

2021 Theme: CHANGE

Given all the upheavals of 2020, Spirit & Place re-evaluated its theme selections for 2021 and 2022 (originally CYCLES and NOURISH) and learned **CHANGE** is speaking the loudest to people.

Why wouldn't it? 2020 changed everything. We—and the world – feel changed. This change has been exhausting, exhilarating, terrifying, liberating, needed, too much, and not enough all rolled into one.

What can we learn from all this change? How do the **humanities**—history, literature, ethics, etc.—help us make sense of the present and re-imagine the future? How might **faith** anchor and guide us during these times? What attitudes and perspectives can the **arts** shift so that we better tackle needed change?

Get Inspired! Questions, Titles, & Quotes to Consider

Use the samples below with your planning team to prompt a creative interpretation of the theme.

Questions

- How is change an opportunity?
- How does social change bring us together and drive us apart?
- In what ways does change build upon or threaten tradition?
- How might we take advantage of these times to create positive change?
- How do we ground and prepare ourselves to be changemakers? What does selfcare look like for changemakers?
- Why is change terrifying to some and liberating to others?
- What is the relationship between personal and institutional change?
- How have changes to your discipline, profession, or institution shaken things up in the past and present?
- What can we learn from disasters and how they re-shape the way we live, work, and play?
- How have our habits adapted? Are those consequences good, bad, or something else?
- How have faith communities shaped social change movements in the past? How are they shaping—or resisting—adaptation today?
- How do artists and artmaking help us change perspectives, attitudes, and actions?
- How does storytelling change our view of the world and one another?

Center the Theme

Centering the theme throughout the process of selecting a topic, finding collaborating partners, and designing your event is crucial to a successful application.

The theme should never be an afterthought to your planning.

Title Examples (Want to run with one of these? You're welcome to it!)

- *Got Change for a \$20? The Economics of a Post-COVID-19 World*
- *Decolonizing Music: Changing the Practice of Erasing Voices*

- *Wheels of Change: What Tarot Says about Modern Life*
- *Water into Wine: Mystical Faith Stories*
- *Found Objects: Changing the Everyday into Art*
- *Emmett Till to George Floyd: Using Images to Change the World*
- *Ch-Ch-Changes! The Epic Brilliance of David Bowie*
- *The More Things Change, They Don't Have to Stay the Same*
- *Change My Mind: Acknowledging Confirmation Bias*
- *Change of Heart: The Practice of Forgiveness & Repair*
- *Conversion: The Journey of Embracing a New Faith*
- *How to Change a Tire and Other Life Skills I Learned During Quarantine*
- *The Times are a Changin': How the Generations View Climate Change*
- *Sampled: What's Old is New*
- *Artists as Alchemists: Shaping Neighborhood Change with Art-Making*
- *Transforming Trauma: Storytelling as a Healing Practice*
- *From Sauerkraut to Sourdough: Fermentations' Gifts*
- *How Jesus Became White: Reflection on the Image of Christ*
- *Civility: Then & Now. A Conversation on Historic and Contemporary Norms*
- *Theatre as Social Change Agent*
- *Arts & Humanities: E-Learning Lessons from COVID-19*
- *The Evolution of Theology in [FAITH TRADITION]*

Quotes

- “Disaster provides a form of societal shock which disrupts habitual, institutionalized patterns of behavior and renders people amenable to social and personal change.” – Rebecca Solnit, *A Paradise Built in Hell*
- “[I]n our world everybody thinks of changing humanity, and nobody thinks of changing himself.” – Leo Tolstoy, “Three Methods of Reform”
- “We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” –Barak Obama, Feb. 5, 2008
- “A wise man changes his mind, a fool never will.” – Spanish Proverb
- “When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills.” – Chinese Proverb