

ABOUT THE DC, ACCESSIBILITY, SAFE(R) SPACE AGREEMENTS, ETC.

Shows here are run and facilitated by The Showbooking Collective - Emery, kimberly, Ben, Cody, Owen, and Artemis. We don't all book shows, but we're happy to guide anyone through the process! More info on our decision-making process and all the other stuff we do on page ____.

We strive to provide a safe(r) space for all ages, drug free benefit shows with an emphasis on DIY ethics. We ask all who attend shows here to show respect and care for others in their behavior and language. We do not tolerate racism, sexism, transmisogyny, homophobia, or any other forms of oppression. Please hold each other accountable so that all who come to the DC feel supported and welcome.

The DC is now **partially wheelchair accessible** thanks to our wonderful new ramp on the right side of the building. (Unfortunately, there is no accessible bathroom on site, but Daedalus - the bar next door - has an accessible bathroom for DC patrons to use.) Contact info@democracycenter.org for more info on our ongoing plans to make the space more accessible.

Shows are just one of the MANY types of events the DC hosts. If you're interested in learning about the other events and organizations involved with the center, or if you would like to book a non-musical event, visit <http://democracycenter.org/>

Since 2005, the Democracy Center has hosted over 450 shows! We are one of the longest running all ages venues in the Greater Boston Area, and hope to keep doing this for a long time. Thank you all so much for your support and involvement!!!

PWYC/NOTAFLOF!

PAY WHAT YOU CAN / NO ONE TURNED AWAY FOR LACK OF FUNDS

We request a donation at the door for all the shows we host at the DC. We try to keep the requested amount low, but we understand if you're unable to pay! If you'd like to volunteer in lieu of donating, that's always a huge help (but not a requirement)! Just talk to the person collecting money at the door or email us ahead of time so we know to expect you.

For transparency's sake, here is a breakdown of where your money goes when you come to shows here:

- + Rental of the space (\$50-100)
- + Gas money/payment for bands
- + Donation to a particular organization or cause.
*If you don't see an organization listed on the flyer or at the door, the extra cash may go towards the Booking Collective so that we can buy things like new mic cables, microphones, repairing our PA, earplugs, etc.
- + Occasionally, a booker may also take a few bucks as reimbursement for making flyers

WHY ARE SHOWS HERE DRUG/ALCOHOL-FREE?

The Democracy Center is a community space that hosts a wide range of events. Since they are kind enough to host us, we feel that it's important to respect their policies regarding drugs and alcohol.

That being said, we also appreciate the benefits of having a space to perform and enjoy live music without the presence of alcohol.

-Most venues in the Boston area rely heavily on bar sales to function; this means promoters and bands face added pressure to bring in an older crowd or are forced to keep under-age people out altogether.

-When a show or concert is largely centered around alcohol or drug consumption, it can make it difficult for youTH, people in recovery/attempting to quit drinking, and others to feel comfortable attending.

-When people drink too much or use certain substances, it can sometimes be more difficult to communicate with them about various conflicts or violations of our safe(r) space agreements. When we are sober, we are generally more aware of our surroundings and the ways we are treating one another.

While we do recognize that many people will choose to drink at the bar next door or other places nearby, we hope you'll consider sticking around throughout the show to watch the bands play and enjoying the space we provide! Also, please do not drink on the sidewalks surrounding the DC, including across the street or in the yard of the church next door. This puts the space at risk of attracting cop attention, annoying our neighbors, and is generally not respectful of our "substance free" agreement.

WHO RUNS THE SHOWS HERE?

HOW DOES THE COLLECTIVE WORK?

The DC Showbooking Collective currently consists of: Emery, kimberly, Ben, Cody, Owen, Artemis

We are all volunteers and don't get paid!

We receive requests for shows through an online form found on our website. As a collective, we go over each of the bands and discuss whether the show falls in line with our safe(r) space policies. We also sometimes discuss the benefit organization that a booker submits to ensure that it's in line with our values and small/local enough that the show will make a difference to them. We're not SUPER picky and are always down to discuss our reasons and be transparent about our decisions; but we do vet our shows more than other venues in the Boston area, so it's worth mentioning!

All decisions we make are based on **consensus**, rather than majority rule. We believe that everyone in the collective should carry an equal voice in making decisions. If someone doesn't feel strongly about a show request or other decision, they can always "stand aside," and allow the others to vote.

We take turns staffing the shows; this involves setting up the PA and merch tables, counting out change for the cashbox, collecting money, crowd control, and cleaning up after. We also do walk-throughs to train new bookers and volunteers, so that they'll feel comfortable staffing if and when they book a show.

The collective also maintains our website which includes a flyer archive, booking instructions, and more. That can be found here:

<http://democracyshowshows.neocities.org/>

HOW TO BOOK A SHOW AT THE DC

Is there a touring band coming through, an organization you're excited about supporting, or a new record coming out that needs a release show? Maybe you wanna do a zine swap or a locals-only showcase. Whatever the reason, we would love to help you book the DC!

We have an online form that you will need to fill out on our website in order to reserve the space for your show. On that form, you'll include the date of yr show, what bands you plan on asking, and what the show will be a (partial) benefit for.

If you've never volunteered at a show at the DC, you will need to before your show comes up so you're familiar with where things are/how to run everything.

Don't start promoting your show until it's been approved! We need to make sure the date is available, and that the bands and show are in alignment with our safe(r) space guidelines.

Other important things to keep in mind:

-PLEASE promote your show! Make a flyer!

-When choosing bands and artists for your show, please consider how your lineup reflects the larger community with respect to things like gender, racial backgrounds, queer identities, and more. How can you involve artists you may not have worked with before? What about in other aspects of your show, such as designing your flyer or tabling? Where will you promote your show?

-Shows at the DC can be booked for just \$50. Because the space is so inexpensive, we ask that bookers treat each show as a benefit, with \$50-150+ going towards the Booking Collective or another org of yr choice.

CAN I VOLUNTEER OR JOIN THE COLLECTIVE?

There are a few different ways to get involved in putting on shows at the DC. We always recommend trying out a drop-in volunteer shift first, so you can get the hang of how shows are run and where everything gets put away at the end of the night.

Once you've volunteered once, you're able to book shows here indefinitely! We rely on a variety of bookers to ensure that many different types of bands get the opportunity to play here, so it's awesome whenever someone new can get involved this way.

In addition to booking and staffing shows, there's a few behind-the-scenes projects we can always use help with such as **maintaining our PA, making signage, and promoting shows.**

For folks who are looking to be more involved in decision-making, big-picture stuff, training new volunteers, and essentially running music events here – the showbooking collective may very well need you!

To get started as a volunteer, fill out the form on our website to introduce yourself, or just come to a show to volunteer! Drop-in volunteers usually show up about an hour before doors (6pm) but if you want to come later just let us know.

Either way, we always appreciate the extra help!

WE WILL NOT CALL THE COPS*

We do not consider the police to be a positive means of maintaining safety, addressing conflict, or dealing with lost or stolen items. We believe that as a community, we are responsible for holding each other accountable for the harm we may enact and working through interpersonal conflict that may occur.

Some alternatives to punitive systems of accountability (ie: police, the prison industrial complex) can include transformative or restorative justice models. These models take a lot of work and are not always executed perfectly – we all have a lot to learn as people brought up in a heavily policed and imprisoned world – but we believe that they have less potential for enacting further harm (or death) and a greater opportunity for furthering understanding and growth.

You can read more about these alternatives here:
<https://transformharm.org/transformative-justice/>
<https://transformharm.org/restorative-justice/>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email or talk to us! Please note that these beliefs are held by members of the Showbooking Collective, and not necessarily reflective of the whole Democracy Center or other groups that utilize this space.

*Certain emergency situations may be out of our control and will necessitate calling the cops. We have not encountered an incident that falls under this category, and hope that we never do.

MASKS AND VENTILATION

We believe that providing a venue where covid mitigations are in place is an act of community care. We want everyone attending shows here to have the protections they need to stay healthy during this ongoing pandemic.

The CDC, the government, our workplaces, and much of the larger culture of the US have all abandoned any meaningful public health response, opting to prioritize the advancement of capital and a false rhetoric of normalcy.

We, the showbooking collective, reject the “urgency of normal,” ... we know that ***we keep us safe***.

We have implemented the following protocols to lessen the chances of COVID spreading at our shows:

-Masks are required for everyone inside of the building

This includes performers while performing. Vocalists too.

-Vaccines are strongly encouraged.

We will not be checking vaccine cards, but please be up to date on your covid vaccines.

-Testing recommended

A good protocol is a rapid test 2hrs prior to the event, monitor symptoms, test again 2 days after the show

-STAY HOME IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS, ARE SICK, AND/OR WERE EXPOSED TO COVID-19

-Lower capacity: 75 incl bands/volunteers

-We will have air purifiers (utilizing True HEPA filters) throughout the space, and we'll open windows and doors as much as possible (just not while loud music is amplified)

-No food/drink (except water) allowed inside

DEMOCRACY CTR SHOWS

A ZINE ABOUT WHAT WE DO,
WHY WE DO IT, HOW TO GET
INVOLVED, AND MORE

VERSION 2 OF THE DC ZINE
DECEMBER 2022

DEMOCRACYCENTERSHOWS@GMAIL.COM
democracycentershow.neocities.org