



Housing & Community Development Department
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November 2009

DUNBAR/SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD

Meet the artists of Downtown Links

Dated Material

DSNA President: Ian Fritz
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Vice President: Natasha Winnik
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Dunbar Coalition: Lisa Scoblink

Ward One, Councilwoman Regina Romero
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Dunbar/Spring Online:
www.dunbarspring.org
groups.yahoo.com/group/DunbarSpring

Upcoming DSNA Meetings:
General meetings are held the third Monday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Dunbar auditorium (325 W 2nd St).
Next meeting: November 16

Attend the theatre and support the Dunbar Project

As many of you know we have a wonderful renovation taking place in our neighborhood. This is the Dunbar School Project. Please visit www.thedunbarproject.org for comprehensive information. Lisa Scoblink and I are neighborhood representatives, and we have fundraiser tickets to sell to the Arizona Theatre Company's upcoming production of "Ain't Misbehavin'" based on the music and personality of legendary jazz musician Fats Waller, Harlem 1930s. Every song is a hit! For more information, visit www.aztheatreco.org.

The performance date is December 12th, a Saturday night and a perfect holiday celebration. Half of the ticket price will go directly to the Dunbar Project. Also on that night, many board members and Dunbar School alumni will be in attendance, plus there will be a reception in the gallery. This is a great opportunity for you as neighbors of the project to find out more about it and get involved as supporters.

As a board member, I recently attended the architectural/contractor weekly meeting and was very inspired walking through the old classrooms. The museum phase has begun, and it is very exciting. During this economic downturn, every organization is fundraising, so please consider buying a pair of theatre tickets, bringing friends and family, and attending and supporting this wonderful project.

Tickets are \$49 and \$40 each, a bargain for a full musical theatre production. You may contact Lisa Scoblink (792-6377) or me (429-1505) to reserve your seats. For those interested, half the ticket price is tax deductible; we have a letter for this purpose.

Thank you and let's celebrate together,
– Hester van Heemstra

All Dunbar/Spring residents are invited to meet and view a slide presentation by local artists, Joe O'Connell and Richard Posner, selected as two of four artists currently identifying potential sites and developing concepts for the Downtown Links artwork.

Artist Joe O'Connell makes popular sculptures on a human scale. Many of his pieces have become local favorites in the Tucson area. Joe's company, Creative Machines, designs and fabricates interactive exhibits and public art for clients worldwide. His work is beautiful at first glance but yields deeper rewards with sustained engagement. Many of his sculptures are powered by photovoltaic arrays. Most recently, Joe worked in collaboration with Blessing Hancock and a group of young artists to create the Bike Church, located in Barrio Anita. Other sculptures by Joe include:

- Toby – the griffin on Scott Avenue;
- Desert O – on Alameda near the art museum;
- Wondrous – at the Wheeler Taft Abbett library;
- Public Drums – in Ochoa Park.

As a visiting Fulbright professor in experimental glass design at the University of the Arts/Berlin from 2000-2005, artist Richard Posner used medicinal herbs and broken glass to design and build a series of recycled history gardens. His workshops with students also designed a series of "singing bottle wall" prototypes for contentious borders. These acoustic "Bottle Hymn of the Republic" constructions addressed border wounds between East and West Germany, North and South Korea, the West Bank, and Mexico and the U.S. His familiarity with what impacts urban street construction



The Bike Church in Barrio Anita

can have upon a community led to his selection for the Dunbar/Spring deck project. Richard grew up in a South Central Los Angeles neighborhood destroyed by the construction of Interstate 10.

Joe and Richard will give a slide presentation about their public art and complimentary design philosophies at the November 16 DSNA meeting. They will be seeking input about how they incorporate a wide range of elements – from interactive sight, sound, and tactile features to night-time lighting – into the Dunbar/Spring deck design. Joe and Richard invite residents to discuss ways to transform a generic deck into a special and beloved community space. Some questions to realize this goal are:

- As the aboveground deck area will primarily be a static walking and sitting experience, how would you like people using the above deck to feel?
- As the belowground deck space will be a kinetic experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and people in cars, what would you like these people to feel as they pass below the deck?
- What would you like to see done to create a deck area that will have a sense of place?
- What kind of environment would make a re-imagined deck area into an "I will meet you at the [fill in the blank]" kind of space?

If you cannot attend the next DSNA meeting but would like to reach these artists, contact: Joe O'Connell 294-0939, Joconnell@creativemachines.com, www.creativemachines.com. Or Richard Posner 818-4286, Posner.richard@mac.com.

For more information on Downtown Links and the 9th Ave deck area, visit www.downtownlinks.info.

MINUTES FROM DSNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2009



I. Call to Order; Sign-in

Sign-in sheet and minutes from last month sent around (were approved at end of meeting). Treasurer's Report: Same as last month.

II. Announcements

- The seventh annual Desert Harvesters' Mesquite Milling Fiesta and Mesquite Pancake Breakfast is coming up Saturday, November 7, at the community garden from 9 to noon. More information at www.desertharvesters.org.
- The All Souls Procession will take place Sunday, November 8, gathering at 4th Ave and University at 5 p.m.
- Diana Rhoades urges everyone to attend the ongoing neighborhood budget/funding/prop 200 meetings/dialogues, go to www.tucsonaz.gov for dates and times. At this time, 64% of the city's budget goes to public safety; the rest gets split among the other departments and general funding (independent projects). Your input is important, as overall sales taxes are down due to less spending in this economy.
- Turtle passed out free wildflower seed packets (Thank you!).
- Ian reminds us that NeighborFest 2009 is Sunday, October 25, and that the neighborhood tree planting takes place Saturday, October 24. Volunteers welcome.

III. Richard Posner, Downtown Links Artist

- Artist Richard Posner and Mary Ellen Wooten talk about the Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC)/Downtown Links deck art project. Richard would like to know what it is we are looking for at this entrance/meeting place for our neighborhood.
- Some of the responses were: an expansion of the railroad park idea with some public art similar to that at Randolph park near the baseball field in Reid Park (railroad-tie benches); a process that incorporates the neighbors in all stages; one that brings in BICAS; murals; something that brings in our history of being the first township in Tucson; incorporating a sun and solar aspect; water harvesting, native plants, and trees; curb cuts and permaculture; a space for the All Souls Procession to end; and a component that is interactive and makes music/sound as it mitigates the traffic noise.
- Mary Ellen brings up the singing bottle wall that Richard constructed along the former E/W Germany border. Richard would like to meet/contact small groups of neighbors to walk around the neighborhood, talking and discussing their visions. He has been reading the poetry of Paul Lawrence Dunbar and would like to meet with the other absent aspect of our community in order to incorporate that spirit into his art. There is a five-month window to come up with a design. Please contact him at posner.richard@mac.com.
- There was some discussion that the Spring in Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood comes from John Spring (a Swiss-born educator who was the second teacher hired in Tucson, in 1872, and taught in Spanish and English), not because there was a spring located here. We do have an arroyo, though, that may be decreased in size due to Downtown Links.
- At the next DSNA meeting in November, Richard would like to offer a PowerPoint presentation.
- Mary Ellen discusses the three other artists hired by TPAC for these projects, their \$100,000 budgets, that they are in the preliminary design phase, and that a panel of 13 people will approve the final

plans. April 2010 is the soft date for the final designs. Richard would like to work with us, without contention, and use resources from our community, such as materials from Originate. His personal history with having his childhood neighborhood in Watts torn apart by the construction of an Interstate highway, in part, motivates him. Mary Ellen calls this "patriotically diverse" inspired.

- Richard asks what he should bring up at his upcoming meeting with HDR, the engineers, and Poster/Frost. Some answers were: getting as much land back from the railroad park as possible, to make sure they fight for building the narrowest roadway possible, extending as much usable space as feasible, and allowing water flow and plant growth.

IV. Environmental Services Presentation

- Andrew Quigley with the City of Tucson Department of Environmental Services gave a presentation. He introduces us to our neighborhood operators and hands out a recycling information refrigerator magnet.
- He began by informing us that none of their funding comes from taxes (most of it comes from our \$14.50 per month garbage fee, landfill fees, and sales of recyclables). Vince believes that because of his lack of usage/need for these weekly services, this residential collection fee amounts to a tax.
- Andy discusses the "Do More Blue" program to re-energize/encourage more recycling.
- He mentions that they will begin a "reward" program for the "do-gooders" (bus passes, zoo passes, etc.) and leaving notes (not penalties or violations) to the people who are recycling improperly.
- There are 137,000 households serviced producing 307,000 tons of refuse and 47,000 tons of recycling yearly.
- They are available 24/7 via their esd.tucsonaz.gov website with a service request.
- The Brush and Bulky program picks-up twice a year that yields 14,000 tons of refuse annually. Each neighborhood may request eight FREE roll-off boxes a year for neighborhood clean-ups.
- Our closest household hazardous waste/chemical site is at 2440 W Sweetwater Dr on Friday and Saturday mornings.
- The Los Reales landfill has 500 customers per day with 500,000 tons of waste yearly, and no charge for household/chemical waste. A four-million-dollar liner to "protect" the groundwater has been installed. It should be monitored for at least 30 years after its closure. They extract methane gas and sell to a vendor who re-sells it to TEP, replacing it for coal. They also manage environmental landfill sites and closures (29 in Tucson). They have an ongoing bio-remedial monitoring process with private companies.
- In the future, they are considering providing more options: smaller trash containers upon request, and charging less to those customers; the possibility of purchasing/subscribing to additional services at stores; and expanding the recyclable options.
- What about "green waste?" Not profitable at this time.
- Keep containers three feet apart and away from mailboxes for collection. If you don't want your trash receptacles emptied on trash days, keep them "out of sight." They would like to go to 300-pound containers per three households to be collected in the alleys, with private 90-pound personal containers at a \$10.00 per month charge.
- The report on the environmental study done at the railroad park

(9th Ave and railroad tracks) can be found at esd.tucsonaz.gov, click on "About Tucson ESD," then on "Reports and Documents." Look under "Engineering and Technical Support Reports," #5 – "Limited Assessment Report – 515 N 9th Ave." Cleanup to be done by RTA.

V. Miscellaneous Updates

- The Dunbar/Spring Home Tour has been postponed until March or April of next year. The \$300 check from Regina Romero's office for brochures and signage will go into our general funds until needed. Please volunteer your unique home.
- TEP Update: No word about when the next Community Working Group meeting will take place. It is long overdue. We have received a letter of support from the San Ignacio Yaqui Council in our efforts to block the construction of the 138-kV transmission line through any neighborhoods. Their position is that this proposed construction would potentially interrupt their sunrise prayer ceremonies.
- The reinvestment grant update is postponed.
- Salvation Army update: No news.
- Stone Corridor Partners: Ian informs us that the old "One West" project has been reborn, and the Stone Corridor Partners (David Ollanik and the Reilly brothers) project may be going ahead in phases (with the same design plans, but shorter at first, taller sections later). Phase one would consist of the six units at 9th Ave (slated to be 100% affordable housing, consisting of two stories) and the 10,000-ft. commercial portion of the plan. Partial incentive in that building costs are one-third of a couple years ago. There were some environmental contaminants found in the soil that will have to be taken care of (as well as at the Medina property, still for sale). Will DSNA input be part of the future meetings/plans? Not sure; not ready. Does the city support union labor? Yes, many city projects employ unions. Meanwhile, Diana would like to inform us that the new design for El Mirador does not comply with the existing code/agreement as it stands.

VI. Committee Reports

- DNARC: Karen reports that Adam Smith alerted the committee that the current policy of developers interested in doing things in

neighborhoods (must give three separate stage notifications to neighborhoods in order to approve plans) has inherent problems. It leaves no time to respond in a timely matter if there are no neighborhood meetings or for sufficient recourse to protest the proposed plans. There are suggestions to change this from 10 to 30 days, as other neighborhoods have done, to correct this problem. Karen, now a board member of the Downtown Partnership, says this group is "a different ballgame" dealing with much higher budgets. She hopes to bring an alternative reality to this mindset and represent us properly.

- Dunbar Coalition: Lisa informs all that there had not been a meeting subsequent to the last DSNA meeting, but would like to include a reminder that she and Hester have tickets for sale to the upcoming ATC production of "Ain't Misbehavin'." It is based on the music of the legendary jazz musician Fats Waller. To purchase these tickets for the December 12 date, and to support the Dunbar Project (half the price is tax deductible), please call Lisa at 792-6377 or Hester at 429-1505. Thank you! Ian asked Lisa to check into having the lights fixed at the basketball court. Diana Rhoades has offered an extra city-owned bike rack to the Dunbar Coalition. Lisa clarifies the parking lot ownership. Lower level: Holy Family Church; upper level: Dunbar Coalition.
- WAMO: Natasha reports that the bid for the sale of warehouse district properties has been approved. Four properties – including the Steinfeld Warehouse, old tool-shed building, MOCA building, and the Citizens building – have gone out for transfer management by the city. Other properties going up for sale by ADOT from Stone east on Toole Ave; these buildings are Solar Culture, RISE, Z's warehouse, and the recycling center. Bids are coming in. WAMO is trying to bid for one of the properties. They are going for \$90,000 to under \$300,000. The changes approved by proposition 207 allow for the possibility to tear down these structures (after documentation). Some entities are working toward a zoning overlay to restrict/protect these specific buildings.
- Other: Concern over chopping down trees at 4th St and 11th Ave by TEP to replace a pole(s), and whether permits are required to take down trees. Not yet.

THE 2009 BICAS ART AUCTION! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

BICAS is proud to present its 14th Annual Art Auction fundraiser and celebration. Featured art includes sculptures, paintings, assemblages, jewelry, and functional art all made using recycled bicycle parts or with bicycle themes.

The art auction will be held at "The Art Gallery," 122 N Stone Ave (NE corner of Stone and Speedway) on Sunday, December 6, with music, entertainment, and refreshments from 6 to 9 p.m. The auction is silent bidding; final bids will be called at 9 p.m. A sneak preview of the auction items will be held the night before (Saturday, December 5) from 7 to 10 p.m. with live music and refreshments. Both days are free and open to the public; donations are gladly accepted.

BICAS will be accepting submissions of bicycle-themed artwork through December 4. Donations can be dropped off at BICAS any time during open hours. Free community recycled art workshops are held every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. No registration is necessary, and all supplies are provided.

BICAS is located at 44 W 6th St (NE corner of 6th St and 9th Ave). For more information, please call 628-7950 or visit www.bicas.org.

