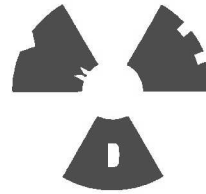


Manhattan Engineering District  
345 West 58th St. #11K  
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<http://district212.org>  
*Fabricating the Actual*



March 23, 2003

Dear Friend,

Manhattan Engineering District, a theater company founded by Scott Blumenthal and Carlos Murillo, recently received a generous grant from the Rockefeller Foundation Multi-Arts Production Fund to create a groundbreaking performance piece called *The Blue Hole Tabernacle Revival*. In June, Scott, Carlos, and District associate artist Sam Zuckerman will embark on the research phase of the project: a six-week, 7500-mile journey along the lost highways of America. The prestigious MAP grant provides us with artists' salaries and recording materials, but not travel costs, which will be significant. We are thrilled to be able to pursue this unique and ambitious project, but we need your support to transform our vision of *Blue Hole* into a reality.

Part traveling cabinet of wonders, part tent revival, part circle stock theater production, *Blue Hole* will be a mobile, interactive theatrical exploration of a vanishing part of America. Small towns once flourished along the roads of the pre-Interstate U.S. Highway System. Many exploited regional curiosities, or unique natural or historical attractions to transform themselves from undistinguished dots on the map to alluring destinations. When motorists began to bypass the old roads on modern Interstate superhighways, however, many such destinations became ghost towns. In *The Blue Hole Tabernacle Revival*, present-day descendants of three fictional small towns, each traveling in exile with relics of his vanished home's once-great attraction, caravan from town to town displaying their collections, talking to the citizens, and trying to "raise the ghosts" of their homes.

During this summer's research trip, we will explore and document the towns whose lifeblood was the roads, trying to unearth stories about the attractions they once boasted. Our research will form the raw material for the play, which Scott and Carlos will write in the fall of 2003. MED will perform *Blue Hole* around the country in the summer of 2004 in outdoor public spaces of the many towns from which the piece draws its inspiration.

Manhattan Engineering District began in 2000, and has developed organically over the course of two successful collaborations between Scott and Carlos: *The Master of Things* (2000) and *Lion's Den* (2002-3). We develop our plays by creating fictional "found texts" and other "relics." These become the core of performances that seem to be non-theatrical events, such as lectures, readings, and memorial tributes.

The Mettawee River Theatre Company has generously agreed to act as a fiscal sponsor for this project, so all donations are completely tax-deductible. Any amount you can contribute will be truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Scott Blumenthal and Carlos Murillo  
co-founders, Manhattan Engineering District

# How to Support The Blue Hole Tabernacle Revival

There are many ways for you to support Manhattan Engineering District’s *The Blue Hole Tabernacle Revival*. The Mettawee River Theatre Company has generously agreed to act as a fiscal sponsor for this project, so all donations are completely tax-deductible.

## Make an in-kind donation.

We need supplies for our research trip. To save money, Sam, Carlos, and Scott will camp and cook-out on the trip. A donation of one or more of the following items is tax-deductible to the full, fair value of the item:

first aid supplies (band-aids, bandages, Advil, tweezers, etc.), travel refrigerator, extra car battery, AC adaptor for car lighter, small safe for valuables (cameras, computers, etc.), cookware (pans, pots), flatware, silverware, dishwashing liquid, sponges, garbage bags, motor oil, windshield wiper fluid, camping supplies (lanterns, flashlights, etc.)

## Donate cash.

Your cash donation will help defray the cost of gas, food, lodging (primarily campsite fees) and, most importantly, the purchase of a very reliable used vehicle which will be used for both the 2003 research trip and the 2004 performance tour.

What’s more, to thank you for your contribution we will designate a piece of the vehicle in your honor. Think of it! The Solomon Schwartzzeit Carburetor! The Ginger Thomaso Speedometer! For donations at the following levels, you can choose an appropriate piece of the vehicle you would like to bear your name! (Parts will be named strictly on a first-come-first-served basis, and will be labeled to the best of our ability. If your part is no longer available, you will be notified and given a choice of another part.)

### Donation Levels:

Chassis (\$25-\$49)

*The foundations of the ride...axels, exhaust pipe, muffler, shock absorbers, wheel, etc...*

Under the Hood (\$50-\$99)

*Horsepower... carburetor, head gasket, radiator, timing belt, battery, fuel pump, etc...*

Dashboard (\$100-\$149)

*Vital signs... speedometer, temperature gauge, radio, clock, ac, glove compartment, etc...*

Body (\$150-\$249)

*Turning heads on the street...doors, fenders, bumpers, windows, windshields, etc...*

Passenger (\$250 and above)

*Become an honorary fellow traveler...a seat in your name. (Plus a special mention on the passenger door.)*

For more information about Manhattan Engineering District and *The Blue Hole Tabernacle Revival*, visit our website at <http://district212.org>.

If you would like to inspect the **current research trip budget**, go to <http://district212.org/budget.php>.