New Economies Press Briefing:

**Rebel Cities**

**Cities as laboratories for democratic transformation**

Thursday, October 5, 2017

2ET/1 CT/ 12 MT/ 11 PT

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/c98ead5a99e551cb34538d7d4481ef37](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fzoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2Fc98ead5a99e551cb34538d7d4481ef37&sa=D&usd=2&usg=AFQjCNG6Bsk-JDmvlmj7nvZxOEwYFjNDnQ" \t "_blank)

Since the New Deal, social justice advocates often have focused on making change at the federal level. Increasingly, however, the most radical experiments in participatory democracy and transformative economies are happening in cities.

The power of cities has been in the news recently as municipalities create sanctuary for undocumented people. Sanctuary cities are one manifestation of ongoing intersectional efforts to create a vibrant urban commons. This briefing will focus on ongoing programs in Jackson, Mississippi and Madison, Wisconsin to transform local economies in order to create economic democracy and community ownership, plus a presentation from Katie Gilbert on how to cover these municipal projects.

**Kali Akuno (Co-Founder & Co-Director, Cooperation Jackson**

Kali Akuno is a co-founder and co-director of Cooperation Jackson. Kali served as the Director of Special Projects and External Funding in the Mayoral Administration of the late Chokwe Lumumba of Jackson, MS. His focus in this role was supporting cooperative development, the introduction of eco-friendly and carbon reduction methods of operation, and the promotion of human rights and international relations for the city. Kali also served as the Co-Director of the US Human Rights Network, the Executive Director of the Peoples' Hurricane Relief Fund (PHRF) based in New Orleans, Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

**Rebecca Kemble (Alderman for Madison, Wisconsin District 18)**  
Rebecca Kemble is the President of the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives and the President of CICOPA North America, the sub-regional body of the worker cooperative sector of the International Cooperative Alliance. She is also the Vice President of CICOPA Americas and serves on the Executive Board of CICOPA worldwide.  Rebecca is a worker-owner at Union Cab Cooperative where she has served as chairperson of the Education and Strategic Planning Committees.  She is a founding member and editor at the Wisconsin Citizens Media Cooperative.

**Katie Gilbert**

Katie Gilbert is a Chicago-based freelance writer focused on the economy and economic experimentation. Her work has appeared in the Oxford American, Pacific Standard, Al Jazeera America, The Atlantic, Forbes, Psychology Today, Institutional Investor, and elsewhere.

This briefing is open to all reporters. As part of the briefing we will also talk about the difficulty of reporting on radical economic transitions. Questions? joellen@themediaconsortium.org