



Revitalizing urban neighborhoods through innovative design.

Infill Philadelphia is an initiative of the Community Design Collaborative.
www.cdesignc.org/infill | www.sacredplacescivicspaces.com

How can historic sacred places support civic engagement, social cohesion, and neighborhood equity?

INTRODUCTION

Historic sacred places have long served as anchors in Philadelphia's neighborhoods. They stand out as beacons for their distinctive architecture, large gathering spaces, cultural significance, strong sense of community, and charitable works. Currently, historic sacred places in Philadelphia are being presented with both challenges and opportunities.

Philadelphia's Historic Sacred Places (The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2017) reports that nearly 10% of Philadelphia's 839 historic sacred places have been repurposed as housing, offices, schools, and child care facilities through adaptive reuse. An additional 5% are vacant. Between 2011 and 2015, more than 20 were demolished to make way for new development.

Philadelphia also has hundreds of active congregations in purpose-built religious properties acting as stewards of underutilized spaces. Whether it is a vacant sanctuary, sparsely-used meeting hall, or mothballed Sunday School wing, these spaces offer real opportunities for congregations to fulfill their missions and build stronger bonds between places of worship and the surrounding community.

Infill Philadelphia: Sacred Places/Civic Spaces is a partnership between the Community Design Collaborative and Partners for Sacred Places to re-envision underutilized, purpose-built religious properties as community hubs. The initiative will add the design and development community's voice to a growing dialogue about the intersection between historic sacred places and communities. It will strengthen relationships between sacred places, community organizations, and service providers with a mutual interest in co-location.

Sacred Places/Civic Spaces will demonstrate that underutilized space in historic sacred properties throughout Philadelphia can be activated in ways that expand the civic commons, serve a larger secular purpose, and strengthen communities.

INITIATIVE OBJECTIVES

- >> Promote understanding of the realities faced by a diversity of faith communities stewarding historic properties in neighborhoods and offer alternative options.
- >> Challenge the notion that sale and subsequent adaptive reuse or demolition is the only option facing declining congregations.
- >> Provide innovative models and prototypes in which religious buildings house a multitude of co-existing uses for community benefit.

ABOUT INFILL PHILADELPHIA

Infill Philadelphia is an initiative of the Community Design Collaborative to explore key community development challenges and opportunities through design. Infill Philadelphia engages communities in re-envisioning their neighborhoods, leveraging existing assets, rethinking the use of older spaces, and addressing the practical concerns of specific sites and the communities around them.

PROGRAMS

Infill Philadelphia: Sacred Places/Civic Spaces is a package of community-engaged design services including programs, promotion, and projects with the common goal of re-envisioning historic underutilized sacred places as civic spaces.

PRECEDENT EXHIBITION | On display through December 4, 2018
CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN | 1218 ARCH STREET

The Collaborative and Partners distributed a national call for entries and organized an exhibition highlighting best practices in repositioning purpose-built sacred places as community hubs. This juried exhibition provided the venue for the initiative's launch and inspiration for the Design Challenge.

DESIGN CHALLENGE + REVEAL | December 4, 2018
CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN | 1218 ARCH STREET

The Collaborative and Partners have paired design professionals with the congregations of three real-life, historic sacred places and community-based nonprofit organizations. The designers, nonprofits, and congregations will engage the broader community in the design process and create innovative design and development concepts for incorporating civic spaces into sacred places. They will present their concepts to a panel of experts, stakeholders, and the general public at a special reveal event.

PUBLICATION RELEASE + CAPSTONE EXHIBITION | March 12, 2019

The Collaborative and Partners will curate a capstone exhibition and develop a companion publication to present the issue, communicate its timeliness, and share the innovative solutions developed through the Design Challenge to a citywide and regional audience.

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

COMMUNITY DESIGN COLLABORATIVE

Community Design Collaborative provides pro bono preliminary design services to nonprofit organizations in greater Philadelphia, creates engaging volunteer opportunities for design professionals, and raises awareness about the importance of design in revitalizing communities. Since 1991, the Collaborative has matched nonprofits with skilled volunteers to engage their communities, put their visions down on paper, and advance to the next stage: gaining support, raising funds, and building projects. www.cdesignc.org

PARTNERS FOR SACRED PLACES

Partners for Sacred Places is the only national, non-sectarian nonprofit organization focused on building the capacity of congregations of historic sacred places to better serve their communities as anchor institutions, nurturing transformation and shaping vibrant, creative communities. Founded in 1989, PSP has built a national movement based on its ability to assess issues, map assets, find solutions, and create optimism in hope for the future of our historic, purpose-built sacred places. www.sacredplaces.org

ABOUT THE FUNDER

THE WILLIAM PENN FOUNDATION

The **William Penn Foundation** helps improve education for low-income children, ensure a sustainable environment, foster creative communities that enhance civic life and advance philanthropy in the Greater Philadelphia region. www.williampennfoundation.org

WWW.SACREDPLACESCIVICSAPACES.COM

DESIGN CHALLENGE SITES

BUILDING BLOCKS: THE PHILADELPHIA MASJID

4700 WYALUSING AVENUE | MILL CREEK

COMMUNITY PARTNER | People's Emergency Center

DESIGN TEAM | HOK (lead); J+M Engineering; Tutor Perini Building Corp; Alisa McCann



Photo: Chris Kendig Photography

The Philadelphia Masjid serves a congregation of 500, while also acting as a central hub for many others in the Muslim community. The 1.5 acre former Diocesan school complex has been underutilized since the closing of the Sister Clara Muhammad School over ten years ago. The site offers the potential for both renovation and new construction, and the congregation hopes to use its excess space to meet the needs of the neighborhood and lay the foundation for a broad community development initiative. People's Emergency Center recognizes this site as a key opportunity within the Promise Zone and as a significant gateway to the neighborhood.

COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE: WHARTON-WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5341 CATHARINE STREET | COBBS CREEK

COMMUNITY PARTNER | ACHIEVEability

DESIGN TEAM | Brawer & Hauptman Architects (lead); Alderson Engineering, Inc.; Orndorf & Associates, Inc.; Powers & Company, Inc.; The Sullivan Company



Photo: Chris Kendig Photography

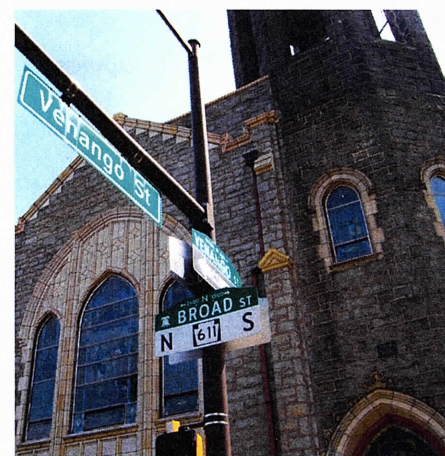
Wharton-Wesley United Methodist Church, embedded in the surrounding residential fabric, once had a congregation of 700. Today, most of its 150 members travel from outside the neighborhood to attend services. High utility costs and aging infrastructure make the church and Sunday school building costly and challenging to maintain. Having just completed a strategic planning process, the congregation is attuned to the challenges faced by the surrounding community and is eager to put "less into capital, more into ministry." ACHIEVEability is eager to increase the impact of its work to improve the lives of the residents in the Haddington/Cobbs Creek neighborhood through a partnership with Wharton-Wesley.

CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS: ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

3600/3601 N. BROAD ST. | NICETOWN-TIOGA

COMMUNITY PARTNER | Called to Serve CDC

DESIGN TEAM | Studio 6mm (lead); Kate Cowing Architect LLC; Keast & Hood; Burns Engineering, Inc.; International Consultants, Inc.



Zion Baptist Church has a rich history and strong ties to the community. The site is comprised of two buildings - the 1970s contemporary building where it worships and the 1920s "annex" which housed the church's outreach programs until recently. The buildings are located directly across the street from each other and just one block from the intersection of Broad, Germantown, and Erie, a key location along the North Broad Street commercial corridor. Zion and Called to Serve Community Development Corporation hope to reactivate the vacant annex as a part of the commercial corridor's revitalization.



AD HOC COMMITTEE

The Collaborative and Partners would like to thank and acknowledge the individuals below who are sharing their time and energy to contribute to the development and implementation of the design challenge and initiative as a whole.

Kimberly Allen | Wells Fargo Regional Foundation
Rev. Kirk Berlenbach | Episcopal Diocese of PA
Rebecca Blake | Beacon
Chuck Casper | Montgomery McCracken
Stephanie Chiorean | Philadelphia Water
Beverly Coleman | Temple University
Mike Dahl | Broad Street Ministry
Rev. Patricia Davenport | Lutheran Synod
Mary DeNadai | National Trust for Historic Preservation
Steve Gendler | MIS Capital
David Gest | Ballard Spahr
Bill Golderer | United Way
MaryBeth Gonzales | Phila. Health & Human Services
Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr. | Amachi
Cassandra Green | Mill Creek Community Partnership
Zakya Hall | PACDC
Barbara Hogue | Christ Church Preservation Trust
Rev. Robin Hynicka | Arch St. United Methodist Church
Rich Kirk | Calvary Center for Culture & Community
Rev. Peter Kountz | St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Isaac Kwon | Urban Partners
Rabbi Annie Lewis | Greater Phila. Board of Rabbis

Tom Lussenhop | U3 Advisors
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Paul Sehnert | University of Pennsylvania
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Laura Spina | Phila. Dept. of Planning & Development
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Paul Vernon | KSK Architects Planners Historians, Inc.
Amanda Wagner | Phila. Dept. of Health
Venise Whitaker | Office of Darrell Clarke, 5th District
Peter Woodall | Hidden City Philadelphia

EXPERT JURY

The expert jury has been engaged to encourage high quality design solutions, which best address the challenges presented in reactivating underutilized sacred places. This moderated panel will offer two specialized reviews for the design challenge – a mid-review and a final review.

PRESERVATION

Mary Werner DeNadai, FAIA | John Milner Architects
Daniela Holt Voith, FAIA | Voith & Mactavish LLP

FINANCING/FUNDING

Kimberly Allen | Wells Fargo Regional Foundation

DESIGN

Alan Greenberger, FAIA | Drexel University, Dept. of Architecture, Design & Urbanism
Emanuel Kelly, FAIA | Kelly/Maiello Architects

SITE REPRESENTATIVES (CLIENT GROUPS)

Aazim Muhammad | The Philadelphia Masjid/Sister Clara Muhammad CDC
James Wright | People's Emergency Center
The Rev. David Brown | Wharton-Wesley United Methodist Church
Erika Tapp | ACHIEVEability
Ron Harper | Zion Baptist Church
The Rev. Michael A. Major, Sr. | Zion Baptist Church/Called to Serve CDC

FAITH LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Canon Kirk Berlenbach | Episcopal Diocese of PA
Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr. | Amachi

DEVELOPMENT

David LaFontaine | Community Ventures
Brian Murray | Shift Capital

PUBLIC SECTOR/POLICY

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Angel Rodriguez | Philadelphia Land Bank