

MINUTES

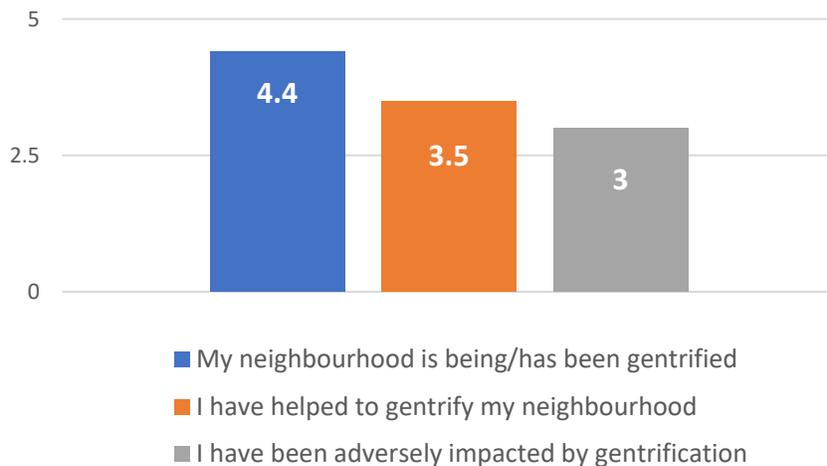
Groundstory Toronto Advisory Convening 1.1

Dancemakers Centre for Creation, Distillery District, Toronto

May 3, 2018

Appendix 1: Mapping the Room (Participant Survey)

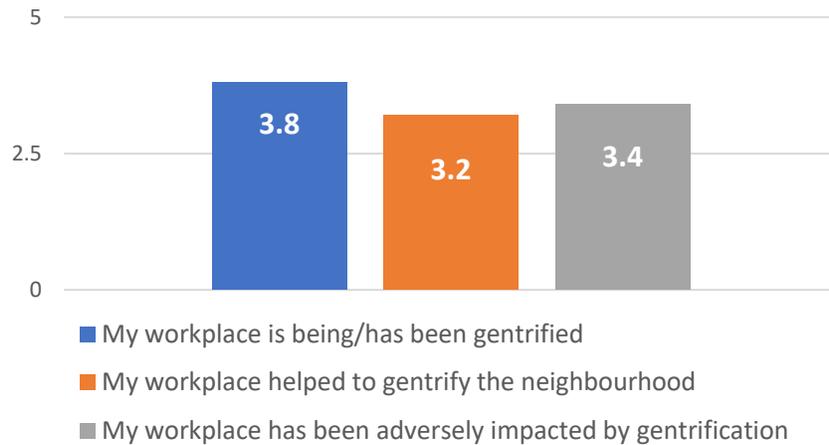
Q1. What is your experience with gentrification at home? 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree



Comments:

- I have seen Mirvish Village be demolished with no replacement of [illegible].
- Hard to answer because I have moved on average 1x/year for the past 11 years; the past 5.5 years in Toronto. Only the past 2 years would I say I have been satisfied with my space. One thing that has changed in that time: I have gone from an assumption of becoming a home-owner to not.
- I only moved to Toronto a year ago, but I see how I participate in the local economy that made it what it is today. As a theatre artist, I see lack of space available for artists to work.
- The question whether I have helped to gentrify my neighbourhood is very complicated. We (This Ain't the Rosedale Library) always had a mandate to promote the arts and letters. But did we actually do landlords' and developers' dirty work?

Q2. What is your experience with gentrification at work? 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree



Comments:

- At 918 Bathurst, as a non-profit centre for the arts, I would like to believe we have helped give a space to artists in the area, outside of the major institutions. That said, the former Buddhist community no longer worships in the area.
- My 'office' was recently (3 years ago) kicked out of rental space because landlord (at 55 Sudbury) had to sell the building after increase in property taxes due to density and gentrification of the area. Our performances spaces are costly (\$\$\$) and not actually suitable but we have to make it work.
- The spaces to work doesn't exist at a fiscal level for an emerging artist.

Q3. Describe your desired role(s) in the community:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts manager and artist • Arts technology • Communications and media • Address determinants of health • Knowledge leader / public health worker • Empathetic member of a community of care • Arts space builder • Cultural and community leader • Parent (desired role and tied to "appropriate space") • Planner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fighter • Volunteer • Artist • Teacher • Supporter of those with a need that is not being met • Bookseller and cultural literacy agent • Fighter against cultural amnesia • Cross pollinator: Arts of different media meeting and collaborating re: silos |
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Q4. Why is it important for you to be here today?

- To learn, develop my own ideas of how the arts can contribute to healthy neighbourhoods, what challenges are for artists to have work seen
- Professional: Housing and work environment, income, etc. These are all determinants of health which impact artists; my work is in artists' health and I want to see population-level, equity-oriented initiatives and impact. Personal: I am part of a collective of low-income residents in the Junction dealing with the fall-outs of gentrification
- To learn about the potential to aid in reducing gentrification. This is a huge issue and will require sustained planning and collaboration.
- I moved to Canada a year ago and am trying to make my way as an artist in Toronto and wanting to collaborate with other artists. I want to know if I can participate in any initiative that helps my colleagues and community members find affordable housing and workplaces so that their ability to work and participate in a creative practice is possible.
- I have major questions about: a) What am I left with re: ability to house myself, feed myself - will my cultural contributions be valued in the long run? b) Will my children be able to live here and practice their art (and science)?

Q5. What do you hope to come away with by the end of today?

- Ideas to help engage artists and provide affordable, accessible spaces for art making.
- Concrete idea of what happen next with *Groundstory* and my role. Understanding *Groundstory's* approach to gentrification interventions and how to conceptualize gentrification and artists' labour and lives
- I hope to broaden my perspective and have some recommendations for my supervisors. This will help develop and shape our workshops at the City.
- I want to find out if there is a way for me to help increase the access to housing and workplaces for artists in the local community.

Q6. Empathy Map – See Appendix 4

Q7. Rainbow Map – See Appendix 5

Q8-12. No notes

Q13. If possible, please share a testimonial or statement of support that can be used to demonstrate the importance of *Groundstory* to funders and other stakeholders.

- We need this so that younger artists don't leave the city and the cultural diversity of voices in art and media become homogenized and is dominated by one social/economic group. The art and culture will suffer.

Q14. No notes