

Gateway Sculpture Unveiled November 22

If you've driven along Virginia Avenue in the past couple of weeks, you've noticed the newest addition to the Greater Fountain Square area: "Wishful Thinking," the new gateway sculpture designed by Fountain Square resident Dick Lutin, which was officially unveiled and lit for the first time in a ceremony on Tuesday, November 22.



"Wishful Thinking" is an abstraction of a fountain and displays images relating to the history and culture of Fountain Square. Cycling neon provides night interest and represents moving water. The sculpture is constructed of pigmented concrete, aluminum, Plexiglas, perforated vinyl, and neon.

You might also notice white discolorations—technically known as efflorescence—on the outside of the sculpture. Efflorescence is a common occurrence with cast concrete, especially on a piece of this size. Specifically, rainwater wets the surface of the concrete, and through dissolution of soluble salts and capillary action, the water-borne impurities are drawn to the surface, where they collect and crystallize. This will continue to happen for several years.

The Fountain Square Cultural District Gateway Project is a collaboration among SEND and Fountain Square Main Street; the Indianapolis Cultural Districts Initiative and the Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission; the Fountain Square Merchants Association; and Southeast Umbrella Organization (SUMO) Weed & Seed. The project was funded through a grant from the Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission.

Also in the works is Fountain Square Gateway Park, designed by Green 3 and Ninebark. The park around the sculpture includes simple concrete curbs, sidewalks, and monolithic address markers representing the footprints of commercial buildings that stood on the site before construction of Interstate 65. A bed of riprap (large rocks) represents the location of Bismark (later Wyoming) street, which was obliterated by the Interstate. The hardscape (concrete elements) has been completed, and fundraising continues in order to finish decorative plantings, including tree lilacs and ornamental grasses.

The park project was partially funded by the grant from the Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission, with additional funding from SEND, the Fountain Square Merchants Association, and SUMO Weed & Seed.

Oversight for the gateway projects was provided by the SEND Public Space Committee, chaired by Board Member Keith Holdsworth.

Hats Off To Cindy Cox

Putting out a newspaper six times a year is quite an undertaking. (Heck...putting out *SEND Stories* is quite an undertaking.) So it's remarkable that Cindy Cox has been serving as volunteer editor of *Southeast Square News* for four years.

Yet, all good things have to come to an end. So it's with our great thanks that we announce Cindy is stepping down from her role.

Cindy was involved with *Southeast Square News* since the paper's inception in 2001. The first issue came out in 2002, when it was published as a quarterly. Today, it's published six times a year in a 12-page format.

We know this has truly been a labor of love for Cindy, and we owe her our thanks for making *Southeast Square News* a great success. Please join us in wishing Cindy all the best in whatever she chooses to do in the future!

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SEND STORIES

News from Southeast Neighborhood Development

4TH QUARTER 2005

Charter Center Now Houses Two Schools

One important mission of Southeast Neighborhood Development (SEND) is improving opportunities for greater educational attainment on Indianapolis's near southeast side. Five years ago, it was noted that about 50 percent of children in neighborhood schools fail to complete high school.

In response to this issue, SEND developed the Charter Center, which today houses two independent charter schools. The first neighborhood charter school, Southeast Neighborhood School of Excellence (SENSE), opened in 2004 and this year serves students in grades K-4. The 21st Century Charter School, serving high school students, opened this fall.

SEND purchased and renovated the building that houses both schools. The total cost of acquisition and renovation was \$5 million. Old National Bank provided \$3.9 million in tax-exempt bond financing for the project; Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) provided a \$1 million loan.

The creation of the Charter Center has paved the way for the opening of two new schools in the Fountain Square neighborhood, thus helping SEND to achieve its goal of improving educational attainment for area students.

"This is a big step toward helping students and families in our area grow and improve their quality of life," said Mark Stewart, president of SEND. "We're thrilled to have two new schools in the neighborhood, and we're grateful for the support we've received from Old National."

And the Charter Center keeps getting better. This past October, representatives of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful's Partners in the Environment (PIE) program, the Indianapolis Colts, and SEND worked to turn a once-barren concrete lot into a lush, green playground space. It's just one more way the Charter Center is making Greater Fountain Square a great place to live, work, study, and play!

Cultural Districts Kick Off Commercial Real Estate Initiative

You probably know that Fountain Square was named an Indianapolis Cultural District as part of a local initiative to identify and promote some of Indianapolis's most distinctive neighborhoods. For about a year now, Fountain Square has been part of the Cultural District promotions on radio and television, in newspapers, and in other materials designed to attract visitors to the area.

But what about attracting businesses? After all, Fountain Square has some great commercial spaces for sale or lease.

The Cultural District designation is helping here, too. The Indianapolis Cultural Districts have just launched a commercial real estate initiative, with new materials designed to educate real estate professionals and prospective business owners about all the advantages of doing business in Fountain Square.

The materials include demographic information about the area and statistics about how many people pass through on a daily basis. They list some of the area's prominent businesses and attractions and tell people how to get more information about bringing a new business to Fountain Square.

According to Paul Baumgarten, Fountain Square Main Street manager, a variety of outstanding properties are available for sale or lease along Virginia Avenue, Prospect Street, and other prime Fountain Square locations.

"We're really trying to grow our business base," Baumgarten said. "A healthy business climate will make Fountain Square better for residents and visitors alike."

Know anyone who might be interested in locating a new business here? Contact Linton Calvert at 317-686-6010 or visit www.DiscoverFountainSquare.com for more information.

A New Face At SEND



Katie Kasper isn't just a new face: she's the first face many visitors to SEND see every day. As SEND's office manager, Katie is responsible for a whole lot of things, including technology planning and administration, internal event planning, processing invoices and payables, supporting staff, handling mailings, scheduling and administering meetings, and lots more.

"In other words, I do whatever it takes to make SEND a better place. I'm a pinch hitter of sorts," Katie said.

Before joining SEND, Katie was an associate with Maribeth Smith & Associates, a conference and event planning company. Major events the company coordinated included NCAA First & Second Round Men's Basketball Championships and Indy Jazz Fest.

Katie is also founder, president, and artistic director of Motus Dance Theatre, Inc., a modern dance company. She produces full-length performances, manages the company of 14 dancers, and creates original choreography.

Katie graduated with honors from Indiana University with degrees in English and Musical Theatre. For her work with Motus, Katie has received the 2005 Governor's Award for Tomorrow's Leaders and the WRTV-6 Leadership Award.

Welcome, Katie! You've been welcoming our visitors for several months now, and we thought it was about time we returned the favor.



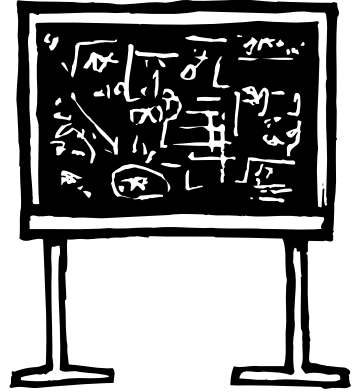
Events draw

BIG crowds

TO SEND AREA

Three big events—the *Fab For Less Design Home Tour*, *Masterpiece In A Day*, and *Day Of The Dead*—highlighted another successful season in Greater Fountain Square. *Fab For Less* featured two homes at the corner of State and English decorated by different teams and attracted more than 1,000 visitors over three days (August 26-28). *Masterpiece In A Day* (September 17) attracted hundreds of artists, writers, and musicians with great cash prizes and the chance to show off their talents. *Day Of The Dead* (October 30) was another memorable celebration of the area's growing Hispanic culture. Pictures don't lie: a good time was had by all!

Eco-Friendly Housing That's Affordable



Building eco-friendly housing isn't difficult. It's relatively easy to install high-efficiency heating and air conditioning equipment and good insulation.

Building houses using sustainable materials isn't difficult, either. For example, bamboo is an excellent flooring material that's friendly to the environment. It grows much quicker than the woods most commonly used for floors.

It's also not too difficult to build affordable housing. That's something SEND works on every day.

But combining these three ideas—eco-friendly, sustainable, and affordable—is all but revolutionary. That's because energy-efficient and sustainable materials are usually more expensive than other options.

Now SEND is attempting this triple play with a new home at 946 Elm Street. This new home is being built in cooperation with Ecology House, a non-profit architectural firm dedicated to the proliferation of eco-friendly, sustainable architecture.

Construction is slated to begin by the end of 2005, with completion expected in the spring of 2006. Watch *SEND Stories* and senddc.org for more details about this exciting project!

Foundation Club Recognition Event Announced

Only a select few committed people have contributed \$250 or more to SEND for four years—and only a few businesses have contributed \$1,000 or more in any given year. For these contributors, SEND has a special place of honor: The Foundation Club. And to make sure SEND Foundation Club members know they're appreciated, we're hosting a recognition event.

The event will take place Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at the Fountain Square Theatre. Linton and Fern Calvert, owners of the theatre and Foundation Club members, are underwriting the event, which will include food and drink, a presentation by Mark Stewart on SEND progress and accomplishments—and a little duckpin bowling afterwards!

The Foundation Club was formed in 2003, and this will be the second recognition event. If you're a member of this prestigious group, we'll see you there. And if you'd like to become a member, we'd love to welcome you!

