

Spirit & Place Festival director named “IUPUI Inspirational Woman”

Pam Blevins Hinkle honored as the festival marks its 20th anniversary year

INDIANAPOLIS – The IUPUI Office for Women has awarded Pam Blevins Hinkle, director of Spirit & Place Festival, “IUPUI Inspirational Woman” in its staff category.

“It’s an honor to be recognized along so many talented women,” Blevins Hinkle said. “It’s a celebration of all the remarkable women within the IUPUI community.”

The announcement came at the reception for IUPUI’s 2015 Women’s History Month Leadership Awards on March 26. It centered on the national theme for Women’s History Month, “Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives.”

According to the IUPUI Office for Women, the selection committee gives the inspirational woman award to a nominee or nominees whose story of dedication, service and generosity inspires those around them to do their best.

This year is significant for Blevins Hinkle as Spirit & Place Festival, a major civic collaboration that takes place every November, celebrates its 20th anniversary year, and Blevins Hinkle celebrates her 10th year at the festival.

This year’s festival will run from Nov. 6-15, 2015 at venues throughout central Indiana.

Blevins Hinkle’s role as director continues to reach new heights as the organization’s focus turns to expanding and deepening the organization’s impact of building civic pride and civic identity in the community beyond the November festival.

To achieve this, Spirit & Place Festival welcomed two new staff members, Program Director Erin Kelley and Community Engagement Director LaShawnda Crowe Storm, last February.

Blevins Hinkle also contributes to the local music scene. She’s the choir director at Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly, teaches music improvisation for inmates at Indiana Women’s Prison and is a member of the five-piece music improvisational group THIN AIR.

She’s currently participating in the #100daysproject on Instagram by writing a chant every day using #100daysofchant.

About Pam Blevins Hinkle

Pam Blevins Hinkle is director of Spirit & Place Festival, a major civic collaboration for which The Polis Center at IUPUI serves as managing partner. Blevins Hinkle joined the festival in 2006. A native of Franklin, Indiana, and a graduate of Butler University, Blevins Hinkle was formerly executive director of Sweetwater Center for the Arts and special projects director for the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania from 1987 to

1992. In 1998, she founded The Hinkle Group, Inc., a consulting practice that provided grant writing, funding research, program development and strategic planning services for cultural and historical organizations, libraries, faith-based organizations, social service and civic agencies, educational institutions as well as health and human service organizations. A recipient of the 2003 Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship, awarded by the Arts Council of Indianapolis, she is also a singer, instrumentalist and choral conductor. She has led college, church and community choirs, including 13 years as artistic director of the Indianapolis Women's Chorus. Presently, Pam is the choir director for the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly, she teaches music improvisation at the Indiana Women's Prison, and she is a member of THIN AIR, a five-piece ensemble that creates fully-improvised performances.

For more information, visit <http://pamblevinshinkle.com>.

About Spirit & Place Festival

Spirit & Place Festival catalyzes civic engagement and enduring change through creative collaborations among the arts, religion and humanities. Spirit & Place is a collaborative community project managed by The Polis Center, part of IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. Major financial contributors include Lilly Endowment Inc., Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation Inc., Bohlsen Group, The Indianapolis Foundation (a CICF fund), IUPUI, IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, University of Indianapolis as well as more than 200 other community partners and donors. Celebrating this year's festival theme of "DREAM," the 2015 Spirit & Place Festival takes place from Nov. 6-15, 2015, marking its 20th anniversary year.

For more information, visit <http://spiritandplace.org>.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Courtney Stiehl | Bohlsen Group

cstiehl@bohlsengroup.com

317-602-7137