

# The Campaign for PORT OF ENTRY

ALBANY  
PARK  
THEATER  
PROJECT



ALBANY PARK THEATER PROJECT JANUARY 2022

# APTP Background

**Albany Park Theater Project creates transformative experiences that forge an inclusive community of youth artists, adult artists and audiences to envision and build a more just, equitable and joyful world.**

- Life-changing experiences for thousands of teens, 95% young people of color from low-income households
- 5-year average teen participation from 8th - 12th grade
- 85% of teen participants are immigrants or children of immigrants
- 65% of teens graduate from college by age 25 (compared to 9% of low-income students nationally)
- More than 20 original plays performed for 80,000 audience members
- 2016 MacArthur Award for Creative & Effective Institutions



# What is PORT OF ENTRY?

***Port of Entry* is APTP's new immersive production that invites audiences to step inside the stories of immigrants from all around the world as they forge new lives side by side within the walls of a single apartment building in Chicago's Albany Park, one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the country.**

Developed and performed by APTP's award-winning teen ensemble in collaboration with Third Rail Projects and dozens of world-class adult theater artists, *Port of Entry* will place audience members within the walls of a recreated apartment building, with scenes experienced in bedrooms, kitchens, living rooms, hallways and stairwells.



# Why PORT OF ENTRY?

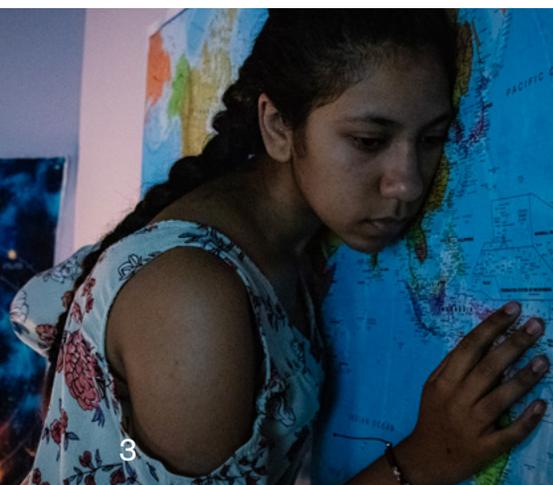
Over 24 years, Albany Park Theater Project has emerged as a singular force in Chicago theater – annually developing an original play that alters the life trajectory of our youth ensemble members while it deeply moves and inspires audiences of all ages.

The stunning success of *Learning Curve*'s five-month run in 2016, our first immersive collaboration with Third Rail Projects, brought APTP to an undeniable inflection point: demand for our programming exceeds capacity.

For teens eager to join our creative community, for audiences hungry to experience our unique theatrical journeys, for teaching artists keen to learn our methods – we must grow our capacity to mount productions with longer runs to engage the youth and audiences in our city.

*Port of Entry* is an ambitious, immersive production at the heart of a plan to sustainably and permanently increase APTP's capacity. With a run of at least one year, *Port of Entry* will allow APTP to:

- Permanently **double the number of young people from 40 to 80-100** that annually benefit from APTP's youth artist experience as a catalyst to reach college
- Invest in growing the capacity of APTP productions to meet existing and ever-growing audience demand, **increasing audience served from 2,500 to 6,000-8,000 per year**
- Expand our team of adult teaching artists, **training a new generation of theater practitioners** in APTP's unique methodologies



# Vision and Campaign Objectives

APTP envisions *Port of Entry* as a new beacon and destination in Chicago's cultural landscape: a place where five nights a week, 40 weeks a year, people can experience youth artists from immigrant families transforming real-life immigrant and first-generation stories into theater that surrounds and engages them in an issue at the heart of American identity.

At this time of heightened xenophobia and uncertainty, *Port of Entry* will inspire empathy and mutual understanding by immersing audiences in the stories of displaced people from all over the world surviving – and thriving – together, within a single Chicago apartment building.

*Port of Entry* is slated to premiere in 2023 and run for at least one year.

**To make this vision a reality, our campaign for *Port of Entry* will:**

- **Transform a warehouse building in Albany Park into an immersive performance site**
- **Employ 80-100 Chicago teens each year as artists and performers**
- **Employ 60+ teaching artists, designers and theater professionals - \$1.3 million of the project budget is devoted to employment**



# The Ensemble Experience

**Port of Entry** will enable us to offer the **APT** experience to more Chicago teens than ever – more than doubling the number of young people we can reach each year.

For over two decades, **APT** has been an innovator in the holistic development of teens. We believe that investing in disenfranchised young people is one of the most urgent strategies for building a more just, equitable and joyful society.

**As APT ensemble members, young people...**

- Spend 4 to 40 hours a week, 50 weeks a year at APT making ambitious art and pursuing choice-filled futures
- Track their academic progress with APT staff mentors by reviewing school reports and adjusting study plans
- Co-develop original plays based on real-life stories from their lives and community, on topics that include immigration, foreclosure, gentrification, and food justice
- Go on 6-12 field trips per year to see Chicago's best and most interesting performances
- Receive arts instruction from world-class guest artists
- Access free mental health resources through APT's relationship with the Kedzie Center



# APTP currently has 25 alumni studying on 20 different college campuses around the country.

As part of the ensemble experience, APTP offers a robust College Access and Success Program, which includes unlimited academic tutoring, college essay and test prep, overnight campus visits, and one-on-one coaching with adult staff.

APTP alumni graduate college by age 25 at a rate seven times that of low-income students nationally. Almost all are the first in their families to obtain a college degree.



**Stanford**  
University

**UIC**  
UNIVERSITY  
OF ILLINOIS  
AT CHICAGO

**K** KALAMAZOO  
COLLEGE



Middlebury  
College



Northwestern  
University



Beloit  
College

Earlham  
COLLEGE

# Organizational Capacity

*Port of Entry* will grow APTP's teams and operations to support works with longer runs going forward. Two new key positions – General Manager and Resident Director – have been created to support the current phase of *Port of Entry*'s development and APTP's expanded capacity thereafter.

APT P's reserve will serve as a permanent source of support for this and future projects. The *Port of Entry* campaign will increase APTP's reserve level to support the organization's increased capacity and operational budget.

|                        | Before PORT OF ENTRY | PORT OF ENTRY & Beyond |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Youth Artists          | 40                   | 80 - 100               |
| Core Staff             | 6 (5.5 FTE)          | 8 (7.5 FTE)            |
| Teaching Artists       | 4 (3 FTE)            | 11 (7 FTE)             |
| Ticket Buying Audience | 2,500 per year       | 6,000 - 8,000 per year |



# Building on Success

*Port of Entry* is a strategic outgrowth of APTP's first immersive production, *Learning Curve*. Co-created by Albany Park Theater Project and Third Rail Projects, *Learning Curve* was an immersive performance that placed audiences within the walls of a Chicago public high school and in the shoes of its students.

*Learning Curve* ran for 5 months in 2016, generated 100% sell-out audiences, and was named one of the best theater productions of the year by nearly every Chicago theater critic. At its close, 6,000 unserved ticket buyers remained on the waiting list.

With *Port of Entry*, APTP is poised to build on this success. Our team now has the experience to build a long-running production with built-in elasticity for high demand – which directly translates to APTP more than doubling the number of youth artists and audience members we can serve per year.

“*Learning Curve* is both a scathing indictment of a defective system and a tender study of the awesome awakening that makes being a teen-ager so frightening and fun. It's rare that such a public conversation about education is facilitated by students, the silent shareholders.”

—BRIAN SCHAEFER

THE  
NEW YORKER

# PORT OF ENTRY Budget

To date, APTP has **raised \$2.1 million** of the project budget for *Port of Entry*, and secured the use of an ideal building through an in-kind donation by the Reva and David Logan Foundation.

The \$2.5 million budget outlined below represents the development and premiere of *Port of Entry*, and also supports the first three months of its run. After this initial period, *Port of Entry* will have an annual run cost of \$675,000, which includes \$450,000 in employment (\$250,000 in youth employment). The production will generate \$300,000 per year in ticket revenue.

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Personnel</b> (Artistic and Technical Staff Compensation) | <b>\$700,000</b>   |
| <b>Youth Employment</b>                                      | <b>\$230,000</b>   |
| <b>Facility</b> (Labor)                                      | <b>\$400,000</b>   |
| <b>Facility</b> (Materials)                                  | <b>\$400,000</b>   |
| <b>Youth Support Services</b>                                | <b>\$108,000</b>   |
| <b>Production</b> (Labor)                                    | <b>\$200,000</b>   |
| <b>Production</b> (Materials)                                | <b>\$200,000</b>   |
| <b>Fundraising &amp; Marketing</b>                           | <b>\$128,000</b>   |
| <b>Other</b>   | <b>\$134,000</b>   |
| <b>Total Campaign Goal</b>                                   | <b>\$2,500,000</b> |



# Employment

***Port of Entry* isn't just a groundbreaking artistic project – it's also a powerful employment engine that will stimulate the Albany Park economy and Chicago's theater ecosystem. More than \$1.3 million of the project budget is devoted to employing artists and theater professionals.**

To develop and run *Port of Entry*, APTP will...

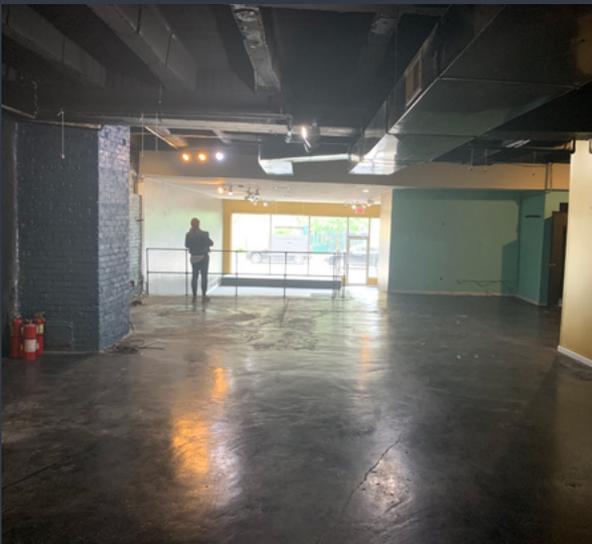
- Employ 80-100 Chicago teens as artists and performers and pay them at a rate commensurate with Chicago minimum wage. This equates to an investment of \$200,000+ per year in youth employment alone.
- Engage a team of 60+ skilled designers, craftspeople, and theater technicians. For *Port of Entry*, APTP has reaffirmed our longstanding commitment to compensating our team members well and at levels that honor their skill and experience – a practice that is all too rare in the arts sector.
- Recruit and hire a new generation of teaching artists, and train them in APTP's unique methodologies for creating world-class theater by and with young people that tells immigrant and first-generation community stories.



# Facility Transformation

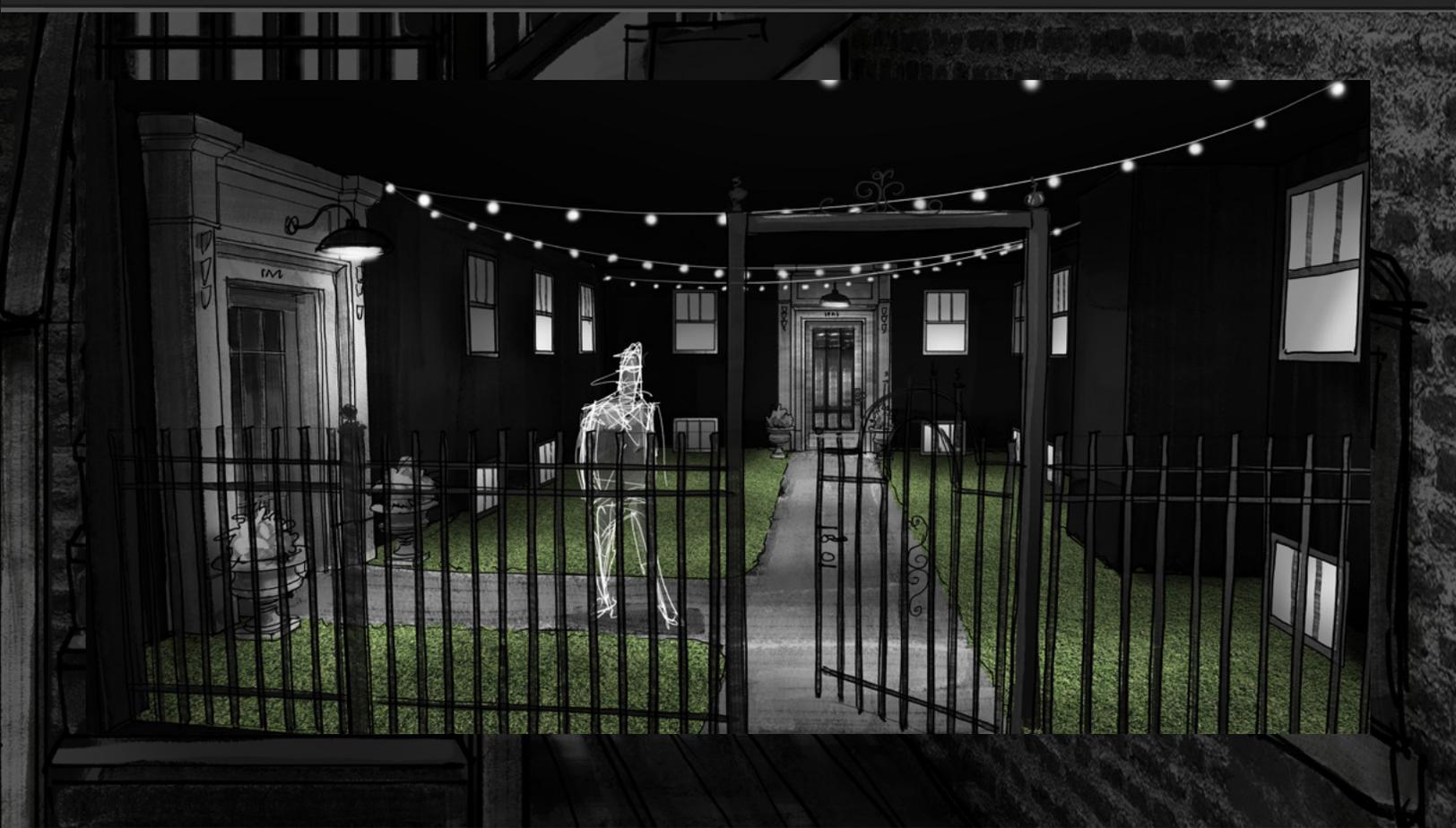


The Reva and David Logan Foundation has generously purchased an ideal Albany Park warehouse building that it will lease to APTP for \$1/month to transform into the *Port of Entry* performance site.



- Performances will take place on all three floors of the 12,000 sq. ft. site. The 1st floor has space for exhibitions by community and cultural partners.
- APTP's build-out of the site will recreate four Albany Park apartments comprised of 30+ immersive performance spaces.
- Located at Montrose and Central Park Avenues, the *Port of Entry* site will create a significant cultural asset for Albany Park during the run, and reactivate an underused property.
- Walkable from CTA's Brown Line and buses.
- Will be ADA accessible.
- After the close of *Port of Entry*, the Logan Foundation intends to convert the building into affordable housing.





# Timeline & Fundraising

- *Port of Entry* has been in artistic development for over two years, with APTP and Third Rail Projects adult artists collaborating with the teen ensemble and hosting three work-in-progress runs at Eugene Field Park Fieldhouse for 1,000 invited audience members.
- The leadership and Board of APTP is fully committed to realizing *Port of Entry* and is participating in major fundraising initiatives.
- APTP's commissioned feasibility study for the *Port of Entry* campaign was completed in October 2019.
- Based on the results of the feasibility study and commitments from early investors, APTP has set a *Port of Entry* campaign goal of \$2.5 million. To date, APTP has raised \$2.1 million in *Port of Entry* campaign gifts and pledges, and has secured in-kind use of a building purchased by the Reva and David Logan Foundation.



# PORT OF ENTRY Funders

## CORNERSTONE SUPPORTERS

\$250,000+

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation  
Reva and David Logan Foundation

## LEADERSHIP SUPPORTERS

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation  
Judith Aranow  
Bayless Family Foundation  
Janet Benton  
Joseph and Bessie Feinberg Foundation  
William Longbrake  
Michael and Karyn Lutz Family Foundation

## MAJOR PRODUCTION SPONSORS

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Robert and Nancy Hoyt  
Innovation 80  
Landau Family Foundation  
National Endowment for the Arts

## MEMORY MAKERS

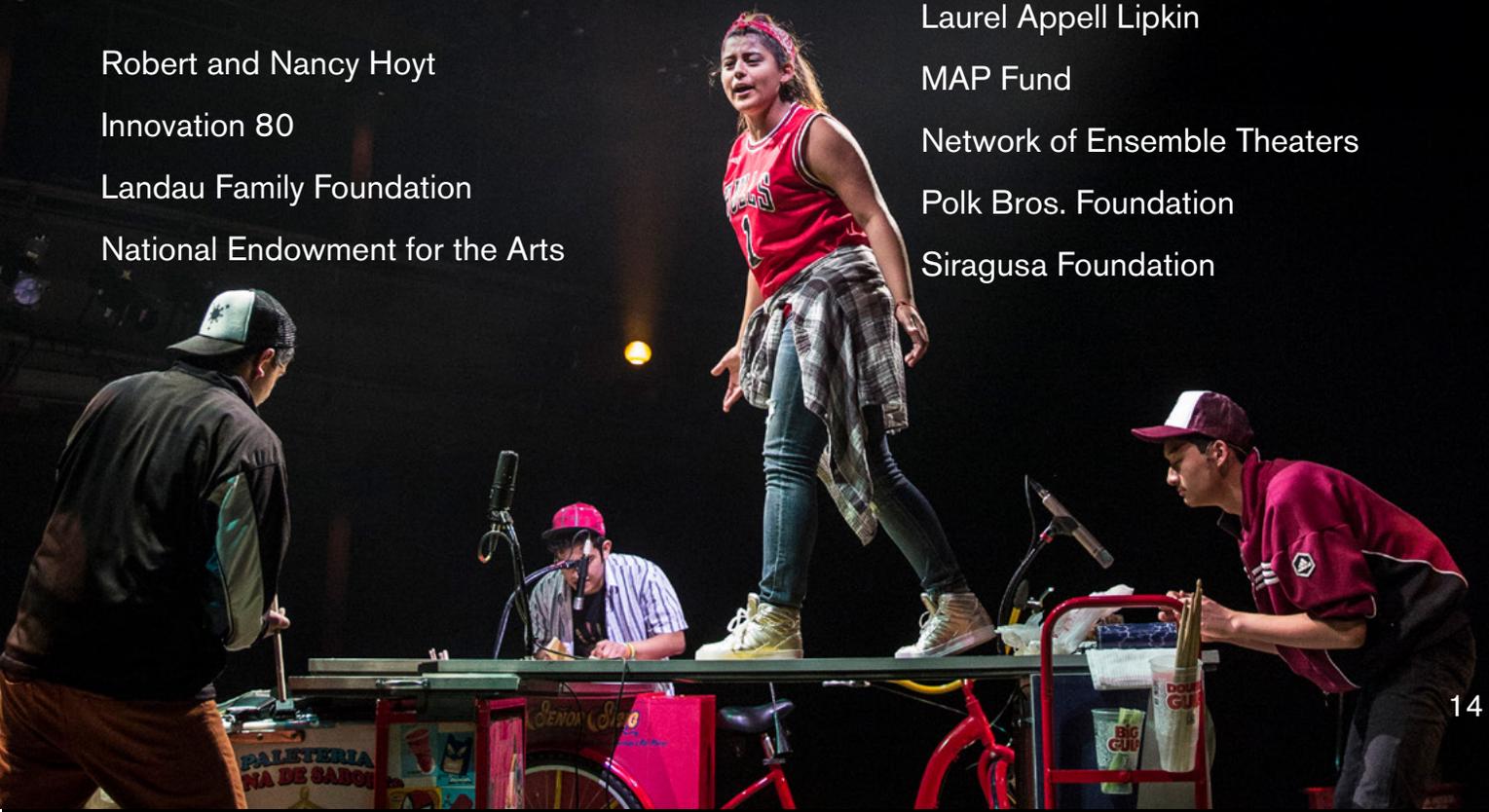
\$25,000 - \$49,999

Lucy and Peter Ascoli  
Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs  
and Special Events  
Dan J. Epstein Foundation  
MacArthur Fund for Culture, Equity,  
and the Arts at Prince Charitable Trusts

## BIG SHOULDERS CIRCLE

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Michael D. and Jolynn Blair  
Family Foundation  
Roxanne Decyk and Lew Watts  
Frederick and Vicki Feiner  
Jack and Sandy Guthman  
Illinois Arts Council, a state agency  
Laurel Appell Lipkin  
MAP Fund  
Network of Ensemble Theaters  
Polk Bros. Foundation  
Siragusa Foundation





# Thank you

***Port of Entry* marks a turning point for Albany Park Theater Project.**

We've proven we can make a powerful, critically-acclaimed, immersive show. We've proven we can manage a long run at a separate venue. We've proven we can generate incredible audience demand. We've proven we can sustainably grow our programming without sacrificing our values, vision, or mission.