

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION: *BOK Learning Days Ixelles*
A transmission, co-learning and co-creation trajectory with BOK
September & October 2023

BOK (*bodies of knowledge*)

BOK is an artistic and participatory project on the exchange of invisibilised knowledge. Its colourful tent is set up for a few weeks on a public square of a neighbourhood, and becomes a place where people can learn things that one does not learn at school.

This life knowledge is told by voices that are not often heard or valued by institutions or the media, yet they contribute to a more just and humane society. The BOK team meets these «bodies of knowledge» on the street, in squares or in local organisations and communities. Then, they are invited to the tent to take part in a public programme. During these days, everyone is welcome to come to listen, ask questions, and meet each other.

In the past, topics of the learning sessions have been, amongst many others:

«How to fight police violence in our neighbourhoods» (Collectif des Madres), «How astrology 'boosted' my life» (Chantal), «How to heal yourself with medicinal plants» (Valerie), «Slamming your young misfit voice 'out of the box'» (Drissia) or «Singing multilingual music as political/cultural activism» (Şeref & Gamze).

BOK has existed and transformed in different formats: a weekly classroom in public space, performative walks in a park, a fictional call center, dozens of learning circles taking over a theater...

Today BOK opens up its artistic process to a group of participants to share its initiative and create together a temporary school: BOK Learning Days Ixelles.

BOK Learning days, Ixelles

In September and October 2023, BOK will propose a trajectory of transmission, co-learning and co-creation over several weeks to a group of participants. We will look at the city as a site where an infinity of knowledge intertwines, much of which remains underexposed or censored. The objective will be to encounter and support knowledge present in Ixelles and to create together a programme of 4 public learning days at the tent.

The first part of the trajectory will take the form of a workshop: the BOK team will share their practices and listening tools developed throughout previous editions, in a spirit of mutual support and co-learning. For the second part, the group will turn outwards to experiment in public space. We will meet passers-by, neighbours, in the street or in local organisations, to learn from them.

Finally, we will invite the people we've met to come and speak in public during BOK Learning Days Ixelles. Together, we will support their words and bring this temporary, local and free classroom to life. A radical fiction of what a school could be.

Is this for you ?

Are you interested in learning from people you don't usually talk with in your everyday life? Would you like to support people who aren't used to speaking in public? Do you know people in Ixelles or other parts of Brussels whose knowledge is not considered valuable and would you like to contribute to a platform where they can make their voices heard? Would you like to learn about deep listening? Are you interested in socially engaged, participatory art processes? Then this is for you.

We welcome and actively support applications from all people and bodies.

Many languages can be spoken, but for fluidity of communication within the group, it is important to be comfortable in at least one of these languages: French, Dutch or English.

A daily volunteer fee will be provided for participants.

Who are we?

BOK Learning Days Ixelles is proposed by the BOK team (Damla Ekin Tokel, Flore Herman, Joana B. Polge and Sarah Vanhee) in collaboration with theatres Varia and Rideau, and GC Elzenhof.

When will it take place ?

- Wednesday 06/09 (1.30-5pm)
 - Thursday 07/09 (1.30-5pm)
 - Saturday 09/09 (11am-5pm)
 - Wednesday 13/09 (1.30-5pm)
 - Thursday 14/09 (1.30-5pm)
 - Saturday 16/09 (11am-5pm)
 - Wednesday 20/09 (1.30-5pm)
 - Friday 22/09 (1.30-7.30pm)
 - Wednesday 27/09 (1.30-5pm)
 - Friday 29/09*
 - Saturday 30/09*
 - Wednesday 04/10 (13h30-17h)
 - Friday 6/10*
 - Saturday 7/10*
- + a closing moment in the week of 9/10.

* The public learning days, hours to be confirmed.

BOK learning days are designed as a 6-week-trajectory. It is important to be present on all dates (and at least 2 of the 4 public days). If you want to participate but parts of the schedule don't fit your life situation or you have specific needs, please contact us. We will try to find a solution together.

Where will it take place?

Théâtre Varia and in the public space (Ixelles).

How to apply ?

Tell us something about yourself, your life story and why you would like to participate, in the format of your choice (letter, video, sound...).

You can send it to info@varia.be until Sunday, June 18 and will receive a reply by Friday, June 23 2023.

We are looking forward to meeting you!

More informations :

www.bodiesofknowledge.be/

<https://varia.bienavous-dev.net/actualites/appel-participation>

<https://lerideau.brussels/les-publics/bok-bodies-of-knowledge>