

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **World-Renowned Bicycle Revolutionary to Visit Troy 7PM on September 15, 2008**

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TROY - On September 15, Chris Carlsson - San Francisco-based author, urbanist, and instigator - will be presenting his latest work, Nowtopia, at The Sanctuary for Independent Media. The event is co-sponsored by the New York Bicycling Coalition and Troy Bike Rescue. Admission will be by donation. Call (518) 272-2390, email info@MediaSanctuary.org, or visit www.MediaSanctuary.org for directions and more information. The Sanctuary for Independent Media is located at 3361 6th Avenue in North Troy.

Carlsson will be discussing his new book Nowtopia, while sharing the spotlight with local bike enthusiasts, Troy Bike Rescue, and members of Rhizome Collective, of Austin, TX. As the number of cyclists in Troy visibly grows, some might hope that this prophet from the bike-city of San Francisco will be bringing the good word of separated bike lanes and proper bike parking to the auto-dominated streets of Troy. However, Carlsson's latest writing carry a much broader message - it's an analysis of 'work' and a vision of radical new economics that he contends is already taking shape.

So, how do the Open Source software movement, bicycle sub-culture, guerilla gardening, and the Burning Man Festival fit together? Chris Carlsson connects these dots as he profiles social networks that are cooperating outside of economic regulation and laying the foundation for a genuine movement of liberation from market life. Nowtopia uncovers resistance and rebellion amidst fractions of a slowly recomposing working class in America. Rarely self-identifying as mere 'workers,' people from all walks of life are doing incredible amounts of work in their "free" "non-work" time. This unpaid work is creating immediate practical improvements in daily life. More interesting still, these initiatives constitute a more thorough refusal of politics and economics as usual.

Troy Bike Rescue and the Rhizome Collective, two groups that will be represented at the Nowtopia event, are living proof of Carlsson's writings. Both groups are comprised largely of volunteer labor and are thriving outside of the logic of the market. Troy Bike Rescue has been recycling bikes from the waste stream and operating self-service bike repair clinics in the capital region since 2001. The Rhizome Collective - a group of radical urban gardeners and visionaries based in Austin, TX - have created a permaculture education center from an abandoned warehouse. Rhizome will be sharing their skills through two R.U.S.T. (Radical Urban Sustainability Training) workshops in September at the Free School in Albany. Both groups will be presenting photographs of their activities and practical demonstrations.

Carlsson is perhaps best known in the bicycle community as one of the first motivators of the monthly Critical Mass bike rides that began in the early 90s in San Francisco, and have spread to 5 continents and over 300 cities around the world - including Albany, NY, of course. For the last twenty-five years his activities have focused on the underlying themes of horizontal communications, organic communities and public space. Local organizer, and founder of Troy Bike Rescue, Andrew Lynn first came across Carlsson's ideas when he was producing the film Still We Ride, which investigated and documented the NYPD's heavy-handed persecution of New York City's Critical Mass Ride in the wake of the 2004 Republican National Convention. " We interviewed Chris, for a historical perspective of the Critical Mass rides, but after watching the whole one-hour interview, we realized that he had a lot more to say, much of which was way beyond the scope of our film. We thought the interview was so brilliant that we included it in its entirety as a DVD extra."

Lynn, who is a volunteer co-director at The Sanctuary for Independent Media (in addition to his affiliation with Troy Bike Rescue) hopes to continue to forge connections and spark ideas with this event. "People who are organizing radical projects know that 'the revolution will not be funded'. Making true social change and moving society towards sustainable future is not just about 'going green'; it's about building sustainable social and technical infrastructure. This will require new levels of cooperation and innovation."

#### Informational Links:

Hi-Res Image: <http://mediasanctuary.org/node/176>

Chris Carlsson & Nowtopia: [http://www.processedworld.com/carlsson/nowtopia\\_web/](http://www.processedworld.com/carlsson/nowtopia_web/)

Rhizome Collective: <http://www.rhizomecollective.org>

Troy Bike Rescue: <http://www.troybikerescue.org>

New York Bicycling Coalition: <http://www.nybc.net>

The Sanctuary for Independent Media: <http://www.mediasanctuary.org>

The Sanctuary for Independent Media is a telecommunications production facility dedicated to community media arts, located in an historic former church at 3361 6th Avenue in North Troy, NY. The Sanctuary hosts screening, production and performance facilities, training in media production and a meeting space for artists, activists and independent media makers of all kinds.