



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**

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.**

- **RSVP** for this special event here: <http://bit.ly/LACoops>
- Register for the Worker Cooperative National Conference September 14th -16th: <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

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

All the best from the Union Co-ops LA Planning Committee:

Paul Ahrens, Los Angeles Union Cooperative Initiative (LUCI) & IATSE-R

Mary Hoyer, US Federation of Worker Cooperatives Union-Coop Council & AFT-R

Lis Ryder, Los Angeles Union Cooperative Initiative (LUCI) & AFSCME

Rebecca Lurie, Murphy Institute at CUNY

Kristen Barker, Cincinnati Union Co-op Initiative & 1worker:1vote

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