

COMMON FIELD CONVENING

Kick-Off Party

Thursday, April 25
from 6:30-10:00PM

Christ Church Neighborhood House
20 N American Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Let us welcome you to Philadelphia and mark the beginning of the Convening with an evening of music and community!

Featuring performances by artist, activist, and poet Marissa Johnson-Valenzuela—who will do a live remix of her “conceptual reggaeton” album *No Otro Lado*—musician and educator Alex Shaw (Intercultural Journeys), and DJ Precolumbian.

Organized by BlackStar Film Festival & Vox Populi

COMMON
FIELD



VOX POPULI
30 YEARS

ARTIST BIOS:

Marissa Johnson-Valenzuela was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas and a collective house in Philadelphia has long been home. Her art has been supported by many rad people and projects including Lambda Literary, VONA/ Voices, The Leeway Foundation, *Organize Your Own: The Politics and Poetics of Self-Determination Movements* (SoberSCOPE 2016), American Poetry Review, *The Baffler*, *Gulf Coast*, and *Aster(ix)*. She is the founder of Thread Makes Blanket press and teaches at Community College of Philadelphia. Marissa recently released a full-length “conceptual reggaeton” album, *No Otro Lado*, that posits that the U.S. and Mexico are essentially one country with a border that is used to justify oppression. <https://nootrolado.bandcamp.com/>

Alex Shaw is a percussionist, composer, curator, and arts educator specializing in Brazilian music traditions. Alex directed the 11-piece Brazilian ensemble, Alô Brasil, and was a lead member of Philadelphia’s award-winning Spoken Hand Percussion Orchestra for 14 years. He has accompanied numerous professional and collegiate dance companies, and has held faculty positions at University of the Arts, Swarthmore College, and Temple University. Alex is the Artistic Director for Intercultural Journeys and has served as a teaching artist and board member for LiveConnections since 2008.

Precolumbian is a Philadelphia-based DJ, musician and cultural creator. She is co-founder of queer experimental club night *Seltzer*. Her work was honored with the 2013 Leeway Transformation Award and has been featured in *The Fader*, NPR, MTV, Remezcla, and *Fact Magazine*. Recent notable performances include: iBomba Boiler Room, Red Bull Radio, Pride Toronto, Rolling Stone Latino at The Latin Grammys, and The Baltimore Museum of Art. Soundcloud: <http://soundcloud.com/precolumbian>

ABOUT VENUE:

Christ Church Neighborhood House is a performance venue and a catalyst for the arts on the historic Christ Church campus. We support artists through subsidized performance/rehearsal rentals in our namesake building, and we commission new site-specific works informed by our architecture and history.

FOOD/DRINK OPTIONS:

Food will be available from the food truck PaperMill on-site for cash purchase, and a bar in the space will provide for alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage needs, alike.

TRAVEL:

Travel to Christ Church Neighborhood House is on your own, and is a venue accessible by public transit from much of the city.