

Using Calvino's *Invisible Cities* as inspiration, the city that exists from dusk till dawn could be categorized as a Dark City or a Shadow City. In the night, our surroundings become an urban wilderness, and as inhabitants, we are vulnerable; we are often warned of the lurking dangers and mysteries at these hours. We are disconnected; we don't talk to strangers here. We shield ourselves from nightmares.

*Nighttime Post*, a collaboration between artists Anthony Chapin and Erin Lavelle, is a participatory arts project that responds to the fear of the dark and the disconnection it brings by delivering 'messages of light' from citizen to random citizen throughout the night, illuminating the bond between strangers. On the special occasion of Northern Spark, we project a new image of our nighttime city as a place of engagement, creativity, warmth and communication, and we offer dreams for each other and our surroundings.

*Nighttime Post* will include three 'post offices' throughout the festival. Each will consist of an enclosed tent identified by flags and a glowing lantern with the word 'POST.' The tents, resembling safari or cavalry tents, are easily set up & deconstructed and lend a temporary, cozy aesthetic in contrast to the solid surrounding urban scenery. Participants will queue up outside the tent. Inside will reside two postmasters seated at small wooden desks and equipped with old-fashioned typewriters. Their workstations will be illuminated with lamps; additional interior lighting will cast silhouette shadows on the walls for the outside participants to view. Each post office will have its own signature post card – a miniature work of art – designed with imagery specific to nighttime illumination (i.e. moon, stars, fire, etc.), and inspired by the nearby architecture or elements of the physical location within the city itself (e.g. the river; a building, etc.).

In pairs or small groups, participants will be invited into the tents; the postmasters will prompt them to offer a 'message of light' to a stranger – a future anonymous recipient of the message. (Sample prompts might be: 'What do you dream of for your neighbors?' 'What inspires you about Minneapolis?' or 'Make a wish for a fellow citizen'). Participants will dictate their message and postmasters will type them up on a postcard. This dictation/typing practice is inspired by the common street-side typewriting services used throughout Latin America and Asia, which are meant to provide all citizens (esp. illiterate ones) with a means of communication to the rest of the world. Dictating the message to the postmaster will also enhance the interactive and intimate experience between 'worker' and 'citizen.'

At specific time intervals, a rotating fleet of bicycle mail carriers will travel in pairs from post to post to perform the collection and delivery ritual of the postcards. Their bicycles will be illuminated with bike-powered and/or battery-operated lights & a lantern. This performance may include the ringing of bells, horn fanfares and improvised interaction with postmasters and postcard recipients. The intention is to conduct the delivery performance in small groups or even private moments between deliverer and recipient(s). Once an individual receives a post card, (s)he will be encouraged to go to the nearby post office and send one of her/his own to a stranger.

The post offices will be open throughout the night, closing one hour before the end of the festival; postcard delivery will continue until dawn. The project will engage a minimum of 6 performers as typists and a minimum of 6 cyclists as mail carriers, and provide up to 1200 postcards to audience members (the projected capacity with limited minutes from dusk till dawn).

*Nighttime Post* uses old technology (typewriters; bicycles) in a new-fashioned form of the anonymous message to the world (think Twitter) to encourage participation, communication and connection between citizens of the nighttime Minneapolis/Northern Spark city. Just as Twitter, this brief message is sent out to the ether to be read by a stranger, and yet, unlike Twitter, it will pass slowly through the night – from the heart and mind to the mouth to the ear, the typewriter, the bike and finally to the hands of the recipient. And instead of self-serving announcements, the messages are projected outwards, intended for a single, special beneficiary.

**Location/Space needs:**

We are flexible with the specific locations of the 3 post offices, but would request that they are spread out over the map of the festival, and that each space be located nearby other projects and foot traffic. Preferred locations would include the riverfront (grassy area near the actual Post Office), the U of M Campus and either the Walker or the MIA, but we are open to other locations that make sense within the context of other projects and the festival layout as a whole. We are open to working with unusual sites, and are excited to use location specifics to inform the tent set-up and the imagery included on the 3 postcard designs.

Bikes are an integral portion of *Nighttime Post*, and it would be helpful for the post offices to be near major bike lanes/paths/the greenway. This is not necessary, just a consideration.

Each of the 3 post offices requires an overall footprint of approximately 20' x 20' (does not need to be exact, does not need to be square). This size accommodates for both the post office itself and an audience queue outside of it. Within this footprint we require a relatively flat 10 x 10 surface for the tent (i.e. not on a hill). The tent itself needs to be set up in some kind of greenspace/earth (not concrete/asphalt; the tent poles need to be pounded into the ground).

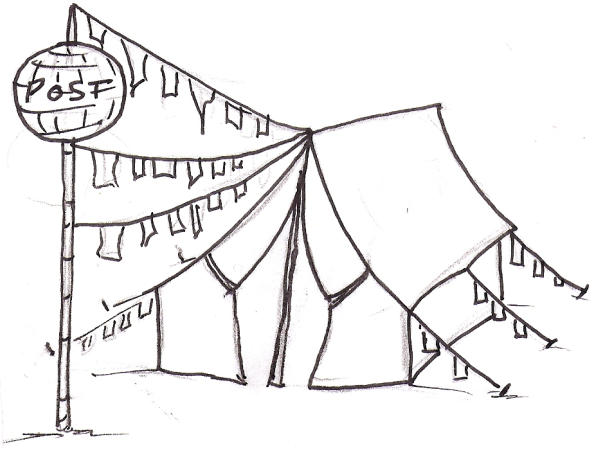
Additionally, we have a van to transport the tents and associated furniture, props, lighting, etc. We require spaces that allow for nearby (within 2 blocks) short-term parking of the van during drop-off & pick-up of materials.

**Technical needs:**

We require access to a 15 amp outlet at each of the 3 sites (for lighting purposes only). If no nearby power source is available, we will rent a generator for each site. This cost is reflected on the budget, and would be eliminated if the festival provides access to power.

**A note on Aesthetics & Safety**

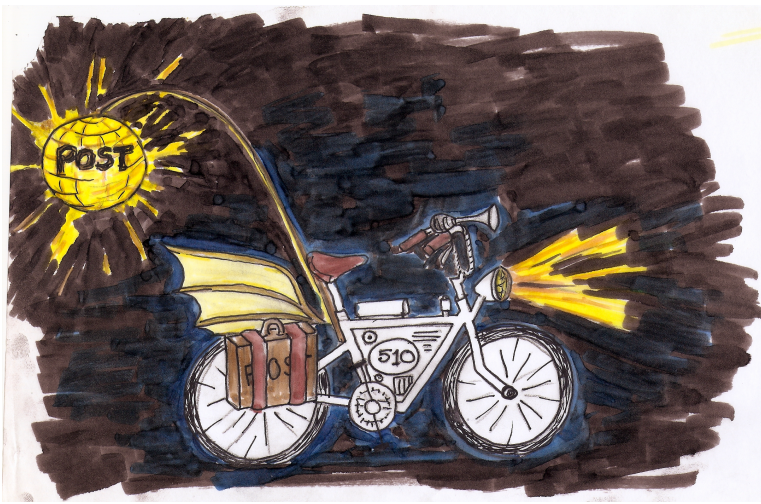
We are utilizing the talents of experienced cyclists, and each will be equipped with a new helmet and proper lighting. Though aesthetically & visually this will unify our fleet, it is also a safety consideration, which we take seriously.



Post Office set-up concept sketch.  
(Tent, flags and lantern signage)



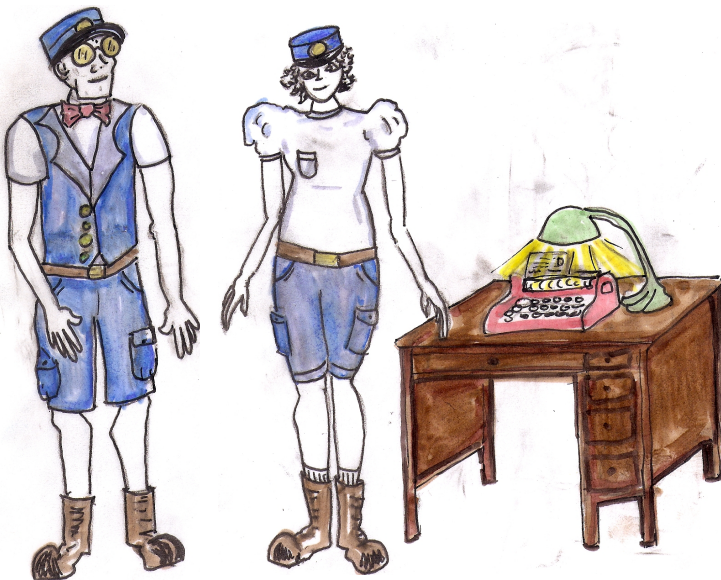
Inspiration for tent style, material and lighting.



Bike design concept sketch.  
(Head light, wing decoration, horn, briefcase, and lantern)



Inspiration for bike style, decorations and lighting.



Postmaster/typist costume concept sketch  
with desk, typewriter and desk lamp



Letter carrier costume concept sketch.  
(Helmet, goggles, clothing and illuminated briefcase)

**Erin Lavelle** is an installation artist, set & costume designer and producer. She is interested in participatory arts, and her work focuses on site-specific locations and interactive elements, engaging both artist & audience, and fostering an immediate relationship that demands response. In her set designs she seeks to create interactive worlds within which both performers and audience members reside, blurring the line between stage & seating, making everyone part of the performance. She has worked extensively with local production companies Kaotic Good and The Peoples Cook, partnering with local and national institutions, including: Arizona State University (Phoenix/Tempe); Contemporary Museum (Baltimore); Columbia College (Chicago); Intermedia Arts; Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company (San Diego); and Pangea World Theater. She has participated in many festivals, including: Artery 24 at the Soap Factory; Northern Spark; the Minnesota Fringe Festival; Asian American Theatre Festival (NYC); and la Feria Internacional de Libros, the largest Spanish-language book fair in the world, held annually in Guadalajara, Mexico.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (selected works)

### Design (Costume and Set/Installation)

- 2012 *iViva la Soul Power!*, The Peoples Cook and Intermedia Arts (Minneapolis)
- 2012 *Travels with Whitey*, Teatro del Pueblo (Saint Paul)
- 2011 *Self (the Remix)*, Kaotic Good Productions and Intermedia Arts (Minneapolis)
- 2009 *Farid Mercury*, Kaotic Good Productions & City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, at La Feria Internacional de Libros (Guadalajara, Mexico); NPN National Conference (Knoxville, TN); Dreamland Arts (Saint Paul)
- 2003-2011 *The Cooking Show con Karimi y Comrades*, Kaotic Good Productions (multiple productions/episodes & tour locations nationwide)

### Interactive Installations

- 2012 "Mama Wit's House," *Feed & Be Fed*, The Peoples Cook & Intermedia Arts (Minneapolis)
- 2012 "Bottle Chandelier," *Feed & Be Fed*, The Peoples Cook & Intermedia Arts (Minneapolis)
- 2012 "Altar to G-ma Ruby," *Feed & Be Fed*, The Peoples Cook & Intermedia Arts (Minneapolis)

### Performance

- 2013 kazoo band member, Northern Spark (St. Paul)
- 2009 *Right Practice, Or; Which Way to the Good Life* by May Mahala, Artery 24 at The Soap Factory (Minneapolis) & Perpich Center for Arts Education (Golden Valley, MN)
- 2005 *Together Apart*, Written/Directed by Molly Balcom Raleigh & May Mahala, Minnesota Fringe Festival (Minneapolis)

### Curation

- 2012 *Feed & Be Fed (Alimenta y Déjate Alimentar)*, The Peoples Cook & Intermedia Arts (Minneapolis)
- 2006-07 *Art House Party*, various private homes (Minneapolis)

### Producer

- 2012 *28 Days of Good Energía*, The Peoples Cook (Minneapolis/St. Paul)
- 2012 *iViva la Soul Power!*, The Peoples Cook & Intermedia Arts (Minneapolis)
- 2012 *Travels with Whitey*, Teatro del Pueblo (Saint Paul)
- 2011 *Self (the Remix)*, Kaotic Good Productions & Intermedia Arts (Minneapolis)

## EDUCATION

- 2003 BA, Theatre Arts, minor in Linguistics, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (focus in Directing and Costume Design)
- 2000 New York University (Jazz History courses)
- 1998-2000 Macalester College (Music and Theatre courses)

**Anthony Chapin** is a multi-disciplinary artist with work in sculpture, woodcarving, photography, painting, performance, puppetry and design. He has collaborated with Bedlam Theatre and BareBones Productions on the design and construction of costumes, props and puppets, as well as lighting design. For the past two years he performed as a stilter/puppeteer in the annual BareBones Halloween Outdoor Puppet Extravaganza. Themes of darkness and light appear in his solo work, and his aesthetic is often whimsical and other-worldly. He is interested in the natural world and organic forms, as well as the manufactured world, emphasizing imagery of decay and nature's reclamation of abandoned. Anthony has a degree in Communication from the University of Minnesota, and has continued his artistic education with several studio arts courses at Minneapolis Community Technical College.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Puppet, Costume and Prop design

- 2013 *Carry On* Barebones Productions Halloween Outdoor Puppet Extravaganza
- 2013 *Una Leccion Para Volar/A Flying Lesson*, Bedlam Theatre 10Fest, Minneapolis, MN (playwright Claribel Gross)

### Performance work

- 2013 *Untitled*, 9X22 Dance Lab (with Choreographer Bill Hewitt)
- 2013 *Carry On*, Barebones Productions Halloween Outdoor Puppet Extravaganza, Minneapolis, MN
- 2013 Solo stilting performance, Arts off 84, Backus, MN
- 2013 2 person stilting performance, Glen Arbor July 4th Parade, Glen Arbor, MI
- 2013 *Una Leccion Para Volar/A Flying Lesson*, Bedlam Theatre 10Fest, Minneapolis, MN (playwright Claribel Gross)
- 2012 *Chicka-BOOM!*, Barebones Productions Halloween Outdoor Puppet Extravaganza, Minneapolis, MN

### Photography, Painting & Sculpture

- 2012 Group Show, Arts Off 84, Backus, MN (Juried)
- 2011 Group Show, Arts Off 84, Backus, MN (Juried)
- 2010 Group Show, Arts Off 84, Backus, MN (Juried)
- 2009 Group Show, Lake Ada Art Crawl, Backus, MN
- 2008 Member Exhibition, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hopkins, MN
- 2008 Group Show Lake Ada Art Crawl, Backus, MN
- 2008 Solo Exhibition, *Desert Sentinels*, Jay's Café St. Paul, MN
- 2008 3 person Exhibition, Jay's Café, St. Paul, MN
- 2007 3 person Exhibition, *Simply Hardware*, St. Paul, MN
- 2007 Group Show, Arts Off Raymond, St. Paul, MN

## EDUCATION

- 2009 Studio Art Coursework, Minneapolis Community & Technical College
- 2003 BA, Communication, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN

**BUDGET***Nighttime Post*

Northern Spark 2014

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>price</b>	<b>qty</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>notes on source/qty/etc.</b>
<b>Costumes</b>				
bike helmets	\$40.00	6	\$240.00	Freewheel Bike Shop
costumes	\$15.00	12	\$180.00	thrifed & altered
			<i>subtotal:</i>	<i>\$420.00</i>
<b>Installation/Set/Prop Materials</b>				
tent rental	\$80.00	3	\$240.00	Piragis Northwoods Company
desks	\$10.00	6	\$60.00	thrifed
chairs	\$10.00	6	\$60.00	thrifed
typewriters	\$35.00	6	\$210.00	craigslist
typewriter ribbons	\$12.00	6	\$72.00	amazon/online
postal briefcases	\$5.00	6	\$30.00	thrifed
			<i>subtotal:</i>	<i>\$672.00</i>
<b>Lighting/Tech</b>				
lighting for bikes	\$20.00	6	\$120.00	Freewheel Bike Shop
interior lighting for post offices	\$50.00	3	\$150.00	in-kind/borrowed
materials for lantern/signs	\$10.00	3	\$30.00	hardware store
generator rental	\$40.00	3	\$120.00	eliminate if power is provided
			<i>subtotal:</i>	<i>\$420.00</i>
<b>Printing</b>				
postcards + printing	\$356.00	1	\$356.00	cost for printing of 1200 (3 sets of 400)
			<i>subtotal:</i>	<i>\$356.00</i>
<b>Transportation</b>				
gas for vans	\$3.20	10	\$32.00	based on current prices
			<i>subtotal:</i>	<i>\$32.00</i>
<b>Personnel</b>				
artist fees	\$300.00	2	\$600.00	
additional staff for tech/set-up/break-down	\$150.00	1	\$150.00	
			<i>subtotal:</i>	<i>\$750.00</i>
			<b>total expenses:</b>	<b>\$2,650.00</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Northern Spark			\$2,500.00	
In-kind			\$150.00	
			<b>total income:</b>	<b>\$2,650.00</b>
			<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,650.00</b>
			<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,650.00</b>
			<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>