

SEPTEMBER 28TH

FRIDAY – Unitarian Church Annex

9 - 10:30 – Access to Capital –

How to build structures to supply funding, when and how businesses need it.

20 minute coffee & bathroom break



10:50 - 12:20 – Retail Space –

Access for the little and medium sized business



Act Local First.

The path to quality jobs, deeper connection and wealth-building for more neighbors is tied to the number and diversity of locally-owned businesses in a community. Support local production for local needs, celebrate the unique, and choose locally owned businesses first.

Since 1990, small locally-owned businesses have created ALL of the net new job growth in the USA. (SBA)



Prioritize Equity.

We are all better off, when we're all better off. Build supportive services and infrastructure for the jobless and under-employed, with attention on race and zip code, so everyone can reach their full potential. Align labor, anchor institutions and businesses in creating local economies that work for all.

The American economy would gain \$2.1 trillion in gross domestic product (GDP) every year by closing its racial gaps in income, a 14 percent increase. (Policy Link)



Shift Capital.

Community Capital represents a growing movement of people and institutions keeping more of their money in their community. Invest in community-based businesses, divest from Wall Street, prioritize under-capitalized communities, and champion "living returns" reflecting the real value of healthy, equitable economies.

Quebec's governmental pension fund started investing in local businesses 30 years ago, creating 87k new jobs and preventing 82k from moving overseas. (Marquette University)



Share Ownership.

When ownership is held broadly, and rooted in community, there is greater resilience. Move economic control from distant corporations to local communities and choose democratic economic models like worker ownership, land trusts, and the protection of public assets.

When cooperative businesses achieve significant scale within a local economy (5–10% of the workforce), there are higher indices of social well-being related to health, education, crime, social participation and perception of the social environment. (Project Equity)



Time to Eat and Discuss – 1 hour (Lunch provided)

Details and registration for the conference are available at www.civiladvocacyproject.org.
Contact veronica@civiladvocacyproject.org with questions.

1:30 – 3:00 – Building (soft) infrastructure – culture, childcare, food deserts, transit options

20 minute coffee & bathroom break



3:20 - 4:50 – Building (soft) infrastructure – Energy, Environment and efficiency

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Regenerate Soil & Nature.

If the animals, plants, soil and water we depend on are not healthy, our communities cannot be healthy. Apply holistic land management practices, embrace renewable energy and energy-efficient transit, divest from fossil fuels, and use business to restore ecosystems and reverse climate change.

A rapid shift from monocultures and corporate control, and toward organic, small-scale farming, and a mosaic of sustainable, regenerative production systems, is the answer to "feeding the world." (UN Farming Report "Wake Up Before It's Too Late")

4

Accelerate Collaboration.

Coordinated support for entrepreneurs and changemakers allows more of us to succeed, faster. Foster systems of mutual support for local businesses, and build shared infrastructure and technical assistance to advance collaboration.

Strengthening networks and information sharing between many local businesses can yield the benefits of "economies of scale" by equipping many small businesses to succeed. (MIT CoLab)

SEPTEMBER 29TH

SATURDAY – First Presbyterian Church Basement

10- 11:30 – How can Non-profits, Business Coalitions and Individuals step in to change laws and regs

7

Co-create Policy.

Including all stakeholders in the process of making decisions leads to better, more equitable outcomes. Advocate for policies that level the playing field, particularly for local businesses, those historically oppressed, future generations, and our natural world.

Of the \$70B+ in local tax dollars spent annually on 'economic development' by U.S. states and cities, approximately 75% goes to subsidize large corporations. (Good Jobs First)

8

Cultivate Connection.

Today's complex crises require a fundamental transition from "me" to "we." Choose connection, awaken the hearts of entrepreneurs, and align business objectives from growth and transactions, to what we know creates deeper well-being: connection with purpose, community, awe, and compassion.

The highest lever for systems change is the "mindset out of which the system arises." (Donella Meadows)

11:30 – lunch time (exact time TBD) – Q & A and discussion