

Notes from 2012 Allied Media Conference Tech Coop Presentation

The panel included folks from each of the following four tech coops:

1. [Palante Technology](#) (Jack Aponte)
2. [DesignAction Collective](#) (Sabiha Basrai)
3. [Quilted](#) (Ben Mauer)
4. [C4 Tech Design](#) (Drew Stephan)

In describing to Ben what we were trying to do after the session, he suggested we also look at this youth cooperative:

- [Toxic Soil Busters](#)

Resources:

<http://www.c4tech.com/amc-panel-resources>

[A Technology Freelancer's Guide to Starting a Worker Cooperative](#)

Summary:

I went into the presentation with high expectations (it was one of the main reasons I made the trip to Detroit), and I wasn't disappointed. On the contrary, I left the talk literally shaking with excitement and headed straight back to my dorm to write this up.

All four presenters were unanimous in their enthusiasm for their work. It was clear that work was fun, it represented self-expression and self-realization, and the democratic decision making and cooperative form of ownership of each of these enterprises eliminated a lot of the oppressiveness typical of work in other places.

My initial impression is that C4 Tech Design is the enterprise with most in common with our own, but we can learn from all four coops. Jack from Palante Technology told me their coop is very interested in open sourcing their business practices, so that others interested in "hacking" on cooperative development can both learn from Palante and contribute back their own experience.