

APPENDIX D

PLEXUS DOCUMENTS

Document 1

1982 Plexus Opening Statement

Plexus: a structure in the form of a network; any interlacing of parts.

Inter: between or among.

National: big or important enough to have significance for a whole nation.

Urban: characteristic of the city or city life.

Forum: any medium for open discussion.

Plexus is about the city - any city, every city. It is about the wonder of a skyline that won't stop climbing and a blanket of pollution that can't stop spreading. It's about an atmosphere that swell culture and swallows real estate. It's about a dream that is as illogical as soft watches and as seductive as the promise of immortality.

Plexus is dedicated to the proposition that all cities are not created equal, only the people who inhabit them. It is further committed to the proposition that the people of cities are creative survivalists who refuse and acknowledge the laws of nature and who glory in adversity. There is, in the collective heart of the people of the cities, a wild, unremitting thirst for the impossible contradictions that make them simultaneous victims and victors.

Plexus believes that the creative involvement of the individual can do more to enhance a responsive environment than all the bureaucratic machinations of an infinity of public agencies. To this end, Plexus is designed to foster an international network of urban dreamers and realists, theoreticians and pragmatists.

Plexus means to proceed from observation through discussion and reflection to demonstration and celebration. Its goals are the achievement of a heightened understanding of the possibilities of the city and the definition of alternatives which will accelerate the realization of those possibilities.

Plexus will initiate exhibition, lectures and seminars on urban issues as well as sponsor media and performance events. It will also promote the exchange and

dissemination of information on innovative ideas, projects and products which can enrich and ennoble the urban experience.

Plexus is situated in a 7,000 square foot loft space in the Chelsea section of Manhattan. It will be designed as a performance space to offer maximum flexibility for cultural and educational events.

While Plexus-sponsored activities will initially utilize the Chelsea space, it is hoped that they will spread throughout the urban complex in a manner as unruly and spontaneous as the city itself.

Made by Richard Flood, June 1982, New York

Document 2

Open Letter to All Artists of the World

We are informing you of the arrival of “The Ship of the Slaves of Art,” awaited in Dakar, capital of Senegal, from December 23, 1988 to January 3, 1989. After the first international event of the “Slaves of Art” in Sardinia, Italy, on July 4, 1987, with the participation of 160 artists from 23 nationalities; after the departure of the metaphoric trip in the history and mythology of “The Ship of the Slaves of Art,” from New York on February 1986; there will be a second international event for the artists as independent producers in view of a debate on the Redefinition of Art and the research of a new kind of art contract, as a concrete expression according to the interests of the artists. This debate will be under the responsibility of the Club Littéraire David Diop and of the ANAPS, National Association of the Visual Artists of Senegal. Within the scope of this international event all artists are invited to participate to realize the Plexus Art Co-Opera N°5, “The Electromagnetic Serpent,” a symultaneous and synchronized presentation of art and science, which will be presented as a parade-show on January 1, 1989, in the island of Gorée, Dakar. In the island of Gorée, in the House of the Slaves, the final act will be performed as a homage to the freedom of the Human Being. The outcomes of this event will be reported to the world. Therefore, Plexus International launches a call for all artists of the world to come to Dakar, from December 23, 1988, to January 3, 1989, to contribute to the opening of a credit line in favor of the International Art Community through the creation of an Art World Bank.

Made on August 30, 1988, at the Club Litteraire David Diop, Dakar, Senegal, by Youssouph Baro, Zulu M'Baye, Sandro Dernini, Assane M'Baye, Pathe Diop, Langouste M'Dow.

Document 3

From
Columbus Reconciliation Forum on "The Well Being in the XXI Century"

"1992 Columbus Open Call of Carloforte for Reconciliation"

From the 9th to the 11th of October 1992 on the invitation of The 1992 Christopher Columbus Consortium of New York, with the University of Rome "La Sapienza", The University of Cagliari in Sardinia, the University of Saint Louis in Senegal, and the International Institute of Epistemology "La Magna Grecia" in Crotone-Rome, in collaboration with the Institute of Italian Encyclopedia Treccani, the Institute for the Italian American Experience, the Consortium for the Touristic Development of the City of Carloforte, the Consortium CIFRA, PLEXUS International Network, C.U.A.N.D.O. Inc. Cultural Community Civic Center Lower EastSide New York, and with the support of the City of Carloforte, the Presidency of the Government of Sardinia County and of the Presidency of the County Council of Sardinia and of the District of Cagliari, We have met in Carloforte, on the island of San Pietro, off of Sardinia, as individuals from 3 continents: America, Africa, and Europe (including Russia).

We reflected upon the voyages of Christopher Columbus to the Americas as an issue of "Reconciliation" for the Well Being of the Twenty-First Century, through the following program of round tables and presentations on:

Cultural navigations;

The Departure of a Project of a Mutual Cooperation;

An Hypothesis of Reconciliation;

The Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations;

Europe and the "Historically Others";

Well Being, Ethics, Health, Nutrition and Quality of Life;

The Memorial of Goree-Almandies Project;

A Plexus Proposal of Cooperation.

We, as participants of the Columbus Reconciliation Forum, are making the following Open Call from San Pietro Island to the World:

1) The political and economic order of the past 500 years since the landing of Christopher Columbus in the Americas, having failed to bring about the necessary Reconciliation and Well Being of the people of the world, we, as individuals, call upon other individuals and communities to challenge the existing order.

2) In order to achieve the synthesis of cultures and the true understanding of differences which are converging in a new identity for human rights in the 21st Century, all people as individuals and communities must assume responsibility for the life of their community. Those nations that impose a racial identity are the primary obstacle to Reconciliation.

- 3) Unwarranted imposition by governments and social and political organizations on individuals and communities must be avoided in order to enhance Human Rights, Dignity and Solidarity.
- 4) We declare that sustainable development obtained with full respect for natural resources, can guarantee an acceptable quality of life to the future generations of the world.
- 5) We are conscious that women of the third world, as well as other regions, are the key producers of the economy in their respective countries, but they are not involved in making decisive societal choices. This situation has resulted in the deterioration of their economic, social and health condition. We call for all necessary help for their Well Being.
- 6) We commit ourselves to the development of new channels of communication to make it possible for the people of all nations and cultures to conduct free and independent exchange as a means of "Reconciliation."
- 7) We support individual and community projects dealing with Human Rights and Reconciliation.

Therefore we issue an OPEN CALL for the development of creative approaches to the empowerment of the individual and of the community. We need alternative visions to attain the ROUTE CORRECTION necessary to bring about the true meaning of the CALL FOR RECONCILIATION and WELL BEING in the XXIst Century.

Made in Carloforte, San Pietro Island, Sardinia, October 11, 1992, by the Working Group on The Strategies for Health: Saverio Civili, Earl S. Davis, Dennis deLeon, Sandro Dernini, David Ecker, Maigda Ka, Aldo Landi, Okechukwu Odita, Marvin Lumsden, Giovanni Panatta, Jose Rodriguez.