



TTO IS BUILDING A QUEER [RE]PUBLIC

FEBRUARY 2023

OUR MISSION

To present liberating art by, for, and about queer and trans people of color that transcends artistic boundaries, celebrates cultural abundance, and dismantles oppression.



IN 1989,

The Theater Offensive (TTO) grew out of the queer guerilla street theater troupe, United Fruit Company, founded by Abe Rybeck and other activists in response to increasingly conservative national politics and the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Since then, TTO has become the leading presenter of LGBTQ theater in New England, and a national model for advocacy and creation of original works by queer and trans artists.



TRUE COLORS

True Colors: Out Youth Theater is the Theater Offensive's longest running, award-winning program. It houses three ongoing programs all serving the same goal: utilizing community-based theater to train and activate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied youth leaders ages 12-25. These subprograms are:

TRUE COLORS TROUPE

is an after-school theater program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning youth and their straight allies, ages 13-19. Youth work with artists to create an ensemble to develop skills in performance, social justice, and community activism.

TRUE COLORS CREATIVE ACTION CREW

is an advanced performing ensemble of LGBTQ young artists ages 18-25 that produce theater for schools and communities around New England and beyond.

TRUE COLORS YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

builds opportunities that engage, impact, and empower LGBTQ and allied youth through leadership development, community engagement, and advocacy.



Queer Family Series

Queer Family Series (QFS), in its inaugural year, is a series of produced and presented work for and by the whole queer family -- from our elders to toddlers. The Queer Family Series is a groundbreaking program that captures the imagination and play of the gender & identity fluidity of childhood and human development. QFS gives the whole family glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models of color. We pave the way towards a better future leading with love, respect and discovery at the foreground.

PRIDE THEATER FESTIVAL

Tam's Two Dads, written by Michael Bobbitt, drew 2,100 audience members total, with over 2,500 viewers reached.

DRAG STORY HOUR

Neon Calypso, KaMani Sutra, and Ra'Jah O'Hara reached an audience over 2,500 reading LGBTQ-themed literature.





QUEER REpublic

Queer (Re)public is a program that honors, uplifts, and builds on emergent themes inherent to and in QTPOC art through workshops, residency programs, and commissioning art by, for, and including queer and trans artists of color.



QUEER [RE]PUBLIC RESIDENCY PROGRAM

18 months of discovery, investigation, research, and play for mid-career to experienced national QTPOC artists. Artists will embark on developing new work and fostering their artistic soul using QTPOC emergent strategies as guidance.

QUEER [RE]PUBLIC COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

We will regularly commission multi-discipline, performance-based art to produce with and present to our communities in Boston and beyond, in partnership with national and regional organizations.

QUEER [RE]PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

We know that QTPOC art is life-affirming -- that ritual and healing is a core part QTPOC artistic practice. Queer (Re)Public Workshops is a community based activity series that includes artistic development and community learning exchanges that invite participants to be well & whole.

INAUGURAL QUEER [RE]PUBLIC ARTISTS

Adil
Mansoor



Sophie
Kim



Vashanti
Cowan



A PERMANENT HOME FOR TTO

The Black Box Project at 1252 Boylston Street

TTO has an exciting opportunity to expand upon its three-decade legacy as a trailblazing art, educational, and social action organization.

Through a partnership with Scape North America, an international developer that delivers innovative urban living solutions, and the City of Boston, TTO has been offered ownership of a 13,000 square foot Black Box Theater within Scape's Boylston Place development in the Fenway district.

This iconic, innovative, and enduring space will serve as the cultural cornerstone of a mixed-use development at 1252-1270 Boylston Street.



BUILDING A QUEER [RE]PUBLIC, A THEATER LIKE NO OTHER

Anticipated to open in 2024, it will be the largest theater in the world owned and operated by LGBTQ people of color for all LGBTQ people, their allies, families and friends.



BUILDING A QUEER [RE]PUBLIC PROJECT DETAILS

- 13,000 square feet
- Flexible 150-seat theater
- Flexible lobby spaces for performance and gathering
- Fully-equipped community room for rehearsal, small performance, gathering, and more
- Green room and conference room
- Inclusive all-gender restrooms
- Fully-accessible spaces for all bodies, ages, and abilities equipped with automated tech, elevators, single-level stage entrances, and comfortable seating



BUILDING A QUEER [RE]PUBLIC PROJECT DETAILS



THESE CREATIVE SPACES WILL HOUSE...

- True Colors, Queer (Re)Public, and Queer Family Series programming
- Touring performances through the National Performance Network
- Artists and community groups renting space at a subsidized, below-market rate



BUILDING A QUEER [RE]PUBLIC PROJECT DETAILS

Located on the former site of the Machine/Ramrod and 1270 nightclubs, the new venue will honor the location's historical importance to the Boston LGBTQ community, providing much-needed space and resources to historically marginalized communities seeking affordable facilities for their programs and services.



BUILDING A QUEER [RE]PUBLIC PROJECT DETAILS

LONG-TERM ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT OF A PERMANENT ARTISTIC HOME



This major capital project, TTO's first, will establish a creative hub for thought-provoking programs – a permanent home for queer and trans artists and youth who have long sought a place to truly belong in the center of Boston, including:

- Family, educational and youth-centered artistic and leadership programs
- Community-led artistic experiences
- People-powered civic engagements

WHY NOW?



"[the queer community] described Boston as 'a disappearing city.' As a new city is emerging all around us, the cultural memory and the cultural spaces for queer and trans people of color are being erased. How can we preserve a cultural hub, not only for memory, but for new possibilities?"

Harold Steward
*TTO Executive Director and
Cultural Strategist*

Morcos Key

"Building the largest theater in the world owned and operated by queer and trans people of color is an act of resistance."

Jon Key
Morcos Key

The History Project

"Boston has always been queer. Since before the colonists landed, there have been queer people here. The need for being in community with one another is completely essential."

Joan Ilacqua
The History Project

BOSTON CULTURAL & BUSINESS IMPACT



The Boylston Black Box will bring much-needed cultural stability to the Fenway, an increasingly transient neighborhood.

This anchoring cultural institution will foster a sense of community and encourage foot traffic to the surrounding businesses, helping to sustain tourism in the Fenway neighborhood beyond the baseball season.

BOSTON CULTURAL & BUSINESS IMPACT



Through its 30-year history, TTO has created a loyal and supportive following locally, regionally and nationally. The Theater Offensive is also a member of the National Performance Network (NPN), which includes more than 70 national partners in 31 states and 47 communities, and dozens of co-commissioning presenters across the U.S.

TTO also partners with The New England Foundation for the Arts for local presentations of artists in its national dance and theater program roster. Residents from across New England will frequent the Boylston Black Box to experience the organization's many award-winning performances and programs.

As queer spaces, particularly youth-oriented queer spaces, continue to disappear in Boston, the need for TTO to establish this permanent home increases. The Boylston Black Box will be a welcoming, affirming, creative space where the queer and trans POC community - in Boston and beyond - can truly thrive.

PROJECT BUDGET

EXPENSES

**Brick and Mortar/
Capital***

\$ 15,000,000

**Programmatic/
Operational Expenses
(3 Years)**

\$ 3,500,000

**Rental Subsidy for
Community Use**

\$ 1,000,000

**Capital Campaign
Expenses**

\$ 500,000

TOTAL

\$ 20,000,000

COMMITTED FUNDS (AS OF 1/2023)

Individual Giving

\$ 4,807,625

Institutional Giving

\$ 6,715,000

TOTAL

\$ 11,527,625

* since original estimates in 2019, brick and mortar costs have increased by approximately 66% due to inflation

EARLY MAJOR SUPPORTERS



THE HERMAN AND
FRIEDA L. MILLER
FOUNDATION



The Poss Family Foundation
Sarah Hancock
and other key individuals

WAYS TO GIVE:

MAKE A ONE-TIME GIFT

Every individual gift, no matter how large or small, brings us closer to our goal!

GIVE THROUGH A DONOR ADVISED FUND

We will work with your donor advised fund to manage your gift, whether one-time or multi-year.

MAKE A MULTI-YEAR PLEDGE

Multi-year giving helps us to plan our budgets in advance, fostering even greater stability.

MAKE A PLANNED GIFT

Planned giving can take many forms, and we will work with you to develop a plan that works for you.

JOIN US!

Mail one-time gifts to:
The Theater Offensive
P.O. Box 171731
Boston, MA 02116

Make a gift online:
www.thetheateroffensive.org

Email Jess Ernst (Capital Campaign and Special Projects Coordinator) at jess@thetheateroffensive.org to learn more about multi-year, donor advised fund, planned, or online giving.



LINDSAY ALLEN

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

JULES BARNES

Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs

JAVIER CABALLERO (CLERK)

Pronouns: He/Him/His

MONA FORD WALKER

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

SHAKERA FORD WALKER (VICE CHAIR)

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

KEVIN HEPNER

Pronouns: He/Him/His

STETSON MARSHALL (CHAIR)

Pronouns: He/Him/His

LAKIA MONDALE

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

DONNA OWENS

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

CHERYL SCHAFFER (TREASURER)

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

J.D. STOKELY

Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs

MICHAEL TENTINDO

Pronouns: He/Him/His

**TTO
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**



THANK YOU

Anser Advisory
Owner's Project Manager
www.anseradvisory.com

Walsh Brothers
Construction
www.walshbrothers.com

Epstein Joslin Architects
Architect
www.epsteinjoslin.com

LAM Partners
Lighting Design
www.lampartners.com

CBT Architects
Interior Design
www.cbtarchitects.com

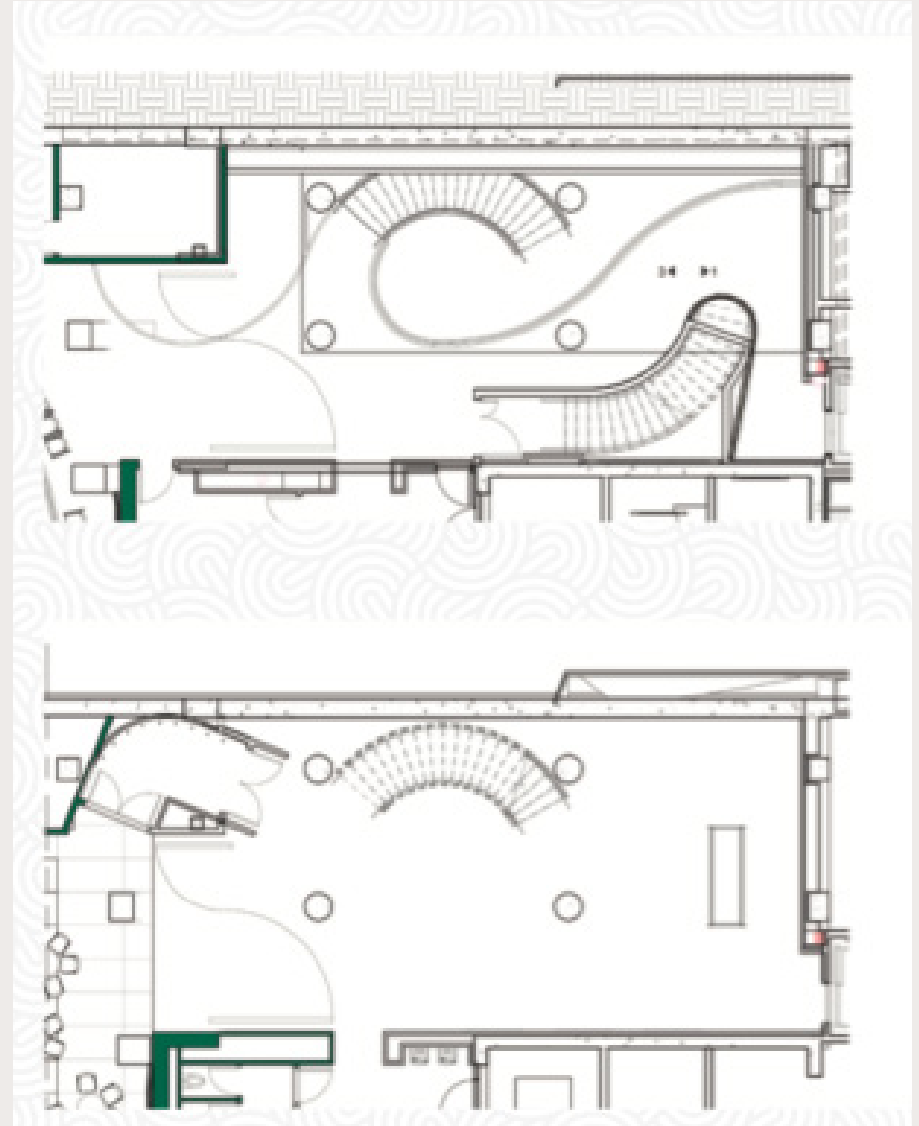
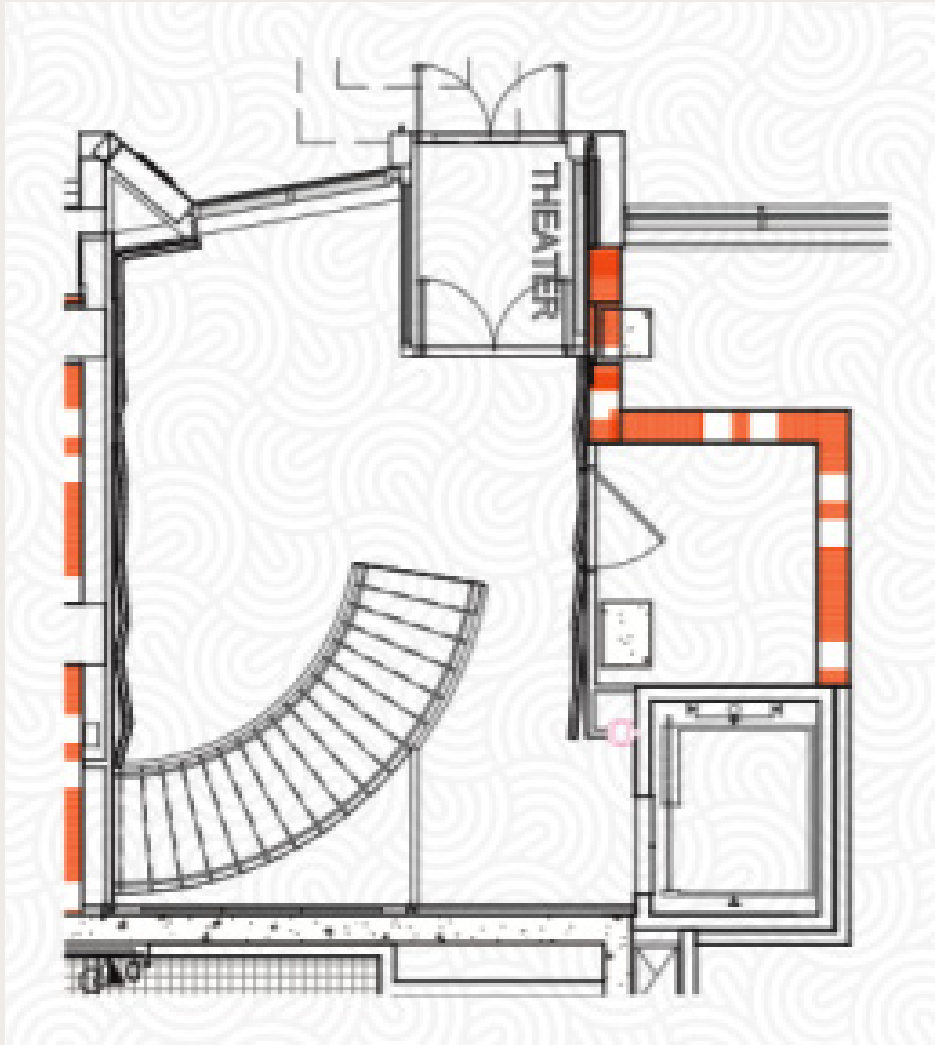
AWE Engineer
MEP/FP Engineers
www.awe-e.com

Charcoalblue
Theater, Acoustics, AV
www.charcoalblue.com

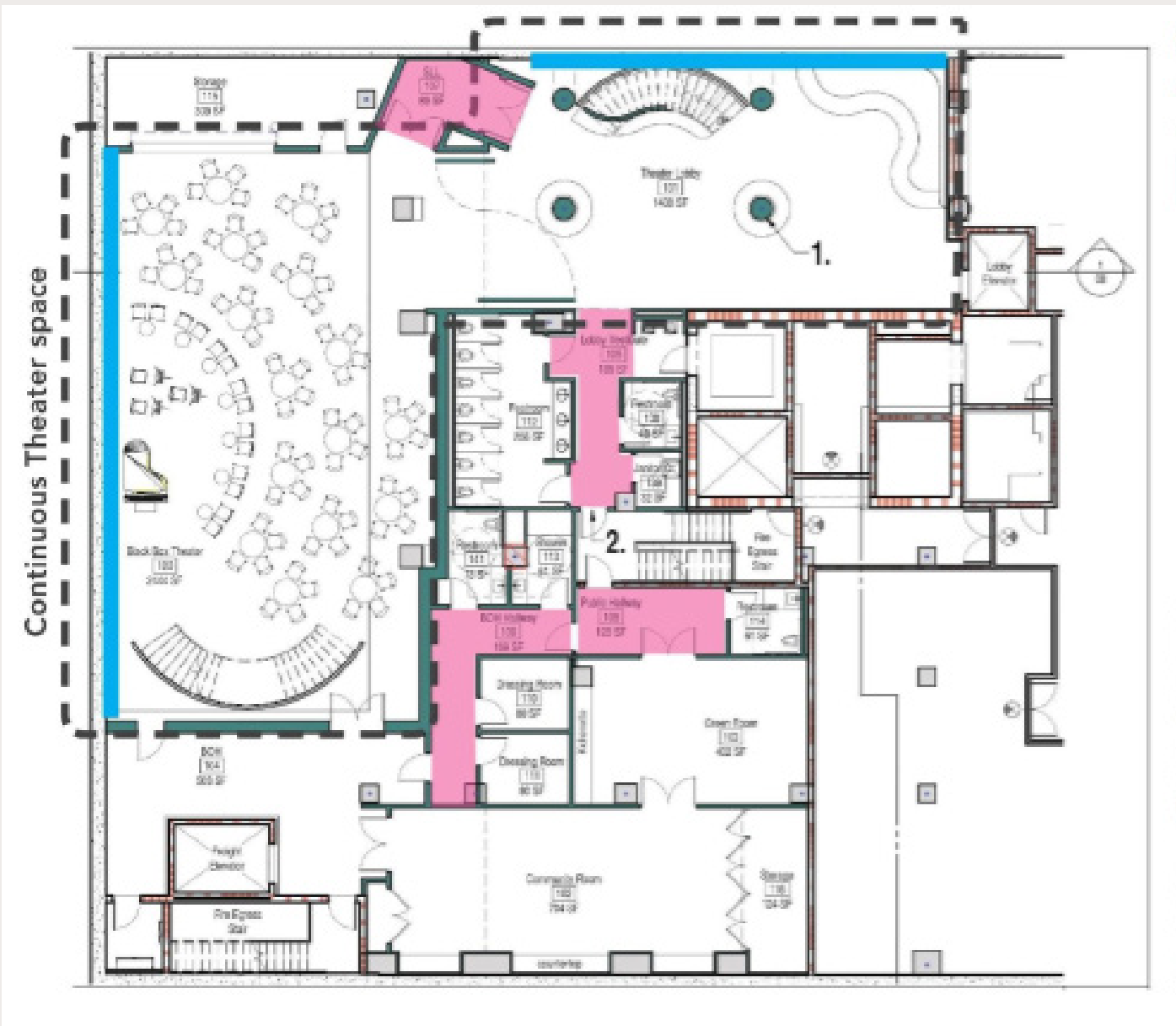
Code Red Consultants
Code Consultant
www.coderedconsultants.com

Renderings by Epstein Joslin Architects and CBT Architects

THEATER LOBBY PLANS

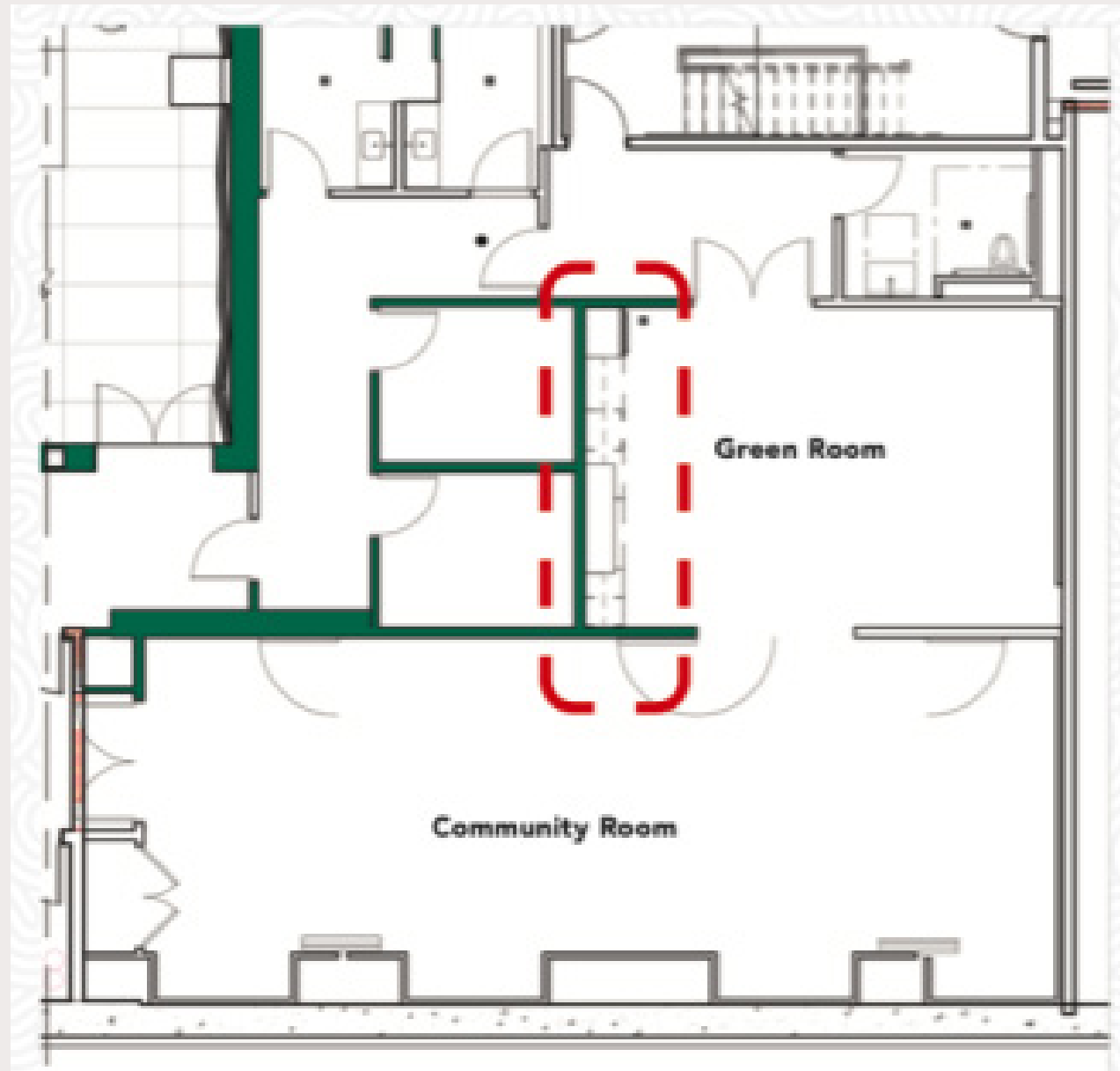


THEATER LEVEL

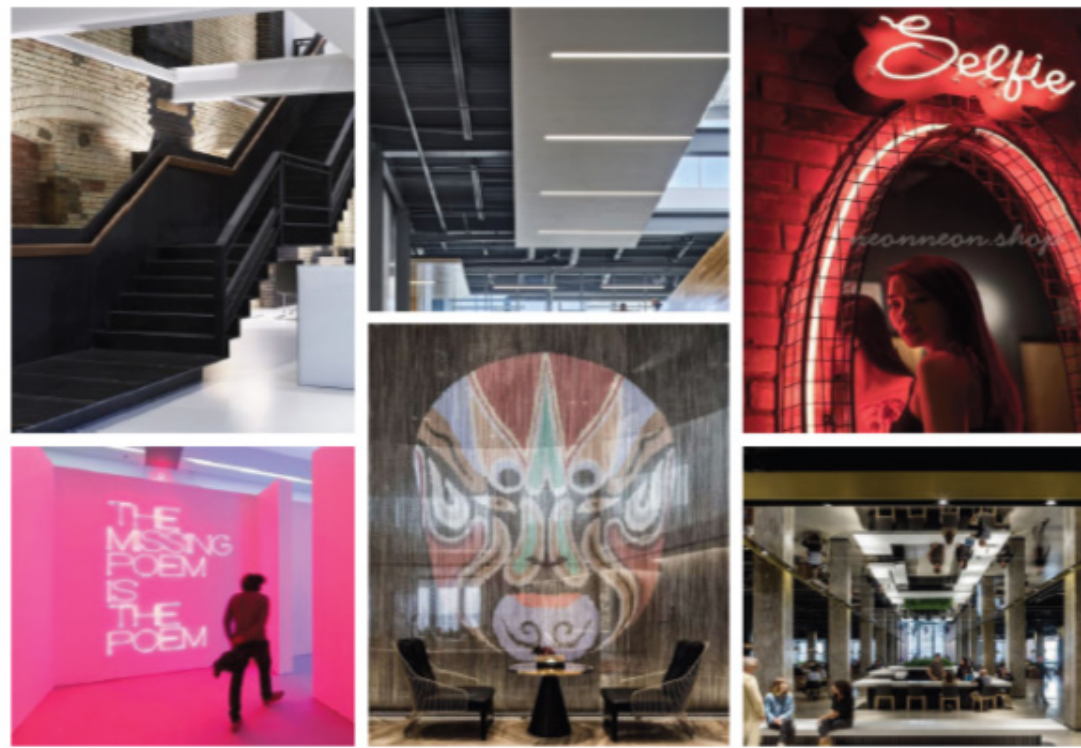


COMMUNITY ROOM

GREEN ROOM



DESIGN DIRECTION



Create a safe haven that nurtures queer artists and provides opportunities for TTO to engage with incoming artists and the surrounding community

Design with a combination of contrasting materials that feel raw, but tactile to illustrate the experimental nature of a studio-like, artistic environment

Incorporate highly saturated colors and dramatic lighting in a way that creates an immersive, queer experience

Take a minimalist approach to internal spaces giving its artists more opportunity for expression

CAMP COUTURE



moody environment

immersive experiences

curved forms

raw textures

explosive color

reflective surfaces

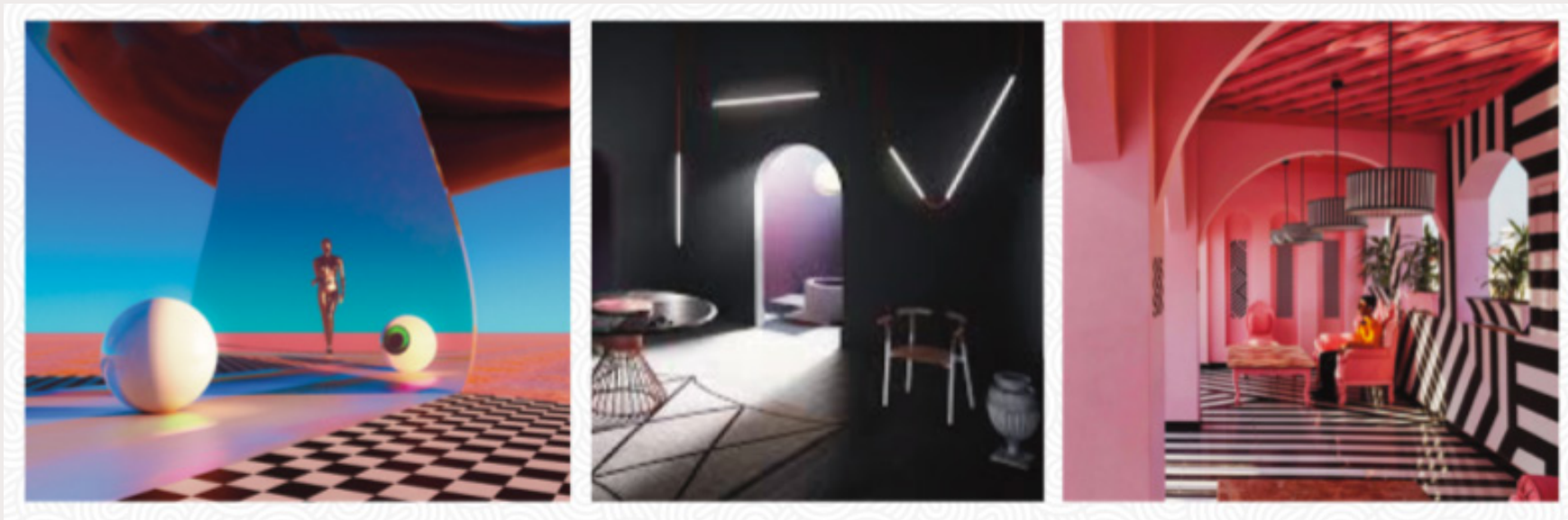
free expression



AFRO SURREALISM: ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

"...focuses on augmentation, on overcoming the many struggles that define our history and assuming the agency of our narrative."

- David Alabo, *Artist*



NEW THEMES: QUEER PERFORMANCE

"The movement offered a new language that challenged social structures and demonstrated the ways that race, gender, sex and sexuality distinctions were actually intersecting, fluid and constantly evolving.

- Tsione Wolde-Michael, *NMAAC*





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