Hi,
The collective/venue Grrrnd Zero in Lyon, France, is about to be evicted. Evicted from the building occupied since 2005, without any hope of relocation. In this sad city of ours, every day subject to the interests of glitter-urbanization, the city council needs to be reminded once more of how urgent the situation is. Therefore, we are asking for your help…

But first, what is Grrrnd Zero?

Grrrnd Zero is a bunch of naïve enthusiastic candid and passionate volunteers / activists with no leader, whose ambition is to develop an open and fastidious auto-run space, dedicated to underground / unconventional / DIY / alternative arts.
Grrrnd zero unites thirty or so associations, who organize about a hundred concerts, exhibits and screenings each season, drawing a crowd of over 13,000 people.

More than 40 bands share the rehearsal spaces Grrrnd Zero provides, but also office and residency areas, screen-printing and photography studios, several record labels, a movie collective…

A list of just about every concert organized these past years is available to check, click HERE .
If you'd like to gaze at some live footage, shot here at Grrrnd Zero, try clicking HERE .
To download our thorough activity-report, you may click HERE .

Since we arrived in the premises more than 4 years ago, we have always expressed our commitment to adapt the building to safety standards; the city counselors have always rejected these efforts, without suggesting any other solution.
This situation endured, until July 20th 2011, when an eviction notice was addressed to us: we had to leave the premises by October 31st. After negotiating with the city council and the inter-communal cooperation (that had just become the "owner" of our walls…), the deadline was extended to the end of 2012, hosting any public was, however, forbidden.

Until we find a new place, almost our entire program has to be cancelled, and what's left of it, scattered off-site. The city's response to our dilemma is suggesting we rent the "usual" venues, which do not fit our philosophy (i.e. reasonable pricing at the bar, no search at the entrance),

venues that couldn't possibly host our entire program.

We insist on maintaining all of our activities on a sole site at any cost. A collective approach is the strength of our project: creating the right conditions to share the space, to make people or audiences meet, and to maintain a multiplicity of offerings, all ideas which are indeed of importance to the politicians of our city, except, paradoxically, when they are embodied in a single place, they become disturbing.

To go on, Grrrnd Zero needs one, single place.

In these confusing times, we still don't know whether a project can be constructed with the city council, or whether we must go back to squatting as in the beginning.

By revolving most of its cultural policies around a few highlighted occasional events, the city council of Lyon is turning its back on a wide network of local organizations, those that refuse the commercial exploitation of the arts and its constant need for profit. All of these organizations are essential to the dynamism of the city, on a daily basis.

We are hoping the city council will realize the need for such a place, dedicated to all who participate in the Grrrnd Zero project, all a huge part of the alternative/underground cultural life of our city.

But the city council might not realize this on its own…

Ok, so how can people help?

We are putting together different types of actions, including a call for support in the form of a letter addressed to the mayor of Lyon and to the deputy in charge of cultural affairs: Gérard Collomb and Georges Képénékian. If you feel like joining in this effort, we will sing your praises for all eternity.

Here are a few steps you can follow:

- Feel free to write any kind of letter! Even a few lines explaining the importance of a place dedicated to alternative culture in Lyon will do, but vibrant long letters are also welcomed, if you're in the mood for it. If you don't have the time, don't hesitate to use anything in this letter. You could find inspiration in one of the letters already sent and compiled HERE, re-use one as it is or edit and sign with your name.
- Please don't forget to specify who you are! What you do, if you are part of an organization…
- Send a real letter to: Gérard Collomb – Mairie de Lyon – 1, place de la Comédie – 69205 Lyon cedex 01
- Or send a mail to gerard.collomb@mairie-lyon.fr , georges.kepenekian@mairie-lyon.fr , (please include "Grrrnd Zero" somewhere in the mail subject).

In addition to flooding the mayor's office with sense, these letters are compiled to be part of our activity report. We'd be grateful if you could send us a copy of your mail or letter at :

- grrrndzero@gmail.com
- Collectif Grrrnd Zero // 40 rue du Pré-Gaudry // 69007 LYON

Don't hesitate to pass this mail on to your own contacts. Should you send it to more than seven people… Brad Pitt and Beyoncé will perform belly dances on your kitchen table and you will be granted a million well-deserved Euros, transferred directly to your account from the president of a Nigerian bank. However, if you don't send it to anyone and don't write a letter of support, your children will perish, and passers-by will spit on their corpses.

Thanks a million.

A few more details on Grrrnd Zero. Who knows? Maybe you're curious...

A bunch of our lousy principles (further information on our website, http://www.grrrndzero.org/):

- We try to offer affordable rates, from free pricing (people pay whatever they can afford) to 10€, and people who don't have enough are welcome anyway.
- Grrrnd Zero is the only place where organizer(s) of an event can keep the money from

the tickets and from the bar. Most of the events that take place at Grrrnd Zero cannot, due to their relatively modest budget, take place somewhere else.

- The audience doesn't have to drink or eat what they're offered. Anyone can bring his or her own food/drinks.
- We do not use professional security services.
- No pre-sales in the usual "supermarkets of culture" as we call them, equivalent to Barnes and Noble etc.
- Our wish is to spread underground culture beyond the limited circle of those who are already on board. This is why we keep handing out flyers and putting up posters in the street. We like to think this is our way to help fight the increasing invasion of advertising in public spaces and the entertainment industry.