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CounterPulse and Dancers' Group present

Dance Discourse Project #19: Re-imagining our Cultural Commons: Making Spaces for Dance

WHAT: Dance Discourse Project #19: Re-imagining our Cultural Commons: Making Spaces for Dance

WHO: CounterPulse and Dancers' Group

WHERE: [freespace], 1011 Market St, SF

WHEN: Tuesday, **August 12** at 7:30pm

HOW MUCH: FREE

INFORMATION: 415-626-2060, www.CounterPulse.org, www.dancersgroup.org

July, 2014, San Francisco –In a special Dance Discourse Project, “**Re-imagining our Cultural Commons: Making Spaces for Dance**” hosted at [freespace] in San Francisco, CounterPulse and Dancers' Group invite the public into a discussion of the tactics, modes and imagination that live performance artists and organizations are using to adapt to and access space in a rapidly changing Bay Area. The conversation will be moderated by Dancers' Group's Michelle Lynch Reynolds along with panelists Kay Cheng, Festival Program Manager of the Market Street Prototyping Festival; Ilana Lipsett, co-founder of [freespace] in San Francisco; Julie Phelps, Program Director at CounterPulse; and Olive Blackburn, Elizabeth McSurdy and Maryanna Lachman, collaborating members of Oakland's SALTA. Together, the panelists will investigate innovative—oftentimes radical—strategies for providing artists space for researching, developing and presenting performance work.

Kay Cheng is a LEED accredited planner/urban designer at the San Francisco Planning Department. She serves as a project manager for the City Design Group and is currently spearheading the Market Street Prototyping Festival effort. Combining previous experience working at New York City Planning, landscape architecture, architecture and transportation planning firms Kay has experience on a wide scope of private and public projects. Kay holds a Master's of Science in Urban Planning from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning and minor in Digital Design from the University of California Riverside.

Ilana Lipsett is a community mapper and co-founder of [freespace], a participatory cultural and arts center that started in San Francisco. She has worked with non-profits, tech companies, and the city of San Francisco, bringing people from different backgrounds together to make the community stronger - through events and pop-ups. A seasoned community organizer, she spent five years in Washington, DC organizing low-wage workers and running successful campaigns at local, state and federal levels. She holds an MBA in sustainable management from the Presidio Graduate School, and she is passionate about building community in urban settings and providing space and tools for people to re-imagine their cities.

SALTA is a collective of seven dancers who curate a free monthly mobile performance series in Oakland. SALTA is in ongoing conversation with other makers, watchers, spaces, curators and collectives. They approach curation as an experiment in: dancers making space for dance to happen, trying new formats of presenting and thinking about performance, supporting people to try things out, and being open to surprises. Other projects include establishing a touring network, writing about dance, and opening a presenting, research, and artist-in-residence space called the Omni. They are invested in feminism, collaboration and dance parties.

Julie Phelps is the Program Director at CounterPulse. She joined the CounterPulse staff in July of 2008 after receiving a BA in psychology from Macalester College (St. Paul) and working as an independent producer and curator. As Program Director of this multi-faceted organization Julie preserves an intentional imprecision and multi-missioned agenda, maintaining a hybrid life as a producer/curator/programmer/community activist. As part of her work at CounterPulse Julie has led the design and implementation of numerous innovative programs and initiatives including moving from a rental house to all curated programming, launching community engagement programming with low income populations, and instigating international and national exchange projects and presentations. In addition to her work at CounterPulse, she has toured extensively nationally and internationally as a dramaturg and performer with Keith Hennessy's *Turbulence (a dance about the economy)*. She also had the honor of performing with legendary Meg Stewart in her work *Auf Den Tisch*.

The Dance Discourse Project is a far reaching, far ranging, ambitious project that aims to articulate in a cohesive and coherent way, from the participants themselves, what is happening in dance in the Bay Area and beyond. Topics of discussion have included site-specific dance, performance and technology, dance criticism, post-multiculturalism, and dancing politics, among others. Begun in 2007, The Dance Discourse Project is an on-going series that takes place roughly three times a year.

About the organizers

The Dance Discourse Project is organized by Mary Armentrout and co-produced by Dancers' Group and CounterPULSE.

Dancers' Group promotes the visibility and viability of dance. Founded in 1982, we serve San Francisco Bay Area artists, the dance community and audiences through programs and services that are as collaborative and innovative as the creative process. As the primary dance service organization in the Bay Area, we support the second largest dance community in the nation by providing programs and resources that help artists produce work, build audiences, and connect with their peers and community: Dancers' Group facilitates artist dialogue, presents site-specific work, and promotes free public events through our core programming (which includes Bay Area Dance Week, Dance Discourse Project, Rotunda Dance Series at SF City Hall and ONSITE); offers fiscal sponsorship as well as mentorship and other services to over 120 local choreographers, companies, and community projects; provides funding opportunities, which include the CA\$H Grant, Lighting Artists in Dance Award, Parachute Fund and New Stage for Dance Grant; and produces *In Dance* and utilizes multiple media platforms to connect our steadily increasing membership of dedicated dance artists, administrators, audiences, enthusiasts and more. www.dancersgroup.org

CounterPULSE provides space and resources for emerging artists and cultural innovators, serving as an incubator for the creation of socially relevant, community-based art and culture. CounterPULSE acts as a catalyst for art and action; creating a forum for the open exchange of art and ideas, catalyzing transformation in our communities and our society. Programs include an Artist in Residence program, a series of free performance salons and community discussions, and presentations of contemporary dance and performance. www.counterpulse.org

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