

Intersection IV: Re/Generations

Conference Schedule

Thursday, April 6, 2006

12 Noon – 5:00 PM

Registration Table Open – Fine Arts Center Atrium

7:00–10:00PM

Youth of Color and Allies Networking Party – Fine Arts Center Atrium

Join Youth Leadership in the Arts (YLA) and youth from around the valley for an evening of food, music, and making connections. Sign up for the Open Mic, or just enjoy the poetry! This is an event that happens every month to bring together youth of color and allies to identify issues we face in our communities and find solutions. Hosted by Youth Leadership in the Arts & Project 2050.

Music by DJ Rafe & Open Mic
Featuring Luis Rodriguez to bless the mic!
Video documentation by Video Vanguard

7:00 PM

Optional Event:

Augusta Savage Gallery presents:
An evening of spoken word with poet/performer Lenelle Moise

Lenelle Moise creates personal/political texts about the spirits in sexuality, masculinities, being bicultural, and the intersection of race, class, gender, and resistance.

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Friday, April 7, 2006 **YOUTH CONVERGENCE : *pre-registration required***

Pre-registration is required for these exciting events where youth, allies and mentors will come together to build connections and explore the intersection of arts, education, and activism. This convergence will include panel discussions, workshops, performances and a keynote address by Luis Rodriguez.

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Registration Table Open – Fine Arts Center Atrium

9:00–10:00 AM

Continental Breakfast and Registration – Fine Arts Center Atrium

10:00 AM

Opening – Cape Cod Lounge

Introduction and warm-ups led by *Project 2050*.

Luis Rodriguez will deliver the Youth Convergence keynote address, with local artists Thea Som and Felix Vazquez.

11:15

Snack Break – Cape Cod Lounge

11:30-1:00 PM

Morning Workshops – Campus Center

Help Increase the Peace (HIP): Anti-recruitment Workshop

Campus Center Room 917

An interactive, participatory workshop that will help unearth some of the myths recruiters tell young people. In addition, strategize about the many ways that we can all be counter-recruiters in our schools and communities.

Global Action Project: Media Literacy Workshop

Campus Center Room 804-08

PS2 Wants You: Military Training and Recruitment in the Digital Age. With the United States currently involved in numerous military conflicts around the world, recruitment of young people into the armed forces is becoming increasingly aggressive. This interactive media literacy workshop examines the role of young people in the rapidly growing military-entertainment complex.

Blackout Arts Collective: Prison Industrial Complex 101: A Hip Hop Education Workshop

Campus Center Room 904-08

This workshop will utilize Hip Hop, spoken word, and popular theatre techniques to explore the multiple ways in which the PIC impacts our daily lives. The workshop will culminate in the creation of a collaborative artistic presentation addressing the need for alternatives to this system that is devastating communities of color across the U.S. and beyond.

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Luis Rodriguez – Expression and Empowerment in Troubled Times

Campus Center, Reading Room

This workshop will help to bring out the voices, stories, and sentiments of participants. The idea is to see the power of words, images, and story in everything you do. This goes beyond just “good writing” but how you can assess your surroundings, where you’re at, and your own feelings and ideas.

1:00-2:30

LUNCH – Cape Cod Lounge

World Café: Idea Swap & Networking, facilitated by *Project 2050*

Showcase: *News to Me*, HartBeat Ensemble

This play deals with the contradictions of the No Child Left Behind Act. Through combined styles of Hip Hop Theater and Musical Theater, *News To Me* focuses on a diverse group of young people (16-23 years old), who are given the chance to create their own TV news program.

2:30-4:003

Afternoon Sessions – Campus Center

Arts in Education

Campus Center 162-75

Creatively Confronting Systemic Racism. Exploring racial identity and systematic oppression through the arts. We acknowledge racism — now, what can we do to change it? What action can we take in our schools?

Panelists: Alice Lovelace (Poet, Project South), Steven Sapp (UniverCity Theater Network), Saniyah Uqdah (Youth Leadership in the Arts), Nia Arana (Project 2050, Youth Leadership in the Arts)

Moderator: Mildred Ruiz (UniverCity Theater Network)

Youth Leadership in Organizations & Programs

Campus Center 163

How do we foster youth leadership? Best practices, structures and challenges.

Panelists: Raul Matta (AFSC/Help Increase the Peace), Mark Tilsen (Lakota Action Network), Meilani Clay (YouthSpeaks, SF), Brettney Young & Mwende Kalondu Katwiwa (Video Vanguard)

Youth-led Roundtable Dialogue on Multiracial Identities

Campus Center 174-76

This youth-led dialogue will explore multiracial identities, multiculturalism, and how media affects the creation of identity. What are your experiences? How do youth enter and lead the conversation?

With: Ben Hart & Amira Schroeder (Project 2050), Briana Figarella & Noalanii Karakashian (Youth Leadership in the Arts)

Facilitator: Isabelle Darling (Coordinator for Multicultural Affairs, Mt. Holyoke College)

4:15-5:15 PM

Creative Closings

Campus Center, Reading Room

Youth Reflections facilitated by Isabelle Darling

Collective Movement facilitated by Teen Exchange of Liz Lerman Dance Exchange

Sound Circles facilitated by Heather A. Lord & Irene “I-SHEA” Shaikly (New WORLD Theater)

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Friday, April 7, 2006 **FULL CONFERENCE OPENING!**

3:00–5:00 PM

Artist Workshop: Rituals of Vigilance: A Dance-Theater Workshop

Fine Arts Center Room 204 (Department of Theater)

With Dora Arreola of Mujeres en Ritual Danza-Teatro

This workshop will explore the topics of “borders,” “security,” and “the other” through movement improvisation based in pre-structured rituals of vigilance. Exercises will include spatial orientation, rhythm, and movement exchange leading to real human connection.

5:30–7:30 PM

Opening Dinner and Keynote – Student Union Ballroom

Our full conference opening will include music, dinner, a welcome by Dr. Willie Hill, Director of the Fine Arts Center, and opening remarks by Andrea Assaf, New WORLD Theater Artistic Director. Performances by Magdalena Gómez, Luci Murphy and Sara Littlecrow Russell.

Curtis Muhammad will deliver the opening keynote address.

8:00 PM

**Project 2050 Performance: On The Frontlines: Sex, War and Lies
Bowker Auditorium**

This year *Project 2050* explores the ways youth experience themselves “on the front lines” of a number of contemporary struggles. What information do we get from the media and how reliable is it? From military recruitment of young people of color in public schools to homophobia and sexual violence, youth respond to the “war zones” they encounter at home and abroad.

10:00 PM

Late Night Event

Featuring by Gokh-bi System

Relax and mingle after our first full conference day with music by Gokh-Bi System, Hip Hop ambassadors from Senegal who bring modern-day griot music that blends rap, funk, soul and traditional music styles. There will be a cash bar at this event.

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Saturday, April 8, 2006

6:30-8:00 AM

Interfaith Workshop: The Art of Weaving Faiths

Campus Center Room 165-69

The Art of Weaving Faiths is an interfaith practice and spiritual activism workshop facilitated by Nobuko Miyamoto and Kamau Ayubbi.

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Registration Table Open – Fine Arts Center Atrium

8:00–9:00 AM

Continental Breakfast and Registration – Fine Arts Center Atrium

9:00–11:30 AM

All-Conference Plenary: Bridging the Centuries of Art & Activism – Campus Center Auditorium

The opening plenary will include interactive introductions; an intergenerational panel of leaders in the arts, education and activism; breakouts and full group dialogue. Panelists: Alice Lovelace (Poet, Project South), John O’Neal (Junebug Productions, Inc.), and Raul R. Salinas (Poet, Organizer), Thenmozhi Soundarajan (Third World Majority), Ise Lyfe (YouthSpeaks, SF), Jacqueline Johnson (AFSC/Help Increase the Peace). Moderator: Rha Goddess (Divine Dime Entertainment, Ltd.).

Be sure to pick up a mid-morning snack on your way to the morning sessions!

11:45 AM—1:45 PM

Concurrent Sessions:

Art & Activism: Intergenerational Conversation Continued.

Campus Center, Room 163

Continuing the dialogue of the morning plenary, veteran practitioners and leaders of the next generation exchange strategies and visions, addressing the crucial question: What do we need to do differently to increase the impact of our work and truly affect change in the 21st century?

Panelists: Nobuko Miyamoto (Great Leap), Luci Murphy (singer, organizer), Luis Rodriguez (author, organizer), Kevin Ramirez (AWOL), Thea Som (Youth Leadership in the Arts), Mark Tilsen (Lakota Action Network).

Moderator: Javiera Benavente (Solidago Foundation)

Multiculturalism in the 21st Century.

Campus Center, Room 165-69

Practitioners and scholars will reflect on the multiculturalism debates of the late 20th century, and examine their relevance now. Presenters will contextualize their work and investigate the language of multiculturalism and the contemporary relevance of the term, in relation to globalization and shifting demographics in the U.S.

Panelists: Ananya Chatterjea (Ananya Dance Theatre), Sarwat Rumi & marian yalini thambayagam (Mango Tribe), and Roberto Sifuentes (Director, Trinity/La MaMa Performing Arts Program).

Moderator: Cathy Schlund-Vials (Five College Mendenhall Fellow – Smith College)

Leadership Transition Case Studies

Campus Center, Reading Room

Jump-Start Performance Company and Cornerstone Theater will be featured in this conversation about the generational shifts in leadership that are occurring in arts and activist organizations. What can we learn from organizations that have recently survived leadership transitions? What new structures are they using? How does leadership change affect multi-racial or multicultural organizations, or those led by people of color, specifically? How can we build impact and sustainability through transitional times?

Panelists: S.T. Shimi (Jump-Start Performance Co.) and Shay Wafer & Laurie Woolery

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(Cornerstone Theater Company).
Moderator: Olga Garay (Consultant)

Artist Workshop – Urban Voice: Unorthodox Chants

Fine Arts Center, Room 204 (Department of Theater)
With Akim Funk Buddha and Myla Flores of Dha Fuzion
Akim Funk Buddha, internationally known performance artist & MC. An experience in throat singing, human beat box, mouth percussion & vocal sound.

2:00 PM—4:00 PM

Lunch at the 28th Annual UMass Native American Pow Wow, in collaboration with the Dr. Josephine White Eagle Cultural Center
Curry Hicks Cage

Performance: Indigenous Artists Showcase

A dynamic gathering of indigenous artists from around the world. Featured performers include FOMMA (Fortaleza de la Mujer Maya), a Mayan theater company originally founded in 1994 as a center to help displaced Indian women and children in San Cristóbal, Mexico; Kinding Sindaw, a New York City-based troupe that performs indigenous music and dance from the Philippines presenting excerpts of *Glimpses of Mindanao*; and Muriel Miguel of Spiderwoman Theater, presenting excerpts from *Red Mother*, a new theater piece.

4:15–6:15 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Asian American Women Playwrights Archive

W.E.B. DuBois Library, Learning Commons
Roberta Uno, New WORLD Theater's founding artistic director and founder of the AAWP archive, and Lucy Mae San Pablo Burns, former New WORLD Theater Literary Manager and archivist, will discuss the impetus to their undertaking and the impact on theater practice and scholarship. This session will also include readings by playwright/performers Brenda Wong Aoki, Bina Shariff, and Young Jean Lee, whose plays are housed in the collection.
Moderator: Priscilla Page (New WORLD Theater; UMass Department of Theater)

Future Aesthetics: Diversity within Hip-Hop.

Fine Arts Center, Upper Rand Lobby

A close look at Future Aesthetics and the range of explorations, innovations and relationships to Hip Hop that artists embrace.
Panelists: Baba Israel (Open Thought Music) and Steve Ben Israel (Artist/Activist), Celena Glenn (Artist/Activist), Mildred Ruiz and Steven Sapp (UniverCity Theater Network), and Kay Barrett and Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai (Mango Tribe).
Moderator: Soyica Diggs

Vigilance at the Borders

Herter Hall, Room 231
Mexican and Chicano/a Artists respond to the increased pressures on immigration and the U.S.-Mexico border, through varied aesthetics and approaches. Featured artists include Dora Arreola (Mujeres en Ritual Danza-Teatro) and Elvira and Hortencia Colorado (of Coatlicue Theatre Company).
Moderator: Mari Paredes (UMass Communications Department)

Multiracial Identities: Shifting Demographics, Shifting the Conversation.

Fine Arts Center, Upper Rand Lobby

A roundtable discussion, rooted in artistic experience: Robert Karimi performs an excerpt of *Self (the remix)*.
Panelists: Robert Karimi, Kamau Ayubbi (Great Leap), Ben Hart & Amira Schroeder (Project 2050).

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Artist Workshop: Tracing Our Bodies' Power

Fine Arts Center, Room 204 (Department of Theater)
with Ananya Chatterjea of Ananya Dance Theatre

Members of Ananya Dance Theatre will work with participants in a movement-based workshop to examine the ideologies that reside in our dancing bodies, forms, and genres, and work together towards understanding how dance can be an active shaper in the movement towards social change. What constitutes "authenticity" within forms marked as "classical" or "traditional"? What happens if the "look" of the form shifts as different kinds of bodies embody these forms? How can dance become a shared medium between different communities even as we value cultural specificity and particular aesthetics? The workshop will seek to work through these and other questions as we move through a session based on deconstructions of the Odissi dance form, Chhau, and yoga. Please come dressed to move. We will work barefoot, but bring socks to keep warm.

6:15–8:00 PM

Dinner (on your own)

7:00–8:00 PM

Book Sale

Bowker Auditorium Lobby

&

9:30–10:30 PM

Food For Thought Books will have books for sale in the lobby of Bowker Auditorium one hour before and one hour after the evening performance. Their inventory regularly includes many of the books published by artists, participants and speakers featured at Intersection IV.

Food for Thought Books is a non-profit, workers' collective bookstore located in downtown Amherst. Owned and operated by its workers, Food for Thought specializes in the following areas: Progressive, Multicultural & Radical Politics, Queer Studies, Women's Studies, multicultural and progressive childrens' books, and more.

8:00 PM

Performance: Junebug Productions' *Trying to Find My Way Back Home*

Bowker Auditorium

"Wherever and whenever oppressed people have taken stock of their situations and begun to consider what to do about it, Junebug or somebody like him may be found nearby...."

We are pleased to present the premiere of *Trying to Find My Way Back Home: Junebug Jabbo Jones, the Younger*, featuring William O'Neal. Junebug, a character originated by John O'Neal more than thirty years ago, is a folk hero, an African storyteller, a keeper of dreams, and an oral historian who brings to life vibrant stories of struggle and celebration.

Using storytelling, rap, song, and spoken word, Junebug Jabbo Jones, the Younger challenges contemporary audiences to recognize the importance of our collective past struggles on our current conditions and experiences.

10:00 PM – 12:30 AM

Late Night Showcase & Open Mic

Campus Center, Amherst Room
with host Celena Glenn and DJ Thonsey

Our second late night event is an Open Mic, so sign up early! Celena Glenn, a ballet-toed bulldozer who shovels blankets off the ice-covered lakes of the heart's malfunctions, will be our host for the evening. DJ Thonsey joins the party!

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Sunday, April 9, 2006

6:30-8:00 AM

Interfaith Workshop: The Art of Weaving Faiths

Campus Center Room 165-69

The Art of Weaving Faiths is an interfaith practice & workshop on spiritual activism with Nobuko Miyamoto and Kamau Ayubbi.

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Registration Table Open – Fine Arts Center Atrium

9:00–10:00 AM

Continental Breakfast and Registration – Fine Arts Center Atrium

10–12:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions:

Language of Multiculturalism

Fine Arts Center, Concert Hall Lobby

Drawing from the experience of the conference, this conversation will focus on identifying new directions and definitions to shape the discourse of multiculturalism. This session is designed as a working group whose participants will present their ideas to the larger group during the Conference Closing.

Facilitator: Cathy Schlund-Vials (Five College Mendenhall Fellow – Smith College)

Re/Generating a National Movement

Fine Arts Center, Upper Rand Lobby

Building on the conversations from Saturday's arts and activism sessions, Alice Lovelace will facilitate a conversation that focuses on "Next Steps" for artists, activists, and educators. This session is designed as a working group whose participants will present their ideas to the larger group during the Conference Closing.

Indigenous Artists Roundtable

Fine Arts Center, Curtain Theater

An enlivening discussion with artists from the Indigenous Artists Showcase.

Featuring: FOMMA, Potri Ranka Manis of Kinding Sindaw, Muriel Miguel of Spiderwoman Theater, and Sara Littlecrow Russell

Facilitator: Marta Carlson (Mt. Holyoke College)

In/Visibilities: Creative and Political Interventions

Bowker Auditorium Stage (advance sign-up required)

This session will feature a staged reading of Palestinian author Adania Shibli's new play, *The Error*, directed by John Fiscella, performed by local students and community members. This session will also feature a presentation of the Visible Collective's *Disappeared in America Project*, followed by discussion.

Panelists: Adania Shibli (Author/Playwright), AiMara Lin (Visible Collective), John Fiscella (Theater Director).

Moderator: Sut Jhally (Media Education Foundation; University of Massachusetts).

Artist Workshop: The Breakdown

Fine Arts Center, Room 204 (Department of Theater)

With Kwikstep of Full Circle Productions

The Breakdown is an interactive, open level dance class that fuses Hip Hop fundamentals with oral history. Video will be screened to give insight on the changing trends and on the competitive elements of the four original styles of Hip Hop dance: breakin', poppin', lockin', and up-rockin'.

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12–1:30 PM

Brown Bag Lunch and Roundtable Conversations

Fine Arts Center Atrium

Leadership Transition: New Models, New Ideas.

Olga Garay will facilitate a follow-up conversation to Saturday’s panel. Bring your food and join the discussion!

During this lunch hour, we encourage you to continue the conversations from the concurrent sessions or start a discussion on a topic of your choosing— the working groups may also continue at this time. There will be round tables and supplies on hand to post your topic.

1:30–3:00 PM

Closing Keynote

Mahar Auditorium

Suheir Hammad will deliver the closing keynote address. This event is open to the public and presented in collaboration with the UMass Distinguished Visitor’s Program.

3:15–5:00 PM

Conference Closings

Mahar Auditorium

In addition to closing remarks and collective reflections, we will hear from the working groups on the Language of Multiculturalism and Re/Generating a National Movement, as well as any other mini-manifestoes that may have emerged over the weekend.

5:00–7:00 PM

Dinner (on your own)

7:00–9:00 PM

Performance: Future Aesthetics Showcase Bowker Auditorium

Continuity and MOVEment: A Future Aesthetics Showcase

Our closing performance will feature an eclectic mix of politically charged artists:

Baba Israel and Steve Ben Israel offer *Continuity: A Father and Son Journey from Theater to Hip Hop*. In this piece, we witness two connected lives and their movement from the family room to the stage, from the Beat poets to Beatboxing, from riffs to rhymes, from hipsters to Hip Hop, through counter culture and beyond.

Mango Tribe brings us “Wedding” by Marian Yalini Thambayagam, “Everyday Suffering” by Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai, “Infestation” by Mango Tribe Chicago, “Rebel Lullaby” by Sarwat Rumi, and “Who’s Got Us?” by Anida Esguerra. Mango Tribe weaves spoken word, music, theater, and movement together in telling the stories of struggle, survival, and the celebration of Asian Pacific Islander American women.

olive Dance Theatre and Paula Larke present an excerpt from *Brotherly Love*, their latest work, which investigates the social and political turmoil in Philadelphia surrounding the MOVE organization, 1975-85. The use of dance, music, video, and spoken word invites us to relate to and respect the struggle for social justice that continues today.

9:00-11:00 PM

Closing Party with DJ Thonsey

Campus Center, Amherst Room

Closing party with DJ Thonsey, one of the Pioneer Valley’s hottest DJs in the disco and lounge scenes. Enjoy a drink at our no-host bar as we celebrate the success of the weekend.

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