

PRESSURE POINTS

Gentrification & the Arts in Hamilton

Pressure Points: Gentrification and the Arts in Hamilton **April 12-13, 2019 at Hamilton Artists Inc. (155 James St. N.)**

Day 1: Friday, April 12, 2019, 7:00 – 11:00 PM

The Hanging

Red Betty Theatre presents *The Hanging*, an immersive and interactive short spectacle based on verbatim text collected from the Hamilton Rent Strike interviews and recordings at Landlord Tenant Board hearings in Hamilton, riddled with flights of fancy by playwright Radha S. Menon. Directed by Tony Sciara, this performance was developed with Lori le Mare and the Hamilton Aerial Group, supported by Hamilton Tenants Solidarity Network.

Performance Start Times: 7:30 PM, 8:15 PM, 9:00 PM, 9:45 PM
Each performance is approximately 10 minutes long.

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Drop-in Children's Activities

Facilitated by Annie Webber. Children of all ages welcome. Kids must be accompanied

7:00 – 11:00 PM

Zine and Reading Corner

Grab some reading material to learn more about gentrification! The selection includes *A Survival Guide to Gentrification*, a new zine created by youth at RE-create Outreach Art Studio, and a community-sourced *Gentrification Glossary* produced in partnership with GAGED Hamilton. All zines and publications are available free of charge.

7:00 – 11:00 PM

Recipe Cards

Participate in a unique art activity organized by the Workers Arts & Heritage Centre's youth council members.

7:45 PM and 8:30 PM

Exhibition Tours

Attend one of two guided tours of our current exhibitions, led by our knowledgeable staff and volunteers. Please meet in The Inc.'s James Gallery. Each tour is approximately 30 minutes long.

Pressure Points: Gentrification and the Arts in Hamilton

Day 2: Saturday, April 13, 2019, 10:30 AM – 5:00 PM

10:30 – 11:00 AM

Doors open. Welcome and remarks.

10:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Child-care activities led by Annie Webber. Available upon registration for all children aged 4-14.

Annie Webber is an artist, educator and child advocate. Her works include animation, installation and immersive exploration of ideas, especially in community. Annie currently lives and works in Hamilton, Ontario, and is particularly interested in engaging groups in imaginative dialogue about art, life, and the construction of identities within a city. Perhaps most of all, Annie loves to swim.

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

SESSION 1: The Nuts and Bolts

A brief overview of how gentrification is unfolding in Hamilton for new and long-time residents. This session will highlight the mechanisms that allow gentrification to take place, the role of the arts in that process, and the ongoing consequences for various communities.

Speakers: Shawn Selway and Sarah Wakefield
Facilitated by Kojo Easy Dampthey

Shawn Selway has a BA in Religion from McMaster and an Industrial Mechanic license via the Steel Company of Canada Basic Works in Hamilton, Ontario. He writes about municipal planning issues for the local civic affairs blog, and about superseded industrial equipment for the clients of his consultancy in the conservation of historic machinery.

Sarah Wakefield is a professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto. Her current research evaluates the Neighbourhood Action Strategy, a partnership of the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Community Foundation that seeks to improve neighbourhood health through participatory community development.

Kojo Easy Dampthey is an award-winning singer/songwriter born and raised in Ghana. His music strands genres from hip-hop, highlife music, soul music, and funk. He fuses these different genres of music to create what he calls Afro-Soul. Kojo is recognized as an interdisciplinary scholar-practitioner. His work revolves around music, communication, African culture, African politics, International Development and social movements. He holds a B.Eng in Chemical Engineering (McMaster University) and an M.A in Interdisciplinary Studies (Royal Roads University).

12:30 – 1:15 PM

Lunch (Vegetarian, vegan, halal, and gluten-free options available)

Recipe Cards: A participatory art project by the Workers Arts & Heritage Centre's youth council members.

1:15 – 2:45 PM

SESSION 2: Stakes and Strategies

How have individuals and local groups responded to gentrification? This session will introduce possible solutions, as well as a range of creative actions and strategies that could be used to resist both the root causes of gentrification, and its harmful effects.

Speakers: Danielle Boissoneau, C.A. Borstad Klassen, Stephanie Cox, Danica Evering, and Erika Morton

Facilitated by Tara Bursey

Danielle Boissoneau (pronounced buzz-no) is Anishnaabe kwe (pronounced aw-nish-naw-bay kway) from the shorelines of the Great Lakes. She is a mother, a writer, a seedkeeper and a changemaker. Danielle has recently returned from an Indigenous Storytellers writing residency at Banff Centre for the Arts in Treaty Seven territory.

C.A. Borstad Klassen is from Hamilton. After studying music and planning, they returned to Hamilton, working at the Social Planning and Research Council for nearly 6 years. They coordinated the Neighbourhood Action Evaluation and consulted in program evaluation before starting their current role as the Community Based Research Coordinator at McMaster University.

Stephanie Cox was called to the bar in 2014 and has been practising poverty law, administrative law, and social justice law since. Currently, she is a housing advocate with the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic where she represents and advances tenants rights regularly at the Landlord and Tenant Board and the Superior Court of Justice.

Danica Evering is an artist, educator and writer from Cobourg, ON. Her MA in Media Studies from Concordia questioned social practice through interviews with artists and creative analysis of her field work. She was a founding member of Publication Studio Guelph, and helped develop the Benčić Youth Council, a radical arts education program in Rijeka, Croatia.

Erika Morton works at the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton (SPRC). She is the Project Coordinator with the Street Youth Planning Collaborative (SYPC) and the Youth Housing Support Project (YHSP) which involves working with the community to prevent and end youth homelessness in Hamilton.

Tara Bursey is an interdisciplinary artist, independent curator, writer and arts worker with an interest in social history and social justice, working class identity and printed matter. Currently on leave from her role coordinating exhibitions and programs at the Workers Arts & Heritage Centre, she is the Interim Manager of Education at the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

3:00 – 4:30 PM

SESSION 3: Collective Power

Facilitated by local artists, this session will encourage reflection and conversation through small group activities. How can we leverage our resources and collective power to help mitigate the harm of gentrification? How can we advocate for a city that truly includes everyone? This session will help us to imagine new or different ways of engaging with the neighbourhoods we inhabit.

Facilitators: Michael DiRisio, Irene Loughlin, Simon Orpana, and Nea Reid

Michael DiRisio is an artist and writer whose recent work explores labour, social histories and the construction of value through photo, video, and installation-based projects. He has recently participated in residencies in Castellví de la Marca, Spain and Reykjavik, Iceland and his forthcoming exhibition *Archiving Unrest* will be at the Workers Arts & Heritage Centre in spring 2019.

Irene Loughlin is an artist and cultural worker. Her art practice and research interests centre upon investigations of performativity, feminism and resistance, ecological and neurodivergent perspectives within contemporary art. She creates visual imagery that comments upon our contemporary emotive discourse.

Simon Orpana is an artist, researcher and educator whose work investigates the intersections of culture, economics, and politics in the contemporary world. His work has appeared in numerous journals and book collections, including *Zombie Theory: A Reader* (2017). He is co-author, with Rob Kristofferson, of the graphic history book *Showdown!: Making Modern Unions* (2016).

Nea Reid is a multidisciplinary artist, educator, and activist. Galvanized by social justice, Reid's evocative work aims to create opportunities for communities to come together within and across constructed divides. She is the recipient of several awards including Hamilton Arts Awards for Community Arts and Education, CCTA Galaxy Award, MMVA, World Shorts, and the CBC Reel Black Award. Her work as the founder and artistic director of Hamilton Youth Poets and Louder Than A Bomb Canada has enabled her to directly impact the lives of many budding youth poets, providing a platform for self-expression and growth. A passionate advocate for young voices, Reid believes in putting art, culture, and the tools of storytelling into the hands of young citizens.

4:30 – 5:00 PM

Wrap-up. Closing remarks.

Many thanks to our funders and programming partners:

