

**From archived NWSF web site... the press kit for the cancelled event**

For Immediate Release

**“Another World is Possible” – The First Northwest Social Forum in Seattle October  
15 – 17, 2004**

*Democracy at Work: Participants share ideas, brainstorm possibilities, develop plans for social change, and learn about issues facing voters in November’s election.*

**What:** Northwest Social Forum

**When:** Friday – Sunday, October 15 – 17, 2004 (Thursday - special pre-event at Town Hall)

**Hours & Locations:** **Thursday**, pre-event at Town Hall, Eighth & Seneca Streets, 7 p.m.

**Friday**, 2:00 p.m.- 10 p.m., Seattle Center, 305 Harrison Street, and Sacred Heart Church, 205 Second Avenue North at Thomas Street

**Saturday**, 9 a.m. – 10 p.m. & **Sunday**, 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m., Seattle Center Northwest Rooms, Center House and nearby venues

**Registration begins at 10 a.m. Friday and at 8 a.m. Saturday & Sunday at Seattle Center’s Northwest Rooms**

**Cost:** Events and exhibits in Center House are free.

Weekend admission (Friday – Sunday) ranges between \$10 - \$15; early registration and group discounts are available, as are some scholarships.

**Note:** Thursday night’s pre-event panel at Town Hall is ticketed separately. Tickets are \$15.00 (\$10 with purchase of weekend NWSF admission).

**Tickets:** Available online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

**Information and** [www.nwsocialforum.org](http://www.nwsocialforum.org); by telephone: (206) 448-7348

**Pre-registration:** ext. 342 OR toll-free at 888-697-6242 (866-NW-SOCIAL), OR e-mail:  
[info@nwsocialforum.org](mailto:info@nwsocialforum.org)

SEATTLE – The Pacific Northwest’s interpretation of social, economic and environmental issues will begin on Friday, October 15, as the first **Northwest Social Forum** (NWSF) gets underway after 18-months of planning. Three days of panels, educational workshops, round table discussions and cultural events are planned to bring together various communities, inform interested individuals, and provide a venue for dialogue on alternatives. Modeled on the World Social Forum (WSF), which began nearly five years ago in Porto Alegre, Brazil, the NWSF has adopted the WSF theme, *Another World is Possible*.

Prior to the opening of the Forum, a panel presentation at Seattle’s Town Hall on Thursday, October 14, features several members of the International Forum on Globalization (IFG), considered to be some of the global justice movement’s leading scholars and activists. Participants include **Vandana Shiva**, activist from India, **John Cavanagh**, Director of Washington, DC’s Institute of Policy Studies, **Vicki Tauli-Corpuz** of the Indigenous People’s Center in the Philippines, and locally-based **Dr. David Korten**, author of *When Corporations Rule The World*.

The Northwest Social Forum opens on Friday and continues through the weekend at Seattle Center and nearby venues. More than a hundred individuals have collectively planned the weekend’s activities. Organizers have received over 200 event proposals. Participants are expected from Washington State, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, British Columbia and the Yukon. While designed to give under- or misrepresented voices a place to speak, the public is also invited to participate.

“This isn’t about organizing just one event,” said Rosalinda Guillen, director of Bellingham’s Food Justice Alliance and one of the NWSF planning committee members. “It’s a new wave of engagement. We’re getting together, creating an infrastructure for conversation, and shaping our future. We’re beginning a process and developing visibility for issues that pertain to all of us in the Northwest. We embrace dissent, even about the Forum itself. We’re practicing – and strengthening – democracy, energizing communities and bringing the political process home.”

## **Themes and Programs**

The Forum is divided into seven broad themes with more than 20 different tracks, from global and environmental justice and economic alternatives, homelessness and poverty, to women's rights and peace and militarism (a comprehensive list follows). Some of the workshops or panels include Food Justice, Creating Sustainable Neighborhoods, Building Healthy Networks, Marriage Equality, Proportional Representation and Corporate Accountability.

On Sunday, "Jerusalem Women Speak" features three women of different faiths – Christian, Muslim and Jewish – who are currently touring several U.S. cities to speak about their one shared vision: peace in the Middle East.

Cultural events include a 6:00 p.m. celebration on Friday featuring a wide range of musical performances. A Social Forum *Film Festival* will bring together a collection of new and powerful social-issue films, many by Northwest filmmakers, including the world premiere of *Argentina: Hope in Hard Times*. Other opening night screenings include *The Agronomist* and *Thirst*. Film screenings will take place Friday through Sunday on-site at the Forum and at several venues within easy walking distance from Seattle Center. A theatrical piece by the Village Players from Dignity Village, Portland's tent city, portrays the lives of low-income residents of a seaside hotel called, "The Fillmore Hotel."

Non-profit and merchant booths will be onsite to provide information about individual organizations and movements.

## **What is a Social Forum?**

The World Social Forum developed in response to the World Economic Forum, an annual meeting of leaders from around the world with a primary focus of global business – a forum that disenfranchises much of the world population. The social forum facilitates policies and practices that demand government and corporate accountability, environmental sustainability, and equality and respect for humanity in all its colors and circumstances. Regional forums have sprouted around the world to create dialogue at the local level, develop inclusion within the progressive movements, identify common goals, strengthen relationships, and facilitate collaboration and action plans.

“People of color and poor communities should be the stewards of this event, and our leading voices,” said Cindy Domingo, Board Chair, Center for Social Justice and member of the NWSF planning committee.

The Northwest Social Forum is ‘self-organized,’ and developed after many individuals from the Northwest attended World Social Forums in Brazil and India. A three-day planning retreat was hosted by Positive Futures Network, followed by numerous planning and organizing meetings that have built momentum. The Northwest Social Forum is one of few held in the U.S. to date, with the most recent US social forum held last July in Boston, just before the Democratic National Convention. Boston played host to more than 5,000 participants with 600 events over three days.

“Another world – one of cooperation, inspiration, peace and justice – is not only possible but also necessary for our survival. And it’s beginning to emerge through the World Social Forums and now regional forums,” said Lucilene Lira of Friends of the Landless Workers Movement and NWSF planning committee member.

## **FACTS: About the Northwest Social Forum**

- The Northwest Social Forum (NWSF) brings together activists, organizers and community groups from Alaska, British Columbia, the Yukon, Washington State, Oregon, Idaho and Montana who are working on issues of social justice, economic inequity and environmental degradation.
- Held at Seattle Center and nearby venues October 15-17, 2004. A pre-event will be held on Thursday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall featuring a panel by members of the International Forum on Globalization.
- Daytime sessions on Friday are informal and include an afternoon opening ceremony. Saturday and Sunday programming begins at 9 a.m., with a closing ceremony officially ending the Forum's planned programming on Sunday afternoon.
- Activist organizations and community groups across multiple issues are actively creating programming for this event.
- NWSF is modeled on the four World Social Forums that have taken place in Brazil and India and on the burgeoning number of regional social forums taking place around the world.
- Panels and workshops are a place for participants to share ideas, struggles and successes; it incorporates dissent. It also includes cultural events and exhibits.
- Cost to attend ranges from \$10 to \$15; however, other arrangements can be made. A 'Solidarity Fund' dedicated to making sure low-income people are able to participate has been established. Thursday night's pre-event IFG panel at Town Hall is \$15.00. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

- How to participate:
  - Host visitors attending the NWSF
  - Hold a preliminary or solidarity event for members of your community
  - Get your organization involved; see the [www.nwsocialforum.org](http://www.nwsocialforum.org) for working group committees or e-mail: [info@nwsocialforum.org](mailto:info@nwsocialforum.org)
  - Donate funds to the Solidarity Fund to sponsor individual attendees in need of financial assistance
  - Volunteer at the NW Social Forum
  - Plan to attend!

### **Themes:**

- Globalization, Economic Justice, & New Economic Models
- Protecting the Commons & the Public Good
- Peace, Justice, & Militarism
- Environment & Environmental Justice
- Human Rights, Racial Justice & Gender Justice
- Music, Art & Culture of Resistance

### **Conference tracks under the above themes include:**

- Criminal Justice/ Domestic Repression
- Democracy/ Electoral Reform
- Economic Alternatives
- Economic Globalization and Economic Justice
- Education
- Environment and Environmental Justice (includes Climate Change and Energy)
- Spirituality and Social Justice
- Food, Land and Culture
- Global Justice
- Human Rights, Immigrants, and Racial Justice (includes: Muslim, Middle Eastern, and Arab Rights)

- Homelessness, Affordable Housing, and Poverty
- Labor and Worker Rights
- LGBTQ Community Rights
- Media Democracy
- Movement Building and Social Forums
- Peace and Militarism
- Tools and Skill Building for Activists
- Women's Rights

**The NWSF and its goals and principles are endorsed by (a partial list):**

- American Federation of Government Employees, Local 3197
- American Friends Service Committee
- Asia Pacific Task Force of the Church Council of Greater Seattle
- Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
- Center for Social Justice
- Central House
- Church Council of Greater Seattle
- Community Alliance for Global Justice
- Community to Community/De Comunidad a Comunidad
- Fremont Public Association
- Friends of the Landless Workers' Movement
- The Heritage Institute
- Inter-Faith Task Force on Homelessness
- Jam for Justice
- King County Alliance for Human Services
- King County Labor Council
- Northwest Labor and Employment Law Office
- Oregon PeaceWorks
- Palestine Solidarity Committee

- PATHWAYS: New & Views on Healing Ourselves and Our World
- Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action
- Reclaim the Media
- Seattle Human Services Coalition
- Teamsters Local 174
- Tools for Change
- United Farm Workers of America AFL-CIO, NW Region
- U.S. Women & Cuba Collaboration
- Vancouver Community Social Forum
- Wallingford Neighbors for Peace and Justice
- Washington Biotechnology Action Council

**Endorsements, continued**

- Washington State Jobs with Justice
- Washington State National Organization for Women
- Washington Women's Voter Project
- Whatcom County Rainbow Coalition
- Women's Housing, Equality and Enhancement League (W.H.E.E.L.)
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Seattle Branch
- YES! Magazine

**Financial and in-kind support comes from:**

- American Friends Service Committee
- Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
- Boulder Community Foundation
- International Institute for Education
- New World Foundation
- Center for Social Justice
- Church Council of Greater Seattle

- Friends of the Landless Workers' Movement
- PATHWAYS: New & Views on Healing Ourselves and Our World
- Project Alchemy
- Seattle Center
- SEIU Local 6
- Vancouver Community Social Forum
- Washington State Jobs with Justice
- Tools for Change
- YES! Magazine

Additional funding was provided by M.E. Casey Foundation, Boulder Community Foundation, and International Institute for Education.

Contact: To get involved, learn more about the NWSF or sign up for working groups see [www.nwsocialforum.org](http://www.nwsocialforum.org); or send e-mail or call: [info@nwsocialforum.org](mailto:info@nwsocialforum.org); 206-448-7348, ext. 342.

## **Background: Northwest Social Forum**

### **World Social Forum**

The World Social Forum's (WSF) galvanizing motto '*Another World Is Possible!*' is a powerful mantra for 21<sup>st</sup> century social change movements. The first World Social Forum, held in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001, brought together individuals, organizations and non-governmental organizations focused on alternatives to current social and economic policies and practices.

The Forum runs concurrently with the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, where the world's political and business elite have gathered for the past thirty years to strategize and formulate the economic agendas and policies of globalization. At \$20,000 a plate and \$50,000 for an annual membership, the WEF creates policies that champion profit over people. The WSF is a global response to the WEF, which has been grossly overlooked by the North American mainstream press for its powerful resonance worldwide toward a better and more humane future.

The WSF is a place where groups can network, strategize, share knowledge and focus on the alternative solutions that many communities are forced to develop in opposition to the unsustainable practices of corporate globalization. The first three WSF's held in Brazil gathered hundreds of thousands of delegates, 80% of which were from Latin America and 20% from other parts of the world. The fourth WSF took place in Mumbai India; the fifth, January 26 – 31, 2005, is again scheduled to take place in Brazil, and the 2006 event is potentially scheduled for Africa. The Forum has grown from roughly 20,000 delegates to over 100,000, representing more than 130 countries. Events range from conference panels, workshops, and youth camps (the WSF 2003 had a youth camp 35,000 people strong), to film festivals and arts, music and culture!

Devised for participants to self-determine their own agendas and action plans, the Forum provides a place where people connect, share struggles and create social change by and for the people. Issue

areas range from environmental and social justice to food security, immigrant rights and farm worker and media issues.

The World Social Forum has inspired regional Social Forums around the world. After many regional and thematic Social Forums across Latin America, a hemisphere-wide Forum was held in Quito, Ecuador last July, the first Forum of the Americas. Social Forum groups exist all over North America, from New York to Toronto, from Vancouver, BC to Vancouver, Washington. This summer saw the successful development of the Boston Social Forum, which, along with the Northwest Social Forum, are building block towards a national US Social Forum, for which planning is already underway.

## **Creating the Northwest Social Forum**

The premise of Social Forum is to work toward a world in which economies serve people, not the other way around.

Those who attended the 2003 World Social Forum came away feeling that it was a very powerful event, and soon began talking about creating a local event as soon as they returned home.

Planning for the Northwest Social Forum began in February, 2003, to bring together social change movements from Alaska, Yukon Territory, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and beyond. A three-day NWSF planning retreat took place in April of 2004, sponsored by the Positive Futures Network, gathering 40 regional representatives to organize and plan the first NW Social Forum (NWSF).

Cindy Domingo, a NWSF Planning Committee member who attended the retreat, said the group determined that the NWSF must bring together people from throughout the region, where marginalized and people of color “could play an important role” and have a space to “share, connect, and develop partnerships.”

Viki Sonntag, a member of the NWSF Program Committee, said, “When we find places for people to vocalize the changes they want to see in the world, we can begin to realize those changes. I think that’s what the Northwest Social Forum is at its highest level. There are diverse views about what might happen or could happen and that’s part of the engagement, the exchange and the communication. It’s about bringing diverse voices together for social change.”

Sonntag said that participants will “share and join with other people and draw from the strength of the diversity at the NWSF. I’m sure there are different interpretations of what that means. Some people have their own agenda about what they want to talk about; others are there to learn. Ultimately, I think the Forum is a place for learning together, to draw on our collective knowledge and experience and

create the kind of world we want to live in. The idea is to have an open space and an open process. It's important because we need to find new ways to create momentum and move in the direction of a just, more sustainable, participatory and democratic way of being. The Forum, because it embraces diversity, has the possibility of creating that kind of momentum.”

**The Northwest Social Forum takes place October 15 – 17, 2004 at Seattle Center and other satellite venues across Seattle. A pre-event will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall with the International Forum on Globalization (IFG). For more information please visit:**  
[www.nwsocialforum.org](http://www.nwsocialforum.org).

## **Northwest Social Forum 2004: PLANNING COMMITTEE**

### **American Friends Service Committee**

Marco Mejia, Organizer (Portland)

### **Center for Social Justice (NWSF Fiscal Agent)**

Dan Merkle, Executive Director

Cindy Domingo, Board President

Bob Hasegawa, Board Member

Seattle, Washington

### **Church Council of Greater Seattle**

Michael Ramos, Director of Social Justice Ministries

Seattle, Washington

### **Food Justice Alliance**

Rosalinda Guillen, Director

Bellingham, Washington

### **Friends of the Landless Workers Movement (FMST)**

Lucilene Lira

Olympia, Washington

### **Positive Futures Network/YES! Magazine**

Fran Korten, Executive Director

Bainbridge Island, Washington

### **Washington State Jobs with Justice**

Lynne Dodson, Co-Chair

Seattle, Washington

## ***International Forum on Globalization* hosts panel prior to the opening of the Northwest Social Forum, Thursday, October 14, at 7:00 pm, Town Hall**

*A thriving network of communities is changing the way the world thinks about the global economy. This event marks the release of the Second Edition of the IFG's "Alternatives to Economic Globalization: A Better World is Possible."*

**What:** International Forum on Globalization – Panel Presentation

**When:** Thursday, October 14, 2004, 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

**Where:** Town Hall, 8<sup>th</sup> & Seneca Streets in Seattle's First Hill neighborhood

**Cost:** \$15 (\$10 with advance purchase and weekend admission to the NWSF); advance tickets can be purchased online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

**IFG Media Contact:** Antonia Juhasz, 415-846-5447 (cell) 415-561-3490 (office)  
*Interviews with authors can be arranged immediately by contacting Antonia Juhasz.*

The International Forum on Globalization (IFG) hosts a pre-event panel and a book launching during the Northwest Social Forum in Seattle, October 15-17, 2004. **On Thursday, October 14, 2004**, the IFG will host a panel entitled: *"Five Years After the Battle of Seattle: Where Have We Come and Where Are We Going?"* at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 1110 Eighth Avenue, Seattle, and on **Friday, October 15, 2004 at 5:00 p.m.**, a book release and reception will take place at Elliot Bay Bookstore, 101 South Main Street, Seattle.

The distinguished panel at each event will include:

- **Vandana Shiva** - Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, India
- **Maude Barlow** - Council of Canadians, Canada
- **Victoria Tauli-Corpuz** – Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education, the Philippines
- **Jerry Mander** - International Forum on Globalization, U.S.
- **Lori Wallach** - Public Citizen, U.S.
- **John Cavanagh** - Institute for Policy Studies, U.S.
- **Tony Clarke** - Polaris Institute, Canada
- **David Korten** - People-Centered Development Forum, U.S.

The IFG is an alliance of 80 leading international scholars, economists, researchers, writers and activists representing over 60 organizations in 25 countries. Formed in 1994, the IFG stimulates new thinking, joint activity, and public education to counter and provide real-life alternatives to corporate-led globalization.

Five years ago at the “Battle of Seattle,” the IFG provided leadership among civil society groups and key analyses of the many flaws of the current model of globalization. With the release of the second edition of *Alternatives to Economic Globalization: A Better World is Possible*, they answer the question: “What would you do differently?”

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This book represents a shift in the global justice movement from just protesting to providing more democratic, equitable and sustainable models and visions.

*The IFG is “one of the most serious and respected groups of experts dedicated to analyzing and generating alternative proposals to the prevailing economic model promoted by international financial agencies.”*

1- La Jornada, Mexico

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In-depth bios of panelists are available on request. **Contact: Antonia Juhasz, 415-846-5447 (cell) 415-561-3490 (office)**