

THE METHOD:

- Story-telling by youth - what are the barriers you face to accessing finances, education, and job opportunities in the co-op movement?
- Solutions - intergenerational brainstorming of ways to overcome those barriers

Group 1

- Use co-op brand to unify and make visible the movement
- Push the coop system as a response to the Puerto Rican economic crisis
- Take power in your coops, encourage and support each other
- Available financing for young co-ops, other support
- ACUA coop everywhere!
- Cooperativismo

Group 2

- Lack of education in primary school
 - Making sure as leaders to reach out to schools
 - Get into the school system so different grades have required sessions
 - Working with teachers to educate
 - Co-ops used to be significant in education in 1930s and since have filtered out of classes and textbooks
 - Why is this? How can we bring it back?
 - To educate future generations should maybe use a Junior Achievement model to schools with cooperatives to follow them through their school year or make a required class to at least filter co-ops back into business classes
- Informal education
 - Booths in places to network and people who are interested may come to check it out
- Business education
 - Making aware it's easier with many people paying for equipment than one person making a business and paying for all equipment. Introducing the forms of financial abilities
- Financial barriers
 - Enhancing cooperation among cooperatives for financial reasons of helping each other will eventually make profit
 - Credit unions could be an answer for loans
 - Remove restrictions
 - Open capital to co-ops

Group 3

- "Youth committees" in ALL co-ops to start involvement young
- CENet
- Organize activities that aren't 100% co-op centered (like volunteering) - then start the convo

- → or events on campus, AWARENESS + EDUCATION
- Fit co-op speakers into wider campus events

Group 4

- Starting early with education (kindergarten)
- Movement needs to be more hands-on
- Connecting with people's social justice
- CASE STUDY (Puerto Rico): by law cooperative education is taught but by middle school/high school it stops
- Creating a youth development fund specifically
- View the government as a struggle to get access to funds - we have a right - and pair it with creative ways to gain access
 - Need to look at groups between 14 and 21

Group 5

- Problems:
 - Lack of career track opportunities
 - Top-down ideas
 - Co-ops not hiring people from the co-op field
- Solutions:
 - Start worker co-ops to address these needs together
 - Grant unity: young leader w/ ideas partner with CDC's to grant write for themselves
 - Oakland housing co-ops need to network
 - Better pipeline → ACE can help in playing that role
 - Long-term internships: 1-2 years within a coop development center. Would create a better pipeline of young leaders into workforce
 - Prioritize co-op experience over other work experience, reduce years-of-experience requirements

Group 6

- Explain other coop models to more fully explain coop culture and experience
- Older directors must create platform/avenue for younger directors
- Next generation plan. Have youth pillar in co-op culture.
- Mentoring
- Start educating
 - Education pamphlet with patronage check
- ACE responsibility to contact big co-ops