Hi Neighbors!

*Ryan Cox, CPN President*

Although it is bitterly cold outside as I write this in late February, we know that March brings with it longer days and a glimpse of new growth as the crocuses and daffodils usher in Spring. Keep an eye on the sunny side of the street for these early risers.

Each of our three neighborhood parks, typically the preferred locales to enjoy the seasonal color, are in various stages of construction. Sonny Lawson Park is expected to open in March or April as crews complete the new permanent restroom facility. They will also be completing the new Pollinator Garden at the edge of the park. Just in time to get it planted and to host the first installation of First Friday Jazz at neighboring Cousins Plaza.

The Stout Street Children’s Park remodel is just getting underway as Parks & Rec has fenced the tree lawn. It’s a wonderful layout that moves the entrance to the corner of Stout & 25th. A very special design element is planned to welcome patrons and we will soon share information on an opportunity to help bring it to life.

Speaking of Stout St, we are hopeful that it will be a calmer, two-way neighborhood street in the future. Denver’s Department of Transportation & Infrastructure is currently performing a design study for the conversion. More information to follow.

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**Bicycle Tour - Then, Now, and Into the Future!**

*Gerald Horner*

Join John Hayden and Gerald Horner on Sunday, March 20 from 3-5 PM for a bicycle tour of Curtis Park, Downtown Denver, and RiNo.

The tour will look at new developments planned for the City, important historic sites, examination of bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and other amenities designed to make Denver a more livable city.

The tour will start in front of the Meso-Curtis Park pool at Champa and 32nd Street and the tour route will be entirely on bicycle-friendly streets.

Please bring a helmet and your bicycle. Capacity is limited to 15. RSVP via email to geraldhorner@gmail.com
Curtain Rises On the New Savoy Denver
Mark Dillen

Another unique cultural institution will be unveiled in Curtis Park/Five Points on March 4 with the reopening of the Savoy Denver at 2700 Arapahoe St.

In recent years, the historic building, dating from 1889, reemerged as a multi-faceted cultural center and home to the Platte Forum, a non-profit organization for youth that sits alongside a ground floor gallery and retail space.

But it is the remarkable second floor, with its artful recreation of an early twentieth-century vaudeville-style theater, that will take center stage on March 4 with its own opening night. Theatre Artibus, an innovative acting ensemble, will perform an original, voiceless drama, “INbox,” styled as an “apocalyptic silent comedy” with a climate change theme.

Tickets for “INbox,” which will run through March 27, are available at https://www.theartibus.com/inbox.

The meticulous reimagining of the Savoy Denver is very much a family affair. Michael and Molly Frank acquired the building three years ago and have been working ever since on its multi-purpose, community-centered mission.

The Franks’ daughter Meghan and son Scott were also deeply involved in the project. Meghan and her husband, Buba Basishvili, are the creators of Theatre Artibus and authors of “INbox.”

“As a family,” says Michael, “we are devoted to equity and inclusion in the use and leasing of the entire facility. We look forward to bringing many exciting and meaningful experiences, events, and memories to our wonderful community.”

Symbolic of this effort is an outdoor mural just finished by local artist Tony Ortega depicting the diverse cultures of our community and their role in the history of this building — from its earliest days as a meeting place of the Danish Women’s Society to later periods when it hosted various enterprises, including a Jewish grocery and the Rodelle Vanilla Company.

“We asked Tony to create a scene that would encompass the rich, diverse history of the Curtis Park Neighborhood, including the building,” says Michael. “Meghan and Buba interviewed many people in the Curtis Park/Five Points Neighborhood to gather the rich stories of the past to use in a recent play called “Recipe,” that was performed just before we went under renovation.”

See INbox at the Savoy Denver https://www.theartibus.com/inbox

When: March 4-27
General Admission: $25
Industry/Student/Senior: $19
Great Neighbor: $48 (free drink + a pay-it-forward free ticket for a community member unable to afford a ticket)

Covid Safety: All patrons must present proof of vaccination to enter; Masks must be worn during the performance, regardless of vaccination status.
Want to “green” your community? Start with your yard.

Tom Lucas

In previous editions of this newsletter, we have highlighted the many benefits which stem from increasing the density of the tree canopy in Curtis Park. Here’s a quick refresher.

A denser tree canopy mitigates the urban heat island effect, reducing ambient temperature by as much as 15 degrees on hot summer days. It improves air quality by removing sulphur dioxide; nitrogen oxides; carbon monoxide; and it protects the quality of local water resources by reducing the runoff of harmful chemicals collecting on roads and sidewalks.

On a human level, a denser tree canopy contributes to long-term improvement of people’s overall health and well-being. A denser canopy is associated with improved physical health; lower incidence of heart diseases and faster recovery from illness. It contributes to increased psychological relaxation and stress reduction, leading to a significant decrease in the incidence of depression, anxiety and other negative mental health conditions. The canopy makes walking on a hot summer day enjoyable.

But how dense is dense enough for a good tree canopy? Recent research suggests the canopy should cover 30% of a neighborhood. The most recent data from Denver Parks & Recreation for Five Points has us at 18%, which is the target for Denver as a whole. But we can do better, no? At least we should try!

How do we go about it? Plant more trees is the obvious answer, but there’s more to it than that. Denver Parks & Recreation/Forestry estimates that private property accounts for 80% of the area available for tree planting. A recent walking survey of our neighborhood by the CP Tree Committee confirms this. So, planting a tree in your yard may be the best place to start. The next set of questions is what kind of tree to plant. Is it a native tree? Will it thrive in a dry climate? Will it provide a broad, leafy canopy? How much watering will it need?

Stay tuned. In our next installment of the April CP Times, we will begin providing information about specific trees.

New Middle School in Curtis Park

Jenni Lucero

The Montessori Academy of Colorado is adding a middle school to its program offering for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year! MAC Middle is a micro-school that offers a student-centered, purpose-driven learning approach, with educators guiding students through purposeful exploration of interdisciplinary and inquiry-based learning that connects them to the greater community. Each lesson is an opportunity to find meaningful self-purpose and awareness.

“We believe we have a unique middle school program for our students that will help them build character, sharpen academic skills and build a fearless forward mindset,” said Alicia Fajohn, Middle School Program Director. “Our focus on learning as thinking, feeling, and doing is a holistic approach that helps students lean into what they will need to become purposeful adults.”

MAC serves students from 8 weeks through 8th grade at its campus located on 25th and Curtis.

If you think MAC Middle could be a good fit for your learner or know someone who might be interested, please contact admissions at admissions@tmaoc.com. To learn more about MAC Middle, click here.

Looking for Help with Our Website and Other Communication Channels

Our communications team could use a couple of volunteers to help us with monthly website updates, email communications, and all things marketing.

Our website is hosted by WordPress and our emails are handled through Google Groups.

If you have experience working with HTML, images, or WordPress and are interested in volunteering, reach out at https://curtispark.org/contact/.

Please Support CPN

Please consider a donation to support the Curtis Park Neighbors and this newsletter. You can make your tax deductible contribution online by visiting curtisparkneighbors.square.site
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Season Tickets

A cultural institution since 1970, the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Season Ticket subscription offers performances from June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023:

- 2022 Mile High Dance Festival VIP Seating: Friday, July 15; Saturday, July 16. Outdoors at the CPRD Amphitheater
- 2022 Fall Concert: Sacred Spaces, Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the DCPA, Friday, September 16 through Sunday, September 18 (matinee).
- 31st Anniversary of Granny Dances To A Holiday Drum at the CPRD Theatre
- 2023 Spring Concert, May: Details TBD

Neighborhood Internet Resources

CurtisPark.org
Provides a wealth of information: History of CP, info in Curtis Park Neighbors, info for ALL homeowners in the historic district, home alterations, ADUs, home styles, tax credits, and a very comprehensive resource list of special products, services, links, and so much more!

Curtis Park Neighbors on Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/curtispark/

Curtis Park Neighbors “Announce” Group
Just the basics! We encourage everyone to join this e-mail group. Receive the Curtis Park Times & special announcements. To join, send an email to: Curtis-Park-Neighbors-Announce+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Curtis Park Neighbors “Notices” Group
Super-detailed! Receive all of the notices sent to Curtis Park Neighbors, including Denver emails, zoning notices, liquor license applications, etc. To join, send an email to: CurtisParkNeighbors+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Curtis Park Design Review Committee
Receive updates on new development and building modifications under review by the Denver Landmark Commission. To join, send an email to: cpn-drc-announcements+subscribe@googlegroups.com. Questions about projects, email Keith Pryor: KPryor13@gmail.com.

DHA / Curtis Park Community Advisory Committee
Provide feedback and guide the Denver Housing Authority’s plans for their property holdings in the Curtis Park area. Write to: CPN-DHA-CAC+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Curtis Park Safety and Security Group
Collaborate on finding solutions to current and long-term safety and security topics in the neighborhood. Write to: cpn-security+subscribe@googlegroups.com

- VIP event access
- Special rehearsal and student performance invitations

From April 4 to 30, 2022, CPRD offers sales for a limited number of Season Tickets...watch for updates and details to purchase!

More details can be found at: https://cleoparkerdance.org

Curtis Park Neighbors is an officially incorporated non-profit neighborhood organization bringing our neighborhood together to share in preserving the past and future of Curtis Park. We welcome all neighbors in Curtis Park and encourage participation in Curtis Park Neighbors and in the life of the community. Please pass along this newsletter and bring a neighbor to the meetings!

The spirit of the Curtis Park Times is to communicate information about topics and concerns of our neighborhood. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Curtis Park Neighbors. To provide newsletter articles or place advertising, contact us at cpn-newsletter@googlegroups.com or (720)273–0623. The next newsletter deadlines are December 20th for ads, and December 22nd for articles.

Special Thanks To
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CPN Board of Directors
Ryan Cox (President), Beth Bianchi (V-President), Guy Yandel (Treasurer), Rhianon Schuman (Secretary), Julie Rubsam, Ellen Benjamin, Chris Frankland, Ben Mendenhall, Randy Vetter, Paul Atkinson, John Martin, Garet Brownlee Plantz, Mark Dillen, and Stephen Bennett.

Contact the CPN President by writing to: ryan.cox@curtispark.org or call 303-517-6185. Write the CPN Board at cpn-board@curtispark.org.