

A BLADE OF GRASS ASSEMBLY SPRING 2019 HOST SITES

ABOUT LOISAIDA CENTER

Loisaida, Inc. began as a grassroots movement led by Puerto Rican activists and Hispanic residents to combat the effects of rampant violence, drugs, gangs, and poverty facing neighborhood children, youth and families in the Lower East Side. Over thirty years later, Loisaida, Inc. stands firm on its original mission. The organization offers employment and training opportunities to combat economic and social disenfranchisement of poor and lower income residents and creates comprehensive youth development initiatives. Loisaida, Inc. also offers programming that meets the demands of the times and the neighborhood's changing demographic, in addition to its neighborhood revitalization activities that positively highlight the rich culture, heritage, and contributions of the Puerto Rican and Latin American community in this city.

FACILITATORS

Andrea Gordillo is a Peruvian-American filmmaker, producer, writer, and activist. She has contributed research on race and inequality to the Institute for Policy Studies, the Walter Stafford Project at NYU, and the Loisaida Center. She holds a BA in International Relations and is currently finishing her masters in Media and Cultural Studies at NYU, focusing on the Lower East Side's cultural history and its role in contemporary place-making and urban planning.

Alva Mooses is an artist based in New York and is part of LAZO, a collaborative project founded with Claudia Cortinez. LAZO is an online platform that functions as a resource and archive for contemporary artists of Latin American and Caribbean descent and creates dialogue among the artists to reflect on histories connected to the Americas.

Antonio Serna is a Mexican-American artist, activist, and independent researcher. His project *Documents of Resistance* is an art/research/educational project that presents an intersectional view of art history through the art and activism of people of color.

Aresh Javadi is the Artistic Director of More Gardens!, a coalition of community gardeners, local residents, and environmental and social justice activists. As a resident at The Loisaida Center, Javadi and More Gardens! researched, archived, and exhibited the core values of the coalition and their collaboration with Puerto Rican Community Gardeners throughout the past twenty years.

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Daniela Fabrizi is one of the artists who led the Garbagia Projects, a summer program at The Loisaida Center. The program's focus was to highlight and revitalize the migrant experience, the neighborhood's historical inventiveness, and ecological resilience. Over the course of a few weeks, local residents developed textile art skills which included sewing and costume making, sculptural and conceptual art, and performance production.

Jeca Rodríguez-Colón is a Puerto Rican multi-disciplinary artist philosopher with a dance and choreography background. On January 8th, 2015, her theater collective successfully put on their dance-theater piece, titled "(m)Others." This piece reflected on the consequences of colonialism and country invasion in direct correlation to the transgressions enacted upon the feminine body. A few of the consequences of invasion explored in this piece were educational disparity, collective unspoken trauma of mothers, alcoholism, and violence.

See more about the **Spring 2019 Assembly** [here](#)