



**THE UNITED STATES  
SOCIAL FORUM**

## **HOW DOES IT ALL WORK?**

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
about participating in the US Social Forum  
**Atlanta, GA ~ June 27 – July 1, 2007**

**Who should attend?** Organizations working for domestic and global justice, as well as people in struggle for a just world – community members, artists, students, workers, immigrants, teachers, etc.

**How do I register?** You can register online and pay by credit card, or you can download the registration form and send it in with your check or money order to the address on the back of this sheet. If you are an organization or school, you may register up to three participants on one form. Organizations (\$125-\$300 sliding scale) and individuals (\$15-\$100 sliding scale) are invited to register. We encourage you to copy the registration form and share it with other organizations that may want to attend.

**What will happen during the 5 days?** The first day, June 27, will be a festival, with a welcoming procession, performances, film festival, arts & crafts, popular education classes, and more. The following three days, June 28-30, will follow a structured flow, informed by stories of struggle and relationship building. The Program Working Group has created a focus for each day: **Day 1** - Sharing Information & Building Consciousness / **Day 2** - Connecting our Visions / **Day 3** - Strategizing & Taking it Home. On the final day, Sunday, July 1, we will hold a joint action/demonstration to both celebrate our work and show our strength.

**Who makes decisions about the USSF?** In 2005, the USSF Planning Committee held a national meeting in Atlanta. Together, we developed a structure for the USSF planning process that includes those people from all regions within the US who are most affected by globalization.

**Regional Organizing Committees:** 10 regions. Regional committees are primarily responsible for outreach, mobilization, and representing their issues at the Forum. Committees will contribute resources to Working Groups.

**Working Groups:** Cultural/Fundraising/Program/Outreach/Communications/Youth/ Logistics/Women  
Each region will have a set of Working Groups to develop local leadership and decision-making in the USSF process. The 10 regional Working Groups will coordinate efforts nationally by participating in regularly scheduled conference calls.

**Local Host Committee:** The Atlanta LHC will take primary responsibility for organizing the logistics for the USSF, assisting USSF staff organizer(s) in achieving the goals of the Forum, and will also be responsible for local outreach, local resources, and the infrastructure for the USSF.

**Organizing Committee:** The OC will coordinate the Regional Organizing Committees (ROC), Working Groups, & the Local Host Committee. The OC is responsible for making final decisions on policy and the overall organizing plan. The committee includes representatives from each ROC, each Working Group, representatives from the Local Host Committee and the USSF Lead Staff Organizer.

**Who sets the program agenda?** The United States Social Forum is self-planned: those who register to attend will set the agenda. Registered organizations attending the USSF can submit a proposal for a presentation. (*The proposal application form is available online.*) You can submit as many proposals as you like, and may submit a proposal to present either alone or in collaboration with another group. You have the opportunity to pack the schedule with sessions on a range of issues, such as farmworker organizing in the US, LGBT youth, health care justice, livable wage, gentrification, movement building, organizing in the Gulf Coast, environmental justice, prison issues, reproductive justice, black/brown alliance work, war, community arts, cultural policies, arctic wildlife refuge drilling, and war/foreign policy.

**How can I participate?** You can distribute information in your community, join your regional committee, participate in a working group, arrange for your organization, school, church, synagogue, mosque, or community group to spread the word about the USSF by serving as speakers, increasing people's knowledge of the World Social Forum. You can also make a donation to the Helping Hand Fund to ensure that students and the unemployed may participate in the USSF.

**How can I connect with others in my community who are coming to the USSF?** Connect with your regional committee to see if they have plans to mobilize your community for the USSF. Visit our website and log onto the message board to share information about rides, room shares, and more.

**How will I get there?** Each individual or organization is responsible for transportation. Many organizations are planning to coordinate buses and caravans.

**Who can help me attend?** We urge you to discuss sponsorship and support with your organization or local church, synagogue or mosque. If you belong to an organization that receives foundation funding, we urge you to approach them about creating an additional travel subsidy grant that will not impact your current level of funding. Most foundations are willing to provide travel grants to organizations and their constituencies.

**What about childcare?** Childcare will be provided at several sites on a sliding scale according to the participant's ability to pay.

**Where will I stay?** Each individual and organization should arrange for his or her own housing. We are negotiating prices with several hotels in the Atlanta area. Some hotels will allow up to four people per room, which will make the cost very affordable. Recommended hotels and prices will be posted on the website. Check out the online message board for alternative housing with community members.

**What will I eat?** We are working to identify economical kitchens for low cost food, but each individual will be responsible for his own food.

**What if I want to be a vendor?** You can sign up to sell merchandise, be a food vendor, or staff an information table. Vendor information is listed on our website. You can contact the USSF staff at [info@ussocialforum.org](mailto:info@ussocialforum.org) or fill out the form online.

**What should I bring?** Bring information about yourself, your work, and your organizations. Bring t-shirts or other items to share, trade, or barter. Bring your imagination, creativity and solutions to share. If you are sun sensitive we suggest you bring an umbrella to protect you from the Atlanta sun. Bring friends and partners in the struggle to share this incredible experience with you.

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*For more information please contact:*

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