

Summer Studio

Notes of a conversation, August 11 2022

The Soil Factory

People brought “a thought & a thing” on to tee up conversation on what inspires them to tackle the greatest problems of the world, and what collaborations they are currently lacking to start a discussion on whether and what kind of “Summer Studio” could be of use.

Here are some thoughts that started this: undisciplined collaborations are important ways for creativity but different sectors of stakeholders and academic disciplines still find it challenging to fully explore mutually inspirational collaborations. What if we can experimentally develop (through trial and many more errors) a way to bring a diverse group of people together for an intensive period of time that activates inspiring collaborations? “Summer” here just means at a time when we can take a day or a week or a month to do this, “Studio” means a place where we can all be to try something out that is flexible and open. This can be The Soil Factory (but does have to be, and could generate ideas that are relevant beyond it).

Pitches ranged from a cocktail “Labudio” made from ingredients of many disciplines, a heavy sack of nitrogen to demonstrate the issue of the global protein challenge, eco-loos, Black Mountain college inspirations, boxes with natural materials to feel your way through, clay sculptures, earphones to listen to plants,

Summer Studio did not trigger suggestions to stage summer schools but rather building community in Ithaca to share time to foster collaborations; a place where one can hang out each day or week, find others to do something with, chat, and plan; a place for healing and land; night walks and eating together, tending to senses (smell, hearing, touch), a space to cry and slowing down time (a Summer Camp?). Voicing support for making a spectacle, being loud, shock and delight, especially movement, to tackle the big problems of the world (a Summer Circus rather than a Summer Studio...). Some conversation circled around money, - to pay for rent, to allow community, to bring the show on the road, explore other communities, utilize defunct or available land (boy scouts, etc). Considerable support received spending time together, and a regular co-creation space be jump-started with a longer time spent together. Finding new ways to use and access the soil factory buildings and grounds was highlighted.

A suggestion: how about organizing a two-day event (from noon on a Saturday to noon on a Sunday in September),

- starting with pitches on how to organize collaborations in a space such as The Soil Factory midday Saturday;
- building a space together (do we want to have a thinking shack? What about a sink outdoor?)
- making a fire, cooking together in the evening
- putting up tents all over the lawn and camping out together

- doing night-walks together
- mothing (another ball? What about dancing and music? (not too loud...))
- constructing eco-loos on Sunday morning for a fair, or anything else you want to build
- a few mini-course activities and how-to's to break up the day
- and anything that you want to do with new friends...

What about Saturday/Sunday September 10/11?

And more: how about having people sign up to take shifts for a couple of hours each week between 10am and 9pm, to be present at the Soil Factory, open up the door, and welcome anyone who comes (or otherwise enjoy the place, take a nap, work on your computer, exercise, have a drink...)

(compiled by Johannes looked over by Neil, who surely missed many exciting points made, but asks for sending any ideas)

#1
"Circus"
"SUMMER STUDIO"

Campfire
Campfire
horizontal walk
dances
movement
healing

learning
studio

Camp
Public involvement
think together
facilities

participation
Senses
Attitude towards plants
Communication

bringing into
practice

Large problem

waste
Night-walk
shed/blight

Scaling

Spectral
on the road

failure

need space

land
CR

relationship to the power

forever

slowing down time

money

- Q
- Has done 11. Campfire, clear, C.G. affect H2O holding
 - Does + Campfire accidents decrease systematically, or just from more accidents?
 - Has done clear layout like doing
of guests meters? coffee too



