

SPACE **IN** BETWEEN

2012 PLACEMAKING CHICAGO CONTEST

Catalog of Contest Entries

placemakingchicago.com
metroplanning.org/placemaking


Metropolitan **Planning** Council

6062Trees: Sembrando Bajo el Sol

Simone Alexander
Enlace Gardeners
Little Village & South
Lawndale, Chicago



Community organizing for this garden started in 2008. Over the years, this space has been transformed from a concrete lot into a flourishing garden, thanks to the support of community residents, local churches, schools and organizations. The garden is run as an allotment garden, so each garden bed is cared for by a family, individual or organization. The beds, trees, perennials, shed and water barrels were installed this year; more beds will be built in order to respond to demand from residents.

The side lot near the beautiful mural, installed by a local artist and a group of Little Village youth, will house a picnic area, a community theatre, and a rain garden. This garden receives support from Neighborspace, Positive Space, and the Midwest Ecological Landscaping Association among others.

ACTIVATE!

Katherine Darnstadt and
Laura Bowe
Architecture for Humanity
Chicago
South Lawndale,
Washington Park,
Bronzeville, Chicago



ACTIVATE! is a yearly competition hosted by Architecture for Humanity - Chicago that challenges entrants to design one or more objects that can activate a vacant site, is universally accessible, and fosters multi-generational community interaction.

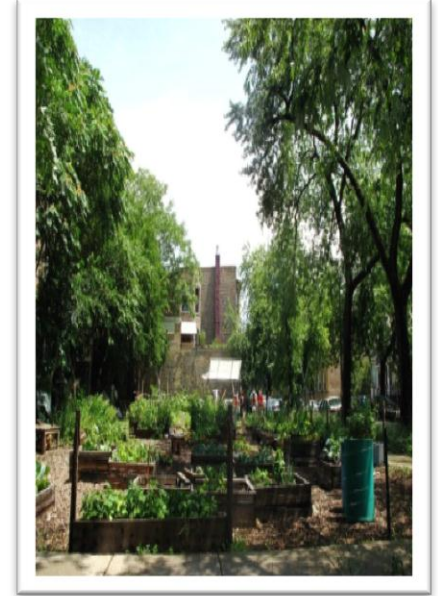
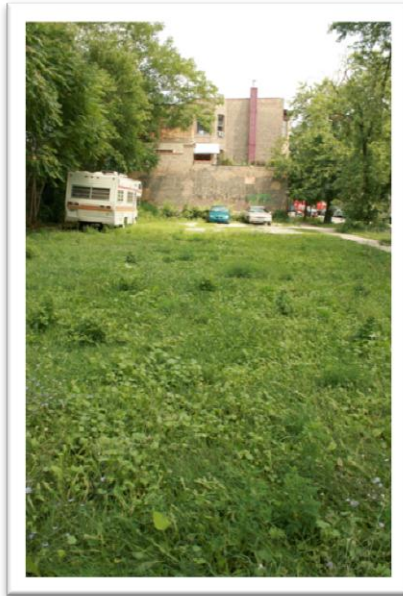
The American city is rooted in its neighborhoods, public spaces, and infrastructure. Transforming the interstitial open spaces that characterize our cities can be a catalyst for community connectivity and socialization. When neglected or inaccessible, these vacant spaces become detrimental to neighborhood health and vitality. Through small acts we can repurpose public space to be more universally accessible, inclusive, age friendly, and a builder of community.

Entrants are advised that designs should not be limited to furniture or seating elements such as benches. Other structures that make a small space seem inviting, usable, and safe are considered to be activators; including but not limited to harvest tables, raised planters, play equipment, interactive sculptures. The goal of the installation is to continue the dialogue about open space and how design can be the catalyst for the creation of meaningful and joyful places that facilitate community engagement and growth.

Winning designers have at least one piece of their proposed activation built on the vacant site as a year-long community installation. After the year, the piece is considered for permanent installation or relocated to a new vacant site in Chicago. The winning designs are currently being featured in the American Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

Cultivating Community at Altgeld Sawyer Corner Farm

Margaret Hartmann
Corner Farm Chicago
Logan Square, Chicago



In 2009, we brought together neighbors to transform a Logan Square lot that had stood vacant for thirty years into a vibrant community space – the Altgeld Sawyer Corner Farm.

For the past four years, our volunteer-tended urban farm has grown fresh produce for the food pantry at Christopher House; raised plants for dye and papermaking; offered neighborhood composting; provided plots to Christopher House, helping children learn how food is grown and have ownership over produce their families receive; and created safe, open space one of Chicago’s most ‘park-poor’ communities. Through our weekly harvests, community nights, and bi-weekly workdays, we gather a diverse set of neighbors, brought together by green space and a mission to help underserved families.

Our model is easily replicated in other forgotten spaces. Raised beds ensure food is safe from contaminants, and on-site composting turn neighbors’ food scraps into no-cost soil amendments. The farm runs on about \$1000 per year, a shoestring budget that encourages cooperation with local businesses and creative reuse of materials. ASCF is open 24/7, and we encourage people to use the space in ways that benefit them and their neighbors. Neighbors come for a friendly place to hang out, artists use it as an outdoor gallery, and ‘rogue’ planters make each season unique (surprise cantaloupes!).

The Andersonville People Spot

Colleen O'Toole
Anderson Development
Corporation
Andersonville, Chicago



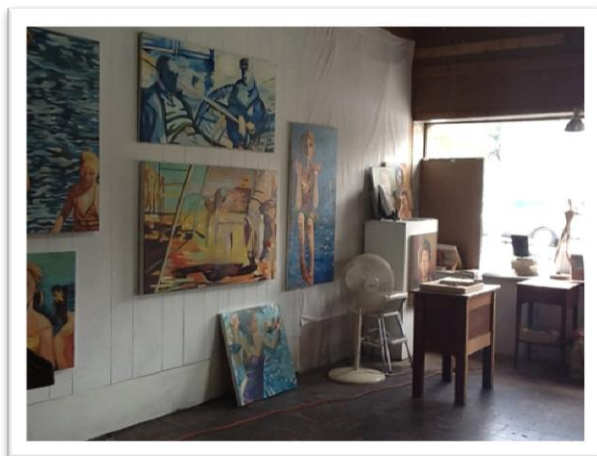
After a year of working with the Chicago Department of Transportation and the Mayor's Office, the Andersonville Development Corporation has brought the City of Chicago its very first "parklet" or "people spot." Emphasizing green and open space, the Andersonville People Spot is a community gathering point, a small but welcoming public area in the middle of a bustling commercial district.

Turning a misused piece of asphalt along Clark Street into a welcoming, public space was no small feat. Through partnerships with local architects, design firms, material suppliers and other sustainably-minded advocates throughout Chicago, we were able to achieve a concept that offers pedestrians an urban oasis. The space now boasts ample public seating, native landscaping, an open and accessible design. The People Spot even boasts a small planted hill, where we frequently find couples stretching out, dogs lounging and children playing. Bicyclists will soon welcome the addition of an on-street bike corral suitable for up to ten bicycles, safely accessible from the approaching bike lane on Clark Street. In early September, we will officially complete the project, working with a local gallery to incorporate a mural on the backside of the installation and welcoming neighbors for a "party in the parklet."

Since the installation ADC has received overwhelming community support for the project. It is our hope that by participating in the Space In Between Contest we can raise awareness of our efforts and provide direction to other communities seeking to install these spaces in their own neighborhoods.

Art Shop at Miller & Son Lumber

Layne Jackson
Art Shop
Ukrainian Village & Wicker
Park, Chicago



Miller & Son Lumber Co. bought the building and opened their lumber and hardware store in 1921. They've been a constant part of the rapidly evolving Division Street and Wicker Park neighborhood ever since, and for many years had single rooms to let on the top two floors. Owner Bob Miller saw the need for affordable spaces for artists, and converted these 28 small heated spaces to working studios eight years ago.

Two years ago, Bob invited me to run the studios and offered a corner of the lumberyard, 'Plywood Town'. With the help of Bob's crew, we opened up the corner of the building, took out shelving, opened up the storefront windows and created a place for art classes and art studio and gallery environment.

Having an open painting and teaching studio on busy Division Street has been amazing, as kids and dogs and walkers and diners pass through every day. I've taught over 200 students, am open most days to anyone who wants to wander in, to look, buy and visit. This summer, we held Thursday night 'Art Nights,' showing art films and holding informal neighborhood talks.

The building has been sold, to be torn down by years' end. The artists are almost all out, and Miller & Son Lumber moves on. The Art Shop is relocating to 1112 North Ashland, to continue to build a place for affordable art classes. Thanks to Bob Miller, we built a great community space in the heart of Wicker Park.

Artists Create Community in Burnham Park

Beth Haskovec
Burnham Park, Milwaukee



In July 2012, neighborhood children and their families helped create a successful art project in a newly developed pocket park at 29th & Burnham; located on Milwaukee's south side. The art beautifies the neighborhood while the artistic process provides a creative outlet for neighborhood youth and brings neighbors together to build community.

The children were guided by Milwaukee artists Eriks Johnson and Eric Ledesma from Artists Working in Education (A.W.E.), a nonprofit organization that sponsors artists to work creatively with children. In a matter of hours, the garden was decorated with handcrafted yarn weaving patterns known as God's Eyes, a Huichol spiritual object. Families also built a wood branch structure where children displayed their God's Eyes and interacted with the art. One 11 year old resident commented about the project, "It was way cool because you could see God's Eyes, like in the old times when your relatives made them, and they thought they were powerful and I think they are too."

The formerly city-owned vacant lot was identified by neighbors as a problem property, and was attracting negative behavior including dumping, loitering, and vandalism. The lot was transformed into a community garden over the past ten months by neighbors working with Layton Boulevard West Neighbors. Collaborating partners included the Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation, Groundwork Milwaukee, Milwaukee Urban Gardens, the Zilber Family Foundation, and LISC Milwaukee. Students from Carmen and Centro Hispano High Schools joined with neighbors and LBWN to build and maintain the park.

Avers Community Garden

Laura Michael
Avers Block Club
North Lawndale, Chicago



The Avers Community Garden sits on three city lots that have been left vacant for decades. Residents of the block have tried over the years to purchase the property, but were told that the lots were privately owned and tied up in a legal dispute. Two years ago, residents became tired of seeing such a large piece of property at the front of the block over-run with trash, broken bottles, weeds, and drug dealers and decided to take action.

Residents from the Avers block came together, and built flower boxes, planted flowers and vegetables, all for community use. Since 2010, a walking/bicycle path, performance stage, and picnic tables have also been installed. Instead of avoiding the lot as they once did, residents now use the garden space to play, socialize, pick berries, hold summer camp and talent shows, and sell food to the neighborhood. Kids from the block get together throughout the summer to weed the flower boxes and pick up trash. The entire three-lot space is free and open to the public. The lot was created at very low cost. This space has been transformed from an overgrown, dangerous eyesore to a vibrant, beautiful community space for all to enjoy.

Barren Lot Becomes Food Source for Homeless Shelter

Renee Pasciak
Cream City Gardens, King
Park, Milwaukee



Cream City Gardens, consisting of 45 raised garden beds and producing everything from okra to strawberries and tomatoes, started out as a vacant lot in the inner city of Milwaukee. The garden was conceived to provide healthy food options for residents of the Guest House of Milwaukee, a homeless shelter that started the garden along with a neighborhood food pantry that low-income neighbors rely on for affordable nutrition.

Sandwiched between two abandoned houses and an overgrown plot of weeds, the garden has transformed a desolate bare space into an oasis of green in the neighborhood. Even better, the project has brought the community together to sustain it, and suburban housewives and medical students get up to their elbows in dirt alongside guests from the shelter. In fact, community volunteers brought the project to fruition, developing the plans and putting in the labor to make the idea of an urban garden a reality. Starting as a grassroots initiative with no budget, the garden relied on donations from community organizations, businesses and individuals to get started.

In 2011, shortly after the first raised beds were planted, an educational program was implemented to teach residents of the Guest House sustainable urban agriculture skills and practices. The initial goal of the program was to provide a sense of ownership and pride in the garden for residents; it has now evolved into a job training program and continues to provide homeless individuals with responsibility, dignity and a sense of community.

Blue Dress Park

Paul Druecke
Friends of Blue Dress Park
Riverwest, Milwaukee



Blue Dress Park is a triangular, concrete, slab, notable for its ability to inspire and its seeming lack of purpose. The park was christened in 2000, by Paul Druecke who refers to it as “pure potential.” The space exists at the boundaries of no less than five neighborhoods; it also overlooks the Milwaukee River and heart of the city. The park's unique shape is defined by a waist-high Arts & Crafts-styled iron fence, which adds an absurd deliberateness to the space.

The Friends of Blue Dress Park (FofBDP) formed in 2010 in order to cultivate value in marginal public resources. They use the park, and its grassroots beginnings, as inspiration. The FofBDP have organized four high-profile public events since 2010. Three of them have been onsite and one was in Chicago. In July 2012, the FofBDP organized a bonus checkpoint for the community event, RW24. Over 170 bicyclists were given docent-led tours of the park and asked to provide live audios recording of their response to the space. In 2011, the FofBDP partnered with Historic Milwaukee to provide neighborhood tours as part of Doors Open Milwaukee. Earlier in the year, the friends hosted an onsite brat tasting and picnic.

The FofBDP is an ongoing initiative. The Friends explore underused urban environments—sites they've designated as Blue Dress Park spaces. Through onsite events and off-site partnerships, the organization fosters creative and critical inquiry into relationships between cultural legacy, social agency, and public space.

Brick House

Sara Alsum-Wassenaar
North First Street,
Champaign



Markers were created for vacant lots in the North First Street area. The markers consisted of a removable clay house and a cement block with the footprint of the house in it. An information plaque was on the bottom of the house that briefly described the house and how it is remembered in the County Historical Archives. Some passersby picked up the houses and took them. This act was foreseen and houses were periodically replenished.

One of the lots is used by neighborhood children to play games in. One of the times I rode by on my bike they were using the brick as a goal or base. The project infuses historical knowledge about an overlooked space and rewards curiosity.

Bronzeville Alliance Community Garden

Amandilo Cuzan and
Johnnie Owens
Bronzeville, Chicago



[Watch Bronzeville Alliance Community Garden video \(YouTube\)](#)

The land was once the site of a school. Demolition crews apparently buried debris from the building under the ground. Our original plan was to plant directly into the soil but it proved unsuitable for growing food. We decided to cover the ground with tarp, build planting beds, and buy soil from local vendors. This is a common practice among urban gardens. From the beginning, our work on the land has attracted dozens of curious neighbors who have either volunteered to help or who have bought produce from the garden.

The Bronzeville Alliance Neighborhood Garden is part of a larger campaign to promote healthy lifestyles in the area. Our goal is to build a network of gardens as part of a comprehensive health and wellness campaign based in local schools. The campaign also targets the food choices provided by corner stores in the area. We have allied with neighborhood youth to organize a summit focused on childhood obesity and to sponsor cooking demonstrations at corner stores. This is our third year in operation and much of our work has been documented on YouTube at OMProductions81.

Our garden is a rallying point to meet, discuss healthy living, sponsor cooking demonstrations and raise the profile of the community. We are planning a harvest festival in October which will include youth, seniors and everyone in-between. The garden has been especially effective in bringing youth and seniors together to talk, work on common projects and build trust.

Building a Park...With Ice Cream!

Betty Redmond
BCO GreenSpace Chicago



Even our eldest neighbors don't remember exactly when time destroyed several homes on Bowmanville Avenue, leaving one private home and Rosehill Cemetery's caretaker's house, whose backyards enjoyed the view of its pastoral grounds. The cemetery purchased the leveled properties, posted "No Trespassing" signs, and began mowing weeds. The vacant lot isn't an eyesore, but it is a treasure chest of potential that our community is determined to unlock. In 2002, Bowmanville Community Organization President Cindy Burgin obtained permission from Rosehill Cemetery to launch our first annual BCO Ice Cream Social, an always free, ten-year, summer tradition, rain or shine. This lot is the only open land where neighbors from 1,500 households can meet, play games, become friends and members of a vibrant community organization. Attendees joining us include Bicycle Ambassadors, equestrian police, fire-fighters and city, county, state and federal representatives.

Wrapping up after the Ice Cream Social of 2008, a neighbor spoke out loud something we realized was a collective dream: "this land could be ours." Helped by elected officials and neighbors' contributions of money and time, we bought the adjacent private parcel, replacing the aging home with an interactive natural play scape. We hope to purchase more acreage, including the vacant caretaker's house. This purchase will provide our urban community, for generations to come, with a permanent center for creative programming, free play and quiet reflection in an oasis of contiguous green space, spanning four communities from Bowmanville to Peterson Avenue.

Chicago Arts District showPODs

Sophia Posnock
Chicago Arts District show
PODs
Pilsen, Chicago



showPOD is a high-exposure exhibition space; compact, dynamic, unmanned, and designed to support concepts of art experimentation and installation. Conceptualized by John Podmajersky III in December 2009, and created by the Chicago Arts District, showPODs create an instant art experience in the non-traditional space and format of a high-exposure art installation operating around the clock. showPOD, by design, can be viewed by anyone, at any time, during the life of its installation, allowing a rich public art experience that breaks down the traditional limits of a gallery space or museum.

The showPODs transform unused storefront spaces into dynamic art installations, providing both walker bys with a dynamic art experience and emerging and established artists with a unique and free venue to display installation art. Those who might not feel comfortable entering a traditional museum space can take their time observing the showPODs. The 24/7 exposure of the showPODs also challenges the artist to create work that is eye catching, vibrant and approachable from the street. The showPODs have encouraged the growth and contributed to the environment of the creative community in the Chicago Arts District through inspiring people walking by and providing space for emerging artists. Each month, showPODs will offer an opportunity for curators to make a statement through art experimentation and installation. Since their inception showPODs have presented over 30 projects.

Chicago Book Expo in Uptown

John Rich
Chicago Writers House
Uptown, Chicago



When the Uptown Borders Books closed in early 2011, the Chicago Writers House saw an opportunity, and by November, the Chicago Book Expo launched from the vacant shell of the former box store. Dreamed as a means to introduce local readers to Chicago fiction and poetry publishers, the 2-day free Expo—part bookstore, part conference, part gala—was awarded “Best New Literary Event” by Newcity.

At the outset, the venue was the central story: a former corporate bookstore, suddenly occupied by 42 Chicago publishers, 20 literary non-profit groups, and 1,200 attendees. For project organizers, the Expo also needed to engage with the creative history of Uptown- early cinema and jazz, architecture, rock concerts. The Expo also had to be responsive to how the loss of any cultural or commercial institution impacts residents. We acknowledged that, regardless of how a person might feel about Borders, the physical site had become an important gathering place, and we worked to repopulate it with people and ideas. In addition to book browsing, the Expo offered readings, panel discussions, workshops for kids and adults, new music, silent films, architecture tours, and a curiosity shop—plus free Chicago-roasted coffee all weekend long.

To succeed at this scale, the Chicago Writers House linked with partners who supported Uptown’s economic and cultural livelihood: publishers, nonprofits, local agencies, government, businesses, developers, banks, colleges, an architectural foundation, a film society, and countless individuals. These collaborations cultivated a diverse audience through cross-promotion, which led to rich conversation about story making, Chicago publishing, literacy, and the vitality of a neighborhood like Uptown.

The Children of Woodlawn Garden Park

Karen Phillips
6500 South Ingleside
Avenue
Woodlawn, Chicago



[Watch Children of Woodlawn video \(YouTube\)](#)

The 12,250 square foot city-owned, double vacant lot at 6550-56 South Ingleside Avenue has been desolate for forty years. Once used as a haven for gangs, drugs, litter, and illegal parking is now replaced with flowers, children, seniors and family gatherings.

The Garden Park, established May 27, 2011, has decreased crime and litter and increased community pride and appreciation. Woodlawn residents have embraced the Garden Park and have taken ownership of it as their own. Our neighbors and children respect the park by keeping it clean, never vandalizing or destroying the benches, planters and greenery. Our proud residents donate their time, flowers, garden tools and money to maintain our wonderful, safe, open space. The entire park is completely free and open, void of gates and fencing.

The collaboration between block clubs, condo associations, Green Corps/ 20th Ward Streets & San, schools and nonprofits help create beautiful trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, flower beds, and colorful planters that is now the cornerstone of the Woodlawn Community. The park is funded by two small annual grants and the generosity of block club members. This garden can be duplicated to any vacant lot citywide, and can be used as a garden park template. The space is used for block club parties, holidays, meetings, fundraisers, school community service, education and beautification. Woodlawn neighbors have since adopted other corners on Marquette Blvd with flowers, mulch, rocks and shrubs.

Climb, Jump, Leap & Imagine!

T-awannda Piper
Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP
Roseland, Chicago



Along a crime ridden corridor of 103rd Street, in a South Side community called Roseland, there is a stretch of vacancies that include city lots, empty storefronts, and abandoned businesses. Nestled between two storefront churches, a vacant lot is filled with old bricks, trash, broken glass and drug paraphernalia.

Ten teenage girls who have volunteered to be a part of a Community Transformative Design Pilot Project decide to create a different atmosphere on 103rd Street. They agreed to fill the space with a unique architectural design that mimics the Alps of Switzerland. The Swiss Alps are encapsulated by several conflicting countries, but the vast mountainous scheme is considered neutral ground- but in this case, a playground.

The girls who designed the space for play are part of an organization called Demoiselle 2 Femme, NFP. As they design, build tables, and create live twitter boards, the community is drawn in and intrigued by the tools, wood, and nails that are in the hands of this inimitable group of teen girls. The community answers questions about the purpose for the space; which calls for a safe, clean, well-maintained play area for children. People from the neighborhood also provide ideas of what should happen in the playground, such as climbing, jumping, leaping, and of course, a place to let your imagination run wild. After two weeks of community engagement and labor, a mountainous ropes course began to emerge and is now a few days from completion.

Friendship Garden El Jardín de Amistad

Simone Alexander
Enlace Gardeners
Little Village & South
Lawndale, Chicago

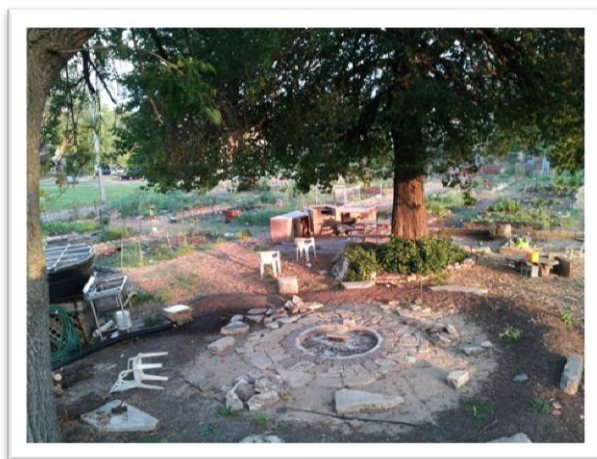
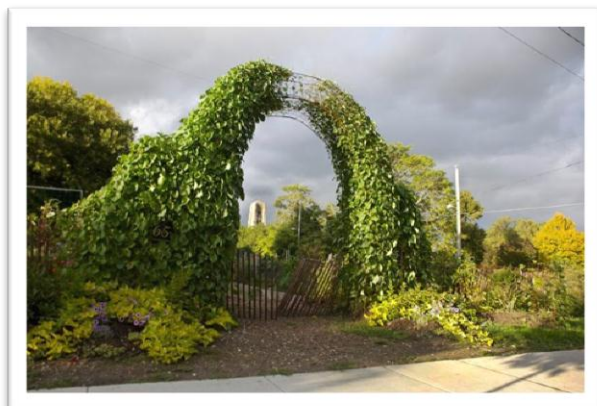


This small, but beautiful, garden is located in the side lot of an abandoned factory. Over the last few years, neighbors have converted this lot into a community gathering space. Residents from the block catch up while their children play among flowers, herbs and veggies.

A team of local artists transformed the wall of the factory by installing a vibrant mural in homage to native plants and monarch butterflies. Youth from Little Village, North Lawndale and other neighborhoods work in the garden as part of a green jobs program through the Student Conservation Association. Families and art education students from Illinois State University develop art activities, like designing a garden sign, painting birdhouses, and tie dyeing t-shirts. Next door, in the backyard of an empty building, a greenhouse is being installed to allow for increased production and extension of the growing season. The garage of this lot stores tools, art supplies, chairs, tables and everything else needed to keep the garden alive and kicking.

From Vacant Lot to Thriving Community Space

Benja Murphy
65th & Woodlawn
Community Garden
Woodlawn, Chicago



The 65th & Woodlawn Community Garden started out as a vacant lot, owned by the First Presbyterian Church. What started out as two or three people gardening there, turned into an active gardening and social space in the Woodlawn neighborhood. There are currently 120 plots on a 44,000 square foot lot. Gardeners have ten-by-ten foot plots and help to tend beds surrounding the garden. The surrounding beds are planted for neighbors to come by and pick some food if they don't have plots. Last year, we joined two other gardens on a gleaning program and donated more than a ton of food to local food pantries.

We've built a tool shed out of recycled doors, as well as a grill, picnic table, and fire pit for socialization. Behind the garden, we also constructed an irrigation system and a composting structure out of loose cinder blocks. The garden is not guaranteed access to the lot for more than a year at a time, but we've had fun crafting the space while we are there. We have learned enough to be able to help start several other gardens in the neighborhood.

You can see more online, including a link to our Facebook page at: <http://www.65thandwoodlawn.com>

Gallery, Now!

Heather Hancock
Downtown Evanston



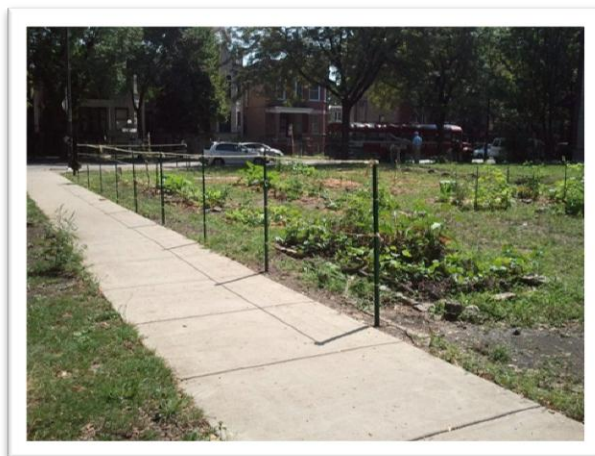
In mid-June, a group of seven local artists transformed a vacant space in the heart of downtown Evanston into a temporary gallery - *Gallery, Now!* The space has been empty since the Borders store closed a year ago. It is in a prime location that connects the Metra and El stations, a parking garage, and condo buildings with Evanston theaters, restaurants and shops. Concrete floors and patched drywall in the 5,000 square foot space, together with soaring 25 foot walls and a curved bank of floor-to-ceiling windows made an engaging urban backdrop for the large show of paintings, drawings and mixed media work.

For ten days, *Gallery, Now!* offered another public gathering space in the downtown core, a destination for people out enjoying summer in the city. We invited other artists to share the space—live music performances, printmaking and painting demonstrations, framing discussions and guest artist appearances all generated new interest and drew more people into the space. Over the course of the ten days, more than 2000 people stopped by *Gallery, Now!* Many wandered in out of curiosity about a new use for the vacant space. The most common reaction was: “this is great; is it permanent?” New connections were made, business cards were traded; and art was sold. The landlord was pleased to have the community brought into this light-filled central location and hopes to see renewed interest in the space by potential renters.

We returned to studios, energized by the overwhelmingly positive response from our community.

Gleaning Inspiration

Bruce Ray
Kimball Avenue Church
Logan Square, Chicago



In 2011, our 110-year-old church building was deconstructed, creating a 5,000 square-foot empty lot at the corner of Kimball and Medill Avenues in Chicago. Because we cannot immediately rebuild, our church leaders decided to use the space to bless the community around us. Since we already had an organic container garden, we decided to offer planting beds to our neighbors.

Initially, we offered beds to individuals and families who did not have adequate private space, but through partnership with Corner Farm Chicago, the empty lot has been transformed into a field tended by individuals, families and even a group of local school children. Gardeners now tend at least two plots—one for personal use and a smaller “gleaning bed” for distribution in the community. The church provides the space and a water source free of charge in exchange for the produce from the “gleaning beds.” The church distributes the produce or uses it in a meal prepared for the homeless.

At the suggestion of neighbors, we are “planting” a small free lending library and creating a seating area where neighbors can relax, enjoy a book or engage in conversation. Others have suggested creating a prayer labyrinth, conducting gardening workshops and celebrating harvest with a community potluck meal, bonfire and “barn dance.” The gardens are inspiring creativity, community and collaboration. It’s almost as good as having a church building!

Green Oasis

Nicole Rowan
Taylor Street Farms
Little Italy, Chicago



[Watch Green Oasis video \(YouTube\)](#)

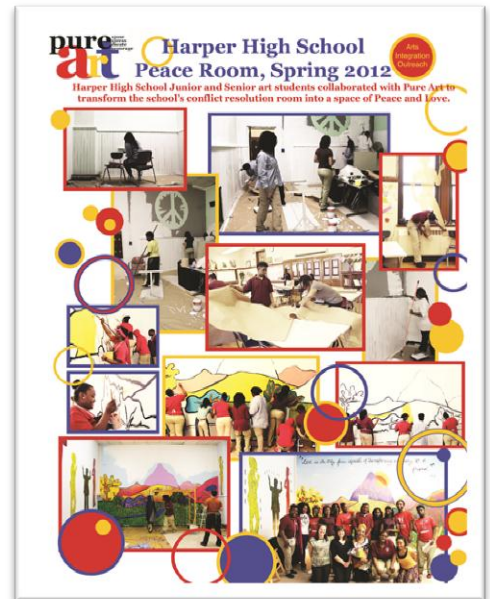
Empty, overgrown city lots were all that remained after a cluster of Jane Addams housing along Taylor Street were demolished by 2007. By partnering with the property owner and University Village Association, a group of long-time residents and avid gardeners were able to transform the northeast corner of an abandoned city block into the thriving urban garden, known as Taylor Street Farms (TSF).

Three years after breathing new life into the vacant lot, Taylor Street Farms has turned a temporary green oasis into a place where diverse neighborhoods and ethnic groups are able to work, create, and grow together. With the hard work and support of members and neighborhood volunteers, TSF has steadily grown into a group devoted to enriching the local community. The farm has several plots dedicated to low-income families, with additional plots set aside for teaching and shared community beds. The commitment of our members has spilled outside our fence, as we have undertaken the work of beautifying the parkway adjacent to TSF.

Our farm is a place for neighbors to relax, play, learn and grow. Events include the summer solstice potluck, an Independence Day barbeque, t-shirt tie-dye night for kids, and regular evening and weekend work days. From allium to green zebra tomatoes, we grow it all - or at least enjoy the attempt, as we battle beetles and other pests with organic gardening techniques. The food grown in our farm feeds families, nurtures friendships and contributes to the beauty of the neighborhood.

Harper High School Peace Room

Claire Haasl
Pure Art Education
Englewood, Chicago



We are an Arts Education Outreach Organization and are hoping to do more community outreach/beautification projects in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago. This project was a classroom in Harper High School that was re-designed as the "Peace Room" - a place for understanding and guided communication.

See the Video at <http://youtu.be/kIGvyhP7pd4>.

here, mothers are

Sonja Thomsen & Adam
Amani, Milwaukee



[Watch here, mothers are video \(YouTube\)](#)

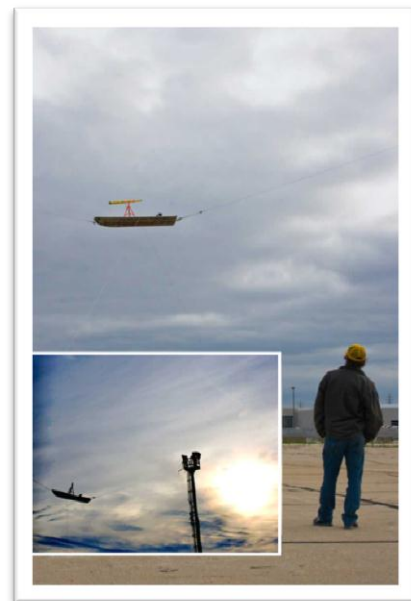
Here, mothers are is a site-specific temporary public art project in Milwaukee's central city, on view from April through October 2012. It is a collaborative project between artist Sonja Thomsen and storyteller Adam Carr, with members of the Amani Neighborhood, in the city of Milwaukee.

Over a period of three months, Thomsen and Carr conducted living room interviews with women and families connected to the Dominican Center for Women. Those intimate and varied experiences have been translated to mural photographs and text, which populate a pop-up gallery in a formerly vacant lot, as well as the boards of a neighboring foreclosed home, between 24th Place & 25th Street on Locust Street. The installation invites viewers to go beyond faces and facades, into family spaces within the surrounding neighborhood through visuals, text, and interactive audio. *here, mothers are* gives personal spaces a place in the public domain.

Through public events (an opening brunch, and a neighborhood flower sale), and media attention (radio, print, and web mentions), the project has attracted a broad range of visitors, city and statewide, into Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood, often categorized as one of the city and state's most impoverished neighborhoods. This project was made possible by a \$5000 grant from the City of Milwaukee's Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation, with support from David Weber and the Dominican Center for Women.

IN:SITE On and Off Capitol

Pegi Christiansen
IN:SITE
Century City, Milwaukee



[Watch IN:SITE video \(YouTube\)](#)

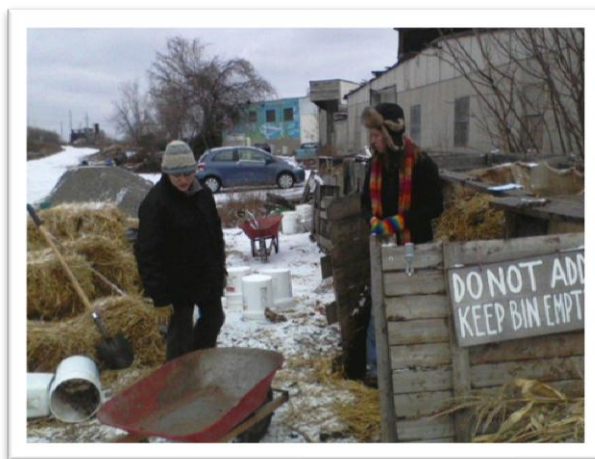
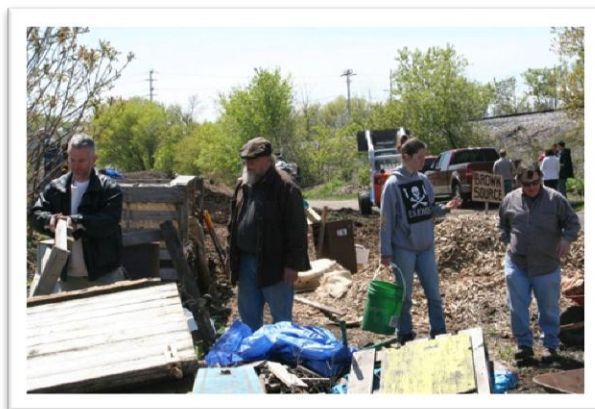
IN:SITE has mounted temporary public art projects in Milwaukee neighborhoods since 2006, using emerging artists, paying them with funding from sources that do not generally sponsor art. In 2009, the 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corporation and Business Improvement District #37 invited IN:SITE to install art near Century City. Century City is a vacant industrial site, previously providing 9,000 blue collar jobs. Milwaukee purchased the land and is investing to repurpose it in 2013. However it looks desolate while the site is in transition.

Century City sits along Capitol Drive, Milwaukee's busiest street. Forty thousand commuters zoom by every day, but it is forgotten. IN:SITE's job was to mount art that would encourage interest during redevelopment. IN:SITE is applying based on this six-month, 2010 to 2011 project. Five artists created eight different art enhancements that made people notice this ignored neighborhood.

The project was so successful that neighborhood organizations voted to extend the project, and then the community started to coordinate its own temporary art. The support from Milwaukee was incredible. Government officials, businesses, a school, and organizations signed a letter that resulted in Canadian Pacific Railway, for the first time ever, allowing art in one of its blighted underpasses.

Kompost Kids Transform Soil, Lives & Communities

Marion Ecks,
Kompost Kids Inc
Bay View, Milwaukee



Roots will not grow in barren soil. Kompost Kids Inc. is a volunteer group dedicated to rescuing organic materials from the waste stream to make soil for community gardens. Our demonstration site is located between industrial warehouses and functioning train tracks, in space that was used as truck access to the rear of the warehouses. It was not a public space, much less a green space. Since beginning this project almost four years ago, the space has transformed from an abandoned industrial wasteland to one where we grow soil and community. Neighbors visit to deposit kitchen scraps, volunteer compost couriers drop off contributions from area restaurants, and weekly work days attract people from all over Milwaukee and its suburbs.

The demonstration site is used as an educational tool to teach composting, including bin design and pile maintenance, to community gardens, as part of our compost network. Anyone interested need only come on a work day and we will teach what we know. We develop videos, workshops, and educational materials so that other communities can benefit from what we have learned. We want urban agriculture everywhere to put down roots in healthy, nutritious soil.

In the spring, we gave away 25 yards of compost produced at this site to individuals, gardens and organizations from throughout the Milwaukee area. They used our soil to reinvigorate their own barren places. Plants grow spontaneously in our resting compost. The place is alive again.

Lost and Forgotten

Dorothy McGhee
46th Street Garden
Bronzeville, Chicago



Bronzeville was a historic area where people and business thrived. Fallen on hard times, much of the area lost its historic elegance and sense of community. As the working class reclaims the neighborhood, we're striving to revive the community from the disarray and despair. The community garden donates the yields to neighbors, as well encourages the community to recycle and compost. It offers children the opportunity to be a part of something larger than their situation. The community garden is an effort of love and collaboration. The garden is an anchor for the community and encourages engagement, neighborhood pride and belonging.

Metcalfe Park Community Action Team Drive-In Movie Night

Erin Dorbin
Metcalfe Park Community
Metcalfe Park, Milwaukee



[Watch Metcalfe Park video \(YouTube\)](#)

The Metcalfe Park Drive-in Movie Night was the second in a series of three events to address the overwhelming number of vacant, underutilized, abandoned or boarded-up properties in the community of Metcalfe Park. The goal of the series is to reactivate these spaces to spark new instances of community engagement in an area where most residents have been living in an environment-imposed isolation. The movie night on July 26th offered games for the family, an abundance of community resources, raffles, hula hoop competition, free food, visit from the Wisconsin Black Cowboys Association and, at dusk, an outdoor movie. The event served over 300 residents and successfully altered perceptions of this "dead" community space, while improving the feeling of safety on the block.

Milwaukee artist Ben Janik created a three-panel galaxy scene to secure the three broken out windows on the adjacent abandoned home. The artwork completely transformed the backdrop for the evening and provided new potential for the lost space to be reintegrated into community life. The artwork will become a permanent installation at the location.

A Community Vision board was affixed to the front porch of the abandoned home where residents and attendees were invited to share their hopes for their community in brightly colored paint pens. Some residents drew their vision, while others used words to communicate. This permanent board will be used to share their perspectives on community life with local decision makers and community partners.

Model 3 Aquaponics

Pat Wilborn
Knellsville, Town of Port
Washington



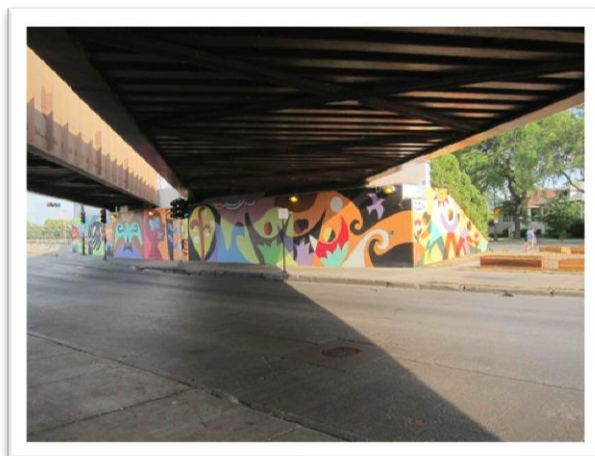
The building is a wood timber structure that was built in 1955 as a 7-bay agricultural storage space. It measures 28 x 94 feet. PortFish, Ltd. was looking for a new space to build its proposed Model 3 aquaponics system; a conventional building that could receive a modified 35 x 48 foot greenhouse kit, modified to 17.5 x 96 feet.

The discovery of the building occurred in March 2011, at which time the structure had out-lived its utility for storage - the roof was a sponge and there were a minimum of six holes in excess of three feet diameter. The first order of business was to lease the building, then completely replace the roof, which occurred in August 2011. From then until June 2012, portions of the interior were renovated for the purpose of being used as an aquaponics system; HVAC with a new well and 200-volt electric service. Three of the seven bays will be used directly in the nutrient generation process, raising about one thousand yellow perch. The remaining bays are to be used for various projects, all related to local food promotion.

In June 2012, the assembly of the modified 35 x 48 foot greenhouse kit began, and 45 days later we had a 17.5 x 96 foot greenhouse attached to the renovated ag-storage building. The objective of this non-profit 501(c)3 venture is to demonstrate local food production and the extension of the Wisconsin growing season. We continue to work toward the organization and implementation of this project.

Mural at Addison and Avondale: Transformation with Paint, Plants and Yarn

Joanie Friedman
Athletic Field Advisory
Council, Mural Team
Avondale, Chicago



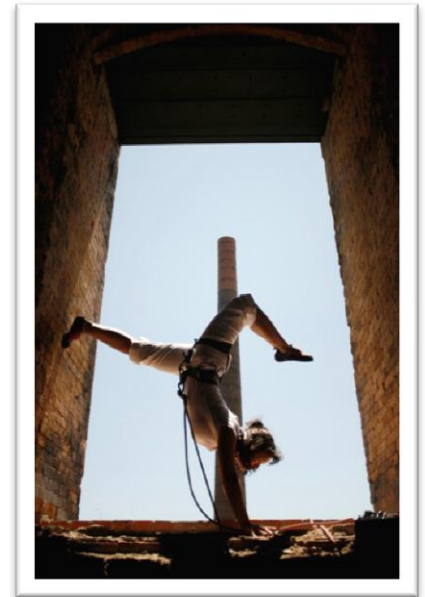
One artist, four neighborhoods, thirty gallons of donated paint, 250 volunteers, and 550 Facebook followers helped transform the dilapidated viaduct at the corner of Addison and Avondale into a powerful work of art and a visual representation of community engagement.

On June 21, 2012, artist Rafael Lopez galvanized the community by donating his design, talent and time to create a 150 foot community mural that became a giant “paint by number” for over 130 enthusiastic artists (ages five and older). Local residents created a community collage “gift” for the artist. The site drew residents from Avondale, Old Irving Park, Greater Independence Park, and The Villa, representing Mexican Americans, Polish Americans and Filipino Americans.

The project, completed under budget, cost \$4000, with in-kind donations of materials and services. The project is replicable, with community input at every stage, including bi-monthly meetings. The mural concluded in a celebration with a marching band that drew over 150 individuals into Athletic Field Park for dancing and dessert. The mural will be extended in both directions with a community garden on one side and a public art yarn-bombing project on the other. The community will work together to knit 45 scarves; attach them to the handrail that extends from the mural over the Addison bridge. Using paint, plants and yarn the community has and will continue to transform a busy intersection into a colorful destination.

On-Sight & Chimney Park

Debra Loewen
Wild Space Dance
Company
Menomonee Valley, Ixonia,
Wisconsin



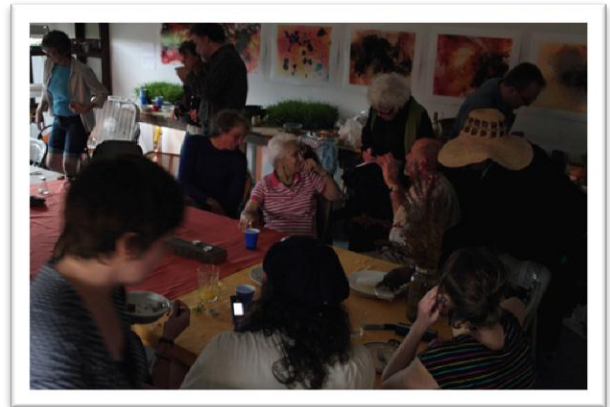
[Watch On-Sight & Chimney Park video \(YouTube\)](#)

In the early 1900s, Milwaukee became the “Machine Shop of the World” with the Menomonee Valley its engine -- producing everything from tractors to railcars to cranes. As manufacturing changed over time, the Valley faded into blighted neighborhoods and abandoned factories. In 2008, Wild Space Dance Company joined the city’s major efforts to redevelop the Valley through its site-specific performance On-Sight. Presented in the newly developed Chimney Park, On-Sight transformed the former railroad yard into an inviting, memorable green space to gather, play and reflect on the Valley’s past and future.

On-Sight attracted over 1,000 people, bringing together residents from both sides of the valley, bike enthusiasts via the Hank Aaron Trail, environmentalists, historians, civic leaders and local arts patrons. Audiences had an opportunity to learn about Milwaukee’s industrial past from historian John Gurda, before walking the trails to view performances in storm water retention ponds, under the 35th Street viaduct, and on and around two old railroad yard chimneys. Open rehearsals and lawn seating for the performances were free to the public. Costs for On-Sight were reasonable and plans include recreating the performance for new areas in the Valley in 2014. On-Sight built awareness of this previously desolate space, helping increase activity in Chimney Park, such as yoga classes under the viaduct and art installations. New additions such as a soccer field, a bridge linking both sides of the valley and an urban ecology center have continued to increase community use.

The Op Shop

Laura Shaeffer
The Op Shop
Hyde Park, Chicago



The Opportunity Shop began in 2009 as a nomadic space for community involvement and artistic exchange. Each Op Shop utilized empty urban spaces on a temporary basis at low or no cost, exploring and building upon ideas of contemporary art, meaningful education, and communal engagement in unique and active ways. The most recent, Op Shop IV, explored through urban agriculture the literal and metaphorical concept of seeding.

Encompassed by grow-lights, windows, racks of wheat grass and seedlings, Op Shop IV engendered community through potlucks, presentations, participatory workshops, constructive play, and open mics. Green windows drew in passersbys from Hyde Park and surrounding neighborhoods, as well as artists and thinkers from all parts of the city in search of honest community. All events were free or by freewill donation, and open to the public. As public involvement grew, more and more began to take charge of the space, to share and teach of their own accord and asked, “how can I do this in my own neighborhood or in my own backyard?”

The intersection of 53rd Street and Ellis has since become a popular African import store. The engendered community has moved, but hasn’t disappeared. OpShop became SHoP the South Side, including raised beds in empty paved lots, a community learning garden, and a neighbor’s backyard - which has become a lush setting for open air salons, a sharing of food and art, inspired by potlucks and open mics at the Op Shop.

See our projects online at : <http://theopshop.org/> and www.southsidehub.org

The Papermaker's Garden

Stephen DeSantis
Columbia College Chicago
South Loop, Chicago



There was a commercial building here. It was torn down to build a new campus building but there is currently no funding. The empty, fenced-in, gravel lot at the heart of a creative college campus was being referred to as “the gallery of urban forlornness”. A Columbia College Chicago graduate student created a plan for a “Papermaker’s Garden” – an urban garden using sustainable, green practices where plants would be grown which could be used to make paper. The student asked me how to make this happen and we set out to build support on campus.

Through the collaborative efforts of the offices of Campus Environment, Academic Affairs, Interdisciplinary Arts and the Book + Paper graduate student organization, we raised funds, in-kind support and volunteers to build the proposed garden. It has become the most visible project to date of our “Wabash Arts Corridor” – a college-wide initiative to use the creativity of our campus community in collaboration with the local community and businesses to fill empty lots and store fronts with art.

People from the South Loop Neighbors, the engineering staff, and students worked together to plant, advise and transform gravel to garden in a place we all pass daily. Although gated for security, the Garden is used for classes, performances and is open to the public any days there are campus-wide public events. Locals stop by to talk with students while they are gardening, birds are arriving and, soon, plants will be harvested and paper will be made!

Peterson Garden Project

Cindy McSherry
Peterson Garden Project
Five Chicago
Neighborhoods, Chicago



[Watch Peterson Garden Project video \(YouTube\)](#)

The Peterson Garden Project (PGP) is a non-profit organization founded by LaManda Joy in 2010. Joy became fascinated with World War II victory gardens, which were planted throughout the country, with 1,500 in Chicago alone. When most food grown on farms was needed for troops overseas and canned food was rationed, these gardens were used as a food source. More than 90 percent of those gardeners had never gardened before.

The mission of the Project is to teach people how to grow their own food by creating “pop-up” gardens on land that is either donated or lent to the group for a period of time. Montrose Green Garden, a plot of land west of the Montrose Brown Line, had been empty for years, when the owner agreed to lend the land to PGP.

Within three weeks, the garden was a reality, with a mix of individuals, families, and neighborhood restaurants tending raised beds. All PGP gardens also include plots reserved for their Grow2Give program, which is managed by volunteers and grows produce for a rotating list of local food pantries or nutrition programs. The PGP currently has seven gardens throughout the city, including one located near an original victory garden at Peterson and Campbell Avenues. The Peterson Garden Project has not only re-connected communities with history, but also local, organic food production, and productive re-use of land for urban gardening. PGP offers classes, events and volunteer opportunities to engage the community in their efforts.

Please, Have A Seat!

Keith D. Speaks
Neighborhoods, Inc.
Southside, East Chicago



“Please, have a seat!” is a common greeting used to welcome family, friends and others when meeting face-to-face for casual conversation. This phrase has taken on new meaning for Neighborhoods Inc. (NI). In 2010, NI staff, literally and figuratively, broke ground, starting in East Chicago, then moving to Highland, Miller Beach, and Hammond, by installing benches in front of empty lots, homes, church properties and public parks. NI placed these benches adjacent to the sidewalk to encourage people to sit and socialize with one another in a non-intrusive place, forming friendships, strengthening community bonds, and enhancing public safety.

According to our research, this is the first time in the United States that such a community development project has ever been tried and successfully implemented. The concept of *Please, Have a Seat!* focuses on stimulating neighbor socialization and reversing the trend of neighbors retreating indoors or to their backyards. According to an ongoing survey, the project has been a success with neighbors; not only do the benches make the neighborhood look pleasant and welcoming, they are also a place to rest while taking a walk or waiting for kids to get out of school. Many neighbors also enjoyed decorating, painting and planting around the benches. To date NI has installed 69 benches, and plans to expand this project to surrounding areas. By simply placing a bench in the middle of a neighborhood NI has given people a place to come together and engage in conversations about their communities.

Pop Up Art

David Weber
Amani, Milwaukee



This space was vacant for at least eight years. We repurposed the lot for a community art gallery. We have had three exhibits thus far. The latest involved moms from neighborhoods throughout the immediate vicinity of the gallery. The improvements helped stimulate the tenants next door to persuade their landlord to do some significant rehab to the property. This gallery is a milestone. It has involved community members and has been the topic of a potential national campaign.

Pop-Up Art Loop

Dillon Goodson
Chicago Loop Alliance
The Loop, Chicago



Pop-Up Art Loop transforms empty storefronts in the Loop into cultural activations open to the public. An initiative of Chicago Loop Alliance, Pop-Up Art Loop creates partnerships between artists and property owners, establishing temporary gallery, exhibition, and interactive space at no cost to the artist - in prime Loop locations.

Since its creation in the depths of the economic downturn in 2009, Pop-Up Art Loop has activated nearly thirty vacant spaces in the Loop, with more than 100 unique exhibitions featuring the work of local and international artists. As the economy improves, street-level vacancies have become scarce in the Loop. Chicago Loop Alliance's creatively repurposed storefronts have contributed to this trend -- making unused space more attractive to prospective lessees, in turn providing for the improvement of the community as a whole.

This summer -- in one of the programs largest endeavors -- Pop-Up Art Loop transformed the lobby of the architecturally-renowned Inland Steel Building into an indoor sculpture garden, complete with live grass, plants, and art. Other activations have taken place in the Sullivan Center, the GSA-owned Century Building, and the former Borders bookstore on State Street.

All galleries and events are free and open to the public. Each month, Pop-Up Art Loop invites more than 1,000 visitors into its storefronts, which would be vacant if not for the program.

Public Space/ Community

Ricardo Phillips
Gage Park, Chicago



The objective of this eight week art camp is to expose, enrich and empower local youth in my area to varied art mediums. This initiative was achieved with the utilization of a donated picnic table. This portable working platform was placed on the very sidewalk that my neighbors and I traverse daily. Over the course of each Sunday, class participants were exposed to artistic practices such as; sketching; drawing; photo collage; wood assemblage; and abstract expressionism.

This drop-in opportunity consisted of two-hour creative sessions. Each meeting time allowed those interested to take part when they felt inspired. In an attempt to utilize public space constructively, a table was set-up on the sidewalk to demonstrate inclusivity to the members of the Gage Park area. This open-air invitation served as a site-specific place to gather and create. There was no registration, class fee or material commitments expected of any interested party. In addition, all material was repurposed from locker and classroom cleanouts at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

One important component to each class session is the snack that is provided towards the end of each activity. At my own expense lemonade, ice-tea, milkshakes and at times fresh fruit was provided to encourage them to share in dialogue with each other and strengthen their friendships.

South Shore Tourism Center

South Shore Chamber, Inc.
South Shore, Chicago



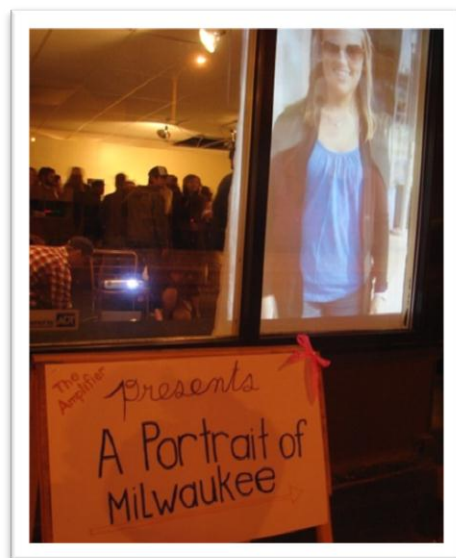
South Shore Tourism Center was developed through a community effort to bring culture and embrace history in a once desolated store front. The South Shore Tourism Center was created by fifteen CPS students. The students renovated this vacant store front of an architecturally historic building, transforming it into a striking tourism center, simulating the structural design of the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) building, located downtown. There is also a wall of “effort” that was signed by all CPS students who assisted design and create the Tourism Center.

The Tourism Center was formed through the establishment of the South Shore Docent Council, created in 2011 through a grant from CAF; enabling ten South Shore residents to become certified docents. A docent is a trained volunteer tour leader, educated in the history and culture of the South Shore community.

The tourism center is a new asset to the South Shore community that serves multiple uses. The docent council hosts tours that begin at the tourism center, and it is also an educational tool that is open to the public. The tourism center highlights the history of South Shore from 1800 to 2010, displays pictures of community leaders, and has a mapped layout of the South Shore community. The wall of effort and the map is highlighted before every tour of the South Shore community because this Tourism Center is definitely the newest asset that will help promote and enhance the positivity that this community has to offer.

The Amplifier

Sarah Luther
Layton Boulevard West
Neighbors
Silver City, Milwaukee



For three months, I turned an abandoned storefront in the Silver City business district into *The Amplifier*; an artist-run, completely free, experimental public space. Its goal was to naturally extract people's talents and interests by providing free space, time, and materials. People from the community would arrive with interests or ideas and I would program around them. The space drew people from the neighborhood every day, but each event was planned around a local individual that drew their specific network to the space, which brought in audiences from different parts of the city.

There were daily activities, but some of our larger events include; painting classes; Free Family Portrait Day; the first exhibition of local painter Alfonso Castenada; an exhibition of a new, local green-design company's home-scale aquaponics systems; and a photography show that projected portraits and audio of people describing "their" Milwaukee.

The space was funded by a matching grant from The Wisconsin Arts Board, and support from Layton Boulevard West Neighbors. Rent was our biggest cost, but was discounted since the space was vacant for so long. *The Amplifier* brought attention to the space and made it viable to rent again. A new tenant moved into the storefront immediately after we left. Operating costs were surprisingly little, and there was tremendous local in-kind donations of supplies and time. Something similar could be easily replicated and neighborhood-run. A booklet was made explaining the project for LBWN to seek investors.

The Garden

Melva Jean Tate
the house of chloe, inc.
North Pullman, Chicago



The House of Chloe, Inc. supports the 107th and Cottage Grove's Community Organic Garden, and extends the mission with the operation of a Client Choice food program. For the past three years, THOC has operated a viable, nutritional, community food pantry every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The services are also available on a daily basis in the event of an emergency. Over the past twelve months, the pantry has served over 4,500 individuals, impacting 1,300 families. The age breakdown and numbers are as follows: 0-5 Years of Age (500), 6-18 years of age (1,300), 19-64 years of age (2,500), and 65+ (377). In addition to providing access to healthy food, we also provide basic nutritional education in a variety of ways to promote a more excellent way of maintaining wellness.

During the 2010 Youth Summer Program, THOC offered a variety of fitness and wellness concepts to over thirty participating youths. During summer 2011, THOC provided a breakfast and lunch program to the youth of the North Pullman community on a daily basis. The organization also delivered food daily to two other youth agencies and provided information and engaging lessons connected to the program. The youth learned the basic components of nutritional meals and the beginning steps to gardening and producing food. As the youth learned how to eat nutritional meals, we aimed to break the culture of poor eating habits.

Urban Activators, Placemaking in Bronzeville

Monica Chadha
Ipro 330
Bronzeville, Chicago



We are a team of students at the Illinois Institute of Technology who came together from different disciplines to partner with community members in Bronzeville; Urban Activators, Placemaking in Bronzeville and IPRO 330. Our goal was to create a small-scale urban intervention to activate an underutilized area at 43rd Street and Calumet Ave. We partnered with a local neighborhood block club, O.U.R. Block Club, and Bernard Loyd, owner of the Forum building, our project site. We worked with the community through meetings, interviews and site visits. Together, we determined the need for a place of positive gathering. We created a portable, lightweight set of urban furniture. We prototyped our ideas, tested them with community members and created a series of table and chairs that could be used for pop-up events. These pieces can be easily assembled, disassembled and stored and include a storage cart that doubles as a trash can.

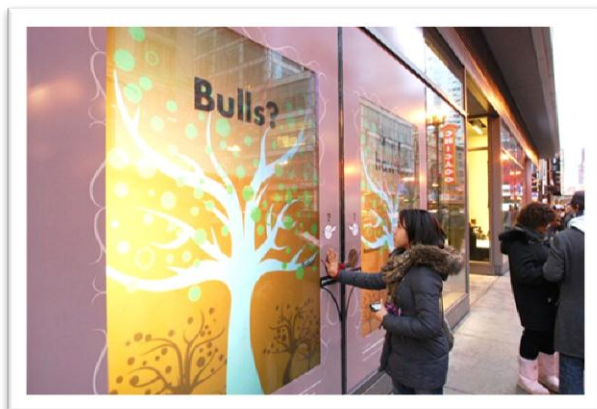
To further activate the site we were inspired by New Orleans artist Candy Chang's "Before I Die" to develop and place a series of immensely successful chalkboards with the tagline "I wish 43rd Street was: _____".

In July 2012, we launched our placemaking initiative at the Forum. Members of the Bronzeville community joined us in painting the furniture, playing checkers and filling up the chalkboard with their dreams. The event was so successful that neighbors plan to use the urban furniture and chalkboard for monthly community events.

Our video can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvWM1C2xZcQ>.

Urban Forest 37

Anijo Mathew
IIT Institute of Design
Chicago Loop District

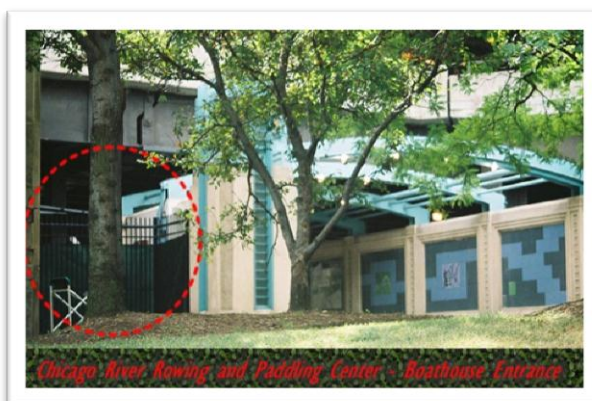


Urban Forest 37 is a project located at the urban mall Block37. The location Block37 has a storied history; it is famous for being perhaps the most prominent vacant lot in the country, having remained vacant for over twenty years. When the sleek steel and glass urban mall, designed by the architecture firm Gensler, was finally constructed in 2007, it saw itself caught in the growing woes of the recession and the overall decline of large urban shopping centers. Urban Forest 37 suggests that everyone is inter-connected through relationships forged by an engagement with the city, sometimes in far greater ways than what is visible. The installation asks passers-by to answer one of two questions – Thin Crust or Deep Dish? Sox or Cubs? O’Hare or Midway?

As you walk down the street you tap on the question you associate with. The tap is visualized as a leaf on a digital tree that grows with every answer. As more people answer the tree grows larger and larger. So if you are passionate about Deep Dish pizza and you see that Thin Crust is winning, you can choose to add to the Deep Dish side. The questions change every 72 hours; past responses were rendered in the background as a “forest” constructed over time representing the collective preferences of a city. Eventually the iconic Magnolia Bakery took over the space; but from October 2010 to February 2011, an Urban Forest of information inhabited two empty shop front windows in Block37.

Urban Treasure Hidden in Plain View

Susan Urbas
Chicago River Rowing &
Paddling Center
New Eastside, Chicago



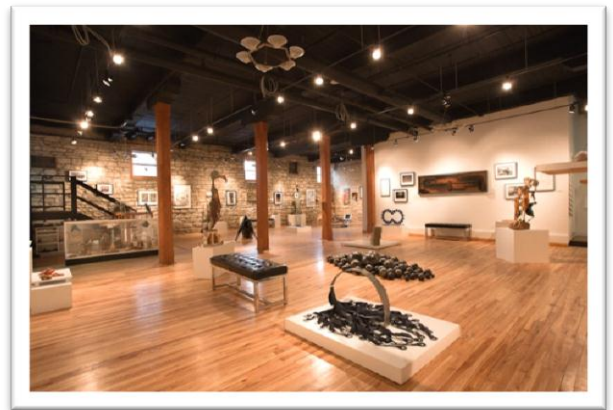
At the east end of the Riverwalk, where the Lanyon Gateway transitions pedestrians eastward to the lakefront, is a visually, historically and culturally significant space which, despite its salient downtown riverfront location on the Main Branch of the Chicago River, is an unsightly, underutilized wasteland.

This space is the origin of both Chicago's earliest history and of human-craft use on the Chicago River. The space was used first by the Native Americans and then by the pioneering of Chicago's first non-native settler, Jean Baptiste Point DuSable (circa 1772). Two hundred years later, in the late 1970's, the spot was used for recreational purposes by the Chicago River Rowing & Paddling Center (CRRPC). CRRPC, located adjacent to the Gateway, in a small primitive facility under Lake Shore Drive, has single-handedly activated this space by using the land to make a vibrant cultural, educational and healthy lifestyle connection to the river and its edge.

The community boating and historical programming activities provided by CRRPC members honor Chicago's history and transform a previously dead, vacant space into a destination inviting human-powered craft boaters from around the world and passersby on the Riverwalk to linger, learn, and commune with a fascinating diversity of people and subject matter, enjoy breath-taking views of the city and the river, and experience a personal connection to the river. The facility and operations are neither low-cost nor easily replicable, yet much of the benefit achieved is open and free to the public.

Water Street Studios

Jim Kirkhoff
Batavia Artists Association
NFP Inc.
Western Suburbs, Batavia



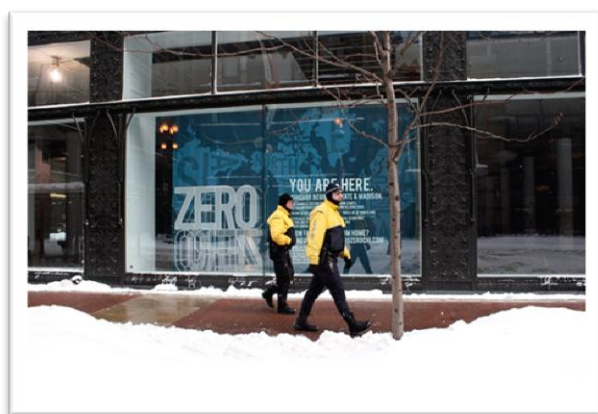
[Watch Water Street Studios video \(YouTube\)](#)

The mission of the Batavia Artists Association at Water Street Studios (WSS) is to advance art education and appreciation of the fine arts in the Fox Valley region through engaging classes, community outreach programs, public art works, gallery shows, and visiting artists. WSS is housed in a renovated historic 16,000 square foot building with 28 artist studios, 3 galleries, and 2 classrooms. We host three juried gallery shows annually, along with monthly musical and dance performances and literary readings. In 2011, over 8,000 visitors attended our events. Our School of Art brings the highest quality art education to beginners and professionals alike. Last year, we offered 75 classes, attracting 463 students of all ages and skill levels. Through the School, we offer our “Community Outreach” program where children from low-income and under-served communities can take subsidized classes.

While WSS is a pivotal artistic center for the community, it is also a venue for economic development for artists and businesses. In 2011, artists earned over \$52,000 in commissioned sales through WSS. Since moving into the facility in 2009, seven different businesses have relocated operations to facilities immediately adjacent to us, all citing our organization as a significant element in their relocation decisions. We enjoy strong support from the community. Small businesses donate their goods and resources. Volunteers and interns help the staff with the day-to-day activities that service the organization. Community members donate money for operational funding.

ZeroZero

Hugh Musick
IIT Institute of Design
Chicago Loop District,
Chicago



The intersection of State and Madison is the center of the addressing scheme for the city of Chicago, and has been so since 1909, when this new system was implemented. Equally important is the fact that one of Louis Sullivan's most recognized designs, the Sullivan Center (or the Carson Pirie Scott building), is located at the Southeast corner of this intersection. With its iconic architecture and urban significance, State and Madison is prime urban real estate. Yet it remained empty for many years.

Our project gave State and Madison a personality by making visible the invisible stories of the countless people who pass along this intersection. The ZeroZero installation had two embodiments; a physical and virtual embodiment. The physical, designed into the corner windows of the Sullivan Center, consisted of a sculpture, an iconic world map, and instructions on the windows. ZeroZero's virtual embodiment consisted of a website where one can contribute by adding an address anywhere in the world and describing why it is important. The visualization then pulled the many different stories of people who have interacted with ZeroZero.

ZeroZero's personality thus becomes a composite of the infinite number of place narratives that pass through the origin intersection of Chicago. Today, Target has located one of their innovative City Target stores in the Sullivan Center. But for a short period of time (from October 2010 to February 2011) ZeroZero had a personality, and it was located in an empty Sullivan Center shop front window.

