

# Portland, Maine

## So- Jus Diversa-Village

### ‘Build-It!’ Convergence

An International EcoVillage Providing Services of Equality to the Community

May 21-30, 2007 - Portland, Maine

Providing countless services to all neighboring communities including a childcare center with extended hours (see page 8), a very large community building with free-of-charge use, (see page 3) and Braille transcriber services so people worldwide can convert their material to Braille.



#### So-Jus Diversa-Village

A So-Jus Diversa-Village is an ecovillage with an emphasis on Social Justice and Diversity. The word So-Jus is short for Social Justice and Diversa is short for diversity. It is a true community that is strictly **not-for-profit, with no fee and no rent required** from community members.

#### It is a combination of characteristics from the following fee-based communities:

- the progressive characteristics of an intentional community
- the privacy characteristics of a cohousing community
- the ability to provide activists with resources which is characteristic of increasingly popular independent resource centers and...
- ...the networking characteristic of indigenous tribes that enables activists to travel and relocate temporarily or permanently yet still be a part of the same activist network having unlimited resources and support with them wherever they go.

#### *Don't forget!*

You can print out this booklet in pdf format (or in document format so that you can modify it to create your own community) or you can join the email list for updates on this project at:

[www.aworldofpeace.org/sjdv.html](http://www.aworldofpeace.org/sjdv.html)

or

[www.dsame.com/sjdv.html](http://www.dsame.com/sjdv.html)

Cover Page and Pg. 1

# The So-Jus Diversa-Village Model is based on an actual Village Model... but it is a permanent home that expands, rather than transitional small homes.

The need for volunteers will range from 10 to 600 depending on the number of villagers participating in the construction. We would love anyone to join in because there are lots of places for people to get their hands in the mud or on the wood regardless of skill level.



Ten or more people could be engaged on one dwelling alone. Skilled carpenters or construction workers of any background are always welcome at the So-Jus Diversa-Village site since our construction methods are based on integrating natural building materials with conventionally framed structures. The goal is to help train the villagers and each other as we rebuild the village.

Volunteers are recommended to bring a pair of gloves and work clothes. Sunscreen and a hat are also recommended since the climate at the So-Jus Diversa-Village isn't shaded. There is water on site as well as port-a-potties. Vegetarian lunch will be provided, but if you have any particular dietary restrictions you will want to talk with the site coordinator. Parking is limited, as the So-Jus Diversa-Village is a pedestrian village, so please bike or car pool.

## Site's Schedule of Activities

**May 22, 2007:** Intro to light straw clay constructing walls and in-fill painting and possible plaster primary dwelling

**May 23-24, 2007:** Constructing walls and light straw clay of remaining buildings, platform construction, walls and windows

**May 25, 2007:** Constructing walls and light straw clay roofing, gutters and possibly rain barrel work

**May 26, 2007:** Construction continued, finish details begin roofing, painting, trellis work and plaster

**May 27-28, 2007:** Plasters, painting and finish details

**May 29, 2007:** Wrap up projects lots of detail oriented work finish plasters and site clean up

**May 30, 2007:** Celebration

Dear friends,

For every million peace activists, social service workers and rescue workers who confront the leaves, the twigs and the branches of the problems in our economy, there is one who will confront the root of the problem. At the root you must know about love. Then your heart and mind will open and you will clearly see... that the root of the word 'economics' originated from the Greek root word 'oikos,' meaning 'home,' and 'nomos,' meaning management. When we begin to restructure the management of how our homes are built and how we live within our own communities, only then can we make a difference beyond our own front door. Whether you choose to join our So-Jus Diversa-Village, or create your own, I hope that you will read this booklet and become that one in a million.

Love for the people,  
-T



The below Map is the actual Dignity Village Site Map. The Captions are temporary details that may apply to the So-Jus Divers-Village 2007. Nothing is permanent right now as it is still being discussed.

#### Reduced Liability

This is important as this community will serve people of all backgrounds.

#### You are part of a network:

Members are part of a network of So-Jus Diversa-Villages worldwide.

**Unlimited Resources:** Members have 24 hour access to resources such as a photocopier, scanner, fax, computers, a workshop room which they can reserve to teach private classes, a podcast (internet radio station) creation room, an activist library, a garden or greenhouse,



a children's playroom and maybe even Braille transcriber equipment so all material can be converted into Braille. A nationwide publication will also support member's independent progressive business to encourage members to unplug from multinational corporate employers. See regional magazine example at [www.openexchange.org](http://www.openexchange.org)

Trailer (or building) with the land-line telephone and internet access for computers. The entire site would be wireless to enable computer users to have free, 24 hour internet access.

24 hour Independent Media Library Here

Women and Children's Showers

Men's Showers

Solar Power Panels Area

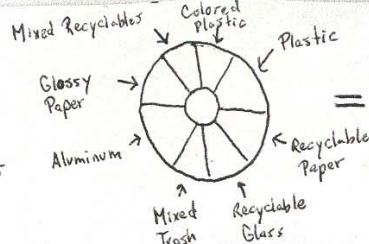
CH = Common House

= Home for families

= Home for single people

= Home for couples

Garden



A Recycling and trash carousel. Every day someone with a cart on a bicycle empties the carousel and takes the trash to the main containers.

The common house often has an inexpensive regular size kitchen and a very large dining room so that people can each bring a dish from their homes and have a potluck type meal together about once a week and special occasions.

Common House #1

Common House #2

Children's Play Area

Soundproof Studio for Podcasting/Musicians etc. A Podcast is an internet radio station

Glossy Magazines/Paper

Mixed-Recyclables

Road into the So-Jus Diversa-Village

Public Transit Bus Stop

Donations of non-perishable items

Mixed-trash container

Recyclable Glass

Recyclable Paper

Recyclable Plastic

Recyclable Aluminum

#### The Social Justice Outreach House.

A building used as a community meeting place and used as an emergency transition house for victims of blizzards, floods, hurricanes and disasters worldwide.

The Free Space Building

This building would have more space



## **Pooling Our Experience: So-Jus Diversa-Villages**

### **Now Forming: Networking for Peace So-Jus Diversa-Village.**

*"After fifteen years of the women's movement, the gap between women's earnings and men's is greater than ever, women earning on the average only fifty-nine cents to every dollar men earn, the average male high school drop-out today earning \$1,600 more a year than female college graduates."*

*"We must take a fresh look at work and the demands made by corporations, schools and government, and recognize the possibilities of flextime, part-time, job-sharing, and split-shift work and education. We must think in terms of restructuring the home itself, so that it can be made more suitable to the demands and **diversity** of our new families."*

*"I believe that we have to... move into the second stage... the second stage involves coming to terms with the family - new terms with love and with work. The second stage may not even be a woman's movement. Men may be at the cutting edge of the second stage. The second stage has to transcend the battle for equal power in institutions. The second stage will restructure institutions and transform the nature of power itself."*

*"For there is a real backlash against the equality and the personhood of women - in American, as in Islam and the Vatican. Dangerous reactionary forces are turning women back to the old dependence, silencing women's new voice ...in ways we do not clearly understand. In the name of the family, they would destroy the new equality that gives the family strength to resist dehumanizing forces that are emerging in the seeming impotence of capitalist America, in the resurgence of fundamentalist religion, in neofascism and in autocratic communism, and in the chaos of the Third World. We must ask new questions or we could lose in the economic and emotional turbulence, the measure of equality that is essential to strengthen human life - and the future of the family. The first stage, the woman's movement, was fought within, and against, and defined by that old structure of unequal, polarized male and female sex roles."*

*"The experts of psychology, sociology, economics, biology, even the new feminism experts, are still engaged in the old battles, of women versus men. The new questions that need to be asked - and with them, the new structures for the new struggle - can only come from pooling our experience..."*

-Betty Friedan, from 'The Second Stage.' Betty Friedan was also the author of 'The Feminine Mystique' and the founder and first president of the National Organization for Women (NOW).



**Title of Presentation: Pooling Our Experience: Creating So-Jus Diversa-Villages.** The most effective means of using time, rent, utilities, gas, childcare resources and volunteers in long-term organized resistance activities

**IMPORTANT:** Large print and many multilingual versions of this anti-copyrighted document are available at: [www.dsame.com/sjdv.html](http://www.dsame.com/sjdv.html)


**Description of Presentation:** In this course we will cover four elements. First we will very briefly discuss a few reasons why minorities, marginalized groups, single parents and extremely low-income people don't participate in activist groups more often. Second, we will discuss how creating multiracial, multicultural communities in which activists live and work together in a group of private homes, yurts or village-huts, is the most effective means of using time, rent, utilities, gas, travel time, childcare resources and volunteers in long-term organized resistance activities. Third, we will cover the need to internationally network those groups in order to prevent the traditional fragmentation amongst community activist groups and in order to enable those communities to most effectively confront the pillars of globalization. And fourth, we will discuss some of the most effective methods used to create a multicultural, multiracial true community known as a **So-Jus Diversa-Village**.




Each **So-Jus Diversa-Village** has 100% wheelchair access to all bedrooms and bathrooms. In addition each has: **A.** a group of private homes with a shared common house or **B.** a single home, ranch, farm, or tent city with individual rooms or tents with a shared common house (until a group of private homes with a shared common house can be created). The podcast has 24 hour internet access to resources which may include a photocopier, a computer, a scanner, a workshop room, a podcast (internet radio) creation room, an activist library, a garden or greenhouse, a children's playroom and maybe Braille transcriber equipment.

**For students and activists, the bottom line to these communities is... do you want your home/dormitory, study room, your babysitter and your job in 4 remote areas of the city? Or do you want them all in one community? And if you want them in one community... are you willing to help create it? Don't wait for someone else to create it... start creating it today!**



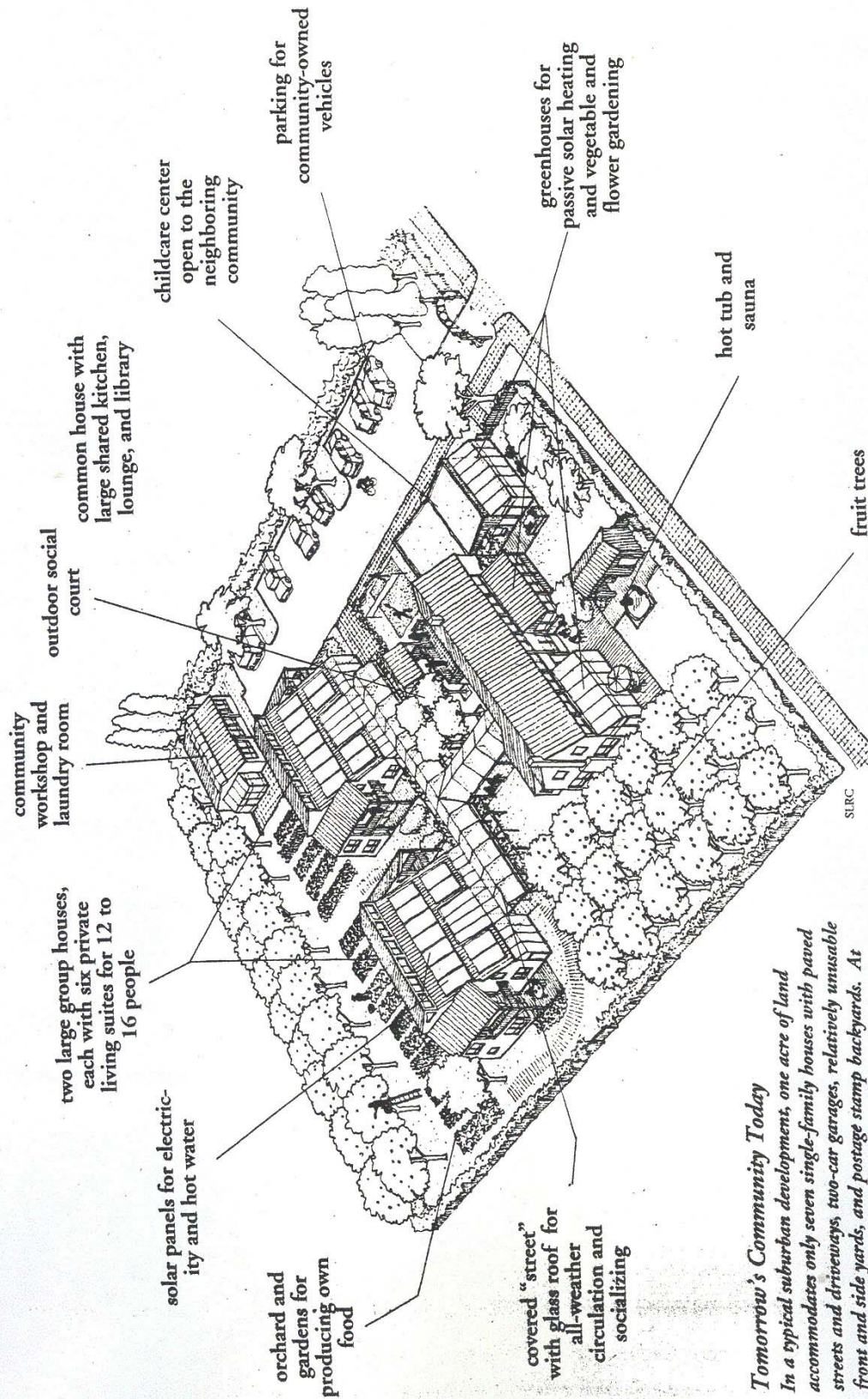
**So-Jus Diversa-Village Community Meetings**(From left to right) Phil, Jake, Emmy and Jake at a So-Jus Diversa-Village Community Meeting at the People's Free Space. We invite you to join us at our next meeting!

Type of Housing	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p><b>Traditional Intentional Community</b></p> <p>Definition: People living together many times with shared economy such as income, assets, property and liability. Many Intentional Communities have a mission statement of egalitarian, progressive and/or non-authoritarian values. Most intentional communities in the USA are fee-required communities.</p>	<p><b>Unity at home and at work</b> People living together and working together. A Bulletin board for finding intentional communities is found at <a href="http://www.aworldofpeace.org">www.aworldofpeace.org</a> by clicking on 'post to photo-classifieds' or clicking on the word 'communities.' For a directory of thousands of intentional communities worldwide go to <a href="http://www.ic.org">www.ic.org</a>, and click on directory listings.</p>	<p><b>You are NOT part of a network:</b> You could live in a traditional intentional community your whole life, pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to help make it a wonderful community but you could still get 'voted out' or 'kicked out' if one of the below occurs: #1. Someone engages in illegal activities, or activities which prompt a lawsuit and causes the entire community to be seized by the government, or to be sold because of a lost lawsuit. #2. A major, unresolved disagreement or personal crisis occurs #3. New groups of blatantly ageist people take control of the leadership in the group and force you, during your senior years, to move out. (This type of ageism is increasing as the baby boomer generation becomes the largest senior population in history).</p>
<p><b>Traditional Cohousing Group</b></p> <p>Definition: People living together, often with no shared economy. Unlike traditional intentional communities, most residents have their own separate kitchens, living rooms, restrooms and they own their own separate home within the community, thus maintaining their privacy even while living in a community. Sometimes the traditional cohousing group is managed by a housing association or condominium association group (usually on a strictly <b>fee-required</b> basis). All known cohousing groups in the USA are very high fee-required communities. Cohousing is, in reality, a euphemism for gentrification.</p>	<p><b>Reduced Liability, Increased Privacy</b> If one member decides to independently do something illegal (such as illegally use grow, distribute, or sell drugs from their private home within the community) if they are arrested, then the government only takes their home within the community, rather than to unjustly take all the homes within the community.</p> 	<p><b>In a Traditional Cohousing Community... You are NOT part of a network (see details #2 and #3 above).</b> <b>Also, you</b> could still get 'voted out' or 'kicked out' by consensus if one of the below occurs: #4. Traditional Cohousing is a fee-required group and even if you worked your entire life and paid rent or mortgage on your cohousing unit on time your entire life, if you discover that you can't continue paying the rent or mortgage (due to emergency, loss of a high paying job, a divorce causing high alimony payments, etc.) you will lose your cohousing home to the bank or to the traditional cohousing group like in any other non-community living situation. Also, due to the sky-rocketing high cost of a traditional cohousing home (\$200,000 - \$500,000, minimum, each) your semi-wealthy neighbors may support oppressive political ideologies and tax laws which do not help the poor, marginalized people of our society. #5. If you become outspoken about progressive views such as ending ableism, ageism, classism, homophobia, racism and sexism within your cohousing group you may be 'kicked out by 'group consensus...' minus one... <u>you</u>.</p>
<p><b>So-Jus Diversa-Village</b></p> <p>Definition: A So-Jus Diversa-Village is an ecovillage with an emphasis on Social Justice and Diversity. The word So-Jus is short for Social Justice and Diversa is short for diversity. It is a true community that is strictly <b><u>not-for-profit, with no fee and no rent required</u></b> from community members.</p> <p>It is a combination of characteristics from the following fee-based communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the progressive characteristics of an intentional community</li> <li>• the privacy characteristics of a cohousing community</li> <li>• the ability to provide activists with resources which is characteristic of increasingly popular independent resource centers and...</li> <li>• ...the networking characteristic of indigenous tribes that enables activists to travel and relocate temporarily or permanently yet still be a part of the same activist network having unlimited resources and support with them wherever they go.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unity at home and at work (See details above).</b></p> <p><b>Reduced Liability (see details above):</b> This is important as this community will serve people of all backgrounds.</p> <p><b>You are part of a network:</b> Members are part of a network of <b>So-Jus Diversa-Villages</b> worldwide.</p> <p><b>Unlimited Resources:</b> Members have 24 hour access to resources such as a photocopier, scanner, fax, computers, a workshop room which they can reserve to teach private classes, a podcast (internet radio station) creation room, an activist library, a garden or greenhouse,</p>  <p>a children's playroom and Braille transcriber services so people worldwide can convert material into Braille. A nationwide publication will also support member's independent progressive business to encourage members to unplug from multinational corporate employers. See regional magazine example at <a href="http://www.openexchange.org">www.openexchange.org</a></p>	 <p>A So-Jus Diversa-Village is a true community. No true community can sit back and do nothing (or simply throw money with <u>no accountability</u> to the Red Cross and Salvation Army) while a crisis such as Hurricane Katrina is occurring within their country. <b>The greatest disadvantage to becoming a So-Jus Diversa-Village member, is that in one way or another, members will all help to rescue and provide assistance to victims of cold weather and disasters, worldwide, when the government leaves them to die.</b> Sixty-percent of the income needed to run the So-Jus Diversa-Village would come from donations and grants. [There are many people who believe that the Salvation Army and the Red Cross support policies of sexism, homophobia and are over-burdened with responsibility. "The case continues to be made that this congressionally chartered organization is dysfunctional." –Bernie Thompson, Democratic Representative from Mississippi, as Congress began an inquiry in January 2006 into how the Red Cross mismanaged relief efforts and funds for Hurricane Katrina, 9/11 and other disasters. "Salvation Army Rates High on Finances but Low on Governance... unlike most other major charities, it is not required to file public information because it is considered by the IRS and state authorities to be a church...over \$2 billion in income." – The American Institute of Philanthropy, a nationally prominent charity watchdog service whose purpose is to help donors make informed giving decisions. Read more at <a href="http://www.charitywatch.org">www.charitywatch.org</a>, click 'articles.']. Furthermore, all donations will have an anonymous tracking number, in a manner which allows donors the private ability to see where their donations went to on the internet. If the postal service can charge less than 75 cents extra for such an online tracking number to track a \$5 package mailed anywhere, why is it that non-profit and not-for-profit groups can't do the same for a \$20 donation? They can... if they want to. Its time for more public accountability and much more community compassion. (See Martin Luther King Jr.'s definition of 'true compassion on page 10.)</p> 
<p><b>Traditional Activist Group</b></p> <p>Definition: Progressive activists.</p>	<p><b>Unity at work</b> People working together only in the activist group.</p>	<p><b>Never-ending, endless individual personal expenses.</b> Volunteers at groups working to end poverty/homelessness, can't even house, adequately feed or even provide public transit tokens or bus passes to their own volunteers. Winter causes many groups to temporarily/permanently end.</p>

Discrimination Characteristics	Decision-Making Process	Type of Housing
<p><b>Ageism in Traditional Intentional Communities (IC's)</b>- Increasingly, many IC's blatantly and unapologetically discriminate based on age. They even state in their paid ads in magazines "We can only accept a limited number of seniors" or "we need people in their 20's and 30's only."</p> <p><b>Homophobia in Traditional Intentional Communities</b>- Many IC's are based on a religion and are strictly homophobic, sometimes even sponsoring protests at LGBTQ events and marriages.</p> <p><b>Mind Control and Slave Labor in Traditional Intentional Communities</b>- Visit <a href="http://www.factnet.org">www.factnet.org</a> to read their list of well-documented Mind-Control intentional communities. Direct URL: <a href="http://www.factnet.org/CultGroups.html">www.factnet.org/CultGroups.html</a></p>	<p><b>Greatly Varies.</b></p> <p>Sometimes the formal cohousing consensus process is used (see details below).</p>	<p><b>Traditional Intentional Community</b></p>
<p><b>Classism in Traditional Cohousing</b> – Cohousing is one of the worst forms of institutionalized classism within communities on earth (in industrialized countries). It is extremely common that those who are individually 'selected' by the group, must then pay for membership fees (often monthly) and/or a home before being admitted and/or being 'allowed' to participate in group community decisions. Most cohousing in the USA strictly has no multilingual access and no Braille access despite having multimillion-dollar budgets.</p> <p><b>Racism in Traditional Cohousing</b> – Cohousing was a very good idea when found in Denmark in the 1960s, but when brought to the USA, in the 1980s' it was transformed into a new form of gentrification, a form of gated community, which uses expensive houses as the gates. Cohousing (a term coined by cohousing consultants who currently offer community help to people who can afford their fees of thousands and thousands of dollars for consultations) may very well be the worst form of institutionalized community racism currently existing in the USA (excluding groups with mission statements which clearly promote racism such as the KKK, Skinheads, neo-Nazi's, etc.,). Most books written about cohousing even state that most cohousing developments in the USA have very few or absolutely no people of color. The few people of color 'selected' after an approval process (which sometimes includes a credit check, extensive rental history, multiple cross-country visits to the community which the person of color must entirely pay for, etc.,)... must then pay for high monthly membership fees and/or a home before being admitted and/or being 'allowed' to participate in cohousing decisions. Most cohousing in the USA strictly has no multilingual access despite their multimillion-dollar budgets and yet they (particularly in the South) hire off-site, non-member, janitorial servants and babysitters at non-union wages who know very little, or no English. People who support capitalism will find that they are at home in traditional cohousing groups because they can accrue and hoard 'capital' in the form of endless money poured into their individually owned homes without concern for social justice or for access to people who cannot afford to pay their rent and fees.</p>	<p><b>Strictly Consensus.</b> The formal cohousing consensus process is a decision making process which promotes ableism, ageism, classism, racism, sexism and authoritarian rule over others by a privileged few. This is because the process disproportionately gives unlimited power to aggressive people, yet it silences various genders, with vocal physical disabilities, members of various cultures (particularly new immigrants), ages (particularly teen-agers or very elderly members), and members who are uncomfortable with 'blocking' the entire group's consensus decisions even if they completely disagree with it. Rarely does the process ever have multilingual or Braille access. For more information please see Zoe Mitchell's 57-page thesis 'A Critique of Consensus.' The critique can be found at: <a href="http://www.dsames.com/zmccwebpage.htm">www.dsames.com/zmccwebpage.htm</a> or found as a PDF document at <a href="http://www.dsames.com/zmcc.pdf">www.dsames.com/zmcc.pdf</a></p>	<p><b>Traditional Cohousing Group</b></p> <p>Cohousing is, in reality, a euphemism for gentrification.</p>
<p><b>Ideologies</b> - People who support and promote ableism, ageism, classism, homophobia, racism and sexism may find that they do <u>NOT</u> feel at home in a So-Jus Diversa-Village. Unlike traditional cohousing communities, each So-Jus Diversa-Village has a mission statement which states that members strive to end (in alphabetical order) ableism, ageism, classism, homophobia, racism and sexism while working for world peace. <i>"True Peace is not the absence of tension, it is the presence of justice."</i> -Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail</p> <p>The full text (a highly recommended resource) of the Letter from Birmingham Jail can be found at: <a href="http://www.dsames.com/mlkletter.doc">www.dsames.com/mlkletter.doc</a> or found as a PDF document at <a href="http://www.dsames.com/mlkletter.pdf">www.dsames.com/mlkletter.pdf</a></p>	<p><b>Greatly Varies</b></p>  <p>It is a not-for-profit group, but it is not a non-profit (501c3) group so members are legally able to practice freedom of speech, make united statements and reach decisions without restriction.</p>	<p><b>So-Jus Diversa-Village Community</b></p> 
<p><b>Ableism in Traditional Activist Groups</b> – Many have such small budgets that they must rent space in buildings with no wheelchair access, and office materials are placed far up on high bookshelves, inaccessible to wheelchair users, in order to save space. They often have no material in the entire office which has Braille or multilingual access (including 'welcome brochures or welcome flyers.'). Unfortunately, stairs with no elevator and wheelchair inaccessible restrooms are sadly considered 'the norm' rather than 'a gross injustice'.</p> <p><b>Ageism in Traditional Activist Groups</b> – Many have very poorly lit offices, which is important as a very well lit office area is one of the leading reasons why so many people, including elderly progressive activists, prefer working in independent resource centers like FedEx-Kinko's (despite the fact that F.E.K. has infamous, anti-union out-sourcing and multinational corporate ethics).</p> <p><b>Classism in Traditional Activist Groups</b> - Many groups and traditional non-profit groups (in rural parts of the USA and third world countries) are often located in places not accessible by public transit. Furthermore, those comparatively few people of financially disadvantaged social classes who do have cars, often can't afford the gas needed to go back and forth constantly to the activist or non-profit groups and protests, particularly as gas prices are sky-rocketing.</p> <p><b>Sexism in Traditional Activist Groups</b> – Many activist groups rarely have free-of-charge childcare for mothers who would like to attend their meetings. Some groups even go so far as to publicly criticize women and humiliate them for bringing their kids to the meeting saying: "YOU'LL have to find some kind of childcare arrangement because they disrupt you and our members from participating in <u>our</u> meeting." For an excellent description of childcare options read 'The Second Stage,' by Betty Frieden, Chapter 8: 'Take Back The Day.'</p> 	<p><b>Greatly Varies.</b> Group decisions are severely restricted in non-profit (501c3) activist groups and freedom of speech is sacrificed in exchange for tax-breaks. Unity is discouraged as members are forbidden from speaking out against even the most extreme and oppressive politicians. Even if the group decided they'd like to make group statements about politicians and multinational corporations, they could lose their non-profit status. They can't even say: "A vote for Schwarzenegger or Rudolph Giuliani is a vote for killing people of color who are Nobel Peace Prize Nominees or innocent men standing on their own home's doorstep. Remember Tookie and Diallo." For more info see <a href="http://www.dsames.com/remember.doc">www.dsames.com/remember.doc</a> or <a href="http://www.dsames.com/remember.pdf">www.dsames.com/remember.pdf</a> or <a href="http://www.dsames.com/remember.mht">www.dsames.com/remember.mht</a></p>	<p><b>Traditional Activist Group</b></p>



Type of Housing	Financial Investment Characteristics	Housing Structure
<b>Traditional Intentional Community</b>	<p><b>Priority: Varies.</b></p> <p><b>Risky financial and personal Investment</b></p> <p>Many times, everybody shares liability.</p>	<p><b>Housing Structures in Traditional Intentional Communities, Greatly...</b></p> <p>varies. Often people live together in large buildings in thin walled, dormitory-style rooms with no private bathrooms or kitchens. Much like living in a college dormitory, this is enjoyable for 1-4 years, but afterwards, residents permanently leave due to reasons rooted in lack of privacy, lack of space for a family, etc..</p>
<p><b>Traditional Cohousing Group</b></p> <p>Cohousing is, in reality, a euphemism for gentrification.</p>	<p><b>Priority: Money</b></p> <p>Increased financial investment in capital rather than a personal investment in peace, racial and multicultural diversity and creating real community.</p>	<p><b>Housing Structures in Traditional Cohousing Groups</b></p> <p>Several smaller houses (anywhere from 8-30+ houses) are formed near a much larger common house. The entire cohousing group is usually advised by a cohousing consultant who charges thousands of dollars in consultant fees and then refers the group to multinational corporations to have the buildings created so that everyone's exterior house design is almost robotically identical. The common house often has a phenomenally expensive industrial size kitchen, a very large dining room, workshop, a library, a fireplace, an exercise room and many more luxurious rooms. Each house usually has a full-size kitchen and one or more full size bathrooms. The cost of building and maintaining a cohousing building causes low-income people, people of color and the disabled to be refused entry.</p>
<p><b>So-Jus Diversa-Village Community</b></p>	<p><b>Priority: Peace</b></p> <p>Increased personal investment in creating true communities, racial and multicultural diversity and world <b>peace</b> (as defined by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.).</p>	<p><b>Housing Structures in So-Jus Diversa-Village Communities</b></p> <p>...Several smaller houses (anywhere from 2 or more houses) are formed near a much larger common house. The houses are usually built one at a time in an ecologically friendly manner, in different designs, by local people who are not part of multinational corporations. The common house often has an inexpensive regular size kitchen and a very large dining room so that people can each bring a dish from their homes and have a potluck type meal together about once a week and special occasions. Each house has, at least, a half-size private kitchen and a private full-size bathroom. The cost of building a So-Jus Diversa-Village enables many activists, low-income people and people of color to be a part of this community. In addition, there is a <b>Social Justice Outreach House</b>.</p> <p><b>Diversity</b></p> <p><b>The Social Justice Outreach House.</b> A building used as a community meeting place and used as an emergency transition house for victims of blizzards, floods, hurricanes and disasters worldwide.</p> <p><b>Large Common House.</b> Twenty-four hour library, childcare, resource center more in a common house.</p>
<p><b>Traditional Activist Group</b></p>	<p><b>Priority: Surviving on a daily basis</b></p> <p>Each and every single day each member must individually worry about surviving and making ends meet, alone. In addition, many activists find that every time someone starts a new activist group all the resources (office space, fax, computer, photocopier, telephone, etc.) must be bought again. There must be a better way. People need true communities where activists live and work together.</p>	<p><b>Housing Structure in Activist Groups is...</b> "Fend for yourself, make it to meetings, volunteer with no wages or stipend... and if you have anything left, donate or pay membership dues..." Typically, activist groups have no shared house or building in which activists live together, free-of-charge. The cost of living individually, paying rent, paying for childcare, for food, electricity, heat, and bus fare to attend activist meetings across town, causes extremely low-income people, people of color, single parents and the disabled to be unable to participate in many activist groups, especially in the Fall and Winter. Also, many low-income activists feel barred from the group's social events which usually consist of going to restaurants, café's, coffee shops, etc.. These are outings not financially possible for many people. There must be a better way. It is time to create real and true communities. It is time to create <b>So-Jus Diversa-Villages</b>.</p>



## The So-Jus Diversa-Village

Total land area = one acre (43,560 sq. ft.)  
 Ground area covered by parking & buildings = 38% of site (16,400 sq. ft.)  
 Usable open space = 62% of site (27,160 sq. ft.)

### Tomorrow's Community Today

In a typical suburban development, one acre of land accommodates only seven single-family houses with paved streets and driveways, two-car garages, relatively unusable front and side yards, and postage stamp backyards. At Village Acre, one acre is enough to comfortably house 12 family groups and to provide them with co-ownership control, home childcare, a reduced cost of living, shared resources, open space, mixed-income affordable housing, emotional support, and intergenerational role models. This community model is an ecological answer to many of today's quality of life dilemmas.