

An Incomplete Guide To Hosting an Event for the FIRE THE BOSS Tour, November 2005

Introduction

Presented below are a few ideas and necessary pieces of information for hosting a Fire the Boss Tour event in your city. This is by no means complete. We're sure that there are steps you've taken that we haven't thought of, and that there are some ideas presented here that may not be appropriate or possible for your group. The suggestions outlined below are mainly based on what we found to be successful on previous tours of this sort.

We hope this tour is not only an inspiring experience for those who attend the events in your city, but that it helps strengthen your local organizing and makes sustainable transnational connections.

For more up-to-the-minute updates on the tour schedule and other updates, please see our web site tour page: <http://EchanLosPatrones.org>

Included below:

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1. Event overview and space needs

Standard Presentation:	Equipment Needed:
Presentations will normally include clips from the film "The Take" as an intro to the setting and movements. Each speaker will then present their movements, answer questions and participate in a discussion.	A video projector (with standard cables and sound) and screen or white wall to project onto. (We will provide laptop and DVD.) If other equipment is needed, we will contact you.

Size of space:

You are probably the best judge of what space would be appropriate for this event. On previous tours, we found that the best spaces for presentation-style events fit 50-120 people comfortably. Generally, the ideal space is centrally located, easy to find, and has had activist events before. Though it is not fun to cram a room way above capacity, a smaller, full room can make an event feel exciting compared with a large, mostly empty room.

Tables for Literature: We are bringing flyers and newsletters and other items from a number of groups with us. A couple of tables near the door that we can display these on would be great.

Sound: Depending on the space, two microphones for the speakers/translators may be needed.

Introduction: We will have an introduction prepared introducing the idea of the tour, the speakers and a few words about the larger Latin American solidarity movement, and will conclude with ways of getting involved. Please feel free to start with your own introduction or to give us a list of people to mention or thank in the introduction.

2. Turnout

Who is your target?

The target attendees for this tour are really workers in the US, specifically poor people, women, people of color and LGBT folks. But just because you have an event at a labor local doesn't mean you will turn out union members, the same goes with community center. The key is having a realistic plan for turnout. If you can get a community organizer to contact all of her/his members and invite them to the event, that's great. If you can coordinate the tour with a pre-existing meeting that is also great. Also we are not trying to have a one-way conversation. Consider setting up an event where local community groups, workers orgs speak together with the Argentineans about their experiences organizing.

Co-Sponsors are also a great way of getting more people involved and, generally, each group has a constituency that it can bring.

3. Fundraising and Payment

Fundraising: how much have you committed to fund raise? What is your plan on getting that money? If the money is coming from Universities, when will the money be available? Are there individual donors that could help you out?

Payment:

If possible, make checks payable to the Fire the Boss coordinator that you have been in touch with.

Let us know if you need address, social security number, etc.

If check must be made out to a tax-exempt charitable organization,

We will send you our fiscal sponsor's info shortly.

*Make sure to put Fire the Boss in the memo line

Please make sure to have all paperwork needed for university funding ready for the day of the event, chasing us down for a signature after the event is possible, but a big inconvenience for both of us.

If you need to send something by fax, please alert us, and use the following number with a note "FOR MATT FEINSTEIN": fax 508-799-9147.

4. Tour logistics

a) Food

Sharing food is a chance to build community. "Compañero" means: "the person who shares bread with you". Our compañeros from the south are visiting your community. Please share your bread with them when they arrive, and please do not assume that all the delegates are vegetarian. We will contact you if any of the delegates have special dietary needs.

b) Housing

Folks from the tour are humble and don't expect the Hilton, but they will also be tired and may need some space to rest. When thinking about housing you should consider the following questions:

- Do I have comfortable places to house 6-7 people?
- Do the people they will be staying with speak Spanish?
- Will the speakers have access to a kitchen so they can prepare food to their own likings?
- Is there access to the internet at this place?

- Is the house hold vegetarian? (If so they better be ok with people eating and possibly cooking meat at the house;)

Ideally, we would like to stay together or very close by to facilitate morning logistics, but you can split us up if you need to.

c) Transportation

The speakers will be traveling together between cities by car. We will use an online map service for general directions, but please send us an address/meeting place/extra directions as soon as you can.

d) Down time/internet access:

Since this will be a long tour, delegates will need to have some down time blocked off. An hour or two of email access is very helpful for delegates who need to be in touch with their movements in South America (bring us to your local library, DIY computer co-op or a computer lab at your college).

5. Event organizing tips

a) How is this going to build for your local organizing?

Think also about the organizing that you and others are involved in. How can this event help further your own organizing efforts? How can we use this event to create connections with other workers organizations across the country and internationally?

If you would like to add an additional speaker, please let us know. Announcements about upcoming meetings ways for people to plug into campaigns and projects are great. We would also advise having a sign-up sheet so that people can get involved in your group.

b) International Solidarity

What does international solidarity look like to the organization you are a part of? Think about ways that your org and the factories in Argentina could work together for common goals in the future. How can we support each other?

c) Consider a media event.

Argentina is no longer on the front page, but it is still important (at least we think so or else we wouldn't have organized the tour). Think about local independent media sources that might pick up the event or want to schedule an interview some ideas may be: local Indymedia activists, Pacifica stations for those of you in NYC and DC, community newspapers, and union papers.

We will have a press release template available for groups that are able to do press (available on the web site soon, we will email you the link). Sending out a one-page press release, along with a follow-up phone call, can yield great results.

d) Getting the word out: publicity

There are many different approaches that are possible with this tour. Think about the audience you want to attract and design your publicity with them in mind.

Posting Flyers: Making flyers and posting them can also help, especially if they are posted in high-visibility places like progressive bookstores and cafes and on campuses. We will have a template flyer available to download from our web site. Feel free to change it however you'd like, or to make your own.

Similar events: In the weeks or days leading up to the event, its especially important to get the word out at rallies, teach-ins, and other progressive events: not just global justice-related, but also anti-war, groups of color and others.

Email: Email, especially to all the local “activist” listservs, is one of the easiest ways to get the word out. Try to have an email that’s specific to your audience. An email sent to Quakers might emphasize a different angle than one sent to student activists. Don’t forget the last-minute reminder email.

Other things to consider include: contacting the listings sections of all local papers and phone banking.

6. Delegate Info

a) Carlos Alberto Barra from the Movimiento de Trabajadores Desocupados (MTD- Unemployed Worker Movement) Allen, Rio Negro, South Argentina.

MTD Allen is a movement of unemployed workers that uses direct action street blockades to demand everything from government reforms to food. They attempt to live outside of capitalism, producing everything possible themselves in workshops like an organic farm, chicken and rabbit hatcheries, a community kitchen, a hair cuttery, and a canned foods group. The MTD Allen maintains a collective space for meetings, popular education, productive workshops, and collective meals. Through the Coordination of Autonomous Organizations MTD Allen works with other unemployed movements who share similar goals, like MTD Cipolletti, MTD Solano, and MTD Guernica.

b) Noelia Lecerfs from Hotel Bauen:

Hotel Bauen is a 4 star hotel, well placed in downtown Buenos Aires of 120 workers. In March of 2003, the workers took over the installations of the hotel in order to maintain their source of work. It has been a very difficult struggle in the last year and a half. In one year they were able to quadruple the number of workers, make the hotel function, which has now become a meeting space for many social movements and at the same time a cultural center.

Winning the expropriation of the hotel is expected soon. The hotel has almost been evicted many times. With the threat of evictions imminent, the workers maintain a permanent assembly. Hotel Bauen has a very impressive system of making democratic decisions which still managing to run a 24 hour hotel.

c) Eulalia Alicia Perez from the CUC (United Cooperative of Shoe-Makers) Ex-Adidas Factory

United Cooperative of Shoe-Makers (la CUC) is one of the most important shoe and sports companies in the whole country. This factory, which was called Gatic, once made shoes for ADIDAS and made shoes and sports clothes for the National Soccer Team. In the factory’s most productive period there were more than 20 production plants and more than 7,200 workers.

At the end of 2001, a new director of the company decided to fire all the workers at the main plant and ran off with the machines. The workers answered (with the help of family, neighbors, and student) by setting up a tent outside the factory “resisting” and “staying the long haul” for almost a year in the street. At the end of the year, they re-opened the plant and the workers returned to work. In September of 2003, the workers again began to lose pay, and tired of the same old history, on October 17th, they decided to take over the plant. They formed the Cooperative of United Shoe-makers and on December 22 they won the expropriation.

d) Elsa Montero from the Clinica Fenix (x-IMECC):

IMECC is a worker-run clinic of 54 doctors, nurses, technicians, biochemists, nutritionists, cooks, housekeeping, and other specialists. In June of 2003 the clinic had shut down; it had been a long process, where salaries were cut over and over again and eventually the owners just stopped showing up. Elsa says, “they owed me over a year and a half of salary”.

Instead of losing their jobs and becoming part of the growing number of unemployed in Argentina, workers at the factory decided to return to the machines lying vacant in the clinic and open the doors to patients. They began by going to the government to demand expropriation, but when the talks failed they took the factory, defending it in shifts throughout the day and with help with other occupied factories. Today, IMEC is a shining example of workers like doctors, nurses and janitors that together run a democratic clinic.

(There is always the chance that visas will be denied or other border crossing complications, however, we do have two women lined up in case of problems. If something happens we will send out an update, and be sure to keep an eye out for updates: <http://www.autonomista.org/2004falltour.htm>).

And finally, let us know how we can help!

UPDATED INFO: <http://EchanLosPatrones.org>

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