

# OASIS

*Operation Artists, Scholars, and Innovators*

In the Park Neighborhoods (Lincoln Village and Baran Park)

January/February, 2012

Project OASIS is a long-term effort by Urban Anthropology Inc. to draw artists (of all genres) and humanities scholars to the Park Neighborhoods in order to enhance the cultural richness of the Old South Side. Urban Anthropology Inc., located in the Park Neighborhoods, is the only nonprofit in the US specializing in cultural anthropology.

## Why the Park Neighborhoods?

Why would artists, humanities scholars, or innovators want to move to the Park Neighborhoods? Here are some of the reasons.

### 1. The organizations already in place

The Park Neighborhoods already has a resident association, Urban Anthropology Inc. (UrbAn). In addition to serving residents' daily needs, UrbAn conducts studies on topics relating to ethnicity, history, anthropology, and sociology. The neighborhood also has the only settlement museum in Milwaukee.

For artists, the neighborhood also has its own Artists and Writers Guild. The Guild holds Gallery Nights and has a bi-monthly publication for artists to showcase their talents.

### 2. Esthetics

The neighborhood has more parks (5)



within its boundaries than any other neighborhood in the city. The Kinnickinnic River, at the southern edge of the Park Neighborhoods is currently being redeveloped into a park-like environment, with charming foot bridges and a fish habitat. This neighborhood is also home to the incredibly beautiful Basilica of St. Josaphat.



### 3. Very inexpensive housing

Rents for two bedroom apartments in this area go for \$550 to \$800 a month, quality

single-family homes sell for \$25,000 and up and duplexes go for \$40,000 and up.

#### 4. International food fare

There are 16 restaurants in the Park Neighborhoods, most of them ethnic. Residents can enjoy food from various Latin American and eastern European countries, as well as pizza and American food.



#### 5. Youth programs

Not only are there community centers, gyms, tennis courts, soccer leagues, baseball diamonds/leagues, a boxing club, three large parks, & an indoor and outdoor pool in the Park Neighborhoods, but there are intellectually stimulating programs on culture and history as well. Welcome kids!



### Projects in development

#### **Gathering by the Waters set for May**

On May 5, 2012, a very special celebration will be held at Kosciuszko Park between 4pm and 8pm. Called *Gathering by the Waters*, the event will honor the leading communities in the Park Neighborhoods: the Native Americans, Polish Americans, and Mexican Americans.

*Gathering* will begin with a grand procession of musicians, organizations, and businesses of the three ethnic groups. An opening ceremony will follow. Free hot dogs, chips, and soda will be available all day, as participants visit the various tents and learn about the three ethnic groups.

*Gathering* will close with a memorial to long-time Ojibwe leader, Del Porter, who contributed his life to the Park Neighborhoods.

#### **Results of UrbAn ethnic study released**

For 12 years, 67 anthropologists at Urban Anthropology Inc. have studied the cultural groups of the greater Milwaukee area. Findings from this study are available on UrbAn's website at [www.urban-anthropology.com](http://www.urban-anthropology.com). Click on the yellow box. Some OASIS followers may receive a copy of the summary over email.

#### **Book on the way**

The Principal Investigator of the study, Dr. Jill Florence Lackey, is currently working on a book on the full findings of this study.

## **Join our living tour of the Park Neighborhoods**

The Park Neighborhoods, resident association, Urban Anthropology Inc. is actively drawing OASIS people to our area to live, work, and create new organizations or businesses in this beautiful area (see a booklet on neighborhood assets at <http://www.urban-anthropology.org/OCCbook%20v2a.pdf>). If you are an artist of any kind, a humanities scholar, or an innovator such as a community activist or creative entrepreneur, we have a financial specialist and a real estate agent just to serve you (at no cost ever). We also offer home buying workshops and neighborhood tours to help community-contributing people with modest incomes own homes. Contact Rick Petrie (below) for this assistance.

*Urban Anthropology Inc. (UrbAn)*

Contact Rick Petrie at UrbAn: 414 271-9417 or [RickPetrie@Gmail.com](mailto:RickPetrie@Gmail.com)