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PLEASE FORWARD AT WILL

VENEZUELAN MEDIA ACTIVISTS COMING TO
ALLIED MEDIA CONFERENCE and US SOCIAL FORUM
Cross-border call for Collaboration

A delegation of Venezuelan media activists from ANMCLA (National Association of Independent and Alternative Community Media) are hoping to take part in the Allied Media Conference and the US Social Forum this summer in Detroit, Michigan from June 18-26. The group includes members of the indigenous Wayúu resisting coal miner exploitation in Zulia, Radio La Vega, one of the oldest community radio stations in Caracas, the video collectives Calles y Media of “Venezuela Bolivariana” and Voces Urgente in Lara, an active participant in the construction of socialista comunes as a new form of local self government and participatory democracy.

The group is interested in collaborating in as many ways possible at the conferences. They are hosting a workshop at the USSF called “Venezuela Bolivariana,” a first-hand discernment of autonomous community activism in Venezuela discussing indigenous rights, community media, urban collectives and forms of participatory democracy in Venezuela. At the AMC they will be sharing their experiences around the construction of community radio and video cooperatives, and discussing their struggle to socialize 33.3% of the radio-electric spectrum community run media run. Their goal is to foment direct connections for future collaboration.

They are in need of funding for the trip. Attached below is an estimated budget of all expenses they will incur during their time at the AMC and their stay through the US Social Forum, as well as the bios of the delegation members, and their proposed workshop description. Any contribution, tips on organizational affiliations to reach out to, collaboration through waived fees or offered housing, or fundraising on their behalf would be greatly appreciated. They can provide videos for movie showings or anything else necessary.

ANMCLA is a revolutionary social movement in the field of communication that includes more than 300 collectives in Nuestra America. It began in 2002 as a collective answer to a diversity of obstacles that coalesced within the varied community media movements in Venezuela. The scarcity of resources, the necessity to amplify the creation of community media across the country, the continuous attack of the commercial media, and the nearing possibility to actualize the long struggle for the democratization of the national radio-electric space are only a few of the reasons. In this sense, ANMCLA is the consolidation of an organizing initiative that foment, articulates and defends the diverse processes of independent and alternative community media that we are rapidly developing.

Delegate Bios, Workshop Description, Estimated Budget, Donation Information continued below

BIOS:

José Diego Fuenmayor: Wayuu documentalist, from the Sierra de Perija fighting against the exploitation of coal in native territory that has displaced Wayúu families and contaminated the water supply to the city of Maracaibo.

Gerardo Rojas: Founding member of ANMCLA working with community media since 2002 through the community radio station Radio Crepuscular 99.5 FM and as a founding member of Audiovisual Colective Voces Urgentes. From the Center of Comunal Power (a state government center that has been taken over by community media and cultural organizations) he is currently promoting the development of the Socialist Comuna Ataroa.

Leo Sanchez: Former cultural activist and militant of the collective Disobedience and the Assembly of Barrios in Caracas, he is a founding member of the cooperative La Odizea, an ecological experiment in Hato Arriba, the rural foothills of the Andes, where he participated in the development of the Social Network of Hato Arriba (a network for community organizing before the existence of consejos comunales) and the rural cultural circuit Proyecto Juglar. He is a graduate of Misión Cultura currently promoting the new community radio station Hato Arriba Libre 91.7 FM.

Katrina Kozarek: Founding member of Calles y Media and current member of Voces Urgente, Katrina facilitates the youth formation of Voces Urgente through Travesuras, a summer program that trains at-risk youth in horizontal organizing and cooperative values through the socialization of skill sets like video and radio production. She has lived and worked in Venezuela since 2004.

Francisco Cortes: Coordinator for Radio La Vega, the oldest pirated radio station in Venezuela, and member of Caribes de Itagua, a 30-year-old socio-cultural organization fundamental to the early political formation of the barrios organizing around water and transportation rights. They use traditional drumming, cultural activities, and audio-visual workshops to organize and empower their communities.

WORKSHOP: Venezuela Bolivariana

Facilitated through direct dialogue with participants in local Venezuelan social movements and organizations, this workshop will discuss important advances in the successful construction of popular and local power in Venezuela, emphasizing the importance of the role of territoriality and a renewing movement that insists that communities are to be the front of the national politics. We will explore experiences of collective construction with urban communities in Caracas, the development of socialist communes, youth activism, and the community media movement. Through the presentation of audiovisuals and rounds of interchange and discussion about concrete experiences both in the US and Venezuela, we hope to share a side of the revolutionary process in Venezuela that goes beyond its government, parties and institutions and create lasting ties with similar popular movements in the United States that can re-enforce popular and local movements in all of nuestra amerika, from Alaska to the Patagonia.

Short Description (for printed program): Urban collectives, socialist comunas, community media and cultural movements, indigenous and campesino struggles in Venezuela.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Category	Cost	Explanation
Plane Tickets	\$ 678.00	Cost for June 17-June 27
Visa costs	\$ 223.00	Application/processing fee
Food	\$ 200.00	20/day * 10 days
Housing	\$ 400.00	40/day * 10 days @ Wayne State
Registration	\$ 30.00	AMC fee
Subtotal	\$ 1,531	Per person
TOTAL	\$6,124	For all four delegates

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Please contact Amanda Eckerson at 203.500.0484 or ace@bmediacollective.org for more information.

Donations can be made online by debit or credit card at www.bmedicacollective.org

Tax deductible donations can be made to the NW Alliance for Alternative Media and Education:

NAAME re:Venezuela
2807 SE Stark
Portland, OR 97214

Or via paypal to
bmediacollective@gmail.com