

**The Welcome Wagon
J Hill Proposal
For
The Idea Fund**

Project Summary

The Welcome Wagon makes public the distinctive and unknown resources of a neighborhood. A mobile artwork/performance that ventures out to meet its viewer, The Welcome Wagon is a dynamic setting for collecting and distributing local culture, a gathering place and stage for interactive community performance, and a relaxed way for people to meet each other allowing neighbors to share their ardent interests.

Project Description

This project is a sculpture and community performance and social investigation, in some senses relating to the early investigations of Adrian Piper (e.g. *Funk Lessons*) and Gordon Matta-Clark's *Food* as well as the traveling road shows of a hundred years ago. The artwork itself will consist of a bicycle with a specially outfitted trailer or wagon reminiscent of a common cottage's front porch. The wagon itself will not only be outfitted to look as a porch but could host neighborhood card games, function as the backdrop for a neighborhood movie and as a point to collect and disseminate local lore and history. The bike will provide both a means of transportation and minimal power once in place. Once The Welcome Wagon is ridden to a particular neighborhood the community would be invited to both participate and create the day's events...be they an exchange of stories, a day of game playing, or an evening movie. In the end the community will have participated in a comfortable exchange of the idiosyncratic local culture.

The motivation of this work lies in my long running interest in community and history and a search for ways to make history vital and accessible. Certainly there are technological ways of collecting and distributing history but this project aims to not only to collect and distribute, but also to create a gathering place where that exchange may happen face to face.

The timeline for the project is roughly 6-8 months for production, carrying me through late summer to early fall of 2009. The public exhibition would then be initiated in late fall of 2009