



THE MUSEUM OF RECLAIMED URBAN SPACE



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Museum,

2016 has been a turbulent year. While MoRUS celebrated its fourth anniversary in December, we saw the emergence of threatening views about climate change, individual freedoms and equality. We are confident that our common efforts can continue to make a difference in the lives of many individuals.

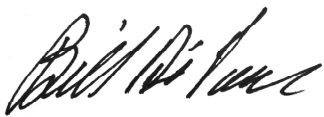
This year we gained a new community garden, just two blocks away from the museum. From the first day the museum opened, we kept the pressure on and the history up to re-open Carmen's garden on Avenue C and it finally happened. Our unique relationship with Time's Up environmental group and community members really helped to create the extra push to get this community garden open.

We also are happy to announce our new partnerships with the Loaisida Center and several new community gardens, along with other museums and of course the Tainment archiving center, where we have a direct connection to archive the neighborhood's incredible history. This year, we've also increased our workshops with La Plaza Community Garden.

Our sustainable tours have been recognized around the world. The Museum is now recommended in numerous international travel guides in France, Germany, Sweden, of course in the USA. More schools are starting to show more interest in the museum especially around our sustainable programming. Both residents and tourists are really interested in how the community gardens, recycling and sustainable urban design started and which groups were involved.

We are now heading into our 5th year and with your support, we hope to keep our programming and archiving.

Sincerely,



Bill DiPaola



2016 IN NUMBERS

In 2016, MoRUS had **3157** visitors from **11** countries on **4** continents. We organized **21** events and hosted **74** tours.

MORUS' MISSION

The mission of MoRUS is to preserve the history of grassroots activism and promote environmentally-sound, community-based urban ecologies. MoRUS pursues three main goals:

- archive and document the history of activism in the Lower East Side, East Village and Alphabet City
- educate visitors with exhibitions and guided tours of the neighborhood
- empower individuals to partake the process for sustainable change with workshops and events.

NEWS 2016

MOVIES NIGHTS

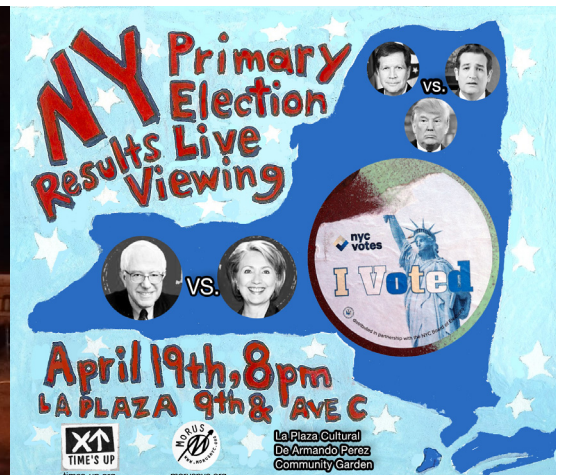
MoRUS started 2016 with a new series of event: Movies@MoRUS. Every third Thursday in the month from February to July, MoRUS offered free documentary screenings on environmental, political or social issues. The following movies were presented:

- February 18th: Long Distance Revolutionary: A Journey with Mumia Abu-Jamal, dir. Stephen Vittoria, 2013
- March 17th: 1971, dir. Johanna Hamilton, 2014
- April 21st: Garbage Warrior, dir. Oliver Hodge, 2007
- May 19th: Food, Inc., dir. Robert Kenner, 2008
- June 16th: The Stingray and #Black Lives Matter, two episodes from the Truth and Power series, 2016
- July 21st: The True Cost, dir. Andrew Morgan, 2015
- December 15th 2016: Before the Flood, dir. Fisher Stevens, 2016



LIVE DEBATE SCREENINGS

In this electoral year, we felt the need to gather community members to watch the debates and election nights together, for the primary as well as for the general election. The weather permitted us to host these events outside at La Plaza Cultural Community Garden.



MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FILM FEST

The 4th Edition of MoRUS Film Fest attracted over 200 people with the theme “People for the Planet.” With a focus on environmentally-conscious documentaries, the Film Fest brought people together to enjoy outdoor screening in community gardens. Once again this year, the Film Fest was an opportunity to raise awareness among the community about issues affecting the neighborhood and beyond that the future of our planet, from waste management to endangered species. With these movies, attendees could discuss positive alternative to our current lifestyle like techniques of permaculture, multiple uses of hemp in housing for example, or the vision of a zero waste society.

Following movies were presented:

- August 18th: Racing To Zero, dir.Christopher Beaver, 2014
- August 19th: Racing Extinction, dir. Louie Psihoyos, 2015
- August 20th: Inhabit, a Permaculture Perspective, dir. Costa Boustikaris, 2015
- August 21st: Bringing It Home, dir.Linda Booker, Blaire Johnson, 2013



MoRUS' Fourth Annual Film Festival

Thurs. August 18th **Racing to Zero**

*"Tracks San Francisco's waste stream diversion tactics and presents innovative new solutions to waste"*¹

Located at 6B Community Garden
on the corner of East 6th St. and Ave. B

Fri. August 19th **Racing Extinction**

*"a team of artists and activists intent on showing the world never-before-seen images that expose issues of endangered species and mass extinction"*²

Located at Orchard Alley Garden
East 4th St. Between Ave. C and D

Sat. August 20th **Inhabit + Unbroken Ground**

*The 25 minute film "explores four areas of agriculture that aim to change our relationship to the land and oceans."*³

Located at Dias Y Flores Community Garden
East 13th St. between Ave. A and B

Sun. August 21st **Hemp Night: Bringing it Home**

*Joined by speakers who will discuss hemp and its benefits, followed by the film which "tells the story of hemp: past, present and future and a global industry"*⁴

Located at La Plaza Community Garden
Corner of 9th St. and Ave. C

CITIZENS
COMMITTEE
FOR NEW
YORK CITY



¹www.trash24.org ²www.racingextinction.com ³www.patagonia.com/unbroken-ground-film-tour.html ⁴<http://bringingithomemovie.com>



MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RECYCLED FASHION SHOW

This second recycled fashion show organized by MoRUS (the first one took place in 2013) was part of a broader event called Garbagia Island, and was the result of a cooperation between MoRUS, the Loisaida Center and Time's Up Environmental Organization. Based on a dystopia conceived by members of the Loisaida Center, the story of Garbagia Island featured the Island of Puerto Rico overwhelmed by trash. MoRUS supported the organization and the realization of a fashion show, using only recycled material. Several workshops took place in advance so that interested people could realize their own costume. Following the fashion show, Time's Up organized a Pirate Bike Ride, using also some of the costumes created.

The recycled fashion show was the opportunity to strengthen cooperation between local organizations, to get community members to work together on a fun performance, and of course to highlight the needs and potential of recycling.



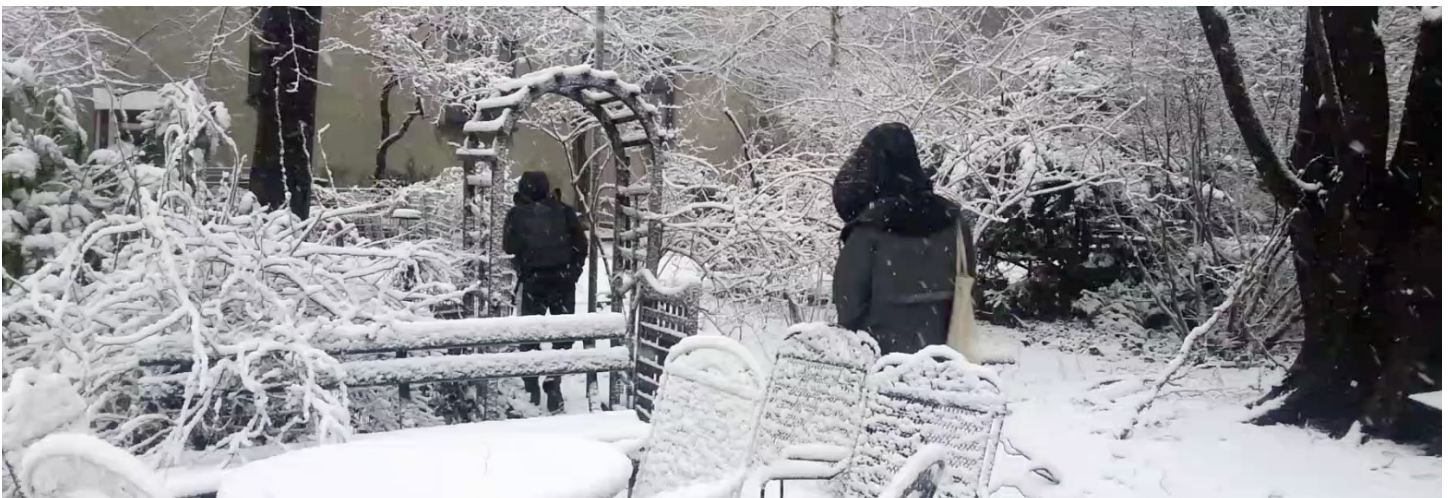
OTHER EVENTS

2016 was also marked by many other events, among which our annual **HALLOWEEN RAT RACE MAZE**, that attracted dozens of kids from the neighborhood; several **SIGN AND BANNER PAINTINGS WORKSHOPS**, for various events and protests (March Against Monsanto, Earth Day Ride, etc.); a presentation and party for the release of **AMY STARECHESKI'S BOOK "OURS TO LOSE: WHEN SQUATTERS BECAME HOMEOWNERS"**; our 4th **ANNIVERSARY PARTY** and even a **WEDDING!**

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

TOURS

MoRUS continued to offer tours of the neighborhood. Every Saturday and Sunday, rain or shine, MoRUS guides take you through community spaces and let you discover the history and the secrets of the neighborhood. This year, custom tours continued to encounter success. We led several tours for students from the City and abroad (including England and Denmark).



REGULAR PROGRAMMING

GARDEN CLEAN-UPS

Every week during spring and summer, MoRUS organizes garden clean ups with partnering community gardens. In 2016, with the help of summer interns and volunteers, we built a new kitchen at La Plaza Community Garden. Kids even helped us, and also enjoyed the newly built space for an afternoon snack!

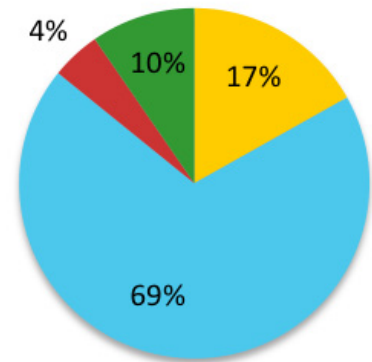


FINANCE AND FUNDING

MoRUS has a 501 (c) 3 status through its fiscal sponsor, Time's Up Environmental Organization. Time's Up Form 990 are available online or upon request.

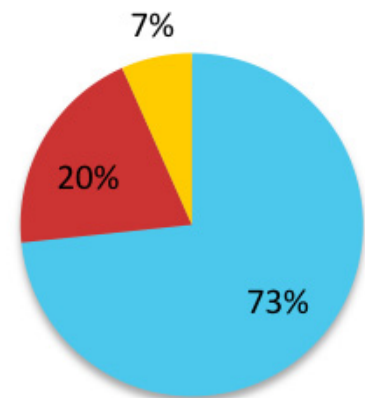
FUNDING SOURCES

- Foundations
- Individual donations
- Tours
- Merchandise



EXPENSES

- Exhibition and space maintenance
- Programming
- Advertising and fundraising



MoRUS is a 100% volunteer-run museum. All the donations directly support the museum and its programming. Besides financial donations, MoRUS exists thanks to the commitment of dozens of volunteers and interns who run the museum daily. MoRUS would like to thank them, and of course all our donors, and the foundations supporting us: Citizens Committee for NYC, Puffin Foundation, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund. We also want to thank our partners: community gardens of the East Village, in particular La Plaza Cultural Community Garden, Loisaída Center, Time's Up.

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