Co-op Labs - Co-owned Local Centres For Multi-Sector Well-Being

Scope
The Co-op Lab process unfolds as networks of private member associations form local hub guilds to provide and deliver local goods and services. Placing ‘’well-being’’ as the ‘’main attraction’’, ensures common ground for the process to unfold with local ‘’community champions’’ combining their expertise in executive and non-executive committees.

Essentially the process anchors a common ethos to focus and develop local skills, time and talent into creative collaboration; communities bonding as common sense founded on common values produces goods, services and assets.

By providing spaces for interactive hub guilds to connect as ‘’centres of excellence’’, untold opportunities appear for life to become more exciting, hopeful, fulfilling and less stressful. In effect, ‘birds-of-a-feather’ learn to trust as they discover together what makes their hearts sing.

As creative expression supplants depression and suppression, real healthy living will enable reductions in public expenditure and wasteful bureaucratic silos. While investment into dubious stock markets can be refocused to fund local projects that produce tangible local assets. Moreover, ‘’investment’’ can evolve into provision of skills, time, knowledge, goods and services. Thus, a unique approach to hands-on, life-long learning appears as the enabler for balanced personal and collective progress.

Overview
A Hub network provides the infrastructure for a new ‘’Market-Space’’ to evolve, supported by localised peer-to-peer marketing (word-of-mouth). Local ‘’champions’’ initiate a Co-op Lab to find local sector specialists willing and able to assemble specialist Hub Guilds,

With a local Co-op Lab Committee to facilitate management, the specialist guilds can enable excellence in development of skills and knowledge in workshops and projects. So life-long learning based on individual interests and talents can produce untold assets as diverse skill-sets are exchanged and developed.

In effect, a model for peer-to-peer ‘’well-being’’ is founded on ‘’hope-in-action’’ as the major driver for community cohesion and positive growth. Local people can co-operate to meet their own needs with significant savings to public expenditure; a clear route to funding Co-op Lab projects.

Vision and Mission
- develop an ‘’invest-worthy community’’ of combined asset and social service values
- enable local people to co-operate and refocus on their life vision and aspirations
- showcase Co-op Lab producing services, assets and well-being better and cheaper
- present investment opportunities in local projects with tax-relief related to well-being
- introduce ‘’social service value’’ as a new and viable community focus and potential

Operation
- a local group forms to find ‘’champions’’ with specialist knowledge and contacts
- create a Co-op Lab founding committee ‘as a ’think-and-do tank’’ to begin process
- assemble executive committee members related to their sector/guild expertise
- executive members select their own non-exec. consultants to build their guild sector
- viral marketing invites local projects to provide services, assets and social value

- committee assesses projects based on the guild skills, time and knowledge required
- guilds analyse projects related to their area of work and report back to committee
- business plans with cost benefit analyses outline a prospectus for investment
- create blueprints, specifications and schedules of work for pricing-tender-contract
- develop valuations of savings, assets and social returns on investment &WBV

Key elements and messaging include:

- hands-on education in projects producing real value - physical, mental and spiritual
- exchanges of skills, time and knowledge providing a means for debt-free barter
- supply lines evolving to service local demand for goods, services and shared assets
- untold potential for balanced growth and increasing savings to public expenditure
- investor-stakeholders redirecting funds to projects and assets that serve well-being
- the best of ‘old’ and ‘new’ enabling wisdom to prevail founded on experience

Core operational path:

Phase One:

- ‘’community audit’’ matches needs to offers; presenting co-owner sectors + roles
- dialogue with local sector ‘champions’ re committee + sector/guild non-executives
- produce a critical path for health-based action as healthy living is key to well-being
- evolve a hub guild network focused for well-being from a health hub guild as:
  - food, farming, sports, arts, marketing, business, media, construction and leisure
  - supported by permaculture, transport, technology, entertainment and families
  - numerous other guild, and sub-guild, categories can arise as required
- balance with ‘umbrella’ support from business, finance and natural law guilds
- a critical path related to agreed schedules of labour, materials and equipment
  - skills, time and knowledge available and required including training needs
  - social, business and community networks to provide consultation and support
  - opportunities for parallel critical paths of development to cross-fertilise
  - local ‘community champions’ to assemble relevant ‘birds-of-feather’ networks
- analyses related to development of assets, public savings and social value
- a viable business plan with prospectus to illustrate investment potential

Phase Two:

- Well-Being Village - WBV - platform enables analysis and valuations to:
  - produce an operational financial model for resources
  - identify lines of supply, demand and distribution for goods and services
  - develop business plans and prospectuses for support and investment
- follow parallel critical paths to unfold core strategic needs:
  - expand services for well-being across inter-related hub guild pma networks
  - upgrade business plan of resources, equipment and funding needs en route
  - ensure relevant media and marketing resources are available in support
  - provide ‘think-and-do tank’ teams for essential research and development
  - develop apps for the Co-op Lab platform to unfold a collective ‘Market-Space’

Essential Elements to Produce Business Plan and Prospectus

- Co-op Lab Co-owner Agreements as the basis for an evolving network:
  - quality control and provision of space for production and distribution
  - local producers, suppliers, consultants tutors, students and consumers
  - staffing, training, repairing, maintaining, insuring, discussing, assessing
- marketing:
  - ‘umbrella’ branding of vision - values - mission - methodology
  - clarity of opportunities with case studies and operational models
  - pathways and services available to enable balanced growth
  - on-line narratives augmented with video, audio, blog/vlog, conference
- network growth:
  - price and quality assurance agreements in provision of goods and services
  - cross-sector hub guild co-owners collaboration as ‘sub-contractor’ network
  - sales & marketing support for projects, joint ventures, premises and equipment
  - outreach provision to homes, groups, businesses and all related organisations

Financial, Management & Development Issues

- co-owners enabled to ‘self-fund’ with skills, time, knowledge, goods & services
- contractual terms & obligations founded on pma member’s oath ‘to do no harm’
- common income-expenditure basis for cash flow recording and allocations
- cross-fertilisation of interrelated hub guilds - sports, arts, food, farming, media etc.
- aggregation of production and purchasing power across lines of supply and demand
- development of critical mass seeking real social value in:
  - economies of scale as networks ‘self-supply’ education, employment & training
  - increasing savings to public expenditure from community ‘’self-governance’’
  - tax-exemptions for related investment, donation/barter of goods and services
  - ‘laundering’ debt as knowledge exchanges generate debt-free local currency
  - development of assets, goods and services founded on loyalty to real values
  - prospectuses for investment in specific hub guilds and/or project portfolios