

Annual Report 2014-2015

October 31, 2015

Dear Friends,

Last year I shared with you the significance of our location on the edge of the University of Pennsylvania campus and several West Philadelphia neighborhoods, as well as the importance of keeping Slought's cultural and educational activities free of charge for everyone. I also expressed our commitment to questions of belonging, and the importance of infusing our location and programs with a feeling of openness, accessibility, and hospitality.

Over the past months, with our lease about to expire and financial concerns on our mind, we convened our board and trusted friends to consider a series of questions. Foremost among them, does Slought belong in West Philadelphia anymore? Having achieved many of our objectives, where should we focus next?

This was the urgent decision of this past year. Would we consider closing our space at 4017 Walnut St and migrate our programming online, as many institutions are doing today in response to disruptions in the funding landscape? Should we adopt the "Slought in Transit" modality of earlier years, and move across diverse local and global locations? We sought professional counsel from a variety of cultural communities, as well as seasoned consultants, and had hard conversations with our friends as well as funders.

Meanwhile, we continued with our mission to develop intimate, reflexive programming by working and thinking together with artists and new publics to further our evolution and growth in Philadelphia, the world and the cloud. These included a diverse array of programs, including an exhibition exploring the history of the Schuylkill river in Philadelphia and its toxicity; a symposium about the politics of resistance and refusal in the remote winter setting of the arctic; and an online exhibition about the contemporary conditions of the Syrian revolution with the artist collective Abounaddara. We also added a significant amount of new media to our online archive of freely available resources. And we continued to ask for your help in answering the question: Where do we belong at this time?

I am very pleased to report that as a result of these conversations, Slought has decided to remain in West Philadelphia and has entered into an exciting and newly dynamic partnership with the School of Social Policy and Practice, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Pennsylvania. This new partnership at the intersection of the humanities, social policy and media analysis is in keeping with Slought's values and mission. It will enable us to develop new relationships across disciplinary boundaries and to grow our social impact and intellectual reach.

Crucially, this new relationship also enabled the extension of our lease from the University of Pennsylvania for an additional five years. The culmination of nearly 18 months of intensive negotiation, this lease will enable our continued presence and vitality in West Philadelphia through 2020, as well as the continuation of our long history of collaboration with university faculty and students -- the focus of this year's annual report.

Furthermore, new grants from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Graham Foundation, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund will enable a variety of cultural programs in the new fiscal year. These will address the struggle for social justice in Baltimore, the Middle East, and beyond, as well as other topics. In addition to these programs, we will be organizing a major undertaking with human rights photographer Fazal Sheikh across a variety of local and international institutions.

Every contribution supports Slought's efforts to continue developing its extraordinary programs and to secure greater financial stability and Slought's commitment to curatorial independence. We are deeply appreciative of the support we've received at every level, which affirms that Slought is necessary and valued—and that we belong. Please help us achieve our vision by sharing information about our organization and activities with friends and colleagues.

Sincerely,

Aaron Levy
Executive Director

Profit and Loss

November 2014 - October 2015

	<u>Total</u>
Income	
Book Sales	1,204.55
Collaborative Revenue	500.00
Facility Rentals	8,782.25
Foundation Grant	294,000.00
Government Grant	6,872.00
In-kind donations	106,000.00
Individual Donations	5,235.90
Interest Earned	88.91
Non Profit Income	14.14
Total Income	\$ 422,697.75
Gross Profit	\$ 422,697.75
Expenses	
Advertising	459.00
Bank Charges	148.99
Banquets and Meetings	656.25
Honoraria & Fees	600.00
Insurance	629.00
Legal & Professional Fees	490.00
Office Expenses	674.88
Postage & Shipping	299.18
Printing	187.43
Rent	14,880.00
Repair & Maintenance	408.74
Services Rendered	99,484.00
Supplies	737.26
Taxes & Licenses	20.00
Telephone & Internet	1,813.37
Travel	3,617.51
Travel Meals	442.93
Total Travel	\$ 4,060.44
Utilities	5,300.00
Website	1,616.84
Total Expenses	\$ 132,465.38
Net Operating Income	\$ 290,232.37
Net Income	\$ 290,232.37

Balance Sheet

As of October 31, 2015

	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
XX20 Checking Account	9,175.57
XX69 Savings Account	140,392.90
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 149,568.47
Other current assets	
a/r	245,000.00
Total Other current assets	\$ 245,000.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 394,568.47
Fixed Assets	
Equipment Purchases	
Depreciation	-42,889.00
Original Cost	70,353.59
Total Equipment Purchases	\$ 27,464.59
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 27,464.59
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 422,033.06
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Sales Tax Payable	55.36
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 55.36
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 55.36
Total Liabilities	\$ 55.36
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	0.02
Retained Earnings	131,745.31
Net Income	290,232.37
Total Equity	\$ 421,977.70
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 422,033.06

Slought at the University of Pennsylvania

For nearly 15 years, Slought has benefited from our placement on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania and close proximity to its expansive academic communities. We opened our doors with visionary support from the School of Arts and Sciences, Facilities and Real Estate Services, and various departments. Today we continue to enjoy creative and sustaining support for our programs from numerous schools and departments at the University. Together, we have developed a unique partnership that crosses disciplines, and public programs that extend beyond the classroom and the campus into Philadelphia, the world, and the cloud.

ON CAMPUS

Our public programs highlight the integration of knowledge—especially across the humanities—and result from collaboration among faculty, students and schools.

These programs have been instrumental in recruiting students and faculty in the humanities to this campus, and invigorating campus life and civic discourse.

We have also played a key role in Penn's Art & Culture Initiative, led by Professor Karen Beckman, as well as several of the Provost's interdisciplinary initiatives.

IN PHILADELPHIA

We foster exchange between University faculty, students and West Philadelphia communities, as well as with arts, social service and civic organizations in the region.

IN THE WORLD

Our programs at institutions such as the United Nations, the Venice Biennale, and museums and universities worldwide have led to international exposure for the University.

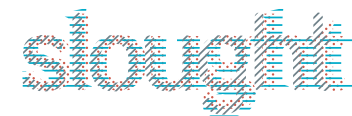
IN THE CLOUD

We produce multiple publications and offer elaborate online archives that make academic enterprises at the University as broadly available as possible.

LEARN MORE

We have a Faculty Advisory Committee, and have been privileged to have Penn faculty and deans on our Board of Directors and curatorial teams for several years.

We have leveraged support from the university to receive grants from PEW Foundation, Warhol Foundation, Graham Foundation, Rockefeller Family Foundation, the NEA, the US State department, and the European Union.





In 2013, Slought and Kaja Silverman commissioned Knut Asdam, inaugural Mellon Artist in Residence at the University of Pennsylvania, to produce *Edgelands*, a sculptural installation on campus and a film installation at Slought exploring architecture at the conjunction of the personal, the paranoiac, and the public.

On Campus

Slought has developed a unique partnership with the University of Pennsylvania that crosses departments and disciplines, and public programs that extend into the classroom, across the campus, and beyond. Our commitment as an organization to dialogue, and our responsiveness to student and faculty initiative, guides the development of our programming. We understand arts and culture as integral to the integrated knowledge university, and essential to the exchange of ideas and perspectives on campus.

TALKS AND CONVERSATIONS

Each week, we present public programs featuring artists, scholars and others in dialogue, including:

- *Test the West*, with Kaja Silverman and T.J. Clark, and the History of Art Department
- *Talking to Strangers*, with Danielle Allen and Penn Planners Network and Diverse Design
- *Total Installation*, with Ilya Kabakov and Kevin Platt, and Slavic Languages and Literatures

SEMINARS

Each semester, we partner with faculty and graduate students on innovative courses featuring project-based learning, including:

- *Vito Acconci: Power Fields*, with Christine Poggi, and the History of Art Department
- *Carolee Schneemann and Her Circle*, with Aaron Levy, and the English Department
- *Mixplace Studio*, with Amy Hillier, and the City Planning Department

EXHIBITIONS

Each month, we engage Penn communities in developing exhibitions about the arts and humanities, including:

- *Righteous Dopefiend*, with Philippe Bourgois and the Penn Museum
- *Cairo Stories*, with Judith Barry and the Fine Arts Department
- *Ecstatic Truth*, with Werner Herzog and Penn Cinema Studies

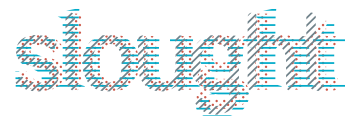
SYMPOSIA

Each year, we present symposia and conferences organized by students, faculty, programs and departments, including:

- *Values of Color*, organized with graduate students and the Penn Humanities Forum
- *Searching Looks*, organized with Josephine Park and the Asian American Studies
- *Then and Now*, with faculty, students and the Kislak Center for Special Collections

COLLABORATING PROGRAMS, CENTERS, DEPARTMENTS AND SCHOOLS AT PENN

Architecture
Cinema Studies
City & Regional Planning
Comparative Literature
Engineering
English
Facilities and Real Estate Services
Family Planning Center
Fine Arts
Germanic Languages & Literatures
History of Art
Institute of Contemporary Art
Italian Studies
Middle East Center
PennDesign
Penn Humanities Forum
Penn Libraries/Kislak Center
Penn Social Media & Health Innovation Lab
Romance Languages
School of Arts and Sciences
School of Social Policy and Practice
Slavic Languages & Literatures
Visual Studies
And others





Graduate students from PennDesign at the University of Pennsylvania conduct research at Mixplace Studio, an urban curriculum and studio developed by People's Emergency Center (PEC), Slought, and PennDesign and neighborhood youth researchers in response to public school closings in West Philadelphia.

In Philadelphia

Slought engages publics in dialogue about cultural and socio-political change. From People's Emergency Center to the National Constitutional Center, we are committed to working in dialogue with local and regional artists, communities, and institutions. Together, we seek to develop projects that encourage inclusiveness, advocacy, and the sharing of knowledge. Our commitment to collaboration and shared values guides us in the development of these projects, and enables us to foster an intimate civic space for local cultural and intellectual exchange. Examples include:

MIXPLACE STUDIO (2012-Present)

A collaborative project that provides an urban education model in order to address the crisis in community participation and political representation. The project brings together youth researchers, university students, and a diverse faculty of curators, community activists, artists, architects and researchers.

With People's Emergency Center (PEC) and PennDesign, in dialogue with Teddy Cruz and the center for Urban Ecologies at UCSD.

UTTERLY PRECARIOUS (2012)

A multi-part exhibition, conversation series and seminar with students, scholars and curators about the life and work of Carolee Schneemann, whose work has profoundly shaped contemporary discourses on the body, sexuality, and gender since the 1960s.

With the Mutter Museum at The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the History of Art Department at the University of Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

EVASIONS OF POWER (2007)

Roundtables, debates, and interventions with artists, scholars and designers exploring urban zones, borders and extra-territorial sites, raising questions about power and evasion.

With PennDesign, Eastern State Penitentiary Historic site and Museum, Philadelphia, and the Centre for Architecture Research, Goldsmiths College, London.

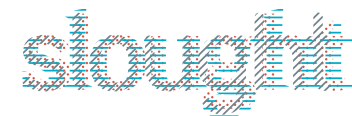
CITIES WITHOUT CITIZENS (2003)

A two-part exhibition and publication that examines what citizenship is, and how it is established or lost, asserted or taken away. Juxtaposing historical materials about early America with contemporary works, the project illuminates how complex questions of injustice connect with contemporary life.

With the Rosenbach Museum and Library.

COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

Art Sanctuary
Bryn Mawr College
City Parks Association
Community Design Collaborative
Eastern State Penitentiary
Haverford College Humanities Center
National Constitution Center
People's Emergency Center
Philadelphia Museum of Art
Philadelphia Water Department
Philadelphia Youth Poetry Movement
Planned Parenthood
Rosenbach Museum and Library
SafeKidStories.org
School District of Philadelphia
Scribe Video Center
Soundfield
Temple University
The Artblog
The College of Physicians of Philadelphia
The Village of Arts and Humanities
Women's Medical Fund
And others





Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw engages in conversation with William Pope.L about his legendary performance *Tompkins Square Crawl* (1991) and his installation *Reenactor* (2010-), a 72-hour continuous screening organized by History of Art graduate students at Slought.

In the World

Slought seeks to foster inter-cultural exchange, research and advocacy around the world. From the Venice Biennale to the United Nations University, we work closely with a diverse community of national and international partners who share our commitment to developing international platforms for research and the sharing of knowledge. The programs we develop continually expand our network of communities, and enable new forms of collaboration across the globe. Examples include:

ART, OR LISTEN TO THE SILENCE (2014)

An exhibition and symposium at Slought and in Seoul, South Korea that explores silence and resistance in the work of artist Sou-n-Gui Kim and her collaborators Jacques Derrida, Jean-Luc Nancy, and John Cage. A companion publication features tri-lingual essays and archival media.

With Artsonje Center and the Institut français de Corée du Sud in South Korea.

PERPETUAL PEACE (2010-2012)

Symposia, exhibitions, lectures, and films that explore 21st century prospects for international peace, and rewrite Immanuel Kant's foundational essay *Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch* (1795).

With the European Union National Institutes of Culture, International Peace Institute, United Nations University, Syracuse University, and diverse national and international partners in the US / Mexico, China, Rwanda, and Pakistan.

ARCHITECTURE ON DISPLAY (2010-2012)

A research initiative and publication series about the history of the Venice Biennale of Architecture and the vexed relationship between architecture, display and its publics.

With Graham Foundation in Chicago, Storefront for Art & Architecture in New York, Architectural Association in London, and Dark Side Club and Fondazione Giorgio Cini in Venice.

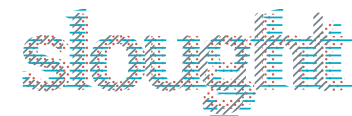
INTO THE OPEN (2008)

An exhibition and event series that engages histories of architectural experimentation and collaborative efforts to invigorate community activism. The project is the official US representation at the 2008 Venice Biennale.

With the US Department of State, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, The Architect's Newspaper, Parsons the New School for Design, the National Constitution Center, and diverse national and international partners.

COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

Architectural Association
Artsonje Center
Austrian Cultural Forum
Asia Art Archive
Beaconhouse National University
Central Academy of Fine Arts
Center for Urban Ecologies, UCSD
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Goldsmiths College
Graham Foundation
Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies
John Cage Trust
Kasa Galleri, Sabanci Üniversitesi
Kiasma University
Kigali Institute of Science of Technology
Kunstmuseum Bonn
International Peace Institute
Lahore Univ. of Management Sciences
la maison rouge
Mestrovic Pavillion
Neue Galerie Graz
New Museum
Parsons the New School for Design
Peggy Guggenheim Collection
Princeton University
Syracuse University Humanities Center
The Cooper Union
University of Helsinki
United Nations University
U.S. State Department
Venice Biennale
And others





Filmmaker Agnès Varda engages in conversation with scholars Molly Nesbit and Raymond Bellour about world cinema and the legacy of director Chris Marker, as part of a symposium at Slought organized with Tim Corrigan and the Cinema Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

In the Cloud

Our website functions as an active resource for producing and sharing knowledge. Our online archive features over one thousand hours of recordings, hundreds of essays and other supplementary materials. For over a decade, we have also worked with artists, communities, and institutions worldwide to develop online projects and resources about cultural and socio-political issues. In so doing, we seek to cultivate a new community of readers and publics ranging from specialized audiences to the simply curious. Examples include:

A PEOPLE WAR (2013-)

An online interactive visual archive of the Nepal Conflict (1996-2006) and its aftermath that has been developed as a therapeutic tool. Organized in response to a public call for photographs about war, photography, and the recording of loss.

With the Madan Puraskar Trust in Nepal and Pentagram in New York.

FAIRYTALE (2011-)

A research initiative and online archive about the lives and experiences of 1001 Chinese participants who traveled to Documenta 12 in Kassel, Germany as part of Ai Weiwei's project about identity, memory, love, dreams and the possibility of cultural dialogue.

With Ai Weiwei/ Fake Design in Beijing, and DuKode Studio and Pentagram in New York.

IN NARROW OR WIDER CIRCLES (2011-12)

An exhibition and online archive featuring inter-cultural conversation and research about the relation between art and advocacy, with artists, scholars, civic leaders and others.

With beaconhouse National University in Lahore, and Woodrow Wilson College at Princeton University in New Jersey.

JOHN CAGE / HOW TO GET STARTED (2010-)

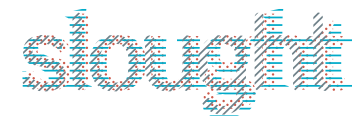
An interactive installation and online archive featuring a rarely heard performance by John Cage about improvisation and the difficulty of initiating the creative process. The archive continues to evolve over time through the participation it invites from the public.

With the John Cage Trust, PEN World Voices, Symphony Space and Danspace Project in New York, and Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

Ai Weiwei/ Fake Design
Dancespace Project
John Cage Trust
Madan Puraskar Trust
PEN World Voices Festival
Pentagram
Project Projects
Symphony Space
Wilson College, Princeton University
ZKM Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe

And the many artists and scholars who contributed recordings to our extensive online archives





Students, faculty, and others engage a lecture by artist Vito Acconci exploring his relation to writing, the body and social and political structures, organized in 2008 by Slought and the History of Art, Fine Arts, and Architecture departments at the University of Pennsylvania.

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