



THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER

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LOYOLA PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL: ARTISTS OF THE WALL FESTIVAL



Loyola Park, 1230 W. Greenleaf Ave. Article submitted by Jocelyn Gerard, Sponsorship Committee, Loyola Park Advisory Council.

In Loyola Park, between Pratt and Morse in the Rogers Park neighborhood, there is a 600-foot wall that looks out on Lake Michigan. The wall serves as a very long bench where neighbors regularly gather to sit and socialize, gaze out at the lake, play music, or simply take a break. This same wall is home to the Artists of the Wall Festival (AOTW), put on by the Loyola Park Advisory Council (LPAC). The AOTW is a community mural project that takes place annually on Father's Day weekend, bringing neighbors of all ages and backgrounds together to paint a 600' seawall at Loyola Park Beach.

It's interesting to know how the festival came to be. In 1993, a few neighbors got together and started talking about how to tackle a problem in Loyola Park. The long sea wall was constantly being covered in gang graffiti. Ingeniously, they came up with the idea to cover the wall with public art. Subsequently,

all neighbors and visitors have respected the wall since the public art effort began, and graffiti has been a non-issue for 25 years.

Every year has a theme for the art. Some popular themes over the years included: Drawing on the Lake, Midsummer Day Dream, Together We Art and Dreaming It Real. This year's theme was Legends of the Wall, in honor of the 25th Anniversary.

Putting on the festival is a major project for LPAC. Planning takes place at monthly meetings and council members take on various aspects of organization in between meetings, from music to logistics to graphic design and registration. AOTW also serves as the main fundraiser for Loyola Park Advisory Council annually. With the support of community members, local businesses and organizations (to learn more visit www.artistsofthewall.com/sponsors.htm), we are able to fund Loyola Park programs and keep the festival going strong.

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(continued from page 1) While the AOTW was created by neighbors coming together, it is amazing to note the connections that have been made because of it. One couple met at the fest and eventually married. We have multi-generational families that paint every year with children and grandchildren. Many people begin painting beside strangers and leave with new friends. There are young children, high-schoolers, school groups, community organizations and local elected officials who participate. A few professional artists and gallery owners do so as well.

The fest always features the Windform Music Stage with diverse performers and Children’s Activities Tent, with various arts and crafts. This year, we had a live performance by Barrel of Monkeys, an arts education group.

A few fun facts about the AOTW: There are 161 spaces on the wall. A standard spot is about 4 feet wide. The wall is 600’ long and about 5000 square feet.

To learn more about LPAC and about the AOTW Festival, visit artistsofthewall.com or email info@artistsofthewall.com.



PARK PROCEDURES: PREPARING FOR THE ANNUAL PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

The time of the annual Chicago Park District’s public budget hearing will be fast approaching once the summer ends. In September, park advisory councils and park users, advocates and neighbors can share their operating and capital improvement budget requests with the Chicago Park District. If your park is lacking an attendant, the roof is leaking or there is a need for arts programming, attend and testify at the city-wide, annual public forum to influence the budget of your park. The date has not yet been advertised, but for the past few years it has taken place in September. Years past this meeting was dedicated to the operating budget, but CPD heard comments on capital improvement needs as well.

Just for clarification, here are the Capital Improvements and Operating Budget definitions: According to the Chicago Park District, capital improvements are expenditures related to the acquisition, expansion, or renovation of some segment of a government’s infrastructure. The Operating Budget is a plan for current revenues, expenditures, and means of financing. Operating Expenses are the cost for personnel, materials and equipment required for a department function. Operating expenses do not include capital expenses.

It is not too early to think about the FY19 budget and park users’ needs. This is the perfect time to think about building a strategy around advocating for budget changes. Multiple park advocates can share their thoughts on the budget needs of their park – advisory councils, other community groups, elected officials, and the everyday community member who does not fit into one of the former categories. In fact, why not have individuals from all of these groups rally together if there is a common budget need? Keep reading below to learn a few tips that can might be helpful to your budget advocacy efforts.

...need something? Build a strategy around individuals, not an organization or institution. This month’s FOTP Tree advice was inspired by one of our 2nd Annual Parks as Democracy? presenters, Douglas Chien from the Friends of the Forest Preserves. If you are seeking to accomplish a goal, how will you get your win? A large part of the answer is people, or what are also called “targets” in organizing circles. Think about those individuals have the power to make decisions and give you a win (primary target). Who is a prominent member of your community who can be an ally and help influence your win (secondary target)? Are any of these individuals your target, and are they primary or secondary targets: the Park District’s park supervisor, area manager, region manager, budget director, superintendent, or board president?



Alderman or aldermen? Community leaders?

Also remember while you are engaging these individuals that they are people too, with their own interests and sets of motivations. How does knowing about their interests and motivations fit in or help your strategy? Also, think about your interactions with these individuals. If they have the power to help you because they are decision makers or they have some sort of influencing power, will they help you if your interactions with them are confrontational and you berate them? The answer is maybe, but the use of this approach is not a decision that is taken lightly, and I recommend thinking about relationship building first.

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS...

