



crossroadsPROJECT
for art, learning + community

Xroads Xchange 2009

“Performing Adulthood: Theater, Youth Development & Social Change”

3-Day Seminar led by Mat Schwarzman

Designed for and by multi-generational teams of adults and teens

Sunday, May 17th - Tuesday, May 19th

Colton Studios, 2300 St. Claude Ave., New Orleans, Louisiana

Discounts on great rooms and meals

Optional Pre and Post-seminar activities

Collaborative: Registration limited to 40

\$50/Person (\$100/Organization for up to 4) Registration Fee

This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for adults and youth to meet, study and teach together. The 3-day intensive is designed and led by Mat Schwarzman, co-author of *Beginner's Guide to Community-Based Arts* in collaboration with artists, educators and organizers around the country.

Sunday (5/17) – *Afternoon:* Introductions, Small group trainings

Evening: Youth Arts & Activism Showcase

Monday (5/18) – *Morning:* “Performing Adulthood: Theater As

Mirror/Hammer/Rehearsal/Initiation”

Afternoon: Peer Exchange

Evening: Community Dinner, Music and Discussion

Tuesday (5/19) - *Morning:* Peer Exchange

Afternoon: Reflections, Closing, Jam Session

Wednesday (5/20) Community Service in School/Community Organization (optional)

Study, share and experiment with your peers in an intensive collaborative learning environment.

Expand, immerse and rejuvenate yourself in one of the world's great cultural crossroads. Participate in the transformation of a city.

Xroads Xchange is co-sponsored by National Performance Network and funded by the Ford Foundation as part of a national effort to share and develop best practices in arts education and youth development.

REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION

Contact Mat Schwarzman, Crossroads Project Director: schwarzman@xroadsproject.org

XX '09: "Performing Adulthood: Theater, Youth Development & Social Change"

Details

What is this?

The annual Crossroads Project Professional Development Exchange for Artists, Educators and Organizers Who Work With Youth (or "XX" for short) began in 2008 as an opportunity for artists, educators and youth developers from across the country to reflect upon their work, share information and recharge their psychic "batteries" before the start of their summer and fall programs. In response to participants' suggestions from the first XX, the XX09 curriculum is designed especially for intergenerational teams of youth and youth-serving adults to participate together.

Participants in the XX09 will return home with new program and project ideas, new exercises, new and deeper connections with like-minded colleagues, plus new energy that strengthen the bonds between youth and adults within their organizations.

Where is this?

The main location for XX09 activities will be Colton Studios, a re-purposed public school located on New Orleans' historic St. Claude Avenue. Led by the Creative Alliance of New Orleans, Colton Studios is home to more than 70 community artists' studios and dedicated to youth development and education. The French Quarter and Frenchman Street Music & Arts District are within a 15-minute walk. Discounted rooms are available nearby at the fun and funky Olde Town Inn (see below).

Who is this for?

This is a professional development opportunity designed for adult teachers, students, administrators, youth developers, community organizers and artists who work with young people, with a particular concentration on teens and the performing arts; and young people who are participating in their classrooms or programs and have demonstrated the ability and interest to pursue this kind of youth development work as a leader and potential professional.

Too often, adult professionals in these fields do not have learning opportunities that are tested or accountable to the needs of the young people they are supposed to serve. Too often, the young people in these programs do not have opportunities to learn about these fields as career options, or to build their skills as artists, educators and organizers with like-minded peers from other places and programs. The XX is designed to begin filling this need within the limited constraints of grassroots organizations, including schools, school districts, afterschool programs, youth organizations, cultural centers and university departments.

While there is a focus within the XX on teens and the performing arts, adults working with younger children in a similar fashion, or with teens in other arts disciplines, are welcome. These kinds of alternate perspectives can create a sharper, more fruitful dialogue and exchange for all.

How much is this going to cost?

Registration is nominal (\$50-\$100 for most groups) and includes a free Community Dinner on Monday, May 18th. Excellent meals and a 24-hour community grocery store will be available within walking distance (including healthy and veggie options), in many cases for less than \$10/meal. For out-of-towners, the Olde Town Inn has discounted rooms set aside for \$35/day/person in shared rooms (\$69 for singles) a few blocks away. This includes a continental breakfast and secure parking for \$5/day. Check out the place online (www.oldetowninn.com) and contact us for the secret password and more information. DISCOUNTED RESERVATION DEADLINE APRIL 10TH

Who is this guy Mat Schwarzman?

Schwarzman is director of the Crossroads Project for Art, Learning and Community (www.xroadsproject.org) and a practitioner, student, instructor and writer in the field of community-based arts since 1985. He is a veteran presenter, trainer and workshop leader at conferences, universities and community organizations, and he holds a doctorate in Learning & Change in Human Systems from the California Institute for Integral Studies. He has established groundbreaking instructional programs for youth and youth-serving adults in community organizations, high schools and universities across the country. He is co-author with cartoonist Keith Knight of *Beginner's Guide to Community-Based Arts*, (New Village Press, 2005).

More details on the agenda...

The XX 09 seminar is designed for a total of 40 adult and youth participants, a mixture of “veterans” (people who already do performance-based youth development with teens) and “beginners.” Activities are all interactive, including discussions, performances, presentations, games, exercises and journaling.

Sunday (5/17)

1 – 5 p.m.: Introductions, Small group trainings

- Welcome and Agenda Overview, Hand out Binders containing XX materials
- Story Circle: Each participant tells their origin story as an artist, educator and activist
- Youth and adult members of Creative Forces Youth Educational Theater Corps lead a series of theater-based youth development exercises on the theme of “It’s All Theater”
- Logistics, including resource list for nearby restaurants, music, poetry, shopping

7 – 9 p.m.: Youth Arts & Activism Showcase

- Performances, visual art, films, magazines, etc. created by the participating groups
- Following the show, participating groups will co-host a teen-friendly dance party (pass the hat for snacks, non-alcoholic drinks, dj) and a neighborhood “pub crawl” for adults.

Monday (5/18)

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.: “Performing Adulthood: Theater As Mirror/Hammer/Rehearsal/Initiation”

- Presentation and Demonstration of Creative Forces’ program model and approach
- Feedback/Critique/Expansion by Participants

1 – 4 p.m.: Peer Exchange I (Separate Youth and Adult Groups)

- Eat Lunch (bring/order your own)
- “Veterans” lead a series of 60-minute interactive presentation/discussions about their work (sign up in advance)

6 – 9 p.m.: Community Dinner, Music and Discussion (Free with registration)

Tuesday (5/19)

9 – 11 a.m.: Peer Exchange II (Whole Group)

- In-depth Presentation, Demonstration and Discussion Focused on 1 Out of Town Program
- A panel of participants get to respond, critique and expand upon the work
- Logistics, including lunch options (buy/bring your own), shuttle options, etc.

Noon – 2 p.m.: Reflections, Closing Jam Session

2 – 5 p.m.: Rest, meet with Community Service Sites, free evening (optional)

Wednesday (5/20): Optional

8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (flexible): Volunteer in a New Orleans School, University or Community Organization

- Teach a class, lead a workshop or rehearsal

Special Thanks to: National Performance Network, organizational partner; and Ford Foundation, project funder.