

## What Are Our Commons?

### Details of the programme:

**Saturday, 10 July 2021**

**11am-7pm**

#### **Public Thought Dump**

The Box for Expression project sets out to implement an installation that can support the collection of stories in the city's open space. It is a modular/mobile small-scale infrastructure that will be installed in different parts of the city to meet the needs of the particular activity taking place. It is available to all creative groups in Athens working on oral history or engaged in sociological research of any kind.

The project came out of a partnership between three different actors: the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication at the University of the Aegean, Open Lab Athens, and Ludd Lab. It is supported and funded by the programme Actors of Urban Change 2019-2021.

#### **Question Answering Machine**

Jonah Senzel, Katerina Margarini

The Question Answering Machine (QAM) is a long-term artistic installation involving a public telephone. The installation incorporates ideas and secrets from the local community into a living archive for the neighbourhood. The archive allows players to hear how people in their

neighbourhood perceive things, enabling them to connect with other people's experiences and get to know some of the local stories.

QAM can be found as a mobile installation, as a fixed installation forming part of the Victoria Square Project, and on Kipseli Square, where a phone booth has been put back into service.

### **10.30am-1.30pm**

#### **Urban Heat Island**

Commonspace, Participatory LAB

Summer is here and with it the heat! Commonspace and the Participatory LAB use the pilot app "Urban Heat Island (UHI) and Public Space" in a face-to-face workshop in conjunction with CLOUDS. Together, we map our feelings of unease onto sealed-off areas surfaces and in urban public spaces, using the Participatory LAB's planning platform as an additional resource.

The project "Participatory LAB" is funded by the Green Fund under Priority Axis 3: Citizen Participation "Innovative actions with citizens" of the funding programme "Natural Environment & Innovative Actions 2020".

### **10.30am-12.30pm**

#### **Researching Environmental Justice as a Lived Experience**

Interalia

We typically view environmental problems in terms of scarcity and the depletion of natural resources. In actual fact, ecosystems have been negatively impacted by human interventions and the excessive exploitation of nature. In discussions of this issue, the idea of a "green or blue revival" has gained considerable traction. But what if the plans that have been put forward do not confront the environmental problems at all but merely kick the can down the road? What is society's stance on this and how is the question viewed by the people most affected by it? What part do these people play in the decision-making process? In this experiential workshop, questions that directly affect our everyday lives are developed and unpacked in the form of a role play.

Free to attend, registration is required at: [giannouli@interaliaproject.com](mailto:giannouli@interaliaproject.com)

Limited number of places available.

**4-7pm**

### **The City as an Arena of Dialogue, Negotiation, and Conflict**

Open Lab Athens

The key issue that we are tackling here is the need for a “common” urban infrastructure. The community is to be energized to create multifunctional spaces for networking. We will use playful methods and the techniques of role play to prompt discussion about the areas of Athens that have been losing their character over the years.

The workshop will also offer:

- A. a brief, critical review of our experience of participating in two European research projects
- B. a presentation of a role-play game on community structures, open spaces, and urban dialogue

Free participation - registration required at: [info@olathens.org](mailto:info@olathens.org)

Limited number of places available

**5-7pm**

## **Wikimedia**

Workshop on Creating Wikipedia Entries on the Urban Commons

Although we all use Wikipedia on a daily basis, we may not necessarily know that we can make our own contribution to this project, either by correcting a mistake we have found or by creating a new entry from scratch, which is a very straightforward process. The workshop provides an introduction into how to work with Wikipedia, the free electronic encyclopaedia that everyone can contribute to. The workshop will begin by demonstrating how you can edit or draft a Wikipedia entry. Participants also have the chance to write their first entry – inspired by the urban commons – and can practise using Wikipedia’s editing tool and all its other functions. They will also be introduced to ways of validating entries using qualified, reputable sources. Beyond that, we will look at related Wikipedia projects and how you can contribute there by supplying your own material on the urban commons – and much more besides.

Free participation – registration required at: [info-el@wikimedia.gr](mailto:info-el@wikimedia.gr)

Limited number of places available

## **Reimagining Our Neighbourhood**

Ap’ousia

The workshop “Reimagining Our Neighbourhood” provides primary-school children with artistic and other tools that will help them ask essential questions about their role in public space and about how they perceive and “create” their neighbourhood. The workshop starts with a walk along Fokionos Negri Street. We discuss the rights of children in public space. We think about what we would change in the pedestrian zone and in our neighbourhood, what elements we would add that are currently not there. Together we make decisions about the things that fit and the bits we would

change. At the end, we will use recyclable and natural materials to construct a collective model of the pedestrian zone including all the elements we have discussed and imagined.

Free participation – registration required at: [apousia.koinsep@gmail.com](mailto:apousia.koinsep@gmail.com).

Limited number of places available

## **7-9pm**

### **Open Discussion**

With guests Stavros Stavridis, Lila Leontidou, and Iris Lykourgiotis

#### **Stavros Stavridis**

Dr Stavros Stavridis is an architect, activist, and professor at the National Technical University of Athens. In his latest publications, [Κοινός Χώρος: Η πόλη ως τόπος των κοινών](#) (Common Space: The City as a Locus of the Commons) and Common Spaces of Urban Emancipation, he focuses on various emancipatory practices relating to the use of space and the idea of the urban commons.

#### **Iris Lykourioti**

Iris Lykourioti is an assistant professor in the Department of Architecture at the University of Thessaly. In 2005 she formed the group “A Whale’s Architects”, an architectural practice that designs and constructs buildings and objects, while at the same time researching their use and production.

#### **Lila Leontidou**

Dr Lila Leontidou is Emeritus Professor of Geography and European Culture at the Hellenic Open University. She is a founding member of Greece’s first department of geography at the University of the Aegean. She has published academic articles, books, individual book chapters, and monographs.

The event will comply with all the measures that have been introduced to ensure public safety and protect the health of visitors. For this reason, there are only a very limited number of places available.