



December 2024

Dear Friend,

As the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space reaches the end of our 12th year, we want to thank you for your continued support and share what we've been able to accomplish together. **And as we celebrate the beginning of a new year, we also invite you to our annual Future Positive New Year's Eve Bike Ride and outdoor after-party**



After a 24-year-long campaign, MoRUS and our partner environmental organization, [TIME'S UP!](#), has an exciting update. Our beloved community center, [CHARAS/El Bohio](#) is now in the hands of a community-friendly entity, allowing the reclamation of the space for public use. We are optimistic about the future of the former public school turned-community center on the corner of 9th St and Ave C, as we continue our efforts to return and fill the space with art,

theater, activism, music, and maker spaces. Also working with [TIME'S UP!](#), we've been able to organize over **375 community events**, including campaigns, workshops, bike rides, [community garden Green Up days](#), [Radical history walking tours](#), [ample school tours](#), and other free public programming.

In another effort to make the Lower East Side's public spaces more community-friendly, MoRUS is collaborating with multiple, local New York City design colleges to launch a redesign competition of Tompkins Square Park. Professors and students will engage in thoughtful reimaginings of the space that was closed after riots and reopened in a way that discouraged gatherings and community programming. We are hoping to challenge the city's anti-community redesign of the park and create a space for the public.



In September, during our [12th Annual Film Festival, *Every Little Thing Adds Up*](#), we screened films that highlighted urban grassroots environmental activism and revealed how community organizing, direct action, and education have led to a more sustainable city and helped to combat climate change. Film programming and notable speakers drew attention to the past, present, and future of environmentalism in our city and inspired valuable, future-thinking conversations among community members in Lower East Side community gardens.

At MoRUS, in collaboration with C-Squat, we've been able to continue hosting pop-up shows and events in our expanded museum space. This year we put on *Art Speaks More than Words*, featuring the hand-painted punk posters of Masato Okano and *C-Squat: NFS*, showcasing the work of over a dozen artists who have informed, impacted, and reflected the East Village punk and activist community. Our next pop-up was the *Anarchist Switch Board Hours*, highlighting the Lower East Side political activist group, which was active from 1983 to 1989. Currently, we have the 54th edition of *World War 3 Illustrated*, a showcase of global cartoonists' stories that compose an image of our contemporary world and its issues.

We also partnered again with the [NYC Anarchist Book Fair](#), which boasted record attendance and hosted a weekend full of community-empowering workshops and events.



Your continued support allows us to keep offering our community-building, and public programming. This is especially important as [Executive Order 43](#) and other city initiatives threaten our parks, gardens, and community spaces. You can read more about the history of our neighborhood's gardens and why it is important to protect them on our website [here](#).

Your continued tax-deductible support for MoRUS will help our programs remain sustainable and further our reach to more members of our community through 2025.

Please consider making a tax-deductible end-of-year contribution at:
<http://www.morusnyc.org/support-us/donate/>.

With every tax-deductible donation, you will receive a one-year complimentary membership. If you prefer to mail a check, you can send it to our address at:

Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space
155 Avenue C
New York, NY 10009

With your help, we can continue to not only educate people on the Lower East Side's history of grassroots activism, but also create solutions that inspire us toward a better future.

Happy holidays and best wishes,

Bill Di Paola
Director, Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space