

KEBELE COMMUNITY CO-OPERATIVE

A. MISSION STATEMENT

The Kebele Community Co-op exists to:

1. Provide a welcoming space within the local community that encourages mutual aid, empowerment, self-organisation, sustainability and resistance to oppression. It will do so by making available its resources, facilities & information, and through it's own non-hierarchical not for profit self-management.
2. To provide affordable, self-managed housing for co-op members, dependant on the co-op's available space, finances and agreement.

B. WHAT IS A CO-OP

A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically controlled enterprise.

C. AIMS/OBJECT:

1. To provide space, resources & facilities for the local community on a not-for-profit basis, ensuring no one is excluded due to limited finances.
2. To provide a space that is welcoming to everyone irrespective of their ethnicity, colour, age, ability, gender or sexual orientation; and to actively work to break down barriers between people.
3. To promote the practice of living in an environmentally & ecologically sustainable way; both through education & information, and by creating living examples of this through the co-ops work.
4. To create within the co-op a series of autonomous collectives, that take responsibility for running certain of the co-ops functions/services ie café, library, infoshop, bike workshop, maintenance, IT, finance.
5. To provide affordable, self-managed housing for co-op members, dependant on the co-op's available space, finances and agreement.
6. To encourage non-hierarchical ways of organising, via self-organisation, co-operation and shared responsibility; and to promote autonomy, solidarity and mutual aid.
7. To provide a space that encourages free-thinking, radical critiques and creativity; and the exploration & development of radical political & social solutions to the challenges of modern day society.
8. To be a base, space and contact for local and grassroots campaigns; and to act as a tool for social change by promoting a range of activities such as film & music nights, info-sharing, exhibitions, meetings and actions.
9. To work collectively with other like-minded individuals, co-ops, groups and networks, locally and nationally.

D. THE 7 CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

(The following principles were adopted by the 1995 Centenary Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA). They reflect how the co-operative values are put into practice.)

1. **Open membership** - Everyone participating in a co-operative business has the right to membership. No-one should be refused membership on the grounds of race, sex, disability, politics or religion. However most employee owned businesses do have a probationary period for new employees before membership is offered.

2. **Democratic control** - All co-operatives are organised on the principle of one member, one vote. Everyone has an equal say, regardless of seniority or their amount of investment in the business.

3. **Common ownership** - The assets of a co-operative business are held in trust for the benefit of present and future members of the business. Members decide how the profits are distributed: they can be shared between the members, reinvested in the business, or donated to social causes. Many co-operatives put a high priority on reinvesting in the business.

4. **Autonomy and Independence** - Co-operatives are autonomous organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

5. **Education, Training and Information** - Co-operatives provide training for their members, elected representatives and employees to contribute effectively to the development of the co-operative. They also aim to promote the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6. **Co-operation among Co-operatives** - Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international networks.

7. **Social aims alongside economic aims** - Employee owned businesses consider the wider needs of the community in which they work and live. They can do this by providing a conscientious service to customers or supporting charitable community causes.