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THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER

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THE UNITY PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL: 30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE!



Unity Park, 2636 N. Kimball, Chicago, IL 60647. Submitted by the Unity Park Advisory Council (UPAC).

What happens when a neighborhood playlot falls into disrepair and becomes an eyesore? If you have a few good neighbors, you get the Unity Park Advisory Council!

We began 30 years ago as the result of a neighborhood campaign for a new playground. A diverse group of neighbors united and advocated for what is now a valued community resource in the Logan Square neighborhood. The community chose the name Unity Park to reflect that coming together and sense of unity. This spirit still guides the work of the Unity Park Advisory Council today.



Top: Pumpkinfest, 2017; Above middle: Campaign rally for basketball court outside of Alderman Colom's office, mid-90s; Right middle: Annual Lucha Libre event, 2017; Right: City Council Resolution honoring UPAC, 2017

A few decades, some campaigns and expansions later, Unity Park Advisory Council has become a consistent source of free, family-friendly programming in the Logan Square community. Long time UPAC events like Earth Day (April) and Pumpkinfest (October) are community staples.

Newer events that have quickly become crowd favorites include Art in the Park



(July) and Lucha Libre (around Labor Day).

All our programming is offered free of charge in order to keep it open and accessible to all in the community. A big reason we're able to **(Continued on page 2)**



(Continued from page 1) do this is our annual fundraiser, Party for the Park. This brings together park users, sponsors, and supporters for a night of food from local Logan Square restaurants, drinks, and an amazing raffle featuring a host of great raffle prizes with something for everyone.

This year's Party for the Park is on Thursday, December 7th at Weegee's Lounge, 3659 W Armitage. Tickets are \$20 donation and include 1 raffle ticket. To purchase tickets and help us continue our free family-friendly programming in 2018, please go to UnityParkChicago.org.

To learn more about UPAC, visit their website or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UnityParkAC.

PARTY FOR THE PARK

A BENEFIT TO SUPPORT UNITY PARK



FOTP ARCHIVES: SEED GRANTS

In 2000, Friends of the Parks initiated the Seed Grant Program to award small grants to park advisory councils, park partnering organizations and open space stewards for direct projects to improve Chicago's parks. Our 2018 Seed Grant application will be released in December and due in February. Here are our Seed Grant recipients from 2003:

- Commercial PAC—Supplies for After School Tutoring
- Gompers PAC—Popcorn Machine
- Independence PAC—Three overhead flood lights
- Margate Park Block Club & Buttercup PAC—Develop gardens
- Pro Arts Studio—"Magic Garden" project at McGuane Park
- Scottsdale PAC—Gymnastics mats
- South Shore PAC—SSCC grand piano restoration and repair
- Tilton PAC—Tilton Park Art Festival

What would you use your Seed Grant funds for?

RESOURCES: WHOLE FOODS

As we near the new fiscal year for businesses, this may be a good time for those who seek sponsorship or donations to consider who you plan to approach this year. Each chain and "big-box" store has their own policies for donating to local community groups. Some of them will allow each individual store their own discretionary funding, others require that you work with the corporate office. Some have rolling funds throughout the year, some have deadlines. Feel free to ask a store manager about the business' donation procedures. In the case of Whole Foods, each location operates with an independent budget and works with partners within the immediate neighborhoods surrounding it. For example, the Lincoln Park store tends to work with Lincoln Park, Old Town, West Town, Bucktown, Wicker Park, and Humboldt Park. They suggest 8 weeks notice for donation requests and limit their donations to each organization to one per year.

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS...



...don't let winter bring down your PAC or community organization— winter offers many opportunities to engage park neighbors and keep the energy going around your park:

- Sledding races or contests — The winner gets a gym membership at the park! (As a possible prize perhaps.) Or if you have a dog park a dogsledding contest too!
- Snowman contest or a snowman day — Let's fill the park with snow-people & have hot chocolate afterwards! If you want to further promote the creativity, make it a snow sculpture contest.
- Make pinecone bird feeders—Hunt for pinecones in your park and return to the craft table to make a bird feeder.
- Winter Movie Night—If you have a white wall and are able to borrow someone's projector and have a laptop that can play a movie, then go for it!
- Family story reading night — Pick a season-relevant children's book and set up crafts tables for a family friendly night.
- Winter Olympics or carnival— snowball bullseyes, snow-hurdle jumping, Bozo bucket-style snowball tosses, and so many other options!
- Outdoor snow painting—Use food coloring as your paint and the snow as your canvas.
- Other ideas: Snow angel day, tree lighting and decorating, caroling, wreath decorating, gingerbread house making competition, hunt for animal tracks, winter walk-a-thon, crockpot recipe contest, clothing drive, candy cane hunt, and so much more!

Many of these ideas can be mixed and matched. What's your great idea on how to get your community involved in your park and outside this winter?