

SPACE FOR CHANGE

BUILD! TRAVERSE! CONNECT!



SPACE FOR CHANGE IS A SPACE BUILT OVER TIME BY SMALL GROUPS OF PARTICIPANTS. TO CREATE SPACE FOR CHANGE, FAMILIES WORK IN COMMUNITY TO BUILD A SAFE SPACE FOR ALL USING SIMPLE MATERIALS, A LITTLE THEATRICALITY, AND A LOT OF JOY.

Guided by Tanya and Bonnie and set to live music, participants are given a roll of flagging tape and told to connect the poles. From there, through a series of prompts, they create pathways and an interconnectedness across families to strangers.

Once the space is created, participants are invited to reflect on their experience and their lives as a community.

Space for Change can be shared outdoors or indoors and can be left in the community to be enjoyed for days afterwards -- families picnic in the space, read stories to their children, meditate and enjoy the space created for conversation, change and action.



IT LOOKED LIKE A RAINBOW AND IT FELT LIKE WE WERE ALL TOGETHER. —ELI, AGE 5



WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO CREATE COMMUNITY AND THINK ABOUT CHANGE. —LESLEY, PARENT



THE ACTIVITY REALLY MADE ME FEEL CONNECTED TO OTHER PEOPLE. —ANTONIA, AGE 8

ABOUT PLAY FOR CHANGE



Play for Change, led by Tanya Nixon-Silberg (Little Uprisings) & Bonnie Duncan (The Gottabees), are immersive theatrical experiences for families featuring puppetry, live music and art-making to talk about power, joy and liberation. Tanya and Bonnie bring their expertise as educators for racial justice and theater makers for young audiences to empower youth to imagine themselves as change makers, to practice being change makers, and to ultimately be the change makers.

Play for Change is designed to support and inspire resilience, agency, advocacy, and change. It is our goal that every participant leave our experiences filled with joy and equipped with the language and tools for speaking out and fighting injustice.

*COVID-19 and recent national attention to racial violence and inequities has upended much of our practices in the classroom and how we relate to our community as families. Educators and parents alike are feeling the need to address injustice in the classroom and in their communities, in a way that is child appropriate and non-didactic. **We need spaces in which children can imagine themselves within this moment.** One tried and true way to engage youth about the world is through play. As beloved educator and visionary Fred Rogers said, “play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.” Theatre is play and it provides opportunity to experiment with real life situations.*

Tanya and Bonnie helped students understand that it is our job to make sure that other people’s joy isn’t taken away and we can do that by using our own joy to stand up for them so that the rules are fair for everyone.

– Bethania Paris, kindergarten teacher



ABOUT THE GOTTABEES

The Gottabees started making super fun theater for families in 2013. They regularly sell out venues, inhabit computer screens, and inspire homemade puppet shows throughout the US, Canada, and beyond. They aim to inspire community, connection, and autonomy by providing an outlet for families to giggle, gasp, sigh, and cheer in forty-five minutes or less. The Gottabees' stories reflect children's everyday aspirations, concerns, and emotional experiences. The Gottabees want children to know in their hearts that they, too, can make theater wherever they are and whomever they are.

The Gottabees' work has been performed in 18 states, 5 countries, for over 41,000 people and was awarded an UNIMA-USA Citation of Excellence, the highest award in puppetry in North America. Their projects have been funded by the Jim Henson Foundation, Puppeteers of America, USArtists International, Boston Cultural Council, and the Boston Foundation.

ABOUT LITTLE UPRISINGS

Little Uprisings is a collaborative and liberative racial justice program for kids. They endeavor to: Build long lasting, sustainable, and deep relationships with schools and educators that result in deeply rooted change within institutions. Create programming that centers itself in joy and play - and inspires, educates, and revolutionizes our youth. Affirm our children of color, and make accomplices out of our white children. Partner with community spaces and existing organizations to bring racial justice work to their forefront.

Little Uprisings is founded by Tanya Nixon-Silberg, who is a black mother, Artist, educator, facilitator. You'd mostly find Tanya playing, radicalizing and learning from her 9 year old, dreaming up new and fun ways to engage children in racial justice and radically imaging how we all get free. Tanya has worked with the MFA, Boston Public Schools, Puppet Showplace Theater, Eliot School of Applied and Fine Art, ICA/Boston, and Boston Public Library to name a few.

SPACE FOR CHANGE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SHOW LISTING INFORMATION

Space for Change
Build! Traverse! Connect!

Join Little Uprisings and The Gottabees as we make a Space for Change. We will work in community to build a safe space for all using simple materials, a little theatricality, live music, and a lot of joy.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- * Recommended Audience: ages 4 & up; family audiences
- * Audience Size: up to 30 participants at a time
- * Performance Time: 20 minutes per session; can be repeated up to 5 times per day over multiple days
- * Space Requirements: outdoor or indoor open area with a minimum of 20' in the round, 10' high.
- * Set-Up / Breakdown Time: 40 minutes for set up with arrival to space one hour prior to performance or house open; 30 minutes for breakdown.
- * Space for Change can be kept at venue for 3-4 days after experience upon request.

- * **More detailed TECH RIDER available upon request.**



Other Play for Change Programming Available!

- * School-based workshops and residencies
- * Teacher Professional Development workshops & residencies
- * Racial justice and collaborative theater workshops for children and families
- * Interactive Read Aloud Sessions

liberation through joy & play

A Note From Tanya and Bonnie

“This project has grown out of our shared love of building community through art and action; our deep respect and trust of children's perspectives and voices; and our friendship as mothers, artists, and educators. We can't wait to share this work with your community!”

- Bonnie & Tanya



Get in touch with Bonnie for more information!

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The Boston Foundation **tBf**

