



Comfort Station

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Comfort Station Presents: Edra Soto's *La Casa de Todos / Everyone's Home* Edra Soto's lawn installation opens Comfort Station's summer season on **June 15, 2024**

CHICAGO, IL – Comfort Station is pleased to announce *La Casa de Todos / Everyone's Home*, an exhibition by Edra Soto that will reimagine the existing installation SCAFFOLD. **With an updated opening date of June 15, 2024**, the exhibition will be accompanied by various programs throughout the summer and fall.

Soto's practice draws from her Puerto Rican roots to instigate conversations about history, diasporic identity, and constructed social orders. *La Casa de Todos* builds on her ongoing project "Graft," which integrates architectural intervention and social practice.

With this public installation, Soto invites the community to celebrate a shared home together. *La Casa de Todos*, or "Everyone's Home," reconfigures Via Chicago Architects + Diseñadores' work titled SCAFFOLD, transforming its structure by overlapping abstract carved panels, delineating safe zones destined to house public gatherings and moments for celebration.

The decorative motifs carved to the panels are directly sourced from representations of Puerto Rican *rejas* (wrought iron screens) commonly found throughout the archipelago. The introduction to a structure painted with a multicolored palette, a new approach to Soto's work, was sourced from the archipelago's residential architecture. Her representations of *rejas* propose and celebrate the cultural value of Puerto Rico's lower- and middle-class communities. Soto's works investigate and make visible the relationships between Puerto Rican cultural memory, its African and Black heritage, and the threads of colonial historical lineage of the United States.

"It's such an honor to work with Edra Soto on this project," says Kitty Rauth, Comfort Station's artistic director. "I deeply admire her unwavering warmth and penchant for connecting people, bringing them together and giving artists a space to present their work within her own. Her practice is one of gift giving and reciprocity, and *La Casa de Todos* is an exciting backdrop for my hope of relationship building and mutual support this summer and fall."

Beginning with the opening of *La Casa de Todos* in mid-June, Comfort Station will be hosting a series of related performances and programming, many of which are co-produced by the Palenque LSNA neighborhood association of Logan Square. The first of these performances will be presented by **Ivelisse Diaz and band BomPleneras** at 5PM on the evening of the opening, June 15.

Events occurring throughout the summer and fall include: a series of **“Drag Me To Life” performances hosted by Cindy Nero**; a time-based projection installation with **Kat Bawden** curated by **Inés Arango-Guingue** on July 13; a **dinner hosted by Txa Txa Club** on July 26; a special iteration of improvisational performance project **Freedom From, Freedom To** on September 6; and a closing Dia de Muertos celebration organized by **Opera-Matic youth**.

La Casa de Todos is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Terra Foundation for American Art, and is part of Art Design Chicago, a citywide collaboration initiated by the Terra Foundation that highlights the city’s artistic heritage and creative communities.

For more information, contact:

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ABOUT COMFORT STATION

Comfort Station activates a historic building with public, community-driven programs that foster vibrant connections at the intersection of art and life. Since 2011, it has operated out of a 1920s city-owned building that was once intended to be a space for travelers to stay warm while waiting for public transportation. That legacy fuels its mission to act as a porous and public gathering space for a variety of creative communities.