

Corridor Spotlight: Muneer Bahauddeen

Vision an Urban Sanctuary – In the Industrial Corridor

There are many words to describe Muneer Bahauddeen. He is ceramicist, educator, father, activist, and friend of the Corridor community.

Born in Chicago and raised in Bay City, Michigan, Muneer had the desire to create early in his life. A graduate of the Chicago School of Art & Design, Muneer & his wife settled in Milwaukee in 1990 and taught art at the University School until 1999. Afterward, Muneer became a full-time artist supported with residencies & commissions. His ceramic relief work appears at the YMCA on N.12th & W. North Avenue, on parts of the Marquette Interchange, and Froedtert Hospital.

According to Muneer, “Milwaukee is a city vibrant with many possibilities, but many citizens have been working to explore solutions to its challenges as well.” In Muneer’s vision he sees art as a tool to reclaim identities, neighborhoods, and community history. In the past, “Citizens met in village squares and churches to reignite community spirit and unity,” Muneer states.

What would that meeting place look like in Milwaukee today?

Muneer feels, in part, utilizing old manufacturing buildings that once “fed the community through occupation” now could be used as “urban sanctuaries” or guilds for arts and crafts. These institutions exist in Pittsburgh, New York City, and St. Louis. Programs offered in an arts & crafts guild historically have addressed issues from job training to public safety through art and other creative opportunities.

This is not just a vision for Muneer, but a reality. Muneer’s studio is located at 3328 W. Lisbon. Muneer and other artists are working in their way to reclaim the industrial community one art installation at a time.

For a guided tour of Muneer Bahauddeen’s studio please contact him at 414.241.6661.

Community Spotlight: SPCA

Sherman Park – Our Neighborhoods Matter

Three things set the Sherman Park community apart from other Milwaukee neighborhoods. First, there is the diversity of the neighborhoods in the Sherman Park community. Second, there is an abundance of housing with great craftsmanship. Lastly, the spirit of activism is alive and well.

“I think the great activist spirit of the residents and the great housing is what keeps me in it,” says Fred Curzan with a smile, veteran community organizer and Executive Director of Sherman Park Community Association (SPCA). According to Curzan, “Our efforts to establish and maintain block clubs demonstrate how SPCA continues to focus on building neighborhoods...block clubs are definitely a standard of community development.”

It can be said that when Sherman Park residents, with all of their capacity and talents, organize around an issue, change is soon to follow. Anyone that has ever attended a Sherman Park community meeting can attest to that.

Located at 3526 W. Fond du Lac Ave., the Sherman Park Community Association helped conceptualize the 30th Street Industrial Corridor in 1989 as a means to help stabilize Sherman Park’s neighboring business community.

Today as the working relationship between the two organizations continues to grow, Sherman Park Community Association and The Corridor are partnering to do public safety & block watch outreach in the 3200 – 3400 blocks of W. Auer and W. Hadley. To learn how to support this and other Sherman Park Community Association efforts call 414.444.9803.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Made in Milwaukee Tour: Saturday, September 11, 2010
Registration materials will be available at www.thecorridor-mke.org in August.

Business Mixer Welcoming Talgo to the Corridor: Date TBD.
More information will be available in August.

Corridor Annual Breakfast, Thursday, October 21, 2010, 7am-9am. Registration details will be available in early September.

Federal And State Projects In 30th Street Corridor – Progress Report

EPA's Milwaukee Environmental Justice Showcase Community Project by Marilou Martin, EPA

In 2009 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson announced ten communities that will serve as models for environmental justice (EJ), which is defined as the fair and equal treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in environmental issues that affect their community and their health. Millions of minority, low-income and tribal/indigenous populations live in communities that are overburdened by environmental hazards. Exposure to these hazards can cause childhood and lifelong diseases, such as asthma, lead poisoning and cancer. In addition, these communities have historically been under-represented in the conversations and decisions that impact them. Because of this, advancing environmental justice and protecting children's health are driving forces in the EPA's decisions and actions.

EPA Region 5 selected Milwaukee with a focus on the 30th Street Industrial Corridor (Corridor) as its Showcase demonstration project. Building on its history of Brownfields work in Milwaukee, EPA, the City of Milwaukee (City) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) are expanding their partnership and their commitment to address environmental and economic needs in this area to include giving a voice to vulnerable groups that haven't always been heard. The current initiatives of remediation and redevelopment of former facilities and vacant properties provide an opportunity for EPA to bring to bear new its resources, expertise, and tools. Through this partnership, EPA and Corridor community groups can work towards a common goal of improving the health, economic and quality of life of neighborhoods.

At a meeting in March at the Harley Davidson University, EPA met with ten neighborhood organizations to introduce the Showcase project and to listen and learn about their concerns and priorities. The input and comments that were gathered are being considered as EPA, WDNR, and the City plan their next steps. While identifying additional actions, EPA will be engaging The Corridor and other community groups to partner with them with the goal of making the Corridor a better place for people to live, for business to invest and bring jobs, and for opportunities to grow.

Wisconsin DNR & Partners Continue To Make Progress On Corridor Brownfields

 by Andrew Savagian, WDNR

At the state level, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues to support Milwaukee's effort to assess, clean up and redevelop contaminated properties – also known as “brownfields” – in the 30th Street Corridor.

Most brownfields are eyesores for a neighborhood like 30th Street. Abandoned, blighted and often tax delinquent, many brownfields are also a threat to public health and safety as well as the environment. Through collaboration with the City, the 30th Street community and other local, state and federal partners, the DNR hopes to expedite the return of these properties as economic and environmental assets and, over the long run, help improve the quality of life in the Corridor.

Staff with the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program lead the agency's efforts in the Corridor by providing:

- 1) funding to assess and cleanup 30th Street brownfields;
- 2) technical oversight to ensure cleanups are completed to state standards; and
- 3) outreach assistance in the community.

As part of this effort, the DNR, City and The Corridor teamed up in 2005 and again in 2007 to net \$800,000 in federal assessment funds for the Corridor. Since that time, the partners have worked together to assess more than 50 brownfield properties with those funds. To see the progress on these sites, please visit the RR Program's 30th Street web page at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/rbrownfields/corridor.htm>.

Once the assessment work is complete on these and other sites in the Corridor, the partners will move on to the cleanup stage of brownfields revitalization. The DNR has also provided funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help with the clean up of leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs) and other brownfields contamination, and will continue to work with the City, The Corridor and EPA to secure additional cleanup funds.

For questions about federal and state efforts in the 30th Street Corridor, please contact Marilou Martin, U.S. EPA, at 312.353.9660, and Andrew Savagian, Wisconsin DNR, at 608.261.6422.

Litter Abatement in the 30th Street Corridor

The Corridor and Business Improvement District (BID) #37 have increased efforts to abate litter in the 30th Street Corridor with this summer. The Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC), a nonprofit providing employment, education and life skills training to young adults in Milwaukee, participated in a pilot program in the central area of the Corridor. During the month of June, crews conducted weekly clean ups between Burleigh Street and Center Street. The Corridor and BID #37 saw dramatic reductions in litter in that area by the end of the month.

The Corridor and BID #37 are also working with Felmers Chaney Correctional Facility to conduct volunteer clean ups in the Corridor. Residents from the facility have been conducting regular clean ups on major streets in the 30th Street Corridor.

We encourage businesses and others in the area to work with us to reduce litter and debris by removing any litter on their property. If you have any questions or would like to get involved in a volunteer clean up, please contact Maurice Williams at 414.444.4706 or maurice@thecorridor-mke.org.



Before (left) and after (right) photos from a litter clean up along Burleigh Street.

The Corridor Workforce Training Grant Applications Due August 25th

The Corridor is pleased to announce that the next round of applications for The Corridor Workforce Training Matching Grant Program are due no later than **5pm on Wednesday, August 25th, 2010.**

Grants are available to Corridor businesses seeking to train incumbent workers or new hires. The maximum award amount is \$50,000 and every application requires a dollar for dollar match on the amount requested. The application and eligibility requirements are available at www.thecorridor-mke.org or by calling 414.444.4706. These funds are made possible through a grant from the City of Milwaukee.

In addition, The Corridor would like to acknowledge grant recipients from the first application round for the program. Universal Housing Systems, The Pennebaker Enterprises and Day Care Services for Children, Inc. were awarded grants. Congratulations to these companies for investing in their workforce and the Corridor community!

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Mission Statement:

The 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corporation (The Corridor) is driving the economic revitalization of the area by promoting the mutual interests of companies in ways that attract and retain businesses.

The 30th Street Industrial Corridor extends from Hampton Avenue to Highland Boulevard between 27th and 35th Streets in Milwaukee.

The Corridor Membership Form

Any company, organization, or individual may become a member of the 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corporation (The Corridor) if they have an interest in and support our mission of improving the economic vitality of the Corridor.

2010 Annual Dues

Business Size/ Type	Annual Dues
Employers of up to 25 employees.....	\$150.00
Employers of 26-100 employees.....	\$200.00
Employers of 101-500 employees.....	\$600.00
Employers of 500+ employees.....	\$1500.00
Individual Members.....	\$75.00
Nonprofit Organizations	\$30.00
Government Agencies.....	\$250.00

Name: _____

Company/ Title: _____

Address/ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Please return to: The Corridor, PO Box 16498, Milwaukee WI 53216