



The Poussières

A community center

les Poussières



1 rue Sadi Carnot,
93300 Aubervilliers
France

<http://lespoussiere.com/>

Based in Aubervilliers since 2006, Les Poussières runs artistic, cultural, educational, and social projects, primarily for and with local residents, to make the most of the area.

Our various initiatives are built on encounters, exchanges, and permeability: between giving and learning, between artists and non-artists, between professionals and amateurs, and between different artistic disciplines. Whether they take place within our own walls, at our partners' venues, or in public spaces, they are open to all. Co-constructed with local residents, artists, and associated organisations, our projects follow a cross-disciplinary approach to culture that brings people together, fosters collaboration, breaks down boundaries, and enhances diversity already present in the community.

We are committed to inclusion, promoting a mix of generational, cultural, and social backgrounds, and to bringing art into the heart of the city. Our goal is to showcase the poetry of everyday life and to change people's perceptions of their own environment.

Since November 2021, we have been taking over the former Aubervilliers occupational health centre. By mid-2023, our aim is to have transformed the space into a place where anything is possible:

- **A venue for shows, concerts, balls, banquets, a lantern gallery, and more**
- **Spaces for socialising (both inside and outside)**
- **A workshop for graphic arts, publishing, and exploring various crafts**
- **An audiovisual and sound creation area**
- **A construction workshop**
- **A training and well-being room**
- **Office space**

Les Poussières is also a local cultural venue — a place where people can gather and enjoy each other's company. It is an unexpected, surprising, and welcoming space, brought to life by the team and volunteers in a variety of formats. **It is a place where citizens and associations can inspire one another, a hub for artistic creation, and a support centre for creative projects, with around twenty associate artists and ten companies in residence each year.** It is a place for action, festive events, and participatory workshops. It is a place where you can discover and experiment with different artistic disciplines, attend shows, concerts, and other sound-based performances, cook, meet up, have fun, dance, imagine, and create together.



Financing

Public funding

- State
 - Urban Policy (projects)
 - Ministry of Culture (DRAC) - (projects)
 - Employment aid (operating)
- Ile-de-France Region (investments)
- Department of Seine-Saint-Denis (investments and projects)
- Etablissement Public Territorial Plaine Commune: in the areas of SSE, Territorial Food Plan, culture (investments and projects)
- City of Aubervilliers (investments and projects)
- Social landlords (projects)
- CAF (Family Allowance Fund)

Private funding

- Fondation du patrimoine (for works)
- SNCF Foundation: projects
- BNP Paribas Foundation: projects
- Aubermécénat
- Artelia Foundation: for the works (+ skills sponsorship)

Governance & Team

Permanent team:

Elsa Kartouby - Artistic Director
 Myrtille Saint-Martin - Administrator
 Margot Miossec - Territory Manager
 Manon Desmets - animator/mediator
 Amel Dupont - production manager
 Eva Copley - part-time graphic designer
 Pauline Viatge - communications officer

Around twenty associate artists work closely with the team, and each year one or two civic service volunteers or trainees accompany the projects.

Board of Directors:

Matthieu Bonicel (Chairman)
 Florène Arribas (Treasurer)
 Florence Jauberthie
 Sébastien Lerigoleur
 Horia Benrabah
 Maximilien Theinhardt

Partners and networks (non-exhaustive list)

Our participation in the OPALE/UFISC study commissioned by Plaine Commune in 2015 gave us the opportunity to meet and discuss with various stakeholders working in third places in the region and more widely in France.

As a result of this study, four of Plaine Commune's third-places joined forces: La Villa Mais d'Ici, le 6b, Mains d'Œuvres and Les Poussières. Together, we established the **Pot Kommon project, aimed at fostering synergies and networking on local, national or international scales, as part of an intercultural dynamic that allows projects to emerge**. Pot Kommon was awarded the *Fabriques de territoire* label by the French government in 2020 for a period of 3 years.

We share a range of **training courses** (QUALIOPI-certified), and every year we organise a **shared artists' residency** as well as visits and conferences.

In 2021, we will also joined the **Actes-if network**, which currently comprises more than 35 independent artistic and cultural venues in the Paris region. As such, Les Poussières is joining forces with these venues, which support contemporary creation and defend artistic and cultural diversity through an ethos of sharing and collective dynamics, and a need to bring about change in public and cultural policies.

With the same desire to participate in the defense of commons and culture, Les Poussières is a member of the SCIC *La Main foncièrement culturelle*. *La Main foncièrement culturelle* is a unique real-estate tool, dedicated to the cultural and artistic sector, in which cultural venues and structures, citizens, local authorities and government bodies come together to find solutions on land and real estate, which is a central problem in the cultural and associative sector.

European projects (past or current)

- Grundvig European Whispers (2009-2011)
- Grundvig workshop: voice in space (2012)
- European Neighbourhood (2014-2015)
- LOOKING UP (2024-2025)



Bringing people together and raising awareness through a symbolic object: THE LANTERNS

The *Lanternes, lumière sur la ville* project, initiated by the association in 2012 in Aubervilliers, is an urban and poetic intervention centred on the participatory construction of lanterns by local residents and a night-time stroll through the public space.

It's an adventure that is both artistic and civic-minded. Since 2012, Les Poussières has been passing on the art of lanterns-making, a skill that is intimately linked to the emotions they evoke.

Our aim is to involve local residents in the life of their community and area by inviting them to take part in artistic, cultural and convivial events, so that together they can create a collective, ephemeral work of art in their town. Each person is the bearer of their own experience and identity. The workshops bring together different generations and people from different neighbourhoods and cultures, encouraging informal exchanges where the roles of 'learner' and 'learners' are transformed and reversed.