

**WE INVITE YOU –
YOUR SCHOOL OR YOUR THEATER DEPARTMENT, OR DRAMA CLUB,
OR MEMBERS OF YOUR STUDENT BODY – TO:**



AND JOIN US FOR THE GHOSTLIGHT PROJECT

On January 19, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in each time zone across the country, members of the theater community - from Broadway to regional theaters to high schools and colleges and community theaters - will come together to launch The Ghostlight Project. Gathering outside of theaters, people will join in a collective, simultaneous action, together creating "light" for times ahead. Inspired by the tradition of leaving a "ghost light" on in a darkened theater, institutions will make or renew a pledge to stand for and protect the values of inclusion, participation, and compassion for everyone0 0 regardless of race, class, religion, country of origin, immigration status, (dis)ability, age, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The January 19th event will include a ceremony as outlined in our HOW TO KIT as well as pledge by participating theaters or groups to some form of ongoing action.

We aim to create brave spaces that will serve as lights in the coming years. We define "a brave space" as a space where:

- It is safe to be who you are, regardless of race, class, religion, country of origin, immigration status, (dis)ability, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
- Diverse opinions are not only tolerated, but invited.
- Active listening and courageous exchange are fundamental values.
- Collective action and community engagement, both within and outside the walls of the theater, are cultivated, encouraged, and supported.

WHAT: Members of the theater community will gather outside of theaters in a simultaneous action to 1) create "light" for challenging times ahead, and 2) make a pledge to ongoing change or advocacy. The ceremony will consist of a section that's structured by The Ghostlight Project, designed for simultaneity and unity among participating theaters, and a section that's shaped by YOU, according to individualized intentions and needs. The complete [HOW TO KIT](#) for the January 19th event is available with our [downloads](#) on our website.

WHEN: JANUARY 19, 2017, 5:30 P.M. in your own time zone.

WHERE: Outside of theaters nationwide.

ONGOING ACTIONS

As participants have varied backgrounds, resources, and capacities, so too is it up to each group or individual to determine what ongoing action will best serve their institution or community. Our intention is to help you foster civic engagement while remaining free of institutional bias. The Ghostlight Project will be a resource for theaters, arts communities, and individuals to identify and create meaningful action steps, or to continue in social justice work already underway. Here are some initial suggestions to serve as inspiration for what kind of commitment you might make:

- **Pledge** that you want to be a place of diversity and inclusion.
 - **Acknowledge** if this hasn't historically been true.
 - **Listen** to the students, the communities, or the organizations you want to support. What are their concerns and needs?
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- Examine the profile of theater participants within your school and find ways to expand it in terms of race, class, religion, country of origin, immigration status, (dis)ability, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
 - Examine the kinds of material your theater produces and commit to expanding it in terms of both representation and subject matter.
 - Connect with groups outside your own. Visit with your school's LGBTQIA club (if you have one) at and empower them to tell their stories. Do the same with the Muslim Student Association or the Environment Club, etc.
 - Build (or strengthen) a one-on-one relationship with a single social justice organization to whom your group can devote time and human resources. Start by scheduling meetings with organizations your theater has interfaced with through outreach and education programs. What are *their* needs within the current landscape? Re-envision what true partnership and collaboration might look like together, and empower them to lead the conversation.
 - Offer help or provide entertainment to events run by social justice organizations in your area.
 - Host community meals or other events for staff, students, community members, and neighbors to build connections.
 - Rally a team of students to gather monthly donations to organizations supporting people within vulnerable communities.
 - Create a volunteer team to do a monthly "Service Monday."
 - Become experts on a topic, state, or key issue vulnerable in the next six months. Be a resource hub for that issue within your community, sharing your knowledge and expertise with others to become more informed.

These are only SOME ideas and we welcome more.

SOME INFO AS YOU CONSIDER PARTICIPATION:

- The Ghostlight Project is open and welcoming to all, regardless of political affiliation or party. Your event can be completely nonpartisan or highly politicized, depending on your desire or your limitations.
- Schools can either be represented by the school itself (if the administration is on board) or by the drama department within the school. In fact, the entity that participates in our Project can be a school, a department, a club, or an ad hoc group of students.
- There is great flexibility in how you use or adjust our language for your January 19th event. The ongoing action commitment your organization makes is *entirely* up to you.
- The January 19th event is not “a protest” - it’s an act of solidarity and an affirmation of values. The focus is not on “railing against” but on “standing for” – and what we stand for are the values of inclusion, participation, and compassion in our theaters and our country.
- The Ghostlight Project encourages organizations to expand their commitment to these values. And it suggests that our nonprofits can lead the way in safeguarding and strengthening these values as well. In our general material, we have taken care to avoid language that points to specific politicians or policies. You can do the same.
- In general, joining The Ghostlight Project does *not* jeopardize your 501(c)(3) status. You can fully participate in the project as so many nonprofits are already doing (see our PARTICIPATING THEATERS list.) We have consulted with many, and done lots of research, but if you have any concerns about your specific situation, you should consult your own legal counsel. Additionally, familiarize yourself (if you haven’t already) with any specific regulations within your school district, board, etc.

TO JOIN US:

Go to our website at theghostlightproject.com and join our [mailing list](#). (Let us know if you would like additional information or are signing up for the event.)

If you are signing up, let us know if we can list you on our list of [PARTICIPATING THEATERS](#).

Join our [Facebook Group](#). Follow us on twitter @theghostlightproj.

Spread the word – in person and on social media.

Use hashtags #ghostlightproject, #allarewelcome, #bealight

THE GHOSTLIGHT PROJECT IS:

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