How do you build a Community Bridge: NOLA

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- Logistics: Someone to manage the skype: jellobrain
- Conference Phone Number: 712-451-6150 - code 718859#
- Introduce Self
- Introduce Basic Idea
- Everyone makes Introductions
- Short Presentation
- Questions, Discussion and Action

Basic Idea

1. Non-profits are doing the lion's share of the work.
   - (a) Paul Hawken: Blessed Unrest: http://www.blessedunrest.com/video.html
   - (b) How do we serve the largest decentralized movement in the history of humanity?

2. Information Age
   - (a) Not having technology set up is the biggest liability that small to mid-sized non-profit organizations have.
   - (b) In my experience, once technology is created that adequately meets the needs of the organization:
      - i. fundraising capacity goes up, typically by 30% of annual budget
      - ii. administration needs goes down.
      - iii. employee turnover goes down.

3. Information Technology for Organizations
   - (a) Brochure/Information
   - (b) Constituents/Membership Databases
   - (c) Donations/Purchases
   - (d) Events/Registrations
   - (e) Forms/Submissions
   - (f) Networking/Collaborative Workspaces
   - (g) Social Media

4. Open Source Content Management Systems
   - (a) Software is free, and customizable
   - (b) Creates websites that are scalable and have the ability to install modular plugins for added functionality
   - (c) Require developers and knowledge to setup.
      - i. Theming – typically $2,000 - $3,000
      - ii. Installing System and Modules – typically about $1000
      - iii. Configuring site and Creating Content – upwards of $5000 – depending on needs
      - iv. Training - varies
      - v. Maintenance - over time, typically about $500/month

5. Building a Community Bridge
   (a) works with Open Source Software (free)
   (b) provides many kinds of training and tutorials built into the site
   (c) simplifies Configuration of site and process of understanding/implementing needs
   (d) minimizes the need for ongoing maintenance
   (e) simplifies Theme implementations
   (f) drives cost and expertise needed DOWN.
   (g) could be driven and financed by a membership/cooperative structure
   (h) would provide a pool of activist technologists available at affordable prices
   (i) would be inexpensively clonable once developed
   (j) would need to be maintained and upgraded over lifespan of technology

6. Open Questions
   (a) What are different ways to organize the business model for this kind of endeavor that would make it successful?
      i. membership/cooperative model
      ii. building block model
      iii. foundation/civic support for specific modules and development
      iv. software as service model
      v. software as a product model
      vi. combinations?
   (b) What kinds of needs exist locally that might be served by such a collaboration?
   (c) What level of interest is there from the group, and what might the group be able to contribute individually and collectively?
   (d) What needs would we have that would support this type of collaboration?
   (e) Other questions?