

**WEEK EIGHT:**

Friday, May 10, 2019

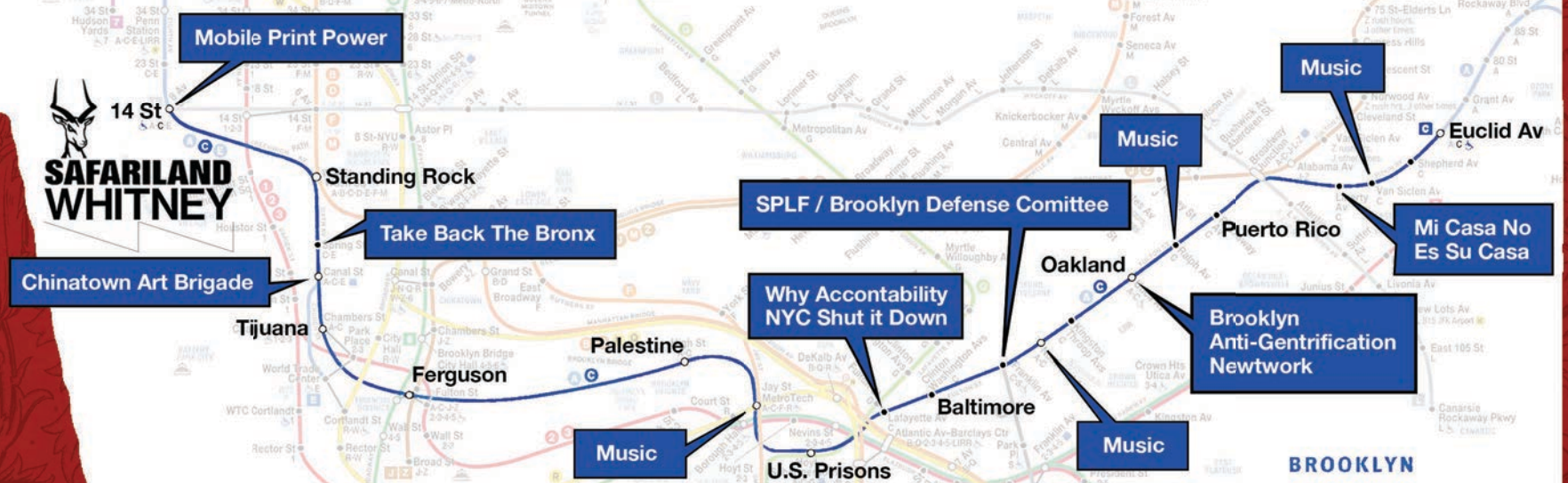


# All Aboard the Liberated Train Car Connecting our struggles at every stop → → → → →

## Travel Info:

- Departing From: **C** station, **Euclid Ave, East New York**
- Destination: Whitney Museum, arrival time 6:30PM
- Go to the final car of the **C** to join the party 🎵 🙌 🙌 🙌

## De-gentrify/De-militarize Our City



# Kanders Must Go! No safe spaces for profiteers of state violence!



# De-gentrify/De-militarize Our City

Our communities and organizations are gathered here today to amplify the call that Warren Kanders, CEO of Safariland, be removed from the board of this museum.

Warren Kanders profits off the sales of tear gas to militaries, prisons, police, and more. We are here to make it known that we the people - students, social workers, artists, queers, youth, elders - are here because we demand the demilitarization of the Whitney Museum. And as long as Warren Kanders is allowed to remain on the board, this is a militarized institution. This goes for anyone who is connected to the Whitney or any institution- if they are profiting off of the pain, death and the destruction of our communities, then they must not be allowed to engage in cultural institutions whose work is to educate and uplift those same communities. We refuse to rely on prison, policing and military institutions that are killing us. We believe in a form of justice that isn't punitive, and therefore believe in the abolition of the carceral system and its tools.

We will share testimonials from people inside prisons who have experienced tear gas + other chemical agents used abusively as a means of attempting control through physical pain. We will make connections to the fact that this is a global phenomenon by uplifting the story of Mr. Nam Ki Baek, a 69 year-old Korean farmer who was killed in Seoul in 2015 by a water cannon filled with liquid tear gas at a protest and also of Lee Han Yol, a 21 year old college student fatally wounded by a tear gas canister that hit him on the head during a demonstration at Yonsei University in Seoul.

No New Jails, Nodutdol for Korean Community Development, About Face Veterans Against The War, War Resisters League

Welcome to the Liberated Train Car. As you move through Brooklyn on this Manhattan-bound train, you will learn about all of the community organizing happening throughout this borough. At each stop, you'll meet folks fighting abusive landlords who evict us and raise the rent because of gentrification; folks fighting police and abusive Corrections Officers at the MDC and Crossroads where our families are doing bids; folks working to shut down jails and shut down the politicians that cater to landlords and cops. From the first stop on the C train to the last stop at 14th Street in the meat-packing district of Manhattan--once a collective territory for queer people of color before the onset of art-led gentrification--we are drawing city-wide connections between our neighborhoods and our struggles.

Our ultimate destination today is the Whitney Museum, where Warren B. Kanders sits on the board. Kanders is the CEO of Safariland, a corporation that manufactures tear gas and other weapons used by the state against communities of color in the United States and around the world. Safariland products have been used to choke and maim Central American refugees at the Southern border; black people in Ferguson Missouri protesting the police murder of Mike Brown; the Standing Rock Sioux Nation in North and South Dakota fighting against an oil pipeline destroying their sacred burial grounds and water supply; the people of Puerto Rico who protest the financial takeover of their country by Wall Street and the closure of over 200 schools in the archipelago; and the Palestinian people who are fighting against apartheid imposed by the Zionist Israeli state and the illegal seizure of their land.

The harm and repression from which Kanders reaps his profits in places like Ferguson, Puerto Rico, and Standing Rock hits close to home in NYC. Safariland counts among its clients the NYPD, which has purchased millions of dollars worth of "ballistic equipment" from the company. The NYPD's tear-gas canisters would not be fired in Soho, Tribeca, or the Upper East Side; they would be launched at people in the Pink Houses, in Sunset Park, in Flatbush, and other places where Black and Brown people can still afford to live and die. It would be fired off at communities up in the Bronx, in Harlem or Washington Heights, or in Corona and Queensbridge. Like Safariland's handcuffs, batons, and police armor, those canisters are designed to be used against...US.

The last stop is the Whitney, but this goes beyond the museum. Those who profit from state violence, real estate speculation, fossil fuel extraction, and more occupy the board of museums like the Whitney. They play the role of benevolent philanthropists, laundering their blood money and their public profiles by funding the arts. Six months ago, one hundred staff members at the museum called for the ejection of Kanders. Since then dozens of community groups organizing with Decolonize This

Place have staged actions at the museum to amplify that demand, joined in turn by hundreds of writers, teachers and artists--including more than 50 participants in the upcoming Biennial. Our action today stands in solidarity with these efforts, and insists that the conflict developing around Kanders go beyond Kanders, and beyond the museum. Kanders stands in for a whole system of settler colonialism, white supremacy, capitalism, imperialism, and heteropatriarchy that manifests throughout New York City, the so-called United States, and the world. The sites of repression that mark the record of Safariland are for us places of connection and solidarity: from Brooklyn and Bethlehem to Standing Rock and San Juan.

So sit back, enjoy the ride, get familiar with the folks around you, and follow us to the end all the way to the museum!

## Participating Groups:

Mi Casa No Es Su Casa, Brooklyn Ant-Gentrification Network, SPLF/Brooklyn Defense Committee, Why Accountability/ NYC Shut it Down, Take Back the Bronx, Mobile Print Power, Chinatown Art Brigade

