

## **Living Labor Glossary Terms**

### Collaboration

Collaboration is an ambiguous term used by many people to describe “joint work” to create something new. But what constitutes joint work? I think it must mean more than shared labor. As an artist and organizer, I believe collaboration implies not just shared labor but shared decision-making power and shared benefits. Joint work without shared power is not collaboration; it is participation. (Caroline Woolard)

### Collective Ownership

There is a common but mistaken perception that collective ownership is equivalent to the absence of property rights. This is not the case. There are three fundamentally different types of property rights regimes: open access, collective property, and private property. Private property vests a bundle of rights in a single owner. On the other end of the spectrum, open access is equivalent to a no-property (or *res nullius*) regime, where no one person has superior rights to a resource than anyone else. Collective ownership, in contrast, is characterized by defined boundaries, clarity regarding the identity of those individuals who have a right to exercise resource claims, community-level collective choice arrangements to determine resource use rules, and internal monitoring of rule compliance and enforcement of rule violations by and against community members. (Terra Lawson-Remer)

### Participation

Participation is engagement in a predetermined structure. Participants are informed and may be consulted for their opinion, but big decisions are made elsewhere. Now, participation is necessary in many contexts, but only collaboration, with its emphasis on shared power, allows transformative groups to emerge. If we can understand collaboration this way, and not simply as joint work, we can see how the contemporary drive to collaborate can have wide-ranging implications for direct democracy in art projects, businesses, and classrooms. (Caroline Woolard)

### Resistance

Resistance starts with awareness, and the sharpening of our ability to perceive the nature of our situatedness in the world. In relation to labor, resistance is the realization of the significant shift in lived temporality, the erosion of time at work and free time (“leisure”). It is the recognition that we are all responsible for the global working conditions, the inequality and climate crisis that the quest for productivity under late capitalism creates.

Resistance is embracing pockets of unused time, to be “unproductive”: to daydream, rest, think, to connect with each other face to face, to come together in communities and share something other than our desire to consume under rubrics of life-style and individualism. By extension, it is to resist the impulse to be perpetually plugged in and the inevitable surveillance of our activities that comes with it, be it by governments or corporations.

To resist is to make small adjustments in your professional life and to prioritize life in a way that is conscientious and questions how we may meaningfully inhabit a world in which an “outside” position isn't possible. (Milena Hoegsberg)