



# I came here to weep

The Chocolate Factory Theater  
June 2023

**I came here to weep** is a multimodal, interactive project enacted by the public. It is made up of participatory scores with corresponding materials and environments that examines U.S. territorial possession through the redaction, deconstruction and performance of absurdist colonial texts.

The parts that make up I came here to weep include:

### **OPEN HOURS**

An installation environment dedicated to the public's independent exploration and activation of the project's materials and participatory text and audio scores. Facilitators are present to support visitors' experiences. A Clearing Practice performed by either devynn emory or Martita Abril takes place during Open Hours.

### **GROUP ACTIVATION**

Yanira Castro performs and facilitates the audience through the project's participatory scores. It ends with a Clearing Practice performed by devynn emory or Martita Abril.

### **COMMUNAL MEAL**

The meal, prepared and hosted by Yanira Castro, is Sancocho, a vegan dish made of tubers indigenous to the Caribbean. The meal is curated with local Boricua guest artists and thinkers who share historical context about LAND occupation, and personal stories and art that depicts/embodyes the complexities of belongings, self-determination and emancipation.

# OPEN HOURS

An installation of interactive environments for four participatory text and audio scores: Weep, Revenge, Assembly, Transmission.

A clearing practice performed by either devynn emory or Martita Abril occurs during open hours.

# WEEP

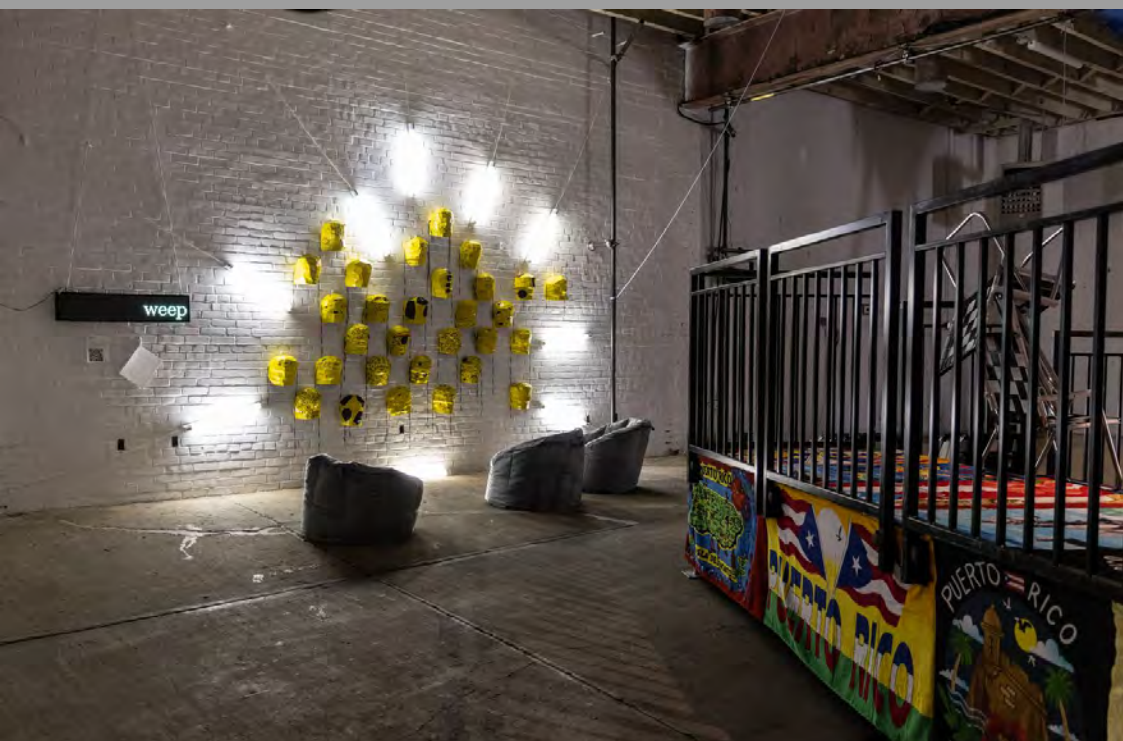
This score is presented in both print and audio. The score invites the visitor to wear a mask and weep.

In the audio score the visitor is transported to Puerto Rico through an immersive soundscape of a tumultuous storm and sounds from the island. They are asked to speculate and place themselves in a situation in which their basic resources have become so scarce they must pool together whatever they have with those around them to keep the lights on and the water running.

After speculating, the visitor is invited to weep, wail even.





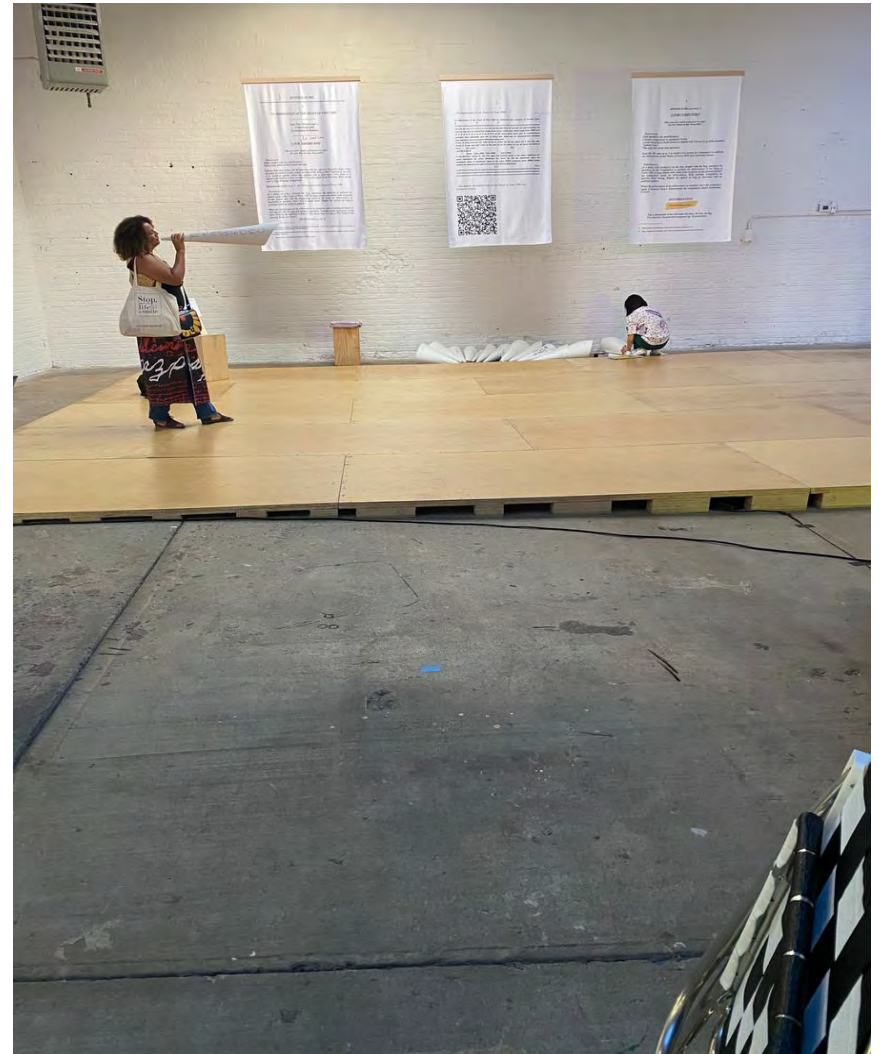


# REVENGE

This score is presented in both print and audio. In the printed version the text is displayed on three banners that hang in the space. In this score the visitor is invited to perform an absurdist redaction of "The Treaty of Paris 1898".

The visitor is instructed to make a cone with paper and tape, label it with the word 'megaphone' and adorn themselves with flags that say sangre (blood), victoria (victory), and paz (peace).

To perform this text they are asked to stand upon a cratebox that connotes the center of a plaza. They proclaim this treaty text (a nearly impossible redaction to follow) through the megaphone for all in the space to hear.



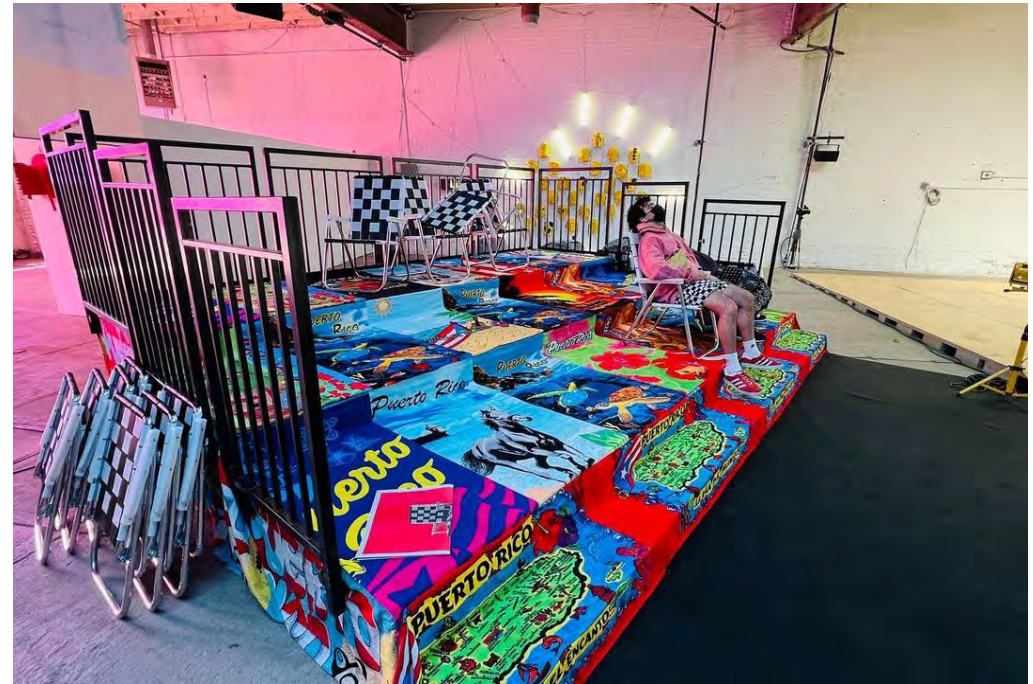




# ASSEMBLY

This score is presented in both print and audio. The score proposes that a chair is a person and invites the visitor to create an annexation of lawn chairs on top of a set of risers covered in Puerto Rican beach towels. The risers are a sound installation that when inhabited create "weather" in the space through the periodic sound of thunder, deep vibrational moaning and shrieking.

The visitor indulges in the act of lounging in the chair, piles and assembles the chairs, incorporates their body amongst the chairs, and eventually extricates themselves from the configuration they have created in order to light it up with lights provided in the space, photograph and post it with their phones.









# TRANSMISSION

This score is presented in print only. In this score the visitor is invited to answer a series of questions about dirt and belonging while wearing a mask and speaking into a microphone.

The visitor can do this score with the person they came with, alone, or invite someone already in the space to do it with them.







# CLEARING PRACTICE

A solo performer embodies gestures of wailing, shaking, circling, and crawling. They expelled their voice into the space accompanied by an ambient sound score.





# GROUP ACTIVATION

Yanira Castro performs and facilitates the audience through the project's participatory scores. It ends with a Clearing Practice performed by devynn emory or Martita Abril.































# Communal Meal

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# TIERRA

TIERRA is a week-long workshop with local Latina/o/e teens and Yanira Castro and can accompany **I came here to weep.**

At The Chocolate Factory Theater, TIERRA was a collaboration with four Boricua teens from Girl Scout Troop 6000. The teens and Castro developed a tea ritual and oral history project on land, embodiment, and self-determination. The teens performed a care ceremony to enact the ingestion of land as an intimate ritual for two, a visitor and a teen.











## THE a canary torsi TEAM

Created by **Yanira Castro Negroni** in collaboration with

**Ariel Lembeck** Creative Producer, Open Hours Facilitator

**Kathy Couch** Light

**Stephan Moore** Live and Interactive Sound Design

**Erica Ricketts** Audio Score Design

**Martita Abril** Revenge Audio Performance, Clearing Practice

**devynn emory** Clearing Practice

**Marielys Burgos Meléndez** Weep Audio Performance

**Katie Dean** Graphic Design

**LD DeArmon** Stage Management, Open Hours Facilitator

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Photos in this book by: Maria Baranova and Brian Rogers



