

2016 October/November Newsletter

The Southeast Working-Class Task Force accomplishes the ALL-IN Block Party: A Celebration of Family, Neighborhood, and History event

Thursday October 20 was a chilly and damp evening, but this didn't stop over 70 persons of all ages from attending the ALL-IN Block Party: A Celebration of Family, Neighborhood, and History held at James Garfield Elementary IPS No. 31. The purpose of the event was to celebrate the families, neighborhoods, and family history of the students at the school.

Around 25 families registered. Everyone was offered cider and pumpkin or banana nut bread. Over 30 children participated in the activities; most had freshly popped corn. Many community people showed up to see what was going on or to volunteer.

The event was planned by The Southeast Working-Class Task Force (Angie Calvert, Tori Calvert, Robert Carey, Thom Wade and Chair John Harris Loflin). The group partnered with the Southeast Neighborhood Congress, Spirit and Place, Southeast Community Services, James Garfield IPS 31 (Parent Involvement Educator Nicole Markle), Fountain Square Library, Time Bank Indy, and Indiana Humanities.

Those attending had to complete 8 of the 11 challenges to be entered into a door prize give-away under such themes as Discover, Dream, Remember, Reflect, Connect, Explore, and Participate. A lot of these themes were reflected in the chance for families to have a picture taken or to have old family pictures or keepsakes scanned and taken home in a Scan-A-Thon event. Families had a chance to show on a map of the US where they were from or show on a timeline when they arrived in Indy. DeAmon, "the Roving Listener" talked with participants.

To see more on the challenges see the chart of activities at <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/ACTIVITIES-during-10.20.16-All-In-Block-Party-@-IPS-31.pdf>

Southeast Working-Class Task Force co-sponsors one of the Signature Events of the 2016 Spirit & Place: From the Ground Up: A People-Centered Approach to Community Development.

Produced along with the Kheprw Institute, KI NuMedia, Scarabys Consulting, LLC, and Spirit & Place, the event was based on the question: "How then do we work to help communities in a way that puts people first?"

Around 30 people ages 14-75 attended this hands-on workshop which explored ways to develop a people-centered approach to community development. Community development is supposed to be a process grounded in the collective action and perspectives of community members. The trouble is, community development work often leaves people—the residents and other stakeholders who make a place "home"—out. Rather, institutional perspectives and goals are put first.

The event took place Nov. 6 at the Kheprw Institute.

The Southeast Working-Class Task Force was established in early 2015 by the Southeast Congress and is an outcome of the 2011 Southeast Poverty Study Circle. The task force is dedicated to the following goals regarding our southeast neighborhoods: preserving its working-class history and culture, increasing the representation of low-income families in community affairs, and easing and eradicating poverty.

Watch the task force endorsed document on poverty in our southeast *Who owns poverty?* www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrQjaXBLClI produced by the Southeast Poverty Study Circle.

The Southeast Working-Class Task Force meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month on the 2nd floor at the Southeast Multi-service Center⁴ at 901 Shelby St. Contact johnharrisloflin@yahoo.com for information.