

Arts & Culture Work Group Notes – Meeting 8 – June 24, 2015

Update on Vista Wall

Work group members started off by discussing the opportunity of moving the Vista wall in order to avoid getting wear/tear as well as opening up to new responses. The main suggest was to move it over to the pocket park between Our Detroit and Honeybee. So far the Vista Wall received 150 comments with new and creative ideas and the goal is to keep this trend continuing in another location.

June 10th Open House at St. Anthony's for artists/cultural workers ----Feedback

The General consensus of the work group was that the event could have used more people and improved the outreach attempt. People that did attend the event were unsure what the event was actually celebrating so making the message clearer is of importance. The main areas for improvement within the space included sound quality and heat. High points from the event included the Motor City Rockers freestyle and the food. Work group members also discussed ways to improve/utilize the stage area of St. Anthony's by potentially doing a backdrop or a mural. The general idea was to keep it neutral for the time being as the space is large and any art could act as a negative vortex space. 200 people have roughly used the space since the June 10th event, so all feedback from the event is being gauged and will be used to help solve any problems.

June 6th African American Mercado Concert/Beautification Day/Community Lot Work, etc.---Feedback

The group here focused on the promotion of the next concert in the series on July 19th. This concert will be the multicultural concert and are preparing to send out information via email and direct mailing. The group was encouraged to share information on their social media and mailing lists. The entertainment for the concert has yet to be solidified, but details will follow. The event will run at the same time as the June 6th concert from 12pm-5pm.

The two critiques the group had from the June 6th was revolving around vendors wishing to be closer to the stage area and the possibility of ProsperUs using the 555 space again for another event. The vendors for the next concert will have to take into consideration the logistics of the area, but there will be discussions about this with the FREC. The ProsperUs event had mixed feedback, but ultimately they want to have another event which could be good for the community.

July Vista Event

The July Vista event was originally scheduled to happen on the 23rd, but there were some concerns raised. The first one revolves around the heating issue within St.

Anthony's. The group was asked about potentially moving the date back or changing the agenda to be more of an ice cream social. The group agreed that by pushing the date back, the pocket parks might not be shown off. Ideas began to surface about having an outdoor ice cream social and then providing tours of St.

Anthony. The idea was then further developed into potentially becoming an "extended block party" with Bounce Houses, ice cream carts, and non-competitive games. The event would only have a small introduction at the beginning and would promote both Vista and the wayfinding/walkability that groups are working on. The alternate date of July 25th was suggested in order to target more kids/families.

Updates on St. Anthony

St. Anthony's received a Kresge grant of \$100,000 which is being used toward handicap accessibility, chairs, curtains, fans, and many other uses. The space is hoping to put that investment to use by adding in many different uses including recreation and art. Zumba/kettlebell/yoga classes are being discussed about potentially happening in the near future. It was also noted that there might be other people within the community looking for a place to teach classes and we should be reaching out to them.

“Wayfinding with Art” Signage Updates

With groups starting to discuss the ideas of signage, the Arts & Culture group stressed the importance to “art up” the signs. Additionally, they agreed it’s important to lead to cultural places as well, including Murals and other art specific destinations. Since there are two other groups working on the project, the group wants to make sure that local artists are consulted about the project in order to craft the appropriate, community-based brand. This would be important for tying all of the signage together. This might also include using a focus group to discuss it and encourage more community building. Other creative ways included potentially having a contest to name all of the pocket parks.

New Business/opportunities

The last idea of the night was discussing the idea for having a wedding photography expo. This event would happen sometime in October or November on a Wednesday evening. The idea eventually evolved into becoming more of a miniature Bridal expo that would target Weddings and Quinceaneras. It was also noted that there could be an opportunity to coordinate this event with Southwest Economic Solutions.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting scheduled is for Wednesday, July 29th 2015 at St. Anthony’s.

Announcements

The only announcement for the evening was for the Americans with Disabilities act 25th anniversary. There will be an event on Tuesday, July 21st 2015 from 9:30 am – 3:00 p.m. at Eastern market.