

Welcome. This is an introduction to Transformasium.

We are five people who have moved from the places we were to a place we are making our home. We are all here for different reasons, those reasons change daily, and we are finding more reasons all of the time.

This is an activity book. With you involved it becomes an active book.

The story begins with an abandoned building in a post-industrial American steel town. It is a place with enough rooms to accommodate our dreams and ideals. We are making a space inside the building that values resources, invites our neighbors, and is an accessible model of creative engagement and action.

We are making a space outside the building for listening to each other, and others, and for responding with energy and care. We are building structures that are flexible and generous and that stubbornly acknowledge the challenges here (unemployment, racism, boredom, frustration, drugs, blight, groundhogs, a declining tax-base, bureaucracy, to name a few), as well as the unlimited possibilities.

We believe that the artistic process, in combination with locally identified resources, can transform ideas into tangible social and economic benefits. We want to make the artistic process available to everyone we meet. It is a resource we bring to the table. We couldn't do it without the resources that are already here.

What do you think about neighborhood, economy, systems of value, the tension between outside and inside, and the potential for the artistic process to be a platform for action? How many words can you make from the letters that spell TRANSFORMASIUM?

**T R A N S F O
R M A S I U M**