

2016 November/December Newsletter

The Southeast Working-Class Task Force unveils plans to preserve the history and culture of the Fountain Square area

The Southeast Working-Class Task Force (SEW-CTF) was established in early 2015 by the Southeast Congress and is an outcome of the Southeast Poverty Study Circle. The task force is dedicated to the following goals regarding our southeast neighborhoods: a) preserving its working-class history and culture, b) increasing the representation of low-income families in community affairs, and c) easing and eradicating poverty.

To help preserve our area's working-class history and culture, SEW-CTF continues to look for partners to collaborate on getting a mural on the history of labor painted in the Fountain Square (FS).

As we all know, the south east side has become a Mecca for murals, especially in the FS area. Whether they fit your artistic tastes or not, the space/walls have attracted Indy's best artists of the genre'. This is also the case for the space/walls west of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles at Madison and Terrace. Again, no other side of town has as many murals as our south east.

Having this creative precedent and the fact that the FS reflects a long history of the working-class in Indy, SEW-CTF is proposing a mural on the history of labor. If anyone has any ideas or advice regarding this project, please inform us.

Along with the mural initiative, SEW-CTF is working with the Fountain Square Historical Society to gather support and ideas to preserve the history of Hosbrook St., the 2-blocks running from Cedar to Woodlawn to the east of and parallel to the 900 and 1000 blocks of Virginia Ave.

I moved to 1117 Woodlawn in 1952 and as long as I can remember, the residents of Hosbrook were mainly African American. I went to IPS No. 8 (Virginia & Lexington) in '54 and '55, and to Harry E. Wood HS from '56-'61 with my Black peers from Hosbrook.

Today, this is not the case. Since 2010, due to many factors, many of these original residents have left Hosbrook and so has this important history of our city.

Tentatively called the Hosbrook Residents Legacy Project, this effort recognizes this history and wants it preserved and recognized.

If anyone knows anyone who has lived on Hosbrook, or the extended family or friends of those who lived on Hosbrook, please let them and the SEW-CTF know.

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