TTO IS BUILDING A QUEER [RE]PUBLIC

FEBRUARY 2023
OUR MISSION

To present liberating art by, for, and about queer and trans people of color that transcends artistic boundaries, celebrates cultural abundance, and dismantles oppression.
The Theater Offensive (TTO) grew out of the queer guerilla street theater troupe, United Fruit Company, founded by Abe Rybeck and other activists in response to increasingly conservative national politics and the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Since then, TTO has become the leading presenter of LGBTQ theater in New England, and a national model for advocacy and creation of original works by queer and trans artists.
True Colors: Out Youth Theater is the Theater Offensive’s longest running, award-winning program. It houses three ongoing programs all serving the same goal: utilizing community-based theater to train and activate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied youth leaders ages 12-25. These subprograms are:

**True Colors Troupe**
is an after-school theater program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning youth and their straight allies, ages 13-19. Youth work with artists to create an ensemble to develop skills in performance, social justice, and community activism.

**True Colors Creative Action Crew**
is an advanced performing ensemble of LGBTQ young artists ages 18-25 that produce theater for schools and communities around New England and beyond.

**True Colors Youth Advisory Board**
builds opportunities that engage, impact, and empower LGBTQ and allied youth through leadership development, community engagement, and advocacy.
Queer Family Series

Queer Family Series (QFS), in its inaugural year, is a series of produced and presented work for and by the whole queer family -- from our elders to toddlers. The Queer Family Series is a groundbreaking program that captures the imagination and play of the gender & identity fluidity of childhood and human development. QFS gives the whole family glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models of color. We pave the way towards a better future leading with love, respect and discovery at the foreground.

PRIDE THEATER FESTIVAL

Tam’s Two Dads, written by Michael Bobbitt, drew 2,100 audience members total, with over 2,500 viewers reached.

DRAG STORY HOUR

Neon Calypso, KaMani Sutra, and Ra’Jah O’Hara reached an audience over 2,500 reading LGBTQ-themed literature.
Queer (Re)public is a program that honors, uplifts, and builds on emergent themes inherent to and in QTPOC art through workshops, residency programs, and commissioning art by, for, and including queer and trans artists of color.

Queer (Re)public Residency Program
18 months of discovery, investigation, research, and play for mid-career to experienced national QTPOC artists. Artists will embark on developing new work and fostering their artistic soul using QTPOC emergent strategies as guidance.

Queer (Re)public Commissioning Program
We will regularly commission multi-discipline, performance-based art to produce with and present to our communities in Boston and beyond, in partnership with national and regional organizations.

Queer (Re)public Workshops
We know that QTPOC art is life-affirming -- that ritual and healing is a core part QTPOC artistic practice. Queer (Re)Public Workshops is a community based activity series that includes artistic development and community learning exchanges that invite participants to be well & whole.

Inaugural Queer (Re)public Artists
Adil Mansoor
Sophie Kim
Vashanti Cowan
A PERMANENT HOME FOR TTO

The Black Box Project at 1252 Boylston Street

TTO has an exciting opportunity to expand upon its three-decade legacy as a trailblazing art, educational, and social action organization.

Through a partnership with Scape North America, an international developer that delivers innovative urban living solutions, and the City of Boston, TTO has been offered ownership of a 13,000 square foot Black Box Theater within Scape’s Boylston Place development in the Fenway district.

This iconic, innovative, and enduring space will serve as the cultural cornerstone of a mixed-use development at 1252-1270 Boylston Street.
Anticipated to open in 2024, it will be the largest theater in the world owned and operated by LGBTQ people of color for all LGBTQ people, their allies, families and friends.
Building a Queer [Re]Public

Project Details

- 13,000 square feet
- Flexible 150-seat theater
- Flexible lobby spaces for performance and gathering
- Fully-equipped community room for rehearsal, small performance, gathering, and more
- Green room and conference room
- Inclusive all-gender restrooms
- Fully-accessible spaces for all bodies, ages, and abilities equipped with automated tech, elevators, single-level stage entrances, and comfortable seating
These creative spaces will house...

• True Colors, Queer (Re)Public, and Queer Family Series programming
• Touring performances through the National Performance Network
• Artists and community groups renting space at a subsidized, below-market rate
Located on the former site of the Machine/Ramrod and 1270 nightclubs, the new venue will honor the location’s historical importance to the Boston LGBTQ community, providing much-needed space and resources to historically marginalized communities seeking affordable facilities for their programs and services.
This major capital project, TTO’s first, will establish a creative hub for thought-provoking programs—a permanent home for queer and trans artists and youth who have long sought a place to truly belong in the center of Boston, including:

• Family, educational and youth-centered artistic and leadership programs
• Community-led artistic experiences
• People-powered civic engagements
“[the queer community] described Boston as ‘a disappearing city.’ As a new city is emerging all around us, the cultural memory and the cultural spaces for queer and trans people of color are being erased. How can we preserve a cultural hub, not only for memory, but for new possibilities?”

Harold Steward
TTO Executive Director and Cultural Strategist

“Building the largest theater in the world owned and operated by queer and trans people of color is an act of resistance.”

Jon Key
Morcos Key

“The need for being in community with one another is completely essential.”

Joan Ilacqua
The History Project

“Boston has always been queer. Since before the colonists landed, there have been queer people here. The need for being in community with one another is completely essential.”
The Boylston Black Box will bring much-needed cultural stability to the Fenway, an increasingly transient neighborhood.

This anchoring cultural institution will foster a sense of community and encourage foot traffic to the surrounding businesses, helping to sustain tourism in the Fenway neighborhood beyond the baseball season.
Through its 30-year history, TTO has created a loyal and supportive following locally, regionally and nationally. The Theater Offensive is also a member of the National Performance Network (NPN), which includes more than 70 national partners in 31 states and 47 communities, and dozens of co-commissioning presenters across the U.S.

TTO also partners with The New England Foundation for the Arts for local presentations of artists in its national dance and theater program roster. Residents from across New England will frequent the Boylston Black Box to experience the organization’s many award-winning performances and programs.

As queer spaces, particularly youth-oriented queer spaces, continue to disappear in Boston, the need for TTO to establish this permanent home increases. The Boylston Black Box will be a welcoming, affirming, creative space where the queer and trans POC community - in Boston and beyond - can truly thrive.
### Project Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>COMMITTED FUNDS (AS OF 1/2023)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brick and Mortar/ Capital*</td>
<td>$ 4,807,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programmatic/Operational Expenses (3 Years)</td>
<td>$ 6,715,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Subsidy for Community Use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign Expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 11,527,625</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* since original estimates in 2019, brick and mortar costs have increased by approximately 66% due to inflation
EARLY MAJOR SUPPORTERS

The Poss Family Foundation
Sarah Hancock

and other key individuals
WAYS TO GIVE:

MAKE A ONE-TIME GIFT
Every individual gift, no matter how large or small, brings us closer to our goal!

MAKE A MULTI-YEAR PLEDGE
Multi-year giving helps us to plan our budgets in advance, fostering even greater stability.

GIVE THROUGH A DONOR ADVISED FUND
We will work with your donor advised fund to manage your gift, whether one-time or multi-year.

MAKE A PLANNED GIFT
Planned giving can take many forms, and we will work with you to develop a plan that works for you.

JOIN US!

Mail one-time gifts to:
The Theater Offensive
P.O. Box 171731
Boston, MA 02116

Make a gift online:
www.thetheateroffensive.org

Email Jess Ernst (Capital Campaign and Special Projects Coordinator) at jess@thetheateroffensive.org to learn more about multi-year, donor advised fund, planned, or online giving.
LINDSAY ALLEN  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

JULES BARNES  
Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs

JAVIER CABALLERO (CLERK)  
Pronouns: He/Him/His

MONA FORD WALKER  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

SHAKERA FORD WALKER (VICE CHAIR)  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

KEVIN HEPNER  
Pronouns: He/Him/His

STETSON MARSHALL (CHAIR)  
Pronouns: He/Him/His

LAKIA MONDALE  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

DONNA OWENS  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

CHERYL SCHAFFER (TREASURER)  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

J.D. STOKELY  
Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs

MICHAEL TENTINDO  
Pronouns: He/Him/His
THANK YOU

Anser Advisory
Owner’s Project Manager
www.anseradvisory.com

Epstein Joslin Architects
Architect
www.epsteinjoslin.com

CBT Architects
Interior Design
www.cbtarchitects.com

Charcoalblue
Theater, Acoustics, AV
www.charcoalblue.com

Walsh Brothers
Construction
www.walshbrothers.com

LAM Partners
Lighting Design
www.lampartners.com

AWE Engineer
MEP/FP Engineers
www.awe-e.com

Code Red Consultants
Code Consultant
www.coderedconsultants.com

Renderings by Epstein Joslin Architects and CBT Architects
THEATER LOBBY PLANS
Create a safe haven that nurtures queer artists and provides opportunities for TTO to engage with incoming artists and the surrounding community.

Design with a combination of contrasting materials that feel raw, but tactile to illustrate the experimental nature of a studio-like, artistic environment.

Incorporate highly saturated colors and dramatic lighting in a way that creates an immersive, queer experience.

Take a minimalist approach to internal spaces giving its artists more opportunity for expression.
CAMP COUTURE

- Immersive experiences
- Curved forms
- Moody environment
- Explosive color
- Reflective surfaces
- Free expression
- Raw textures
AFRO SURREALISM: ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

“...focuses on augmentation, on overcoming the many struggles that define our history and assuming the agency of our narrative.”

- David Alabo, Artist
“The movement offered a new language that challenged social structures and demonstrated the ways that race, gender, sex and sexuality distinctions were actually intersecting, fluid and constantly evolving.

- Tsione Wolde-Michael, NMAAC