

GENTRIFY: THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY

Spirit & Place and Kheprw Institute's new 8-part discussion series launches Feb. 28

INDIANAPOLIS – What do Fountain Square, Downtown, Mapleton Fall Creek and Fall Creek Place have in common? Change: new trails, freshly paved roads, newly renovated homes, and new breweries and restaurants have recently popped up in these corners of the city. Neighborhoods may be wondering: How has this happened and who will reap the benefits of these amenities? Are our communities being gentrified block by block?

Gentrification is a real economic and cultural force acting on Indianapolis' urban neighborhoods, which are predominantly low-income and many predominantly African-American. According to Indianapolis census data compiled by governing.com, the number of census tracts gentrifying quadrupled from 1990-2000 to 2000-2010 (defined by percentage increases in home value, education attainment and median income).

It can be difficult to have honest conversations about the “G word” because of how mired it is with issues of class, politics, race, and human impact. With this in mind, Spirit & Place and the Kheprw Institute are partnering to launch ***Gentrify: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly***, a series of community discussions that will explore the impact and ramifications of gentrification above and beyond displacement.

Further supporting Spirit & Place's 2016 exploration of the word HOME, this 8-part series kicks off **Sunday, February 28th from 3-5 p.m.** at Kheprw Institute (3549 Boulevard Place) with the first discussion: “**Can it Happen Here? The Flint, Michigan Water Crisis.**” Attendees will explore gentrification through health and environmental issues in the community.

Each event in the series will encourage discussions of engaging topics from various angles, including but not limited to: education, culture, race, class and power, food, and global perspectives. A panel featuring local voices and speakers from other cities video conferencing in will contribute to the discussions as well.

Series Schedule:

All discussion events are free and will take place at Kheprw Institute (3549 Boulevard Place).

Interested attendees should RSVP in advance on kheprw.org/gentrify, updated information and resources about the series also available.

- Feb 28, 3-5 p.m. *Can it Happen Here? The Flint Michigan Water Crisis*
- April 24, 3-5 p.m. *Miseducation: American Dreams or Nightmares?*
- May 22, 3-5 p.m. *Race, Class and Power*
- June 26, 3-5 p.m. *Defining Gentrification*
- July 24, 3-5 p.m. *Culture Wars*



- August 28, 3-5 p.m. *Land / Housing / Real Estate / Global Perspectives*
- September 25, 3-5 p.m. *Equitable Development vs. Economic Development*
- October 23, 3-5 p.m. *Solutions*

About the SPIRIT & PLACE FESTIVAL

The Spirit & Place Festival catalyzes civic engagement, respect for diversity, public imagination, and enduring change through creative collaborations among the arts, humanities and religion. 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.; Bohlsen Group; Central Indiana Senior Fund, a CICF affiliate; Indiana Landmarks; The Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF affiliate; IUPUI; IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI; WFYI Public Media; and more than 200 other community partners and donors. For more information, call The Polis Center at [\(317\) 274-2455](tel:3172742455) or visit www.spiritandplace.org.

About KHEPRW INSTITUTE

Kheprw Institute is a community organization that empowers youth through mentorship, leadership and critical thinking through after-school programming, internship and community forums. Learn more: kheprw.org

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