



Hosting Lands: Hosting Protocols

Hosting Protocols - what and why are they?

As the title of our project, *Hosting Lands*, reminds us, *hosting* is an important part of what we are exploring and questioning together. To host, to invite, to welcome, to tend to, to open, and to bear responsibility towards whom we invite, our guests, our artists, and our audiences - amongst our six different co-hosting sites and situations. In general, every act of curating bears this act of invitation, and hosting. Within this project, acts of hosting become matters of co-hosting and co-curating, collaborating with each other. And as we enter into these collaborations with you - our co-hosting sites - we hope to enter into negotiations on what the wishes and needs, scope and limits, politics and protocols on hosting might mean.

Our intentions with these hosting protocols begin with simple questions: Who is the host in a given *Hosting Lands* situation? Who are our envisioned, imagined guests, our audiences, and who is visiting us as artists, collaborators, comrades, and what could their visit require of us? We might collectively also want to consider what we wish to achieve? What are our voices and their most important messages - singular or collective - and how do we as colleagues and co-hosts support each other? And if we encounter difficult moments during an event or exhibition situation (either between ourselves or with audiences), what do we do? Who do we turn to? What are our mutual agreements and plans for handling conflict?

We wish to articulate our hosting politics and /protocols together, and to co-develop practical tools and/or concrete action plans for ensuring accessibility, safer spaces and dealing with conflict. Protocols are about defining collective guidelines for how we host and visit each other, and making action plans for difficult situations, for both hosts and guests, where access and visit may not be easy. These protocols are meant to recognize that we do not share the same privileges and positions within this project, and to mediate differences whenever they may arise.

Experiences of inaccessibility, exclusion, discomfort and harm of our guests may come from physical access barriers related to disability and/or communication (such as what kinds of languages we use, what tone of voice etc). They may also come from experiencing racialization/racism, or other kinds of othering related to class, gender and/or ableism. They may come from acts of tokenism and/or of having to communicate or 'represent' an experience of a marginalized group without support from the organizer/host.

In order to find some common understandings and politics of hosting, we thought that it would be helpful and important to create co-hosting protocols together - protocols that tie us



together as a group, and that open conversations about the specific intentions, needs, desires, accessibilities, potentials and limitations of each co-hosting site and exhibition situation. We will, of course, not achieve “perfect protocols.” This workshop, and the protocols that will come from it, will hopefully offer some guidelines and tools, which will most likely be re-written in the duration of the project, as we come to hold more experience about what our hosting practices require. We also recognize that we cannot make everything possible, or even control every situation. In other words: taking the politics of hosting - across many people and positions - seriously as a necessary ethical process within *Hosting Lands*.

We have tried to identify some of the key aspects that we think could be helpful for all of us to talk about before a co-hosting situation. They are listed below. It is not fixed, but rather suggestions for questions and guidelines that can guide us in preparing these spaces together.

The Hosting Protocols

We have divided the Hosting Protocols into four sections - mostly just for clarity. The first section, *Tools for the Curatorial Team*, offers what the curators team have been thinking and reflecting on their position and desires, and how best they can extend their invitation to the local communities and co-hosting sites. The second, *The Hosts and the Guests*, offers us tools to define who might be a host, or a guest (or both) within a given situation. The third, *Access/Care/Rights*, opens questions of ability and disability, as well as access and care needs for our collaborators, contributors and audiences. And the last, *Mediating Difference*, asks the crucial question, what if/when conflicts related to different positions of power, access or voice emerge? What protocols or guidelines do we then have at hand to navigate potential conflict?

Tools for the curatorial team

The curators team of *Hosting Lands* takes inspiration from Intersectional Feminist Ethics, which emphasizes crucial steps for ensuring equitable conditions within moments of encounter.

The principles are these:

- 1) Examine Power
- 2) Challenge Power
- 3) Elevate emotion and embodiment
- 4) Rethink binaries and hierarchies
- 5) Embrace pluralism
- 6) Consider context



- 7) Make labor visible
- 8) Organize against oppression

Taking inspiration from these ethics,

- We in the curatorial team recognize that in situations of co-hosting, we often serve as outsiders / guests to local communities, and to the co-hosting sites.
- We then ask our co-hosting sites to help us reflect on who is the local community at each site, what their needs and desires are, and how to think of meaningful, mutual cooperation, and artistic collaboration.
- We wish to emphasize on this dialogue so that we learn from our collaborators, and co-hosts, as much as they learn from our invited guests and participants.

The hosts / The guests

- Between the co-hosting site, and the curators team (henceforth we), we will try and identify who the host of a situation is. The host can be multiple in any situation.
- We will also try to define the roles, functions, and responsibilities of the hosts for each residency/gathering/visit/exhibition. It is important to define in order to be transparent about responsibilities.
- A host, as tentatively outlined, is someone who: welcomes guests, is responsible for accessibility questions, helps oversee technical, food, and logistics amongst other needs.
- With every gathering/visit/exhibition etc. the hosts mark the beginning collectively with an opening (speech, minute of silence, welcoming, land acknowledgement, ritual...) and a closing (a ritual, a speech, a drink...).
- The hosts will try to identify who the guests are, and open a conversation about what they might need. If there are any gaps between these to be attentive to. The guests might also include the local community associated with the co-host site.
- We acknowledge that the roles of the guest/host can change during an event, or gathering. In that case, the hosts can decide, or redefine the roles, or even play along as the situation develops.



Access/Care/Accessibility

- At the curators team, we respect and want to know the values/ethics of our co-hosting sites. Further, we want to know, and help shape, the aims/intentions of an encounter. This allows for transparency for all our guests and collaborators.
- To respect the limitations and boundaries of the host and their capacities in hosting a situation, we wish to ask, what can the host(s) offer? What are the limitations faced by the host? Acknowledging/discussing limitations is important both for hosts and guests, and identifying any potential problems within the visit.
- Likewise, for the basic accessibility for our guests, we ask our hosts to share basic toolkits, protocols etc for the space during an event/gathering etc. These can include basic cleanliness ethics, content warnings, access and or ethical guidelines etc.
- We wish to make an accessibility and inclusivity schedule for the time of encountering. This would include time to offer artists access/care riders, processing the responses from artists/collaborators, making necessary adjustments after negotiation with other hosts, and further during the time of installing and facilitating the encounter itself.

Mediating Crisis/Difference

- We recognize that within any event, gathering, or hosting, there are power dynamics at play. Guests and collaborators may not share similar political worldviews, or may want to accommodate each other's different opinions.
- We also recognize that differences of opinions, perspectives and experiences are not inherently 'bad' or 'unseen', but if facilitated properly, they become crucial learning moments; they are necessary steps towards developing better collaborative methods and processes.
- We wish to identify 'action tools' for such moments and pick a 'space holder'; a person who will take responsibility to intervene in case of problems, conflict, or discomfort and take action or ask for help when needed. The appropriate action is decided upon jointly by the hosts, and is something that is discussed beforehand.
- We believe it is important to start with an acknowledgement about Denmark's colonization of Kalaallit Nunaat and express responsibility for and the debt owed to former colonies. How do we do this best? Are there contexts and bridges that we need to think of?



- As land rights, indigenous struggles and solidarity alignments are crucial to HL, we cannot host an event on Danish grounds without expressing our solidarity with Palestine, the Danish hosts of the curatorial team must express our resistance to the Danish government's complicity in arming the genocide. How do we hold this in a respectful and good manner?

*Examples of different kinds of hosting protocols
which has inspired the HL curator team in this work:*

Access Intimacy

Intersectional feminist code of ethics

Safer Space Guidelines

- Warmly,
Aziza, Pujita, Ida and Dea,
Curators of *Hosting Lands*