

We write in hopes that more artists will finally break free from the status quo, step into their power, and consider their roles in the revolution. We are out here! And stronger together!

We recognize that art has been made into an industry that must be acknowledged in order for artists to challenge their complicity. Reclaim what and why art is!

In this spirit, we share some of the lessons we've learned through our organizing & pedagogical work. Questions? Be in touch. We love and appreciate you so much. www.celebrate845.com

Glossary:

Artwashing: the use of art & artists in a positive way to distract from negative actions by an individual, organization, country, or government.

Class: the system in which people are divided into sets based on perceived social or economic status (i.e. "middle class" based on income).

Gentrification: the process where a poorer urban area is changed by wealthier people moving in, improving housing, and attracting new businesses, typically displacing current inhabitants in the process.

Privilege: unearned advantages granted to specific groups of people because of their membership in a social group.

1. Become involved in housing struggles! Did you know the Hudson Valley is gentrifying? While some of this change is fun, it also makes it too expensive for some less-privileged people to live here. Committing to this work is not always easy, but we must choose to stand with our neighbors who are most at-risk or stand up for ourselves/ask for help when in need. While we realize that artists usually contribute to the first wave of gentrification, we can choose to support each other by demanding things that protect us all like housing justice, protesting unfair rent hikes or businesses that don't serve the needs of long-term residents.

Housing is a human right!

2. Learn your rights (especially those of us with racial, educational, or class privilege compared to our neighbors)! We don't know our rights. Abusive systems operate on the notion that we do not know their rights. Learning our rights is the first step to building collective power, taking care of ourselves, and each other.

3. Don't call the cops! We all have a stake in how our neighborhoods are made safe for everyone & can choose to do this work without criminalizing the poor and people of color. Most fine arts spaces represent a white supremacist capitalist system that is protected by the police. Call a friend!

4. Interrogate the spaces you choose to enter & work with! If spaces don't ask questions about their impacts - regardless of their intentions - we should not settle on them. Many art spaces & projects ultimately serve as investment projects to boost property value for landlords, developers, & realtors. Is it worth supporting a space that may contribute to someone losing their home? **Build your own reality!**

5. Share institutional power! What is an art institution's intent when they only temporarily feature a social movement or a less-privileged artist in their space? Marginalized artists should lead the way, full time, long term. **There is enough opportunity for everyone!**

- Resources to look up & follow!**
- Legal Services of the Hudson Valley**
www.lshv.org | (877) 574-8529
 - Art/Life Institute of Kingston**
 - Beacon 4 Black Lives**
 - Dutchess County Pride Center**
 - Food Not Bombs: Newburgh**
 - For The Many**
 - Kingston Walks 4 Black Lives**
 - Millions of Butterflies New Paltz**
 - Newburgh LGBTQ+ Center**
 - Rise Up Kingston**
 - Take Care Recording Co.**
 - Thrift 2 Fight**
 - Trans Closet Hudson Valley**
- Look up "Mutual Aid [Your Town]"!
- Volunteer at a food distribution or community fridge!
- Get to know your houseless neighbors!



What if we see our role as artists as being deeply tied to the health of our neighborhoods? How can you use your art to do good things?

Celebrate845's mission is to organize, recognize, and celebrate marginalized creatives across NY's Hudson Valley via pop-up and virtual offerings.

We love you!
@Celebrate845



An Artists' Guide to Not Being Complicit with Gentrification in the Hudson Valley

Printed by Celebrate845
Adapted from text by Heather M. O'Brien, Christina Sanchez Juarez and Betty Marin (June 19, 2017, *Hyperallergic*)