

## SESSION 3

**Cultural Organizing Lab** - workshop  
Kathie deNobriga, *Arts & Democracy*

This session is a cultural organizing "laboratory" to test your ideas, troubleshoot challenges, and generally get feedback from peer practitioners. Bring your project to the Lab where our finest thinkers (including you!) will listen, reflect, analyze, question and help you problem-solve.

**What is ULURP? How Can Communities Get Involved in NYC's Decisions About Development?** - workshop  
Mark Torrey and Cassie Ang, *Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)*

Mayor Bill de Blasio's affordable housing proposal, called Mandatory Inclusionary Housing, is currently going through NYC's public review process — ULURP. But what exactly is ULURP? And how can community members have the most impact on the process? In this workshop with the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP), you will learn the different players involved, the role they can play in decision-making, and get hands-on with the process as you take a sandwich through all the layers of government and public approvals!

**Media in Action: Media and Youth Organizing** - workshop  
Janet Perez, Teresa Basilio, Karina Hurtado-Ocampo, *Global Action Project*

What is the role of media in youth-led movement building? What are new media trends and practices being used by youth organizers to advance their social justice work? What barriers have youth organizers identified as needing to be addressed to fully engage with media? In collaboration with the Data Center and Research Action Design, Global Action Project surveyed youth organizations nationwide to hear from young people what their context, best practices, and barriers were in engaging with media production. The findings were published as a report: "Media in Action: A Field Scan of Media and Youth Organizing in the United States." In this workshop we will be presenting and breaking down results of the report and how we can integrate the lessons learned and youth organizers will share case studies of their work using media.

**BOLD and Engaged** - workshop  
Chanon Judson, *Urban Bush Women*

Builders Organizers and Leaders through Dance, (BOLD) Urban Bush Women, facilitates a movement exploration structured to create safe space for reflection, relationship building, and stimulating creative problem solving.

## CULTURAL ORGANIZING FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE

### Case Study, Workshop, & Walking Tour Descriptions

## SESSION 1

**Arts, Culture and Public Housing Communities**  
Moderator, Tamara Greenfield, *NOCD-NY*  
2 case studies:

**Art Creates Community. Community Creates Change.**  
Sharon Polli and Claudie Mabry, *Groundswell*

Groundswell, New York City's leading community-based public art organization, shares how it brings together artists, youth, and community organizations through its Scaffold Up!™ model to use art as a tool for social change, for a more just and equitable world. Groundswell also highlights a new initiative entitled "Public Art / Public Housing," designed to engage young NYCHA residents at five developments (one in each borough) to transform vacant and neglected walls into artistically and content-rich public art works.

**Casita Maria: Artist-led Cultural Initiatives for Community Growth and Change**  
Christine Licata, *Casita Maria*

Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education is an 80-year old community-based organization that provides cultural and educational programs to youth, family members and our local residents in the South Bronx. Rooted in the goal to support and strengthen our community through inclusive, long-term, intergenerational approaches, Casita will share information about our interdisciplinary public art initiatives with an emphasis on community building, artist-led social justice projects and local partnerships. The presentation will focus on our recent collaborations with NYCHA and Mott Haven NYCHA residents through our South Bronx Culture Trail and Open Stage programs.

**Civil Disobedience and Community Care** - workshop  
Monica Montgomery, *Museum of Impact*

Civil Disobedience involves breaking current rules or law to make a bold statement about social change. It's necessary and uncomfortable as a step towards social change. Often the bravest and boldest use unorthodox methods to get their point across. Participants will envision ways to use art and culture courageously to advocate for restorative justice and champion community care.

### **Legislative Theatre in NYC: Representation by Improvisation** - case study

Katy Rubin, *Theatre of the Oppressed NYC*

For the past 3 years, Theatre of the Oppressed NYC has engaged City Council Members and federal policy-makers, advocates, community actors and audiences (spect-actors!) in the Legislative Theatre process - an experiment in creative, direct and participatory democracy. In this session we'll explore (and rehearse!) the structure of Legislative Theatre process; discuss concrete successes, questions and challenges that have arisen since 2013; and brainstorm ways this process can be useful to other NYC communities and organizations.

### **Roots and Rhythms** – workshop

Melinda Gonzalez & Fernando Garcia of *BombaYo*, and student Hilda Massoud

Explore ways in which traditional art forms like Afro Puerto Rican Bomba (drum and dance) can be used for self-expression, community healing and to energize and ground organizers in their work.

## SESSION 2

### **Creative Campaigns for Workers Rights**

Moderator, Caron Atlas, *Arts & Democracy and NOCD-NY*

2 case studies:

#### **Popular Technology, Workers Rights and Self-Expression**

Michelle Miller, *Coworker.org*

A 24-year old Starbucks barista connected with thousands of fellow baristas around the world to get the company to overturn their ban on visible tattoos. Learn how she combined Coworker.org and popular technology tools to win her campaign and created a model of campaigning replicated by workers at other companies. This case study will demonstrate the power of worker-led campaigns and participatory technology.

#### **Artists and the Fight for \$15**

Rachel Schragis and Raul Ayala, *People's Climate Arts*

Inspired by fast food workers striking for a truly living wage, workers from all different sectors have been coming together across the USA to fight for a \$15 minimum wage and union protection. Learn how artists from People's Climate Arts, People's Puppets of Occupy Wall Street, the Worker Arts Coalition, and the NYC Light Brigade are collaborating to amplify this inspiring movement in the streets.

### **Creative Fiction for Community Change** - workshop

Erick Boustead, *Line Break Media* and Nayantara Sen, *Race Forward, EmcArts and New York University*

In this workshop, we'll be exploring the strategic uses of creative and visionary fiction for cultural organizing. Come learn about ways to interrupt dominant narratives and frames by writing stories that illuminate institutional and structural oppression. We'll explore tips and tools for elevating your most visionary values that shift the dominant culture toward social justice and radical love.

### **Gowanus: Where Environmental Justice Meets Housing Justice**

- walking tour

Michael Higgins, *FUREE (Families United for Racial and Economic Equality)*

Gowanus is an intensely contaminated community that is simultaneously undergoing multiple processes of environmental remediation and gentrification. The tour will explore these dynamics and the challenges and opportunities posed by the Gowanus Canal Superfund Clean Up, the rapid disappearance of commercial establishments and services that are affordable to low- and moderate-income households, and the recently announced housing authority plan to build market-rate apartments at Wyckoff Gardens. Tour attendees will also learn about the Turning the Tide initiative, a multi-neighborhood effort that focuses on building social and environmental resiliency in five Brooklyn public housing developments.

### **Communications for the Can't Stop Won't Stop Artist/Activist** - workshop and case study

Thenmozhi Soundararajan, *Equality Labs and #dalitwomenfight*

If you are an artist/activist looking to make impact in the media around an issue, or for your organization, then this workshop is for you. Learn the basics of good storytelling and workshop your message.