

# OASIS

*Operation Artists, Scholars, and Innovators*

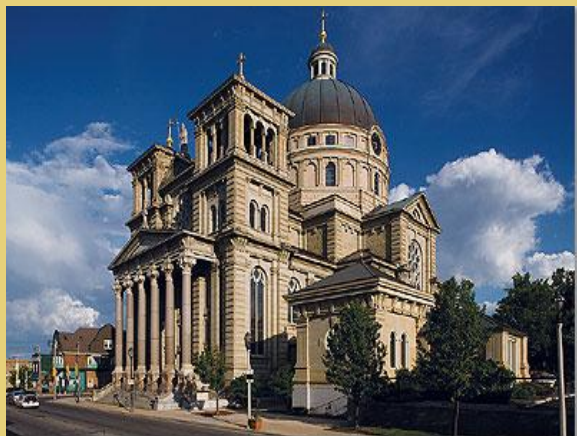
In the Park Neighborhoods (Lincoln Village and Baran Park)

March/April, 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.

## ***Theatre at the Basilica?***

From the time the Basilica of St. Josaphat was built by the Poles over 100 years ago, this magnificent building has hosted great events – fairs, concerts, dinners, weddings, rites of passage, and holiday celebrations. Now, beginning in late autumn 2012, the Basilica will also host formal theatre.



## **First theatre production slated for November, 2012**

The first production to appear at the Basilica in the Park Neighborhoods will be *The March to Kosciuszko*, a fictionalized account of the Fair Housing March that came to Kosciuszko Park in August of 1967.

### **Synopsis of play**

During the turbulent year of 1967, two fictionalized families struggle with an appropriate response to the upcoming fair housing march to Milwaukee's Kosciuszko Park. A southside family wants to hold on to their Polish neighborhood that has recently lost housing due to freeway construction, but sees race becoming the operative theme in the resistance.

On the north side a Black family that has also lost housing during freeway construction questions whether they should risk participation in the potentially violent march.

The events are narrated by General Thaddeus Kosciuszko whose monument symbolizes the Polish presence on the south side. As he speaks the audience learns the *historic* Kosciuszko – not the one both sides conceptualize.

The play challenges many commonly held ideas about community, race, culture and neighborhood.

Watch for notices of how to purchase tickets to this very provocative production.

## Other projects in development

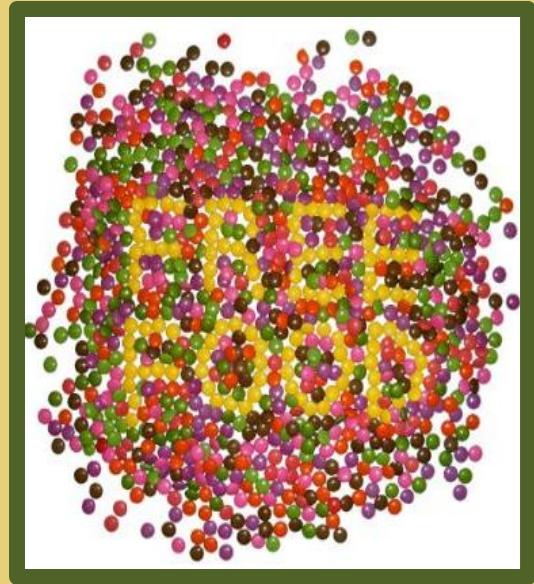
### **Gathering by the Waters set for May**



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)*

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