



Please return survey to:  
[bands@honkfest.org](mailto:bands@honkfest.org)  
by September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010

[www.honkfest.org](http://www.honkfest.org)

August 2010

Dear bands:

For this, our fifth year, we would like to better feature the diversity and activism of participating bands. Of course, our diversity is not only in the music and spectacle we make, but also in how we conceive the formation and progress of our band as a social act, and how we want our performances to be in solidarity with and inspire our local neighborhoods and communities.

As you know, the Honk! Festival is not just a music festival, not just a brass band festival, but rather, a celebration of all the many ways street bands can make a real, lasting difference in the world. For most bands, that means playing for free in the street, for a parade or protest, a worthy cause or a community event. And it usually means doing all these things according to some basic principles of musicianship and democratic participation. We want to feature and promote what those principles are, how each band arrives at their present look and sound, why they choose the gigs and songs they choose, and where they most often roam and play.

We have a number of ways in which we hope to foreground your commitment to community and activism this year, and Honk!'s commitment to grassroots organizing in greater Somerville.

We've created the following survey for you to respond and share your ideas.

See: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/J2DN5YF>

Please take a look now and share! There are just six questions and the survey will remain open through **September 6th**, so you can return to questions you don't have answers to right now.

You can also print or email a copy of the survey off our website at <http://www.honkfest.org/2010bandsurvey>

Hope to hear from you soon!

Best,

*Your friendly neighborhood Honk! committee*

John Bell, David Blank-Edelman, Trudi Cohen, Shaunalynn Duffy, Ken Field, Bob Follansbee, Reebee Garofalo, Rob Gregory, Harris Gruman, Susie Husted, Kevin Leppmann, Maury Martin, Dave Morgan, Michael Romanyshyn, Michael Rome, Lydia Stein & Rand Wilson

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### **Write It Down!**

We'd like to publicize in your own words -- on our website, posters at show venues, and possibly elsewhere -- what you see as your band's basic principles of organizing, and how you see your band as contributing to your community. It doesn't have to be long or poetic, or any kind of mission statement -- even a list of representative performances/venues would give other bands, and our big audience, a better idea of who you are, and a better appreciation for what you do in your hometown to make a better world.

Here are some questions to consider:

- What's your calling? - a one-to-three sentence tag line or other description of your band's mission, attitude or other explanation that you offer friends and fans when they ask "what's your band about?"
  
  
- What's your form? - how are you organized? Do you have a leader? How do you decide who is in the band? How do you decide when and where to play?
  
  
- What's your style? - What's your musical repertoire, and why? What are your musical and other artistic inspirations?
  
  
- Where's your home? - How was the band born? Where do you rehearse? Where and for whom do you most often play. What are some of your most memorable or representative gigs, events or venues?
  
  
- What else would you like to share?



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### **Speak Out!**

In celebration of the fifth anniversary of the festival, each HONK! committee member has been interviewed about their history with HONK! and beliefs about its role in creating social change. These interviews have been audio recorded, and will be transcribed by festival time. We'd like to hear from you too!

With your permission, your interview will be transcribed, and posted at the HONK! website.

- Does your band or members of your band want to schedule an interview during the festival to talk HONK!?



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### **Friday HONKs!**

Continuing the tradition we began last year, we will be connecting bands with community organizations in the afternoon on Friday, October 8th for performances in greater Boston. This is a unique way to connect with youth and grassroots organizers outside of the Davis Square community. Participating in the Friday HONKs! means you would need to arrive in Somerville by at least 12noon on Friday, October 8th.

- Do you want to play at a Friday HONK! this year?



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### **Community Connections!**

If you let us know more about your community organizing interests, we can help facilitate introductions to like-minded community groups here in Somerville.

We imagine this partnership being reciprocal. The community organization will help host you while you are in town – promoting your performances and being your guide – and you can be their inspiration at HONK!, possibly by sharing space at your performance locations on Saturday in Davis Square and/or coordinating your parade participation on Sunday.

Connecting you directly with local community organizations during your time at the Festival is a new idea this year. So please share your feelings and ideas on how we can make this work for you!

- What community causes do you support in your home city? Would you like to connect with a similar community organization while at HONK!? We can help make that happen! Just let us know more about what kind of connection we can help you make.



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### **Workshops!**

We are re-focusing our efforts to bring workshops to HONK! again this year. We have a wonderful space in a church just a stones-throw from the Dilboy Hall on Friday evening during the festival. Three 1.5hr workshops will run concurrently from 6-7:30pm, and then 7:30-9pm. We have the workshop rooms until midnight – so if you feel like continuing on – we can!

- Here are some of the workshop topics for Friday night that we are considering. What do you think? Are there other discussion topics you'd like to see? Would you be interested in facilitating a workshop?
  - How to HONK! -- A discussion with Honk! festival planners on the festival history, mission and logistics.
  
  - Politics and your band -- A how-to workshop on how to facilitate discussions about politics with your band, both to inform your internal descision-making, and your support of causes.
  
  - Leading/Facilitating Honk! Bands -- Hands-on exploration of varying methods of band leadership.
  
  - Repertoire Selection and Development -- Writing original songs – and re-writing old ones!

Please share your ideas for workshops too!



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**Other ideas?**

Do you have other ideas for how we can bring your commitment to community, civic engagement and the creation of a better world into the foreground at this year's Honk!?