

## What is the Artivism Zine?

A monthly newsletter highlighting and connecting initiatives/projects that transform society through the power of art.

### How?

- Providing a space for artists to share ideas via interviews, videos, visuals, stories, and more!
- Presenter updates
- Sharing resources, publications, exhibit, and event news
- A source for providing information, opportunities, networking, and internship possibilities
- Community-building!

## UP NEXT!

Spring 2022 Inaugural Presentation  
Feb. 7th

@ 2:00pm EST

Yiannis Kaminis

Despina Sakoulogeorga

Marina Sgourou

Garyfalia Terizaki

Charles Herman

with Keynote Speaker:

CaSandra Diggs, President, The Council of Fashion Designers of America; Board Member, Sing for Hope

### Artist of the Month:

Following up with Sing for Hope's 2021 Artist Award recipient, Cynthia Tobar

### How did the Artist Award help propel your project?

### Share with us your Artivism ideology.



Thanks again for this opportunity! It is a pleasure to inaugurate this Artivism Zine Newsletter. Just a little background to catch up readers: In 2021 I was the recipient of the Artist Award for ¿Dónde puedo ir? Searching for Home, a collaborative musical project in conjunction with Luis D'Elias, a Venezuelan composer & singer-songwriter based in Bushwick. It involved the recording of oral histories that capture the immediacy of displacement facing local Latinx residents in Bushwick, Brooklyn, due to housing insecurity, political turmoil, & socio-economic instability in addition to the current public health crisis.

Stories are what connect us & help build empathy between the members of a community. We want to tap into the resiliency, resources & existing knowledge in our Latinx communities between neighbors, workers & families.

Going back to your question, thanks to this award, I was certain that the project was happening so I reached out to eight narrators. I collected their oral histories over the summer of 2021, while seeking to bridge the gap between disciplines, genres, & communities alongside my musical collaborator, Luis D'Elias. He composed the complementing songs that we will be unveiled to the public on February 19th via zoom. For more information, click on the image:



We are also proud to have Oye Group, a Bushwick-based arts organization with a history of community engagement on the local and national level, who have partnered with us to increase our community outreach and impact of this project.

Regarding my Artivism ideology, there's a persistent theme in my work of decentering authority and providing for more voices in my teaching, socially-engaged artmaking, and activism/community work.

As an artist & oral historian, I view oral history as an inclusive exercise that not only documents an individual's story but also examines social justice themes of institutional power structures & how it perpetuates inequality. It grounds my work in the experiences & knowledge of marginalized groups that presents their "counter-stories".

I wish to surface the knowledge that is co-created with the community I'm documenting & collaborating with, as well as the teaching & learning exchange with my students.

It was with this mindset that I began Cities for People, Not for Profit, an oral history project that traces the history of ongoing gentrification & fight for affordable housing in Bushwick from the perspective of artists, activists, & community residents.

While I wish to keep documenting how the community is experiencing continued gentrification in Bushwick, I also work to build collaborations with other groups to find new ways to enhance community engagement with these stories that reflect these instances of resilience and community building, particularly among the Latinx community.

Along those lines, amidst the height of the pandemic in 2020, I partnered with the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project (AEMP) to create Nos Cuidamos, a collaborative bi-lingual oral history project documenting stories about how residents of Bushwick organized to meet each other's needs. We conducted interviews with neighboring residents and organizers participating in mutual aid to understand how their work fits within the larger context of housing organizing & racial justice movements.

I am also interested in exploring counter-narratives of historical exclusion in monument culture. So it's in this sense that I work to amplify stories of community care and power. Particularly, I have been especially interested in documenting student & community residents from Bronx Community College (BCC), the home of the "Hall of Fame of Great Americans," & creating a space where they share their own experiences learning & working among monuments that fail to reflect America's diversity.

This was the inspiration for my latest project, American Icons, a collaborative project centering music & oral histories by Americans who live in the shadows cast by our national myths & monuments. We seek to address two main prompts: whose stories are told, whose erased? This project addresses the mythology behind the National Anthem & other outdated commemorative art. I will be working with musicians from Juilliard to interweave these stories with poetic & musical context from America's past & present, which will culminate in a public performance for later this Spring 2022.



Check out my presentation!