



THE INVISIBLE DOG

51 Bergen St. - Brooklyn - New York - 11201

CULTUREBOT

ARTS + CULTURE + IDEAS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PERFORMING ARTISTS UNITE FOR A LIVABLE CITY

**The Brooklyn Commune Project culminates
with a Global Congress - November 22-24
at The Invisible Dog Art Center**

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51 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Friday, November 22nd to Sunday, November 24th, 2013

New York City – Both at home and across the country there is a lot of talk about Creative Cities, Creative Placemaking and The Creative Economy, but when the leaders of cultural institutions, foundations and city governments gather to make policy, artists are often underrepresented if not left out of the conversation entirely.

From Friday November 22 to Sunday November 24 at The Invisible Dog Art Center, The Brooklyn Commune Project, the largest artist-driven, grassroots initiative of its kind, will host a full weekend of thought-provoking presentations, performances and conversations about the economic conditions of performing arts ecology and their impact on the lives of working artists in New York City.

The Brooklyn Commune Global Congress is the culmination of an eight-month investigation of the economic dilemma of the performing arts—the corrosive impact of ongoing systemic dysfunction on the ability of artists to maintain viable creative lives in the city. **The Congress will be a three-day participatory event sharing the findings of this collaborative research.** Participants will work collectively to develop a platform of positions and recommendations for creating a sustainable performing arts ecology.

This artist-driven convening will bring together artists, administrators, institutions, funders and other cultural thought leaders to collectively envision an arts and culture sector that is healthy, diverse and sustainable. **The goal of the Congress is to identify meaningful, actionable solutions to systemic challenges,** and to identify pathways toward a vibrant, dynamic, inclusive and resilient future for arts and culture in NYC and America.

Friday, November 22 at 6PM —The Congress opens for registration and cocktails. Introductory remarks by co-organizers Andy Horwitz and Risa Shoup will be followed **by a performance from Montreal-based musician Jordan Officer and a keynote address.** The evening will conclude with introductory statements by Brooklyn Commune research coordinators and a presentation of the findings from the 2013 Performing Arts Census.

Saturday, November 23rd at 10AM - The day will consist of a series of participatory programs including **The MAP Fund Impersonation Game** where artists will pretend to be panelists for the MAP Fund and review one other's applications; **an Economic Dilemma Seder** using a "haggadah" based on Baumol & Bowen's seminal 1966 study "Performing Arts: The Economic Dilemma;"; **a Long Table discussion on race, gender, and privilege** called "The Uncomfortable Conversation;" and **an independent producers' budget charette** exploring the real economics of working outside of institutions.

Sunday, November 24 at 11AM: The Congress continues with a **working session on artists, real estate, finance and the law,** featuring a panel discussion led by Genan Zilkha, an attorney and legal advocate, considering the following topics: property acquisition, contract execution and licensing, and lease negotiation/renegotiation. Panelists include Aaron Pierce, Andrew Muchmore and others TBA. The Congress will **conclude with a participatory collaborative creation** session to craft a vision of a livable future for artists in NYC.

While admission is free and open to the public, \$10 weekend passes are available at <http://brooklyncommune.brownpapertickets.com/> with all proceeds going to support the printing costs of the final report.

The Brooklyn Commune Global Congress, Friday November 22 - Sunday November 24, 2013 at The Invisible Dog Art Center, 51 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Admission is free and open to the public, \$10 weekend passes are available with all proceeds going to support the printing costs of the final report. For more information visit www.brooklyncommune.org

ABOUT THE BROOKLYN COMMUNE PROJECT

The Brooklyn Commune Project is a grassroots initiative organized by **Culturebot.org** and **The Invisible Dog Art Center** to educate, activate and unify performing artists of all disciplines to work together towards a more equitable, just and sustainable arts ecology in America.

The project's goal is to create an artist-driven vision of a healthy arts ecosystem in America and to bring artists, institutions, administrators and funders together for mutually respectful, open, non-hierarchical discourse around difficult topics such as resource allocation, capital, value, labor, aesthetics and quality of life.

While sited in Brooklyn, the project is inclusive of all NYC and aspires to develop a vision with national relevance. While our sphere of influence is the arts; our sphere of concern is global.

Co-Organizers: Andy Horwitz from Culturebot.org, Risa Shoup from The Invisible Dog

Coordinating Committee and Research Team organizers: Dorit Avganim, Kimberly Bartosik, Nick Benacerraf, Max Dana, Seth Hamlin, JJ Lind, Dean Moss, Kyoung H. Park, Tara Sheena, Monica Snellings

Project Partners include: Here Arts Center, Prelude.13, Cloud City, The Silent Barn, BRIC, New York Live Arts, University Settlement, Immediate Medium, The Assembly, Neighborhood Productions, CATCH, Our Goods, Dance/NYC Junior Committee and more.

Featured participants: Jim Findlay, Noel Allain, Sarah Maxfield, Ashton Applewhite, Raul Barcelona, Randy Martin, Cynthia Hopkins, Danielle Hlatky, Amy Whitaker, Shay Wafer, Cynthia Hedstrom, Jane Comfort, Elise Bernhardt, Andrew Simonet, Clyde Valentin, Carla Peterson, Gelsey Bell, Annie Dorsen, Shonni Enelow, Arthur Aviles ... and more.

BROOKLYN COMMUNE PROJECT FALL 2013 EVENTS FROM NOVEMBER 7

Thursday, November 7th, 6.30PM

Mapping It Out: Creating a Culture of Abundance with OurGoods,
New York Live Arts/219 W 19th St, New York

Presented in partnership with New York Live Arts and OurGoods.

Monday November 11th, 7PM

Congress Coordinating Meeting Happy Hour
Venue TBD

Tuesday November 12th, 7PM

Creativity, Capital & Community: A Conversation on Gentrification

University Settlement/184 Eldridge Street, New York

With Risa Shoup (The Invisible Dog Art Center) and Alison Fleminger (University Settlement House)

Monday November 18th, 7PM

Congress Coordinating Meeting & Happy Hour

Venue TBD

Tuesday November 19th, 7PM

The View from the Stoop: An Examination of Diversity in the Performing Arts

BRIC House Stoop/647 Fulton Street, Brooklyn

Please note that the calendar is subject to change so be sure to check our website (<http://brooklyncommune.org/event-calendar/>) and facebook page for new times and locations!
