CCAU III: Artists & Civic Engagement

ENVISIONING CARBONDALE’S CREATIVE COMMUNITY

Thursday, November 12th – Saturday, November 14th

Carbondale Community Arts | 304 Walnut St Carbondale | 618.457.5100 | carbondalearts.org

Over three days (November 12-14) Carbondale Community Arts will facilitate discussions, workshops, and lectures that explore the role of artists in Carbondale, identify community needs, and engage creative people in collaborations for improving the quality of life through art. Our goal is to promote bridge building and partnerships along horizontal networks that inspire creative endeavors for addressing community needs.

Thursday November 12

2:00 – 5:00p DEFINING CREATIVE COMMUNITY & IDENTIFYING OUR NEEDS

Round table discussions with refreshments by Cristaudo’s. Participants will work in groups to define creative community, and to examine local history in conjunction with identifying root causes and symptoms of issues that affect quality of life in our area.

Some topics include:

• The Absence of Public Art
• Housing & the Effect on Belonging
• Lack of Creative Opportunities for Youth
• Carbondale’s Empty Lots
• Income Inequity & Poverty
• Land Use & Envisioning the Commons
• Energy & the Environment

Friday November 13

8:00 – 3:00p CIVIC PRACTICE: THE ARTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Michael Rohd of the Center for Performance and Civic Practice in Chicago will lead this all day workshop. Rohd’s work centers on projects that encourage
“collaboratively designed arts-based engagement and participation strategies” within communities. He will help participants understand civic practice and the importance of cross-sector partnerships in Carbondale. Participants are encouraged to attend Thursday and Friday’s sessions together. Lunch provided with RSVP.

5:00 – 7:00p UNDERSTANDING OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH ART

Preston Jackson, a 1998 Laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, is a professor emeritus of sculpture at the School of Art Institute in Chicago. A storyteller artist, his work “intends to deliver information about who we are, where we came from, and where we are headed.” His work sparks reflection on present day conflict as situated in historical context. Jackson’s lesser-known paintings will be on exhibit at 304 through December.

7:00 – 10:00p BUILDING LOCAL FELLOWSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

A jazz reception with local musicians.

Saturday November 14

Case Studies of Creative Communities & Action Plans for Carbondale

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome & Introductions with Refreshments by Cristaudo’s

09:15 – 10:15 AT THE INTERSECTION OF ART & COMMUNITY

Deborah Grotfeldt is an artist/organizer who lives and works in Houston. In the early 1990s, Grotfeldt was on the founding team of Project Row Houses (PRH) in Houston, Texas. They rehabbed 22 abandoned shotgun houses in just one year, for programs including: rotating artist installations in seven houses; an after school and summer program for neighborhood youth; and a residential program for single mothers and their children. Like all of its successful counterparts, Project Row Houses has been successful because it sprang from the community. Grotfeldt later became involved in similar projects across the country. Her presentation will document these journeys and provide lessons learned and an application for the city of Carbondale.

10:15 – 10:30 IDEA EXCHANGE BREAK

10:30 – 11:30 INTERVENTIONS INTO PUBLIC LIFE

Jon Rubin, Associate Professor in the School of Art at Carnegie Mellon University and Head of the Conceptual Practice Area, is an interdisciplinary artist whose work creates interventions into public life that re-imagine individual, group, and institutional behaviors. Rubin will present case studies of his large-scale participatory
projects where groups or institutions are reorganized through actions that push the perception of public norms from the practical towards the poetic or political. Some of his projects include: Conflict Kitchen, The Last Billboard, and Royal Danish Protestors among many more.

11:30 – 12:45 WHAT'S NEXT?
A summary presentation of the ideas and concerns generated on the 12th and 13th followed by a Q&A panel of local leaders and guest presenters on specific action plans for Carbondale.

12:45 – 01:00 CLOSING REMARKS