



Who am I? Jay Blas Jacob Cabrera Unity Network Founder

Occupy: During 2011-2012 I was heavily involved in Occupy. In addition to co-founding my local occupations, I also was a co-founder for the national InterOccupy group, which is still operational and is linked off the official OWS website as the only official InterOccupy Network. I was also one of the few people from the United States occupations to directly collaborate internationally with various networks, most groups choosing NOT to call themselves Occupy. This included the **Indignadas** in Spain, as well as Democracia Real Ya, and Take the Streets. During Occupy, as it is today, I find it extremely difficult to get any access to money. Although I did get \$2,000 from Inspired Legacies, the only time I got a full grant funding was from the Occupy Resources Group supported by Ben Cohen, and I received \$10,000, for training programs. We got the money and started spending it, but then three weeks into our launch they came to us and asked for the money back. We had already spent over \$3,000, but cancelled checks and contracts to get some of the money back, and ended up having to give \$7,000 back. This is the only grant I have ever gotten to help fund my work, and I had to give it back. I haven't written a grant since, but hopefully I will find a new grant soon. There are many reasons why Occupy dwindled. Summing it up I would say lack of structure, lack of funding, and lack of a legal core. But overall Occupy is still alive and strong, and at anytime the network can be rekindled, because the connections are all still there.

Community: I currently run a 501c3 non-profit as the Executive Director. We have about a \$65,000 budget which continues to grow every year as we bring on new programs. As an umbrella network, our non-profit functions administratively from my work and my work alone, which I am not paid for. Only 2.4% of our budget goes back to support my administrative work, and we need more funding from outside sources to stabilize our non-profit administrative structures for the long term. There is so much work, and I should be getting paid for it, but we just don't have enough funds. Currently we have over 5 active programs, with our largest programs focused on classroom education in slam poetry for at risk youth. We have over 600 students in five school districts. This is one of my top priorities is to ensure these programs continue, and one of the reasons why fundraising is so important for us.

Unity: For over 3 years, since Occupy, I have been working on developing the systems and methodology for Unity, and I am currently in "Pre-Launch" mode waiting for enough funding to do a Full Launch. I took all the best parts of Occupy, and added in a lot of other essential components for a smooth societal transformation. The focal point is Unity Day which is our annual event to take to the streets and remind the people in power who is really in control. The primary structure is a parallel governance system that both mirrors existing governance bodies and allows for alternative experimental evolution of governance at all levels.

Sustainability: While at UC Santa Cruz, I helped create the campus sustainability movement in the form of co-founding over 5 sustainability organizations the biggest being the California Student Sustainability Coalition which passed the UC wide Sustainability Policy, which to this day is transferring billions of dollars of funds into the green economy. I also was instrumental in setting up a \$360,000 annual permanent sustainability budget at UC Santa Cruz. The primary reason I don't just do sustainability, as it is my background, is that as a movement is simply is not enough to build the political and cultural momentum we need to initiate the transformation.

Personal: My personal life is difficult, but it could be a lot worse. I have a tiny income, making less than \$40,000 over the last 5 years, and I live in the SF Bay area where it is VERY expensive. I worked for the US Census, eBay, and Google, and applied to 1000's of jobs, and the economy just sucks for me and is not stable. The little money I make I spend on my projects and non-profit. Although this is difficult, I also live with my parents, so I am able to be housed, and fed without much worry, so it could be worse. Additionally over the last 10 years, I have gotten help from my family in the amount of about \$40,000 that I could spend any way I wanted, I have chosen to spend every dime I can on the community projects and goals to see the world be a better place, even though I have had less than \$100,000 my entire life. I try very hard to convince my family and friends to help me and fund my work, but to no avail. Primarily I get the response that I should get a full time job and stop focusing on trying to help the world. I don't understand how not focus on the 10,000's of species dining, that 90% of the big fish are gone, and 95% of original forests have been cut down, not to mention over 50% of the people of the world can't meet their basic life necessities. I can't ignore it and live my life like everyone else around me does. Someone has to stand up and say NO!

Political: I am dedicated to running for public office for the rest of my life. Besides being elected to the #2 position within the UC Santa Cruz student government, I have run for city council, mayor, state assembly, congress, and school board on NO \$ campaigns. I truly believe that we can change the fundamental perception of how people vote, and that the future of voting is candidates who don't use money. All we have to do is just stop voting for people who fundraise millions of dollars. Its really that simple. The more money you raise, the less likely it should be to elect you, that is my goal. In addition to running for office and creating the first People's Parallel Congress, I have also been embattled in a long court case against the County of Santa Clara to protect the rights of poor people to run for office without the risk of going bankrupt. I am a certified indigent candidate with protected rights within laws and court rulings. There is no reason that the government should be trying to bankrupt me for no other reason than that I ran for public office to serve my country. This is a travesty to democracy and we must fight back against citizens united, and BIG money in politics, and allow poor people to run for office without the risk of bankruptcy even if they still have a huge disadvantage. I have gone to every legal aid service I can find, and NO one will help me with my court case. I do it all alone and represent myself, with a little help from Legal Shield which costs \$17/mo. But I have no idea what is happening and I'm getting steamrolled on court rules non-stop, but I have to at least try to stand up for the rights of all citizens to have a democracy that is fair. Unfortunately our courts our a disaster and only serve lawyers, and our society is too busy to care about my case. I will take help from anyone, please help me!

Entrepreneurship: Besides community and political endeavors, I also have engaged in numerous entrepreneurial ideas to try to fundraise money for my life work. This gives people options to actually invest, or purchase products and services, to support my CommUnity work, as most people don't want to give donations. Unfortunately I have not been successful in finding investors or selling products or services to fundraise money for my work, but I keep trying. From decks of cards, to bonsai, digital design, websites, and healing, I do it all. Anything to bring in money for the cause. Additionally we have a few startup ideas including brain wave language, as well as new technologies for global transpiration and using old technologies for heating and cooling homes. The most recent product type has to do with the fastest growing industry in the United States right now, the Cannabis industry. I feel like the biggest obstacle is having startup funds to do more advertising so people even know I exist and am offering these awesome services and products. Without funds it is very difficult to get anything started, but I still try to get things started from nothing, and I know eventually it will all pay off.

