This Year’s Interactive Production of Boxes and Walls Needs Your Help!

Boxes and Walls is a national production performed on several college and university campuses. For this year, we have chosen to focus on an interactive, integrative experience that seeks to illuminate themes of marginalization, oppression, discrimination and misconception based on personal realities. Topics covered have included class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, race, ethnicity, nationality and religious affiliation, just to name a few.

Boxes and Walls is a new beginning for fostering more interactive relationships between faculty, staff, students and administration on a non-academic level. As a leader of this academic community, you will be a resource to students. Supporting their understanding of profoundly powerful messages, you have the opportunity to assist them through an eye-opening experience.

The dates of this year’s performance will be January 27 and 28. Please contact andersoz@carleton.edu for more information.
Dear Faculty, Staff and Administration,

The production of Boxes and Walls is returning to campus winter term and we need your help.

What is Boxes and Walls?  Boxes and Walls is a national production performed on several college and university campuses. For this year, we have chosen to focus on an interactive, integrative experience that seeks to illuminate themes of marginalization, oppression, discrimination and misconception based on personal realities. Topics covered in the past have included class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, race, ethnicity, nationality and religious affiliation, just to name a few.

What does this “experience” involve? Tourists, or observers of the performance, are led through an emotional and interactive set of rooms, in which they will encounter sights and situations that challenge their societal conceptions. We believe that the Carleton experience should be dedicated to personal growth; a large part of this means ‘knocking over the chair’ and stepping outside one’s comfort zone. This year, Boxes and Walls seeks to provide a common ground for all involved, opening the campus to a dialogue that embraces questions, challenges and change – both personal and societal.

How can you be of assistance to Boxes and Walls? Boxes and Walls wishes to bring together students, staff, administration and faculty. We are asking staff, administration and faculty to provide facilitation for the event. The role of a facilitator is to walk Boxes and Walls tourists through the emotional response immediately following this moving experience. While the emotions evoked and questions provoked will not have to end with the facilitator, we find it important to guide tourists in their individual understandings of the Boxes and Walls experience.

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Two major time commitments will be required of facilitators. The first will be a viewing of the entire production, taking place third week winter term. This will provide all involved the background with which to discuss and interpret the simulations. The final production will take place winter term fourth weekend (January 27 and 28). A minimum of 2 hours will be required of you on this weekend, although a longer commitment is preferable. You will be fed.

By asking you to make this commitment so early in advance, we hope to avoid any scheduling conflicts. A commitment like this is a safe and noble one to make. If you are interested in facilitating discussion for Boxes and Walls, or have any questions about the production, please contact me by Wednesday, October 25 at andersoz@carleton.edu.

Thank you,

Zoë Anderson
Educational Associate in Art