

Spirit & Place Festival 2008: *Exploring Imagination* Event Selection Criteria & Key Policies

2008 Event Selection Criteria¹

Selection criteria include the following:

1. **Theme -Centered:** The connection to the 2008 Spirit & Place theme, *Exploring Imagination*, should be central and clear, not peripheral or incidental. Consider how collaborations among the arts, religion, and humanities might illuminate questions such as: Where does imagination reside? Who or what is cultivating the practice of imagination in our culture and community? What is the dark side of imagination and when are social, religious, and cultural boundaries appropriate? What is needed to unleash public imagination in ways that benefit our community's economic, social, and cultural health? How does a region with strong tradition embrace imaginative solutions?

We also welcome events that creatively engage the arts, humanities, and religion to address the following sub-themes:

New
Sub-Themes

Re-Imagining Indy: How can we re-imagine/envision the future of Indianapolis together? How can we uncover and marshal our collective assets to imaginatively address important community issues, e.g. crime, public education, homelessness, poverty, etc.? How can imagination help us deal with issues that often divide us, such as immigration, security, and human rights? How can we marshal the strengths of our diversity to advance our communities?

Youthful Imagination: How do we empower young people to flex their imaginations to benefit their communities? How do young people imagine their future?

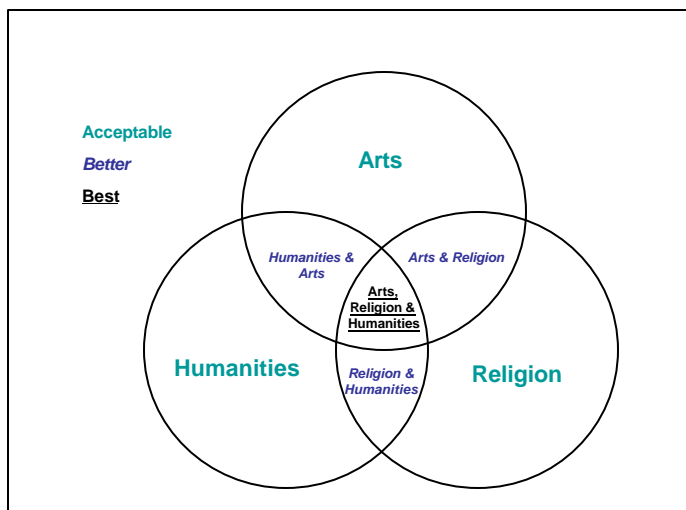
Imagining Our Future : How do we evaluate and encourage scientific, technological, and economic advances that are both imaginative and responsible?

Community Creation & Celebration: What public, interactive, and intergenerational activities will provide outlets to express our individual and collective imagination? How might such events celebrate who we are as a community, neighborhood, or organization?

2. **Collaborative:** All events require a minimum of one collaborating organization (in addition to the applicant organization). Collaborations between (rather than within) the arts, religion, and humanities are preferred (see table on next page). Collaborators must be institutions, not individuals. While inter-departmental collaborations are welcome, at least one collaborator must be OUTSIDE the applicant organization. **Exception:** Institutions may be exempt from this requirement if they 1) can demonstrate their collaborative/inclusive nature by charter or

¹ Pending board approval.

practice, or 2) cannot form partnerships because of the terms of their funding or other condition beyond their control may be exempt from this requirement. Please contact festival staff prior to the application deadline if you believe your organization is exempt.



Clarified { 3. **Community Building:** Spirit & Place strives to build community through vigorous dialogue. Events should provide opportunities for differing points of view to be expressed through question and answer sessions, roundtable discussions, or other devices that ensure audience engagement.

Now Required (previously optional) { 4. **Interactive:** Events should provide opportunities for audience participation within or immediately following the event. These might include pre- or post-event discussions, Q&A with panelists, hands-on activities, break-out sessions, reception with presenters, etc.
5. **Civic Action:** Events should provide opportunities for post-event reflection, education, and/or action. This could take various forms: study groups, web forums, topical reading lists available at your event or on a website, take-home action lists, sign-up opportunities at your event, book clubs, etc. This does NOT include post-event activity on the day of your event.

6. **Consistent with the Spirit & Place mission.** Spirit & Place engages the arts, humanities, and religion in collaborative action to promote civic engagement, respect for diversity, thoughtful reflection, public imagination, and enduring change in the communities where we live. This mission is guided by the following belief statements:²

- We believe that the arts, humanities, and religion awaken the spirit and exalt the sacred, sustain our intellectual and cultural inheritance, inspire imagination and creativity, and shape our community.
- We believe that understanding and sharing each community’s interlinked narrative (historical, cultural, environmental, economic, and spiritual) creates a sense of place that binds and builds both our personal and collective lives.
- We believe that a healthy community respects and values the traditions, convictions, and contributions of diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural groups.
- We believe that working together enhances creativity, strengthens capacity, creates new opportunities for discovery, and multiplies community impact.
- We believe that building bridges and fostering collaboration among diverse disciplines, traditions, ideas, and cultures requires thoughtful intention.

² Approved by the Spirit & Place Advisory Board in May 2006.

- We believe in the power of imagination and trust the ability of our communities to develop creative solutions to the challenges that face us.
- We believe in doing our best at all times, and we seek continuous improvement.
- We believe that ideas, programs, and resources should be available and accessible to all community members.
- We believe in the efficient and effective use of our resources, and we are accountable for our actions.

Other Key Policies

1. Spirit & Place does not accept personal development workshops.
2. **Individuals:** Applicants, and their collaborating groups, must be organizations, not individuals. Individual presenters or artists interested in participating should connect with an organization willing to become a Spirit & Place applicant.
3. **Festivals:** Festivals are welcome to participate only if they can demonstrate very specific programmatic ties to the annual theme. *Example:* In 2006, the Helping Hands Festival opened with a presentation by Kimberly Grimes, professor of anthropology at the University of Delaware-Georgetown, director of the Made by Hand International Cooperative, and board chair of the Fair Trade Resource Network. She spoke about tradition and innovation in the context of fair trade and how it promotes and preserves the making of traditional handcrafts and supports artisans who otherwise would not have meaningful employment or a market for their goods. The Helping Hands Festival then displayed such goods.
- New! ?** 4. **Accessibility:** All Spirit & Place events must be held in handicap accessible venues.
5. **Event Fees:** All applicants must pay a fee of \$400 per event (not for multiple occurrences of the same event) at the time of application. This fee is fully refundable for applicants not selected or for selected events withdrawn no later than July 1. No refunds after July 1. Collaborating partners do not pay a fee.