

Transforming Community, “Festival UnBound”: Auditions this Saturday, Festival is Oct 4-13

The Bethlehem Gadfly Arts, the, Fun Stuff June 4, 2019

Thanks to Peter Crownfield:

SOUNDS FANTASTIC! PASS THE WORD!

Festival UnBound: Oct 4-13.

Auditions: Saturday, June 8, 10-4, Hauptert Union Bldg, Moravian College

*Ten days of original theatre, dance, music, art and conversation
designed to celebrate and imagine our future together!*

October 4th - 13th



Over the past three years, we have been asking Bethlehem these questions:

- As a Community, what changes and challenges are upon us now and what are those we see coming?
- What's to hold us together as we move forward?
- If we were to write the story of our future, what would we want it to be?

We have heard you, Bethlehem. At the core of the festival are these three themes that emerged from our questions:

- The promise and challenges of diversity
- Health and the interconnectedness of all things
- The importance of our Youth

In 1998, after an almost 150-year history building this nation, Bethlehem Steel shut down steel-making in Bethlehem. To help the community work its way through that traumatic change, Touchstone created *Steel Festival: The Art of an Industry*.

Now, as 2019 approaches and with it the 20th anniversary of that extraordinary event, we face a challenge of a different and perhaps more daunting nature: who are we, now that the Steel is gone? What are the challenges ahead, and what will hold us together as a community, as we address the task of shaping our future?

Partnering with the City of Bethlehem, Touchstone has held hundreds of hours of meaningful conversations throughout the community around these questions, and from these conversations and the creative ideas they've fostered, the design for this new and singular festival, *Festival UnBound*, has evolved. For 10 days in October, all eyes and ears will focus on Bethlehem's flourishing SouthSide Arts District as the people of Bethlehem and environs celebrate and engage in a festival that will draw over 10,000 participants and attendees — arriving for music, theatre, parade, street performances, and spirited dialogue.

Thematically, *Festival Unbound*'s series of original art performances and happenings, created in collaboration with the City of Bethlehem leadership and scores of regional, national, and international artists, focuses around three principle concerns and challenges that face us:

- The Strength in Diversity
- Health, Environment, and Interdependence
- The Primacy of Youth

Join us in October 2019 for *Festival UnBound*, as we forge a vision forward— through art— for Bethlehem, our home by the river.