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Contact Adam Huttler, Executive Director: (212) 277-8021

Keep the Arts in Williamsburg

*A symposium on arts and economic development with NY State Assembly Member Joseph Lentol
How can we ensure that artists benefit from the gentrification effects they inspire?*

New York, NY - Fractured Atlas will host *Keep the Arts in Williamsburg*, a symposium on the arts and economic development, on **Tuesday, October 17 at 7pm at Galapagos Art Space** (70 N. 6th St., Brooklyn, NY 11211). A distinguished panel will address the question: "How can we ensure that artists benefit from the gentrification effects they inspire?" The event is intended to facilitate dialogue between the Williamsburg arts community and its elected representatives, including New York State Assembly Member Joseph Lentol.

The Williamsburg section of Brooklyn was once an industrial neighborhood. During the 1990s and early 2000s, it experienced a huge influx of young artists drawn to its abundant, affordable raw space. A familiar urban script (e.g. Soho, Chelsea, Tribeca, etc.) then played out, as a vibrant cultural energy converted the neighborhood into a hipster haven, which in turn gave way to rapid gentrification. Soaring rents are now driving a mass exodus of the very artists who made Williamsburg what it is today.

As the arts have become a major driver of economic development, urban communities around the world have begun to address the problem of artist dislocation as a serious issue of community and economic sustainability. *Keep the Arts in Williamsburg* will explore emerging strategies, both economic and political, to mitigate this common development trend and ensure that the neighborhood retains a strong arts presence and mixed economy for decades to come.

The event will feature a panel discussion moderated by **Paul Nagle, Director of Communications and Cultural Policy for New York City Council Member Alan J. Gerson**. Panelists include:

- **Richard J. Schwartz, Chairman, New York State Council on the Arts**
- **Marisa Bowe, Economic Development Coordinator, Neighbors Against Garbage**
- **Earl Dax, producer, artist, activist**
- **Shawn Patrick McLearn, Project Manager, Artspace**
- **Lori Vincent, Director, Black Moon Theatre Company**

Keep the Arts in Williamsburg is co-sponsored by several Williamsburg arts organizations: **Black Moon Theatre, The Brick Theater, CAVE, Galapagos, Radiohole, Soundance, Studio 111, Triskelion Arts, and Williamsburg Arts neXus (WAX)**.

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FRACTURED ATLAS is a non-profit arts service organization with a multi-disciplinary membership of over 2,000 independent artists and emerging arts organizations. Our core service areas include **healthcare, fiscal sponsorship, education and professional development, and marketing and public awareness**. Through the **Fractured Atlas Open Arts Network**, arts organizations nationwide can provide their constituents with access to affordable healthcare and other benefits. Fractured Atlas is also the custodian of **The Emerging Artists Fund**, the first ever community endowment designed to provide emerging and independent artists with access to capital and sophisticated financial resources.



Liberate the Artist

Assemblyman Joseph R. Lentol has represented North Brooklyn in the New York State Legislature since 1972. He is a lifelong resident of New York City whose father and grandfather both also served in the New York State Legislature. An attorney by profession, Mr. Lentol was Assistant District Attorney in Kings County prior to holding elective office. Since 1992, Mr. Lentol has been Chair of the Assembly's Committee on Codes, which reviews and evaluates all criminal justice legislation in the State. He has been Chair of the Committee on Governmental Employees, which oversees the State's pension and employee benefits. In that capacity, Mr. Lentol presided over the State's divestiture of its pension fund's investments in South Africa. He also chaired the Assembly's Committee on Governmental Operations, which monitors the operations of State agencies and departments. In 2001, Mr. Lentol was elected by his colleagues to direct the Brooklyn Assembly Delegation, responsible for making decisions and advocating for funds and activities that will benefit all areas of the borough.

Paul Nagle serves as the Director of Communications and Cultural Policy for New York City Council Member Alan J. Gerson. He is also currently completing his masters degree in international cultural policy research at NYU. Before working in cultural policy, Paul was the Acting Managing Director and Interim Executive Director of the CSV Cultural Center on the Lower East Side and the Executive Producing Director of All Out Arts, an LGBT music, theater and visual arts production collaborative specializing in new works. He recently presented his thesis "Room for Creativity: The Role of Affordable Artists Live/Work Space in the New Economy," at the Global Creative Economy Summit in Philadelphia.

Richard J. Schwartz was appointed Chairman of the New York State Council on the Arts by Governor George E. Pataki in January 1999. He served as Vice-Chairman from 1996-1999 and has been a Council Member since 1991. He serves as a trustee of Cornell University (1990-present). His past board service includes Center for Arts Education (1996-1999); Historic Hudson Valley (1990-1996); Institute of Museum Services (1988-1993); Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (1979-1996); National Museum of American Art: Smithsonian Institution (1995-2001); and, Westchester Arts Council (Chairman: 1995-1996). Mr. Schwartz graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1960. He and his wife Sheila have two children and reside in New York City.

Marisa Bowe has worked as a television producer for venues ranging from PBS to the alternative TV network Deep Dish, and was a producer on the British Channel Four commissioned documentary "Everybody's Channel," a history of public access television. She then switched mediums to the mother of all public access networks, the Internet, becoming the first Conference Manager of the pioneering Echo virtual community, the founding editor of pioneering multimedia webzine Word.com, and the Executive Producer of the groundbreaking multi-user online game, Sissyfight.com. She also co-edited the oral history GIG: Americans Talk About Their Jobs, and her written work has been published in the New York Times, The New Yorker, New York, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Fortune and Gourmet. For the last four years, she has been the Economic Development coordinator for NAG, a not-for-profit community planning organization in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Earl Dax produced his first show ("Mike and Marga" featuring Mike Albo and Marga Gomez) in Philadelphia three years ago. The success of that show compelled him to establish the *Direct from NYC* performance series. In less than two years, he produced nearly 50 shows featuring a Who's Who of New York's vibrant downtown performance scene including: Karen Finley's "Make Love," Taylor Mac's "The Face of Liberalism," and a Philadelphia Fringe Kickoff featuring Kiki and Herb. Dax moved to New York in January 2005 and began working closely with his friend and mentor, Murray Hill. Since then he has produced, associate produced, and/or curated nearly 150 shows. Highlights include Curator and Host of his long-running monthly ART JAM (a resident artist/project of Galapagos Art Space); Co-curator, with Travis



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Chamberlain, of Schoolhouse Roxx at P.S. 122 (6 productions including "John Moran and His Neighbor Saori," and premieres of new shows by Helen Stratford, Scotty the Blue Bunny, Dynasty Handbag, and Adam Dugas); Curator of the 9-week HOT! Festival at Dixon Place (including a commissioned work by Kate Rigg's "Slanty-Eyed Mama"); Visiting Scholar at NYU in conjunction with "The Art of Nightlife" featuring Vaginal Davis; and Curator, Producer and sometime host of his ongoing series of late-night cabarets at Joe's Pub, beginning with the sold out 2005 New Year's Afterparty with John Cameron Mitchell. Other late night shows at Joe's have included "Boys of Melody," featuring a rare solo appearance by Hidden Cameras' front man Joel Gibb, and "Weimar New York" which recently had a second presentation at the Spiegeltent at Fulton Fish Market with Justin Bond as emcee. He is currently developing a website for downtown performance, culture and nightlife <www.scenedowntown.com>, and he was recently selected as one of the presenting artists/companies for The Public Theater's 365 Project (featuring a year's worth of plays written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Susan Lori-Parks). His work as a producer is informed by his background as an Urban Studies major at the University of Pennsylvania, his history as a queer activist, and his work in the global movement for media reform.

Lori M Vincent is the Managing Director and Producer of Black Moon Theatre Company, Inc. Black Moon, founded in 2000, immediately established itself in the North Brooklyn community by addressing the lack of arts in the after school programs and by performing for the community at festivals and local venues sponsored by other local arts organizations and businesses. They have since performed for educational programs at the Greenpoint YMCA, Settlement House, Beacon Center, Lincoln Center and the New York Ballet. Their stage work has achieved critical recognition in India, Germany, UK, Scotland, Czech Republic, Philadelphia, Telluride, Co, and New York City.