

## SERC at the 224 EcoSpace

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, the 224 EcoSpace has been the site of the Social Emergency Response Center or SERC for short. The idea is at once simple and yet extremely thought provoking. We're all aware of Emergency Response Teams and in times of natural or man-made disasters, Emergency Response Centers. A timely example would be the shelters and warming centers established for the recent cold weather. In this case the idea is to use that model to deal with Social Emergencies.

The concept seems to have begun at the Design Studio for Social Intervention located in Boston MA, and came to Hartford when Constanza Segovia went to the SERC that they organized in 2017. She thought it would be something Hartford could use and brought it here last year for two days.

This year it took place on Sunday January 27<sup>th</sup>, lasting all day, from 10:00am to 6:00pm.

Some of the features went on all day, such as the Free Flea Market where you could bring something and/or take something, or the Music Jam room or Put-on-your-own Record Station if you felt the event needed a sound track. The workshops were scheduled beginning at 11:00 am and went throughout the day. They varied greatly including Creative Movement that was lead by Melissa Craig and an Anti-gentrification Workshop that had nearly 20 participants. Imelda Diaz led a Community Knitting Circle, and Evelyn Richardson led one simply titled "Community Activism"

For a better understanding of the goals and means of the program you can go to <https://www.ds4si.org/writings> where there are a number of essays on various related topics, all intent on expanding the effort and tools available to strengthen the health and effectiveness of our social fabric. It's a valuable concept to devise best practices to deal with emergencies that might arise, and most successful organizations do just that from sports teams to militaries. Transferring this idea to communities and social emergencies is a smart model. It just needs to be expanded beyond once a year.

To get involved contact Constanza at [constanza.gsegovia@gmail.com](mailto:constanza.gsegovia@gmail.com)

Photos of the event can be found at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/g31XiAQBXiwFE5up7>

