

Missouri ArtSafe Plan

Prison Performing Arts  
3547 Olive Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103



September 9, 2021

### Our Commitment to Safety

Prison Performing Arts (PPA) is a tenant in the Centene Center for the Arts, an arts incubator space located in Grand Center Arts District in St. Louis. In March 2020, all staff began working from home. Since then, staff have staggered days and times they work in the office. The building landlords provide clear guidelines about COVID-19 safety for all tenants, of which PPA staff and guests remain in full compliance.

All PPA staff are fully vaccinated.

PPA has carefully reviewed Missouri Arts Safe guidance. The organization is committed to the Missouri Arts Safe pledge, and is preparing to enact their universal measures.

### Correctional Facility Arts Programming

PPA has historically held all classes and public performances (for youth and adults) inside state prisons and juvenile justice and correctional centers. Facilities served include: Northeast Correctional Center (NECC); Missouri Eastern Correctional Center (MECC); Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center (WERDCC); Hogan Street Regional Youth Center; St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center; St. Louis County Juvenile Detention Center; and St. Louis City Justice Center.

Since March 2020, staff and teaching artists have not entered any of those facilities (at time of this writing), which have been locked down to external visitors to prevent the spread of the virus.

As PPA prepares to return to in-person programming in those facilities, staff are working closely with correctional facility staff to understand and abide by all health and safety protocols to ensure the safety of justice-involved artists, facility staff, and PPA staff. The potential for rapid spread of contagious illness in correctional settings mandates a strict adherence to these guidelines.

Protocols for rehearsals and workshops in the facilities may include but is not limited to:

- Small class sizes
- Social distancing in rehearsal space
- Mask wearing
- Consistent use of hand sanitizer
- Strong promotion of vaccination for all artists (access to vaccines is sometimes limited for the incarcerated population, and not available to all youth participants due to age)
- Requirement that artists demonstrating any type of symptom or illness not attend
- All guest artists, instructors, photographers, and collaborators will be required to be fully vaccinated

NOTE: In January 2021, PPA launched a new program in the Transition Center of St. Louis, a community reentry facility operated by the Department of Corrections. The program began fully virtual, and in March 2021 PPA adopted a hybrid model of virtual and in-person. PPA has followed all protocols listed above. All instructors are able to choose the class format with which they are most comfortable.

Protocols for public performances in the facilities may include but is not limited to:

- Required vaccination status for all guests from the community attending a show
- Mask wearing at all times
- Limited number of audience members in attendance
- Socially distanced seating
- Completion of health screening form before arrival at the facility

#### Theatre performances in the community

PPA's Alumni Theatre Company is currently producing its first full-length play performed for a public audience. Rehearsals began on Zoom and transitioned to in-person in June 2021. The performances will be held in September 2021 at The Chapel, which has been hosting events safely since Fall 2020. The Chapel is a converted church space operated by volunteers at Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Louis. The staff at The Chapel have added enhanced cleaning measures in the space, to be supplemented by SATE staff during production. The air conditioning system was updated 2 years ago. 30-ft ceiling in the venue, plus additional fans in the space will add to air flow and ventilation for the artists while rehearsing and performing and the audience during production.

Current protocols include:

- For rehearsals:
  - All artists, production staff, and collaborators are vaccinated
  - All artists signed a letter of agreement/waiver
  - All artists attending a rehearsal must complete a health screening survey prior to arrival at rehearsal.
  - All artists attending a rehearsal will have temperature taken before entering rehearsal space
  - All artists will wear masks while in rehearsal space, in compliance with local health and safety mandates
  - Any artist who tests positive for COVID-19 must quarantine for XX days, per the recommendation of the CDC
- For performances:
  - House capacity at 50% occupancy; audience members will be seated in socially-distanced pod arrangements
  - All cast and crew members will be tested for COVID-19 prior to performances

- Audience must be masked, even if vaccinated. Masks must be worn when seated and when moving around the Chapel (to seat, to restroom, etc.)
- PPA will provide and maintain hand hygiene stations
- Tickets will be paid in advance through GiveSmart for a contactless check-in experience
- Printed programs will be set out on each seat in advance of performance
- Producers will be Missouri ArtSafe certified and will be running Front of House for shows.

PPA is following recommendations issued by the CDC and public health officials in St. Louis City and County. At the time of this writing, masks are mandated for all people indoors, and PPA is complying with that mandate. PPA has used resources on [missouriartsafe.org](http://missouriartsafe.org), as well as following the procedures of other theatre companies who have resumed live performances including The Midnight Company, SATE, The Rep, COCA, and St. Louis Shakespeare Festival.

#### Contingency Planning

Should the local, state, or federal governing bodies enact restrictions that prevent the gathering of large groups of people indoors, PPA will abide by all guidelines. Careful consideration will determine to either postpone or cancel the production, or shift to a fully virtual format.