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ExCITE Center and Play On Philly Discuss Creation and Innovation during the Pandemic with Philly Arts and Education Leaders

Tuesday, September 15, 2020, Philadelphia, PA/Online: Drexel University's ExCITE Center Director Youngmoo Kim and Play On Philly (POP) Program Director Jessica Zweig will host **Creative Conversations for a Changing World**, a free online series of discussions with Philadelphia cultural, education, and technology leaders centered around innovation through the COVID-19 pandemic. The first discussion *How Arts and Education are Innovating through the Pandemic* will be held on September 15th at 4:00 pm ET as part the B.PHL Innovation Fest. David Devan of Opera Philadelphia, Valerie Gay of the Barnes Foundation, and Melissa Talley-Palmer of Bartol Foundation will discuss program-design shifts and co-creating with staff, students, and audiences. POP's Program Director Jessica Zweig shares, "Youngmoo and I are excited to dive deep into conversation with people across a variety of disciplines and sectors to share what we've learned in a world that looks very different than it did in March. There is so much creativity, innovation and learning that can happen when brilliant people talk about the crazy ideas that they've made a reality." All sessions are free and open to the public. [Register for the first session on B.PHL's website.](#)

The **Creative Conversations for a Changing World** series will explore how organizational leaders from Philadelphia's cultural and education communities are thinking out of the box about new ways of performing, learning, and connecting in the era of social distancing. Youngmoo's extensive experience leading arts and technology innovations as Director at [Drexel University's ExCITE Center](#) paired with Jessica's successful leadership of Play On Philly's recent iterations of free and inventive online music education platforms POP Out of the Box and POP Virtual Summer, will set the foundation for these engaging discussions. "Despite the upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic, innovative arts and education organizations are finding ways of producing incredible work and new programming by adapting creatively," says Youngmoo Kim, Drexel's ExCITE Center Director. "In this series, we're highlighting some who are leading these efforts in the hopes that it will inform and inspire others in the creative arts and education communities."

Creative Conversations for a Changing World will provide leaders of non-profit organizations in Philadelphia with tools and inspiration to create engaging virtual content to meet the needs of the communities they serve during these challenging times. Following the first session on September 15th, forthcoming sessions will take place every two weeks on September 29th and October 13th on Zoom. The second session on September 29th will focus on Collaboration and the final session on October 13th will talk about looking to organizations in other sectors for inspiration and innovation. Registration for the upcoming sessions can be found on <https://drexel.edu/excite/>.

What: Creative Conversations for a Changing World

When: Tuesday, September 15, 2020

4:00 – 5:00 pm ET

Where: <https://www.bphlfest.com/agenda/session/327358>

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About Play On Philly:

Play On Philly (POP) provides high-quality music education to students, who would typically lack access, as a vehicle for life skills and academic achievement. We provide 2 hours of music instruction and ensemble practice every day after school and over 25 performance opportunities throughout the year. Students range from Kindergarten to 12th grade and are loaned an orchestral instrument at no cost. POP programming has proven results: our students score ten points higher on standardized tests and have improved behavior and study skills. We cultivate musical excellence, lifelong skills, and confidence. Learn more about POP at www.playonphilly.org.