

Join the ISBO Summer Project in Colombia and Jamaica

Urgent call to all who want to participate in the creation of an egalitarian new world from the people of three communities in Colombia and Jamaica

“We live in an Afro-descended community in Colombia. Most of us have to go out every day to find something to eat. Our electric bills for the month cost more than our food for the month. We need to learn to make our own electricity so we can stop paying electric bills. We need to grow healthy food in the very little space left since huge corporations have taken our land to produce bio-fuel. Is there someone out there who can come help us start this summer?”

The speaker is a young bottom-up organizer from the International School for Bottom-up Organizing (ISBO). ISBO organizers are building prototypes of self-sufficient egalitarian communities in the Americas. If you have had the opportunity of being educated or learning skills or trades, we think you have both the responsibility and the need to pass on that knowledge to the most oppressed. ISBO is based on the idea that the true genius and leadership for the creation of an egalitarian new world lies amongst the poorest and darkest among us, especially women. Bring us your minds and hearts this summer!

ISBO has planned summer projects for learning the skills of self-sufficiency in at least three communities in Jamaica and Colombia. At a planning session, another organizer from a poor Afro-Colombian community said:

“First, you must know we are all the same people. Second, this is a different kind of process: we don’t have self-interest, but rather collective interest. Third, we are in a process that has been going for many years and its philosophy is equality for all regardless of your color. Our work must be built with the participation of everyone in the community. We are giving everything we have and ask you to contribute with your mental capacities and economic resources. Your participation is of optimal importance.”

Another organizer envisioned elders who were in the old revolutionary movement that also wanted an egalitarian world: “I believe there are lots of older people in the world who are dying to come take part in a magical process like what we are doing. They are sitting there, maybe in the places that experimented with socialism. We don’t want their knowledge to die with them – it’s not fair to them or to us! We say, you get access to us, to our spirit that will make you feel like you wouldn’t mind dying tomorrow; we get access to your knowledge so we can build the world we all want to build!”

If you know how to

- make electricity, bio-fuel from waste materials, pedal generators
- organic and hydroponic food production
- electronic communication (communication with the world via the internet)
- teach English or Spanish

or have other skills beneficial to creating self-sufficiency, we need you!

Volunteers will live in the community and spend 24/7 with the on-the-ground organizers – working, learning, eating and playing together. You will learn about egalitarian living and organizing from the people themselves, who are the best teachers. If you still want to go home after that, you will be taking skills and knowledge with you, as well as sharing yours with us. We're sure we will develop a long, ongoing relationship.

What if I love the idea but I can't come?

We still need your help! We have a huge need for people who can help us get the resources we need to do our work. For the summer project, we will need money for transportation, room and board for volunteers, and materials, and equipment. We also need plenty of in-kind contributions: video and still cameras, digital voice recorders, computers, scanners and printers, paper and ink, telephones, tools, medical equipment: you name it. We need people to get the word out about what we're doing. We have a world to build!

What do I do if I want to participate or help?

Contact ISBO at bottomuporganizer@gmail.com or write to ISBO at P.O. Box 7295, Port Antonio, Portland, Jamaica. Tell us who you are, why you are interested, and what you have to offer.