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Transform 1012 N. Main Street Announces Design Architect Selection Process for Transforming Former Ku Klux Klan Auditorium into The Fred Rouse Center for Arts and Community Healing

FORT WORTH, TEXAS. — **Transform 1012 N. Main Street** (Transform 1012), a Texas-based non-profit coalition, is pleased to announce the next phase of the design and architecture selection process, furthering its work to **transform the former Ku Klux Klan Klavern No. 101 Auditorium in Fort Worth into The Fred Rouse Center for Arts and Community Healing** in an act of reparative justice. The selection process allows applicants ample time to delve into the project and engage with multiple local constituencies, resulting in a thoughtful decision that marks a crucial step toward Transform 1012's mission of community healing. The selection process commenced in November 2022, when Transform 1012 held a virtual event "Redesigning the Design Competition" with the goal of crowdsourcing community knowledge to curate a more equitable process in selecting a design team. The results of this forum and continued conversations have led to this unique and deliberate next phase.

The Fred Rouse Center for Arts and Community Healing will honor the life and memory of Mr. Fred Rouse, a Black butcher and father who was lynched by a white mob in Fort Worth in 1921. Adaptive reuse plans include transforming the space into a vibrant cultural hub with state-of-the-art performance and rehearsal spaces; arts training and programming; services for LGBTQ+ and other resilient youth; exhibit spaces dedicated to social justice and civil rights; a maker space and tool library for local DIY classes; meeting spaces for racial equity and leadership workshops and community events; an outdoor urban agriculture and artisan marketplace; and affordable live/work spaces for artists- and entrepreneurs-in-residence.

The former KKK auditorium was acquired by Transform 1012 in 2021. The coalition engages a pluricultural and shared leadership approach, with the Founding Board representing eight local organizations—DNAWORKS, LGBTQ SAVES, Opal Lee Foundation, SOL Ballet Folklórico, Tarrant County Coalition for Peace and Justice, The Welman Project, Window to Your World and the 1012 Youth Council. In 2022, Fred Rouse, III, joined the board, representing The Fred Rouse Foundation and the Rouse family and Carlos Gonzalez-Jaime was hired as the Executive Director of Transform 1012. The existing leadership structure represents local constituencies that have been historically targeted by the KKK for violence and economic marginalization, namely Black, Catholic, Hispanic, Immigrant, Jewish, and LGBTQQ@SPIAA+

"We envision The Fred Rouse Center as a symbol of healing and reconciliation—a place that fosters understanding, empathy, and unity. It is important to our mission that we create a beautiful and welcoming space, but beyond that, a cultural hub that serves our communities. Our design architect will need to share our passion for creating an environment that celebrates the arts and

acts as a locus for social change,” says **Transform 1012 Executive Director Carlos Gonzalez-Jaime**

Transform 1012 is seeking a Design Architect who will be a partner in reimagining the processes for enacting the interrelationship between the built environment, city planning, neighborhoods, and people. The coalition is committed to making this process collaborative with the participation of surrounding and impacted communities. Please find the schedule outlined below for the design architect selection process.

July 24, 2023 — Pre-Submission Webinar in collaboration with MASS Design Group: This webinar will be online from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. CDT and will discuss the history of the building, Mr. Fred Rouse, stakeholders and programming needs including the project's overall scope. A recording will be available for interested parties who cannot attend.

August 25, 2023 — Submission of a Statement of Values and Commitments: In lieu of a typical RFQ (Request for Qualifications), Transform 1012 requests that Design Architect candidates submit a two-page "Statement of Values and Commitments" expressing how their work aligns with Transform 1012's mission and their relationship and commitment to reparative justice and the communities served by The Fred Rouse Center for Arts and Community Healing. Transform 1012 is interested in a design architect's thoughts about spacial justice, redistribution of resources, and community healing and the ways in which these commitments have impacted their work thus far. The organization seeks both professional and creative talent, as well as an alignment of values.

September 22, 2023 — Shortlist Selection and Announcement: Transform 1012 and its partners will gather and consider the responses, compiling the submittals for review by the selection committee. The committee will then formulate a short list with the design architect selections for the next phase of the process. Transform 1012 will notify all respondents of their placement/non-placement on the shortlist.

October 15-18, 2023 — Residency and Design Concept Development: Up to three selected design architects will visit Fort Worth for a full four days of conversations and meetings with stakeholders, site visits and community engagement sessions, allowing them to become familiar with the city. Their time in Fort Worth will result in a design concept that will be presented in a public forum and later displayed in an exhibition format online and in the community. Over the course of four weeks, and with input from community members, these proposals will be reviewed for the final selection.

November 15, 2023 — Announcement of Design Architect Selection: Transform 1012 will announce who the architect is for The Fred Rouse Center for Arts and Community Healing.

All details for the architect design selection process can be found on Transform 1012's website www.transform1012.org.

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Design Architect Selection Committee Members*:

Ayesha Ganguly (At Large; Transform 1012, Board Vice Chair; Window to Your World, Founder)
Ben Crawford, AIA, LEED AP (Chair; HOK, Senior Principal of Design)
Carlos Flores (At Large; City of Fort Worth, Councilmember District 2)
Carlos Gonzalez-Jaime (At Large; Transform 1012, Executive Director)
Courtney Lewis (At Large; Cadence Bank, Executive Vice President)
Daniel Banks, Ph.D. (At Large; Transform 1012, Board Chair; DNAWORKS, Founder)
Jha D. Amazi (Advisory; Public Memory and Memorials Lab at MASS Design Group, Director)
John Stevenson, PE, LEED AP BD+C (At Large; The Projects Group, Executive Vice President)
Joowon Im, Ph.D., ASLA, UTA ACUE Fellow (At Large; Landscape Architecture at the University of Texas at Arlington, Assistant Professor)
Sarah LanCarte, CCIM, SIOR (At Large; LanCarte Commercial, President)

* As of June 29th, 2023.

ABOUT TRANSFORM 1012 N. MAIN STREET

When the Ku Klux Klan Auditorium, located at 1012 N. Main Street, opened in 1924, Fort Worth had one of the largest KKK memberships in the United States and the building was the KKK's headquarters in Texas. The brick behemoth was designed and located to intimidate Northside Black, Hispanic, and immigrant residents returning home from the city center.

Transform 1012 N. Main Street (Transform 1012) is a non-profit coalition of local arts, grassroots, and service organizations as well as pro bono partners and individuals working to transform 1012 N. Main Street into The Fred Rouse Center for Arts and Community Healing. The Transform 1012 Board models a pluricultural and shared leadership approach to acquiring, programming and managing The Center. The project has been featured in The Washington Post, NBC's Today Show, CNN.com, ARTnews, Telemundo, Univision, Hyperallergic, The Architects Newspaper, Dallas Observer, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Fort Worth Magazine, D Magazine, KERA-NPR, Christian Science Monitor, and more. In October 2021, Transform 1012 received the Urban Land Institute of Dallas-Fort Worth's 2021 Next Big Idea Award, recognizing innovative ideas that can positively impact the region's quality of life. Additionally, the site of The Fred Rouse Center for Arts and Community Healing was designated as one of Historic Fort Worth's 2022 Most Endangered Places. For more information, visit www.transform1012.org.