

Gentrification is a crisis, and frontline communities are fighting back: from Boyle Heights in Los Angeles to Bushwick, the Bronx, and Chinatown in New York.

Can artists and galleries resist becoming weapons of mass displacement? Can they become allies of the grassroots struggle against gentrification? Yes, they can. A first step in expressing your solidarity is to take this pledge of resistance to the fine art of gentrification:

I WILL:

1. Get to know my neighbors. Learn about the history and contemporary situation of the place I am occupying. Find out which people I have displaced with my gallery, studio, cafe, or bar. Come out to community meetings to learn what is going on.
2. Support the businesses that are essential to low- and middle- income people in my neighborhood.
3. Share information, resources, space, and skills with any community advocates who are working to prevent landlords from mistreating tenants, illegally raising the rent or harassing tenants to make profits.
4. Support my neighbors who are fighting to save their homes. Understand that gentrification and police harassment go hand in hand. Report police harassment and stop the NYPD from violating the civil rights of my neighbors.
5. Agree not to rent or buy any unit that is owned by a publicly known slumlord. Support tenants who are fighting against foreclosures, forced evictions, buy outs and price outs.
6. Call out, and inform on, developers who are using "Trojan horse" tactics—pop-up shops, galleries, cafes, and trendy retail kiosks—to stimulate real estate interest in neighborhoods.
7. Support ongoing efforts to get the city council and mayor to endorse and pass the community-led Chinatown Working Group's Rezoning Plan that reflects the needs of Chinatown's residents, protects current and future affordable housing, preserves the neighborhood and discourages displacement.
8. Provide language accessibility. Translate my mission, my press releases and any notices of evening events into Chinese and Spanish.

RESOURCES

- Books: -"Root Shock: Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America, and What We Can Do About It" by Dr. Mindy Fullilove
-"Making a Global Immigrant Neighborhood: Brooklyn's Sunset Park" by Tarry Hum
-"Zoned Out! Race, Displacement, and City Planning in New York City" by Tom Angotti and Sylvia Morse
- Films: -"Changing Face of Harlem" by Shawn Batey
-"My Brooklyn" by Kelly Anderson

For a full list of anti-displacement resources including NYC based anti-gentrification organizations, legal aid and tenant advocate groups, articles and educational resources, please follow this link:

<http://www.chinatownartbrigade.org/resources/>



Chinatown Art Brigade (CAB) is a cultural collective of artists, media makers and activists creating art and media to advance social justice. Our work is driven by the fundamental belief that collaboration with, and accountability towards, the communities that are directly impacted by racial, social and economic inequities must be central to any cultural, art, or media making process.

Chinatown Art Brigade is collaborating with the Chinatown Tenants Union of CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities (www.caaav.org), a grassroots non-profit that organizes low-income pan-Asian communities around tenant rights, fighting evictions and displacement.

@CtownArtBrigade #ChinatownNot4Sale

