The teen visual art portfolio development program located at 831 W Fayette Street just received gifts of grant money, and in-kind support from the New York State Council on the Arts, Syracuse University Department of Visual and Performing Arts and the Gifford Foundation. Co-Founders and Director/teachers Yvonne Buchanan and Dorene Quinn, both professors at Syracuse University want to thank everyone in the community that has helped to make this program possible, including many generous past donors.

They also want to get the word out about this incredible opportunity for artistically gifted City of Syracuse students.

By Dorene Quinn

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continued on pg 3

Talent Agency receives grants to keep growing and expanding in the NWS

Escrito por Dorene Quinn

El programa para adolescente de desarrollo de carteras de arte visual ubicado en la calle 831 W Fayette acaba de recibir regalos de dinero por una subvención y apoyo de la comunidad. El New York State Council of the Arts, la Universidad de Syracuse Departamento de Artes Visuales y Escénicas y la Fundación Gifford. Co-fundadores y directores Yvonne Buchanan y Dorene Quinn, ambos profesores de la Universidad de Syracuse quieren agradecer a todos los miembros de la comunidad que han ayudado a hacer posible este programa, incluyendo muchos donantes generosos pasados.

También quieren correr la voz acerca de esta increíble oportunidad para adolescentes en la ciudad con dones artístico, especialmente los estudiantes de secundaria de Syracuse.
Carole’s Corner: Meet the Rothwells
By Carole Horan

Down my street there was an abandoned two-family home, managed by an absentee landlord. It sat there empty for quite some time. When the Near Westside Initiative and Home Headquarters started working in the neighborhood this particular house was slated for demolition and we, the neighbors, were happy about that. Abandoned houses always detract from your own value and this particular block was all owner occupied, we were proud of that.

We are even prouder to now have Isaac and Karaline Rothwell, along with their son, Quincy, be our neighbors!! Their house was designed by an architecture class from Syracuse University and dropped onto the property in sections by a crane the summer of 2009. The house was finished and they moved in in November of 2009.

Both Isaac and Karaline came to the Near Westside with some neighborhood experience. Isaac grew up on Park Street and is a Fowler High School graduate. Karaline hails from Binghamton but had worked at Vincent House on Seymour Street as a program coordinator; this was her introduction to the Near Westside. Because of her Vincent House work she said her “passion became this community.” Before they decided to settle here they had discussions about city living versus suburban living and came to the conclusion that the city resident stereotypes were not true, therefore they wanted to become city residents. The Near Westside is “an awesome central space, convenient to every area around here.”

Previous to moving in Isaac had been attending our monthly resident meetings, Community On the Move. He had read about the arts revitalization planned for our neighborhood and wanted to be part of it, actually wanted to start a studio business here. He sees the Near Westside’s potential for arts growth, “it is slowly growing and I’m looking for boom!” Isaac does have a studio in his basement and also works at OnPoint for College. Isaac also serves on the Board of Directors for the Near Westside Initiative.

Karaline works closely with the Westside Residents Coalition (WRC); she said that “WRC has become my community family. The people here on the Near Westside ground me.” It has been amazing to her to watch the change happening in the people and in the neighborhood. Karaline thinks that “the neighborhood is a work in progress.” She works at SUNY ESF. Karaline also serves on the Board of Directors for Huntington Family Centers.

One thing both Isaac and Karaline would like to see happen in the future would be more coordination between the community groups. Me too!

So, when you’re out and about and you see this lovely family, say HI! And when you’re out and about in the spring, be sure to wander down the 500 block of Tully Street – they have a terrific garden and it will be blooming, just like the Near Westside!
Talent Agency
continued...

Syracuse high school students.

Teens from sophomore level through seniors are eligible for the program and need only get a note from an art teacher stating that they would benefit from the program, and that they come from a family with limited resources. There is no specific income level requirement at this time, and classes including high quality art materials are free to accepted applicants. Students learn basic skills, explore multiple mediums, and receive advisement and mentorship for college art and design schools.

Talent Agency is seeking teens with a passion for drawing, painting, sculpture, illustration, Design or any other art related field requiring a portfolio for college application, that are interested in exploring a creative education and career path.

Students must be willing to commit to a minimum of 3 hours of class time per week and work independently outside of class. Participants are taught by experienced college art professors and take place in converted art studios at 831 W Fayette. Classes are challenging and fun, with students becoming a part of a community of teens who love art and come from all over the city. Students who meet the income requirements can be paid to work on portfolios and receive training as artists through the CNY Works Youth Employment program. There is a separate application for that program, and qualifying for CNY Works is not a requirement to participate in Talent Agency.

For more information about the program or to apply, contact Dorene Quinn at 315-749-3741, or send an email inquiry to talentagency.syr@gmail.com. Classes are ongoing, after school Tuesdays 3:30-6:00 and Saturdays 11:00-3:30. Space is limited!

For more information on the Near Westside Initiative visit our website or contact Maarten Jacobs at 315.443.0320 or mjacob01@syr.edu.

Los adolescentes de segundo nivel hasta el ultimo nivel de secundaria son elegibles para el programa y sólo necesitan obtener una nota de un profesor de arte diciendo que iban a beneficiarse del programa, y proviene de una familia con recursos limitados. No hay ningún requisito especifico sobre el nivel de los interesados en este momento, y las clases incluyen materiales de alta calidad y estudiantes de técnica libre son aceptados. Los estudiantes aprenden habilidades básicas, exploran múltiples medios, y reciben asesoramiento y orientación para la universidad de arte y escuelas de diseño.

Talent Agency está buscando jóvenes con una pasión por el dibujo, la pintura, la escultura, la ilustración, diseño o cualquier campo relacionado con el arte que requiera una cartera de inscripción para la universidad, que están interesados en explorar una educación creativa y trayectoria profesional.

Los estudiantes deben estar dispuestos a comprometerse a un mínimo de 3 horas de clase por semana y trabajar de forma independiente fuera de clase. Los participantes son impartidos por experimentados profesores de la universidad de arte y tienen lugar en los estudios de arte convertida en 831 W Fayette. Las clases son estímulatoras y divertidas, los estudiantes forman parte de una comunidad de jóvenes que aman el arte y vienen en todas partes de la ciudad. Los estudiantes que cumplan los requisitos de ingresos pueden ser pagados a trabajar en las carteras y recibir formación como artistas a través de la CNY Works programa de empleo juvenil. Hay una solicitud por separado para ese programa, que serán objeto de Obras CNY no es un requisito para participar en Talent Agency.

Para obtener más información sobre el programa o para solicitar, póngase en contacto con Dorene Quinn en 315-749-3741 o enviar un email solicitando información a talentagency.syr@gmail.com. Las clases están en curso, después de la escuela los martes y sábados 3:30-6:00 y 11:00-3:30. El cupo es limitado!
Open Enrollment: Westside Day Care Center Now Accepting New Applicants

By Michael Short

For over 20 years, day care services have been offered at Onondaga Commons in the Near Westside of Syracuse. The Lean on Me Day Care Center at 422 West Onondaga Street is pleased to announce a number of openings and is now enrolling early Pre-K for children ages 2-4.

The facility is licensed to care for 44 children and employs 9 full time professionals. The center typically has a waiting list of parents due to the extreme shortage of quality daycare facilities in downtown Syracuse and the Near Westside neighborhood. The shortage has only been exacerbated by the closing last year of the Plymouth Dare Care Center, located on East Onondaga St., due to insufficient operating margins.

Current openings are limited and will be offered on a first come, first serve, basis. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the center as soon as possible.

For more information, please feel free to call (315) 421-6380

Program Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

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Inscripción abierta: Day Care Center Westside ahora aceptando nuevos solicitantes

Por Michael Short

Por más de 20 años, los servicios de guardería se han ofrecido en Onondaga Commons en el Near Westside de Syracuse. El centro de atención “Lean on Me” al 422 Oeste de la calle Onondaga se complace en anunciar una serie de aberturas y ahora se puede inscribir temprano para Pre-K, para niños de 2-4.

La instalación cuenta con licencia para cuidar a 44 niños y cuenta con 9 profesionales a tiempo completo. El centro normalmente tiene una lista de espera de los padres debido a la extrema escasez de guarderías de calidad en el centro de Syracuse y el barrio del Near Westside. La escasez ha visto agravada por el cierre del año pasado de Plymouth Day Care Center, ubicado en el este de la calle Onondaga, debido a la insuficiencia de los márgenes operativos.

Ofertas actuales son limitadas y se ofrecerá en una base de primer llegado, primer servido. Los interesados pueden ponerse en contacto el centro lo antes posible.

Para obtener más información, por favor siéntase libre de llamar a (315) 421-6380

Horario del Programa: Lunes-Viernes, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Job Opportunity at Huntington Family Center

Part Time Maintenance Worker (Approximately 16 hours)

Work will include, but is not limited to the following: Shoveling, salting, moving furniture, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, landscaping, and basic repairs. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Apply in person at the agency or send resume with cover letter to George J. Moore, Director of Human Resources, 405 Gifford Street, Syracuse NY 13204.

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Oportunidad de trabajo en Huntington Family Center

Trabajador de mantenimiento a tiempo parcial (aproximadamente 16 horas)

Los trabajos incluyen, pero no se limita a lo siguiente: palear, salar, mover muebles, reparaciones de plomería, reparaciones eléctricas, carpintería, jardinería y otras funciones básicas. Debe ser capaz de levantar 50 libras. Aplique en persona en la agencia o enviar currículum vitae con carta de presentación a George J. Moore, Director de Recursos Humanos, 405 Gifford Street, Syracuse NY 13204.
Teams Chosen to Advance in Movement on Main Competition
By Kelly Rodoski

The Near Westside Initiative, UPSTATE: A Center for Design, Research and Real Estate in the Syracuse University School of Architecture, and the Syracuse University Office of Community Engagement and Economic Development have announced the results of stage one of the Movement on Main: Designing the Healthy Main Street competition.

In late December, competition advisors reviewed many competitive proposals by talented interdisciplinary teams comprised of professionals from Europe, Asia and North America. The three teams chosen to join the two preselected teams for stage two of the competition are: Coen + Partners, Inc., of Minneapolis, Minn.; Stoss Landscape Urbanism of Boston, Mass., with Howeler + Yoon Architecture, LLP, Nitsch Engineering, Inc., and Angie Cradock, Sc. D.; and King and King Architects of Syracuse, N.Y., with Urban Movement Design and the Alchemical Nursery.

The two preselected teams are Marpillero Pollak Architects of New York, N.Y., and peg office of landscape + architecture of Philadelphia, Pa., with Sp(a)de Architecture and Barton & Loguidice, P.C. Engineering.

Movement on Main seeks to elaborate on the street’s role as an agent of social and recreational life. This unique and innovative street redesign, planned for Wyoming Street on Syracuse’s Near West Side, will create a new public gathering place that encourages the community to engage in the neighborhood’s emergent creative life through a variety of movement and new technologies.

Each of the selected teams will be given a stipend and have eight weeks to develop designs for a buildable active urban street. The winner will be decided by a distinguished jury representing the design disciplines, health services, sports and human dynamics, economic development, planning, construction and the neighborhood.

This competition is enabled by generous funding by The Educational Foundation of America. For submission requirements, schedule, information on the selection process, and a full list of sponsors, visit the competition website at movementonmain.com.
An Open Letter to the Residents of the Near Westside Community

I hope this letter finds you all in the best health possible. I would like to share my thoughts with all of you who may be reading this...

We as a Community have to start taking ourselves, as a whole, more seriously in order to make our living situation better for our families. It is awesome that we have people, not from this Community, willing to come in and help us get ours on a more positive track, but, it is unfair to us and them that we don’t stand up more for ourselves. We are the ones that live here, that alone should move us to want to get more involved with the amazing changes being made. No longer do we have an excuse to sit in our homes and complain about the government and the Community leaders not helping us. We have to come out of these dark-minded places and bring simply what we have to the table. It is a waste of time to sit around a burned out camp fire talking about what someone else is not doing, when in fact, we are not helping to make our own Community a better place.

I gave the world my sad story of growing up in Flint Michigan under the worst conditions a child and young adult could possibly go through. But once that story was told, it was now on me to do something to better myself. Having had seven children by the time I was 21 years old was hard enough, but to sit around and complain about what someone was not doing for me was even worse on my behalf! So with the encouragement of my Producer of the “Mother Earth” film (Jerry Works Jr. of J. Works entertainment) and also my now adult children, I took what was positive in me and gave it freely to my Community.

It was not easy stepping out the way I did, but it also was not hard. When you choose to volunteer, you are in the best position to bring nothing but what you are able to do, to the table. I made that first step, which happened to be on “EARTH DAY” 2008, with the Huntington Family Center. It was simple for me to get involved. I did not have to know how to speak correct English; I just needed to know how to get down and dirty, while helping to clean up my neighborhood. This led me to get involved in other things that were happening. After a while I found myself volunteering for things I once was afraid of! It’s a beautiful thing to be able to overcome a dark place while at the same time making room to help others.

I am not saying that everyone has to do what I did, but it would be a blessing to us all, if more of us residents could get involved. A lot of things that would benefit the community could happen from the comfort of your own home. Things such as making phone calls to set up venues or to order food for an event that is underway, keeping up with dates of events and voicing your own opinion on varies topics, or share ideas that you may come across. It doesn’t matter if it is through email, text messaging, or physically being available. What matters is we all share in our own Community with the strong help from those on the outside! As I mention earlier in this letter, I hope those of you who are reading this are in great health, and I am asking that you think hard about what I am saying to you all, cause without you there is no me nor US!

Sincerely,

Taywana “Mother Earth” James

Resident and Community Leader of the Westside

Want to be a volunteer, call me at, 315-214-2457

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Una carta abierta a los residentes de la Comunidad del Westside

Espero que esta carta los encuentre a todos en la mejor salud posible. Me gustaría compartir mis pensamientos con ustedes que puedan estar leyendo esto ...

Nosotros como comunidad tenemos que empezar a tomar nosotros mismos, como un todo, más en serio con el fin de hacer que nuestra situación de vida mejor para nuestras familias. Es increíble que tenemos las personas, no de la Comunidad, dispuestos a entrar y ayudarnos a obtener un camino más positivo, pero, no es justo para nosotros y ellos que no nos sostenemos más por nosotros mismos. Nosotros somos los que viven aquí, que sólo nos debe mover a querer involucrarnos más con los asombrosos cambios realizados. Ya no tenemos excusas para sentarnos en nuestros hogares y quejarnos de que el gobierno y los líderes comunitarios no nos ayudan. Tenemos que salir de estos lugares de oscuridad de mente y traer simplemente lo que tenemos sobre la mesa. Es una pérdida de tiempo para sentarnos alrededor de un fuego en campo quemado hablando de lo que alguien no está haciendo, cuando en realidad, no estamos ayudando que nuestra propia Comunidad sea un lugar mejor.

Le di al mundo mi historia triste de haber crecido en Flint, Michigan en las peores condiciones en cuales un niño y un adulto joven podrían haber pasado por. Pero una vez que la historia se dijo, era hora para hacer algo para mejorar mi persona. Después de haber tenido siete hijos antes de que yo tenía 21 años de edad, fue bastante difícil, pero para sentarse y quejarse de lo que alguien no estaba haciendo para mí fue aún peor en mi nombre! Así que con el ánimo de mi productor de la película “Madre Tierra” (Jerry Jr. Obras, Obras de J., entretenimiento) y también que mis hijos ahora son adultos, tomé lo que era positivo en mí y se lo dió libremente a mi Comunidad.

No fue fácil salir de la manera que lo hizo, pero tampoco era difícil. Cuando usted elige ser voluntario, usted está en la mejor posición para llevar nada más que lo que eres capaces de hacer, a la mesa. Hice el primer paso, que pasó a ser el “Día de la Tierra” de 2008, con el Centro Familiar de Huntington. Fue fácil para mí para participar. Yo no tenía que saber hablar Inglés correcto, yo sólo tenía que saber cómo recolectar basura, mientras que ayudaba a limpiar el barrio. Esto me llevó a involucrarme en otras cosas que estaban pasando. Después de un rato yo mismo era voluntariado por las cosas que una vez tenía miedo! Es una cosa hermosa ser capaz de superar un lugar oscuro y, al mismo tiempo, haciendo espacio para ayudar a otros.

No estoy diciendo que todo el mundo tiene que hacer lo que hice, pero sería una bendición para todos nosotros, si los residentes más podrían involucrarse. Un montón de cosas que beneficien a la comunidad podría suceder desde la comodidad de su propia casa. Las cosas tales como hacer llamadas telefónicas para establecer sedes o pedir comida para un evento que está en marcha, mantenerse al día con las fechas de los eventos y expresar su propia opinión sobre los temas varía, o compartir ideas. No importa si es a través de mensajes de texto, por correo electrónico o estar físicamente disponible. Lo que importa es que todos compartimos en nuestra propia comunidad con la ayuda fuerte de los de afuera! Como he mencionado anteriormente en esta carta, espero que aquellos de ustedes que están leyendo esto están en buena salud, y les pido que pensar muy bien lo que estoy diciendo a todos nosotros, porque sin tí no hay yo ni EE.UU.!

Sinceramente,

Taywana “Madre Tierra” James

Residente y Jefa de la Comunidad del Westside ...

¿Quieres ser voluntario, llámame al, 315-214-2457
Near West Side Artist Live/Work Building
to be Done by May; Search for Artists-in-Residence

By Melinda Johnson originally published on January 17, 2013

Syracuse -- The renovation of a one-time Otisco Street restaurant into an artist live/work and gallery space on the Near West Side is expected to be completed by mid-May. In February, the search for two artists-in-residence will begin.

The project is funded with a $400,000 grant from ArtPlace, a national consortium of public and private foundations. It received the grant last June. Syracuse was one of 47 grantees for the “creative placemaking” initiatives. Of four organizations in the state receiving Artplace funding, Syracuse was the only one outside New York City.

The nonprofit Near Westside Initiative applied for the grant and is overseeing the transformation of the building at 115 Otisco St. It is one of several projects NWSI is spearheading to redevelop the neighborhood. NWSI was founded with seed money from Syracuse University.

The estimate for a new roof and renovation of the exterior and interior originally was $325,000, but the construction cost is now $365,000, said Maarten Jacobs, director of NWSI. The nonprofit also is applying for funding from the county’s Save the Rain program to turn an asphalt patch next to the building into a green space.

Two artists-in-residence — one local and one national — will be chosen to share a two-bedroom apartment and artist’s studio. Each artist will receive a $15,000 stipend and free housing. NWSI officials and a local arts committee will select the artists in late April, and both artists will move in by May, said Jacobs.

The building’s remaining two-bedroom apartment and two studios will be leased, but rental fees have not been finalized, he said. And a 600-foot square gallery will be opened on the ground floor. The building will be known as SALTQuarters, a reference to the city’s salt-industry past. It was once home to Sherman’s Restaurant and is adjacent to the Lincoln Supply Building, home of La Casita Cultural Center and Say Yes to Education’s upstairs offices.

The project’s ArtPlace funding comes from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, James Irvine Foundation, Knight Foundation, Kresge Foundation, McKnight Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, Robina Foundation and an anonymous donor.

For more information on the Near Westside Initiative visit our website or contact Maarten Jacobs at 315.443.0320 or mjacob01@syr.edu.
Where Is That? Competition
Find the Four Locations and Win a T-Shirt

The Near Westside is full of beautiful little surprises. If we drive by, or even walk by too fast, we often miss them. Fortunately, through dozens of beautiful photographs, the NWSI has been able to capture some of the beauty all around the community. Below are 4 images, all taken in the Near Westside. Do you know where you can find all four? If you do, mail your answers to:

Near Westside Initiative
350 W. Fayette Street
Syracuse NY 13244

With your answers, include your name, address, phone number, and t-shirt size. The first 10 people to get it right will receive a free t-shirt!

Calendar of Events:
February 2013

February ............................. Black History Month
February 2nd......................... Grandhog Day
February 3rd.......................... Superbowl
February 4th.......................... No School for SCSD
February 18th........................ President’s Day
February 19th - 22nd............... Midwinter Recess - No School for SCSD
February 28th......................... NWS Community on the Move Meeting (6:30pm to 8pm at 223 Marcellus Street – dinner included)

Facebook:
Check out the NWSI on Facebook to learn about more neighborhood highlights, announcements & events.
www.Facebook.com/NearWestsideInitiative

More News:
Visit www.saltdistrict.com on your phone.