



Idea Lab Summary of Notes

The following questions were posed, and the most popular responses are listed after each question:

1. What are the biggest issues that will impact economic / racial equality economic impact?

- Jobs
 - Fair wages,
 - Keeping boys and men of color employed despite historical divestment
 - Redefining the safety net for young people to get jobs and to have role models
- Encouraging entrepreneurship
- Internet/digital divide
- Money in politics/corporate influence in elections; *Citizens United*
- Climate change and environmental issues affecting communities of color disproportionately.
- Education
 - Educational systems leaving far too many behind and exacerbating class divisions in this country by not providing quality education for everyone.
 - Educational disparity the foundation of class struggle
 - Student debt now overtakes credit card debt to an excess of 1 trillion dollars...
 - Equitable and affordable secondary education—jobs for recent college graduates; reducing college debt
 - Promote vocational/trades/post-secondary (community college) that is NOT stigmatized.
- Social Capital
 - Redefine fatherhood/social/family fabric/child support
- Financial empowerment
 - Homeownership viewed as key to financial success
 - Financial literacy taught as core curriculum
 - Need economically secure communities-need to connect distressed neighborhoods to the economic opportunities
 - Access to capital
 - Right regulatory and governance infrastructure
- Immigration reform-everyone is worth dignity.



- Preserving and promoting healthcare reform.
- Criminal Justice
 - How do we prepare folks for when they get out?
 - Disparate incarceration of people of color and poor men with no jobs.
 - Taken away from families?
 - Why don't we have smarter policies to support men in other roles?

2. What trends should we (Greenlining) pay attention to?

- Figure out ways to change what corporations do/are allowed to do
- Organizations are overwhelmed and underfunded
 - "We only fund what works"
 - No room to fail, but it's not a failure if you learn what works.
- Utilize technology to scale on a mass level as a means of more effective communication
 - Tech savvy youth
 - Technology as a whole--accessibility to education via internet and information sharing, free education online
 - Smaller communities sharing resources (via technology) as resources become scarcer.
- Tremendous population growth. How do we design communities (infrastructure, etc.) to accommodate and educate more people to prevent digital divide?
- Community Reinvestment Act developments--remains to be seen what will happen with/community giving; constantly evolving.
- Larger middle class in Mexico and Central America spurring emigration from US

3. What are current successful models that address the above?

- Should look at international models that have been successful
 - Looking at countries who are doing things well (Finland, Sweden)
- Campaign finance movement
- Academy of Business leadership (reps from Goldman Sachs to teach kids. Also programs such as Wall Street Wizards
- Full service community schools
- Financial empowerment
 - Create a "building Credit" class that is mandatory for high school seniors.
 - Help families save
 - Incentives →baby bond account
- Foreign countries are now moving to the US and hiring workers here. Target foreign companies setting up shop in U.S. "international Greenlining." Make sure to step in & educate (re: racial disparities).

- Address all concerns (physical, emotional) of students
- Civic Engagement + Participation
 - Sharing information, gathering human capital
 - Call out folks who are not doing social good using social media
 - Teaching older generation how to utilize the power of social media
 - Crowd funding →having people fund the local community
- Labor involvement
 - A track for non-college bound youth.
 - Lead to more jobs that stay local

4. Where else can we take these conversations?

- Financial literacy crucial for all. “Building credit” classes in high school or younger. Teaching “saving up.”
- Need to support organized labor in efforts to provide alternative education and solid career opportunities for those not interested in a liberal arts education at a university.
- Need for diversity in leaders of Corporate Social Responsibility and Foundations.
- Greenlining should have community forums-Richmond, Oakland, etc.
- Have a “CEO for a day” program for students, CEO swap
- Have this conversation with students-start getting ideas early.
- Need to talk about specifics to implement diversity instead of issuing useless platitudes.

5. What are the biggest barriers that we face?

- Disparate agendas-no rallying around common goals by underserved communities and communities of color; nothing is getting done while people are fighting for attention.

6. What is the role of technology?

- To continue to introduce ideas of social justice and economic opportunity for all on all technology/social media platforms.
- More information above

Other interesting suggestions/observations:

- Reducing recidivism rates with *more* well-funded re-entry programs.
- Increase higher education access
- Green jobs for a growing green economy
- More technology/math & science oriented education
- Trades education
- Greenlining should evolve more into a lobbying organization.
- Greenlining should host community forums