



# Spirit & Place Festival

New connections. New directions.

## **Annual Central Indiana festival announces 2016 theme honoring state's bicentennial**

*2016 Spirit & Place Festival application guidelines now available on [spiritandplace.org](http://spiritandplace.org)*

INDIANAPOLIS – Returning for its 21<sup>st</sup> annual event, the Spirit & Place Festival is proud to announce HOME as the 2016 theme. Spirit & Place Festival urges community partners to explore the meaning of “home” from a variety of perspectives – place, relationships, opportunities, identity, community, connections and more – as we celebrate the state’s bicentennial. Application guidelines for participation in the 10-day festival (November 4-13, 2016) are now available online at [spiritandplace.org](http://spiritandplace.org). The online application portal opens in early February and applications must be submitted by April 22.

The Spirit & Place Festival is Indianapolis’ largest collaborative festival and an extensive civic celebration engaging thousands of people throughout Central Indiana in dozens of events presented in partnership with upwards of 100 organizations. A legacy project of The Polis Center, part of the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, the festival aim’s to ignite creativity, inspire place-making, and spark connections that build more vibrant and engaged communities through collaborations among the arts, religion, and humanities.

### **Application Information**

The Selection Committee is seeking applications that display inventiveness, richness of opportunities for audience engagement/interaction, capacity to communicate and execute a well-planned event, strength of collaboration, connection to the theme, and understanding and commitment to Spirit & Place’s mission. Interested applicants may email the festival at [festival@iupui.edu](mailto:festival@iupui.edu) for more information.

“Anyone interested in learning more about the Spirit & Place application process is welcome to contact us to discuss ideas, brainstorm event formats, identify potential collaborative partners, and more,” said Spirit & Place Program Director Erin Kelley. “We are here to help ensure the best possible application is created and that ideas are explored to their fullest potential.”

For details on all Spirit & Place activities and collaborations, visit [spiritandplace.org](http://spiritandplace.org).

### **New in 2016**

- This year’s festival application deadline has been moved back seven weeks to Friday, April 22.
- A \$1,000 Award of Excellence will be given at the end of this year’s festival.
- A sliding scale fee structure has been instituted: \$100 for individual artists and musicians; \$200 for organizations with operating budgets less than \$100,000 per year; and \$400 for organizations with operating budgets more than \$100,000 per year.

“A core value of Spirit & Place is to be as inclusive and accessible as possible,” said Festival Director Pam Blevins Hinkle. “By adjusting our timeline and reducing fee barriers for individual artists and smaller organizations, we hope to foster relationships that lead to festival events that truly reflect the perspectives, diversity, and needs of this community.”

### **Participation Benefits**

Following the 2015 Spirit & Place Festival, almost 88 percent of participating festival partners reported that they developed new or expanded existing community partnerships. More than 70 percent of partners reported that involvement in Spirit & Place helped them develop new audiences and 30 percent leveraged the festival to introduce new topics to their core audience. Additional participation benefits include:

- Staff consults for event design, application review, and venue and partner recommendations.
- All festival events and details will be featured on the Spirit & Place website, e-newsletter and social media channels.
- Festival events will be included in a NUVO insert in October and an event guide to be handed out before and during the festival. Poster and advertising opportunities also available.
- Audience evaluation for each event.

### **Important Dates**

- Festival application guidelines: Available now on [spiritandplace.org](http://spiritandplace.org).
- (Optional) prospective applicant meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 9, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. (Indiana Landmarks).
- Online application portal: Goes live early February, TBA.
- Application deadline: Friday, April 22.
- Required festival partner meeting: Wednesday, June 8, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. (Indiana Landmarks)
- (Optional) Festival media training meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 9a.m. to 10:30a.m. (Indiana Humanities)
- Festival dates: Friday, Nov. 4 – Sunday, Nov. 13

### **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.; Bohlsen Group; Central Indiana Senior Fund, a CICF Fund; The Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF Fund; IUPUI; IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI; University of Indianapolis, 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](http://www.spiritandplace.org).

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