

- Card-sized handout typical draft: "Support the unemployed and underemployed. Gather in Chase Plaza 11 a.m - 1 p.m. daily. www..."

- Very visible picture-taking activities and production of video and audio shows, such as member groups being interviewed for release to broadcast media and VUUW's own channels on YouTube etc. Reporter interviews are with multiple spokespersons who are surrounded by supporters.

- The caps! Brightly-colored baseball caps will be a major identifier for members and supporters. Caps will be worn at gatherings and media appearances. Caps will be available from members or at dollar stores.

- Posters, signs, flyers. Buttons, badges, scarfs of our colors.

- VUUW web site (startup development at www.9898.us/vuuw). Can include facts and discussions, group photos, montages, slideshows, video statements, and interviews. Blogs. Podcasts. Web RSS syndications.

- Talk show production and appearances, always with multiple representatives.

- Sharing of our wireless computers and phones.

- Literature and handouts, for each other and the public.

- Phone messages at first may be handled by an affiliated nonprofit organization. Evenings by an answering machine. Toll-free number? A texting service for announcements and calendar dates.

- Myspace and Twitter and Facebook pages and messages.

- Listserves for bulk emailing to members and supporters.

- Email organizational address, forwarded to interested members.

- Weblogs (blogs) and online threaded discussions.

Appearances and our own regular shows on broadcast TV channels and public / educational / governmental cable access channels.

- Internet server space for sharing password-protected draft documents and pictures and video and audio.

Steering and Advisory Committees.

- Information. Please suggest prospects, people with organizations, time, skills, positions, contacts, other resources.

Principles ...

- The unemployed and underemployed demand respect and can speak for ourselves, thank you. We are not helpless, staying home and blaming ourselves for the failings of the economic system. We are volunteering our time to support organizing by unemployed and the underemployed people.
- We will not be invisible or allow ourselves to be portrayed merely as victims.
- We join in solidarity for mutual support.
- Differences in our analyses of political rights and power will not destroy our fundamental mutual support. We will work to find mutually supportable stands on the relevant public issues.
- Members speaking in public are absolutely accountable for distinguishing their personal views from the adopted stands of the organization. No people yet speak for this organization, until there is an election. Our statements to public officials and to the press will be by multiple members.
- Although we are nonviolent, we are unapologetic, aggressive, and bold about being visible and demanding our rights.

- This is an organization of unemployed, underemployed, and other supportive citizens coming together for mutual support and to raise our visibility and our issues. We do self-help and public education.

- This is not ...
 - This is not just a group of journalists or authors, although we speak out publicly and want our stories told everywhere.

 - This is not a school or research organization, although we include teachers and researchers.

 - This is not a lawyers' organization, although we will utilize the help of legal professionals.

 - This is not a religious organization, although we invite the support of religious groups.

 - This is not a mature political organization, but we will make demands for major public policy changes by political representatives.

 - This is not a social service agency, although we will help each other find public and private resources for our family and individual needs.

 - This is not an employment agency, although we will share ideas about how to get the jobs appropriate for our skills and with appropriate compensation.

 - This is not the much needed but far more ambitious 'national union of the unemployed'. We may help toward it by gathering the support of powerful labor organizations and affiliating with other organizing projects.

 - This is not a subsidiary of any other organization or party. And it is not to be used as an election campaign committee by anybody.

Organizational matters

- Places needed, of varying sizes.
 - A large and very visible place: A meeting spot for a very visible public presence, 7 days a week.
 - Outdoors at Thompson Center Plaza. (Where during bad weather?) At the center of the metropolitan area, near city, county, state, and federal offices, and near the main public transit interchange.
 - Marches, city public events, lunchtime concerts, TV newscasts' live sidewalk window backgrounds, governmental and media company offices, ...
 - A small place: A headquarters. Minimal office or desk space. A small committee meeting place.
 - Medium-sized places: For: press conferences, larger committees. Boardrooms, classrooms.
 - Auditoriums: For rallies, multimedia presentations, Midwest Academy style accountability sessions for specific commitments from public officials. Quarterly conventions for reports, elections, voted resolutions, and new organizational business, and camaraderie.
 - UMC Chicago Temple? Old St. Mary's? Downtown universities Columbia, DePaul, UC, Washington, ... Office buildings with auditoriums. Library? CAN-TV studio and meeting room?
- A declaration of purpose, constitution, and by-laws should be drafted and voted as soon as possible.
 - Declaration of Purpose / Preamble ideas.
 - The unemployed and underemployed are a large and growing ... Media pundits regard the anticipated economic recovery as the business owners' recovery, and accept that reforms for workers can lag far behind. ...
 - We will not be portrayed as simply victims but are capable of organizing and speaking for our own interests.

- Although we are beginning with an informal structure and are all volunteers, we will develop structure and staff as our growth requires.

- An initial Steering Committee will authorize editors for publications and Internet presence using a web site, Channel, blogs, FaceBook, MySpace, and Twitter. Producers will be authorized for our media channels on YouTube, broadcast TV and radio, and cable. The Committee will act as Keeper of the Holy Seal, authorizing uses of the organization's name on communications and events.

- Membership qualifications: Support the unemployed and underemployed. And provide VU UW with contact information. No dues or fees requirement.

- Program activities such as:
 - Gatherings for visibility. Being seen by the public, including the media and public policy decision makers.

 - Engaging the public in public places about our situation and our issues.

 - Getting to know each other and developing our common interests. Exchanging survival tips on: Dealing with public and private social service agencies, seeking job information, organizing a workplace, negotiating pay and working conditions, etc.

 - Taking solidarity 'field trips' for visibility at prominent places where labor organizations are protecting and improving jobs. Support for press conferences, picket lines, and sit-ins (HartMarx?).

- Incorporation as a 501c3 nonprofit organization, with bank accounts and tax-exempted fundraising, is a future possibility. Meanwhile, an existing nonprofit organization will help us process and account for expenses.

- Other cities are starting VU UW organizations simultaneously. St. Louis, San Francisco, ...