



thirdspace

values + actionables

We're working *with* communities, not offering something *to* them. We are a moving operation. We try to amplify the beauty of each place we work in and make space for connections that last beyond our time there.

Facilitating, not integrating. We're creating a neutral, blank slate for people to bring their own expertise, wisdom, resources, gifts, and knowledge to.

- Our events and programming create space for others. They are flexible and conscious of community needs.
 - We involve local artists, businesses, and creatives, especially those that haven't been prioritized.
 - We allow creatives to decide how to present their own art or performance.

Asking, not assuming. We acknowledge that only the community knows what it needs to thrive. We do not decide what's best for it.

- We meet with community representatives, solicit community feedback, explore models for community leadership, and listen / change accordingly.
 - The community at 2051 Market Street wants queer leadership and prioritization of queer/BIPOC/trans creatives in the space. Outdoor murals are reserved for queer artists. We have queer leadership and prioritize queer artists.
- Future goal: form a wisdom circle of representatives from each of the communities we're in and hire a Liaison to help us accommodate feedback / advice.

We're a decolonization station. We acknowledge the structures that create, maintain, and uphold inequity. We disrupt tradition to create something new.

Collaboration over hierarchy. We don't have a top-down model.

We enable each other and encourage independence.

- Roles may be established, but all hold equal weight.
- We recognize that roles are in flux, and we do not feel ownership over them.
- Facilitators exist only to direct conversation.
- We don't seek power or control over others. No one is "in charge," and no one "reports" to anyone else.

Access over aesthetics. We recognize that traditional definitions of "aesthetics," "good art," and "beauty" are often rooted in preference for those with privilege. We fight against this.

- We showcase everyone, regardless of education level, age, presentation, medium, or our personal preferences.
 - Gallery and exhibition space is given to all - and prioritizes marginalized stories and people.
 - Performances and events feature a broad range of talent - not just what we think is "good."

Take space, make space. We acknowledge how our race, gender, sexual identity, education, age, ability, and socioeconomic status might influence the implicit power we hold in a space.

- We seek to understand privilege and work against it.
 - We educate ourselves about our cultural context.

Conflict management protocol. We recognize that the only way to sustain relationships is to communicate respectfully.

- We seek to learn from one another, and listen deeply. We welcome growth and admit when we're wrong.
- We only respond when we are capable of doing so with humility. We don't react defensively, and we communicate productively about emotions.

We prioritize people over profit. We meet our expenses through creative and non-exploitative means. We don't let our financial decisions harm others.

- **Money is a tool, not a treasure.** We commit to meeting our expenses, but our goal is not to profit beyond that.
 - We offer opt-in donation opportunities, apply for grants, and fundraise.
 - We choose options that benefit the community but may be less profitable whenever possible.
- **Removing financial barriers for entry.** We are making this space accessible to all, regardless of ability to pay.

- We don't require fees or commissions from artists. We accept donations but don't expect them.
- Our programming and exhibits are sliding scale / free.
- **Generosity, not self-interest.** We see this space as an opportunity to showcase the work of others, not ourselves.
 - We acknowledge our work but don't seek self-promotion or compensation.
 - We welcome the reality that this work may come at the expense of our own time, money, and effort..
- **Deep connection, not deep pockets.** We don't appease or seek those with money or power. We highlight all voices regardless of who they may (or may not) speak to.
 - No one who donates money has any extra say or power in how the space is run.
 - We emphasize stories of communities who aren't normally emphasized.
 - Gallery and event space is given regardless of likelihood of "bringing people in the door."

Sources:

- C4 ATLANTA HATCH TRAINING INTENSIVE STUDENT WORKBOOK
- Americans for the Art "Animating Democracy" program
- "Aesthetic Perspectives: Attributes of Excellence in Arts for Change" booklet, 2017
- DECOLONIZE THIS PLACE

- BLACKSPACE MANIFESTO