ACTIVATING VACANCY
art
culture
community
development tool

community
activating vacancy
As the area around Elizabeth Chapel grew and prospered into a neighborhood of teamsters and merchants, the church had to grow also. In 1910, Norman Smart, a teamster and congregation member, helped to move the existing church to its present location at 1026 East 10th Street. The deed for this land was held by J.C. Jordan, a congregation member, during the building of this church. The church was then enlarged and rebuilt on its present location. It was at this time that the beautiful stained glass windows were added. The 1911 cornerstone shows the names of J.C. Jordan, R.L. Boswell, and the Rev. R.H. King, all outstanding members of the community.

Between 1911 and 1925, the church continued to grow from a church started by a few families to a church that served the whole community. In 1925, the deed for the church was finally paid off. The final cornerstone was laid and a brick facade put up at this time.

The prominent families of the area belonged to Elizabeth Chapel. The Boswells, originally from Alabama, were a family who supported the church to the fullest. Anthony Boswell settled in this area with his family. He became a successful merchant owning a store with Rev. Best
building partnerships
• identify key community organizations
• set up individual meetings
• determine partners
• collaborate with partners to build advisory committee(s) of invested stakeholders
envisioning the project
• hold a meeting with the committee(s) to determine desired goals, outcomes and artist evaluation criteria

• with the committees and community partners, distribute a call for artists

• hold at least one in person meeting to select artists
understanding the community
• host community “kickoff” event(s) for artists to learn from residents

• artists develop a proposal

• work with the artist and curatorial committee to refine the proposal

• share the final proposal at a “neighborhood social”
making it happen
• artists begin work on their project
• organize community events (like artist-led workshops)
• encourage resident and artist collaboration on making of the project
celebrating the work
• organize a celebratory event for the project opening

• invite the local community and others who may not frequently visit the area

• debrief with artists, residents and committee(s) to determine lessons learned and next steps
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