



cooperation
humboldt

Building a Regenerative Solidarity Economy on the North Coast



2022 Mini Garden Installation

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



2022 Highlights

- » Distributed 30 fruit trees to local tribal members
- » Published our second annual Community Food Guide
- » Coordinated Participatory Budgeting process in Valley West with the City of Arcata and implemented projects chosen by community
- » Installed 100 more mini gardens for low-income families throughout the county
- » Supported the expansion of Full Cycle Compost, a bicycle-powered, worker-owned cooperative
- » Coordinated our second Edible Garden Tour in Eureka/Arcata
- » Incubated formation of the Cooperative Agriculture Network, a new worker-owned cooperative
- » Hosted free compost/plant/seed giveaway to support past recipients of mini gardens
- » Supported Centro del Pueblo in co-managing the Jardín Santuario community garden, growing food and community with Immigrant Latinx families
- » Incubated conversion of Redwood Roots Farm to a worker-owned cooperative
- » Facilitated four free Solidarity Economy study groups
- » Continued to provide emergency weather gear and person-centered case management for chronically homeless residents to assist with achieving their personal goals
- » Launched CoHum Chats, a Solidarity Economy podcast



Matt Drummond at Abuelita's Garden preparing to greet Edible Garden tour visitors



What is Cooperation Humboldt?

Cooperation Humboldt helps to build a regenerative Solidarity Economy on California's North Coast. We support existing cooperative efforts and create new solutions where needed.

A Solidarity Economy empowers us to meet our needs in harmony with nature, without exploiting anyone. It puts people and planet over profit by prioritizing collaboration over competition and cooperation over domination.



Cooperation Humboldt has been through big changes this year, and that's given us precious opportunities to make improvements and build clarity. In addition to supporting the ongoing work of our various programs and projects, this year we have focused on the following priorities:

- Developing the robust organizational infrastructure necessary to support an economic revolution; creating policies to guide our work and relationships; exploring how we live into our ideals and hold ourselves and each other lovingly accountable;
- Refining our leadership structure, statement of purpose and strategies for the coming year; and
- Clearly defining what Cooperation Humboldt is.

We finish 2022 feeling hopeful, empowered, and excited to re-introduce Cooperation Humboldt to you, our community. We're happy to share with you what we have identified as the three elemental components that define our organization.

Above: College Corps fellows Jose and Momi prepare to distribute plants, seeds and information to mini garden recipients

1 A GRASSROOTS SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROJECT INCUBATOR

We incubate nascent social and economic justice projects that will eventually become independent. We use a Human Centered Design approach, which places the expressed needs and imagined solutions of the people most affected at the center of the project design process.

Cooperation Humboldt's role as a project incubator is to provide mentorship and support for social and economic justice activists who want to use the principles and practices of cooperation and solidarity economics as the foundation of their work. For projects that we have agreed to incubate, we may:

- Provide mentorship on cooperative meeting facilitation, project development and/or organizational founding;
- Provide solidarity economics training;
- Provide grant writing support and connections to the philanthropic community; and/or
- Serve as a fiscal sponsor.

For Example:

New Rising Hmong Association (NRHA) was envisioned by four Hmong individuals who recognized that their community needs (a) better access to mental and physical health care, and (b) new energy to revitalize essential Hmong cultural traditions.

Cooperation Humboldt has provided support and mentorship as NRHA develops, implements, and leads all of their projects using Human Centered Design practices. After working with us for the past two years, NRHA is moving towards full independence.

2 AN EXPERIMENTAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY LEARNING LAB

We recognize that it will take many of us pursuing a variety of tactics to bring about the transformational changes that are required to reorient our society to one rooted in regeneration and solidarity. In support of that process, Cooperation Humboldt provides an environment in which organizers can experiment with new strategies and tactics as they attempt to dismantle old structures and build new ones. We refer to this as our 'Learning Lab.'

Our process is iterative, meaning that organizers introduce new approaches, evaluate the efficacy of those approaches, adjust accordingly, and introduce new tactics as necessary in an ongoing attempt at improvement. This process happens again and again, in ways both large and small.

For Example:

Learning to organize and effect change in ways that don't reproduce the harmful patterns that have infused our socialization takes trial and error. Cooperation Humboldt's bylaws, policies and procedures for self-governance are in an ongoing process of development and refinement rather than being viewed and used as static structures.

Early in our Food Sovereignty team's development, we experimented with front lawn conversions as a vehicle for transforming how we can use private land for collective good (in this case, by growing food). While the project was wonderful in many ways, ultimately we opted to move away from that model and instead launch our mini gardens project because providing resources to many (and prioritizing those with fewer financial resources) was in better alignment with our organizational ideals compared with delivering something bigger (a fully converted front lawn) to a smaller number of more highly-resourced folks.

Right: Rhonwen, one of the new worker-owners of Redwood Roots Farm Cooperative harvesting apples

3 A HUB FOR REGENERATIVE SOLIDARITY ECONOMY PROJECTS

Cooperation Humboldt also houses regenerative solidarity economy projects that are intended to live within the organization indefinitely. These projects are organized under our six program areas, which were developed in response to what we believe to be fundamental human needs - Arts & Culture, Care & Wellness, Economic Democracy, Education, Food Sovereignty, and Housing.

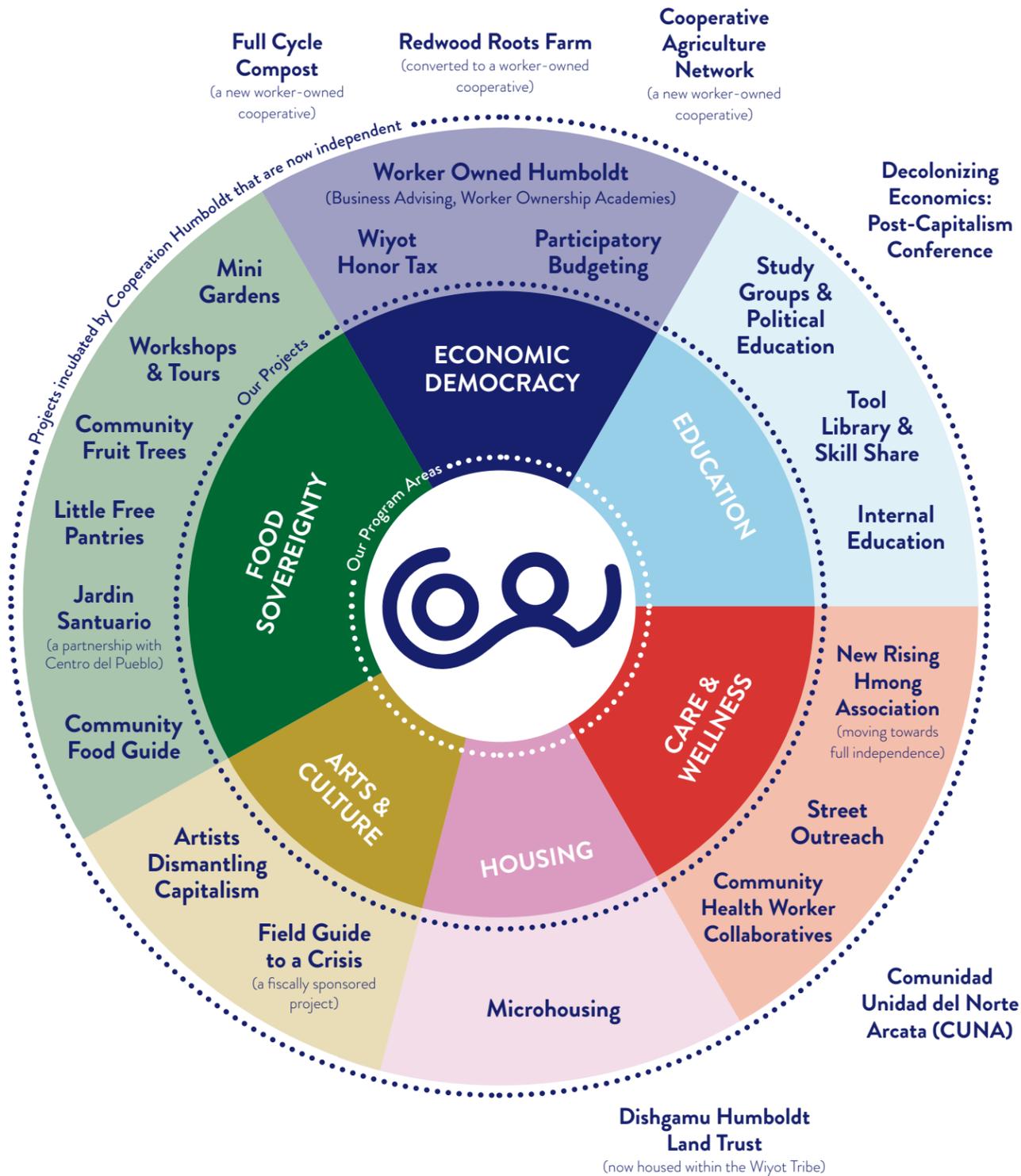
These projects were created based on our assessment of gaps that existed in the current landscape of solidarity economics, paired with our evaluation of where our work could have the most impact.

Our program areas and their associated projects are diagrammed in detail on the following page.



Cooperation Humboldt - Visualized

Our work is divided into six program areas, representing what we believe to be basic human rights: Arts & Culture, Education, Food Sovereignty, Housing, Economic Democracy, and Care & Wellness. All of our programs and projects are supported and nurtured by our Administrative circles.



2022 Highlights

WORKER OWNED HUMBOLDT MILESTONES

In collaboration with the North Coast Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Worker Owned Humboldt (WOH) provides education about worker ownership through our WOH Academies and works directly with folks looking to launch a new worker-owned business or convert an existing business to worker ownership through ongoing free mentorship.

With our help, supporters of Redwood Roots Farm created the Redwood Roots Farm Cooperative and have recently purchased the business. As an employee-owned business, Redwood Roots Farm Cooperative will continue the existing work of the already successful farm and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) while expanding to include more educational and community-building opportunities.

Our Cooperative Cannabis Economy Group incorporated as the Cooperative Agriculture Network (CAN), a worker-owned business that will support the development of cooperatives in the legal cannabis industry. The first CAN Academy will be hosted through the Cal Poly Humboldt Office of Extended Education in February of 2023.

Full Cycle Compost, another worker-owned business incubated by WOH and launched in 2021, flourished this year with contracts from North Coast Grower's Association, Open Door Community Health Centers and the City of Arcata. They also started new composting programs in collaboration with the United Indian Health Services Potowat Community Food Garden and the Redwood Coast Montessori School Community Garden.

In early 2023 we'll be bringing back our WOH Academy and looking for new teams to work with to continue to create a network of vibrant worker-owned cooperative businesses in our region. If you or someone you know has an idea for a worker-owned co-op, email tobin.mckee@cooperationhumboldt.com.

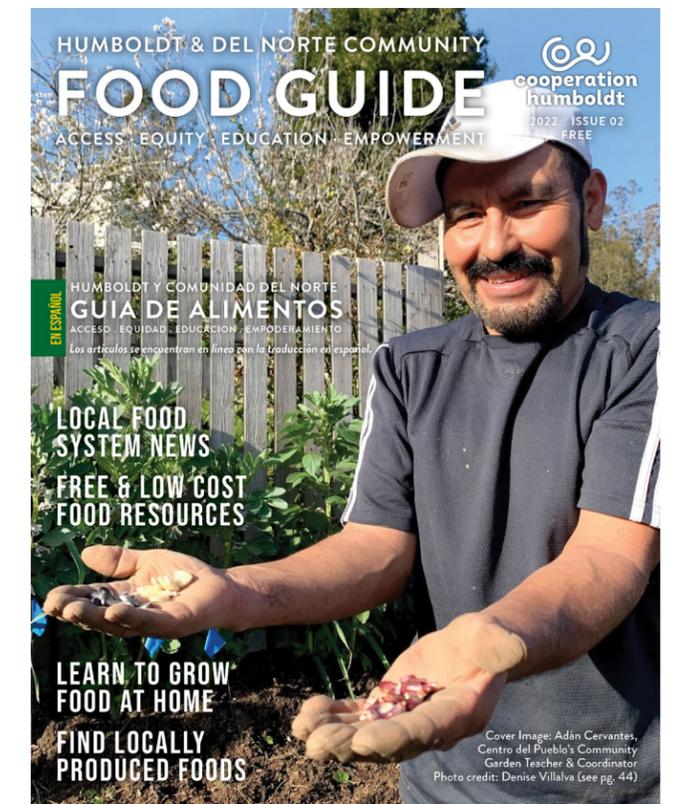
2022 COMMUNITY FOOD GUIDE

The second edition of our Humboldt & Del Norte Community Food Guide (CFG) hit newsstands in Spring 2022. The Guide is an annual publication that promotes access, equity, education, and empowerment in relation to our local food system.

We prioritize presenting useful and empowering information about growing and consuming locally produced food in a format that is fun and easy to understand while soliciting input/participation from under-served/under-resourced populations and working to make the CFG more useful to them.

This year's cover features Adán Cervantes, Centro del Pueblo's Community Garden Teacher and Coordinator, who inspires us all.

Read it at our website or pick up a copy at either North Coast Co-op or any NCGA Farmers' Market.



2022 Highlights, continued

STREET OUTREACH, SOLIDARITY-STYLE

With funding from the Emergency Solutions Grant for Coronavirus from the Department of Health and Human Services, throughout 2022 our Street Outreach team has continued to provide emergency supplies and essential services to people living without houses. Our community health workers connect clients with the support and access to services they need to accomplish the goals they set for themselves. Our team is primarily made up of people with lived experience of homelessness, mental illness, and/or substance use disorder.

We provide direct services and case management for people who are unable to access emergency shelter or transitional housing. We also work to support the existing mutual aid networks that people create in their encampments. We aspire to collectivize the voices of our most disenfranchised residents, to resist widespread eviction, and to build solutions for the hundreds of people who are unable to integrate into existing support networks.



MINI GARDENS CONTINUE TO FLOURISH

In its third year, our mini garden initiative has delivered gardens and garden mentorship to an additional 100 Humboldt County families (bringing our three-year total to 500 mini gardens).

We provide small vegetable gardens as well as ongoing support and education to help recipients grow more of their own food. This year, gardens were delivered as far south as Garberville, as far north as McKinleyville, and inland to Hoopa.

Feedback from recipients has been overwhelmingly positive, and the results of a poll completed by recipients highlights the following impacts:

- Over 89% of respondents reported that their family spends more quality time together as a result of their mini garden.
- Over 76% of respondents reported an overall decrease in stress as a result of their mini garden.
- Over 93% of respondents reported that their children have learned new things and gained new skills through this program.
- 100% of respondents reported that they are more likely to garden in the future compared with before receiving their mini garden.

We are currently seeking funding to keep this project alive and thriving into its fourth year (2023).

Left: Recipients pose with their newly installed mini garden



Check out our new monthly podcast featuring stories about regenerative solidarity economy projects locally and beyond. Find 'CoHum Chats' on YouTube, Facebook, our website, and wherever else you find your podcasts.

**cooperation
humboldt MEDIA**
CoHum Chats

Right: Brenda Perez and Tobin McKee at work at Jardín Santuario

COLLEGE CORPS BRINGS ENERGY, EXCITEMENT

We're excited to participate with the inaugural cohort of College Corps fellows. College Corps, an initiative launched in partnership with California colleges and universities, matches students with local community organizations to achieve the following goals:

- Create a generation of civic-minded leaders with the ability to bridge divides and solve problems.
- Help low income students graduate college on time and with less debt.
- Address societal challenges and help build more equitable communities across California.

To ensure the opportunity is accessible to all, College Corps Fellows will earn \$10,000 – which includes a living allowance and an Education Award.

For 2022-2023, Cooperation Humboldt has been matched with six fellows, who are working in our food sovereignty and education program areas.



SAFETY & COMMUNITY AT JARDIN SANTUARIO

Jardín Santuario, in partnership with Centro del Pueblo, has been transformed this year. With the expert guidance of our mentor/teacher Adán Cervantes, and the hard work of many joyful volunteers, the garden has grown into a beautiful oasis of sanctuary and bounty.

In response to multiple incidents this year of hate crimes and vandalism at the garden, our community moved forward with renewed energy and broader community support. A growing group of volunteers mobilized to develop a safety plan, engaging our neighbors to set up a surveillance system, and more importantly, to increase community presence in the garden.

Volunteers are welcome in the garden (which is located at the corner of 11th and F Streets in Arcata) on Wednesdays from 4:00-6:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00 am-noon.

To support the garden financially, donate to Centro del Pueblo at cdpueblo.com/donate.



Who We Are & What We Believe

STAFF

Lorna Bryant (she/her)



Tobin McKee (they/them)



Argy (she/they)



A FEW OF OUR FELLOWS & CORE TEAM

Jose Alvarado (he/him)



Filip Amborski (they/them)



Cara Cordoni (she/her)



Hedgie Enge (they/them)



Kimiko McNeill (she/her)



Cristina Sarabia (she/her)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Caroline Griffith (she/her)



Kate Lancaster (she/her)



Tamara McFarland (she/they)



Leila Roberts (she/they)



- We believe that our current institutions are racist, sexist, and class oppressive.
- We believe our current economic system is based upon exploitation and oppression, and that it will destroy the planet if we do not shift to a cooperative and sustainable model.
- We believe it is possible to create new institutions that incentivize cooperation, love, compassion and kindness.
- We believe in supporting groups that are doing grassroots organizing with working class people and people of color, creating new models for a joyous and collaborative new future.
- We believe we can work with you even if you do not believe these things.

Financial Information

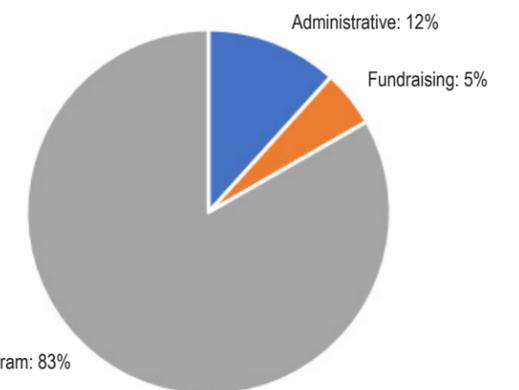
Income & Expense Statement October 2021 - September 2022

Income		Expenses	
Direct Public Support		Advertising and Promotion	1,114.57
Donations-Large Donors (>\$500/year)	69,982.88	Automotive Expenses	11,626.56
Donations-Small Donors (<\$500/year)	19,493.46	Bank Service Charges	1,402.13
Event Admission Donations	8,359.33	Contract Services	7,585.00
Event Sponsorships	6,000.00	Facilities and Equipment	7,923.18
Grant Income *	320,902.89	Fundraising	819.15
Other Fundraisers	3,060.00	Insurance	6,601.77
Total Direct Public Support	427,798.56	Operations	16,903.33
Program Income		Payroll not included in Direct Program Expenses	92,433.73
CUNA **	50,164.05	Printing and Copying	5,470.45
Food Team	21,775.00	Direct Program Expenses	
Street Outreach ***	360,104.49	Arts & Culture	11,914.77
Worker Owned Humboldt	16,985.00	Care & Wellness	278,900.24
Total Program Income	449,028.54	DACA Fees	3,985.00
Other Types of Income	185.20	Disaster Response	80,482.00
Total Income	877,012.30	Dishgamu Humboldt	165,717.89
		Economic Democracy	37,996.30
		Education	21,921.00
		Food Program	60,021.38
		Hosting Hub	40.00
		Tool Library	276.70
		Total Direct Program Expenses	661,255.28
		Public Educational Events	11,061.22
		Travel and Meetings	387.92
		Total Expenses	824,584.29

* Includes 120,204.00 designated for Dishgamu, which became independent from CH in early 2022 so funds were forwarded to the Wiyot Tribe

** Contract with City of Arcata using ARPA funds

*** Contract with DHHS using federal emergency funds



In order to provide you with the most current data, we've opted to share financial information for the most recent 12 month period here (October 2021 - September 2022).

Our fiscal year ends December 31st. To request a copy of our financials for calendar year 2021, email tamara.mcfarland@cooperationhumboldt.com.

Special Thanks to our Sustaining Donors!

Sustaining monthly donors are the backbone of our financial stability. Their ongoing generosity forms a solid foundation that we know we can depend on month-to-month to support our core operations - bookkeeping, administration, staff/volunteer management, outreach, publicity, and more - all of which are critical to keeping our various programs thriving. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to these folks for their steadfast support!

Lisa Bethune
Pat Bitton
Sharrone Blanck
Katie Buesch
Julia Clark
Rita Carole
David Cranmer
Kayla DeCarli
Lark Doolan
Melissa Elbirt
Hedgie Enge
Rachelle Estrada
Corinne Frugoni
Cailan Halliday

Kari Helgeson
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Holly Hilgenberg &
Chris Rose
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Maya Zwerdling



Join us as a sustaining monthly donor!

Sign up at www.cooperationhumboldt.org/donate

(Select 'monthly' next to your donation amount.)



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We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit; tax ID # 95-4126989.