4/21/17 – Open Call for Artists Office Hours

- Committed DCLA staff to physically attend and assess different events in the city instead of depending on the skill of grantwriters to determine who to give money to- wealthier the org, better the grantwriters they can afford and it doesn’t properly reflect the work of organizations.

- Library space can be used for exhibiting work- in partnership with gallerists- libraries that are open late in the evenings. E.g. library and caribbean cultural literary center

- Library branches need to be approached keeping in mind the resources that they have- must be hands on- some branches has exhibition space- lot of the time librarians don’t know how to utilize space- more people need to look at the space and guide librarians about how artists can display their work there- e.g. visibilizing libraries through murals

- How to bring together information about resources and arts opportunities in all different libraries and branches and centralize availability of information e.g. through arts coordinators

- Arts programs in libraries already serving specific constituencies- may not give funding, but can offer other resources like space- can become a beautiful relationship through long, partnership e.g. Maxine’s Caribbean think tank relationship

- Federal level funding- proposed wiping out of NEA- what part of plan can leverage the continued support for programs to funders and folks with money- how can institutions like the Point be helped by DCLA in positioning themselves with relation to big institutions like MoMA to get on to the table so that they can get more diverse funding (Eddie- Corporate philanthropy- money trickling out for culture from corporates – volatile federal moment- need small orgs to diversify as so reliant on public money- DCLA wants to leverage other kinds of money to get to small and mid sized orgs.

TF- Use SIAP report to advocate and ask for money from corporations)

- Exorbitant process for applications- lots of issues. It has become a 100% more complicated. Pre-registration- HHS accelerator, SAM, Grants gateway- knocks a whole lot of orgs out of the box instantly- need a professional grantwriter on board to figure it out. Years ago culturals didn’t have to go through that. Reduce bureaucratic process. Culturals are vetted the same way as the army.

- Corporations of any kind are zeroing in on the South Bronx- like red meat for everyone. Orgs are applying for small grants for culture in the Bronx that is meant for Bronx based cultural orgs. These orgs are in the business of getting grants, they are not community based orgs. Small orgs can’t compete (to be confirmed with Bronx River Arts). Need to sub contract to the arts and follow up.

- Community gardens are threatened in The Bronx- part of culture here- property being turned into artist studios etc. Need help retaining these gardens- gathering spaces e.g. community gardens around Bronx River Arts

- Mixed use for zoning is a huge issue in the Bronx- manufacturing zones were not made for residents. A lot of libraries have been sold to private developers e.g. Inwood with affordable housing which is debatable- what happens when libraries are under threat and the arts and culture there? (TF- trade-offs, capital burden on library system-new library+ affordable housing
is at times cheaper than maintaining old ones, in exchange for real estate)

- Flatbush branch of Carnegie- nobody knows about it. Branches are old and rundown branches need to be sold to get money to sustain themselves as cultural pot is getting smaller. Are private companies going to come in as Trump cuts arts and culture money?

- Veneer theatre- association of non profit theatre companies- In addition to increase of minimum wage laws, all contracts with artists are increasing exponentially over the next 3 or 4 years. The cost of business is increasing to maintain same level of artistry.

- Grants- hear about this a lot- we need to think of other ways to have earned income- not dependent on politicians coming in and out- artists and culture workers must look creatively at how to have earned income to supplement and leverage their grants for sustainability. Non profit needs to be thought about as a business instead of depending on grants- raise earned income. It’s artists who change lives.

- Who are the local actors when we talk about cultural plan and what neighborhoods are being ‘targeted’? Who are local people in Bx who are part of the plan? (Eddie- want to get ourselves on agenda of other orgs- Bx museum, Bx zoo, LP, Bx heritage center, hostos, culture trolley, libraries)

- Think about Community Land Trusts- put money aside and talk about neighborhoods and people affected- planners should think about their mothers and families before making decisions and putting them in a plan.

- Library- in the technology age, libraries are soon going to become digital- have to be realistic- some people may not be digital savvy- majority of people not internet savvy- should there be a move towards libraries not becoming too digital? Multi level strategy to deal with people.

- 92 nd st Y- dancer- Discussion on schools expanding hours- students and families are becoming more afraid to go to school- can schools be used as community centers- spaces much better than actual community center (TF- there will be a recco about this in the plan and we will talk with DOE, artists also need to give back to school)- also space in NYCHA spaces with locked community centers can be used for programming.

- Vacant buildings that can be taken on for studio space?
OPEN FORUM FOR ARTISTS

WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD IN PRACTICE?

1. GENTRIFICATION IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES (AND, ALSO)
   ACQUISITION OF RESOURCES. SUPPORT OF THOSE WITH RESOURCES
   THOSE COMMUNITIES NOT ACCESSIBLE, MORE GIVEN TO NEW
   ARTISTS. INVEST IN THOSE WHO INVEST IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

2. BOSTON PLAN EXPERIENCE.
   ① OUR FOCUS IS NEIGHBORHOOD
   LEVEL & DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES.
   ② GENTRIFICATION W/O DISPLACEMENT
   ③ ARTIST HOUSING - KEEP & SUPPORT ARTISTS IN THEIR
   COMMUNITIES - PS109 MODEL / MEANS TEST?
   → COMMUNITY RESIDENTS/ACTIVISTS ON COMMITTEE - WHERE ARE THEY?
   → PS109 RESIDENTS FROM PUBLIC HOUSING?
   MANY RESIDENTS IN NYCHA ARE ARTISTS - SUPPORT THOMAS TROWER.
   → CITYWIDE COORDINATION FOR SUPPORT
   MORE THAN ENFORCEMENT.

3. WHY CULTURAL PLAN?

   LESSONS ABOUT SUPPORT FOR ARTS EDUCATION (INSCHOOL):
   ① MANY ARTISTS MAKE A LIVING AS EDUCATORS (JOBS)
   ② APPROPRIATE SPACE FOR ARTISTS
   ③ AS A SCULPTOR - I FEEL HOSTILE TO COMMERCIAL
   LANDLORD. AT WORKING ARTIST, I AM CONCERNED
   ABOUT THE FUTURE OF CONTINUING A CAREER HERE
   WITH SUPPORT.
   ④ SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION.
PLAN FOR SMALL ORGS TO SUPPORT ARTS/ CULTURAL PROGRAMS - MONEY FOR GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

HEALING ARTS INITIATIVE ARTIST

PROGRAM ENDED, SHUTOED/EMPLOYED MANY

CHECK & BALANCES ON SUPPORT?

WHAT MAKES THE BEST PROCESS TO FACILITATE/ENSURE HEALTH OF ARTS/CULTURAL ORGS IN CT?

COMMERCIAL RENTAL REPO FOR GALLERIES - STRUGGLE - MAKE BIDS FOR LANDLORDS TO GIVE BACK % FOR ART / TO ARTISTS FOR WORK - PRIVATE PERCENT FOR ART.

ARTIST IN BRONX - MENTIONS STARTING HERE - CONCERNED ABOUT ROLE OF CONSULTANT TEAM. WHAT INFLUENCE WILL THEY HAVE? (NO DEVELOPERS ON TEAM) PLANNERS AND RESEARCHERS. RECOMMENDATIONS COMING FROM WHAT WE HEAR IN OPEN PROCESS/PUBLIC. ROOTED IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

BUILDING OWNERS VS. PLANNING MAPS/REVISION TO DO PRELIMINARY REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT/PERSPECTIVE DEVELOPMENT.

SOUTHERN BLVD. VERY FEARFUL OF BEING GENTRIFIED. DEVELOPERS MAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE PROCESSES TO END COMMERCIAL LEASES, EVICT/RENTING COMMUNITY GARDENS. TAKE AWAY ABILITY TO RAISE A LIVING & REMOVE ALTERNATIVE IDEAS ABOUT COMMUNITY SPACES THAT ARE ALSO CULTURAL/ARTS CENTERS FOR IN BY COMMUNITY GARDENS & PUERTORICAN COMM.
Arts & Culture Activity Outside of What DLLA Funds. Get Support to Orgs That Oversee These Spaces/Orgs. Such As Community Gardens, Individual Artists.

Open Neighborhoods in East of City Change Very Fast. Our Work May Not Be Able to Stop It Here & Fear the Loss of Our Valuable Cultural Places. Don’t Want to Go Back to Have Our Students Go.

Connect Between Art & Culture? Relationship of Artists/Arts Rooted In &/Connected To Community Culture. Need That To Be Made More Explicit.


Structure & Environment of Gardens Came From Us (Outside) Not From Inside/Govt. That Is Very Different. Protect These Spaces & Of That Culture.


Students w/ Disabilities. Spaces for Engagement w/ House Hold & Bigger Programming Efforts (Coordinated by DLLA) to Benefit Many/Scale.

→ We Need Movement Around Simplicity
Funds given in grant processes unaccessible to many artists. Model DCLA after Genius Awards.

- DCLA & arts councils to abolish grants.
- Staff to seek out arts & culture programs that are exemplary in city.
- Hiring grant writers creates inequity.
- Unsustainable as Govt proposition.

- Taking proportional share of library spaces to have gallery art/ exhibitions. Even have library art curator on staff.

- Be library w/ gallery coexist. Plan cultural career partnerships key. Work w/ space. Be creative.
- May fund reception, under-resourced libraries not trained to be curators. Carnegie buildings!
- NYPL & BPL open as cultural institutions.

- Space is an issue. This is focused on maintaining building.

- Budgets - help us (DCLA) leverage more money/support from other revenue resources marketing, value of NFP arts & culture. Help diversify funding.

- How do we contact you/ others about this? How will you be supportive allies?

- Culture x well being study (JHC) more of a social impact.

- Cultural attraction on our terms!
- Grants accelerators/ grants gateway/ NYS &
- National More complicated.

- We need advocacy around simplicity.
Corps targeting S. PDX, orgs applying for small grants taking away & from community-based arts & cultural orgs.

- DyCo vendors/grant process becoming inaccessible to small orgs, contracts given to big org - use name of small orgs - and then not contracting w/ us in end.

- Good idea, not followed through.

- Dissolving value of arts orgs by having social service orgs providing arts services in DyCo contracts.

- Brad's special place where locals built - how to protect this. This is part of what culture means here (Comm. Gardens).

- Research more on gardens, mixed use spaces joining (concerns).

- Libraries being sold to private developers where arts & culture are apart - what does it mean to sell off public resources?
  - This is the model the city is using now to develop AFF. housing.
  - This may be the only way to get what we want.

- What are the private company's interests in investing in the arts?

- Minimum wage laws - cost of business increasing.

- DCLA training all arts admin around development & identifying income resources.

- Who are the actors? What neighborhood?

- Land trusts, think outside the box and about our lives & livelihoods. Think broadly about the future.
PUBLIC LIBRARY - ONLY DIGITAL?
DIGITAL NOT NECESSARY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL OR DESIRABLE. CAN THERE BE PREVENTION OF THIS IN TOTALITY? INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE IN MULTIPLE STRATEGIES - DIGITAL & HARD COPY.

SCHOOL HOURS/EXPANSION & INCLUSION OF HOUSE HOlds AND AS COMMUNITY CENTERS.

-> NEEDS TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE SCHOOL POPULATION.

NYCHA COMMUNITIES CENTERS, TOO.

HOW DO ARTISTS GO ABOUT FINDING WORK SPACE?

CENTRALIZED PLACE FOR INFORMATION DIFFICULT & UNUSED FREQUENTLY.

LIBRARIES GOOD PLACE TO DISSEMINATE INFO