



**The
Giving Common**
An Initiative of the Boston Foundation

Fort Point Theatre Channel Inc.

15 Channel Center Street, #318 Boston MA 02210 3425

Incorporation Year: 2011

www.fortpointtc.org

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Arts, Culture & Humanities Performing Arts

CEO/Executive Director: Dr. Marc S. Miller

Board Chair: Dr. Marc S. Miller Community Volunteer



Mission Statement: Fort Point Theatre Channel is dedicated to creating and sustaining new configurations of the performing arts. We bring together an ensemble of artists from the worlds of theater, music, visual arts, and everything in between as a forum for collaborative expression while enriching our communities.

Needs Statement: Grants and donations are essential. They enable FPTC to provide the people who work with us with sufficient resources. Just as important, they mean we can keep admission prices low for all—and offer many free events like Exclamation Point!, Senses, and Salons.

Our core group of 23 artists maintains the company and plans and oversees all productions and other events. We operate with no regular paid staff but pay 20 to 40 actors, designers, and technical crew to work on each project. Although we are a small performance company, we are committed to paying the artists who work with us more than the going rate and to giving them the resources they need to do their work.

The stipend for actors in a major FPTC project is a minimum of \$300, but we usually pay at least \$500 and periodically engage actors on a regular union contract at \$300 per week. Set, lighting, and costume designers receive stipends of \$500-\$1,000 depending on available resources. The greatest need is for larger expense budgets for the designers, at least double the \$1,000 we currently aim to provide.

Budgets are \$2,000 and up for Exclamation Point events, which are always offered for free, to \$10,000 to \$15,000 for large-scale productions. Our goal is to double both as quickly as possible. Between 2010 and 2012, a local developer temporarily gave us the free use of a vacant 5,000-square-foot facility. Since 2012, we have used free or rented performance spaces. We are exploring options for a new, permanent home, especially for rehearsals, construction, and storage, while continuing to utilize community-based venues for our events.

In this tenth anniversary year, FPTC is seeking additional funds as we implement a new strategic plan to prepare us firmly for the next decade. For our first 10 years, the artistic directors have been supported by a volunteer executive director/producer who works full-time for FPTC. More recently, a major grant from a Fort Point-based fund and a planning grant from the Boston Foundation supported organizational development. This work has included engaging a strategic planning consultant who helped FPTC explore and implement options for transitioning to a more formal organizational structure and a regular, paid administrative and development staff.

As part of implementing the strategic plan, FPTC is forming a larger, more defined board of directors to support and augment the administrative and oversight activities of the artistic directors and the current officers of the nonprofit corporation. Four working committees of the artistic directors meet frequently, focusing on organizational development. The Steering Committee sets the agenda for the monthly meetings of the artistic directors and drafts the annual budget and programming schedule. The other three are the Board Development Committee, the Fundraising Committee, and the temporary 10th Anniversary Committee.

As an organization, FPTC seeks to be diverse in projects, audiences, and internally. In part, we accomplish this through partnerships. In terms of leadership, FPTC's 23 artistic directors reflect a diversity of artistic skills and pursuits, brought together by the mission to create "new configurations of the arts." Because FPTC's artistic board is composed of people who have previously established themselves in particular artistic genres and seeking new directions for their own work, the group includes an unusually high number of older women and men, including five senior citizens, with most others 40 to 50 years old. Recent efforts to incorporate younger artists have succeeded, with five artistic directors in their 20s.

That said, ongoing efforts to diversify the group of artistic directors in terms of race proceed gradually, and this is a high priority in the strategic planning process. Currently, four of the 23 artistic directors are people of color. Economically, FPTC from its beginning has maintained a commitment to paying all artists who work with it. This is a small step toward making participation in FPTC more feasible for lower-income artists. That said, the pay is for temporary project work and far too low to support a person. Almost all of the artistic directors are low- to middle-income (which is likely the case for most practicing artists in Boston).

In 2017-2018, we seek funds for our 10th anniversary programming:

A. HER STORY IS

An Exclamation Point! and an art exhibit in two Boston-area locations (plus others in Iraq) will culminate the "Her Story Is" project, which supports artistic conversations, exchanges, and creation among U.S. and Iraqi women artists. The goals of "Her Story Is" are to further cross-cultural understanding, explore artistic practice, empower women's voices and bring those voices to Massachusetts and Iraqi audiences. Four U.S. artists and four Iraqi artists are engaging via online conversations, providing groundwork for a winter workshop in Dubai (a location accessible to both Iraqi and U.S. artists). There, each participant will lead creative exchanges relevant to her current work. In the months after the workshop, the artists will produce works for spring exhibitions and performances.

B. HUMANITY NOT STATISTICS

In collaboration with On With Living and Learning (OWLL), FPTC will mount a visual art exhibit and performance as the next phase of OWLL's Humanity Not Statistics project, with a focus on the experiences of incarcerated women. For the exhibit, an incarcerated mother will explore the unique identities and circumstances of her surroundings in a federal prison through portraits and high-quality sketches sent to her daughter. The daughter, a theatre student at Suffolk University, will write and perform a musical ode highlighting her experience as a child of an incarcerated mother and the challenges she continues to face. A short dance piece is being created by a member of the OWLL's collective.

C. BOSTON LETTERPRESS

FPTC co-artistic directors Mitchel King Ahern and Greg Kowalski are creating a display on the electronic marquee of the Boston Convention and Exposition Center. In conjunction with the display, FPTC and the Museum of Printing are organizing an evening tentatively titled "The History of Boston Letterpress." Historically, Fort Point was a center of

Boston's printing industry.

D. JEANNE, THE STORY OF A WOMAN

In a major production in late 2018, FPTC, in collaboration with Ensemble Warhol and the Doppelganger Dance Collective, will present "Men and Their Machines," a dance-opera work adapted from the opera "Jeanne, The Story of a Woman."

E. EXCLAMATION POINT!

In addition to "Her Story Is," FPTC members have various Exclamation Point! projects in development. Three of these projects are:

- "The Colors of the Rainbow Are Yellow" is a collaborative project conceptualized by FPTC co-artistic director Naomi Ibasitas. Seeking to provide more opportunities for Asian-American artists Greater Boston, the project imagines a celebration of Asian-American culture and the common humanity that should bring people of all cultures and backgrounds together, rather than divide them.

- "Onscreen/Offscreen" curated by co-artistic director Mark Warhol, is a work combining live action and projections.

- "The Immigration Series" is led by co-artistic director Hana Pegrinkova, an immigrant from the Czech Republic. The series of events includes readings of the play "Crazy Blood" about immigrants from Eastern Europe and began with the reading of "The Three Births of Wadih Alwani."

F. THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

FPTC is celebrating its first decade of creating new configurations. In addition to the regular schedule, FPTC is organizing a celebration at Fort Point's Midway Studios, featuring live music, presentations, and a six-week exhibit of artwork reflecting the work of FPTC and its members and friends over the years.

Impact Statement: FPTC's mission, programs, and events focus on the many issues that matter to the community of Fort Point and to Greater Boston. From the reimagining of American history to the comparison of relationships through social media, FPTC projects convey these kinds of issue to audiences of all kinds. Current projects include, for example, three possible "Exclamation Point!" events for the anniversary year: "The Colors of the Rainbow are Yellow," "Her Story Is," and "Humanity Not Statistics."

FPTC engages deeply on local issues, particularly the essential role of the arts in a vibrant and sustainable community. The community demonstrably values FPTC's contributions, as illustrated by attendance at events and the financial contributions of local businesses. For its part, FPTC provides financial, logistical, and emotional support to hundreds of collaborating artists and many organizations throughout the city.

Collaboration with community and arts organizations, as well as with independent artists, is fundamental to FPTC. As an example, work with Middle Eastern (particularly Iraqi) has comprised art exhibits, play readings, and the premieres of two full-length plays. This work has involved UMass Boston's Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences and various other organizations. This year, the continuation of the project, "Her Story Is," centers on artistic collaboration among four U.S. women artists and four Iraqi women artists, culminating in public presentations in both countries.

The mission of FPTC lends itself to incorporating many different genres of art, breaking down barriers that can bring together performers of all types. This helps FPTC attract diverse audiences of all ages, many of whom come to attend an art event they may not usually attend. Reflecting this mix of genres among the core group of artistic directors, FPTC bridges the gaps that separate various audiences; attracting film audiences, dance and theatre audiences, visual art viewers and more to come together for events and performances. To further serve diverse audiences, offering these events at no or low cost is an essential step toward addressing hurdles that stem from race, class, and cultural conflicts that hinder many people from attending artistic productions. FPTC's "Senses Performance Series" and "Exclamation Point!" events are always free, and tickets for major productions are offered at the lowest cost possible (usually \$14-\$20).

Many people fail to attend theatre and art performances not only because of cost but due to lack of awareness. One way FPTC addresses this issue is to use "nontraditional" performance spaces that are accessible to different types of audience member. These venues have included a parking garage, art galleries, local cafes, and empty storefronts. The owner of the Atlantic Wharf office building, Boston Properties, has been a valued partner in many FPTC projects, including the "Basra-Boston Project," contributing not only venues but also materials, staffing, promotions, and funding. Having events in public spaces such as these invite the entire public, even passersby, to participate.

Impact is increased through diverse collaborators. In addition to many individuals, we have worked with such organizations as the Odysseus Project, UMass Boston's Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences, the Center for Arabic Culture, the University Basra in Iraq, On With Living and Learning, Contrapose Dance, Ensemble Warhol, Tempest Productions, The Club by George Foreman III, and the Fort Point Arts Community.

Full-time Staff: 0

Volunteers: 14

(excludes part-time staff)

Programs Detailed on Profile

Major Productions

Exclamation Point, Salons, Senses, and Other Free Events

Projected Revenue: \$32,000.00

Projected Expenses: \$37,000.00

Fiscal Year	2016	2015	2014
Total Revenue	\$28,377	\$35,791	\$57,891
Total Expenses	\$34,386	\$30,479	\$39,002

Top Funding Sources

Fiscal Year	2016	2015	2014
Top Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--
Second Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--
Third Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--