

# Community Resilience Toolkit 2.0



*Bay  
Localize*

---

Tool:

**Roots of  
Equity and  
Resilience**

---

Kirsten Schwind

---

Bay Localize  
436 14<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 1216  
Oakland, CA USA 94612  
(510) 834-0420  
[www.baylocalize.org](http://www.baylocalize.org)

---

## ***The Community Resilience Toolkit 2.0***

The *Community Resilience Toolkit 2.0* brings out **your** best ideas for building resilience where you live.

The *Community Resilience Toolkit 2.0* is a collection of online tools to learn about the local impacts of the climate and energy crisis, and what you can do about them.

The *Toolkit* is designed for use by individuals, community groups, teachers, and municipalities.

For free copies of all the tools in the *Community Resilience Toolkit 2.0*, see [baylocalize.org/toolkit](http://baylocalize.org/toolkit).

Bay Localize's mission is to inspire and support you in building equitable, resilient communities.

Support this work and become a member of Bay Localize!

## **Roots of Equity and Resilience**

### ***What this Tool Does***

The Roots of Equity and Resilience Tool helps you:

- Find inspiring examples of local resilience
- Understand the roots of local social justice movements
- Reach out to social justice leaders in your community

### ***Who Should Use this Tool***

- Community groups and municipal planners
- Teachers and classrooms
- Individuals who want to learn about social equity

### ***How to Use this Tool***

*Individuals:* Reflect on each question and record your thoughts, taking time to research the questions as needed. Can serve as a thought-provoking homework assignment.

*Groups:* Distribute a copy of the Roots of Equity and Resilience tool everyone in the group. Ask group members to form pairs and introduce themselves to their partners.

If members of your group are from different cities or towns, ask each member of the pair to interview the other about the place she or he is from, and note the responses. Allow at least 10-15 minutes per person. Then discuss in the large group what themes arose.

If members of your group are from the same city or town, ask the pairs to think through the questions together. Allow at least 15-20 minutes in pairs. Then discuss the questions all together, pulling together the knowledge of the group to form a local social justice history. Were there any gaps in your group's knowledge that you'd like to learn more about?

As a follow up activity, identify an experienced local social justice leader who has been involved in one of the efforts discussed, and invite her or him to speak to your group about it this experience.

While this tool focuses on race and class, feel free to examine other factors as well.

## Roots of Equity and Resilience

Social equity is a key component of a resilient community. Equity includes not only political equality, but also universal access to the human rights of food, housing, education, medical care, social services, and the opportunity to work for a decent wage that can support a family.<sup>1</sup>

Communities that organize to address discrimination and inequities often have to develop a tenacious resilience. We can learn from these efforts today.

What roots of resilience can you find in the social equity history of where you live?

City/town: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Think about who lives in your city/town in terms of race and class (wealth). How would you describe the demographics of your town? If you were a census taker, which boxes next to "race" would you check in your city/town? Think of as many as you can.

---

---

---

---

---

*Note that the term "race" is a social construct with shifting meanings over time. It is used here with full recognition that it is an imperfect term.*

2. Think back through the history of your area, and describe a major demographic shift happened in each of these time frames. What caused these shifts? Who gained access to resources and power during these times? Who lost them? Why?

1500-1800

---

---

---

---

---

---

<sup>1</sup> From the *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, adopted in 1948.

1800-1900

---

---

---

---

1900-1950

---

---

---

---

1950-Present

---

---

---

---

---

3. Think of one example of an effort to address inequities based on race and class in your city/town in the past. See below for examples.

What specific issues did/does it address? Was/is it successful?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Examples:*

- *Labor movement: workers organizing for better working conditions or higher pay*
- *Civil rights: desegregating access to decision making, education, and housing*
- *Environmental justice: limiting exposure to toxics from nearby farms or factories*

4. In what ways did these organizers show personal resilience? Did their efforts increase resilience at the community level? How so?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

5. How could efforts to build resilience in your city/town today address current inequities in your area? What specific actions could you take to do this?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Bonus question: Think back to your example in Question 3. What is one question you'd like to ask these organizers if you had the chance?*

*If they are still around, would you like to find a way to meet them and ask them in person?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---