

People's Movement Assembly in Portland
Outreach Organizer Kit
Registration and Resolution Deadline April 17th

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- How to represent your group to the PMA in Portland

PMA in Portland Process Overview, includes:

- Deadline for group registration (April 17th)
- Deadline for submitting resolutions (April 17th)
- Process for group decision making to pass resolutions by the PMA on May 8th

Outline for Outreach Contact

Use these questions and points to introduce people and groups to the PMA in Portland. This contact is best made by phone or in person. Follow up should include an email that covers these same points and can be shared with other group members (sample included below). Subsequent contact will be made prior to PMA meetings and key deadlines as a check in to support ongoing participation.

The goal of this contact is to:

- Generate interest and excitement in the PMA by connecting the groups interests and priorities with the opportunity of the PMA
- Walk through the steps of the process to make participation as easy as possible, acknowledging that this is a new process that we are excited to be experimenting with
- Provide clarity on and walk through timeline for key dates and share forms

Conversation Points and Questions:

Introduction – Thanks so much for talking! I am part of a group that is organizing for a People's Movement Assembly in Portland. We are really excited to connect with you and your group to invite you to be part of the PMA too!

Briefly PMA – The PMA is a new kind of gathering that is intended to bring a community together to make decisions about what values they affirm and what actions they want our social justice movement to take. There are PMAs happening around the

country that will bring their resolutions to the US Social Forum in Detroit this June. The PMA in Portland will be May 8th.

Why the PMA is cool! – We are excited about the PMA in Portland because it's a chance to bring the different communities and issues in our movement together to talk about what we share in common and to deliberate together about at least one shared action that we can all commit to taking. This might sound simple, but if we can come together on our own, and not because we are convened by a foundation or other outsiders, and decide across a broad diversity of groups who work for racial justice, anti-poverty, youth, environmental justice, workers rights, queer rights, immigrant justice, and more and agree to all take action together we think this is a huge step towards real movement building and the people power that we have the potential to harness. This is what we'll be striving towards on May 8th and then what we'll be bringing to Detroit to the People's Movement Assembly at the US Social Forum this June.

Decision Making at the PMA and Setting Expectations – The other thing that we're excited about is that we are going to practice a new kind of decision making at the PMA in Portland. Getting so many groups together and making a decision that we all feel involved in is going to be a challenge!

Our hope is not that we set the bar low and only agree to the lowest common denominator among our groups, but that we use this process to listen to what our deep connections might be, what common root causes might unite us, what creative actions that address these might be. Many of our groups will be drafting resolutions, and while we might agree to many different values statements, it is likely that we will only agree to one joint action. We think that's okay! Committing to one joint action that resonates with each of the diverse participating groups means that many of the different communities who work on a broad array of issues and concerns were able to find a common point of action to commit their resources too. We think that is a huge step forward! But we want to make sure that you understand that this is a process of dialogue and deliberation and not just a process of rubber stamping every resolution.

In order to engage every group in a real way we are experimenting with a new decision making process based on small groups. There is more in this hand out.

Questions!

- What are the main things that your group is working on? What are your priorities?
- Are there barriers to movement building that you run into? Like what?
- Do you think that your group would be interested in participating in the PMA in Portland?

This is what participating in the PMA in Portland means:

- Registering your group by April 17th.
- Reviewing all resolutions and sharing concerns with them by May 2nd.
- Sending at least one rep as a decision maker to the PMA on May 8th

Optional

- Sending in a resolution by April 17th.
- Attending PMA planning meetings
- Encouraging other groups you work with to participate

Questions!

- What other questions do you need answered? What other support do you need to share this back with your group?

Forms to review:

Group Registration Form

Resolutions and Representation, includes:

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Draft Follow Up Email

Dear xxxx,

Thanks for taking the time to talk with me about the People's Movement Assembly in Portland coming up this May 8th. We are so excited that your group will be participating!

As I mentioned to you when we spoke, this is an opportunity to strengthen our movement here in Oregon...

Attached are the forms that outline the PMA more and remind you about important deadlines. Don't forget to register by April 17th!

If you need anything else or have questions, feel free to give me a holler anytime at

Thanks and looking forward to talking more soon!

XXXXXX

Attached and online are the...

Group Registration Form

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Resolutions and Representation

How to write a Resolution for the PMA in Portland

A resolution is a formal expression of opinion or intention made, after discussion and democratic decision making process, by a group. For the US Social Forum the resolutions are in the form of action and commitments. Use the following guide for crafting your resolutions.

Template from the USSF PMA Working Group:

This template is a suggestion, resolutions can and should be adapted to your community's process.

- Because these conditions exist:
- And because these opportunities are possible:
- We commit to this action:
- And call on others in the US to join us.

What kinds of commitments and action and commitments make good resolutions?

Most of our work is performed with only our own group's goals in mind. Movement building happens when you expand your field of vision to look across organizations, across movements and look for barriers that keep our work small and isolated. Here are some examples:

Beginner – resolution for action on only your group's short term goals, current campaign.

General: “Everyone should join our campaign and help us win...”

Specific: “Participate in our action to protest the recent editorial decision of the Oregonian”

Intermediate – resolution for action that is in-line with your current work, but looks long term.

General: “We need to work together and our campaign is one part of the broader struggle for...”

Specific: “Help us form a coalition to hold the Oregonian accountable for years of pro-developer, anti-community decisions.”

Advanced – take a step back and really think about what we need to build a movement

General: “Our movements need... We resolve to spend the next 2, 5, 10 years to build...”

Specific: “We need to strengthen our community run media. Resolve to turn our monthly community paper(s) into weekly or daily papers and/or online news sources.”

How to represent your group to the PMA in Portland

Your goal will be to represent the collective opinion to the best of your ability. In other words, your opinion matters, but only in the context of your membership in your group. This is in contrast from how elected officials in the US usually see their role as speaking FOR us. Thus their individual opinion is the supreme factor in their decisions, even when it is the opposite of what the majority of their constituents want.

A good question to ask yourself when you're representing a groups is, “What would the group say if they were here?” Some groups may choose to send multiple members to be able to enable instant feedback for big or challenging decisions.

PMA in Portland Process Overview

What is a Resolution for Action?

Basic Resolution for Action content from USSF 2010 PMA Organizing Kit:

- Because these conditions exist:
- And because these opportunities are possible:
- We commit to this action:
- And call on others in the US to join us.

Two kinds of resolutions

Resolutions where time/resources are not a barrier for agreement.

This will be where we build movement analysis, movement vision, and movement solidarity. If they're well written, and not too politically radioactive, they should be agreed to. Public Healthcare for All, Oppose Evictions, Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Support Right to Unionize(EFCA), etc. Hopefully many of these.

Resolutions that require time/resources.

Only 1 (MAYBE 2) could possibly be agreed to by all. All groups have limited budget and resources and existing goals, deadlines, obligations to meet. Campaign to transfer funds from corporate banks to State Bank, Day of action in support of _____, etc. This is exactly the big challenge and the potential power of the PMA.

Ideally each group would submit one of each. Would be good to set expectations that only 1 of the resource heavy resolutions will be agreed to by all.

Process leading up to PMA on May 8th.

Between now and April 17th. Invite and work with groups and help them understand this process and draft resolutions.

Deadline for group registration and resolution submission – Sat, April 17th

April 18- May 2nd Work with groups to review, discuss and share concerns with others' resolutions. Ideally resolutions shared with all as well as specifically with group who submitted resolution. Groups may modify their proposal to respond to concerns before the PMA on May 8th. Work to facilitate communication to make this process simple to understand as well as transparent. Ideally we should find no significant surprise concerns raised on May 8th, instead they should all get to the authors' 3 weeks before the PMA.

Deadline for groups to share concerns with others' proposals – Sunday, May 2nd

May 2nd – May 7th Groups have less than 1 week to modify their proposal to respond to concerns. Major modifications risk introducing new concerns. Again, should be no major surprises on May 8th.

Decision Making Process for May 8th PMA – 4 sessions:

Initial call for concerns or agreement:

Reading of full text of all resolutions(modified and not) asking representatives for any concerns. Resolutions should be read in 2 groups:

- Resolutions with no substantial resource/time commitment. If there are no concerns with proposals from this group, they are considered to be agreed to by the PMA in Portland.
- Resolutions with time/resource commitment. Since we obviously can't take action on all of these resolutions, concerns raised should be limited to major political, disagreement. Ideally most concerns have been shared and attempted to be addressed through preliminary review prior to May 8th. All resolutions with time/resource commitment move on to the next level along with any concerns raised(1-2 hrs.)

1st Level Discussion and Synthesis: (2hrs min)

Break all representatives into clusters of 5 or more representatives to discuss resolutions that require time/resources and try to come to agreement on one. Requires great facilitation. Each cluster will send a representative to the next level. Proposals can be combined, reworked, but may risk concerns being raised in final confirmation.

2nd Level Discussion and Synthesis: (1-2hrs)

Process repeats with 1 rep from each cluster of representatives trying to come to agreement on 1 resolution for action.

Ratification of resolutions: (1-2 hrs)

Final step for ratification of the resolutions a call for concerns from all representatives on the 2 kinds of resolutions.

- Any resolutions with no time/resource commitment that had concerns were raised in the morning session that have been modified to address concerns.
- The resolution build from the 2 levels of discussion will have a final call for concerns. If processes were successful, there should be no concerns raised.
- Resolutions agreed upon by all at the PMA in Portland will be sent on to the National Assembly in Detroit on behalf of the PMA in Portland.

If agreement cannot be reached on a resolution:

- We will record for each resolution a straw poll of groups that do support it even if there are outstanding concerns or otherwise everyone cannot come to agreement with the time we have together.
- This will be made available for all to share and continue to organize around and work to build agreement.
- At their discretion, any group can on their own or in coordination with other groups still submit their resolution to the National Assembly even if everyone in at the PMA in Portland can't come to agreement on the resolution.