

**IDEAS /
THOUGHTS /
ACTIONS /
RAMBLINGS /**

**FOR FLUX
FACTORY**

Your Own Ideas

Ideas, Thoughts, Actions, Ramblings for Flux Factory

This book, interpreted for Flux Factory by Stephanie Diamond is filled with ideas, actions, thoughts and ramblings, outlining strategies for community building within and around Long Island City.

For the exhibition 'Public Trust', Sept7– 30 2012, Flux Factory staff and residents chose to implement one offering from the book as a means to explore Flux's role as an institution within their community.

The original 'Book of Ideas' that inspired this book was drafted for the city of New Smyrna Beach, Florida by Rick Lowe, Dawn Weleski, Jeff Schmuki, Kennedy Yanko, Lara Kohl, Regina Agu, Sara Daleiden, Wendy DesChene, Xenia Diente and Stephanie Diamond at Atlantic Center for the Arts in 2011.

Your Own Ideas

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In the spring of 2012 Flux Factory contacted me to participate in the exhibition 'Public Trust', which sought to "celebrate and question the roles of formal and informal institutions that package and deliver culture". I responded to their invitation with an invitation of my own, to do this with them. If an institution is creating an exhibition about this topic then I believe that they must take an active role in this questioning for themselves.

Through a series of meetings, conversations and visits to Flux Factory and the neighborhood, I learned about Flux Factory's desires to reach out to their alumni and local community more consistently and on a deeper level. I choose to respond to these desires. I also sought to create a project that not only honors Flux Factory's wishes, but also honors my process as a Social Practice artist who has worked extensively in Long Island City. For many years I collaborated with the community as the Education and Community Coordinator at MoMA/PS1 and as the Director of Education and Community Relations at Socrates Sculpture Park.

The first idea that came to mind for Flux was to organize a block party and create the event with all the organizations and people on their block. I had created similar events for MoMA/PS1 and Socrates Sculpture Park and knew this would be a seamless way to connect Flux Factory to the community. As the idea began to take off, I realized that I was proposing to do something for Flux rather than encouraging Flux to do something for themselves. If I were to take on a project like a block party for Flux, what would happen once I left? I asked myself, "What can I do to help Flux with their desire to be a socially engaged institution within their community?" Creating a program for them was not the solution.

As I considered alternatives, I reached for 'Book of Ideas' which was drafted for the city of New Smyrna Beach, Florida by myself, Rick Lowe, Dawn Weleski, Jeff Schmuki, Kennedy Yanko, Lara Kohl, Regina Agu, Sara Daleiden, Wendy DesChene and Xenia Diente at Atlantic Center for the Arts (ACA) in the Spring of 2011. For this project, we incorporated Social Practice - the art of working with and for people - as our guide, and used a charrette process to pull together our actionable ideas into one place. 'Book of Ideas' was created in response to the needs and desires we experienced in the relationship between ACA and the community.

While the book's content was initially generated for New Smyrna Beach, it has the ability to inspire new understanding of what is possible on individual, communal and global levels. As I read through the book again it became apparent to me that this in-process document could be a very useful offering to Flux Factory. A series of conversations and meetings with Flux Factory

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ensued while I consulted with my ACA collaborators. When they gave me the OK to interpret the book for Flux Factory, the process began.

The articulation of the book you are holding was similar to how 'Book of Ideas' was created, with some notable differences. Here in Long Island City, I acted as an independent consultant, extensively meeting with Flux Factory and exploring their relationship to the community. Following this process, I reflected my observations to Flux Factory and sought their feedback. Through discussions we were able to get to the heart of the issue - what Flux Factory desired and how I could create a new version of the book to help them work towards their goals.

As I write this, Flux Factory and I are embarking on realizing one of the ideas in the book together! The book has already fulfilled its goals and inspired them to take action within their community. May it ignite a new vision in you as well and inspire you to creatively get there with your community.

Stephanie Diamond
August 2012

IN THE NOW

For one hour today, be silent

Give away something that you never thought of giving away

Ask someone for directions to your street and take their route

Talk to 5 neighbors today

Look up at the sky before you leave your front door

Find three new natural objects on your block that you never saw before

Feel the breeze on your face

Introduce yourself to someone

Make eye contact for 5 – 10 seconds with someone you encounter

Turn off your cell phone for 2 hours today

Thank You!

Christina Vassallo
Douglas Paulson
Flux Factory resident artists
Residents and businesses on 29th Street in LIC
Long Island City community
Rick Lowe
Dawn Weleski
Jeff Schmuki
Kennedy Yanko
Lara Kohl
Regina Agu
Sara Daleiden
Wendy DesChene
Xenia Diente
Ethan Kerr
Dana Kaplan–Angle
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For More information

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Atlantic Center for the Arts
Long Island City
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fluxfactory.org
atlanticcenterforthearts.org
licnyc.com
stephaniediamond.com

You're Right, I'm Wrong, I'm Sorry

As a collective attend workshops in
Non Violent Communication, conflict
resolution, council, mediation, and
Imago Dialogue.

Host Me

Turn rooms at the Holiday Inn down the street into Flux Factory studios.

It's Our Block Day

Collaborate with business, residents and organizations on the block of Flux Factory to create a block party celebrating everyone on the block. Invite local restaurants to be food vendors, Flux artists and alums to conduct artmaking workshops, and local musicians to entertain. Have Flux artists and local volunteers help plan and run the event.

Reading Material

Create and design a Flux Factory brochure to be given out at local establishments such as the Holiday Inn, the Bodega and the Church across the street.

LIC Bike Map

Provide a bike map for future resident artists, featuring all places visited and found during each residency.

DOE Vendor #

Apply for a Department of Education vendor number so Flux Factory artists and alums can teach in the public school system.

Local Residency Program

Initiate a Flux Factory community-engaged Artists' Residency program.

The World is Our Studio

Connect Flux Factory artists to communal spaces around Long Island City to be utilized for social and work time.

I Know this Block

Invite a resident from your block to be on the board of Flux Factory and create a committee of local residents to sit on a Flux Factory community board.

Spontaneous History

Launch historically-themed spontaneous gatherings of Long Island City residents dressed as historical characters. Do this on a historically significant day for the community.

Cultural Institutions Docent Exchange Program

Establish a work-study training program for Flux Factory residents and volunteers at local institutions in need of support staff.

Personal Nature

Connect people to the natural environment through a series of local tours, walks, and events highlighting the local flora and fauna on everyone's block. Partner with local environmental groups to provide expertise while tapping into people's personal experiences with nature.

Teach Me in your Language

Offer art and language classes to neighborhood children and adults taught by international Flux Factory artists in their native tongue.

Where Are You?

Contact past Flux Factory residents and artists and host a competition to create creative, clear, reusable, and durable signage leading from the subway to Flux Factory.

What Do You Want?

Conduct a door-to-door survey of people who live in the area around Flux Factory and ask them what kind of community programs they want to experience at Flux factory.

Banners

Inquire with the City and have Flux Factory's name as a sponsor on the culture banners throughout the area.

Do you Know About Us?

Install a bulletin board at Flux Factory for local businesses to advertise their services to the Flux Factory community.

Sponsor We

Sponsor a Flux Factory neighborhood little league team.

Collect it and Sell it

Create a Flux Factory store and ask Artists in Residence to donate art objects to be sold there. All proceeds help generate funds for Long Island City community events.

Discuss Race

Co-facilitate discussions with the community around the impact of race on all of our lives.

New Arrival

Hire a Flux Factory Community Coordinator.

Healing with Love

Host monthly wellness clinics for Long Island City residents offering free massages, medical check-ups, acupuncture, hands-on healing, meditation, and movement classes.

Deep Breaths

Gather a group of Flux Factory artists and alums to meditate at the Buddhist Center located down the street from Flux Factory.

Opening Day

Coordinate Flux Factory openings and events with local institutions such as: Sculpture Center, PS1/MoMA, Noguchi, the Museum of Moving Image and Socrates Sculpture Park.

Sign Me In

Create a permanent Flux Factory sign to be installed outside the building clearly stating: "All are Welcome"

Hop Scotch

Supply the neighborhood with chalk to freely express themselves on the street.

Pot Luck for the Block

Host a pot luck just for residents living on the block of Flux Factory. Inquire about local recipes and have Flux Artists and alumni cook them.

Community Money

Find out what businesses are in the area and invite them to Flux Factory to brainstorm on raising funds for local community programs.

Food and Drinks on Everyone

Ask local restaurants to sell food and drinks at Flux Factory events and openings, all profits go to the restaurant.

Just for You

Inaugurate a Community Programs
Committee of Flux Factory artists and
alumni.

Flux CSA

Give away surplus vegetables grown
in the Flux Factory roof to local
residents in Long Island City.

LIC Mapped through Stories

Create a walking map and audio CD of local stories as told by residents on your block.

Mentors

Work with local elders to create a program for their knowledge to be shared through a series of workshops, lectures, and programs at Flux Factory.

Post All Bills

Distribute flyers for all community related events and opportunities, Flux Factory based and otherwise.

Color Me Good

Make a Long Island City children's activity book for kids in the area and visitors to learn about local attractions. Activities can include: scavenger hunts to historical locations in the area, a coloring book featuring famous Long Island City figures, mazes that act as maps through the neighborhood, word scramble of street names, etc.

Habitat for Humanity – Flux Factory Joint Residency

Host, through Flux Factory, a non-fee based three-week residency in partnership with Habitat for Humanity focusing on the preservation of housing and structures in the local community.

Residents and Residence of Long Island City

Create a sustainable impact by refurbishing affordable housing with Habitat for Humanity.

For Hire

Hire people from the block to work at Flux Factory full time, part time or for events.

Residents Museum at Flux Factory

Curate an exhibition in the Flux Factory featuring the artwork on display inside the houses of residents on your block as a way to formalize the objects and programming.

Benefit for Art

Present past Flux Factory artists in residence in a benefit performance. All proceeds go toward Flux Factory LIC community programming.

Share and Share Alike

Share Flux Factory's volunteer base with the church across the street.

Private Swimming Lessons for the Public

Develop a community program for Flux artists and LIC residents to teach kids from the area how to swim in the neighborhood public pools.

An Escort to the Arts

Provide a shuttle service to and from Flux Factory events for elderly or disabled residents in Long Island City.

Meeting Us Everywhere

Host Flux Factory Alumni events in different cities around the world.

Flux Factory, Home Away from Home

Generate funds for Flux Factory programs by renting the facilities to like-minded organizations.

Annual Art and History Crawl

Assemble an annual Long Island City crawl moving between the farthest most northern point of Long Island City to the southern tip, include visits to local establishments and art institutions along the way.

Band for a Night

Highlight the diverse music scene in Long Island City and surrounding communities by providing bands from different musical genres the opportunity to jam for an evening in one place. Produce a recording from the jam session and distribute it for free.

Straight Off the Boat

Produce a site-specific play on the shore-line of Long Island City which portrays scenes derived from local history. Include stories of people who immigrated to NY and settled in Long Island City and the native people who lived here before them.

Howl

On the full moon of each month, gather Flux artists, alumni, and local residents for a party celebrating the endings and completions of the month.

Festival of Lights

Kick-off a festival that highlights the river and boating culture in Long Island City where all local boats line the river, decorated in lights.

Community Garden Brigade

Inaugurate a committee of Flux Artists and local residents to clear, clean and plant backyard gardens for the people living on the block of Flux Factory.

Walk Their Road

Conduct a community walk to the new construction sites in Long Island City, encouraging residents who experienced these sites before they changed to share their personal stories before and after construction.

Group Brainstorm and Planning

Brainstorm in a community centered meeting to curate a Flux Factory exhibition focusing on bringing together the Flux Factory community and local residents.

So Fresh and So Clean

Recruit Flux Factory artists and alumni to beautify the local community by offering to clean interiors and exteriors of local residents homes and businesses.

Every Day is Mother's Day

Host a weekly local mother's group at Flux factory, offer art classes to their children while the mothers share about a different topic each week.

Just for You

Program a series of events only for the local Long Island City community.

We All Work Here

Designate a studio at Flux Factory for an artist of color.

Knock Knock, Who's Here?

Travel door to door on the block of Flux Factory and personally introduce yourself to each resident by giving away an artwork created by Flux Factory artists and alums.

Community Everywhere

Curate one or more local community based project for every exhibition at Flux Factory.

Street Art Festival

Partner with a local school and launch a seasonal Children's Art Day at Flux Factory where diverse forms of group artistic expression are explored, including screen printing, graffiti, and skateboard design.

Bus Tour to Nearby Cities

Design bus tours for Long Island City residents to other areas as a way to introduce different urban planning methods for neighborhood building.

Corporate Sponsorship

Solicit the corporations and developers in the Long Island City area to sponsor or have a local presence at festivals and events.

Artists as Agents for Community Need

Flux Factory members join and run for positions on the local community boards where they can aid in imbuing the connection of the arts with community needs.

Look Up!

Inspire with an open call for local small business ideas from eight year olds to eighty year olds. Advertise these ideas on signs trailing behind airplanes flying over Long Island City.

Flux Factory Sponsoring Community Artmaking

Program an artmaking booth on the sidewalk in front of the Flux Factory building.

Museum Swap

Spearhead an object and exhibition swap between museums and cultural institutions to highlight each other's collections.

Music Salon

Feature a playlist by a different resident artist each day and play it throughout the building.

Ahh...

Take a vacation.

Decide Not To Be

Think about ways in which a collective can celebrate each individual within it and create a system to make communal choices without a group.