



#BKculturalorg

WITH OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION



This project is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council. This event is also possible thanks to the support of the New York Community Trust, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and New York City Council Member Brad Lander.

Thank you to:

Littlefield, Theater Mitu, Fifth Avenue Committee, Gowanus Canal Conservancy and Interference Archive for hosting us in their spaces.

Designing the WE for exhibiting Undesign the Redline.

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Our food today comes thanks to neighborhood restaurants: L'Albero dei Gelati, Dizzy's Diner, Root Hill Cafe, Zaytoons and Ample Hills Creamery.

The Cultural Organizing for Community Change team is Caron Atlas, Emily Ahn Levy, Claudie Mabry and Tom Oesau.

Arts & Democracy helps build a movement of work that cross-fertilizes arts and culture, participatory democracy, and social justice. We do this through cultural organizing, capacity building, artist residencies, and by shaping policy and creating spaces for reflection and connection. Our focus is on historically disenfranchised communities. We put arts and culture on agendas where it hasn't been before, connect artists, activists, and policymakers who wouldn't otherwise know each other, and create the connective tissue and generative environment needed for transformative collaborations to succeed.

www.artsanddemocracy.org, email: info@artsanddemocracy.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ArtsandDemocracy, Twitter: [@artanddemocracy](https://twitter.com/artanddemocracy)

Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts NY (NOCD-NY) is a citywide alliance of cultural networks and community leaders that has joined together to revitalize New York City from the neighborhood up. NOCD-NY came together in 2010 in response to the vision, sustained needs, and resiliency of NYC communities. Our asset-based approach recognizes the powerful culture that already exists in communities and the importance of working across communities to make citywide change.

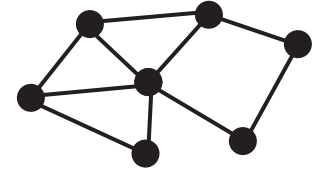
www.nocdny.org, email: nocdny@gmail.com

CULTURAL ORGANIZING FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE

Saturday, Nov 18, 2018

9:30am-6:00pm, reception 6:00-7:00pm

Littlefield, 635 Sackett Street
Theater Mitu, 580 Sackett Street
Fifth Avenue Committee, 621 Degraw Street
Gowanus Canal Conservancy, 543 Union Street
Interference Archive 314 7th St



ARTS & DEMOCRACY NOCD-NY

AGENDA

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- 9:30-10:00 **Registration and Gathering**
- 10:00-11:35 **Welcomes Cultural Organizing Framework Mapping the Room**
Imani Gayle Gillison, *Theater of the Liberated*
Caron Atlas, *Arts & Democracy* and *NOCD-NY*
Hasiba Haq, *Arts & Democracy*
Kathie deNobriga, *Arts & Democracy*
- 11:35-11:45 **Getting Activated**
Chanon Judson, *Urban Bush Women*
- 11:45-11:50 **Announcement** 
- 11:50-12:40 **Lunch**
- 12:40-12:55 **Announce Sessions 1 and 2**
- 12:55-1:10 **Walk to Session 1**

continued on next page

SESSION 1, 1:10-3:00

(sessions starting at Littlefield start at 12:55)

A BOLD (Builders Organizers and Leaders Through Dance)

Chanon Judson, *Urban Bush Women*

> Theater Mitu, 580 Sackett Street

B Gowanus: Fighting for Environmental and Housing Justice Along the Canal

(walking tour and performance)

Michael Higgins, *FUREE*

Carolyn Ferguson, *Theater of the Liberated*

> departing from Littlefield at 12:55

C Visualizing Change: Deconstructing Systems and Building Movements

Braden Crooks, *Designing the We*

Josh MacPhee, *Justseeds Artists' Cooperative*

> starting at Littlefield at 12:55 and walking to Interference Archive, 314 7th Street



D Working with Sanctuary Caravans

Raquel de Anda, *No Longer Empty*

Abou Farman, *New Sanctuary Coalition*

Marco Castillo, Founder of *IIPSOCULTA*

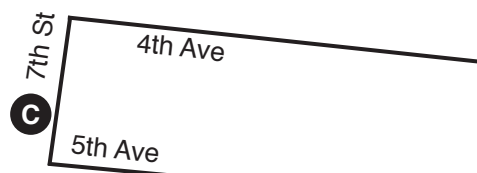
Sara Gozalo and Catalina Antonio-Granados, *New Sanctuary Coalition*

> Fifth Avenue Committee community room, 1st fl
621 Degraw Street

3:00-3:15

Walk to Session 2 and Break

(snacks and water will be available at arrival)



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memories, and identities. Through practices of embodied writing, we'll explore the wisdom and strategies that plant allies can share in supporting our creative emancipation. By building relationships with plants that are grounded in deep listening principles, we are able to access stories of ancestral resilience and resourcefulness to challenge dominant ideologies and envision possibilities for a loving, regenerative, transformative world. <http://earthseedholistic.com/>

What is ULURP? How can communities shape NYC's decisions about land use and development?

Mark Torrey, Siyona Ravi and Yasmin Safdie

Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)

> **Gowanus Canal Conservancy, 543 Union St**

ULURP may sound like a monster (and some people think it is), but it stands for Uniform Land Use Review Procedure and it's the process by which major land use changes get approved in NYC. ULURP is long, complicated, and involves lots of players, making it difficult for communities to understand how they can have a say in the land-use decisions that impact their neighborhoods. In this hands-on workshop with CUP you'll learn the different players involved in the process and the role that communities can play in decision-making, all as you take a sandwich through all the layers of government and public approvals.

MEETING AGREEMENTS

- As this day is a learning exchange, we encourage everyone to participate. Participation makes it more engaging!
- Step up, Step up. Step up your speaking if you are quiet, and Step Up your listening if you tend to talk a lot. Make sure that everyone has a chance to speak!
- Use "I" statements and speak from your own experience.
- Listen to understand, not judge.
- Stay present when in the room - silence your cell phone.
- Stay present with discomfort.
- Take care of your self - take breaks when you need them.
- Avoid buzzwords - explain your acronyms.
- Keep the spaces clean.

SESSION 2 DESCRIPTIONS
3:15-5:05 (1 hour 50 minutes)

Freeing Our Voices, Sounding Our Stories

Ron Ragin, *composer, vocalist, writer*

> Fifth Avenue Committee community room, 1st fl, 621 Degraw Street

All voices are welcome! In this interactive workshop, we'll co-create a supportive space to explore new and exciting ways we can use our voices to share our stories and invoke change. Sound is a powerful medium of expression. When we speak or sing or make noises, our vibrations physically shift the spaces around us; a room cannot be the same once we've raised our voices inside it. Using some fun games and exercises and drawing upon the canons of movement musics from U.S. freedom struggles, we'll deepen our understandings of our own voices, get to know each other, and consider how music (and collective singing, in particular), can strengthen current work for social change.

A Vision for Liberation Through Image Theater

Reg Flowers, *Falconworks Theater Company*

> Theater Mitu, 580 Sackett Street

The session will offer participants tools using the language of theater as a means to reflect on current realities, envision a prosperous future and develop strategies for achieving movement goals. The tools introduced should benefit anyone looking for ways to encourage collaboration among diverse communities seeking to articulate shared vision and values. No previous theater experience necessary.

Writing in the Weeds

sára abdullah, *poet and healing artist*

> Fifth Avenue Committee conference room, 2nd fl, 621 Degraw Street

What lessons do 'weeds' have for our creative and social movements? This workshop will engage with plant medicine as a process for recovering the fullness of our personal and collective stories,

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SESSION 2, 3:15-5:05

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H What is ULURP?

Mark Torrey, Siyona Ravi and Yasmin Safdie
Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)

> Gowanus Canal Conservancy, 543 Union St

5:05-5:20

Break and Walk to Closing

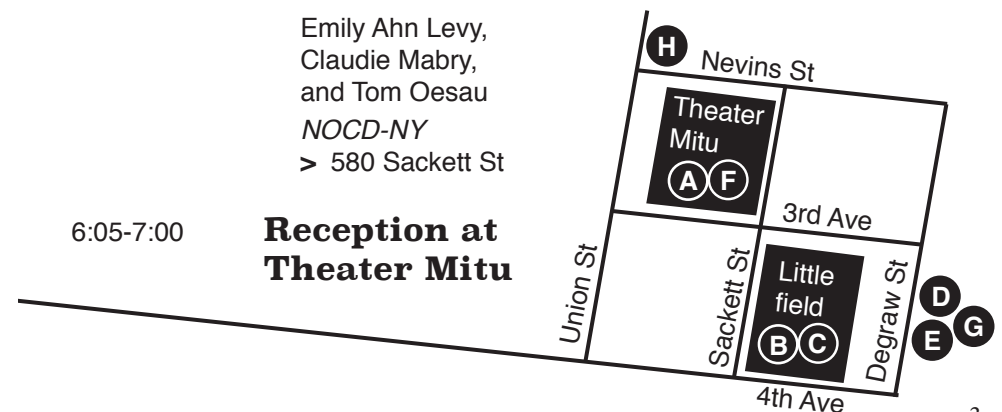
5:20-6:05

Closing at Theater Mitu

Emily Ahn Levy,
 Claudie Mabry,
 and Tom Oesau
NOCD-NY
 > 580 Sackett St

6:05-7:00

Reception at Theater Mitu



SESSION 1

1:10-3:00 (1 hour 50 minutes)

Sessions starting at Littlefield begin at 12:55

BOLD (Builders Organizers and Leaders Through Dance)

Chanon Judson, *Urban Bush Women*

> Theater Mitu, 580 Sackett Street

Builders Organizers and Leaders through Dance, Urban Bush Women facilitates a movement exploration structured to create safe space for reflection, relationship building, and stimulating creative problem solving.

Gowanus: Fighting for Environmental and Housing Justice Along the Canal (walking tour and performance)

Michael Higgins, *FUREE (Families United for Racial and Economic Equality)*

Carolyn Ferguson, *Theater of the Liberated*

> departing from Littlefield at 12:55, visiting neighborhood sites including Gowanus Houses Community Center

Gowanus is a community of public housing, brownstones and increasingly new luxury development along one of the most polluted bodies of water in America. What does the city have planned for this community and what will it mean for its future in a rapidly gentrifying city? Join Michael Higgins for a walking tour and discussion of the history of pollution, public housing and the movement for justice along the canal. The tour will stop at Gowanus Houses Community Center for an excerpt of Theater of the Liberated's production, *Soft*. Conceived by Imani Gayle Gillison in 2017 and carried forward by Carolyn Ferguson in 2018, *Soft* was developed by and for intergenerational residents living in Gowanus Houses, Wyckoff Houses, and Warren Street Houses who have used their own creative voices and stories to share their personal experiences in an effort to save public housing and the center. It features members of the Gowanus Wildcats drill team, which began at the center nearly fifty years ago.

Visualizing Change: Deconstructing Systems and Building Movements

Braden Crooks, *Designing the WE*

Josh MacPhee, *Justseeds Artists' Cooperative*



> starting at Littlefield at 12:55 and walking to Interference Archive, 314 7th Street

The workshop will begin at Littlefield with a discussion of *Designing the WE's Undesign the Redline* installation. *Undesign the Redline* is a framework for unearthing our most deep, systemic and entangled crises. This interactive exhibit explores the history of structural racism and classism, how these designs compounded each other from 1938 Redlining maps until today, and how WE can come together to undesign these systems with intentionality. Then we will walk over to Interference Archive to learn about two organizations that in different ways use culture to support social movements. Artist Josh MacPhee will discuss *Justseeds Artists' Collective* and his personal work creating art and designing for political organizations. Workshop participants will also learn about Interference Archive and have an opportunity to freely browse the vast collection of social movement culture housed there. A group discussion will invite participants to share how they are connecting arts and culture with movement building.

Working with Sanctuary Caravans

Raquel de Anda, *No Longer Empty*; Abou Farman, *New Sanctuary Coalition*; Marco Castillo, Founder of *IIPSOCULTA*; Sara Gozalo and Catalina Antonio-Granados, *New Sanctuary Coalition*

> Fifth Avenue Committee community room, 1st fl, 621 Degraw Street

Curious to learn more about what a caravan actually is and how to support the Caravan traveling north this winter? Join the New Sanctuary Coalition, *No Longer Empty* and Art Space Sanctuary in this learning circle to help organize a Sanctuary Caravan to meet, support, and accompany the Central American exodus. The workshop will feature the voices of individuals who have previously traveled with or given refuge to migrant caravans, and provide ways to contribute to the Sanctuary Caravan. Together we will strengthen our understanding of how and why people chose to join caravans while learning how best to act in solidarity with refugees, either by joining a delegation of people at the border or challenging toxic narratives about who and what make up a caravan, and more.