

## Celebrity Plaque Project underway

*Organizations are planning to add copper plaques to homes of famous people*



Home of poet Lorine Niedecker

Famous people have lived on the Old South Side. These include two baseball hall-of-famers, Al Simmons and Tony Kubek; a movie star, Gilda Gray; a world-acclaimed poet, Lorine Niedecker; Latino musician, Manuel Narvaez, a Medal of Honor awardee, Robert J. Modrzejewski, and more. Several organizations are combining forces to begin a process to designate the homes of these celebrities in the neighborhoods of Lincoln Village and Historic Mitchell Street. These organizations are the Lincoln Village Business Association, Urban Anthropology, and the Lorine Niedecker Foundation.

### Current progress

Historical research began last year with the search through archival data to find the exact addresses of the celebrities. Background and descriptive information was also collected. Currently the organizations are working to refine the list of candidates, build a timeline, and fund the plaques. Events will be organized to unveil the plaques.



Home of Al Simmons



Home of the former Kramer Bakery

### Almost complete

## Neighborhood improvements in Kosciuszko Circle



Beginning in 2013, Urban Anthropology Inc. (UrbAn), funded in part by the Community Improvement Projects of the City of Milwaukee, began adding improvements to properties in the Kosciuszko Circle (the blocks surrounding Kosciuszko Park and 6th St. between Lincoln Ave. and Becher St.

To date, the following additions have been made: (1) 5 Little Free Libraries, painted to match facades of the homes where the libraries were installed; (2) over 40 front yard planters, filled with plants; (3) 70 flower boxes mounted on porches, painted to match facades and filled with plants, (4) 9 ornate bird houses, painted to match facades, (5) 2 mason bee houses, painted to match facades, and (6) 4 welcome plaques, painted to match facades.



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## Neighborhood improvements in Kosciuszko Circle (continued from page 1)

### Coming additions

The last of these curbside structures to be added in summer 2018 will be an additional 20-30 large sidewalk planters, filled with plants. Lincoln Avenue already has about 60 planters that are filled each year by the devoted staff of the Food Security Department of the UW Cooperative Extension.

### Seeking new blocks to beautify

Volunteers at UrbAn are looking for more Lincoln Village blocks to begin beautifying. We are hoping residents will make suggestions. Please contact Rick at RickPetrie@gmail.com if you wish to nominate one to four blocks.



## Massive project: Over 100 neighborhoods Now on website

Have you ever wondered about other Milwaukee neighborhoods? Have you ever wished there could be one site that would give you most of the information you need? Then check out [www.neighborhoodsinmilwaukee.org](http://www.neighborhoodsinmilwaukee.org)

Information on each neighborhood includes a brief population-centered history, current populations, interesting features, profiles of residents and shopkeepers back in time, quotes from residents on each neighborhood, quotes from neighborhood oral histories, lists of recurring low-cost outings that individuals and families can enjoy, profiles of famous people that once lived there, and a host of current and past photographs.

### More added each week

The project is massive. There are 191 officially designated neighborhoods in Milwaukee. At least one new neighborhood is added to the site each week, and viewers are asked to add information. The full project should be completed by April 2018.



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