



**Press Contact:**

Aleiya Lindsey-Olu, Olu & Company  
[aleiya@olucountry.com](mailto:aleiya@olucountry.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Content Warning: References to Racial Violence

**Transform 1012 Announces Design Architect Finalists for Transforming Former KKK Auditorium into a Center for Arts and Community Healing**

*The finalists will visit Fort Worth in October to engage with the project's multiple constituencies and present their proposals for 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 four finalists for the **Design Architect selection 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 Committee and Transform 1012 Board unanimously decided on these architects after receiving a Statement of Values and Commitments (in lieu of a Request for Qualifications) expressing how their work aligns with Transform 1012's mission and their relationship and commitment to the communities served by The Fred Rouse Center. In addition to the experience of the design team applicants, this Statement of Values was an important part of the decision process, reflecting the coalition's thoughtful and unique process for selecting an architect who, above all, **prioritizes community, equity, and collective healing in the design of the space.**

"The exceptional quality of the submissions prompted us to expand the initially envisioned shortlist from three to four teams and to extend our selection deadline for a few days" notes **Ben Crawford, Chair of the Design Architect Selection Committee.** "We are thrilled to welcome these architects to Fort Worth to see how they could be a partner in reimagining the processes for enacting the interrelationship between the built environment, city planning, neighborhoods, and people."

### **List of Finalists:**

All four finalists place a strong emphasis on architecture as a tool for positive social change, care work, and design justice. These firms have extensive experience with adaptive reuse projects and have personal connections to Fort Worth and Texas.

#### **[B-arn-S Architects](#) + [ch\\_studio](#)**

Germane Barnes, Principal, B-arn-S Architects  
Jennifer Bonner, Principal, B-arn-S Architects  
Dennis Chiessa, Principal, ch\_studio

#### **[Colloqate Design](#) + [BrandNu Design Studio](#)**

Bryan C. Lee Jr NOMA, RA, Founder & Design Principal, Colloqate Design  
Michael Ford AIA, NOMA, NCARB, Principal, BrandNu Design Studio

#### **[Hines Architecture+Design](#) + [Elizabeth Kennedy Landscape Architect \(EKLA\)](#)**

Daimian S. Hines, AIA, NOMA, Principal/Founder, Hines Architecture+Design  
Elizabeth J Kennedy, FASLA, RLA, Principal/Founder EKLA PLLC  
Gregory L. Lake, AIA, LEED BD+C, Principal, Hines Architecture+Design

#### **[UX Architecture](#) + [KP Design Studio](#) + [EJ+P Architects](#)**

Susi Sanchez, AIA, LEED AP, Principal/Owner, UX Architecture LLC  
Kenneth Preaster, Creative Director/Owner, Kenneth Preaster Design Studio LLC  
Robert Picardy, AIA, Principal/Owner, Epstein Joslin + Picardy Architects

**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 LGBTQQ2SPIAA++ 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.

“An equitable architect selection process is crucial to accomplishing the goals we set forth when we began meeting in 2019 and acquired the building in 2021. These finalists make me optimistic about the future Fred Rouse Center and I am excited to see our coalition’s values and intentions realized through intentional and liberation-based design.” — **Daniel Banks, Transform 1012 Co-Convener and Board Chair and Co-Founder of DNAWORKS.**

**The selection process commenced in November 2022**, with a virtual “Redesigning the Design Competition” event to crowdsource community knowledge. On **July 24th, 2023 more than 100 participants joined the "Pre-Submission Webinar"** in collaboration with MASS Design Group to

discuss the history of the building and the project's overall scope. These public events attracted a wide range of architects and firms—local, national and international—to apply to the open call to submit a **Statement of Values and Commitments on August 25, 2023. This Statement reveals the architect team's thoughts about spacial justice, redistribution of resources, and community healing** and the ways in which these commitments have impacted their work thus far. Not only are the selected teams composed of highly talented and diverse individuals, but they are aligned with Transform 1012's collaborative nature and foster participation of a plurality of perspectives in their design processes.

**Transform 1012 will host a Design Week Residency from October 15-18, 2023, inviting the four finalist teams to Fort Worth** in order to connect with local community members and key stakeholders and present their design concepts in a public forum. Over four weeks, and with input from local community members, these proposals will be reviewed for the final selection, which will be announced on November 15, 2023.

“I am overjoyed by the number of incredible applicants and with the four finalists who will join us in Fort Worth this month,” says **Transform 1012 Executive Director Carlos Gonzalez-Jaime**. “We made a concerted effort to create an architect selection process that emphasizes our shared leadership approach and commitment to community involvement at every step. The values expressed by these four teams—rooted in equity-based design—hold as much weight as their expertise, and I can’t wait to see this reflected in the upcoming concept presentations.”

*All details for the architect design selection process can be found on Transform 1012's website [www.transform1012.org](http://www.transform1012.org).*

–

**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 Gonzalez-Jaime (At Large; Transform 1012, Executive Director)

Daniel Banks, Ph.D. (At Large; Transform 1012, Co-Convener and Board Chair; DNAWORKS, Co-Founder)

Estella Williams (At Large; Fort Worth/Tarrant County NAACP, President)

Jha D. Amazi (At Large; 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)

Vianca Gonzales (At Large; Transform 1012 Youth Council, Member)

## **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.

The former KKK auditorium was acquired by Transform 1012 N. Main Street (Transform 1012) in 2021, 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 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 historically targeted by the KKK for violence and economic marginalization, namely Black, Catholic, Hispanic, Immigrant, Jewish, and LGBTQQ@SPIAA+.

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.