



THIRD STREET CENTER

INNOVATION

SUSTAINABILITY

CREATIVE EXCHANGE

NEWSLETTER

Educating for Change

As an old elementary school, The Third Street Center has deep educational roots. Today, however, our focus is broader, more diverse and community oriented than a K-6 curriculum.

Today, Third Street Center is a hub for teaching and learning at the individual and community level with a focus on making individual lives and our community better.

All the tenant organizations at Third Street Center seek positive change but their starting point and approaches vary greatly. Some organizations work with children and families, some with seniors, others focus on individuals while others work with public institutions.

The tools of engagement vary widely as well. Some tenants use dance or theatre to connect with youth in the region, others have a topical focus like energy, environment or food, while a third group addresses specific service gaps for different populations in the community. Some employ ancient wisdom while others use technology.

This mix turns the Third Street Center into a multi-generational, multi-dimensional, multi-purpose learning center full of workshops, trainings, movies, events, gatherings and activities designed to inspire us to look at things a little differently, understand ourselves and the world we live in more deeply, and support action to implement positive changes.

Third Street Center and the 35+ tenants calling it home recognize that education is not just for kids



Monks of Gaden Shartse in Carbondale & TSC in July.



Moms in a workshop as part of the Manaus Fund's Valley Settlement Project

The possibility of change depends upon the existence of people who have the power to change.

- Wendell Berry

and adults in formal programs. "Education," in the words of John Dewey, "is life itself." Learning is what humans do, even if we often don't recognize it the same way outside of the traditional classroom.

The broad definition and approach to education is critical when trying to create a more just, kind, and sustainable community. There is no "Change 101 Curriculum" with lessons plans you can download to move learning along. There is no phone app either. The path is much less established and much less clear. As Pablo Freire, was fond of saying, "We make the road by walking."

We believe the Third Street Center is part of the road to creating a better community, region and world. Renovating an old elementary school into a collaborative, multi-tenant work space is an effort to accelerate the learning, leverage the efforts, and inspire action at the individual, community and regional level. After five years on the job, we think we have gotten some things right and with the help of tenant and community partners build on our successes over the next 5 years.

What's great at the Third Street Center ? Results from our survey

Community members are weighing in on what they like about Third Street - and what they would like to see more of. Here's a short list of some community perspectives on what is great about Third Street Center:

- The mix of so many different organizations having offices here and using the meeting rooms for events
- Broad spectrum of community members together; building design, solar arrays
- A sense of community; non-profit focus
- A place for interesting events
- Concern for the environment; collaboration among tenants
- Community friendly, Collaborative, Affordable
- The community and energy. There is always something happening it seems :)
- It's a nice slice of Carbondale



Mark your calendars

September 18

5Point Film Movie Night on the South Lawn

September 18-19

Aspen Words presents author Gary Ferguson writing workshop

