

## **Present, Past and Future Tense: Registers, Archives, and Remembering**

*Common Field is invested in archiving histories of our expansive field as well as supporting a dialogue about organizational memory. With our conditions in crisis we recognize that a lot of things are changing quickly and in unplanned ways - from program shifts to sunseting.*

- What resources are needed to ensure that our present histories are archived in meaningful and shareable ways?

CWY: Universities (example: [California Ethnic & Multicultural Archives at UC Santa Barbara](#), housing extensive source documentation and original screenprints from Kearny Street Workshop in a safe, archival space which might otherwise end up in someone's garage), free PDF's and artist libraries and mutual support networks. More POC-centered ICAs with research libraries open to the public on a drop-in basis such as [Iniva](#). PSU has an digital Social Practice artist archives (launching at [Assembly 2020](#)) — open to contributions from any socially-engaged artists or projects ([click here](#))

Beverly Naidus: Long history with NYC and LA artist/activist networks, we need multiple sites of histories. Can't depend on universities - as many are currently collapsing - and funding is disappearing. "Distributed networks" and independent archives.

Nick Wylie: Struck by physical, mass-produced archives (ie publications/zines/etc). Quarantine Times is an example that is creating this repository in Chicago. Spread it around in case one institution is lost.

Zoë Charlton: Ways in which we are archiving, and for whom. Ways of intergenerational conversations and archives in neighborhoods. Can CF encourage different kinds of spaces/ages/etc to connect across those

- How do we build knowledge, coalition and long-term thinking in this time?

Beverly Naidus: Running zoom conferences (Arts of Resistance and Connection) that talks about different activist strategies. Informed by people who lived through AIDS crisis and strategies of organizing. Organizing around immigration and detention centers. Etc. Open and free forums for organizing and discussion. New hubs like CF forming to build lasting networks and coalitions.

Zoë: Organizations in Baltimore just formed a network of artist-run spaces. Formed just prior to COVID, but has prompted sharing resources, and how sharing resources is also knowledge. How do we offer care to one another as spaces. At the state level, one organization turned grants into a relief fund to be more responsive than the federal government could be.

James: Thinking of our organizations as always multiple -

Heather Harvey: Group meeting across Maryland to support each other, think through strategies to organize.

Sarah Strauder: Started an organization of ED's and leaders in the Houston area 4 years ago. COVID accelerated the meeting pace to understand how to get through loan processes, stimulus, and support on the organizational level.

Nick Wylie: Hyde Park Art Center putting together an exhibition on survey of artist spaces in Chicago. Coalition of those spaces stay in touch and organizing. Giving each other resources in a more consistent way. Advocate to funders about how to support

- How do we hold, release, and remake our broken systems?

Beverly: First we need to imagine what we want. Artists to work with neighborhoods and other scales for what world we want to build. Create something irresistible with workshops, brainstorming, diagramming, mapping out what would be exciting and nourishing right now. How do we remake food systems and dismantle ideologies of power and oppression. (Link to [workshop](#))

Heather: Universities are losing their infrastructures that weren't working anyway. Terrifying because so much will be lost, but also full of potential.

Axel: Have a project named Immediate Fashion School (sp?) - leading a course "Fashion as World-Building" using fashion and design on what kind of world we'd like to build. DS4SI book about arrangements that support ideas and create important effects. "Ideas, Arrangements, and Effects"

Amanda Leigh Evans: Going through the grief of so much work not going forward. Works in Portland in affordable housing program The Living School of Art doing gardening, workshops, intimate organizing in homes and neighbors. Works with KSMOCA. Thinking through artists as members of communities in partnership with places long-term. What does it mean for artist spaces to be active in existing places.

- How are we remembering?