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**South by Southwest Experiment
Principles of Accountable Governance
July, 2016**

We, the participants at the New Mexico Accountable Governance Summit held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 2016, are assembled to build and advance a culture of true democracy. We reject historic political models rooted in domination and control, that respond to big money, and that privilege the whims of a free market and the privatization of public assets, leading directly to an upward transfer of wealth. Accordingly, we hereby affirm and adopt these Principles of Accountable Governance:

- 1) **Accountable Governance** mandates an understanding that conditions of hunger, racism, poverty, sexism and income inequality are rooted in a long history of white supremacy and patriarchy, colonization and slavery, land theft, cultural oppression, disrupted food systems, exploitation of labor and resources, unrestrained capitalistic greed, environmental injustice, and an imperial “permanent war” foreign policy.
- 2) **Accountable governance** is emboldened and strengthened by elected and appointed public officials who represent historically excluded constituencies, for example poor womyn of color, and who place the pursuit of broader community interest over narrow ambition and self-interest.
- 3) **Accountable governance** demands the engagement of frontline communities as architects, and not objects, of public policies that impact our everyday lives, including the right to exercise decision making power and not simply to voice concerns.
- 4) **Accountable governance** affirms a long view of our historic struggles, and the need to empower young people to assume roles as protagonists and decision-makers, to ensure continuity of our movements, and thus better overcome the challenges that face us.
- 5) **Accountable governance** necessitates engagement by public officials with active and informed constituencies, including especially organized people working to address structural and systemic conditions of inequity via their participation in grassroots community and labor organizations, advocacy and policy groups, and direct service agencies.
- 6) **Accountable governance** dismantles the history of exclusion, disenfranchisement, and unjust, intentional, and systemic deprivation of opportunity, and assumes the responsibility to achieve a more equitable redistribution and reparation of well-being amongst those most oppressed and

dispossessed.

7) **Accountable governance** recognizes that the elimination of poverty is not based necessarily on the creation of monetary wealth, but rather the achievement of a quality of life based in the happiness of the people.

8) **Accountable governance** is deeply participatory beyond simple voting, and brings together resources at all levels of government to support the collective dreams of its people.

We, the undersigned participants, therefore do hereby affirm these Principles of Accountable Governance, towards the realization of a more just society with full participation in our democracy, thriving relationships between our communities and public officials, and actualized social justice as love on a public scale.