

Indy's newest  
equity company:

The logo for Fonseca Theatre Company features the name 'fonseca' in a stylized, lowercase font. The letters are colored: 'f' is green, 'o' is green, 'n' is green, 's' is yellow, 'e' is yellow, 'c' is red, and 'a' is red. Each letter has several small white dots scattered around it. Below 'fonseca' are the words 'theatre' and 'company' in a bold, black, lowercase sans-serif font, stacked on two lines.

**fonseca**  
**theatre**  
**company**

We exist to give voice to and celebrate the minority communities of Indianapolis through the prism of purposeful theater and civic engagement. Our goal is to bring about social justice through programs which educate, illuminate, and ignite conversations on equity, diversity, and inclusion.

# About Us



## Our Vision

The Fonseca Theatre Company exists to give voice to and celebrate the minority communities of Indianapolis through the prism of purposeful theater and civic engagement. The goal is to bring about social justice through programs which educate, illuminate, and ignite conversations on equity, diversity, and inclusion.

## Our Mission

The Fonseca Theatre Company is a company of artists (80% POC<sup>1</sup>) who will give voice to the disenfranchised in our community. The sharing of culture is essential to our nation's health, and we will focus on work by and/or about minority artists to bring together the city's growing minority communities. The Fonseca Theatre Company thinks globally but focuses locally.



## Our Uniqueness

The new theater will give voice to the **POC/ALANA<sup>2</sup>, LGBTQ and PWD<sup>3</sup>** communities as a starting point.

Nationally, theater companies are focusing on inclusion, equity and diversity. Locally, our professional companies are only dedicating a small percentage of programming to this work. The combined number of plays by playwrights of color produced by the five Indianapolis Equity Theaters in the 2018-19 season is just *one*.

The Fonseca Theatre Company addresses this issue by producing works by, for and/or about our communities of color, exclusively. By doing so, we will also increase employment and educational opportunities for minority, LGBTQ and PWD artists.

<sup>1</sup> **People of Color**

<sup>2</sup> **Asian, Latinx, African, Native American**

<sup>3</sup> **People with Disabilities.**



## Our Location

The Fonseca Theatre Company is situated within one of Indianapolis' newly designated Great Places of 2020: River West on Indy's Near West Side. 2508 West Michigan Street is a long and narrow storefront. It will accommodate a 70-75 seat theater. We have determined that this is the perfect size for the type of programming planned for the Near West Side.



# Programs

**The programs of The Fonseca Theatre Company will be affordable to all through community pricing.** The programs include:

1. A theater season of new and adventurous plays featuring playwrights of color
2. Educational classes in theater arts for children and teens
3. A community ensemble that leads and participates in a variety of theatre and storytelling workshops
4. Community engagement (neighborhood site for meetings and a headquarters for local activities such as clean up, crime watch and art happenings)
5. Neighborhood special events such as block parties and festivals
6. Tickets and class enrollment for the residents of Haughville, Hawthorne, Stringtown and We Care are at a 75% discount.

## InReach

**The Fonseca Theatre Company is engaged in programs of In Reach,** which encourages artists to move into and become part of the fabric of life in the community it serves. We work to promote a safe and healthy neighborhood through civic engagement, which starts by creating a cultural community center:

- a place where people come together not only to share the joys of artistic expression but also to discuss injustice, inequity, and cultural collision.
- A place to learn.
- A place to enjoy.
- A place to grow.



**We will celebrate the uniqueness of cultures as well as illuminate their similarities.**

# Our Core



## Leadership

Producing Director Bryan Fonseca has worked in Indianapolis for 40 years. He founded and served in the same capacity at the Phoenix Theatre for 35 years.

Bryan has directed for the MFA Playwrights Workshop at the Kennedy Center, The Human Race Theatre in Dayton, Ohio, Indiana University, Ball State University and the Civic Theatre of Indianapolis. Over the years, he transferred six Phoenix shows to Chicago and his production of Ma Rainey's Black Bottom was invited to travel to a festival in Dundalk, Ireland.

Bryan has received an Achievement and Service award from the Indiana Theatre Association, two Artist Fellowship awards from the Indiana State Arts Commission and two Creative Renewal Fellowships from the Arts Council of Indianapolis/Lilly Endowment. He taught at IUPUI and was invited by IU Bloomington to lecture in Germany on Contemporary Theater in America.

In 2016, he received the first (one of two) Transformational Impact Fellowships from the Arts Council and Lilly Endowment to begin work on the Near West Side.



## Collaborators

Andrew Black, Tim Brickley, Will Carlson, Toni Press Coffman, Suzanne Fleenor, Charles Goad, Patrick Goss, Jerry Grayson, Gigi Jennewein, Ronn Johnstone, Bernie Killian, Jim Kincannon, Angeline Larimer, Mara Lefler, Mark Harvey Levine, Clay Mabbitt, Adrienne Reisweg, Beverly Roche, Deb Sargent, Gayle Steigerwald and Dan Wakefield.

## Community

Hannah Boswell, Gregory Disney-Britton, Toya Crain, Enrique Fernandez, Ernesto Fernandez, Henry Fernandez, Ryan Klepper, Guero Loco, Kevin Moore, Kenneth Palmer, Rick Rezek, Jennifer Scharbrough, Alecs Sosa, Tino Sosa, Caitlin Negrón, and Carli Stevenson

## The Company

Leraldo Anzaldúa, Tom Alvarez, Deborah Asante, James Solomon Benn, Joanna Bennett, Diane Tsao Boehm, Patricia Castañeda, Ian Cruz, Natalie Cruz, Keesha Dixon, Lakesha Lorene, Rhoda C. Ludy, Eduardo Luna, Josiah McCruiston, A K Murtadha, Brianna Milan, Kai Mwaafrika, Robert Negrón, Iris Rosa, Ben Rose, Daniel Scharbrough, Jordan Flores Schwartz, Carlos Sosa, Dena Toler, Ansley Valentine, Dwuan Watson Jr, Milicent A. Wright.

## Partners

We collaborate extensively with **Indy Convergence**, sharing programs and resources.

Indy Convergence is an international artist residency program focused on interdisciplinary collaboration and the intersection of arts in community. IC serves the Near West neighborhoods of Indianapolis and maintains programs internationally in Jacmel, Haiti and London, Ontario. Cultivating the talent that already exists on a local level and facilitating residency programs to bring in new perspectives, Indy Convergence works to both stimulate and amplify community voices.

# Your World, Our Stage

The Fonseca Theatre Company invites you to experience stories yet untold—your stories and the stories of your neighbors, customers, and employees. Indianapolis and the nation have become much more diverse in commerce and cultures. Diversity and inclusion are the fundamental values that inform the work of the Fonseca Theatre Company in the Indianapolis River West Neighborhood.

This professional company will give a theatrical voice to the Latinx, African-American, Asian, and Middle Eastern communities in Indianapolis. **Our mission is to entertain, inform, educate, and unite our city and our world by broadly promoting and embracing diversity and fostering authentic inclusion.** The Fonseca Theatre Company is cooking up an appetizing cultural and political stew that can help your company remain effective, relevant, and in tune with your employees' and clients' values.

The theater is located on West Michigan Street, just a few blocks west of the IUPUI campus. **Our concept of "In Reach" puts artists and audience members into the fabric of one of the most culturally diverse communities in Indianapolis.** In addition to our productions, the Fonseca Theatre Company will offer a range of community and educational programs, including youth drama classes, a bilingual storytelling series, and a variety of forums such as post-show discussions, town halls, and cultural conversations. The Fonseca Theatre Company seeks not only to produce plays but also to directly engage with our community, encouraging our audiences to do the same. **Our programming will support participation in community sports, festivals, neighborhood cleanups, and other civic events.**



We are seeking both **season (\$20,000) and show (\$5,000) sponsors** to enable Producing Director Bryan Fonseca and a committed group of business leaders, friends, and local artists of color to present a full 2018–19 season of shows.

Aligning your diversity and inclusion messages with the themes of our compelling productions will empower you to more effectively engage your community, coworkers, and clients. Sponsors will have opportunities to host customers and clients at any Thursday night performance during the 2018–2019 season. Food is a connector amongst all cultures, and sponsors will be encouraged to host receptions before or after performances featuring culturally relevant (play-specific) food, beer, and wine. The theater can accommodate up to 75 audience members at each performance. The Fonseca Theatre Company will ignite cultural conversation, and founder Bryan Fonseca, along with artists from the show, will be pleased to address your group alongside members of your diversity team, human resources group, or executive leadership to immerse them in the issues presented by the play.

These will be opportunities to bring together a broad spectrum of people — not just members of specific affinity groups. Theater is a unique forum to tell the stories that will challenge and inspire our community in a safe, informal environment.

To learn more about how your sponsorship can make an important impact on our future, please contact **Bryan Fonseca at 317-331-0089 or [bfonseca@FonsecaTheatre.org](mailto:bfonseca@FonsecaTheatre.org)**