

**PRESS RELEASE: April 15, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Common Field's 2020 Convening, Transformed



Above: Common Field 2019 Convening Philadelphia. Photo: Constance Mensh. Design: Margaret Anderson, Piping Hot Press.

April 23–May 3, 2020

FREE Registration at CommonField.org

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Reimagining an annual gathering for the virtual sphere.

APRIL 15, 2020: Common Field – a national network of independent, experimental and contemporary visual arts organizations and organizers – is proud to announce a free and online reimagining of its annual Convening, originally scheduled to take place in Houston, TX in late April. The Convening is an annual, itinerant gathering where typically more than 500 arts organizers share resources, ideas and methods for artist-led, artist-run and artist-centered spaces, projects and practices. The Common Field 2020 Convening is an early major national arts and culture gathering to shift online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a greatly expanded audience.

At this unprecedented moment, there remains an urgent need to stay connected, build knowledge from the field and generate broadly-shared tools accessible to all. In reimagining the

Convening, Common Field reaffirms its commitment to building platforms that engage with shared histories, create new connections, combat the physical isolation of our current reality and strategize evolved forms of collectivity and caretaking.

A full program lineup, complete with registration information for each session, is available at CommonField.org. Registration for this year's online Convening is [open and free](#), and Common Field is committed to ensuring that its programs are [accessible to and inclusive of all](#). All times listed are Central Daylight Time (CDT) to honor the original Convening site.

As a non-profit organization, Common Field encourages and relies on your [tax-deductible donations](#) to directly support its efforts. Common Field is committed to paying all fees to the arts organizers, presenters, writers and artists we planned to work with in the original version of the Convening – regardless of their ability to participate in this transformed iteration. It's a [Core Value](#) of Common Field's to demonstrate equitable pay and to center mutual support.

2020 Convening programs explore progressive strategies for racial, economic and environmental justice in the arts, as well as stronger and more accessible infrastructures for community building and creative practice. Participants are invited to strategize around the terms of our collective cultural future while building capacity and expanding the parameters of what's possible.

The 2020 Convening is organized by Common Field with an extensive network of Houston-based Partners to shape its program, intended sites, commissions and goals as well as to connect local contexts and conditions with the interests of the greater network. Common Field is profoundly grateful to these partners, the Houston community and the hundreds of participating arts organizers nationwide for their ongoing collaboration and dedication to the Convening in its reimaged form.

Houston Partners include arts organizations Art League Houston, Aurora Picture Show, DiverseWorks, Galveston Arts Center, Lawndale Art Center, Mystic Lyon, Project Row Houses, and Rothko Chapel; and arts organizers Emily Aeyer, Jessi Bowman/FLATS, Matt Manalo/Filipinx Artists of Houston, Moe Penders, Reyes Ramirez , Henry G. Sanchez and Megan Sparks/Resistance Healing Clinic

About Common Field

Common Field is a national network of independent, experimental and contemporary visual arts organizations and organizers. Common Field connects, supports and advocates for the artist-centred field through collective action, shared information, and mutual support. Launched in 2015, its network has grown to 750+ members across the US.

Thanks

Generous lead support for the 2020 Convening is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional significant support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. The project is also funded in part by the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance and Stardust Arts.

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Andy Warhol

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts



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