



# Politics of Participation

Non-Profit & Unincorporated Arts  
Organizations:

P:ear & The Graffiti Research Lab

# Non-Profit vs. Unincorporated

- **P:ear.** Creatively Mentoring Homeless Youth
  - 501c(3) Tax Exempt
  - Accept Donations
  - Volunteers & Mentors
  - Qualify for Regional Arts & Culture Council Grants and other grants
  - Corporate & Private Donors
    - -Harold & Arlene Schnitzer Foundation
    - -Newman's Own
    - Rotary Club Portland
    - Individual Dones
    - In-kind donors: Grand Central Baking
- **Graffiti Research Lab:** Promoting open-source communication in the public domain.
  - Unincorporated
  - Founded in 2006 as a project of Eyebeam Open Lab
  - "Cell extensions" supported by "GRL agents"

# P:ear

## Mission Statement:

p:ear builds positive relationships with homeless and transitional youth through education, art and recreation to affirm personal worth and create more meaningful and healthier lives. Each year our programs serve almost 900 homeless and transitional young people ages 15 to 24.

## P:ear works to develop:

- internal strength, to make healthy choices.
- safe, non-judgmental environments to encourage youth to outgrow harmful behaviors.
- individualized mentoring and education programs to build self-esteem & teach homeless youth they are valuable
- contribute to this community



## Mentoring Staff & Volunteers

**14,151** hours of mentoring,  
by **128** volunteers and **6 staff**  
serving **1,527** youth enrolled at an  
average of **37** youth per day.



# Graffiti Research Lab

Mission Statement:

The Graffiti Research Lab is dedicated to outfitting graffiti writers, pranksters, artists, and protesters with open source tools for urban communication.



# P:ear Programs

- Safe Space
- Education
- Art
- Recreation
- Transition
- Food

# Graffiti Research Lab Projects

- Throwies Not Bombs
- Drive in GIF Theater
- Interactive Architecture
- Free Avone
- Postal Chairs



# Avenues of Inquiry

## Politics:

1. How is P:ear political?
2. How does P:ear address the public perception of homelessness?

## Participation:

1. What is the structure of P:ear?
2. Who is their audience?
3. How do they use their structure to encourage audience participation?



# Avenues of Inquiry

## Politics:

1. How is GRL political?
2. How does GRL address the public perception of homelessness?

## Participation:

1. What is the structure of the GRL?
2. Who is their audience?
3. How do they use their structure to encourage audience participation?





# Conclusion

- **P:ear**
- 501c3
- Want the audience to accept the value of homeless youth because they can change their lives. Empowering youth.
- Breaking stereotypes with art
- Active engagement with audience and reinvent perspective of homelessness
- Audience to become aware they are dehumanizing homeless youth.
- **Graffiti Research Lab**
- Unincorporated
- Legitimizing and empowering graffiti writers globally
- Breaking stereotypes with art
- “Hactivist” art installations combine agenda and public space
- Promotes active engagement with public audience & reinvents public perception of graffiti
- Interested in technologies that empower people and the concept of “mindspace”

# Transmedia Resources

- Hedgwig
- Yoko
- Bumper Stickers
- Ananonymus



GO TO WORK, GET MARRIED  
HAVE SOME KIDS, PAY YOUR TAXES  
PAY YOUR BILLS, WATCH YOUR TV  
FOLLOW FASHION, ACT NORMAL  
OBEY THE LAW  
AND REPEAT AFTER ME:  
**I AM FREE**