

PROPOSAL FOR CREATING QUEER COMMUNITY: *Re/Generator* by the Theater of Irregular Desire

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1. *Re/Generator* is a collaborative multimedia art project/process that provides an opportunity for a diverse group of emerging queer artists to connect and create works that are 'in conversation' with each other as they explore themes of queer ecology and sustainability. The project will be coordinated by the [Theater of Irregular Desire](http://www.goldduststudio.com/desire), a multimedia queer art group with a core team and a rotating cast of guest collaborators.

Re/Generator provides a framework in which artists meet regularly to 'trade' work and share feedback/critiques. This framework literally creates an artistic ecosystem in which participating artists create works in response to each other, thereby forming an infinite and sustainable "food chain" of artistic nourishment and inspiration:

- *Re/Generation Process*: At the initial meeting (Incubation), the Project Coordinators will provide a series of "generators" which may include visual art; writing; music/sound art; and speech. Each artist will choose a generator and produce a work in response. At the next meeting, each artist will bring their response work [Response #1] and pass it on to another artist, who will then create a response [Response #2]. This process will be repeated at each subsequent meeting. During each meeting we will critique the works created in the previous cycle of responses.
- *Presentation*: The project culminates with a gallery show. The opening reception will feature an artists' panel as well as a presentation highlighting some of the work created. During the presentation, works will be presented in chronological order so spectators can see the "chains" of responses spawned: spectators will first see a projected image of one of the original "generator" works; then a poet will begin reading their response piece (#2), as the generator image fades out; at the end of the poem a sound piece (#3) begins to play.
- *Creating Community*: We want to break down barriers between artist and spectator. Spectators will be invited to leave written responses in the gallery, and to create work in response to the pieces in the show; these responses can be submitted for posting on our website. We will provide two guides: one for artist groups interested in replicating the project, and one for youth programs to replicate this project with young people (or intergenerationally - with youth and older/adult artists responding to each other.) The gallery will also feature a kids' art table so they can create responses.

2. *Re/Generator* is significant because it provides an unusual opportunity for artists working in different disciplines to create sustainable and supportive queer arts ecosystems as they explore important issues facing the queer community today. The structure of the project embodies the "sustainable queer planet" theme as it simultaneously facilitates the creation of work in which artists explore their personal ecology and its relation to larger communities and the environment around us.

Due to socioeconomic constraints, most emerging/young queer artists are so overwhelmed by working "day jobs" that we are unable to find the time and space needed to build sustainable community: time for creating art, for working toward social justice, for dialoguing with other artists, for finding opportunities to present work and connect/converse with audiences. Today's LGBTQI community may seem more fractured than ever, with multiple subcultures as well as deep divides on where we should be focusing our energy/power: marriage? collective liberation? *Re/Generator* will provide a network of inspiration as artists envision possible queer futures and sustainable paths for reaching them. The 'generators' that kick-off the project will explicitly address themes such as the construction of queer identity on multiple levels; intersectionality of oppressions; connecting beyond queerness; building bridges across difference; embodying allyships; and maintaining our identities and resisting assimilation. Like our community itself, the web of artwork that we create will have multiple and varied points of origin (i.e. multiple generators). Our model for sharing feedback will be community-based critique with a social justice framework.

3. *Re/Generator* will be coordinated by Voula O'Grady and Annah Anti-Palindrome of the Theater of Irregular Desire. Voula is an experienced designer and youth worker and will create the website and guides as well as web and print fliers. See résumé for other participating artists: www.goldduststudio.com/desireresume.

4. Production needs include a gallery space for show. Participating artists have worked with Million Fishes, Mina Dresden, and Queens Nails; we also have connections to community spaces. Funding could be used toward: venue, digital projector, ASL interpretation, printing of fliers and guides, website hosting, supplies for participating artists. Participating artists have been involved in a wide range of projects, and we have mailing lists as well as webpages, Facebook profiles, MySpace pages, and YouTube accounts. We will use these methods, as well as creating fliers (large size to post, small size to pass out at events) in order to spread the word about the show.

5. Resume and work samples are online: www.goldduststudio.com/desireresume.