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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

### **Fountain Street Church and the ACLU of Michigan Present Art to Change the World**

GRAND RAPIDS, Sept. 14, 2017 – Fountain Street Church and the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan are collaborating once again for ArtPrize Nine with a themed exhibit that explores issues of social justice. *Art to Change the World: Inspiring Social Justice* includes works by 26 artists on topics ranging from the continuing water crisis in Flint to the personal struggles wrought by a changing energy industry.

After a closed selection period on Monday, Sept. 18, independent jurors engaged by the Social Action Committee of FSC and the ACLU of Michigan will award two \$1,000 prizes to the creators of the most compelling works. The exhibition will open with a special reception for artists, congregants, and friends on Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 5:30 to 7:30pm. ArtPrize will officially begin on Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Fountain Street Church, located just three blocks north of the ArtPrize HUB/HQ and one block east of Kendall College of Art and Design, has been consistently ranked among the top ArtPrize venues for displaying provocative pieces against a background of historic architecture and religious iconography. During ArtPrize last year, the venue welcomed more than 13,000 visitors. Executive Director Jack Woller III believes that this inspiring juxtaposition of old and new sets the perfect stage.

“FSC is proud to partner with the ACLU to host 26 artists representing diverse backgrounds and media,” Woller said. “Art has always been a powerful catalyst for social change and is unique in its ability to convey powerful narratives. Our Art Committee has done a phenomenal job curating the space this year, and we look forward to sharing it with the world.”

*Art to Change the World* at Fountain Street Church will be open to the public from noon to 8:00pm Monday through Saturday and noon to 6:00pm on Sundays for the duration of ArtPrize. The exhibition is fully accessible, restrooms will be open to the public, and visitors can enjoy the ArtPrize Café set up by The Village Baker from Spring Lake, Mich. More information is available online at [fountainstreet.org](http://fountainstreet.org) and [artprize.org](http://artprize.org).

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Fountain Street Church is an independent, non-denominational house of worship with an open pulpit and a 148-year history of progressive action in the heart of West Michigan. FSC provides opportunities to “free the mind, grow the soul, and change the world.” For more information, please contact Events Manager Conor Bardallis at [cbardallis@fountainstreet.org](mailto:cbardallis@fountainstreet.org) or 616-459-8386 ext. 221.