

## SPECIAL ISSUE: NEW INITIATIVES IN THE PARK NEIGHBORHOODS

### Park beautification efforts by UrbAn and allies will be unveiled this spring



Native Couple bench designed and created by artist Juan Flores

The following beautification projects will be unveiled at a ceremony on Sunday, June 5 at 12:30 pm. The event will begin at Kosciuszko Park at the corner of Lincoln and 7th streets. All of the following new features will be shown. After the unveiling ceremony, all participants will be invited to a free ethnic feast in the neighborhood (the location will be announced at the unveiling). Area residents will also receive free Resource Guides to the Park Neighborhoods.

#### Project #1: Family Tree project

Thirteen new trees will be added to Kosciuszko Park, including shade trees and ornamentals. These trees have been donated by current and past residents of the Park Neighborhoods, and matched (in part) by a grant from the Sweet Water Foundation. Residents dedicated the trees to their ancestors. Most of the trees will be planted in a circular fashion to honor the long tradition of Natives in the neighborhood.

#### Project #2: Native Couple bench

Amidst the trees will be an original bench (see photo above) created by noted local artist Juan Flores. The bench design will complement the tree formations in honor of the Natives of the area. This project was funded in part by the Wisconsin Arts Board and the NIDC.

#### Project #3: Victorian gardens

Two very large, perennial garden plots have been designed by neighborhood  
*(Continued on back page)*

### Residents, businesses, and Ace Boxing team up to keep Lincoln Village clean



Park Neighborhoods' residents Barbara Nelson and Sylvia Ortiz organized a comprehensive effort to keep the streets of Lincoln Village free of debris this spring, summer, and fall. Nelson and Ortiz collected nearly \$800 from area stakeholders and engaged the Ace Boxing Club in performing the actual cleanup. Youth and volunteers from Ace will pick up debris biweekly on Lincoln Avenue between 5th and 16th streets and in all alleys on the north and south sides of Lincoln Ave. Funds raised cover the supplies needed for the clean-up and a contribution to Ace Boxing that will pay  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the rent for their Del Porter Pavillion at Kosciuszko Park, for the months of the clean-up.

#### Contributors

The local stakeholders contributing to this project include Tom's Auto Maintenance, Durango Western Wear, La Canoa, Fiesta Garibaldi, Acme Property Management, J&J Tax Services, Beertown, Tres Hermanos, Citgo at 13th, Ron & Barb Nelson, Jesse Estrada, Alderman Witkowiak, Ibarra Enterprises, and Bud Endries. The Ace Boxing Club has long been a major contributor to the Park Neighborhoods through their sports and social programs and generous volunteer efforts. They are also expected to play a major role in maintaining the Victorian Gardens project this year (see side bar).

### The Scholars Projects

*Stakeholder committee approves seven new projects for the Park Neighborhoods in the next two years*

This autumn, Urban Anthropology Inc. invited anthropologists and museum curators to propose new program ideas for the Park Neighborhoods. Seven were proposed by a variety of scholars. On April 6th, a committee of area stakeholders approved all seven projects. They are listed in order of their planned execution. Some will require funding sources, not yet secured. *(Continued on back page)*

### **Victorian gardens** (Continued from front page)

horticulturalist Dan Jankowski. These will be located near the Kosciuszko Monument near 9th Place. Also included will be Victorian urns filled with flowers at the corners of the statue square. The NIDC has supported this effort. UrbAn staff and volunteers from the Ace Boxing Club will maintain the gardens.

### **Project #4. New Youth Art Pillar**

A second Youth Art Pillar will be erected near the first. Youth from the Basilica School, Grant Elementary, and Inland Seas Schools designed the tiles to represent the cultural history of the African Americans, Germans, and Puerto Ricans in the neighborhood. The first pillar represented the cultural history of the Poles, Natives, and Mexicans in the neighborhood. This project was supported by the Mary Nohl Fund and the Wisconsin Arts Board.

### **Free genealogy services**

Beginning May 1, all residents of Milwaukee can come to the Old South Side Settlement Museum (or look on our web site at [www.urban-anthropology.org](http://www.urban-anthropology.org)) to access forms for free genealogy services. The service is for beginners only and will include up to 10 hours a week of genealogy services. Only U.S. connections will be investigated.

### **Book on greater Milwaukee cultures**

For 12 years, anthropologists at UrbAn have been interviewing members of over 30 cultural groups in our area, resulting in over 6,000 pages of transcripts. Beginning in April, Dr. Jill Florence Lackey will begin compiling these findings into a book on the state of ethnicity in greater Milwaukee in the 21st century. Look for lectures on the results of these studies in UrbAn's summer lecture series.

### **The Scholars Projects** (Continued from front page)

#### **2011 projects**

**Free Genealogy Center.** (See description on this page.)

**Book on Greater Milwaukee Cultures.** (See description on this page.)

#### **2012 projects**

**Then and Now.** (Pending funding.) Scholars working with UrbAn will produce an Arcadia book and a museum traveling exhibit on the Park Neighborhoods and the Old South Side. Photos will compare activities of the original Polish settlers to activities of the more diverse populations today.

**Annual Kosciuszko Folk Festival.** This festival will take place on a Saturday in June and will feature folk artists, folk dancers, and folk musicians from all over greater Milwaukee. The event will be juried.



Folk art of Park Neighborhoods' resident, Jose Chavez

**Mural on the history of the Park Neighborhoods.** (Pending funding.) A mural will be produced inside the Kosciuszko Community center depicting the important events in the area's history. Youth will be involved.

**Play on the Civil Rights March to Kosciuszko Park.** (Pending funding.) A play will be written on this march using oral histories collected by UrbAn of the early African American populations and the early Park Neighborhoods. The play is planned to be performed at the folk festival, National Night Out, and the Basilica.

**Cultivating Culture.** (Pending funding.) Area youth will learn to plant, preserve, and prepare vegetables of the main ethnic groups of the Park Neighborhoods.

**Committee members.** Area stakeholders included Nara Foltanez Colton, John Rozga, Hilde Dewulf, Alderman Witkowiak, Barbara Nelson, Erin Malcolm, Nayeli Flores, Supervisor Peggy West, and Frank Porter.

### **Our sponsors** Lincoln Village has become a Healthy Neighborhood through these Urban Anthropology Inc. sponsors.



NIDC, in partnership with the City of Milwaukee



**UrbAn**  
Urban Anthropology Inc.  
Urban Anthropology Inc.  
707 W. Lincoln Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
(414) 271-9417