“History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived; but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.”

- Dr. Maya Angelou
What if, instead of destroying the building, we could transform this monument to hate into a beacon of truth-telling, reconciliation, and healing? This building is a spatial manifestation of our national legacy of violence and racial terror. As the United States moves towards dismantling systems of oppression, this project is an opportunity to declare our collective agency in designing a just future for all.

We are a coalition of nine local entities in Fort Worth, TX. We represent groups of people in Fort Worth who are often systematically siloed and separate, specifically Black, Catholic, Hispanic, Immigrant, Jewish, and LGBTQIA+ populations.

We are engaging the process of radically transforming this building into a center for arts and community healing as an opportunity for reparative justice. Transform 1012 models a pluricultural and shared leadership approach to repurposing, programming, and managing the Fred Rouse Center. This Coalition ensures that the building will be led and programmed by representatives of the cultural groups that were targeted by the Ku Klux Klan in this region. This adaptive re-use project returns resources to the communities who suffered at the hands of the KKK and who continue to be targeted for systemic racism and oppression.

We invite you to join us on this journey of truth-telling and healing. The project's success depends on your participation in the process of transformation. We are making public our process of building an intentional, co-created leadership culture in the hopes that it will inspire other local and national projects.

“We cannot undo what has been done. We can learn from it.”

Dr. Opal Lee
The Grandmother of Juneteenth
Founder, Opal Lee Foundation, Fort Worth, TX

One of the last existing purpose-built KKK HQs
Fort Worth, TX

The Ku Klux Klan spread across the United States between 1915 and 1940, establishing chapters in all 50 states with an estimated membership of between 2 million and 8 million.

Mapping the Second Ku Klux Klan, 1915-1945
Monday, Nov. 23, 2015
University of Public Affairs,
Virginia Commonwealth University

Fort Worth, TX

“We cannot undo what has been done. We can learn from it.”

Dr. Opal Lee
The Grandmother of Juneteenth
Founder, Opal Lee Foundation, Fort Worth, TX

What if, instead of destroying the building, we could transform this monument to hate into a beacon of truth-telling, reconciliation, and healing?

This building is a spatial manifestation of our national legacy of violence and racial terror. As the United States moves towards dismantling systems of oppression, this project is an opportunity to declare our collective agency in designing a just future for all.

We are a coalition of nine local entities in Fort Worth, TX. We represent groups of people in Fort Worth who are often systematically siloed and separate, specifically Black, Catholic, Hispanic, Immigrant, Jewish, and LGBTQIA+ populations.

We are engaging the process of radically transforming this building into a center for arts and community healing as an opportunity for reparative justice. Transform 1012 models a pluricultural and shared leadership approach to repurposing, programming, and managing the Fred Rouse Center. This Coalition ensures that the building will be led and programmed by representatives of the cultural groups that were targeted by the Ku Klux Klan in this region. This adaptive re-use project returns resources to the communities who suffered at the hands of the KKK and who continue to be targeted for systemic racism and oppression.

We invite you to join us on this journey of truth-telling and healing. The project’s success depends on your participation in the process of transformation. We are making public our process of building an intentional, co-created leadership culture in the hopes that it will inspire other local and national projects.

“We cannot undo what has been done. We can learn from it.”

Dr. Opal Lee
The Grandmother of Juneteenth
Founder, Opal Lee Foundation, Fort Worth, TX
In 1924, construction began on Ku Klux Klan Klavern No. 101’s auditorium as a monument to hate and terror. Then—as well as now—members of targeted cultural groups needed to pass the building to access the Northside and surrounding areas when traveling to and from downtown Fort Worth.

The building was a daily reminder of power and politics; the looming edifice was yet another form of policing behavior, movement, culture, and proving again how architecture is capable of violence.

History & Context

Timeline

1924
Ku Klux Klan Klavern No. 101 began construction on site (then known as 1006 N. Main Street). The building was designed by Earl Glasgow and destroyed by fire when it was either bombed or suffered an electrical fire.

1925
Ku Klux Klan Klavern No. 101 rebuilt the damaged building into an auditorium with a seating capacity of 2000 people with five tall windows on the front facade and a scenery fly loft in the rear. The stage was used for theatrical performances, including racist, sexist, and anti-immigrant minstrel shows.

1927
The building was sold to Leonard Brothers Department Store and was subsequently used as a concert hall, a dance-marathon venue, and a wrestling arena.

1946
Purchased by Ellis Pecan Company in 1946 for warehouse space for shelling pecans.

1999
Ellis Pecan Company vacates the building.

2004
The building was purchased by Sugarplum Holdings, L.P., a group of private investors, to be used as the rehearsal studios for Texas Ballet Theatre.

2021
Transform 1012 N. Main Street acquired the building through a significant donation from the former owners and a generous grant from the Rainwater Charitable Foundation.

The Building
The Process

Estella Williams, President
Fort Worth Tarrant County Branch, NAACP

The project has received hundreds of declarations of support including from Fort Worth and Texas chapters of the NAACP, Congressman Marc Veasey (TX-33), Mayor Mattie Parker, City of Fort Worth Council members, National Trust for Historic Preservation, acclaimed journalist and community leader Bob Ray Sanders, local clergy, arts leaders, faculty leaders from Texas Christian University and the University of Texas-Arlington, President of Minnesota College of Art and Design, Curator of Jewish Museum of Milwaukee, and the International Coalition for Sites of Conscience.

“This facility can and should be transformed as a means of pride, empowerment and as a catalyst for positive change to highlight progress in the African American Community.”

Transform 1012 continues to speak and listen about the project among its constituency members, the larger Fort Worth community, nationally, and internationally.

The project has been featured on CNN.com, The Today Show (NBC), The Washington Post, NPR, KERA, Telemundo, Spectrum News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Dallas Morning News, D-Magazine, Christian Science Monitor, NPR, NBC 5, and through AP Wire, among many others.
Why now?

“As public recognition grows of under-told chapters of American history, particularly of white supremacy and systemic racism, more and more cities are grappling with how to interpret places that tell often ugly and dark stories of our nation’s past. A number of public-interest groups are finding creative ways to use such sites as agents of reinterpretation and reconciliation.”

Rob Nieweg, Vice President
Preservation Services & Outreach Department
National Trust for Historic Preservation
The Program

The building will house programs that support:

Truth-telling and Restorative Justice:
> GALLERY dedicated to racial, gender, sexuality, and economic justices, to work in concert with local school districts’ curricula and programming
> MEETING SPACES for racial equity and leadership trainings

Storytelling and Personal + Community Response:
> THEATER AND EVENT SPACE for local and touring culturally-specific and social justice-oriented artists and groups
> DANCE STUDIO AND REHEARSAL ROOM purpose built to provide arts training for underserved youth and early career performing artists
> Services for underserved and LGBTQ+ youth
> STORYBOOTHS in the lobby for visitors to tell their own accounts of Fort Worth and the region, to be broadcast on monitors throughout the building
> AMPHITHEATER, OUTDOOR PROGRAM SPACE, AND OVERALL DESIGN CONCEPT to increase transparency and shift the perception of the building from exclusivity and secrecy to transparency and community

Economic development to support under-resourced areas in the city:
> AFFORDABLE LIVE/WORK SPACE for artists, artisans, and entrepreneurs-in-residence with potential for mixed-income housing and permanent supportive housing
> TOOL LIBRARY + MAKERSPACE to provide local residents with equitable access to DIY equipment and workspace
> MARKETPLACE to help alleviate Northside food deserts while providing small business incubator services to local farmers, artisans, and micro-enterprises

Ancillary Spaces
> WAREHOUSE SPACE + STORAGE + OFFICES + KITCHEN + RESTROOMS

Services
> CIRCULATION + MECHANICAL

(Approximately 30% of 56,000SF, the above subtotal)

75,000 SF

“As a Fort Worth native, an African-American man, and as an elected representative for many of the African-American residents of Fort Worth, I believe that it is vital that we preserve these types of spaces so that future generations understand our history. The strong light of truth can help prevent the repetition of the dark episode in our history.”

Congressman Marc Veasey (TX-33)
Early Vision: Exterior

Pictured here is the former “back” of the building that housed a proscenium stage, intended to be viewed from the veiled secrecy of the main hall. This new space is opened for outdoor community gatherings and performances. A terraced landscape of seating to the south allows for multiple, simultaneous performances, defining a new, public gathering space.

“...is an opportunity to connect the past and present, interpret history through the power of place, engage the public in programs that stimulate dialogue on pressing social issues, share opportunities for public action on the issues raised at the site, and promote universal cultures of human rights.”

Elizabeth Silkes, Executive Director
International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

AMPHITEATER + PARK
Extending the building’s facade to blend formal and informal programming.

RESTORATIVE FACADES
Restoring the building’s exterior wall with activist art and projections to reflect the plurality of Fort Worth’s voices.

POP UP EVENT SPACE
Reclaiming the streetscape with a temporary stage extension and audience seating.
New distinct spaces for the arts and performance will be inserted inside the existing building, creating the opportunity to acknowledge the past while in conversation with the future.
The Team

We are bringing together leaders in building design and social justice programming to catalyze transformational civic engagement and community partnerships.

Transform 1012 N. Main Street Founding Board Organizations and Current Members

DNAWORKS
Daniel Banks, Co-Founder/ Co-Director
An arts and service organization founded in 2006 that has worked in thirty-seven states and seventeen countries to bring people closer together through dance, theatre, film, and community storycircles, focusing on identity, heritage, culture, and genealogy.

LGBTQ SAVES
Sharon Herrera, Founder and Executive Director
A service organization—founded in 2010 after several nationwide LGBTQ youth suicides—that works to build a community where ALL youth are safe and to provide safe and brave spaces designed for social and personal development of LGBTQ youth. Its programs and lifeline chat offer hope in the lives of each youth served.

OPAL LEE FOUNDATION
Opal Lee, Founder
Dr. Opal Lee worked tirelessly to commemorate Juneteenth, the abolition of enslavement in Texas, which occurred more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. In 2016, at the age of 86, she brought attention to this campaign walking from Fort Worth to Washington, DC; and on June 17, 2021, Juneteenth became a federal holiday. Dr. Lee also founded Opal’s Farm, a community farm that employs formerly incarcerated people.

SOL BALLET FOLKLÓRICO
Freddy Cantú, Co-Founder and Director and Román Ramírez, Co-Founder
An award-winning cultural dance and leadership training program for youth of all ages from the Northside of Fort Worth; performs annually at churches, schools, children’s hospitals, and city festivals locally, nationally, and internationally.

TARRANT COUNTY COALITION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE
Adam W. McKinney, Co-Founder & President
A non-profit truth and reconciliation team founded in 2018 that designs collaborative education to increase recollection, promote reflection, and encourage reconsideration of the significance of racial terror violence in US History.

THE FRED ROUSE FOUNDATION
Fred Rouse, III, Founder, Director and grandson of Mr. Fred Rouse
Focuses on serving underprivileged communities and people to provide support and resources to the health, education, and financial landscape of our North Texas Communities and beyond.

THE WELMAN PROJECT,
Vanessa Barker and Taylor Willis, Co-Founders, Co-Directors
A creative reuse venture focused on reimagining business waste to provide North Texas students and not-for-profits with equitable access to hands-on educational resources; seeking to open a community tool library and makerspace.

WINDOW TO YOUR WORLD
Ayesha Ganguly, Founder
Specializes in program design and implementation, community outreach, group facilitation for non-profit organizations, and capacity building for youth; encourages civic engagement and dialogue among different groups, including their voices in decision-making and the growth of their communities.

1012 YOUTH COUNCIL
Jacora Johnson, Founder
(*Past board member)
Centers the imaginations and stories of Fort Worth’s youth through educational initiatives, sustained action, and by uniting youth and elders.

THE PROJECTS GROUP
tpfgfw.com

UNITED WAY OF TARRANT COUNTY
unitedwaytarrant.org

Founding Partners

JL POWERS & ASSOC.
jpowersandassociates.com

MASS.
MASS DESIGN GROUP
massdesigngroup.org

POST L GROUP
postlgrouop.com

SPAWGLASS
spawglass.com

THE PROJECTS GROUP
tpfgfw.com

The growing list of Partners and Pro Bono services include:
Consolidated Consulting Group,
Fort Worth Camera Club,
Jaster-Quintanilla Structural Engineers,
North Texas Roofing Contractors Association,
Real Estate Council of Greater Fort Worth,
Rose Engineering Services,
Saira Jasmine Concepts
Join us

We invite you to join us on this journey of truth-telling and healing. The project’s success depends on your participation in the process of transformation.

We welcome mission-aligned sponsors to partner with us in this radical adaptive re-use project and any introductions and/or suggestions.

For more information visit www.transform1012.org or contact us at info@transform1012.org

Follow us on www.Instagram.com/transform1012 and www.Facebook.com/Transform1012/