



# THE MUSEUM OF RECLAIMED URBAN SPACE

December 12, 2017

Dear Friend,

This last year has shown the importance and resurgence of grassroots and popular movements, with one of the largest protests ever happening last January. With the current administration, more and more people are interested in current grassroots popular movements, and there is also a greater interest in the successful grassroots movements of the past. We are working to keep this history alive and available and to continue to support grassroots movements today.

The Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space opened in 2012 in legendary C-Squat and is focused on preserving the history of grassroots activism and promoting environmentally-sound, community-based urban ecologies. We archive and document the history of activism in the Lower East Side, educate visitors with exhibitions and guided tours of the neighborhood and empower individuals to partake in the process for sustainable change with workshops and events.

This year has brought many new and notable successes. We established a new archiving contract with the Tamiment library so that our archived materials will be more permanently preserved. Our annual film festival, Spy Vs. Us, which focused on government interference in community and activist groups, was once again a big success. We are grateful for our ongoing partnerships with local community gardens, where we screen the films and look forward to continuing the fest every August as part of our regular programming. Our annual Halloween event in La Plaza Cultural de Armando Perez community garden, featuring our Rat Race Maze had over 500 children in attendance this October on Halloween night alone!



In May we featured an exhibition in partnership with ABC No Rio in Exile titled 'Taking it to the Streets! The Art + Design of Posters and Fliers on the Lower East Side in the 80s + 90s.' Even the New York Time's took notice and wrote a great piece about the show!



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Then in June we hosted the exhibition 'Grow Me A Garden: Seeding a Community Garden District in NYC' to bring more awareness to the push to establish a community garden district in Lower Manhattan. The exhibit featured the history of community gardening in New York City and helped to solidify the gardening community. This year through partnering with Time's Up environmental organization we were able to do 25 garden green-ups, create a new community medicinal garden and even helped to plant over 50 trees in NYC community gardens. We did however lose one tree, a famous weeping willow named Cher, but the community was able to say goodbye to her at our Weeping Willow Wake.



We look forward to continuing our breadth of exhibitions at the museum over the next year. Starting in January come visit MoRUS to check out our newest exhibit about our ongoing fight to preserve CHARAS as a community building. The landmarked building is around the corner from the museum and we have joined the community in raising awareness of the inspiring history of the space through outreach and events. This campaign to return our community center is at a pivotal moment and we need everybody's support and understanding on the issue. And we would love to also invite you to our final event of 2017: our 5th anniversary New Year's Eve party, which has been titled Future Positive, and is meant to inspire people to come together for a more sustainable positive future.

MoRUS is all volunteer-run. All donations are 100% tax-deductible and go directly towards programming for 2018. Please consider donating to us for 2018. You can donate through our website or by check made out to the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space. Thanks again for all of your support!

Sincerely,

Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space