

Infrastructural Poetics

Rethinking the conditions that sustain creative work

Summary

Infrastructural Poetics is a facilitated workshop grounded in questions of care, restraint, and sustainability in creative and cultural work. It invites artists, cultural workers, and institutions to reflect on the ethical implications of how projects are structured, carried, and maintained over time, and to consider how scale, responsibility, and attention shape collective ways of working.

Objectives

- Help participants clarify what sustains their projects
- Create shared language around care, capacity, and resilience
- Encourage ethical restraint in contexts shaped by overproduction and speed
- Offer practical frameworks adaptable to different working contexts
- Support reflection without forcing outcomes or solutions

Format & Hosting

Duration: 1 full day or 2 half-days - 12–25 participants, in-person or virtual.

Format: Closed workshop (optional public conversation if desired)

Intended Participants

Artists, producers, and facilitators; curators and program managers; institutional teams interested in sustainability and care.

Outcomes

Participants leave with:

- Shared language around sustainability and care
- Clearer boundaries around essential vs. excess structures
- Reframed approaches to decision-making
- Stronger alignment between values and practice

Facilitator

William Ruiz Morales is a Cuban artist, dramaturg, and cultural strategist based in Los Angeles. Through [Ouow Studio](#), he works with artists and cultural organizations to design programs, systems, and conditions that support sustainable creative work. His approach, **infrastructural poetics**, applies dramaturgical thinking to organizational structures, with attention to care, awe, restraint, and collective survival. William draws on more than 15 years of experience as a cultural strategist, working across Cuba, Europe, and the United States. These experiences inform a context-responsive approach to strategy, attentive to local conditions, institutional cultures, and lived realities.

Program Description

Infrastructural Poetics is a program delivered through a facilitated workshop format. It offers a shared space for artists, cultural workers, and institutions to examine the practical structures that support their work. Rather than focusing on skills training or productivity, the workshop centers on reflection and dialogue around how projects are held, what they depend on, and what they ask of the people involved.

The program approaches infrastructure as a form of composition. Budgets, schedules, roles, care practices, and decision-making processes are explored as elements that shape experience, relationships, and modes of collaboration. Participants engage with questions of scale, timing, restraint, and sustainability in their own contexts through facilitated discussion, small-group work, and collective project mapping exercises.

Structure Summary

The workshop is organized around six modules, delivered over one full day or two half-days.

Module 1 — What Are You Carrying?

Participants identify current projects and name visible and invisible infrastructures supporting them. Focus: load awareness.

Module 2 — Abandoned buildings

Participants identify overbuilt or speculative structures in their work and consider the futures they assume. Focus: diagnosis.

Module 3 — Shelters

Participants map the minimal life-support systems of a project, such as hosting, communication, care, funding, and accountability, aiming to remove everything else. Focus: shelter logic.

Module 4 — Threshold Mapping

Participants identify past breaking points or moments of overload and read them as patterns rather than failures. Focus: experience as knowledge.

Module 5 — Dismantling

The group reflects on what can be removed without grief, what must remain, and what should leave no trace. Focus: resilience over capacity.

Module 6 — Ethical Restraint

Participants discuss speed, AI, and overproduction, closing with principles rather than action plans. Focus: restraint as an ethical practice.