The event was one of the most thought provoking and thoughtful conversations I’ve participated in recently. That’s what I’ve come to expect from Spirit & Place and I’m so grateful for it.

— FESTIVAL EVENT ATTENDEE
We know that is a bold statement. Yet there is no other organization in the country that invites the community to unite and express itself through the creative use of the arts, humanities, and religion. Spirit & Place’s values rest in the power of honoring what we each bring to the table when welcomed to bring our whole selves.

For more than a quarter century, Spirit & Place has reached for new highs built on collaborating with others. We have laughed, loved, learned, and grown. We have also faltered and harmed. Not all growth is easy, after all. Spirit & Place’s journey has clarified its values so that it can make principled decisions rooted in equity, abundance, and—we hope!—humility.

REACH OUT TO US AT ANY TIME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SPIRIT & PLACE AND HOW YOU MIGHT GET INVOLVED.
SNAPSHOT
The Spirit & Place Festival emerged in 1996 from the Project on Religion and Urban Culture, a groundbreaking, multi-year initiative of The Polis Center at IUPUI that examined the relationship between urban religion and city life. Now called Spirit & Place, we are a self-funded, year-round community initiative housed in the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. Our projects use the arts, humanities, and religion to build stronger, more connected communities, helping to combat what author David Brooks calls the “distrust, loneliness, alienation, inequality, racism, spiritual emptiness and [polarization] that threatens the American social fabric.”

MISSION
TO CATALYZE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND ENDURING CHANGE THROUGH CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS AMONG THE ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND RELIGION.

CIVIC TOOLS

ARTS
By engaging our senses, the arts provide opportunities for embodied learning, liberate the imagination, and unlock fresh perspectives.

HUMANITIES
Through history, literature, philosophy, anthropology, language, and related disciplines, the humanities explore the complex interactions between people, place, and time.

RELIGION
The world’s spiritual traditions invite us to examine what it means to be human, how we live our values in both individual and public life, and how we should live in relationship to the seen and unseen world.

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The world’s spiritual traditions invite us to examine what it means to be human, how we live our values in both individual and public life, and how we should live in relationship to the seen and unseen world.
Our events bring people together to build stronger communities, make space for difficult community dialogue, and build civic skills and capacity.

<table>
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<th>WHY</th>
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| We do this because of the need to:  
• Break down silos  
• Challenge “either/or” and “us/them” mindsets  
• Combat civic disengagement  
• Disrupt inequity  
• Wrestle with complexity and nuance | Our values and processes are:  
• People-centered  
• Co-creative  
• Generative  
• Abundant  
• Glocal  
• Emergent | We co-create:  
EVENTS  
• 11-day Spirit & Place Festival  
• Civic gatherings  
• Spring faith event  
DIALOGUES  
• Powerful Conversations on Race  
• Race & ...  
• Dialogues on IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Access)  
• Customized, race-centered dialogues  
SKILL BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES  
• Festival partner training  
• Civic dialogue reflection training  
• Arts-based community development | Our work:  
• Builds community bonds  
• Centers and amplifies unheard voices  
• Promotes adventurous civility  
• Advances community-centric collaborations  
• Builds civic capacity and capital  
• Sparks community transformation  
AND ADVANCES  
• Liberal arts skills (creativity, synthesis, communication, critical thinking, etc.)  
• Democratic principles (liberty, equality, justice, civic participation) |
AWARDS & RECOGNITION

As 2021 closed, Spirit & Place learned it was 1 of 8 to win the inaugural Arago Honors from the Indy Meridian Foundation! This $10,000 prize recognizes the innovation of our Powerful Conversations on Race series.

We also received $159,796 in grants, contracts, and awards for equity initiatives supporting race-centered dialogues for cultural, faith-based, and civic organizations as well as efforts to train youth service workers in the civic reflection dialogue method (the heart of our race-centered dialogues), and more. Check out our 2021 Equity Report, available under the Resources Tab of our website.

Spirit & Place is currently wrapping up its matching gift campaign in which Lilly Endowment Inc. will match up to $400,000 raised by April 30, 2022.

“Through the last year, we’ve seen how nonprofits have worked creatively to solve complex and constant community challenges. The Arago Honors seeks to lift up the inspiring stories of these exemplary nonprofits to amplify their missions and the social impact of their work in central Indiana and the nation.”

— DONNA OKLAK, FOUNDER OF MERIDIAN FOUNDATION
We know Spirit & Place is largely known for its annual festival. While it takes a full year to make the festival happen, there is plenty more that keeps us busy! Celebrate with us as we recap Spirit & Place’s work in the community.

**IN CELEBRATION**

5,339 people participated in 55 events, dialogues, and other presentations.

300+ community partners provided time, talent, and money, as well as passion, creativity and commitment.

359 people gained knowledge and skills in race-centered civic reflection, event planning, arts-based community development, and more.

728 program hours were co-created with 100+ partner organizations.
Spirit & Place staff and 5 community partners became certified civic reflection dialogue trainers.

Wrapped up The Corona Dialogues discussion series with community brainstorming to draft a “Pandemic Plan for Community Change.”

Co-hosted “Unpacking for the Hill We Climb,” a discussion using perspectives from the arts, humanities, and religion to examine Amanda Gorman’s Inauguration Day poem.

Inaugural community facilitator training on civic reflection.

Hosted a Zoom-based Civic Saturday on “Making Meaning.”

Hosted the spring faith event Living Stories: An Evening with Dr. Elaine Pagels moderated by Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde.

Launched Dialogues on IDEA for nonprofit, business, civic, cultural, philanthropic, faith-based, educational, and health and human service organizations.

Hosted the annual day-long “festival selection day” with a team of community application evaluators.

Facilitated a panel discussion of the film “Just Mercy” on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Hancock Co.

Assembled a community-based team (including two Spirit & Place staff) to become certified trainers in Restorative Practices via Peace Learning Center.

Facilitated race-centered dialogues for educators at the Symposium on Anti-Blackness, hosted by the IU-Bloomington College of Arts & Sciences.

Began conducting community interviews and surveys on the intersection of faith and civic life.
Hosted a 4-week Arts Based Community Development (ABCD) Training for 40+ individuals from multiple sectors, creating an online space for Indy’s ABCD community to continue connecting.

Launched a new website with a community “SpaceFinder” feature.

Hosted the Spirit & Place Festival offering 27 events co-created by 90+ community partners celebrating the theme of CHANGE via virtual, in-person, and hybrid events.

Partnered with Storytelling Arts of Indiana to offer A Storytelling Mindset: Event Strategizing Workshop with Sally Perkins.

Facilitated a special PCR for St. Paul’s and St. Philip’s Episcopal Churches as they grapple with shared and contested histories.

Hosted a 4-week Racial Trauma & Healing Workshop to help our PCR facilitators with the continuing trauma of doing race-based work in community.

Facilitated race-centered dialogues for staff, board members, and artists in the culture sector, hosted by the Indy Arts Council.
The Spirit & Place Festival is always filled with more highlights than we can reasonably share. These are just a few:

- The festival featured 27 events over 11 days put on by 90 community partners serving 4,202 attendees. That’s only 1,000 fewer attendees than pre-pandemic levels with 30+ festival events. The community partners who create and host festival events are amazing!

- The 26th Annual Public Conversation with Robert P. Jones and Leah Gunning Francis thoughtfully explored the legacy of white supremacy in American Christianity. Graciously, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church jumped at the chance to host and sponsor this event as part of their own equity journey.

- “The Road,” by jazz pianist Christopher Pitts, was commissioned by Spirit & Place and funded by the Indiana Arts Commission, which gets support from the State of Indiana and the National Endowment for the Arts.

- The 2021 Award of Awesomeness was given to the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art for Truthsgiving: Using Food to Dismantle a Colonial Myth. A runner-up prize went to the Garfield Park Arts Center for Monumental Changes: History and Power in Public Art.
The opportunity has spawned a true friendship between two guilds and our members will be working with INFiber all year. I can’t believe I had never heard of Spirit & Place before, but now that I have, I will be singing its praises from now on!

— DR. TONY JEAN DICKERSON
CENTRAL INDIANA AKOMA NTOSO MODERN QUILT GUILD
The Spirit & Place team literally meets with hundreds of people a year to provide collaboration ideas, event coaching, race-centered dialogue support, and more. But working to provide the community with unique events and trainings is what we love most! Make sure you are signed up for our monthly enewsletter, follow us on social media, and visit the event calendar on our website (spiritandplace.org) to learn about these and other exciting offerings in 2022.

**CIVIC CIRCLES.** We are modifying the Civic Saturday format to provide the community with a richer opportunity to engage with each other in dialogue about civic values. Civic Circles offer a space to nurture a shared sense of civic commitment using humanities-based texts, music, and community wisdom. (March, April, July, & August via Zoom.)

**POWERFUL CONVERSATIONS ON RACE.** Spirit & Place will continue offering this monthly dialogue series in 2022 via Zoom. As the pandemic changes, so might our in-person plans! (2nd Sunday of the month.)

**LAUGH IN PEACE COMEDY SHOW.** Featuring Rabbi Bob Alper, Rev. Susan Sparks, and Gibran Saleem, the Laugh in Peace Comedy Show features comics of three different faiths who share the goal of building bridges and reconciling differences through humor. (May 19 at Central Library.)

**CIVIC REFLECTION DIALOGUE TRAINING.** Specialized training for youth service workers will build the foundation for future race-centered dialogue among youth.

**27TH ANNUAL SPIRIT & PLACE FESTIVAL: IDENTIFY.** Who are you? Who are we together? How we identify and talk about ourselves—individually and collectively—frames how we walk in the world. Identity shapes stereotypes, institutions, culture, civic values, and much more. Do you have an event idea about IDENTIFY that would be great for this year’s festival? Applications are due May 8. Email festival@iupui.edu for more information.
“
The [civic reflection dialogue] training was so meaningful to me, particularly for the support from yourself and a community of folks that have been doing this work. I have not been in any other space like it yet. Truly, deeply, energizing. I am looking forward to growing in understanding of and ability to facilitate dialogue around race and racism.

— CLOCKWORK JANZ

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Over 95% of our annual budget is raised through community contributions including grants and individual donations. Without you, Spirit & Place would not be able to bring Central Indiana people-centered, year-round programming, and a one-of-a-kind festival. Sparking community transformation is no small feat.

HELP SUPPORT OUR WORK BY SCANNING THE QR CODE AND SELECTING “SPIRIT & PLACE” FROM THE DROPDOWN MENU TO MAKE A GIFT TODAY. GIFTS RECEIVED BY APRIL 30, 2022 WILL BE MATCHED BY LILLY ENDOWMENT INC.
THANKS

Our exceptional work would not be possible without lots of exceptional friends who contribute their time, talent, and resources to Spirit & Place. Thank you to all!

This list includes 2021 committee members, volunteers, facilitators, scholar-advisors, and community partners, as well as donors who gave between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. If your name is not listed as you would like it to be, or if it has been omitted, please accept our apologies and call us at (317)-278-2644.

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Ely Lilly & Company
Jill English
Equality Indiana
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Norma Erickson
Susan Erickson
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Marguerite Winslow
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Kay A. Youngblood and
Lynn R. Youngblood, Ed.D.
Thank you for a fantastic dialogue session this morning. It was meaningful, engaging, and actionable from beginning to end. A wonderful forum to connect with colleagues and learn about ourselves and each other in important new ways.

— JULIE GOODMAN
PRESIDENT & CEO, INDY ARTS COUNCIL
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