

Dears.

2016 will be monumental for us. Next summer, Elastic City will present our final festival and after that, there'll be a book for fans and future enthusiasts. The decision to wrap up Elastic City after next year's festival wasn't an easy one to make, but we feel it's the right one. 2016 will be our 7th year. The itch.

In thinking about the future, the options we saw were: that Elastic City continue with a new Executive and Artistic Director or that EC institutionalize within a museum or larger organization. Well, we're a small but strong org (grrr) but we don't have the financial infrastructure to pay an ED and Artistic Director a livable wage. If we joined a larger organization, it'd provide more financial security but would compromise the urgency, form and presentation of the work. One reason we started making walks outside was so we didn't have to answer to anyone other than you, the public.

But above all, we feel like Elastic City has met its mission and has explored this form well. We've developed a method. This is a project in poetry, really, and we're gonna go out with a celebration. I ain't saying how just yet.

Our Associate Artistic Director Niegel Smith will take the baton, gild it a bit and present walks and other participatory work as part of his job as Artistic Director at the Flea Theater. Willing Participant will soldier on! I'll continue to lead walks, give workshops on the form, etc, but I'll also start new projects.

As I see it, EC has been incredibly rewarding—for me and for the artists and audiences involved. Since 2010, we have produced and presented over 125 original works. We've expanded the way in which thousands of people experience their everyday. But now's not the moment to tout what we've done.

We're raising \$15,000 to help pay the artists well and offset production costs for 2016. Please click here to donate to our final year-end campaign. All donors will receive early registration sign-up. This past summer's walks filled up on the day we announced!

With a donation of \$30, we'll mail a <u>photograph</u> of your choice. I shot them while traveling. The first 200 donors who give over \$50 will receive a limited edition print by Agi Morawska that commemorates our 2016 festival.

I hope you'll join us in supporting our seventh year.

Love.

Todd and The Elastic City Board (John DeCicco, Nora Hennessy, Heather Janoff Johnson, Peter Shankman, Niegel Smith, Ben Weber)

Elastic City



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