

Annual Indy festival explores value of RISK through 10-day series of events

Spirit & Place Festival celebrates 18th year November 1-10

INDIANAPOLIS – The 2013 Spirit & Place Festival will explore the concept of RISK with a series of more than 30 diverse and thought provoking programs November 1-10. Additionally, the festival expands on its RISK theme through preview events as part of the inaugural Signature Series, including an exploration of local and regional graffiti art and artists. The November festival's opening night will feature four innovative projects focusing on the notion of race in Central Indiana, with a \$20,000 award for the winner. The 18th annual Spirit & Place Public Conversation, featuring three of Indiana's most prominent risk takers, will serve as the closing event.

Now celebrating its 18th year, the city's largest collaborative festival is an extensive civic celebration engaging upwards of 20,000 people throughout Central Indiana in dozens of programs presented in partnership with more than 100 organizations. A project of The Polis Center, part of the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, its mission is to stimulate conversation, community building, and civic action through creative collaborations among the arts, religion, and humanities. Inherent in the human experience, RISK will be explored during the 2013 festival as a follow up to the 2012 focus on PLAY. A broad range of events will explore RISK through the lens of culture, faith, history, education, and more. Signature Series events are highlighted below, with a full list of festival events to be available in September at spiritandplace.org.

Midwest Graff

A Spirit & Place Signature Series Event

September 3 – October 4. Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Sunday, 1-7 p.m.
IUPUI Cultural Arts Gallery

While they may be infamous for their work displayed around cities and towns, graffiti artists are beginning to gain attention inside the gallery setting. The works, styles, and mediums of more than a dozen of the region's finest graffiti artists will surprise and intrigue attendees by offering a new perspective on one of the world's most distinctive art forms.

Scratching the SubSurface

A Spirit & Place Signature Series Event

Saturday, Sept. 14, 1-4 p.m.
IUPUI Cultural Arts Gallery & Fountain Square

Dive in to the stories behind the paint as Midwest Street Art's Pete Brown and a local graffiti artist talk about the artists featured in Midwest Graff and their work, answer questions from audience members and discuss the history of SubSurface, Indy's annual Labor Day weekend graffiti jam. Later, re-group in Fountain Square to get an up-close-and-personal look at this often-misunderstood art form via a walking tour of freshly

painted SubSurface walls.

\$20K: A Competition About Race
A Spirit & Place Signature Series Event

Friday, Nov. 1, 7-9 p.m.

Indianapolis Museum of Art, The Toby

\$10/person

Join the 2013 Spirit & Place Festival on opening night as daring projects that re-shape the notion of race in Central Indiana are put to the test in a competition for a \$20,000 award. Individuals and organizations from any sector or discipline – artists and cultural organizations, faith leaders and congregations, educational organizations and scholars, civic organizations and social entrepreneurs – are invited to submit original projects that can reshape notions of race in Central Indiana. The most compelling and original idea will win a \$20,000 award for project implementation. Submission guidelines can be found at www.spiritandplace.org in early September and are due by October 1. Don't miss this energizing evening as Spirit & Place celebrates the theme of RISK on its opening night.

18th Annual Spirit & Place Public Conversation: RISK

A Spirit & Place Signature Series Event

Sunday, Nov. 10, 5:30-7 p.m. Indianapolis Public Library, Central Library

Learn from the best as three of Indiana's most prominent risk takers gather for a conversation and Q&A at the closing event of this year's Spirit & Place Festival. Audience members are invited to join in on the conversation as the guests answer questions such as: *How does our culture embrace or repel risk? What is the best way to explore risk taking? What "risk stories" should be celebrated or challenged? Is it fair to conclude that Hoosiers are afraid to take risks?* The public conversationalists will be announced in September.

For details on all Spirit & Place programs and events, visit www.spiritandplace.org.

About the Spirit & Place Festival

The Spirit & Place Festival catalyzes civic engagement, respect for diversity, public imagination, and enduring change Spirit & Place is a collaborative community project managed by The Polis Center, part of the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. Major partners include Lilly Endowment Inc.; Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc.; The Scott A. Jones Foundation; Bohlsen Group; The Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF Fund; IUPUI; IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI; University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis Public Library and more than 200 other community partners and donors. For more information, call The Polis Center at (317) 274-2455 or visit www.spiritandplace.org. The 2013 festival takes place November 1-10.

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