



The Cannibal Lot

Rebuild Foundation

Theaster Gates

Chicago, 2009

Radical Real Estate

Summary

Theaster Gates is an American social practice installation artist and professor in the Department of Visual Arts at the University of Chicago. In 2009, Theaster Gates founded Rebuild Foundation, a non-profit organization collaborating with cities to transform vacant buildings into vibrant living and cultural spaces.

The seven projects within Rebuild includes Dorchester Industries, Dorchester Art + Housing Collaborative, Stony Island Arts Bank, Black Cinema House, Black Artists Retreat, Archive House, and Listening House.

Gates combines urban planning and art to revitalize Chicago's inner-city neighbourhoods while preserving their history. Through Rebuild, it also provides employment and teaches construction trades to local communities.

Lessons

- These transformation projects help provide opportunities such as employment, cultural enrichment, resources & community building
- How fostering inclusive and supportive spaces & buildings affect people and communities (economically & emotionally)
- By prioritizing core values such as "Black people matter, Black spaces matter, and Black objects matter," Rebuild Foundation emphasizes the significance of acknowledging and empowering Black creativity at local, national, and international levels.

