

Neighborhood non-profit responds positively to multiple community challenges

Inman Park, Atlanta, GA – The historic Trolley Barn, mainstay of Inman Park Festivals, family celebrations, intimate weddings, and corporate events reinvents itself due to the pandemic. Amplifying its community mandate, the 140-year-old architectural marvel has been re-purposed to provide medical services. Traditional private events have been supplemented with Covid testing, flu clinics, and blood drives.

Since becoming a non-profit event space in 1989, community service has always been part of the Trolley Barn mission. However, as a result of the pandemic, providing health services to the immediate community has become the primary goal.

In partnership with Core Atlanta, approximately 4500 Covid tests have been completed over 25 days to date. Testing is conducted in the outdoor patio and will continue on Mondays and Wednesdays, 8am-2pm, through the end of the year. In anticipation of upcoming flu season, flu-shots will be dispensed at Trolley Barn hosted clinics starting November 6th and will continue through 2020 twice-weekly. Five blood drives have also been conducted to date in response to the drop in blood donations as a result of the pandemic. These will continue twice a month through April 2021.

Executive Director of the Trolley Barn, Lisa Milko: “I am so proud how we responded so quickly and comprehensively to the needs of our community. It has also inspired us to look at other ways to help. For example, we teamed up with Rock the Vote to help people register to vote and distribute absentee ballot forms while people were standing in line for Covid testing.”

As with many of its peers, the Trolley Barn has seen a downturn in its traditional bookings like weddings and corporate meetings. As event spaces re-opened the Board took a very conservative approach to hosting events. The newly formed Covid committee includes an epidemiologist (and Board member) and meets regularly to review health metrics to ensure the space can continue to safely open. For example, the Trolley Barn introduced “Simply Ceremony” as an alternative to the traditional wedding. It is limited to 25 people and all guests adhere to extensive social distancing guidelines. Also, in conjunction with Fever Up Atlanta, intimate, but socially distanced, jazz and classical public concerts have been added to the schedule. These will continue through January 8th.

Pat Westrick, Chairperson of the Trolley Barn’s non-profit Board: “The Board felt we had to balance our financial stability and the public health implications of allowing events to take place. Our commitment to our community is paramount and it is critical we operate in a safe manner. The compromise decision we ultimately reached allows us to evaluate the potential safety of our event clients on an ongoing basis while providing much needed community services.”

About the Trolley Barn

The Trolley Barn is an historic landmark currently being used as an events venue and operated as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in the Inman Park neighborhood in the heart of Atlanta. It describes itself as an “historical treasure in the heart of the city”. It is conveniently reached from all parts of Atlanta, is nestled in the walkable, tree-lined neighborhood of Inman Park. Designed in 1880 with thoughtful awareness of its residential surroundings, The Trolley Barn is an architectural gem and a graceful reminder of the past that serves today as a unique site for weddings, corporate events and functions.

Links:

www.thetrolleybarn.com

www.coreresponse.org/covid-19/atlanta-ga

<https://feverup.com/atlanta>

<https://www.redcross.org/local/georgia.html>

<https://www.rockthevote.org/how-to-vote/georgia/>

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