

**Legal Name**

Kings Majestic Corporation

**Project Title**

To host Marc Bamuthi Joseph at 651 ARTS to imagine and explore new approaches to building demand for theater.

**DDCF Grant Number**

2013223

**Project Progress and Successes**

Through our residency with Marc Bamuthi Joseph, we have developed the Love in the Time of Brooklyn think tank. Named for our current season, the think tank is an inquiry driven, intentionally designed community gathering. It has been driven by this point of interrogation: How do you love in a time of Brooklyn? As a cultural mecca, Brooklyn is an ever evolving city driven in part, by the wealth of unparalleled diversity. Using this as a framework, we have convened a diverse group of 40 Brooklyn residents to examine notions of intimacy, connectivity, and the very social fabric of the borough itself during the think tank. Launched in September 2014, the think tank has met bimonthly, with the third session to be held on Monday February 2, 2015 and the culminating session to be held on April 24, 2015. During this time, participants have been connected to our season as special audience members receiving tickets to each performance. Because our season's humanities events and performances also grapple with new relationships to Brooklyn, participant attendance at our events has seamlessly contributed to the think tank process. Equally important, is the session's co-facilitator, artist and educator, Piper Anderson. Under the leadership of Joseph and Anderson, think tank participants will create, in groups, a creative response to the leading inquiry question, How do you Love in a time of Brooklyn? These creative responses will be presented as the pre-show element of our Somi presentation in April. Participants have been encouraged to invite their friends and family members to this "show before the show" as a means of celebration. Moreover, the responses created will be filmed and recorded so that they may live in digital spaces such as our website and social media platforms. We also aim for these works to become part of the participants' personal portfolios. Moreover, we are extremely excited to announce that in FY16, the think tank will officially become a part of our season as a community engagement/humanities program.

**Challenges / Obstacles / Failures Encountered in the Project**

One challenge that we have encountered relates to the publicity of the think tank. Because the inquiry group is not open to the public in the way that our regular season events are, we have found it difficult to spread the word about the convening group that elicits excitement and interest on the part of our general audience members. After much brainstorming, we have decided to record the creative projects (as aforementioned) that will create material to be distributed for marketing purposes. Additionally, during the spring, we will create short interviews with think tank participants to be featured on the

651 ARTS podcast.

**What was learned from these that might be of benefit to others?**

**Links to relevant website(s) and/or project publications, reports, etc.**

N/A

**If someone wishes to speak with your organization further about your project, would there be a willing contact? Y/N**

If yes, please provide contact name and information for preferred method of contact (email, phone, etc).

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