

OCCUPY WALL STREET | BACKGROUND

On September 17, 2011, people from all across the United States of America and the world came to protest the blatant injustices perpetuated by the 1% - the economic and political elites - whose actions affect all of us, the 99%.

We spoke out, resisted, and successfully occupied Wall Street. Today, we proudly remain engaged in non-violent civil disobedience while building solidarity based on mutual respect, acceptance, and love.

We are the 99% and we have assumed full responsibility for the future of our society, our culture, and most importantly, our own lives.



NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY | HOW IT WORKS

The General Assembly is a gathering of people committed to making decisions based upon a collective agreement or “consensus.”

There is no single leader or governing body of the General Assembly – everyone’s voice is equal. Anyone is free to propose an idea or express an opinion as part of the General Assembly.

Each proposal follows the same basic format – an individual shares what is being proposed, why it is being proposed, and, if there is enough agreement, how it can be carried out.

The Assembly will express its opinion for each proposal through a series of hand gestures (see next panel). If there is positive consensus for a proposal – meaning no outright opposition – then it is accepted and direct action begins.

If there is not consensus, the responsible group or individual is asked to revise the proposal and submit again at the following General Assembly until a majority consensus is achieved.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY | GROUPS

Within the General Assembly, there are smaller gatherings known as “Working/Thematic Groups” that focus on supporting specific initiatives or topics relevant to the movement. These range from Food, Medical, and Legal Committees to Arts & Culture, Direct Action, Principles of Solidarity and many more. All groups are open to anyone interested in supporting.

For a list and description of each group, check out: nycga.cc/groups/

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY | HAND GESTURES

There are four basic hand gestures used during the General Assembly to express an opinion. These are used to ensure everyone’s voice is heard and every opinion is respected.



a. Yes/Agreement



b. No/Disagree



c. Point of Process – a valued interruption



d. Block - This action will stop a proposal from being accepted unless retracted after further dialogue.