We are excited to share that we have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Scape North America to deliver a performing arts Black Box Theater as part of Scape’s Boylston Place development at 1252-1270 Boylston St.

In our New Strategic Plan, we articulated 10 specific strategy-driven goals, which included three related to facilities:

- Develop and execute a comprehensive facilities plan
- Create and execute a capitalization plan
- Increase TTO’s role in local, national and international alliances

“In the summer of 2017, The Theater Offensive gathered staff, board, and community members to develop a new three-year organizational strategy. In short order, we have realized a number of our strategy-driven goals. We are excited to support this partnership with Scape on the Black Box Theater, which will provide facilities stability for The Theater Offensive and other queer and trans organizations locally for the next 30 years and beyond”, said Donna Owens, Chair of the Board of Directors of The Theater Offensive.

This project with Scape is directly linked to these goals and we plan to deliver an iconic, innovative and enduring space to advance 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.

We intend to provide an accessible space for artistic experimentation, expression, and public discourse in service to the Fenway and greater Boston communities. We also seek to honor the site’s historical importance to the Boston LGBTQ community.

“We are excited by the opportunity to establish a creative hub for our thought provoking programs, including educational programs, youth-centered leadership programs, community-led artistic experiences, and people-powered civic engagements. We look forward to securing a permanent home for queer and trans artists and youth, who have long sought a place for belonging in the Boston area, through our programming in the Boylston Black Box”, said Harold Steward and Evelyn Francis, Producing Co-Executive Directors of The Theater Offensive.

The Boylston Black Box Project will also help ground and grow a permanent community within the Fenway. As an established and thriving organization, The Theater Offensive will aid in creating a sense of stability, by acting as a conduit for maintaining, growing and defining the culture of the Fenway. The Theater Offensive is in a preliminary, planning phase of a capital campaign that will ultimately provide support for the building project, operations and endowment.
This Letter of Intent reflects months of thoughtful engagement between TTO, Scape, and the City of Boston. This is the first significant step in this partnership, and we expect lots of work ahead to realize this opportunity. In the next few months, we expect to continue negotiations with Scape, sign a Letter of Acquisition, address public feedback, and outline the project’s feasibility. We look forward to updating you on progress in the future.

Thanks so much for being a valued member of the TTO Community.