

Social Justice Activists

Alison Aubrecht is a child of the world, though she has often felt safer experiencing it through books. A licensed clinical counselor, Aubrecht recently made a career change and currently works full time with Facundo Element, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the pursuit of social justice.



Aubrecht currently lives in Minnesota. She occasionally dabbles in poetry. Her work has appeared in Deaf Echo, Clerc Scar, Kiss-Fist, The Tactile Mind Weekly, and Deaf American Poetry (Clark, 2009).



Ryan Commerson was born in Michigan and raised by the world. After completing his Masters degree in Cultural Studies, he enrolled in a place of real education called "life" and founded a nonprofit organization, Facundo Element. FE is committed to the pursuit of social justice. Facundo Element strives to revolutionize world consciousness on sign language and human body through filmmaking and activism.

Commerson has produced two films, "Media, Power, & Ideology: Re-Presenting D-E-A-F" (<http://vimeo.com/12817361>) and "Gallaudet" (www.youtube.com/gallaudetfilm). He currently lives in the world's foremost playground, Colorado.

Want to know more about our services?

Contact:
FacundoElement@gmail.com

Transformation Opportunities



**FACUNDO
ELEMENT**
A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION



Our Services

Facundo Element is available to provide a wide range of services focusing on the facilitation of social justice. We offer trainings, workshops, community organizing, cross cultural dialogues, and are available to consult with agencies interested in transforming their organization. Additionally, we are available to produce short films focusing on social justice issues.

Costs:

Our fees vary, but generally include: facilitator fees, flight, boarding, and meals.



When you contact us, please have the following information ready:

- Dates of Event
- Number of days & approximate hours of facilitation time
- Estimated number of people expected to attend
- Target audience & theme (i.e. conference theme)
- Goal of Event & Workshop Topic
- For community organizing: list of concerns, specific goal (what your group wants to change), and a summary of what your group has already attempted.

Sample Facilitation Options



Community Workshop

Recommended: 6-8 Hours

- Alice Shrugged (2-days)
- Introduction to Reframing (1 day)
- Butterfly Effect Topics (1 or 2 days)
- Reframing Retreats (2-3 days)
- Activism (1 or 2 days)



Community Organizing

Involves long term commitment from facilitators.

- Facilitators will go out and stay with your community before and during action planning.
- Community workshop required as part of this option



Group Facilitation & Organization Consultation

Requires two facilitators

- Recommended that the group meets several times and for up to 4 hours at a time.
- Involves interviewing and reviewing organizational structure prior to group work & recommendations

Community Workshops

Recommended: 6-8 Hours

• Alice Shrugged (2-days)

This 2-day event, which is intended for Deaf participants only, is an intensive journey into exploring unconscious responses toward hearing persons, Deaf-Hearing cross cultural dynamics, and options for preventing and responding to controlling or oppressive behaviors that are often hidden behind a mask of benevolence. Limit to 20 participants.

• Introduction to Reframing (1 day)

This 1-day event introduces the concept of framework and how it dominates our everyday lives in various ways: policy, attitude, relationships, perceptions, power, control, privileges, and education.

• Butterfly Effect Topics (1 or 2 days)

We have written two series: The Gallaudet Syndrome and Transgressing the Object. If you want to explore these topics further, this is the workshop for you.

• Reframing Retreats (2-3 days)

This will be a three-day journey exploring themes of power, privilege, and reframing. This intensive, interactive retreat allows participants to explore language and ways that reframing has the potential to inspire positive images. And, because action is a byproduct of any movement; this workshop also strives to leave participants with a better understanding of some of the basic tools of activism. Workshop presenters will utilize three primary methods of instruction: lecture, hands-on activities, and group dialogues.

• Activism (1 or 2 days)

If you are ready to take action, this workshop will be an opportunity for your community to increase understanding of the process involved in nonviolent direct action.

Community Organizing

If your community is ready to take action, our organization is ready to work with you! We are available to help guide your group through the process of planning and implementing action that will create opportunities for change.

We are able to assume various roles: behind the scenes, taking the lead, or assisting with the framing/media process.

Group Facilitation & Organization Consultation

With group facilitation: we utilize a process that is similar to intentional dialogue processes. Two facilitators will guide groups in creating a safe atmosphere to explore cross-cultural conflicts for the purpose of arriving at a place of shared understanding. Group facilitation will involve some pre-group work, such as surveys and interviews with various stakeholders. We do not recommend this option if your organization intends for the group discussion to be a one-time thing (several group meetings required).

If your organization is invested in adopting principles of social justice, learning how to reframe and represent, or would like support in organizational transformation, we are available to consult.

Brief Films

We are available to support your organization in producing short films on a range of topics related to social justice work. For an example, see VRS: Our Economic Power? at <http://blip.tv/rc/vrs-our-economic-power-5435497>