

Shotgun Players Next Steps Notes from February 13, 2017

We came back together to share our discoveries. Here is a distillation of what we said:

What can we do?

- Be a hub for organization and conversation.
- Create “add-ons” to other events. Give momentum and support to other groups.
- Use social media to leverage and blow up these events.
- Develop “affinity troupes” that go into community and perform/create events.
- Create Theatre Kit so it can be replicated in other theatres.
- Sponsor listening sessions to address needs.
- Get “out of the house” and take work to places that are less progressive.
- Open space for performance/expression - particularly to young people and people of color.
- Find ways of mediating/reaching new audience/diversifying audience.
- Have materials at theatre for people to mail into reps.
- Find way to bring the two sides together for dialogue:
<http://www.livingroomconversations.org> Joan Blades.
- Create a play using models pioneered by
<http://www.sojourntheatre.org>
<http://cornerstonetheater.org>
<http://elteatrocampesino.com>
- US Department of Arts/Culture- People’s State of the Union. They sponsored story circles and will be giving a poetic address on March 11th at Yerba Buena:
<http://usdac.us/psotu/>
- Aaron Davidman: created dialogue without taking sides, that’s the job of theatre!
- Become better STORYTELLERS: Republicans were great at storytelling this last election. What is our story?
- Singing! Large groups singing in public is powerful.
- Use the classics: Moliere, Shakespeare, Greeks, Jarre that create conversations about issues.
- Leave copies of the constitution in the lobby!
- What is purpose? To educate? Example of chorus, creating something together: civil rights movement- singing brings people together.
- Take over public spaces-elevators
- Take care of ourselves for the long run.
- Ask ourselves if we’re doing something to create action or feel better. Is there value in both?
- Focus on local: where you can have the most impact.
- Join other groups!
- Spread joy with events. Be playful and funny - not just intense and didactic.
- Look for opportunities to “break out and be someone else.”
- Be a community space for kids to gather and play games.
- Do a play about Executive Orders! Dramatize Civics Lessons
- Simply welcoming folks in to see a great play can change a life.

Where can we do these things?

- BART
- Public Parks
- Parking Lots (GARAGES TOO)
- Foot Bridges @ University over highway 80
- MASS TRANSIT LINES: Transbay Buses, BART
- Casual Carpool
- Theatres!
- Any public space

We also asked folks to declare what they would do as individuals and write it on wall of theatre before they left.

Here is what you wrote:

- San Francisco Community Radio helping to push the movement
- I'm going to connect with Josh
- I'm starting a website: www.everydayartaction.com A hub for creative acts of resistance. Visit, suggest, take action!
- BLACK BOX VOTING: Congress, Senate and Berkeley
- Bring a group to a California House Republican to start a dialogue
- I will offer space to activists and organizers.
- I will re-read the Bill of Rights.
- I will support/donate to MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense Fund)
- I'm sending a very heavy postcard of support to Elizabeth Warren and a very heavy letter of protest to the administration.
- I will link Stagebridge, this process and Shotgun.
- Perform more acts of love to those I do not know, but see and to those I do not see but know.

Please email nextsteps@shotgunplayers.org if you would like to add to these notes.