

THE DINING ROOM PROJECT



CALL FOR PROPOSALS, SUBMISSIONS, PARTICIPATION

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

THE DINING ROOM PROJECT: *Intersections of Food, Art, and the Rituals of Eating* is a collaborative project initiated by the **Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art (KJMCA)** for its Museum Without Walls program and in celebration of its 20th Anniversary. The purpose of the project is to provide a series of meaningful forums in which to consider our multifaceted relationship with food. With this project, the traditions, rituals, structures, and conviviality of the dining room become a platform for the exploration of issues such as hunger, sustainability, public health, consumption, the origins of food, its history of cultural symbolism, and its ever-evolving role as a vehicle for communication, community-building, and creative expression.

As a component of this project, from **March 18- May 7, 2011**, **Charlotte Street Foundation's Paragraph gallery** (an Urban Culture Project venue at 23 East 12th Street in downtown Kansas City) will host **THE DINING ROOM PROJECT (A POTLUCK SMÖRGÅSBORD)**, a seven week research- and event-based project to include a series of gatherings, talks, discussions, screenings, meals, interactions, happenings, and more. Drawing together aspects of the potluck¹ and the Smorgasbord², the pleasures and sustenance of this multi-course meal, so to speak, will be the diverse contributions of its many participants, graciously offered for communal sampling and sharing.

The walls of Paragraph will feature information about artist-driven, community-oriented, and/or sustainability-focused food and dining-related projects around the world; function as surfaces for a series of video & film screenings; serve as the repository for documentation and artifacts of a Smörgåsbord of activities; and display community contributions, including recipes and photographs. Paragraph will also feature The Kitchen, minimally equipped with hot plate, mini-fridge, microwave, and prep table, to serve as support station for the Dining Room. Paragraph will further serve as a food bank collection site for Harvesters.

Both the exhibition at Paragraph, curated/facilitated by Charlotte Street Associate Director Kate Hackman, and the exhibition at the KJMCA Epstein Gallery at Village Shalom (March 20 –May 15, 2011, 5500 West 123rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66209), curated by KJMCA's curator Marcus Cain, will center around 16-foot dining room tables, designed and created by artist Peter Warren. At and around these tables a series of participant-driven activities, events, and meals will unfold, along with four thematically focused dinners (two at each site). **THE DINING ROOM PROJECT** will also include the publication of a cookbook/catalogue featuring recipes and artwork by area artists, and documentation of the project as a whole. Additional project components include off-site tours and special events.

¹ **Pot-luck** appears in 16th century England, used to mean "food provided for an unexpected or uninvited guest, the luck of the pot". The sense of "communal meal, where guests bring their own food," originated in the late 19th century or early 20th century US, particularly in the Western US, either by influence from "potlatch" or possibly by extension of traditional sense of "luck of the pot".

² **Smörgåsbord** is a type of Scandinavian meal served buffet-style with multiple dishes of various foods on a table. It is typically a celebratory meal and guests can help themselves from a range of dishes laid out for their choice. In English and also in Scandinavian languages, the word *smörgåsbord* refers loosely to any buffet with a variety of dishes. In an extended sense, the word is used to refer to any situation which invites patrons to select whatever they wish among lots of pleasant things.

**Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art
Epsten Gallery | Museum Without Walls**

5500 West 123rd Street (at 123rd & Nall Avenue)
Overland Park, KS 66209
913.266.8413
www.kcjmca.org

Established in 1991, the Kansas City Jewish Museum of Contemporary Art (KCJMCA) is a longstanding member of the Council of American Jewish Museums (CAJM), founded under the auspices of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. The purpose of KCJMCA is to provide innovative art exhibitions and related programming that engage seniors and diverse audiences from all segments of our community to enrich lives and celebrate our common humanity through art.

KCJMCA defines this intent largely through its Epsten Gallery and Museum Without Walls programs. Established in 2000, Epsten Gallery draws more than 7,200 visitors each year to its museum-quality exhibitions and social and educational programs, while representing a strategic partnership with Village Shalom, an innovative, continuum-care campus that houses the Epsten Gallery. KCJMCA also has a long history of facilitating collaboration with other venues through Museum Without Walls, a program that has been sharing cultural, intellectual, and collection resources and developing site-specific and traveling exhibitions, programs, and cultural events of original thematic content since 1991.

Charlotte Street Foundation

1000 West 25th Street
Kansas City MO 64108
816.221.5115
www.charlottestreet.org

Charlotte Street Foundation was established in 1997 in response to needs articulated by artists and those who saw the arts as a valuable creative, social and economic resource to the city. Charlotte Street Foundation's vision describes a vibrant city where artists are cultivated, respected and admired by leaders in the business, political, philanthropic and civic communities, as well as by a significant segment of the general public. The resulting support for artists leads artists to participate more fully in our community and attracts artists from other cities and the region.

To these ends, Charlotte Street Foundation supports and recognizes outstanding artists in Greater Kansas City; presents, promotes, enhances and encourages the visual, performing and interdisciplinary arts; and fosters economic development in the urban core of Kansas City, MO. In all endeavors, CSF places artists at the center of its mission and has built an infrastructure that depends on and reflects their involvement. As a result, CSF is an organization that continually evolves in response to artist input and in relation to the city's larger cultural ecosystem.

Through its Urban Culture Project initiative, founded in 2003, Charlotte Street supports artists of all disciplines and contributes to city's vitality by transforming previously vacant spaces into dynamic venues for multi-disciplinary contemporary arts programming, including exhibition, performance and studio spaces.