



Discussion Guide

Season 3.0, 2011

125 Franco's Boulevard (USA), 21 minutes

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Introduction

This guide contains suggested discussion questions to orient viewers and discussion facilitators on how best to frame conversations about the films featured in AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange, Season 3 (2011).

First there is a short list of general discussion questions that can be used to initiate a discussion of all the films after the screening or broadcast. These general questions provide a solid platform for channeling the immediate emotional response of the audience into a collective experience or narrative.

After the General Discussion Questions, each of the AfroPoP films contains content for a discussion guide to frame the historical, aesthetic and emotional reactions of the viewer in a participatory way.

GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Prior to screening the film, remind the audience that there will be a discussion afterwards (with the filmmaker if s/he is in attendance). It's generally a good idea to start the discussion immediately after the film with a few broad questions.

Following are some suggestions:

- What are your immediate reactions to this film?
- What did you learn from this film?
- Describe a moment in the film that you found particularly moving. What was it about that scene that was especially compelling to you?

125 FRANCO'S BOULEVARD

A Film by Sia Nyorker & Jacob Templin

<http://www.125francosblvd.com/>

TIME: 21 minutes

Targeted Audience

- Visual Artists
- Street Artists
- African Americans
- Hip Hop Generation

Film Summary

When a community is in the process of development and gentrification, what happens to the art and culture that represents the people of that community?

With colorful strokes, Franco the Great has been painting murals on the storefront roll-down gates (riot gates) on 125th street for 40 years. A rezoning legislation and recently passed city law threaten to remove those gates along with the art and culture that is painted on them. Who will step up and preserve Franco's art in the wake of big plans to change Harlem?

For Discussion

- Researchers have noted that seemingly minor conflicts resulting from gentrification dynamics in a neighborhood tell the tale of much deeper conflicts. What are the different types of conflict at play in this film?
- Is a win-win resolution or reconciliation possible?
- Who stands to lose the most?
- What does the loss tell us about our values, our priorities and ourselves?
- What reactions or opinions do you have to the rezoning decision for 125th?
- What is the decision making process for what a neighborhood looks like?
- What is the role of local government in deciding what aspects of a neighborhood should go, and which should stay? Residents?
- What kind of input should "residents" have in relation to "property owners" or "homeowners"?
- What are the power dynamics behind these categories? Are they fair?

- Prior to the recent rezoning of 125th Street, who were the stakeholders/decision makers for its zoning?
 - How did the neighborhood benefit from this process?
 - How did it suffer?
- How do you think Franco's life has changed since this film was made?