

THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER



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2018 SEED GRANTS RECIPIENTS: PARK ADVISORY COUNCILS SPOTLIGHT

At our June, 2018 *Parks as Democracy? Conference*, we publically announced and celebrated our 2018 Seed Grant recipients. Groups were secretly notified in April about their status and funds were issued so they could move forward with their work. As some projects continue forward, some others have already been completed! Check out last months PACT newsletter for information on Loyola Park Advisory Council's project and see below for others we visited this past June and July.

Ridge Park Advisory Council
New water bottle filling station

Mozart Park Advisory Council
Arts programming and panel products

South Shore Cultural Center Advisory Council
Community for Unity music and youth programming

Park 540 Community Garden Group
Build four raised beds in new garden

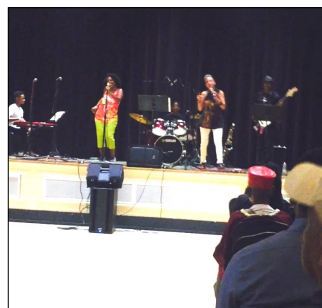
Loyola Park Advisory Council
Artists of the Wall website development

Friends of Eckhart Park
New jerseys for special recreation program

West Chatham Park Advisory Council
Summer of Peace Community Picnic

Midway Plaisance Advisory Council
Bulbs and supplies for stewardship workdays

Gompers Park Advisory Council
Expand archery program



\$500—West Chatham Park Advisory Council, Summer of Peace community picnic.

For the second year, the West Chatham Park Advisory Council received a Seed Grant to support their Annual Summer of Peace Community Picnic. This safe, summer event is free and open to the public. This year, the 2nd annual picnic provided activities, food, and entertainment to neighbors, including face painting, yoga, and dancing too! The June "Day of Play" had the perfect weather for sprinkler and basketball court fun.

\$900—South Shore Cultural Center Advisory Council, Music and youth program.

Chicago is world renowned as an arts powerhouse; it is the birthplace of urban blues, Gospel music, house music and so much more. Many of these artistic legends are still alive and LIVING in Chicago. The South Shore Cultural Center Advisory Council received a 2018 Seed Grant for to partner with one of these legends, Maggie Brown, on music and youth programming at the center. Their first Community 4 Unity concert took place in late July.

\$750—Mozart Park Advisory Council, Mural program.

The Mozart PAC and their Mural Program Committee created a painting and mural program at Mozart Park. The group received a 2018 Seed Grant to engage adults and youth neighbors in the process of planning, designing and painting imagery through mural programming. A July day unveiled panels designed by local artists to beautify the parks' parking lot. Phase two will continue to engage local artists and neighbors in the fall to hopefully one day move towards realizing a large mural.

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PAC RESOURCES: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Above: Friends of the Parks executive director, Juanita Irizarry, presenting testimony during the "People in the Parks" section before Board President Jessie Ruiz and Superintendent Michael Kelly.

The Chicago Park District's Board of Commissioners' monthly meeting allots time for community members to speak on behalf of their parks in the "People in the Parks" section. This 2-minute platform is used by some to tell the Board about what is important to them about their parks, what are current challenges or needs, their positions and thoughts on current projects, or statements on behalf of their community group or PAC. This space can be used as vehicle to advocate for the park your group represents. There are many other ways that you can advocate for your park, even if done in tandem: speak with and build relationships with your alderman, your park's Area and Region managers, your State Representative, local/community based non-profits and groups, and staff at Friends of the Parks. All requests to speak during the Board's People in the Parks section must be made by 4pm the Monday before. The following link lists information on how to sign-up to speak at the monthly Board meetings: <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/get-involved/speaking-board-commissioner-meetings> or call (312) 742-4299.

FOTP ARCHIVES: NETSCH'S CALL FOR PUBLIC INPUT

This month's archive comes from the October 1986 Trust (To Reshape Urban Systems Together), Inc. newsletter. In September of 1986, the then newly appointed Chicago Park District Board President, Walter Netsch, and then Friends of the Parks executive director, Erma Tranter, spoke together at the Trust Inc.'s forum on the future of Chicago's parks. In a moderated discussion, both Netsch and Tranter spoke about a variety of topics.

Netsch, who was appointed by Mayor Harold Washington, announced policy declarations at the September 18, 1986 forum, including a "promise to restore community control over neighborhood parks with a system of three park areas (North, South and West) with a 'host' park in each area to serve as a gathering point for input from Chicago neighborhoods. 'There will be no more 'downtown' advisory boards,' the park district president pledged, 'and all meetings will be open to the public, not just to those who have been 'appointed' by park officials.'" Netsch also spoke in reference to the Park Board of Commissioners, that "'Meetings will always be open,' he promised, 'and anyone can attend just by signing in. Ideas should come to us, as they have come from Friends of the Parks for the past 11 years.'"



Above: Then Chicago Park District Board President, Walter Netsch, and then Friends of the Parks executive director, Erma Tranter on Trust, Inc. panel.

Citation: Netsch, Tranter Call for Public Input About Parks and 'Parkness' in Chicago. (1968, October). *Trust Inc.*, pg. 4-5.

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS...



...we can never say this enough: people receive information in different and in multiple ways. So adopt a holistic approach to outreach for advertising local park and park partner events or calls to action. Though time consuming, utilizing multiple outreach methods will reap great rewards:

- **Make fliers.** Post them physically in public places and ask neighborhood organizations, local businesses and elected officials to share them as well. You can even do a rotation around the park neighborhood and leave fliers on stoops.
- **Utilize your social media.** Post your event or meeting fliers, or even a variety of teaser posts getting your community pumped for the event! Use community pages like "Next Door" or neighborhood association pages on Facebook, in addition to your group's Facebook page.
- **Share info in email blasts.** Send your own weekly or monthly emails in "e-blasts," or ask your Alderman's office to share in theirs.
- **Advertise in local newspapers.** Either place an official advertisement or send a press release to your community paper. Build a relationship with local reporters who are interested in covering the goings-on at your park.
- **Never doubt the power of word-of-mouth.** Ask anyone and everyone you can to help spread the word!