

Fall 2019 Assembly Afternoon Workshop Facilitators

Alternative Mental Health Practices: Deep Space Mind / Moving Image Playback Theatre

*Two-Part Workshop with Ras Cutlass and
members of Citiview Connections Clubhouse*

Ras Cutlass Mashramani is a Philly-based sci-fi writer, narrative artist, and co-founder of **Metropolarity**, a local grassroots sci-fi collective. Her artistic work concerns the experiences of people who are subject to institutionalization and dehumanization because of mental wellness challenges, being of color, or possessing another marginalized identity that proves dangerous to the status quo. In another life she is a social worker with over ten years of frontline mental health experience, currently organizing young people to take the lead in local housing justice and community healing work.

Russell G. Roten MA, RDT, LCAT — Russ has a Master's in Drama Therapy from NYU and a BFA in Acting from Texas State. He is a published author in *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, and received training in Playback Theatre from Jonathan Fox, the founder of Playback. Russ co-founded Austin Playback Theatre in 2008 and trained coworkers at a State Hospital in providing performance workshops on Trauma-Informed Care & Compassion Fatigue. He is currently the Director of Citiview Connections, an Internationally Accredited Clubhouse in Queens, NY.

Katelyn Kidwell is a second year in the MA Drama Therapy program at NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. Her drama therapeutic interests lie in the power of the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves, drama therapy's place in the climate change crisis conversation (say that five times fast...), how to challenge hierarchical structures and systems, especially related to health care, and how the mind and body connect. Katelyn is originally from Raleigh, North Carolina and earned her BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Evansville in Indiana. She is grateful for her internship at Citiview Connections Clubhouse and the opportunity to explore drama therapy in new contexts. Katelyn now resides in Astoria.

Laura Anne Walker, Outsider Artist — A native New Yorker, Laura Anne began drawing at age three. Her preferred mediums are ink and graphite. Her pieces have been shown in approximately 60 group exhibitions, and in a solo show of 60 works in SoHo. Laura Anne's work has been published in a number of online and print publications, including *Raw Vision* and *Folk Art Messenger*. A graduate of both Cornell University and the Bank Street College of Education, Laura Anne is a permanently certified, permanently certified, permanently licensed former teacher. She is currently a Crisis Intervention Team panelist, serving as a liaison between the police and people who are experiencing emotional distress. Says Laura Anne, "I owe much of my stability to Citiview Connections Clubhouse where I have been a member for 16 years." "For any art awards or honors I have received, I thank my muses – the cats that graced my life for 20 years."

Fall 2019 Assembly Afternoon Workshop Facilitators

Citiview Connections Clubhouse is dedicated to providing opportunities for its members to achieve their social, financial, educational, and vocational goals through productive and engaging activities, friendships, and mutual support. Since 1994, it has been committed to eliminating the stigma associated with mental illness, substance use, and homelessness by creating a clubhouse environment focusing on strengths instead of weaknesses, providing employment opportunities in its community with unique and supportive businesses and through peer-led advocacy efforts.

See more about Fall 2019 Assembly [here](#)