

Creating Spaces: Performing Arts in Sacred Places 2

Karen DiLossi, Director of Arts in Sacred Places
Partners for Sacred Places



Brian Sanders' JUNK Dance Company rehearses for The Gate Re-opened in Shiloh Baptist. Photo by Brian Sanders.



Hyde Park School of Dance, who rehearse at First Unitarian Church in Chicago, perform in the open air. Photo by HPSOD.

Who is Partners for Sacred Places?

- ▶ Founded in 1989
- ▶ A nondenominational national nonprofit dedicated to the **sound stewardship and ACTIVE community use** of older historic religious properties.
- ▶ Roots in Architecture, Heritage, and Preservation
- ▶ Over the years, evolved into a community catalyst organization



What is Arts in Sacred Places (AiSP)?

- ▶ *Making Homes for the Arts in Sacred Places* brings together **artists and arts organizations that need space** for rehearsals, studios, performances, offices, and other functions with **congregations and houses of worship that have unused or underused spaces**.
- ▶ We strive to create sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships bringing together the arts and faith worlds by aligning missions and finding the right match.



Snapshot of Arts in Sacred Places

- ▶ Program started in 2011
- ▶ Piloted in Philadelphia
Expanded to Chicago, Austin, & Baltimore
 - 55 total arts-sacred space matches
 - Starting work in Manhattan and Brooklyn in fall 2019
- ▶ Long-term, recurring and short-term relationships
- ▶ Space uses include:
 - Performance, rehearsal, office, storage, and build space
- ▶ Interviewed over 175 artists/arts orgs
(as of May 2019)
- ▶ Interviewed over 140 sacred places
(as of May 2019)



Mission & Vision Alignment

▶ **Mission**

- What we do everyday

▶ **Impact**

- The affect we have on people and places

▶ **Vision**

- What will the world look like when we fulfill our mission

▶ **Values**

- Guiding principals toward realizing our mission



Know Thyself • (*Temet Nosce*)



*Rev. Sparkman, Brian Sanders, & PSP Staff at Shiloh Baptist Church & JUNK lease signing.
Photo by PSP Staff.*

- ▶ Mission & Vision Alignment
- ▶ Personal Compatibility
- ▶ Artistic Content
- ▶ Decision-Making Process
- ▶ Finances
- ▶ Physical Space



Mission & Vision Alignment



Personal Compatibility



*Azuka Theatre's blackbox construction inside First Baptist Church's former prayer room.
Photo credit: PSP Staff.*



Artistic Content



Decision Making Process



*Azuka Theatre's blackbox construction inside First Baptist Church's former prayer room.
Photo credit: PSP Staff.*



Physical Space



Finances



Azuka Theatre's blackbox construction inside First Baptist Church's former prayer room.
Photo credit: PSP Staff.





*Grounds that Shout! (and others merely shaking): Procession venue #1, St. Peter's Episcopal Church cemetery.
Photo credit: Daniel Kontz*

Partnerships built on trust and permission are stronger.



ROI on Partnerships is high!



*Curio Theatre Company's production of Twelfth Night at Calvary UMC.
Photo credit: Kyle Cassidy*



Thank you!

Questions or Comments?

Karen DiLossi, Director of Arts in Sacred Places

Kdilossi@sacredplaces.org

215-567-3234 x16