

ARTS & CULTURE

Strengthen Belonging
through Imagination,
Connection,
and Care

NEW YORK CITY



KENTUCKY



Family Concert at Avenue C Plaza

The concert is part of cultural programs that transform a concrete plaza into a community hub in Kensington, Brooklyn, one of NYC's most diverse neighborhoods. Pictured: Brooklyn Porch Music, photo credit Jaznina Santiago



Living Close to the Land

Hands in Soil, photograph by Layfierre Mitchell



Louisville Cityscape

Photograph by Layfierre Mitchell. Before the Civil War, the Ohio River separated North & South. Louisvillians both traded enslaved people and supported the Underground Railroad.

GROUNDING IN PLACE

Our places matter: rivers and mountains, parks and plazas, rural and urban communities. We have the right to retain and determine these places and the cultures that are so much a part of them.



Cultural Organizing for Community Change

An annual convening that joins arts and culture and popular education. Here, Urban Bush Women demonstrates how moving our bodies contributes to movement building. photo credit: Edwina Hay



Kentucky in Brooklyn

A workshop at Cultural Organizing for Community Change with artmaking especially created for children with incarcerated loved ones.



Cultural Organizing Workshop in Kentucky

Bringing together individuals, arts, service and policy organizations in the state capitol to sustain and elevate social change strategies. Photograph by Mari Mujica.

CULTURAL ORGANIZING

Arts and culture are an integral part of our communities. We bring our whole selves to our activism, engaging the power of stories and songs, artmaking and imagination as part of transformative change.

Community Mural in Exit Lobby of Louisville Metro Department of Corrections



The Community Mural includes drawings and images by incarcerated artists.



Bangladeshi Ladies Club

build community through traditional kantha stitching joined with English classes.

CARE AND CONNECTION

Culture brings us together in hard times to care for each other, make sense of what is happening, and support ourselves through community relationships, memories, and our vision for the future.



Kensington Cares

The multi-lingual exhibit honors immigrant community members who led mutual aid during the pandemic. Created by photographers Anna and Jordan Rathkoph. Pictured: Nowshin Ali and Anurag Shrivastava, People in Need

Artmaking for Families with Incarcerated Loved Ones

Image: Sewing Card Doll, artist Michelle Amos



Layfierre Mitchell and young people printing t-shirts

CREATIVE DECISIONMAKING

Creativity helps animate real democratic power and systems change that is equitable, accessible, and significant. Arts and culture increase participation and amplify the voice and leadership of the people most impacted by policymaking.



Participatory Budgeting

How would you spend public money in support of your community? Community members answer with proposals that are voted on by their neighbors, as illustrated by this poster for accessible paths in Prospect Park.

Cultural Blueprint for Healthy Communities

The resource incorporates community culture in neighborhood planning to hear from people who are often excluded. Created by Arts & Democracy, NOCD-NY, El Puente, and Hester Street.



Mrs. Elizabeth Wooten in *On Our Own Land*, an Appalshop Film

When Mrs. Elizabeth Wooten sued a coal company for destroying her family's land, the judge called her "a pauper." Film directed by Anne Lewis

ARTS & DEMOCRACY