC.

TimeBanking Royalty w/ Stephanie Reagick & Renee

We honor the struggles + strengths of all people and groups involved in the movement while uniting over our shared need to live full lives, lives where we are not stuck in a mode of survival.
I was born and raised in Lubbock, TX, a first generation Taiwanese American. I moved to STL in 2011 for school, and I've been here ever since. I love STL, because it's the kind of place where a small group of people can change a lot. I see capitalism as one of the root causes of so many issues that we're facing—the climate crisis, rampant poverty and unemployment, institutionalized racism. It's impossible to solve any of these issues without thinking about our economic system. Because, at the end of the day, the economy is just how we distribute our resources and meet our needs. On a personal level, I'm always looking for ways to make creative exchanges, and I love offering cooking & gardening skills, piano lessons, and basic Mandarin lessons. I'm constantly challenging myself to live the way I want to live, with less $$. And more people.
We believe that economic exchanges, both monetized and non-monetized, should exist to meet human needs, not generate enormous profits for corporations. Because our current economic system does not embody this belief, we must work to change it.

There is not a single route to building the solidarity economy. We must experiment. We must strive to create the world in which we want to live, while also engaging with and improving the world in which we already live.
What are the economic tools that will move us closer to collective liberation?

JOIN US!

to celebrate the work that many of us are doing and learn more about

#SOLIDARITYECONOMYSTL

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