

Community Economic Development Innovations for a Post-Pandemic Economy



Alternate Thursdays, April 22nd - June 17th

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (PT)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

The Covid-19 pandemic has wrought disaster upon small businesses and the people and communities dependent upon them, with Fortune estimating over 100,000 closures. But the forces pushing down on small businesses have been with us for the better part of the last 20 years, with the rise of financialization, conglomeration, and platform enterprise achieving unprecedented scale and competitive advantage. Promising solutions exist. This webinar series will draw public, policymaker, and entrepreneur awareness of these opportunities. We will catalyze a conversation about the post-pandemic economy, and elevate the role of entrepreneurial support infrastructure for existing independent and new business startups. Participants will hear from researchers, executives, and entrepreneurs driving these innovations.

PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Become aware of challenges facing small businesses in policy, markets, and fair competition
- Learn alternative community economic development strategies used by communities in addressing these challenges
- Be exposed to new business models and understand how to actively tackle these challenges through innovative business models.

INTENDED AUDIENCE:

- Economic Development Professionals, Researchers, and Students
- Policymakers
- Entrepreneurs and the Impact Investment Community

Schedule

- APR 22** The Peril of the Sharing Economy: How Platforms Companies Are Reshaping Our Economy, Entrepreneurship, and Consumer Behavior
Martin Kenney
- MAY 06** Mobilizing and Organizing Grassroots Capital: Investment Clubs and Real Estate Cooperatives
Matt Cropp
- MAY 20** Utilities of the 21st Century
Kevin Short
- JUN 03** Modo Co-operative: A Platform for Carsharing
Patrick Nangle
- JUN 17** Models of Affordable Workforce Housing
Mikaela Fenton

The Peril of the Sharing Economy: How Platforms Companies Are Reshaping our Economy, Entrepreneurship, and Consumer Behavior

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Digital platforms, such as Amazon, Apple, Google, and Facebook, are reorganizing the global economy. These platforms are playing an even more central role in a sheltered-in-place world, displacing not only small and medium enterprises, but also impacting firms as large as Walmart. But what happens after the pandemic? How are small and medium enterprise to survive a world of platforms that are the most valuable firms in the world with enormous amounts of data and computational power? What are their implications for labor, competition, and entrepreneurship? Kenney will frame the challenges facing small and medium enterprise and community economies, and set the stage for the remaining presentations covering solutions addressing these challenges.



MARTIN KENNEY
Distinguished Professor:
*Department of Human
Ecology, UC Davis*

Public Resources:

- <https://kenney.faculty.ucdavis.edu>

Mobilizing and Organizing Grassroots Capital: Investment Clubs and Real Estate Cooperatives

THURSDAY, MAY 06

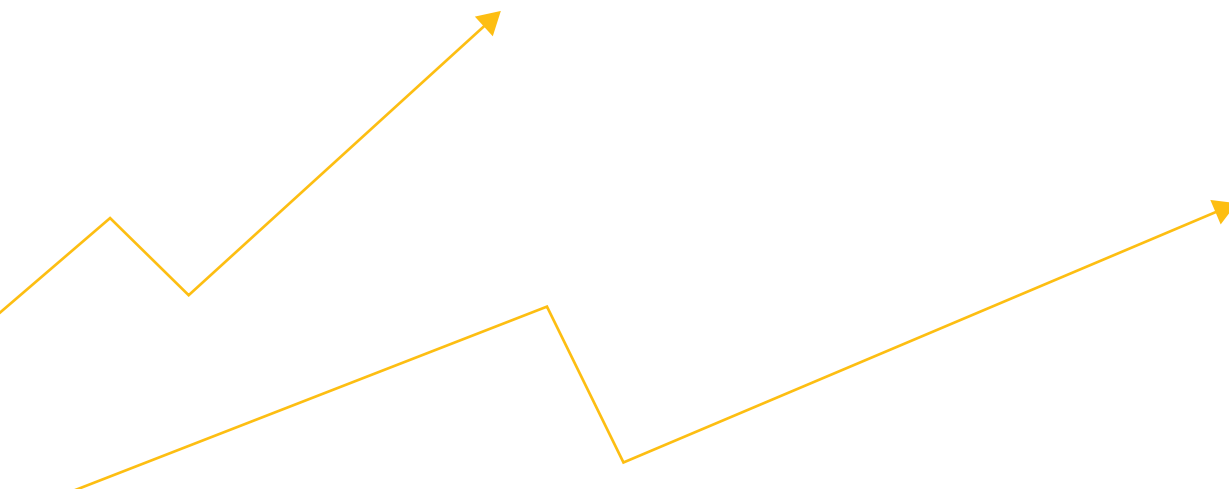
As communities take stock of the post-COVID state of their economies, well-organized grass-roots capital has the potential to shape the recovery in ways that center the meeting of community needs and increase resilience. In this session, Matt Cropp will provide an overview of the mechanics of investment club and real estate co-op models, and discuss lessons learned from experiences with them in Vermont.



MATT CROPP
Executive Director:
*Vermont Employee
Ownership Center*
Chair: *Vermont Solidarity
Investing Club*
Treasurer: *Vermont Real
Estate Cooperative*

Public Resources:

- [Vermont Real Estate Co-op Website](#)
- [Vermont Solidarity Investing Club Facebook Page](#)



Utilities of the 21st Century

THURSDAY, MAY 20

The traditional electric utility is facing significant pressures to adapt and innovate. Climate change. Decarbonization. Natural disasters. Distributed energy. Consumer choice. And more participation by the ratepayers. Yet many large investor-owned utilities claim that despite their sizable profit margins, they are incapable of adapting barring public subsidies. Where are we seeing innovations in the modern day electric utility? How are they overcoming these barriers? And why?

Discussion topics will include:

- An overview of the electric co-op sector
- The challenges facing these low-margin, not-for-profit, ratepayer-owned utilities
- How AEC was able to proceed into micro-grids and broadband despite their low-margins and rugged service territory
- Why public and policymaker awareness of the innovation in the electric co-op space help establish new benchmarks for excellence in utility performance

Website

- www.anzaelectric.org



KEVIN SHORT
CEO: *Anza Electric Cooperative*

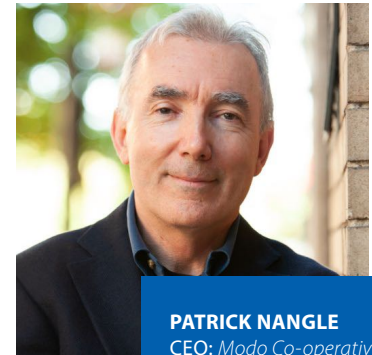
Modo Co-operative: A Platform for Carsharing

THURSDAY, JUNE 03

We will get introduced to Modco Co-operative, a Vancouver, Canada based co-op with a deeply embedded social purpose. It operates a platform for carsharing and represents the sharing economy in the truest sense of that expression – hundreds of vehicles co-owned and shared by thousands of users. We will examine the business model, the platform, the economics and the key strategies that are driving the business into the future.

Website

- www.modco.coop



PATRICK NANGLE
CEO: *Modco Co-operative*

Models of Affordable Workforce Housing

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

Housing is a hot topic in California right now. This presentation will include an analysis of four different affordable ownership housing models to determine which maintains affordability over time.



MIKAELA FENTON
Bradshaw Scholar:
Community & Regional Development, UC Davis