

Immigrant Voices



Medios Caminantes

(First Spanish Track)

www.groups.google.com/group/medios-caminantes/

12th Annual Allied Media Conference

<http://www.alliedmediaconference.org/>

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Detroit, Michigan

CONTEXT-INTRODUCTION

The lack of decent and fair immigration policy by the United States government and the absence or poor implementation of protective measures-for the millions of people who have migrated to the United States in search of better living conditions-in bilateral agreements with the governments of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, has facilitated the growth and spread of anti-immigrant and racist groups, as well as incorrect enforcement of laws such as "287-G", adopted for the detection of terrorist cells and now being used to deport immigrants for minor infractions like driving home from work without a license. All this, coupled with the economic crisis, budget cuts and the mass elimination of jobs, have led immigrant communities in the United States to organize to defend their rights and to meet their basic needs for housing, health care and education. In order to achieve their goals, and to disseminate their thoughts and feelings, some of these organizations have taken up the task of developing their own media. Today we see the need to meet, talk and articulate as communication media-makers, with the aim of sharing our organizing experiences, our skills, and our dreams.

DESCRIPTION

Medios Caminantes is looking to support and advance Spanish-language media-based organizing in Latino and Caribbean immigrant communities throughout the United States. With a focus on building a Spanish-language community media network, this track will promote the exchange of resources and organizing models amongst Spanish-speaking media-organizers and creators. At the 2010 AMC, Medios Caminantes will focus on the sharing and exchange of radio communication skills with hands on radio production trainings, workshops on how to use radio as an organizing tool, and a radio building workshop. Medios Caminantes will also have an open forum to discuss models for using media to empower the Spanish-speaking community and to generate ideas for next year's track.

This proposal was created from the collective interest and effort of various people and groups who all share a common focus: **Radio as a tool for community participation.**

OBJECTIVES

The organizations proposing this track all work in developing radio projects in Latino communities throughout the United States. We believe that creating a space for the Latino media-making community to exchange ideas and share skills and experience will strengthen our networks and help sustain the work we have already started.

We also believe that the development of this track will help establish a media strategy for the Latino immigrant community that will reframe how Latin@s are portrayed in the media and uphold our right to live with dignity. It will serve to share different experiences and strategies in order to create a space for capacity-building and articulation (national network) that strengthens the radio-based work of Spanish-speaking Latin-American and Caribbean immigrant groups and organizations.

Some of our specific goals are to:

- Bring out organizing experiences (stories, obstacles, accomplishments, goals, etc).
- Share capabilities associated with the development of free media.
- Coordinate joint activities (campaigns, actions, etc).
- Share audio productions.
- Document training processes to provide models for the reproduction of these workshops in our towns and communities.
- Build a network of organizations and groups to serve as a platform for solidarity and

strengthen our local resistance and ability to exercise our rights.

METHODOLOGY

Through the use of popular education techniques and practical and participatory workshops, we wish to share our skills and experiences, find common objectives, and explore different strategies for generating the necessary conditions for the articulation and strengthening of our radio projects.

The track will be 3 working days and will consist of 6 Workshops and 1 Open Forum. It will be primarily in Spanish, but some of the workshops will be bilingual: English and Spanish.

Ideally each participating organization will have at least one man and one woman present. More are certainly welcome. Participation can consist of facilitating workshops and/or participating in those being taught by other groups. The workshops are practical-experimental and based on the fundamentals of popular education as an educational method to share experiences and capacities.

We will document the entire process with the aim of systematizing the knowledge and experiences in order to return meaningful information to the participating groups.

WORKSHOPS

1. Rethinking The Communications

This workshop will explore the role of the media and entertainment in the construction of Latino identity. Looking at the constructed stereotypes of Latino/a immigrants in the US, this discussion will focus on how media shapes our families and our daily lives and focus on deconstructing misperceptions of Latino/as living in the US.

Objectives:

- Identify and differentiate between: information media and communication media
- Understanding the role played by information and communication media in our society and influence in the lives of people
- Inspiring participants to engage in the process of transforming media to empower their communities and to deconstruct stereotypes.

Coordinator: Clara Ibarra, Democracy Now!

2. Audio Production

As an open production Lab, this workshop is designed to be open to all levels of radio producers, expert and novice. Through collaborative learning and skill sharing, participants will learn basics in recording and editing for radio.

Objectives:

Participants will work on and learn about the following themes and elements:

- Selecting themes and doing investigation and research for production
- Components of radial language
- Radio genres and formats
- Script development and writing
- Editing (using Audacity)
- Compression formats

Coordinators: Felix Ortiz (Jornaledos Unidos) and Zoilo Blass (Se Hace Camino, NY)

3. Build, repair and maintenance radio equipment

This workshop is part of the Medios Caminantes track will equip participants with the skills and knowledge to build, maintain, operate and repair low powered radio equipment (transmitters, antennas, audio mixer, microphones and cables).

Prior to this workshop track coordinators will conduct a consultation with the various radio projects participants to collect ten questions survey to determine what are the most common technical needs of community radio stations. The objective is to answer these concerns in addition to expanding general knowledge.

Coordinator: Maka Muñoz, Palabra Radio

4. Streaming Radio Flujos Vivos

We propose a two-part workshop that consists in the presentation of the Flujos-Live CD and a lab that will involve a collaboration to produce a radio streaming using the Flujos-Live CD freeware. The Flujos Live-CD is an operating system completely integrated by Freeware based on Debian distribution and is oriented toward the publication and transmission of audio on the Internet. It was created by the Flujos collective in collaboration with other collectives and autonomous spaces and individuals from free media collectives in Mexico. It makes available diverse applications that facilitates any kind of work related to audio and the Internet, from navigating the Web or using instant messaging, editing audio, converting audio formats, extracting audio from CD's, and of course Internet streaming. One of the principal characteristics of a live-CD is that the operating system is prepared to for use directly from the CD without the need to undertake any kind of installation or to modify the hard disk drive of your computer. Flujos-Live was created as an instrument of support for free radios, a tool to create a radio that transmits on the Internet; all on one CD. Flujos Live is still in development, therefore the tests that we perform in different teams helps us to improve its performance. We're proposing not just a workshop but also laboratory of testing that consists of accomplishing a streaming of radios and collaborating with the development of Flujos-Live.

Coordinator: Ana Martina independent media journalist and Jen Lawhorne is a media-maker from Richmond.

5. Voces Moviles New Technology

Mobile Voices (vozmob) is a platform for immigrant workers in Los Angeles to create stories about their lives and communities directly from cell phones. Vozmob helps people with limited computer access gain greater participation in the digital public sphere. In this participatory workshop, participants will actively engage in a process of popular communication by participating in a hands-on how to create and post multimedia stories directly to the web from their cell phone. As a group, we will then have an interactive dialogue about how cell phones can be used as a part of an organizing tool.

Coordinators: Natalie C. Arellano, Sasha Costanza-Chock, Amanda Garcés

6. Medios Caminantes Experience-Exchange Forum

An open forum inviting all immigrant organizations and community radio projects to share the

results of their work and experience of how radio has helped their community share information and organize. While this track is open to all, but it is specifically focused on exchanging ideas and experiences of latino immigrant.

Objectives:

The facilitator will use five questions of each panelist to share and find commonalities, similarities and differences:

- Brief description of social and economic context in which they live and work
- Goals and Objectives
- Communication strategies in the community and the organization
- Main obstacles in the work of organizing and media creation
- Next steps

Each organization may use a space to install a small stand, if desired, and sell or promote their work, in addition to the center of the forum there will be an open microphone to present their experiences and learning.

At the end of the session will present a panel with key commonalities and differences as a platform for creating a media network created by groups of Latino immigrants and the Caribbean.

Coordinación: John Jairo, Unidad Latina en Acción / Radio Callejera

FINANCING/FUNDRAISING

Human Resources needed:

- Coordinators and facilitators of each workshop and session
- Dissemination
- Organization of events to raise funds

Economic Resources needed for:

- Transport
- Feeding
- Accommodation
- Materials

Fundraising strategies:

1. Create an audio CD containing a compilation of productions made by the various hispanic immigrant community radios participating in the track. The CD will be sold for \$10, and each organization should take responsibility for selling at least 10 CD's, and can use the money to help finance their participation in the track and at the conference.
2. Spring Tour: Making Waves <http://makingwaves.prometheusradio.org/>
3. Sell T-shirts and Mano Vuelta DVD
4. Events and activities to raise money
5. Contributions of money from organization
6. Logistic Support
7. Transportation support

RADIO PROJECTS

- [Radio Callejera](#), Unidad Latina en Acción, New Haven, Connecticut
- [Radio El Kilombo](#), El Kilombo Intergaláctico, Durham, North Carolina
- [Radio Conciencia](#), Coalition Immokalee Workers, Immokalee, Florida
- [Radio Movimiento](#), Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, Woodburn, Oregon
- [Domestic Workers United](#), New York City, New York
- [Centro Obrero](#), Detroit, Illinois
- [New Immigrant Communityt Empower](#), Queens, NY
- [Make the Road](#), NYC, NY
- Jornaleros Unidos, Queens, NY
- [Radio Diaspora](#), Atlanta, Georgia and Chicago, Illinois
- [Expresiones Hispanas Radio](#), Hudson Valley, NY
- [Radio Sombra](#), Cimarrones Producciones, Los Angeles, California
- Radio Tijera, Los Ángeles, California
- [Voces Moviles](#), Los Angeles, California
- [Flujos Vivos](#), International Project

Palabra Radio

www.palabraradio.org

An independent network of people who offer training, technical support and accompaniment to communities, collectives and social organizations who want to start or maintain a low-power, participatory and independent FM radio project.

People's Production House

<http://www.peoplesproductionhouse.org/>

Is comprised of journalists and community organizers from historically excluded communities. Our projects are unique in that they embody two of the United States' most important traditions: Community organizing and the creation of independent media, in order to build a community of free media organizers: young people with knowledge and skills, and workers who can create and demand media that serves their interests.

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