



portoluz

presents:

WPA 2.0: a Brand New Deal

a multi-disciplinary instigation about art/work

INTRODUCTION WPA 2.0, A BRAND NEW DEAL



The New Deal was a series of economic programs passed by the U.S. Congress during the first term of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of the United States, from 1933 to 1938. The programs were responses to the Great Depression of 1929. In 1935, President Roosevelt established the Works Progress Administration, as part of his New Deal program to put millions of unemployed Americans back to work. The WPA was the largest New Deal agency, employing millions to carry out public works projects. It fed children and redistributed food, clothing, and housing. Almost every community in the United States had a park, bridge or school constructed by the agency, which especially benefited rural and Western populations. Expenditures from 1936 to 1939 totaled nearly \$7 billion. By 1943, the total amount spent was over \$11 billion. Between 1935 and 1943, the WPA

provided almost eight million jobs and until it was ended by Congress and war employment during 1943, the WPA was the largest employer in the country.

Many New Deal administrators believed that art could be a part of the daily lives of all Americans, not just the elite, and could enrich the lives of all who came in contact with it. The main objective was the employment of out-of-work artists, but this was not its only goal. The work of the WPA was one of the primary ways through which many Americans were first introduced to the arts.

In 2011, the ten-member program committee chose WPA 2.0, "A Brand New Deal" as an overarching theme for multi-disciplinary programs. As we recognized that the entire paradigm that was developed in the last century as a response to industrialization and the Great Depression was under varying degrees of attack- from arts education in public schools to collective bargaining, we thought it might be a good time to look at the condi-

tions that gave rise to The New Deal reforms and explore what parallels might be relevant today.

portoluz developed this instigation as a kinetic and contemporary 'take' on a meme by utilizing a variety of cultural production to explore the Great Depression of 1929, the WPA and role of the "cultural worker", and the current recession. By riffing on history, re-mixing archival ephemera, commissioning and curating a wide range of voices, portoluz seeks primarily to emphasize and inspire solutions that respond to today's worldwide economic and social crisis.

With this program series we are also paying homage to the powerful contributions of so many working people who fought to make this world a more just (and lyrical) world and upon those whose legacy we hope to stand. Dr. Margaret Burroughs was a founding member of portoluz and we dedicate this series to her rich and inspiring legacy. On behalf of all the people who worked together to create WPA 2.0., we hope you will join us in this journey.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday April 9th, 3-5:30pm. U.S. Rep. John Conyers Full Employment and Training Act. 77 W. Washington.

Thursday April 28th, 5:30pm. Panel discussion on the meaning of Haymarket. Newberry Library 60 W. Walton St.

Saturday April 30th, 2pm. Plaque dedication and re-enactment Haymarket Square. Randolph & DesPlaines, Chicago.

Saturday May 1st, 7pm Music and Rebellion: Bucky Halker. Old Town School 4544 N. Lincoln Avenue.

Thursdays May 5th and 12th, 6pm Mark and Milton Rogovin. Exhibit and film. Gage Gallery at Roosevelt University.

Thursday June 9th, 5pm Tour Lane Tech WPA murals. Lane Tech High School 2501 West Addison Room 113.

Saturday June 18th, 2pm Timuel Black & Reginald Robinson. Du Sable Museum 740 E. 56th Place.

Sunday June 12th, 5-7pm Dan Swinney / Austin Polytech. Hyde Park home - pre-registration necessary.

Tuesday June 21st, 6pm Carl Davidson on the Mondragon Collectives. Unity Center 3339 S. Halsted.

Saturday June 25th, 11am Larry Zgoda discusses Edgar Miller. Sol Kogan Studios 155 W. Burton.

Saturday July 9th, 4-6pm Lisa Brock / Debra Evenson. Changes in Cuban economy. Calles Y Sueños 1901 S. Carpenter.

Saturday July 16th 7pm Muntu Dance Theater. This Far by Faith - Muntu Gala Harris Theater.

Sunday July 17th, 2:30 Theo Jamison Master Class in Dunham Technique. Hamlin Park field house.

Sunday July 17th, 5pm David Schweikert / Alternative Economics. Evanston home - pre-registration necessary

Sunday August 7th, 5pm Sm/art Cities: Building space for progressive culture and sustainable cities. Honey Co-op 3740 W. Fulton.

Sunday August 14th, 6pm Helen Shiller. Reflections on 30 years as Alderman. Ten Cat Tavern 3801 N. Ashland.

TBA Don Byron's New Gospel Project music of Thomas A. Dorsey.

Tuesday Sept 13th, 6-7:30pm Heather Becker. Celebration of the Chicago WPA murals. Conservation Chicago.

Monday September 12th, 6pm Dean Baker. Congress Lounge 2nd Floor, Roosevelt University.

Saturday October 1st, 2pm-4pm Thom Lucas. SouthSide Community Art Center 3831 S. Michigan.

Sunday October 2nd, 3pm Bill Fletcher & Amisha Patel. Venue to be announced.

Sunday October 23, 3pm Social Realism and the Photography of Sydney Harris. Heartland Cafe 7000 N. Glenwood

Sunday October 9th, 3pm Las Guitarras de España and Passiones-Songs from the Spanish civil war. S.P.A.C.E. 1245 Chicago Avenue Evanston.

Tuesday October 11th, 6pm Dan Brinkmeier: American Regionalism. Lillstreet Art Studio 4801 N. Ravenswood



Music and Rebellion
 Sunday May 1st 7pm \$15/13
 Old Town School of Folk Music
 4544 N. Lincoln Avenue

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Music and Rebellion: Commemorating the 125th anniversary of Chicago's famed Haymarket incident and the rise of May Day as a workers' holiday. With Bucky Halker, Los Pichardos, John Abbey, Don Steienberg, The Bagwis Collective, and Jimmy Tomasello.

A solo piano recital by Reginald Robinson

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Following the presentation by Timuel Black
 Saturday June 18th 2pm
 \$5/all ages welcome
 The Du Sable Museum of African American History 740 East 56th Place

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 Reginald R. Robinson, born and raised in

Chicago is a noted pianist/composer and an educator on ragtime music across the U.S. Reginald became interested in playing Ragtime while in 7th grade after a city funded arts program visited the school. The program was led by Jazz trumpeter Orbert Davis and covered many different styles from Beethoven



to Miles Davis but Reginald paid close attention when the musicians talked about Ragtime and performed "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin. He had heard this melody coming from the ice cream trucks every summer but had never heard the song played as a serious piece

of music on piano before. For Christmas that year his mother bought him a small electronic keyboard in which he began to teach himself how to play. In 2004, Reginald received "the genius" fellowship Grant from the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for his innovation in Ragtime music!

Master Class with Theo Jamison

Sunday July 17th 3pm-4:30 pm \$20
 Hamlin Park Field House
 3035 N. Hoyne Avenue

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 Theo Jamison was certified by Katherine Dunham to teach the Dunham Technique, was trained by original members of the Katherine Dunham Dance Company, and served as Dunham's demonstrator for more than 15 years. This is a ninety-minute master class in the Dunham technique presented in partnership with Le Bagatae. Le Bagatae is led by Moustapha Bangoura, a 22-year veteran of the largest and most celebrated dance company from the continent of Africa - Les Ballets Africains. For more on La Bagatae: www.lebagatae.com



This Far by Faith

Saturday, July 16th 7pm
 Harris Theater for Music and Dance 205 East Randolph

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 This Far By Faith will be an evening of work celebrating the resiliency of the human spirit. Muntu Dance Theater is commissioning new work from two guest choreographers. Each choreographer will draw from his own personal/collectives experiences as source material in creating the vignettes. The focus of the work will examine the higher nature of spirituality: that which connects us as humans regardless of race, color, or religion and which undergirds our will/tenacity to keep moving forward. For tickets and more information call: Muntu Dance Theater telephone #: (773)241-6080

Don Byron's New Gospel Project

date, time, site: to be announced

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 From the start of his career, Don Byron has reveled in interpreting music of a wildly diverse range of styles and artists, including Duke Ellington, Igor Stravinsky, Mickey Katz, Sly Stone, Henry Mancini, Sugar Hill Records' early hip-hop, Earth Wind & Fire, Herb Alpert, and most recently, R&B icon Junior Walker. Don Byron's newest project grows out of his in-depth studies of gospel music. Gospel pioneer Thomas A. Dorsey is a major inspiration, and Byron revisits some of the master songwriter's works

alongside other classics as well as lesser-known gems of the genre. "In the past few years I have listened more intensively to black religious music than ever before. Examining the specific blues styles peculiar to country, R&B, and rock led me to thorough studies of the blues based religious music of White and Black Southern Gospel. I am combining my own compositions with traditional Gospel pieces in a way I have not attempted before. This project coincides with a growth in my own faith and is for me a religious expression." -Don Byron.
 With: Don Byron - clarinet, tenor saxophone, background vocal, DK Dyson -

vocal, Xavier Davis - piano, Brad Jones - bass, background vocal, and Pheeroan akLaff - drums



Pasiones: Songs of the Spanish Civil War 1936-1939

Sunday October 9th, 2pm at S.P.A.C.E.
1245 Chicago Avenue, Evanston \$22



During the Spanish Civil War, forty thousand men and women from fifty-two countries, including 2,800 Americans, traveled to Spain to join the International Brigades to help fight fascism. The U.S. volunteers served in various units (medical, combat and transportation) and came to be known collectively as the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Pasiones was written and adapted by Michael Smith and Jamie O'Reilly with Peter Glazer and inspired by the music of Eddie Balchowsky, a legendary pianist, artist, bo-

hemian and Spanish Civil War hero. In 1937, Balchowsky accompanied singer Paul Robeson as he entertained troops in Spain and lost his hand in battle as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, which ended his hopes of becoming a concert pianist. Jamie O'Reilly, Vocals, Michael Smith, Vocals, Guitar, Katrina O'Reilly, Vocals, Clarinet, Piano and Bob Weber, cello. Smith and O'Reilly demonstrate powerfully that the music by the people who fought and died (in the Spanish Civil War) resonates throughout time and space... "It is more than glorious music they offer us; it is our history that would otherwise be forgotten".

With a special performance by Las Guitarras de España

Las Guitarras de España performs classical Spanish flamenco guitar music influenced by world music and dance. The ensemble's music also includes Latin American and Middle Eastern styles as well as American jazz. The fusion of these styles backed by Afro-Cuban percussion forms completes the unique combination of sounds and grooves that is "Las Guitarras de España." With: Wendy Clinard (dancer), Patricia Ortega

(vocalist), Kinan Abou-afach (cellist/oud), a percussionist and Carlo Basile (guitar).

Edward Wilkerson Jr.

Quiet Desperation:
date, venue and time: to be announced



Quiet Desperation is a series of short multi-media presentations highlighting the struggle many Americans face coming to grips with the recession. In a rapid paced performance the presentations will combine live music, spoken word, recorded stories and video to spotlight the impact the economic downturn has had on various aspects of American society from jobs, housing, art, relationships, education, politics and the various coping methodologies Americans have devised. Original stories, music and video will be created in a collaboration with Edward Wilkerson Jr., composer.



A festival commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Haymarket tragedy in Chicago, where the hanging of four leaders of the movement for the eight-hour work day sparked a worldwide solidarity movement.

Screening of Documentary Film on Sacco & Vanzetti

Wednesday April 27, 6:00 PM
Haymarket Brewery and Pub, Randolph & Halsted, Chicago

Discussant, Professor Alison Fraunhar with music by troubadour Joe Bella.

From Haymarket to Madison

Thursday April 28, 5:30 PM
Newberry Library, 60 West Walton,

Labor lawyers and scholars will debate the relevancy of Haymarket to the rights of public sector workers to collectively bargain.

Public Release of the New Edition of The Day Will Come

Friday April 29, 5:30 PM
Gage Gallery, 18 South Michigan Ave.

The first edition of this ILHS publication was issued in 1994 and contained a mapping and brief biographies of the men and women who are buried or have their ashes scattered alongside the Haymarket Martyrs' Monument. The updated edition will be introduced.

Plaque Dedication & Re-enactment of the Haymarket Tragedy

Saturday April 30, 2:00 PM
Haymarket Square, Randolph & DesPlaines, Chicago

ILHS will formally dedicate a prominent bronze plaque on the Haymarket statue to mark the 125th Anniversary of the Haymarket tragedy. The ceremony will be capped by a reenactment of the Haymarket events directed by stager Paul Durica. The public can take part in portraying the crowd of workers present on the scene 125 years ago.

All of these programs are free, open to the public and curated by The Illinois Labor History Society. www.illinoislaborhistory.org

Rockotitlán Chicago presents: MAYDAY: A Celebration of The Labor Rights Movement & International Workers' Day

Saturday April 30, 8:00 PM
www.facebook.com/rockotitlanchicago
Live Music + Art + Vendors + Speakers + Peace

**SOAPBOX:
SCHOLARS, MUCKRAKERS,
& EXTRA-ORDINARY
CITIZENS**



**Timuel Black -
Remembering
the New Deal**

Saturday June 18th 2pm
\$5/ all ages welcome
The Du Sable Museum
of African American History
740 East 56th Place

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Timuel D. Black is known as Chicago's griot. He has spent his lifetime gathering the stories of Chicago's African-American community, documenting the great social movements, and working for peace and justice. Born in Alabama in 1918, Black came to Chicago's South Side with his family as part of Chicago's first wave of the Great Migration--when tens of thousands of African-Americans left the South. After serving with distinction in World War II, Black attended Roosevelt University and the University of Chicago. A teacher, social scientist and historian, Black played a leading role in the civil rights movement in Chicago and nationally, working closely

with Dr. King. He is the author of countless articles and of Bridges of Memory, the oral history collection documenting the lives of African-Americans who came to Chicago in the first and second waves of the Great Migration. Mr. Black is currently at work on his own memoir. Timuel Black's talk will be followed by a solo piano recital by Reginald Robinson. Writer Sharon Warner will read Gardeners of Dreams to open the program.

Special guest : Sharon F. Warner is a writer of diverse interests and experience. Her work has been published in 3 countries, and of course, online. She has been part of the Neighborhood Writing Alliance since 1997, and her work has appeared in the Journal of Ordinary Thought since that time. "Gardeners of Dreams" was inspired by remarks made by Timuel Black at an Edible Activism workshop at the Artistic Garden in Hyde Park.

Recent Changes in the Cuban Economy with Lisa Brock and Debra Evenson

Saturday July 9th, 4pm
Calles y Sueños 1901 S. Carpenter

In September of 2010, the Cuban government announced the impending lay-off of over 500,000 state sector workers, as well as a regulatory opening allowing for the establishment and the growth of domestic small and medium sized, non public sector enterprises. Observers of the Cuban economy are not as surprised by these plans as they are by the scale of the layoffs, the breadth of the policy alternatives being discussed, and the immediacy of the implementation plans. All of these changes will be further magnified by decisions taken at the Cuban Communist Party Congress in April 2011.

Join Lisa Brock and Debra Evenson in a lively discussion on what is next for the Socialist neighbor.



Dr. Brock's articles on South Africa, Mozambique, African Americans, Cuba, and Blacks in the Diaspora have ap-

peared in such journals as Cuban Studies, Contributions in Black Studies, Tamas: Cultura, Ideología, Sociedad. Her book, Between Race and Empire: African-Americans and Cubans Before the Cuban Revolution, was published in 1998, and her writings are regularly a part of the website AfroCubaweb.com.

Debra Evenson is considered one of the United States's leading experts on the Cuban legal system. She has written and lectured widely on Cuban law and its institutions. The most recent of her numerous published works on Cuban law is Law and Society in Contemporary Cuba. In addition to Law And Society in Contemporary Cuba, Ms. Evenson's has also published: "Cubana de Acero: structure and dynamics of a Cuban factory, and "Workers in Cuba": unions and labor relations.

**Carl Davidson –
The Mondragon Cooperatives**

Tuesday June 21st 6:00-7:30 pm
Unity Center 3339 S. Halsted St.

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A multimedia presentation on the 120 Worker-Owned Mondragon Cooperatives centered in Spain's Basque Coun-



try, their impact and growth in other countries, their influence in the U.S., and their implications for socialist theory in a new era. Carl Davidson is currently a national co-chair of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism, a national board member of the Solidarity Economy Network, and a member of Steelworker Associates and Beaver County Peace Links in Beaver County, PA.

**Dean Baker
The Annual Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Distinguished Lecture**

Monday September 12th, 6pm
Congress Room 2nd Floor, Roosevelt University 430 South Michigan Avenue

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Co-sponsored by The Center for New Deal Studies at Roosevelt University
Dean Baker is the Co-Director of the Center for Economic and Policy Re-

search. He is the author of several books, including Taking Economics Seriously, False Profits: Recovering From the Bubble Economy, and The Benefits of Full Employment (with Jared Bernstein). He appears frequently on TV and radio programs, including CNN, CBS News, MSNBC, PBS NewsHour, and National Public Radio. He writes a weekly column for the Guardian Unlimited (UK), and his blog, Beat the Press (<http://www.cepr.net/index.php/beat-the-press/>), features commentary on economic reporting. His analyses have appeared in many major publications, including the Boston Review, the Financial Times and the New York Times. This program is generously supported by the Center for New Deal Studies at Roosevelt University.



Bill Fletcher & Amisha Patel

October 2nd, 3-5pm
Venue to be announced

Bill Fletcher, Jr., is a longtime labor, racial justice and international activist. Bill Fletcher, Jr. is an Editorial Board member and columnist for BlackCommentator.com and a Senior Scholar for the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC. He is the immediate past president of TransAfrica Forum and a founder of the Black Radical Congress.

Amisha Patel serves as the Executive Director of the Grassroots Collaborative, a community-labor coalition working to win racial and economic justice in Chicago and Statewide. Prior to the Collaborative, she worked at the Service Employees International Union Local 73, where she organized hospital employees and Head Start workers, as well as worked in coalition with community organizations to fight



against school closings and to win more resources for parks in communities of color. She worked for five years doing arts-based violence against women prevention programming in the Bay Area and her film, Young Azns Rising! Breaking Down Violence Against Women, won the Asian Emmy for best documentary. Co-sponsored by the Center for New Priorities.

THE BACKYARD ROUNDTABLES

Join us in these more intimate conversations with local visionaries. These events are intended to be in-depth exchange between the featured guest speaker and... you! How do we build a more inclusive and just city? What have been lessons learned along the way? What are some of the exciting new models for urban development? How are people challenging capitalism as the defacto economic system?

As some of these events are in private homes, pre-registration to these programs is necessary and limited to twenty-five participants. The address of the event will be provided upon registration. RSVP @portoluz@gmail.com with backyard

roundtable in the subject line and please let us know which date you wish to attend.

Dan Swinney: Breaking Ground: A New Educational Model for Working Class Youth

Sunday June 12th 5-7pm
Hyde Park private home. Please RSVP portoluz@gmail.com for invite

Dan founded the Center for Labor and Community Research (CLCR) in 1982 in response to the thousands of manufacturing plant closings in the Chicago area. Prior to founding CLCR, Dan worked for 13 years as a machinist in the Chicago area and organized Steelworker Local 8787 at G+W Taylor Forge in Cicero, Illinois and served as Vice President. Taylor Forge closed in 1983. Dan will be speaking on the creation of Austin Polytechnic High School an educational response to the economic crisis and the need for highly educated and well paid workers in manufacturing. Dan's work challenges progressives to develop a movement built on broad based alliances that involve working class youth in innovative economic strategies.

David Schweickart, Alternative Economies for Hard Times

Sunday July 17th 5-7pm
@ private Evanston home please rsvp: portoluz@gmail.com for invite



David Schweickart is Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University Chicago. He holds a Ph.D. in Mathematics and a Ph.D. in Philosophy. Dr. Schweickart's primary areas of research are social and political philosophy, philosophy and economics, and Marxism. Schweickart has published extensively on these topics. His book publications include: After Capitalism, Market Socialism: The Debate Among Socialists, Against Capitalism and Capitalism or Worker Control? An Ethical and Economic Appraisal

Building sm/art cities: Spaces for progressive culture and sustainable cities

Sunday August 7th 3-5pm
The Honey Co-op 3740 West Fulton

This open air, potluck conversation at the Farm will be anchored by successful entrepreneurs, land stewards, and other forward looking urbanists – gathering together to share their experiences building catalytic enterprises, collaborative paradigms and visionary spaces. Bring your lawn chair and a dish to share and let's talk how to build an inclusive, robust, creative Chicago for the 21st century. With Marguerite Horberg-founder of HotHouse and portoluz, Sherry Williams, founder of the Bronzeville Historical Society, Michael Thompson, founder of the Honey Co-op and Michelle Uting, outreach coordinator with Chicago Wilderness. The Honey Co-op is an urban beekeeping cooperative practicing sustainable agriculture, job training, and education. www.chicagohoneycoop.com. Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance dedicated to protecting nature and enriching life. www.chicagowilderness.org. Sherry Williams founded the The Bronzeville Historical Society in 1999 in order collect, and perpetuate the records and recognize the contributions of African Americans whom live or lived in Chicago. www.bronzevillehistoricalsociety.com

Helen Shiller, memories of a Ward organizer

Ten Cat Tavern 3801 N. Ashland
Sunday August 14th 6pm



Helen Shiller moved to Chicago's Uptown neighborhood in the 1970's as a community organizer. The Heart of Uptown Coalition, which Shiller co-founded in the 70's was a political and social service organization and provided an array of programs geared toward providing essential services for the poor, including medical clinics, and with a special focus on black lung disease; a legal aid clinic, food pantries and services for the poor. At the request of Harold Washington, Helen ran for Alderman of the 46th Ward, and in 1987 and was elected. In City Council, she has led legislation that improved the quality of life for the residents (of the 46th Ward and) throughout the city. We are happy to have this opportunity to hear from the Honorable Helen Shiller, her own thoughts on all of this, having just retired from the Chicago City Council.

The Federal Art Project was one of the divisions of the W.P.A. created under Federal Project One. President Franklin D. Roosevelt had made several attempts prior to the F.A.P. to provide employment for artists on relief, namely the Public Works of Art Project (P.W.A.P.) which operated from 1933 to 1934 and the Treasury Department Section of Painting and Sculpture which was created in 1934 after the demise of the P.W.A.P. However, it was the F.A.P. which provided the widest reach, creating over 5,000 jobs for artists and producing over 225,000 works of art for the American people.

Midwest Premiere of the film The Rich Have Their Own Photographers with an introduction by Mark Rogovin & Exhibition of Picture Man: The Poetry of Photographer Milton Rogovin

Thursdays: May 5th and May 12th, 7pm
Gage Gallery Roosevelt University 18 S. Michigan Ave.

As a practicing optometrist, and after an assault by the House Un-American Activities Committee, Milton Rogovin began his second career as a social



documentary photographer in 1957. His subjects spanned the Storefront Churches of Buffalo, Pablo Neruda's Chile, the Family of Miners, Working People, the Yemeni and Native American community and the Lower West Side, a Buffalo neighborhood where Milton Rogovin photographed families for thirty years.

Mark Rogovin was an assistant to Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros on his last mural, the March of Humanity. He founded the Public Art Workshop,

and co-founded the Peace Museum. Mark now heads the Rogovin Collection with a mission to promote the educational use of the social documentary photography of his father, Milton Rogovin.

Edgar Miller & Larry Zgoda

Saturday June 25th 11am
Sol Kogan Studios 155 W. Burton Place
pre-registration required by RSVP to portoluz@gmail.com

Edgar Miller worked in as many art forms as he could imagine. Sculpture, watercolor, drawing and stained glass were among his fortes. He also excelled in the graphic arts and later in life, graphic



design. His most popular collection of works is at the richly remodeled buildings in Old Town. Here one finds stained glass, fresco, ceramic tiles, sculpture and mosaic, just to name a few. Larry Zgoda is a renowned stained glass artist, a friend of Miller's and an important champion of his legacy. It was Miller's quirky, recycled glass, mosaic, and tile work on the 1920s Carl Street Studios complex that inspired Zgoda's artistic path some 30 years ago, and that continues to guide his beliefs in the lost power of ornament. Join us for a special tour of "an Edgar Miller home" at the Sol Kogan Studios led by Larry Zgoda.

Tour of the Lane Tech High School Murals

2501 West Addison Street
Thursday June 9th 5pm
\$10 – for tour Use Entrance M (off the parking lot) to enter the building. We will meet in room 113 - the security person at Entrance M will direct guests to that room. Pre-register at portoluz@gmail.com



In 1934 Forty murals from the General Motors Exhibition Hall at the World's Fair "Century of Progress" became a part of Lane Tech' art collection. Additional works were added during the WPA era. The widespread popularity of the murals with the public generated great pride at Lane Technical High School. Over the years, the mural collection at Lane suffered serious deterioration. In 1995, The Principal and teacher Flora Doody initiated the Mural Restoration Project, an effort to save this important

collection. Students lead the in-school tours of the thirteen murals. This event is co-sponsored by Preservation Chicago. Preservation Chicago, founded in 2001, is a not-for-profit organization that advocates for the preservation of Chicago's historic architecture, achieving its mission through education and community outreach. www.preservationchicago.org

Heather Becker – an evening celebrating the WPA murals of Chicago

Tuesday, September 13th 6-7:30pm \$5
The Conservation Center
730 N. Franklin #701
Advanced registration required:
portoluz@gmail.com

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Heather Becker, CEO of The Conservation Center and author of the book "Art for the People: The Rediscovery and Preservation of Progressive and WPA-Era Murals in the Chicago Public



Schools, 1904-1943", will give a power-point lecture about the re-discovery of Progressive- and WPA-Era Murals in the Chicago Public Schools, and how a grassroots effort grew to become the largest mural preservation project in American history. Heather Becker is the Chief Executive Officer, The Chicago Conservation Center and co-founder of the Midwest Chapter of the National New Deal Preservation Association.

The African American Contribution to Printmaking Innovation and Design During the WPA period.

Saturday October 1st 2pm
Southside Community Art Center
3831 South Michigan Avenue

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With Thom Lucas - Hummingbird Press
Thom Lucas is Director of Printmaking at the Lillstreet Art Center. Thom is founder and Master Printer at Hummingbird Press L.A.C. Editions: Kerry Marshall, Richard Hunt, Preston Jackson. Barbara Jones-Hogu and Candida Alvarez. Lucas's own artworks are included in various private and public collections. He exhibits nationally and abroad and is represented by Lusenhop



Fine Art and Nicole Gallery Chicago. The South Side Community Art Center is a community art center in Chicago that opened in 1940 with support from the Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project in Illinois. It was the first black art museum in the United States and has been an important center for the development Chicago's African American artists. The center was awarded Chicago Landmark status in 1994.

The lost legacy of 1930s Regionalism, the WPA, and a new people's art: Where are today's rural American artists?

Tuesday October 11th 6:00pm
LillStreet Art Center Gallery
4801 N. Ravenswood

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With Dan Brinkmeier, farmer and rural artist. During the 1930s, the hardships of the economic depression, political upheaval and labor conflict, and social change were challenged head-on by Regionalist painters and through other activist forms of artistic expression, which fostered the WPA and a national public art movement. Visual art was used as an instrument of attack, instruction,



and inspiration, and was based in our country's rural heritage and traditions. In today's America, we also face similar challenges to our way of life; and yet, where are the visual artists who will depict themes that not only celebrate the strengths that define our country, both urban and rural, but also serve to show the reality of how people live in the "forgotten country" of rural America and the social change that has taken place there? Who will give us a new "people's art?" Dan Brinkmeier is an artist, educator, and farmer who still works with his family on a small cattle farm in Northwestern Illinois.

MEXICAN INFLUENCE ON THE WPA

The artistic community had already become inspired during the 1920s and '30s by the revitalization of the Italian Renaissance fresco style by the inspired creations of Mexican muralists Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros. Certain visionary U.S. politicians decided to combine the creativity of the new art movements with the values of the American people. This program looks at the legacy of this profound cross-cultural relationship. "In acknowledging

the influence of the Mexican muralists José Clemente Orozco, Diego Rivera, and David Alfaro Siqueiros on his work, Siporin said, "Through the lessons of our Mexican teachers, we have been made more aware of the scope and fullness of this the soul of our own environment." It was they, he said, who suggested "the application of modernism toward a socially moving epic of our time and place."



Tour the Mexican Murals in Pilsen

Saturday, October 15th 12pm and 2pm
 Sunday, October 16th 12 pm and 2pm
 Colibri Studio/Gallery
 2032 W. 18th Street
 Tour led by Jose Guerrero
 \$10 per person

Pilsen is a rich artistic community. Enjoy these special walking tours of this community while learning about the murals created in the area since the early 70's by Mexican, Mexican American, and other artists. Pilsen Open Studios is a celebratory annual event where local artists' welcome the public into their workspace. Advance registration for the mural tour is requested. Call Gallery Colibri 312/733-8431.

The Photographs of Sydney Harris

On Exhibit October 23 through December 5
 opening reception October 23rd, 3-5pm
 Heartland Café 7000 N. Glenwood

Sydney Harris was a well known Chicago social realist photographer for 40 years, from 1950 - 80s. He was the



main photographer for such unions as the Auto Workers, Clothing and Textile unions, Packinghouse, Cooks, Hotel and Restaurant workers and many others. He photographed the civil rights and anti-war movements in Chicago, and among his many portraits are Dr. King, Carl Sandberg, Paul Robeson and Cesar Chavez. His work reflects the dignity and hardship of blue-collar Chicago and an industrial era that is rapidly fading from our streets. The Chicago History Museum houses over 12,000 of his negatives. Harris grew-up in a Hyde Park orphanage for Jewish boys and was a veteran of the Lincoln Brigade that fought in the Spanish Civil War. He passed away in 1989.



FILM, VIDEO & SOCIAL MEDIA

Let's Go To The Movies

Dates, times and venues TBA

In the coming months, portoluz and its partners will be showing fiction and non-fiction films about yesterday's and today's Great Depression. We'll look at great Hollywood films from the 1930's, documentary films sponsored by the Works Progress Administration, found footage and important non-fiction work of independent filmmakers from the 1960's to today. Many of the screenings will include discussions with participants of the struggles portrayed and the filmmakers themselves. With portoluz partner Kartemquin Films - Chicago's home for independent filmmakers developing documentary as a vehicle to deepen our understanding of society through everyday human drama - we'll screen a series called Taking Control: On, Off and Out of Work. We'll watch films about union organizing, contract negotiations, strikes, workplace take-overs, factory closings, organizing the unemployed and immigration. Along with Kartemquin's work,

we'll see the work of independent filmmakers from around the world.

In keeping with our 2.0 vision for this festival, we will also be posting exclusive on-line content and asking you to share your home movies with us on the internet. Please visit our Facebook page WPA 2.0, a brand new deal, to see online

content and post your favorite links to related materials. This series is curated by Peter Kuttner and Gordon Quinn. Kartemquin is celebrating 45 years of community based film making this year and we are honored to be working with them on this series. This details of this series will be posted on our web-site (dates, times and venues).





portoluz

building sanctuaries for progressive culture

Please note: additional programs will be rolled out throughout 2011 and 2012. Check the Facebook page WPA 2.0, a brand new deal and our website: www.portoluz.org

The members of the portoluz program committee are: Aasia Mohammad Castañeda, Gina Gamboa, Lorraine Chavez-Pedersen, Jaime Garza, Beatriz Badikian, Peter Kuttner, Jerry Harris, Jacklyn Rodriguez, Marguerite Horberg, Ayana Contreras, Uche Omoniyi, Carmen Aguilar and Kathryn Forestal.

Additional curatorial and program support was provided by: Bucky Halker, Joan Gray, Mark Rogovin, Jamie O'Reilly, Margaret Rung/ The Center for New Deal Studies @ Roosevelt

University, Heather Becker, The Center for New Priorities, The new New Deal Coalition, Larry Spivack and the Illinois Labor History Society, Salsedo Press, Kartemquin Films, The Neighborhood Writing Alliance, Sue Eleuterio, Ginger Farley, Larry Zgoda, La Bagatae, David Moberg & Jo Patton, Dennis LaGory, The Honey Co-op, Preservation Chicago, The LillStreet Art Center, The South Side Community Arts Center, Susan Klonsky, Timuel Black, Thom Lucas / Hummingbird Press, Calles y Sueños, Gallery Colibri, Jane Addams Hull House Center Museum, The Heartland Café, Cristina Obregon/Calles y Sueños, The Du Sable Museum of African American History, The Ten Cat & others.

Most of the presenters & venues donat-

ed their time and services to this project and we are deeply grateful for their spirit of collaboration and community service.

Partners, Collaborators & Co-Sponsors

Committee for New Priorities, a committee of Chicago Jobs with Justice The Center for New Deal Studies at Roosevelt University The Illinois Labor History Society



portoluz also has created a Facebook page for WPA 2.0, a Brand New Deal . You are invited to post related content, sign up for events and join our list –we need you to help put the 2.0 into the 2.0!

About portoluz
portoluz – meaning “harbor of light” – is a Chicago-based non-profit organization currently under development as a cultural center, restaurant, artist’s residence, think-tank, and community gardens. portoluz was formed to provide sustainable environments for innovative artistic exploration, community development, and a wide range of cultural discourse.

The mission of portoluz is to expose audiences to a wide range of cultural expression, to encourage respect for our diversity and promote greater understanding of differing artistic traditions and perspectives.

In 2006, upon the demise of the popular cultural center HotHouse, the founder and former owner of HotHouse recognized an opportunity to expand upon the original business model and exponentially increase the impact of its achievements. Partisan Arts International (now named, portoluz) was formed to capture these opportunities. portoluz was incorporated by a majority of former HotHouse board members and stakeholders, and other successful Chicago-based practitioners in the fields of arts, technology, and so-

cial enterprise who convened in 2007. The vision for portoluz attenuates the former HotHouse model by seeking to build an entirely new paradigm for community-based culture. The portoluz business prototype is centered on values and concepts of sustainability, the reclamation of urban space for progressive community-based culture, and the need to address persistent social questions with economic development and inclusive practices. These notions of sustainability being intrinsically related to one another – business, community, and environment – drive the core values of portoluz and form the ecology of its operations.

In the interim, while developing a permanent site for its programs, portoluz partners with a range of individual artists, grassroots social justice activist organizations, academics, and lay volunteers to produce high caliber events to diverse populations in the Chicago metropolitan region.

The members of portoluz are: Bruce Robbins, Ivan Handler, Heather Shafer, Regina Sant’anna, Jennifer Moran, Laurie Cohen, Rodrigo del Canto, Kavitha Maradadu, Don Meckley, Angela Spin-

azze, Susan Gooding, Lorraine Chavez, Dennis La Gory, Hannah Swart, Barbara Engel, Beatriz Badikian, Aasia Muhammad, Gina Gamboa, Jerry Harris, Uche Omoniyi, Ayana Contreras, Amina Dickerson, Holly Hutto, Peter Kuttner, Eve Ewing, Rushia Butler, Neil Tesser, Barbara Koenen, Roger Klich, Nancy Myers, Jaime Garza, Carmen Aguilar, Kathryn Forestal, Sheldon Baskin, Jacklyn Rodriguez & Marguerite Horberg

To get involved, write us at www.portoluz@gmail.com

SUPPORTERS

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Please note: throughout this pamphlet you will find events where we request you pre-register, RSVP or where details were to be announced at a later date. Updates and registration will be posted on our web-site as available. Questions? portoluz@gmail.com

Cover artwork

Morris Topchevsky, Unemployed, 1934, Oil on canvas. Morris Topchevsky was born in Bialystock, Poland. His father immigrated to the United States in 1910, and the rest of the family followed later. Four of the Topchevsky children perished in the Bialystock pogroms of 1905. Topchevsky studied art at the Hull House and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Topchevsky was the most politically radical artist of those who contributed to *A Gift to Biro-Bidjan*. In the book *Art of Today: Chicago, 1933* (written by J.Z. Jacobson and published by L.M. Stein), he boldly revealed his revolutionary ideas: At the present time of class struggle, danger of war and mass starvation, the artist cannot isolate himself from the problems of the world, and the most valuable contribution to society will come from the artists who are social revolutionists".

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