

**A NARRATIVE OF CULTURAL SPACES
BY AND FOR SELF-ORGANISED
COMMUNITIES**

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SPACE OF URGENCY IS A GLOBAL PLATFORM AND MOVEMENT THAT AIMS TO EMPOWER THE VISIBILITY AND RESILIENCE OF SELF-ORGANISED CULTURAL SPACES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES, BY SHARING STORIES, KNOWLEDGE AND SOLIDARITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

SPACE OF URGENCY CORE TEAM

LIESE KINGMA

A curator, cultural intermediary and project developer in Amsterdam, Vienna and Berlin. She is driven to ignite dialogue for the creation of participatory models in urban change-making processes. Her aim is to spark interaction and collaboration between self-organised socio-cultural actors and local governments.

LUCAS COUNTER

An urban researcher and project developer striving to uncover and reshape conditions in which spaces of self-organisation can be empowered in often conflicting urban environments. The aim is to orientate new approaches in city planning that resonate with the voices of different groups pursuing different values, cultures, rights and spaces within urban life.

ARNO BOUMA

A cultural manager specialising in the support and empowerment of self-organised actors. His goal is to create opportunities for grassroots cultural talent in their personal development and in contributing to larger societal and cultural innovations. Previously pursuing this aim by managing a cultural community centre in Amsterdam, he now uses his practical experience to build bridges between self-organized culture and policy-makers.



INTRODUCTION: LOCAL POCKETS OF RESISTANCE

In times of climate crisis, pandemic, neo-liberal markets and authoritarian governments, we are facing an unpredictable future. Spaces of urgency are local pockets of resistance, offering alternatives against dominant systems of capitalism and patriarchy.

Cultural spaces by and for self-organised communities are at the heart of unique identities and innovations. They are communal tools to be used against inequality while promoting strongholds for democracy. Unfortunately they are disappearing rapidly.

The Space of Urgency platform shares their narratives, to raise public awareness and international solidarity. The aim is to support these "spaces of urgency" and their communities in gaining local recognition and protection.

These stories of the spaces are designed to inspire international change-makers to engage in creating their own identities and alternatives for the dominant systems.

"Once you destroy a community, you can't get it back. Communities grow over years and over time, and that's the thing, you can't replace – time."*
– Cornelius Harris
(Underground Resistance, Detroit)

"There is a battle going on for space in cities. As there's been increasing population and rising real estate prices, it's going to the highest bidder. And so cities are losing social space, expressive space... green space even."*
– Steven Raspa
(Burning Man, San Francisco)

"These places are really incredibly rich, not just economically, but also psychologically, socially, politically, environmentally. We are starting now to see all of these connections across all these different areas of activism and how can these spaces be also homes to all these different lineages of activism, and places for networking, and places to give back hope to the youth."*
– Chiara Baldini
(Boom Festival, Portugal)

*** Space of Urgency teaser
by Jan Beddegenoots
(Cameltown)**



SPACES OF URGENCY ARE UNDER THREAT

WHAT ARE SPACES OF URGENCY?

Spaces of Urgency are cultural spaces by and for self-organised communities.

In the broadest sense, spaces of urgency are community centres, created by and for a community, from a need to connect and mobilise. The spaces can be filled with music, dance, art, film, food, workshops, public debate, protest actions, intimate conversations, social space, workspaces and living spaces. They are called living communities, music venues, cultural centres, squats, artist hubs, social spaces or ecovillages, but are much more than just these descriptions.

SPACES OF URGENCY:

- are created by and for underrepresented communities as a reaction to exclusion and oppression in their societies
- are under consistent political pressure because they fight against social norms such as patriarchy and racism
- have always lacked financial security because they represent non-capitalist systems.

MINA — LISBON, PORTUGAL

mina creates a safe(r) space for marginalised communities, fuelled by trans queer feminist values. As well as organising parties, mina operates as a community with various clusters of action, satellite yet vital to the party – community radio, labels, artistic platforms, workshops, festivals.



Photo: Yu-Liang Liu



AURÓRA — BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Auróra is a social space that opened in 2014 to connect cultural programmes, the work of civil and activist organisations, community building and fun in an open community. It came to life as a reaction to the right-wing government that suppresses minorities and civil initiatives.

Photo: Auróra

MACAO — MILAN, ITALY

Macao is the name of a self-organised centre for the arts in Milan. Macao considers artistic production as a vital process to rethink social changes, develop independent political criticisms and as a space to experiment with innovative governance models and models of production.



Photo: Bianca Sara Scanderebech



BASSIANI — TBILISI, GEORGIA

Bassiani/Horoom was founded as an international political club and social movement. A shared safe space for those oppressed by the dominant cultural systems. The space is an inclusive underground base to unite everyone who has been outcast by mainstream culture and aggressive norms.

Photo: Levan Maisuradze

WHY ARE SPACES OF URGENCY IMPORTANT?

Spaces of Urgency are independent meeting points where underrepresented groups find a safe(r) space from physical and emotional violence, can develop and strengthen their unique cultural identities and create an impact for their broader communities and subsequently on society.

A community is a group of people that identifies with each other. The communities in spaces of urgency are not part of the social norm or dominant systems in their societies. They are restricted and oppressed by ideologies such as patriarchy, racism, xenophobia and alt-right thinking, by authoritarian governments, outdated legislation and markets based on capitalist ideals. Out in society they are under constant threat of physical and emotional violence, which produces the need to have a safe(r) space.

Members of the group create a physical space themselves, by and for their community. Here they can throw off the weight of society and engage in their own forms of expression and connection. Behavioural codes in the space are based on shared values of solidarity, such as mutual empowerment, radical self-expression, participation, democracy, non-racism, non-homophobia and non-violence. When the space and its connected community grow while maintaining their shared values, this leads to immensely liberating and empowering effects on its community. As a result, a unique cultural identity is developed by the community through the use of the space.

The space and its community have a mutually reinforcing effect on each other. The shared values and

unique cultural identity of the space are carried by the community outside the space, building towards an increasing social impact. A strong coalition is formed through the connection that the community feels with each other and with the space. This coalition has the power to influence broader society, to defend the rights of the community and to combat injustices.

Having a physical space for connection and mobilisation is a precondition for self-organised communities to develop and grow. Therefore these spaces are an essential element in creating equal and democratic societies. Not only do they provide a space for underrepresented groups to find a safe haven and to gain recognition, they are also the basis of diversified cultural innovation. In a world that is moving towards monoculture, it is hugely important to nurture the places where cultural diversity is created.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM SPACES OF URGENCY?

As well as the impact they make on their own communities, these spaces represent a broader value for our societies. Their critical thinking and experimental practices can contribute to a just and more inclusive society.

Spaces of Urgency are known to bring forth value-based working structures, independent governance models, sustainable practices, new forms of democracy and non-capitalist economic systems. By doing so they create valuable alternatives for the dominant structures and systems.

New sustainable and democratic ways of living, working and creating are necessary worldwide. These ways are already found in spaces

of urgency, which have evolved unique practices of solidarity and resilience that need to be collected, documented and shared before they vanish.

**SPACES
OF URGENCY
ARE UNDER THREAT**

When the social impact of spaces of urgency increase, this usually comes with a counter movement, materialising in increased pressures from opposing conservative social norms and dominant systems. The spaces come under constant threat of attacks and forced closures. These attacks can come from social groups with patriarchal, xenophobic

or homophobic motives, through raids and legal restrictions from governments, or pressure from capitalist investors. Spaces become entangled in an ongoing battle for their existence, often lacking the resources and support to resist the offensives from their opponents.

Space of Urgency has witnessed these developments over the past few years on an international scale. To answer the call for help from the spaces, the team are creating a centralised platform to share the narratives and spark the support and protection for spaces of urgency worldwide.



Photo: Frei(T)räume

A NARRATIVE OF URGENCY FOR SPACE BY AND FOR THE COMMUNITY

Since 2015, the team behind Space of Urgency has been involved in projects advocating for physical space for self-organised culture. They evolved from owning DIY cultural venues in Amsterdam and Berlin towards taking an intermediary position between cultural and political agents, while simultaneously developing an international network of cultural advocates. Now their projects are brought together under the Space of Urgency platform. The focus is shifting towards the protection of physical spaces for self-organised communities and their broader societal impact, especially in these times of global crisis.

2015 TO 2017: ENTER THE VOID

This was an international knowledge exchange project that aimed to reveal the role of free space for the social, cultural and political participation of young people. Enter the Void laid the basis for an international network of social-cultural activists, political agents and community spaces (EU Erasmus +).

2016 TO PRESENT: FREI(T)RÄUME CONFERENCE (NIGHTS – STADT NACH ACHT)

Co-curated by Bogomir Doring, the conference day facilitates the stage for self-organised initiatives that use music and culture as a lever of change. Frei(T)räume was the first to highlight stories of activists from Sao Paulo, Tbilisi and Palestine – later receiving worldwide attention from large media platforms such as Boiler Room and Resident Advisor.

2018: MODEL SPACE PROJECT

The Model Space project was a large-scale study that aimed to build the groundwork for meeting Berlin's current coalition agreement promise to "develop spaces in the public sphere which can be non-bureaucratically used for non-commercial open air music events and parties." (Senate for Culture & Europe and Musicboard Berlin)



**2019:
DANCE OF URGENCY
EXHIBITION**

The narrative was deepened in 2019 with Bogomir Doringer's Dance of Urgency exhibition in Vienna. Here a new narrative was established showing the connections between how people dance and express themselves during oppressive political conditions.

**2019 TO PRESENT:
FREE SPACE POLICY
AMSTERDAM**

Research and concrete directions for forming a new policy, in which the local government supports and facilitates socio-cultural initiatives in their attainment of free space. The policy direction was recently implemented and Space of Urgency will continue monitoring this process for the Amsterdam municipality. (Bureau Broedplaatsen & Ruimte en Duurzaamheid)

**2020 TO PRESENT:
SPACE OF URGENCY
PLATFORM**

A global platform and movement that aims to increase the visibility and resilience of self-organised cultural spaces and their communities.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND STRUCTURAL SOLUTIONS

SPACE OF URGENCY'S VISION

Space of Urgency envisions a future in which spaces of urgency are protected by international solidarity and their long-term survival can be ensured. The platform's role is to increase this solidarity, to strengthen local communities and to influence political agents.

Spaces need support and the platform increases visibility for them. It tells their stories, connected to positive social results and interwoven in a broader tapestry of the social impact these spaces have. This is the first step towards a broader vision, in which Space of Urgency will help to build policy and philanthropic narratives in order to showcase the benefit of spaces of urgency.

HOW DOES THE SPACE OF URGENCY PLATFORM WORK?

The illustration demonstrates the development of spaces of urgency and the role the Space of Urgency platform aims to play in supporting their resilience and protection.

xenophobia, conservatism, patriarchy,
alt-right ideology, racism



authoritarian government, capitalist
market, outdated legislation

1. OPPRESSION OF A COMMUNITY

A group that does not comply with the dominant social norms and systems is restricted and oppressed by society

safety from physical
and emotional violence



free expression
and connection

2. CREATING A SAFE(R) SPACE

The group creates an own space to be safe from physical and emotional violence, and to express themselves freely

shared values of solidarity
unique cultural identity



growing
social impact

3. GROWING SOCIAL IMPACT

The space grows, together with its community and the values they represent. The social impact increases as does the influence on broader society

increasing pressure from
conservative social norms

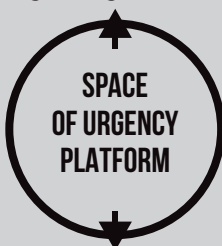


increasing pressure from
dominant systems

4. INCREASING PRESSURE

The growth comes with increasing pressure from opposing conservative social norms and dominant systems, leading to a constant threat of attacks and forced closure

giving a countervoice to opposition
– strengthening from the inside



develop
systemic solutions

5. SPACE OF URGENCY PLATFORM

Space of Urgency aims to help by:

1. Strengthening the space from the inside through knowledge and resources exchange
2. Giving a countervoice to oppression by raising public awareness
3. Develop structural solutions by negotiation with the dominant systems

WHAT DOES SPACE OF URGENCY ACTUALLY DO?

Space of Urgency is developing the narrative of cultural spaces by and for self-organised communities. This is done through a method of framing that aims to shape the public understanding of spaces of urgency. Furthermore, exchange, collaboration and solidarity between spaces is stimulated through communal projects.

MAP OF URGENCY

The stories of spaces of urgency are collected and placed on a world map – the Map of Urgency. This map is found on **www.spaceofurgency.com**. As well as the framed stories, the Map of Urgency will contain audiovisual material, such as short clips from affiliated documentary makers and video journals from the spaces themselves. New stories of spaces of urgency are released regularly. The combined social media networks of involved spaces are used to spread the stories, as well as news and urgencies surrounding space for self-organised communities worldwide.

COMMUNITY CALLS

Space of Urgency hosts biweekly online community calls with a broad range of artists and activists connected to self-organized spaces throughout Europe. Especially during current times of pandemic, with spaces closed and isolated, sharing with likeminded people can offer support and solidarity. Moreover, the calls lead to new collaborations and the birth of communal projects.

ZINE: SIREN

The Space of Urgency zine results out of the community calls. Named 'SIREN', it aims to compile the alarming and capturing stories shared during the calls. The community works together to produce content pieces that facilitate cross-border, cross-scene collaboration and trust-building. SIREN merges community resilience, DIY culture, transgressive and expressive arts alongside radical grassroots politics.

SOUND OF URGENCY

Another project driven by the community calls is the 'Sound of Urgency'. Sound of Urgency connects self-organized spaces from Europe, Eurasia, Middle East and East Africa. It intends to bring the spaces and their communities together in collective sound and music-making. Sounds of currently isolated spaces are captured and brought out of their solitude, into compilations available through online channels. The financial returns are used to provide involved spaces with much needed financial support.

POLITICAL ACTIONS

Space of Urgency organises and supports activist actions, demonstrations and public interventions from the larger community. To launch the Space of Urgency project, a demonstration is organised in Berlin on June 12th. Local and international spaces of urgency will be represented, spreading a shared message calling for the protection of grassroots spaces. The demonstration will be accompanied by public actions in Amsterdam and Tbilisi on the same day.

Photo: Daro Sulakauri (Bassiani)

Photo: Auróra

Photo: Jan Beddegenoodts (mina)



STRATEGIES FOR RESILIENCE AND PROTECTION

The current focus of the Space of Urgency platform is to gather the strategies, practices and actions of cultural spaces by and for self-organised communities. The following section will outline the different strategies to increase the resilience and protection of spaces of urgency as well as the communities and values they stand for.

Space of Urgency collects the strategies and practices in close collaboration with the spaces. Through a process of collecting and merging all the data that has been gathered, they try to understand spaces of urgency on an international level. By joining their narratives, Space of Urgency hopes to uncover a common thread uniting the various spaces, communities and conditions. The aim is to highlight their social significance, gather their practices, strategies and actions for resilience and share this knowledge to give the spaces a voice and to empower other spaces and initiatives.

In this chapter the strategies are categorised in different stands for community building, advocacy and activism, collaboration and alliances, and influencing decision-making processes. The categorisation of strategies and introduction texts are based on the team's previous experiences and data. The accompanying examples show the concrete collected strategies of international spaces of urgency.

STRATEGIES FOR RESILIENCE AND PROTECTION

A. COMMUNITY BUILDING

Spaces of Urgency are cultural spaces by and for self-organised communities, created out of a shared need for safe(r) spaces for connection and mobilisation. The spaces are based on values of solidarity, and these values

are at the basis of organisation and decision-making structures. Strong principles safeguard the goals of the spaces and protect them against external influences. To accomplish this, the values and principles need to be carried by a core community and shared with new members. A committed community that will stand up for the space is essential for its resilience and protection.

HERE ARE SOME ILLUSTRATIONS:

mina – Lisbon, Portugal

“mina has gathered a large core community of people that are embedding the events with their values and attitudes. They hold on strongly to their principles when organising events and communicate these clearly to venue owners. This includes a door policy, managed by a team of selectors mostly composed of queer trans and femme people, no hired security inside the club/venue, allocated guest list for people with financial struggles and an awareness team sensitive to handling situations of substance abuse or harassment. Working mostly with offsite locations, an RSVP system communicating mina’s values ensures that their guests understand and comply with principles such as anti-discrimination or sex-positivity.”

Auróra – Budapest, Hungary

“Auróra was formed out of a strong community sense by those involved in the closed cultural centre Sirály. It is based on input from its volunteers and participative and communal decision-making. The only capital you have to bring in to be involved in the decision-making processes is the time you invest and spend at Auróra. This flat and inclusive organisational structure based on voluntary input, provides a strong cohesion within the group and the motivation to stand behind Aurora and its values together.”

**B.
ADVOCACY
AND ACTIVISM**

The terms “advocacy” and “activism” are often used interchangeably. Activism can be seen as a form of advocacy, where advocacy is generally speaking more diplomatic in its approach compared to activism. Advocacy is a longer road to take and requires the “speaking of different languages” and cross-sectoral collaboration. Activism, on the other hand, is more direct and action-based. It can easily scare off the opposite party, but can also be the only option for breakthroughs when dialogue is not leading to a solution. In many parts of the world where diplomatic dialogues are not possible, activism is the only road to take.

Advocacy means stepping outside of your community and sharing a message and urgency to create visibility for the cause. This can be done through sharing manifestos, other shared discourse, draft press releases, organising public events, films, storytelling, demonstrations and much more. Gaining support from the local environment, community, neighbourhood, media coverage, strengthening relations with intermediaries and decision-makers all helps with gaining attention for the cause and increases the chance of acknowledgement, collaboration and long-term change.

HERE ARE SOME ILLUSTRATIONS:

Auróra – Budapest, Hungary

“Auróra uses different strategies and tactics to protect their space and values from the right-wing tendencies in Hungary. Against the threatening actions of the national and local government, Auróra’s primary strategy was to use the media. Their advantage was having good personal connections to journalists in Hungary as well

as abroad. The story about the raids Auróra was facing made it to national and powerful international media like Al Jazeera and CNN. This helped greatly to raise awareness for their case and to reach people that they could not reach through their own networks.”

Macao — Milan, Italy

“In 2012, Macao started a viral campaign that would lead to the occupation of Torre Galfa, a skyscraper that was abandoned for more than 15 years in the heart of Milan. In a few days, Macao filled the skyscrapers with thousands of citizens ready to give their time, abilities and goods to build a new museum. Self-organised teams of architects, performers, theoreticians, video artists, web developers, communicators, hackers, gardeners, electricians, plumbers, bar-tenders and the staff from the main universities and academies started planning their classes at Torre Galfa. The images of the skyscraper of 109 metres illuminated by blue lights, a true museum of art built by the citizens, circulated widely through the world, making a statement for collective consciousness, born from local communities, from day-to-day struggle and pure political action.”

C. COLLABORATION AND ALLIANCES

Setting up collaborations and building alliances with like-minded groups and organisations helps to develop a better position in defending a specific cause. Collaboration can be made with a broader community of supporters, for example, through petitions, crowdfunding campaigns and fundraising events. Building alliances with other spaces and initiatives creates a united voice, increasing the possibilities to influence public opinion and decision-making processes. By

sharing knowledge and resources, the participants strengthen the resilience of their spaces. Furthermore, alliances with intermediary organisations help to reach a larger audience and to make sure your story is addressed from different angles and in different types of language.

HERE ARE SOME ILLUSTRATIONS:

Bassiani — Tbilisi, Georgia

“Bassiani always knew that troubles would come from the established political systems and government, especially when the movement was becoming bigger and louder. However, they trusted in the power of their community to defend the space in case something happened. On 12 May 2018, the police raided Bassiani while the club was running an event, allegedly on suspicions of drug abuse. Multiple owners and visitors were arrested for subsequently trying to organise a protest action in defence of the club. Notwithstanding the arrests it only took a few minutes for thousands of people to arrive at the space to defend it.”

From the next day onwards, tens of thousands of people engaged in dancing protests in front of the parliament building. The protests continued for days, not only attracting attention from international media, but also strong solidarity from a large group of international musicians and other influential allies. Over the years, Bassiani had gathered an extensive alliance of international supporters that now used their voice to condemn the actions of the Georgian government. Actions and social media campaigns were initiated in Berlin and other European cities, and the slogan “WE DANCE TOGETHER, WE FIGHT TOGETHER” became widely used and recognised. It led to an apology of the responsible minister and Bassiani reopened after several weeks.”

Auróra – Budapest, Hungary

"Auróra and its parent NGO initiated 'Szabad Terek / Open Spaces: Addressing the Shrinking Space for Civil Society' in Hungary. Because of the diminishing space around community spaces and civil initiatives, there is an urgent need for easily accessible Open Spaces for community development. Open Spaces is a community development initiative that relies on principles of solidarity and cooperation. The goal is to strengthen member organisations on a local level to guarantee independence. In addition, Open Spaces will provide an opportunity for further deepening of relationships between community spaces, organisations and individuals, in order to encourage active solidarity and welcoming public and cultural content. While political pressure on civil society is growing and the state and local governments narrow down the possibilities of open, critical and uncontrolled debates, discourses and independent culture, only a few physical spaces remain available for civic activists, organisations and for their audiences. There are three major areas which the coalition will tackle: governmental harassment, self-censorship and isolation."

D. INFLUENCING DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

Decision-makers can vary from the owner of a space to municipal employees to local and national politicians. Gaining recognition from decision-makers can be a difficult and continuous task. Depending on the political situation, it might even be close to impossible. It is usually hard to attract the attention of decision-makers, especially when part of a minority or underrepresented group. That is why joining forces

with peers and soliciting the help of intermediaries like the media is often essential.

When working with local decision-makers, a strategy can be to frame an issue in a way that proposes a clear benefit for them. Understanding and matching demands with the already existing plans and ambitions of the government often helps to get them involved in a specific case. It is also important to offer clear solutions, to decrease the work that is required by government employees.

If there is a clear message carried by a large group, it is often possible to accomplish a form of dialogue with decision-makers. Openings for dialogue can be decision-makers commenting about actions in the media, intermediaries can address the cause, spaces can organise and engage in the public debate with decision-makers, or contact them directly for an appointment. Different political situations, however, will require different approaches. As history is showing again, often protests and actions are the only way to enforce a change.

HERE ARE SOME ILLUSTRATIONS:

Bassiani – Tbilisi, Georgia

"Georgia has a very strong zero tolerance policy, resulting in the third highest number of prisoners in Europe. People are sent to jail for the smallest criminal offences, not seldom related to recreational drug usage. Although the overall situation changed for good slightly after the strong protests, since which the police avoids to maintain the zero-tolerance policy probably not to ignite public anger again.

On the one hand, Bassiani joined forces with White Noise Movement, a movement aiming to liberate Georgia's inhumane drug policy, to work actively in making cases in the

Constitutional Court for people who are imprisoned for suspected drug usage. By winning these cases, all similar cases are affected too, which has led to the release of thousands of people from prison.

On the other hand, the same team has been working on the highest level with politicians and the government on liberating the extremely strict drug policies. They initiated a new law in parliament and wrote most of the law themselves. Two weeks before the law was publicly discussed in parliament, Bassiani got raided."

Mietshäuser Syndikat, Germany

Another way to create independence from external decision-making processes is by being the owner of your space. At first sight the amount of money needed to pay for buying a property seems unrealistically high, but there are ways to raise the sum within a community. As well as gaining independence, costs for the space are much lower in the longer term, and the space can be protected from being sold for commercial purposes.

"The German Mietshäuser Syndikat (Tenement Houses Syndicate) has helped 158 housing projects and 16 project initiatives to gain ownership of their property. What they all have in common is the collective desire for a house in which they can live in a self-determined way, which does not have to involve eviction or demolition at some point; with affordable rooms that are not threatened by house sale or conversion.

Buying a property is expensive and usually includes high loans and credits to be paid off. Where the initial costs are high, the costs are low at a later stage when the property is paid off, leading to a surplus. The projects connected to the Mietshäuser Syndikat are all in different phases, from the

expensive initial phase to the financial surplus in a later stage.

This offers the opportunity to create a balance between projects:

- Established old projects advise new project initiatives and make their know-how available

- Above all, the old projects should transfer financial surpluses in favour of new project initiatives instead of using it to improve housing standards and/or reduce rents

- Vice versa, the contact with new project initiatives and their dynamics can bring movement back into the stagnant waters of the old projects.

This balance between the autonomous housing project has to be organised. A solidarity link is needed to enable the transfer of resources and communication. For this purpose the Mietshäuser Syndikat was founded in 1992. Its structure inspired many, leading to similar projects in Europe and around the world."



JOIN THE MISSION

Space of Urgency is a battle cry against our communities' shrinking spaces. It wants to transcend city borders in every direction, to establish a powerful transnational alliance between independent spaces around the globe.

The Space of Urgency platform is by and for the community. Its impact can only grow by input and support from the wider community. Through a shared process of creating and spreading the word about the content, it is possible to collectively build advocacy for spaces of urgency. The platform can develop into a worldwide network representing a wide variety of social and cultural perspectives, all united in the same cause – the recognition and protection of self-organised community spaces. Therefore Space of Urgency calls upon the wider community to become active and join the mission to save our spaces!

Do you have or know a space that is resisting the dominant systems and has an important social function for its community? Do you believe this space deserves to be highlighted on the Map of Urgency? Or do you want to share an interesting story or development, exchange ideas or collaborate? Space of Urgency would love to hear from you at info@spaceofurgency.com!



Photo: Levan Maisuradze (Bassiani)

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES FOR SPACE OF URGENCY

The Space of Urgency platform will go online in the beginning of June 2021. By the end of 2021, the plan is to highlight 21 international spaces of urgency.

In the following storytelling round in 2022, the goal is for a total of 50 spaces to be represented on the platform. In the meantime, Space of Urgency is continuing to build up a network of artists and activists through its community calls and communal projects.

The Map of Urgency will travel to international conferences and exhibitions, fuelling panel discussions and public debate with European decision-makers.

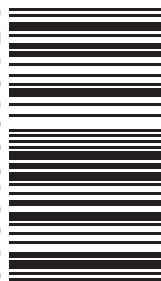
During our annual Frei(T)räume conference 25-27 November 2021 in Berlin, as part of the Night – Stadt nach Acht nighttime conference, the network of spaces of urgency will be brought together.

The zine SIREN and Sound of Urgency will be presented as installations, complemented by live performances. Frei(T)räume intends to challenge visitors to reflect on the importance of self-organized cultural spaces and to facilitate dialogue with decision makers on how to protect them.



MINA

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