

6<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**MACHIKWEEKEND 2012**

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## Creating Space for Engagement

*“Any meaningful change for Tibet will require a collective response from the heart—one that transcends differences of language, culture, region, ethnicity, religion, history, and education. The challenges of our times can only be solved by working in solidarity and partnership across political, cultural, and linguistic divides.”*

*-The Charter for Engagement in the Future of Tibet*

In November, 2012, over 200 scholars, students, and professionals gathered in Washington D.C. for the 6th Annual Machik Weekend. Bringing the vision of Machik to reality is an extraordinary undertaking, but one that saw incredible success on every front.



For 3 days, young Tibetan exiles and Tibetans from within Tibet had the opportunity to experience the profound connections in their lives and to their future. Transcending the many boundaries that have defined their lives thus far, Machik Weekend created a space for these young Tibetans to explore new possibilities together, a crucial message during this time of crisis for so many Tibetans.



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The awareness of shared goals, and the potential of reaching them through shared action and engagement, was explored through formal panels, in working groups, and in the lively and intense discussions that went on late into the night. Relationships were made that will not only last a lifetime, but will help shape a more hopeful future for Tibet. Tangible projects were begun, bringing many together in a positive vision of hope in the face of circumstances that have brought so many to despair. This is Machik Weekend!

Machik Weekend theme was 'Tibet and the Global' with a special focus on women. Panels explored the complex challenges facing Tibet as well as solutions, in relation to: **Identity and Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Communities, Education and Social Change, and Global Engagement and the New Generation.** The presentation of actual, working projects and extraordinary personal journeys led to deep discussions and a tremendous sense of what is possible.





“As a Han Chinese representing no one but myself, I would to say to them - that I am sorry. I hope in the near future there will be a collective apology from China to Tibet. When I see...pictures of them on fire, I feel pain, I feel anger and also I feel a strong sense of powerlessness...I feel I couldn't do anything to alleviate their situation, alleviate their suffering, I couldn't do anything to better the situation on Tibetan plateau...I feel powerless. By engagement, by being part of the Machik community, I feel a sense of empowerment.



Tenzin Noryang,  
Chair, Machik Weekend



I feel that I could as a Han Chinese be part of the discussion and be part of the solution. By engagement we not only empower Tibetans on the plateau, we also empower ourselves as young Chinese, as young Tibetans overseas, and as Americans and Canadians.” Wang Yaqui, George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs.

Yaqui Wang's statement was an extraordinary moment, one that saw tears streaming down the faces of many present, but that also created a space for hope and healing to begin.

The goals of Machik Weekend were made a reality thanks to the phenomenal work of our team of inspiring and dedicated volunteers, led by Tenzin Noryang. Working together, they embodied the vision of Machik—that we can create a new story for the future of Tibet.





“Machik Weekend is the most exciting and relevant event on Tibetan education, development, and culture anywhere in the U.S. It brings together scholars, students, and supporters of Tibetan education for intensive discussion, and opens up dialogue for Tibetan futures based on engagement and hope. I come away from every Machik weekend with a better understanding of the challenges ahead, and a renewed sense of the possible.”

– Professor Ralph Litzinger Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Women's Studies, Duke University

Against the backdrop of despair that has caused so many Tibetans to self-immolate, the new generation of Tibetans: students from within Tibet, as well as from students and graduates of Duke University, Harvard, Columbia, University of Virginia, UC Berkeley, University of Wisconsin at Madison, and more, found the time and the funds to be part of Machik Weekend. “As soon as I heard about Machik Weekend,” one of the students said, “I knew I had to come.”



In the space created by Machik Weekend, these young Tibetans were able to connect to one another as Tibetans within a global context, working together to shape a shared identity and role in their own future and that of their culture. From the dynamic panel discussions to the groups formed for the Day of Commitment, the issues facing Tibet were placed in perspective with other global issues, and connections were made to pursue the themes of the weekend on into the future.



*Photos courtesy of Bradley Aaron.*

*Text by Machik supporter Barbara Banks. Design by Shannon*







“Machik Weekend is a weekend of exploration, empowerment, and inspiration. As a Tibetan, my heart aches when I read the disheartening news about the endless suffering of the Tibetans. I had been feeling hopeless about the situation of Tibet. However, after attending my first Machik Weekend in 2011, I experienced something that I had been dreaming of for so long happen in reality. Not only was I inspired and empowered by Machik’s work, but also by the people who are part of this amazing work. I witnessed true passion, commitment and dedication. Machik Weekend is a source of strength and hope. This was an eye-opening and transformative experience for me.”

Chime Dolma, born to a nomad family, who herded yak until she was 12. Sent to India by her parents, she set foot into a school for the first time in her life. Within 3 years she was in New York City and began to learn English. Four years later, she won a Gates Millenium Scholarship for Middlebury College. She now teaches at Ashville School in NC, and attended Machik Weekend 2012.

**‘Shout-Out’ corner:** Machik Weekend participants were encouraged to share their message with the world, which took form in Tibetan, in Chinese, in poetry and in simple words of hope.

Bottom right: Dr. Losang Rabgey, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Machik, with her message: “Grow Love”.



“Spent the weekend discussing art, culture and how to reconnect to and grow our identities to serve and empower young Tibetans across the world with some of the most engaged and dynamic young Tibetans and informed non-Tibetans I’ve ever met. Whew!”

– Losang Gyatso



## Talent Night and Machik Spirit Award

A lot of energy, commitment, and vision go into creating Machik Weekend. The courage and brilliance of those who are working for Tibet and envisioning a better future for Tibet, are truly humbling. And the talent shared on Saturday night is an inspiration. Traditional Tibetan songs, exquisite classical piano pieces, original compositions, all poured forth in a celebration of the global community that shares Machik's vision for cooperation and engagement.



The Spirit of Machik Award was given in honor of exceptional work on behalf of Tibet. Recognition, however, goes to all who have contributed to Machik's work. Machik Weekend 2012 was an exceptional success. The work that will come from the vision shared there can transform the future.



“Machik Weekend- how can I possibly put into words the energy, excitement, and passion for Tibet that bubbles out of these few days that are much too short? Over the past few years, it's been incredible to see not just how the network of supporters expands, but also how the community ties deepen. Cheers to everyone who supports Machik's vision and believes in a stronger, more vibrant future for Tibet.”

– Elizabeth Tseng Former Machik, Intern and 2011 SEP Coordinator

