

Rebuilding Power from the Ground Up: A Nonviolent Strategy for Institutionalizing Resident Power in Sursum Corda

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A conceptual movement strategy for converting resident legitimacy, coordination, culture, and documentation into durable influence over redevelopment and public-safety decisions.

MOVEMENT GOAL

Institutionalize resident authority beyond symbolic consultation by seeking transparent timelines, enforceable right-to-return commitments, and regular mechanisms for consequential resident input.

POWER ARCHITECTURE

Residents and returning families form the moral center; advocacy organizations, faith groups, legal clinics, and ANC representatives can amplify capacity; developers and city agencies hold formal authority but depend on legitimacy, procedural continuity, and limited scrutiny.

STRATEGIC LEVERAGE

- Document the gap between public commitments and lived outcomes.
- Build coalition and narrative power before escalating pressure.
- Use targeted hearings, oversight, media, and public testimony rather than spectacle for its own sake.

ACCESSIBLE PARTICIPATION

Modular, low-exposure roles, rotating leadership, familiar meeting spaces, collective representation, and digital documentation reduce barriers for residents facing disability, caregiving demands, surveillance, or economic precarity.

DURABILITY AND EVALUATION

Material benchmarks are paired with measures of participation diversity, leadership development, coalition durability, and autonomous resident infrastructure. Institutional access is treated as a tool, not the endpoint.

RISKS AND SCOPE

The design anticipates co-optation, burnout, and internal fragmentation. It is a theory-informed academic strategy, not a resident-led campaign that was launched, adopted, or evaluated.

PORTFOLIO NOTE

Completed academic strategy paper. The movement design is conceptual and should not be presented as resident authorization or an implemented campaign.