



HARRISON CENTER

FOR
THE
ARTS

FOR
THE
CITY

WHAT?

The Harrison Center is **FOR THE CITY**
by connecting people to culture,
community, and place to strengthen
core neighborhoods.

WE DO THIS BY:

- 1 DEVELOPING CULTURAL SOLUTIONS TO COMMUNITY PROBLEMS.
- 2 CELEBRATING AND PROMOTING NEIGHBORLINESS.
- 3 CATALYZING A SENSE OF ROOTEDNESS AND PLACE IN URBAN INDIANAPOLIS.

Through cultural entrepreneurship, creative placemaking and community visioning, we work to partner with neighborhoods so their residents and families can live vibrant, connected lives.

WHY?

Indianapolis has come a long way. But we're not satisfied.

In the past decade, urban Indianapolis has seen rising property values and a surge in local business activity. While attractive to affluent newcomers, this sort of prosperity often contributes to the rapid gentrification of entire neighborhoods.

The Harrison Center believes that art and culture can catalyze strengthening our core neighborhoods in a way that is equitable and inclusive. Our goal is to bring about neighborhood stability and economic diversity through arts-driven cultural development that supports and includes existing neighbors.

By creating opportunities for neighbors to connect with and celebrate their shared cultural identity, histories, and community – and by championing these neighborhoods to civic leaders – we're envisioning a city where hope, security, and success are available to all residents.

Creative Placemaking is the convening and organizing of cultural,

HOW?

The Harrison Center connects

financial, social, and human capital to support visionary ideas that

people and community via

positively impact the cultural and social fabric of a neighborhood or city.

creative placemaking.

It can happen on a large or small scale.

An example of a large-scale creative placemaking project is Herron High School, a public charter school we launched in 2006, which filled a dire need for secondary education in downtown Indianapolis and is cultivating a new generation of world class citizens and art patrons.

The success of this project spurred the creation of a

second campus, Herron-Riverside High School, in 2017 and third school, Herron Preparatory, a K-8.

Also in 2017, we established PreEnactment Theater, a community visioning tool to act out a healthy neighborhood. By using the neighbor's hopes and dreams as the script, neighbors can envision more vibrant, economically stable, and

equitable future. PreEnactment Theater is a collaboration of actors, set designers, community stakeholders, and neighbors that fights cultural gentrification.

We launched our Greatriarch Program in 2018. The program celebrates the stories of long-term Martindale-Brightwood residents. The multifaceted project includes monthly Greatriarch Gatherings, a

Greatriarch portrait series, art classes, and weekly Storytelling Drawing Sessions.

In addition to these programs, we also sponsor Porch Party Indy in collaboration with the Indianapolis 500. From spring to fall we encourage urban and suburban residents to gather on porches with friends and neighbors, sharing food and drink, to cultivate a greater sense of community.

THE IMPACT

Much of our work isn't "quick-win" oriented. On the contrary, it addresses root problems and plants the seeds for long-term change.

Ideally, our work will reverberate throughout neighborhoods for decades, even generations, into the future.

In many cases, the results of our work are evident all over downtown Indianapolis. In the Herron-Morton and Martindale-Brightwood neighborhoods, for instance, we've generated a groundswell of cultural activity, revitalization efforts, and economic development. Projects like Porch Party Indy have strengthened the sense of unity not only in our immediate neighborhood, but also in the many others that have adopted the event.

Meanwhile, the incredible success of Herron High School has been a boon to students and families in urban Indianapolis. The tuition-free school consistently ranks among the top high schools across both Indiana and the country. Its success has led to the launch of a network of schools, Herron Classical Schools.

Our creative placemaking projects have shepherded more than art and a sense of community in underserved neighborhoods – they have brought the attention of civic and business leaders, who often follow our lead in the area. It's no exaggeration to say that the Harrison Center is playing a vital role in the ongoing renaissance of Indianapolis' urban neighborhoods.

THE FUTURE

The Harrison

We are always pursuing ways to transform

Center is

neighborhoods with the arts. Over the

committed to

past two decades, we've created a national

creating a better

model for innovative cultural development

city far

using the arts as an agent of revitalization,

into the future.

preservation, and equitable change.

Working with youth through our Cultural Entrepreneur Program, we are developing the next generation of leaders to continue the work of caring for the culture and health of our city.

The program teaches interns to follow a five-step framework: see a need, take a risk, leverage resources, invest energy, and network to build culture in the city. By the time these emerging professionals have finished their internships, they've cultivated a deep appreciation for Indianapolis' arts and culture and a passion and desire to do more.

The Harrison Center is always busy envisioning new ways to transform neighborhoods with arts and culture. Through ambitious creative projects like Herron High School, PreEnactment Theater, and the Greatriarch Program, we've put bold plans into action that have inspired tangible change that will continue to positively impact our surrounding neighborhoods for decades to come.

Cultural
development.
Creative
placemaking.
And much more.



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