

How To Start Your Own Sunday Soup

Sunday Soup is an international network of initiatives that use public suppers to communally fund creative projects.

While the size and scope of these grassroots suppers varies, the formula is the same: for an affordable donation, event attendees receive a meal and a curator's ballot. Proposals are presented and diners vote for their favorites. At the end of the night, ballots are counted and the project or projects with the most votes receive grants from the money collected. An alternative funding model for the arts, the Sunday Soup Network allows artists to receive funding from their communities and in turn create projects for those very communities.

The Sunday Soup Network

Art Gumbo Dubuque, IA	Feast Tampa Bay Tampa, FL	Skaftien Johannesburg & Cape Town, South Africa
Artist Bailout Los Angeles, CA	Feast Toronto Toronto, Canada	Soup Iowa City, IA
Brattleboro Essential Arts Network Brattleboro, VT	Fort Worth Dish Out Fort Worth, TX	Soup N'At Pittsburgh, PA
Bread! KC Kansas City, MO	Granaio Milano, Italy	Soup Seminars Providence, RI
Buffalo Sunday Soup Buffalo, NY	Greensboro Picnic Greensboro, NC	Soup Stock Ann Arbor, MI
Cafe Huntington Huntington, WV	HartFeast Hartford, CT	Spread Santa Fe, NM
CarbonSoup Carbondale, IL	Highbridge Artists Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	Sprout Seattle Seattle, WA
Cheltenham's Sunday Soup Sessions Cheltenham, UK	Humboldt Dish Out Humboldt County, CA	Square Meal Charleston, WV
Cosa bolle in pentola? Bologna, Italy	inCUBATE Chicago, IL	Sunday Borscht Kiev, Ukraine
CU@Soup Roseville, MI	Madison Soup Madison, WI	Sunday Soup Traverse City, MI
DC Kitchen of Innovation Washington, DC	MKEat Milwaukee, WI	Sunday Soup GR Grand Rapids, MI
Detroit Soup Detroit, MI	Philly Stake Philadelphia, PA	Sunday Soup Phoenixville
Feast Brooklyn Brooklyn, NY	Portland Stock Portland, OR	Supper Flagstaff, AZ
Feast Mass Boston, MA	Providence Provision Providence, RI	Valley Feast Northampton, MA
Feast Mpls Minneapolis, MN	Public Meal Alfred, NY	Wilmington Stir Wilmington, DE
	Salt City Dishes Syracuse, NY	

"Living As Form" presented by Creative Time
October 1-2, 2011

Int'l Day of Soup

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"We started with the idea that the way one goes about acquiring the necessary resources to keep an art practice afloat is just as creative an endeavor as the way those resources are utilized."

—InCUBATE, Chicago, IL



InCUBATE, Chicago, IL



Philly Stake, Philadelphia, PA

Find a space and build a dedicated team.

"So we rented a storefront space, started a residency program, established our clubhouse, organized talks and gatherings, and began to build a community of collaborators and fellow-travelers to question what kind of art world we wanted to operate in."

—InCUBATE, Chicago, IL

"Spend some time procuring local donations and foraged foods; no-cost items mean we can give more to the grant winner. We live in an area where you can forage for wonderful mushrooms, ramps, fruits, berries and more. Local gardeners and farmers donate amazing things, and part of my interest is in cooking whatever they give me."

—Public Meal, Alfred, NY



Feast Mass, Boston, MA

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"We collaborate with the local timebank to garner resources such as volunteers, services and foodstuffs. Through the timebank we were able to get access to the kitchen of a professional caterer just blocks from our donated venue."

—Artist Bailout, Los Angeles, CA

Source supplies, promote event, call for proposals.

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"Locate a Community Supported Kitchen (like a CSA, but a CSK) and rent it out at a low rate in return for advertising."

—Portland Stock, Portland, OR

Charge a modest amount for a meal and a ballot.

"Organize a menu tasting meeting to plan your upcoming dinner. This is a great way to decide on your menu and makes for the most well-attended meeting!"

—Philly Stake, Philadelphia, PA



Philly Stake, Philadelphia, PA

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"It is crucial to make people feel as comfortable as possible during the meal, serving at tables and allowing for conversations to happen."

—Granaio, Milan, Italy

Serve food, engage guests, present the projects.

"Look in your own backyard. While there is no doubt that national and international grants are a great resource, large scale funding organizations are increasingly vulnerable to the vicissitudes of the financial market and political pressures. We wondered how art could serve the immediate needs of a neighborhood and in turn find financial support within that community. We found inspiration in our CSA farm shares, and in many respects Feast functions as a CSA for artists."

—Feast Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY

"Philly Stake was organized as an open call opportunity rather than as a group of friends. Unaffiliated individuals came together around their various passions ranging from local food, supporting creative community-engaging projects, the general spirit of the project, and direct micro-granting. This dynamic and these passions explain the strong commitment of our eighteen organizers."

—Philly Stake, Philadelphia, PA

"If you're afraid you won't have enough plates or too many people show up, offer "peanut gallery" seating/standing room and ask people to pay half-price for the opportunity to vote. (It also doesn't hurt to actually provide peanuts.)"

—Portland Stock, Portland, OR



Feast Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY



Feast Toronto, Toronto, Canada

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"Music has a great pull. We invite one unique band and minimum two DJs. We also have two resident DJs. This helps build Skaftien ambassadors."

—Skaftien, Johannesburg & Cape Town, South Africa

Distribute the event's proceeds according to the vote.

"Most granting programs don't allow for student applicants. Through a partnership with XPACE Cultural Centre we are able to offer subsidized student tickets to the event, and offer a dedicated student grant (funded by XPACE) in addition to the Feast project grant."

—Feast Toronto, Toronto, Canada



Providence Provision, Providence, RI

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"The more special you make it, the more fun it is; special ballots, big checks, or crowns for presenters."

—Bread! KC, Kansas City, MO

Document, reflect, share your experiences with others.

"Afterward, reflect on what worked and what didn't work."

—Detroit Soup, Detroit, MI

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"It's really important to listen to the needs of the community and make sure the supper reflects the patrons who are going to attend and the artists who are going to present."

—Sprout Seattle, Seattle, WA

Guests vote for their favorite project.



Detroit Soup, Detroit, MI



Sprout Seattle, Seattle, WA

"Allow attendees pitch in—people like to help! Stake diners wash and dry their own plates and forks (which Philly Stake bought from local thrift stores)."

—Philly Stake, Philadelphia, PA



Artist Bailout, Los Angeles, CA



Granaio, Milano, Italy



Bread! KC, Kansas City, MO



Detroit Soup, Detroit, MI

"Sunday Soup is not systematic infrastructural change. It is not the perfectly formed replacement model of cultural funding, but rather a forum for discussion about how we were going to build our careers, work together cooperatively, and be happy doing so. It's neither an individual or group's discrete art project nor a business that anyone owned."

—InCUBATE, Chicago, IL

SundaySoup.org

Poster designed by Golden Arrows