



0% P2P LOANS

ALTERNATIVES TO PREDATORY FINANCING

VISION (3-4)

HOW IT COULD WORK (7-8)

VALUES (9-10)

DRAFT AGREEMENT (11-13)

FUTURE (14-15)

IN MARCH OF 2020, RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PANDEMIC IN CANADA, I FLOATED OUT A LITTLE IDEA ON MY A FEW SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS I HAD:

" THOSE OF US WITH SAVINGS SHOULD COMMIT TO DIP INTO OUR SAVINGS FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT SAY... \$250-1000 (BUT REALLY ANY AMOUNT OVER \$50 WOULD HELP) AND LOAN IT AT 0% INTEREST TO EITHER SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO IS STRUGGLING/WILL BE IN A WEEK OR TWO OR WE CAN BE CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO ARE IN A PRECARIOUS FINANCIAL SITUATION. IF YOU ARE OF MEANS, THEN YOU COULD GO THE WHOLE HOG AND MAKE YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS A GIFT, INSTEAD OF A LOAN. THIS COULD HELP EASE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN FOR SO MANY PEOPLE. "

THIS LITTLE BLURB RECEIVED MORE LOVE AND INTEREST THAN I HAD EVER ANTICIPATED AND I DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO PUT DOWN MY IDEAS AND INTENTIONS TO ROOT ON PAPER AND BE ABLE TO EXPLORE IT FURTHER WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT. MY HOPE IS THAT THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE **LIVING**, AND IT WILL BE **EXPERIMENTAL**. I ENVISION THAT PEOPLE WILL HAVE FEEDBACK AND THAT WE WILL ALL COLLECTIVELY LEARN FROM THE SUCCESSES AND MISTAKES MADE AS THIS INITIATIVE CONTINUES. THIS COLLECTIVE LEARNING - WARTS AND ALL - WILL OF COURSE BE INCORPORATED INTO THIS DOCUMENT.

IN SOLIDARITY,

SUZANNE MERCHANT.

02

SHORT TERM VISION

- BRING RELIEF AND MORE IMPORTANTLY TIME TO FOLKS WHO ARE IN DIRE NEED; GIFT THEM THE NECESSITY OF TAKING TIME OFF OF WORK ETC.

- ALLOW FOLKS TO COMMIT MORE OF THEIR MONEY. FOR MOST, BEING ABLE TO GIVE A \$100 OR \$200 AS A GIFT IS A LUXURY, SO AMOUNTS SUCH AS \$500 OR \$1000 WHICH WOULD GO A LONG WAY FOR MANY PEOPLE WOULD MAKE MOST FALTER. WE ANTICIPATE THAT MOST FOLKS WILL PASS ALONG MONEY AS GIFTS ONLY IN SMALLER AMOUNTS OR AS GROCERIES ETC. AS SUCH, STIPULATING THE GIVING OF THIS MONEY AS A LOAN MEANS THAT PEOPLE MIGHT BE MORE WILLING TO COMMIT MORE FUNDS IF THEY KNOW THEY HAVE A CHANCE OF IT COMING BACK TO THEM.

- BRING LENDING AND BORROWING DOWN TO A SCALE WE CAN UNDERSTAND; HUMAN-TO-HUMAN VS. INSTITUTION TO HUMAN.

LONG TERM VISION

- ESTABLISH THE BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED LENDING TO OCCUR; THIS COULD ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR FOLKS TO RESORT TO GETTING EXPLOITATIVE PAYDAY LOANS, IF ANOTHER SYSTEM EXISTS.

- ALLOW A COMMUNITY TO VISION AND WRITE OUT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN COMMUNITY MEMBERS. WHAT DOES AN ETHICAL CONTRACT LOOK LIKE? WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US TO COLLECTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS? CAN THEY BE LIVING DOCUMENTS? CAN LOAN FORGIVENESS ALSO BE DIRECTLY WRITTEN INTO THEM? ESSENTIALLY ALLOW A COMMUNITY TO VISION AND EXPERIMENT WITH THEIR FINANCIAL SYSTEMS IN A MORE HUMANE WAY.

- ALLOW COMMUNITIES TO DETERMINE WHAT LIVING WITHOUT DEBT & INTEREST-BEARING LOANS WOULD BE LIKE. HOW DO OUR RELATIONSHIPS TO WEALTH AND TIME TRANSFORM? NOT HAVING TO RETURN MORE THAN THE PRINCIPAL OF THE LOAN HAS A HUMAN IMPACT -- WHAT IS IT? DO INTEREST-FREE LOANS ACTUALLY DISRUPT THE POWER DYNAMICS THAT EXIST BETWEEN LENDER AND BORROWER THAT PERVADE OUR SOCIETY?

04

•

•

•

INFRASTRUCTURE/ WHERE TO START:

LENDING IS A TRICKY BUSINESS BECAUSE IT REQUIRES TRUST THAT THE PERSON BEING LENT TO WON'T WHOLLY ABSCOND WITH THE FUNDS PROVIDED. AS THERE IS NO CURRENT SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WOULD FACILITATE TRUST, THE SHORT TERM INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PEER-TO-PEER LOANS WOULD BE YOUR TRUSTED NETWORKS, PEOPLE YOU KNOW WHO ARE IN NEED, AND TRUSTED ORGANIZATIONS. THESE ARE THE FOLKS WHOM YOU COULD LOAN TO WITHOUT HAVING TO DRAFT AN AGREEMENT. IF YOU DO NEED TO DRAFT AN AGREEMENT (A QUICK VERSION OF IT IS PROVIDED IN THIS ZINE), USE SOME SORT OF VIDEO CALLING METHOD TO HAVE OTHERS WITNESS THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT.

INFRASTRUCTURE / FOR THE LONG HAUL:

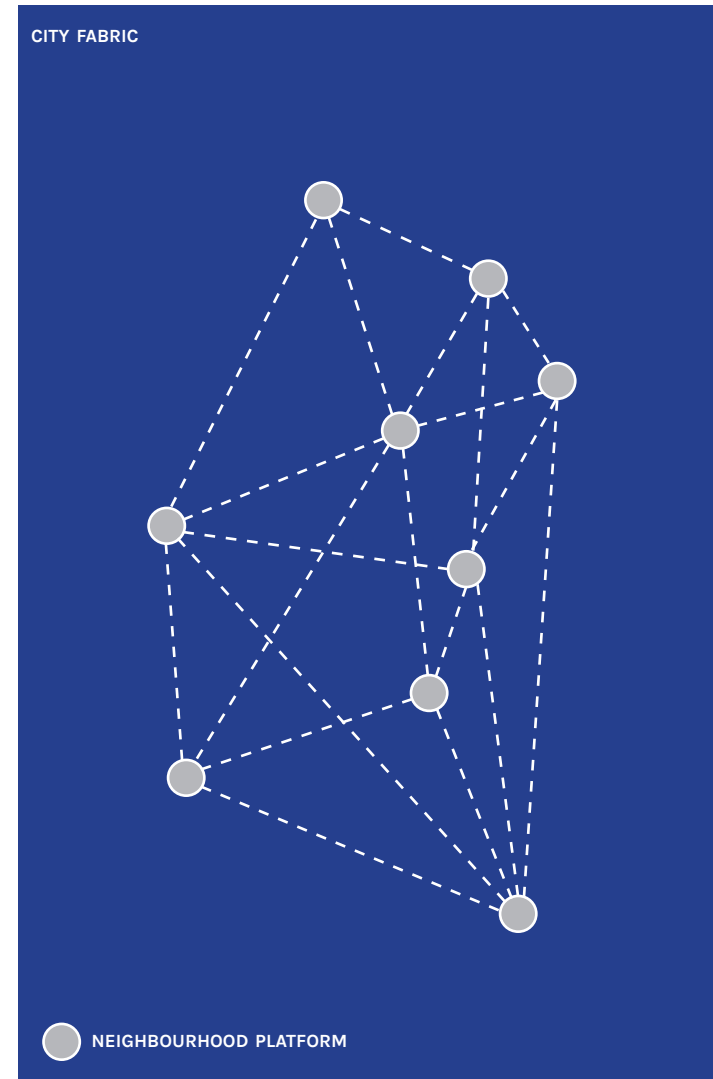
TO BUILD THESE STYLES OF LOANS INTO A COMMUNITY PRACTICE THAT WOULD COULD SUSTAIN TRUST, AND COMMUNITY BUILDING BETWEEN MEMBERS WHO DON'T HAVE CONTEXT FOR ONE ANOTHER, WOULD REQUIRE LONG TERM INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE "BUILT". THE BELOW ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF WOULD WOULD BE NEEDED:

- A **PLATFORM, AND MANAGEMENT OF SAID PLATFORM**, THAT WOULD BE ABLE TO CONNECT FOLKS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE, AND FOLKS WILLING TO GIVE
- A PHYSICAL OR DIGITAL **SPACE TO ALLOW BORROWERS AND LENDERS ALIKE TO COME TOGETHER** TO DISCUSS THEIR LOAN AGREEMENT; COULD LIKELY BE BUILT INTO THE PLATFORM DESCRIBED ABOVE
- **LOAN GUARANTATORS** -- PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE LOAN SHOULD THE BORROWER END UP BEING IN SITUATION WHERE THEY ARE UNABLE TO PAY AND THE LENDER IS IN PRECARIOUS FINANCIAL/RESOURCE-BASED STRAITS.
- LEGAL ADVICE, **CONFLICT RESOLUTION, AND ARBITRATION SERVICES** GIVEN TO BORROWERS AND LENDERS ALIKE FOR WHEN LENDING SITUATIONS BECOME TENSE.

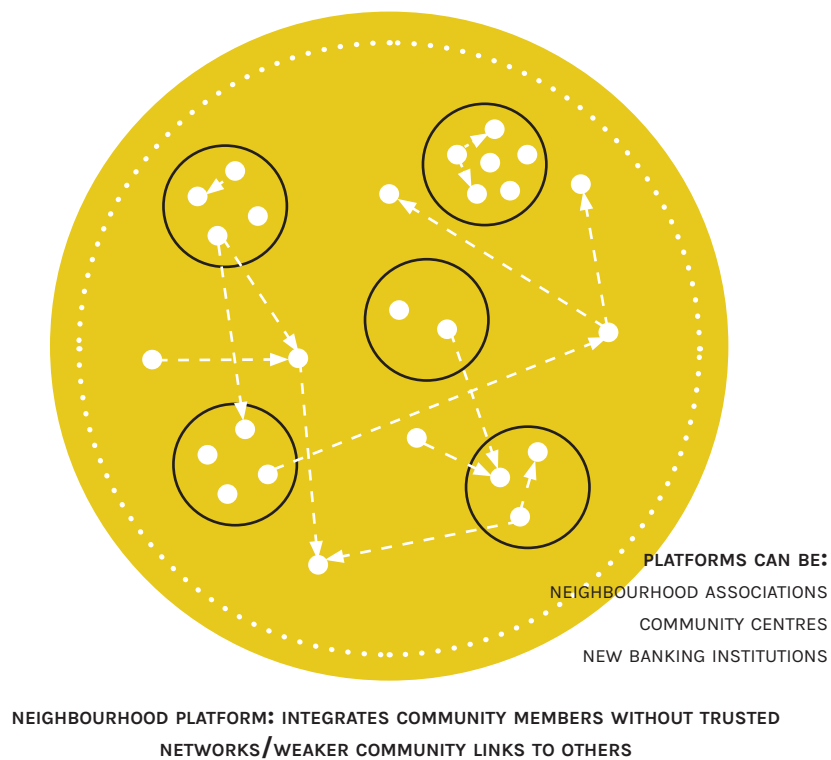
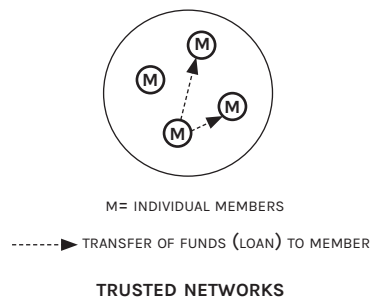
•
•

•
•

•
•



HOW IT COULD WORK [LONG HAUL]



- • • • •**

VALUES ESTABLISHED BY NEW LOANS AND AGREEMENTS

DEBT, FROM AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE IS FASCINATING: FOR MOST OF HUMAN HISTORY, AND ACROSS VARIOUS CULTURES, DEBT HAS OFTEN BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SIN AND GUILT...ON THE PART OF THE DEBTOR. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE SIMPLE REMOVAL OF INTEREST FROM A LOAN WILL BE ENOUGH TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. NEW COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS WRITTEN, AND ESTABLISHED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHOULD AIM TO UPEND THIS STATUS QUO, AS WELL. IF DEBT IS TRULY TO BE REHABILITATED, THE SHAME THAT THE CONCEPT ENGENDERS WILL NEED TO BE REMOVED.

ANY NEW AGREEMENTS WRITTEN WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE CONCEPTS DESCRIBED IN THIS SHOULD MAKE BOTH DEBTOR AND LENDER EQUAL, AS THEY TRULY ARE. HOW IS THIS TO BE DONE? BY EXPLICITLY WRITING CARE INTO ANY NEW AGREEMENT FOR BOTH DEBTOR, AND LENDER...AS THEY WOULD DEFINE IT. THIS WOULD HAVE THE DOUBLE EFFECT OF MAKING THESE DOCUMENTS LIVING - A FEATURE WHICH SOMEWHAT EXISTS IN CURRENT BANKING LOAN AGREEMENTS, THOUGH ONE CAN MAKE THE ARGUMENT THAT THESE ARE NOT CARING OR NURTURING AGREEMENTS.

VALUES ESTABLISHED BY NEW LOANS AND AGREEMENTS

I HAVE DRAFTED A BASIC NEW AGREEMENT THAT I HOPE ACHIEVES PROVIDING AND ESTABLISHING THE VALUES OF CARE. IN THIS NEW AGREEMENT, OLD DYNAMICS OF LENDING ARE UPENDED AS THE BORROWER NOW SETS, WITH CARING NEGOTIATION WITH THEIR LENDER, THE DATES OF LOAN RETURN AND AMOUNT. IF THE BORROWER IS ABLE TO GIVE THE ENTIRE PRINCIPAL BACK AS A SINGLE LUMP SUM, THAT IS FINE. IF NOT, THAT IS ALSO FINE, BUT THE BORROWER SHOULD COME UP WITH AN ACCURATE SUMMATION OF THEIR BUDGET AND SPECIFY A LOAN RETURN AMOUNT. THE BORROWER SHOULD COME UP WITH A REASONABLE PERCENTAGE TO GIVE BACK PER MONTH. THE BORROWER IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO REVEAL ANY OF THE DECISIONS OR CALCULATIONS USED TO DERIVE THIS AMOUNT, UNLESS THEY SHOULD WISH TO.

FOR A LENDER TO ASK FOR SUCH INFORMATION IS IN DEFIANCE OF THE SPIRIT OF THIS AGREEMENT.

NOTE: "REASONABLE" IS DEFINED AS A PERCENTAGE THAT THE BORROWER CAN SET ASIDE FROM THEIR BUDGET TO PAY BACK WITHOUT EXCESSIVELY STRAINING THEMSELVES (EXCESS STRESS, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH ISSUES) AND CAN ALLOW THE LENDER TO RECOUP THEIR COSTS.

RETURN OF MONEY

DATE OF LOAN DISBURSEMENT: _____
METHOD OF LOAN DISBURSEMENT: _____

DATE OF RETURN: _____
METHOD OF LOAN RETURN: _____

If 100% OF PRINCIPAL IS NOT TO BE RETURNED, PROCEED TO NEXT LINE:

PERCENTAGE OF PRINCIPAL RETURNED: _____

SCHEDULE FOR PRINCIPAL RETURN:

MONTH	(\$) RETURNED	% OF PRINCIPAL	NOTES
NAME			
NAME			
NAME			
TOTAL			

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST: AS A LENDER PROVIDING A 0% INTEREST LOAN, I _____ UNDERSTAND THAT LIFE IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. I UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE THE BORROWER AND I MAY COME TO A CONSENSUS ON THE DATE AND THE AMOUNT THE FUNDS ARE TO BE PAID BACK, THAT THE BORROWER CAN **ALWAYS** COME BACK TO ME TO RENOGTIATE THIS DATE AND AMOUNT BASED ON NEW CIRCUMSTANCES.

AS A BORROWER, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT NOT BEING ABLE TO MEET A DEADLINE AND ASKING FOR A RENEGOTIATION ON DATES AND AMOUNTS IS PERFECTLY RATIONAL AND HONEST. IT IS **NOT A SIGN OF MY WEAKNESS OR MORAL FAILING.**

ON CONFLICT & HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP DISSOLUTION

TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY MEANS THAT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT DUE TO OUR DIFFERENCES IN LIFESTYLE, WORLDVIEW, UPBRINGING AND IDENTITY, THAT IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT CONFLICT MAY OCCUR. WE BELIEVE THAT HEALTHY CONFLICT RESOLUTION IS THE ONLY WAY TO CONTINUE LIVING IN COMMUNITY.

WE COMMIT TO BRINGING THE FOLLOWING VALUES TO OUR CONFLICT _____

DRAFT AGREEMENT

DRAFT AGREEMENT

-----.

OUR PROCESS FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION WILL BE THE FOLLOWING:

- WE WILL BOTH NAME AND PRECISELY IDENTIFY WHAT IT IS THAT WE ARE (A) FEELING AND (B) BELIEVE ARE THE CAUSES THAT ARE FUELING THE CONFLICT BETWEEN US. WE WILL NOTIFY OUR ARBITERS/ADVOCATES THAT A CONFLICT HAS OCCURED.

- WE WILL THEN COME TOGETHER (THROUGH A METHOD OF OUR CHOOSING) _____ TIMES TO DETERMINE IF WE CAN COME TO AN APPROPRIATE RESOLUTION. IF WE COME TO A CONSENSUS, WE WILL NOTFIY OUR ARBITERS/ADVOCATES THAT OUR CONFLICT HAS BEEN RESOLVED.

- IF WE ARE UNABLE TO COME TO A CONSENSUS, WE WILL CONSULT WITH AND INVOLVE OUR ARBITERS. AFTER THAT, WE WILL EITHER MEET ALTOGETHER (BORROWER + ARBITER(S) AND LENDER + ARBITER(S)) OR OUR ARBITERS WILL MEET TOGETHER WITHOUT US TO SEE IF AN APPROPRIATE RESOLUTION CAN'T BE MET.

- IF NO CONSENSUS CAN BE REACHED AND OUR RELATIONSHIP DETERIORATED COMPLETELY; WE AGREE THAT THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPASSIONATE WAY TO END OUR RELATIONSHIP:

NAME OF ARBITER: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO: _____

NAME OF ARBITER: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO: _____

*PLEASE ASK YOUR ARBITERS TO CONSENT TO PROVIDING ARBITRATION AND PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS AGREEMENT TO YOUR ARBITERS AFTER IT HAS BEEN SIGNED.

RELATIONSHIP AFTER LOAN REPAYMENT:

ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS OF THIS AGREEMENT IS ONE WHERE TWO PEOPLE WHO MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER WELL, NOT KNOWN EACH OTHER WELL, OR WERE STRANGERS WILL BE MORE CLOSELY ACQUAINTED. HOW WILL YOU MAINTAIN YOUR

RELATIONSHIP TO ONE ANOTHER AFTER THE STRUCTURE OF A LOAN REPAYMENT HAS BEEN DISSOLVED:

WITNESSES

WITNESS NAME AND SIGNATURE

DATE: _____

WITNESS NAME AND SIGNATURE

DATE: _____

BORROWER NAME & SIGNATURE

LENDER NAME & SIGNATURE

BORROWER AND LENDER INFORMATION

BORROWER ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER:

LENDER ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER:

DRAFT AGREEMENT

FUTURE

AS MENTIONED IN THE INTRODUCTION, THIS GUIDE HAS JUST BEGUN, IT IS VERY MUCH AN INFANT, BUT IN WRITING, AND GROWING IT, IT TOO HAS HELPED ME GROW. I HAVE A HUNCH THAT TREATING MONEY - OUR MOST EFFECTIVE MARKER OF WEALTH - AS THOUGH IT IS "LIVING", AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO GROW IS DANGEROUS. DEBT, FOR MANY LENDERS, IS A WEALTH GENERATING MECHANISM, AND ZERO INTEREST LOANS POSE A THREAT TO SUCH IDEAS.

THE FUTURE OF THIS WORK LEAVES ME WITH
QUESTIONS:

- HOW WILL ZERO INTEREST LOANS CHANGE OUR RELATIONSHIP TO WEALTH?
- WHAT HAPPENS IF, RELATIONSHIPS, NOT MONEY ARE WHAT WE CHOSE TO "GROW"?
- HOW WILL ZERO INTEREST LOANS CHANGE OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GROWTH?
- WHAT DOES "GOOD" GROWTH LOOK LIKE? WHAT ARE ITS MARKERS AND CAN WE EFFICIENTLY MEASURE THEM? IS IT WORTH MEASURING?

- [illegible]

- WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF BANKING? WILL IT REMAIN BUSINESS AS USUAL? OR WILL IT BE SOME STRANGE HYBRID OF CONVENTIONAL BANKING LOANS BEING OFFERED ALONG WITH FREE LOANS?
- WILL FREE LOANS HERALD A NEW WAY OF THINKING ABOUT MONEY? CAN THERE BE NEW MONIES THAT EMBRACE THIS THEORY?
- WHAT RELATIONSHIP, OR RATHER PERCEPTION OF TIME WILL FREE LOANS BRING ABOUT FOR HUMANS WHO ENGAGE WITH THEM?
- IF THERE ARE FREE LOANS, COULD THERE BE NEGATIVE INTEREST LOANS? WHAT WOULD BE ITS USES, OR RATHER HOW WOULD THEY BE DEPLOYED? ARE THESE TOO FAR-FETCHED?
- HOW WOULD NEGATIVE INTEREST LOANS CHANGE OUR PERCEPTION OF TIME, GROWTH, AND VALUE?

The background of the entire page is a solid dark blue. Overlaid on this background is a repeating pattern of light blue symbols. The pattern consists of the number '0' and the percent sign '%' arranged in a grid-like fashion. Each '0' is followed by a '%' symbol, and they are repeated across the entire surface.

TO GET INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT:
SUZANNEMERCHANT@PROTONMAIL.COM