



Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre



MAKING A NEW WAY- TOGETHER

Saturday, August 8, 2009
Washington Park

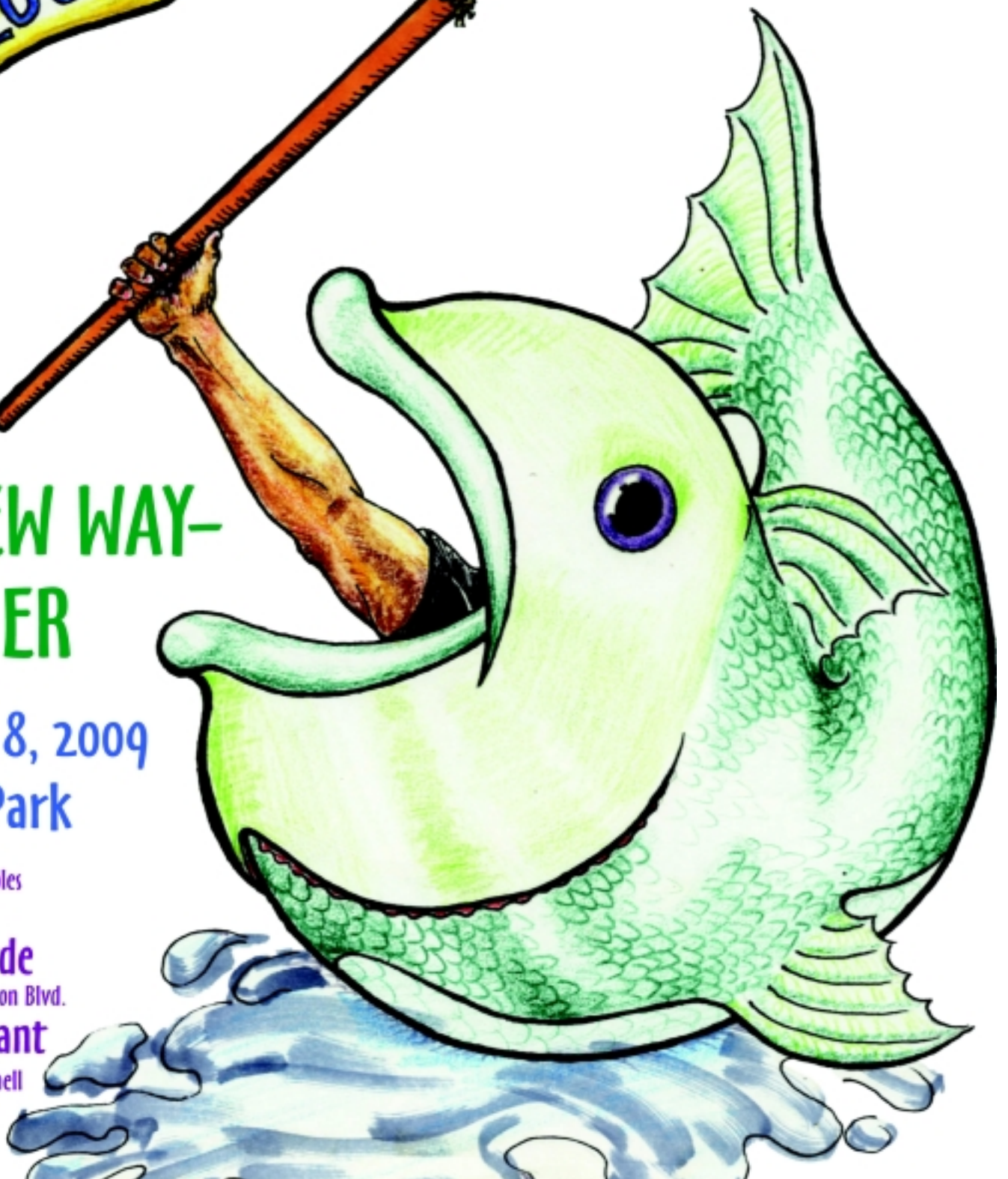
10:00 am Parade assembles
at Wick Field-join us!

11:00 am Parade
from 51st & Vliet to Washington Blvd.

12:30 pm Pageant

Washington Park Bandshell

in collaboration with
LANDFARE Festival



ALL-CITY PEOPLE'S PARADE AND PAGEANT

MAKING A NEW WAY-TOGETHER

Co-Artistic/Producing Directors:

Barbara Leigh, Milwaukee Public Theatre

Max Samson, Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre

The seeds of this event were sown in the 1960's and early '70's, when the *Bread and Puppet Theatre* of Vermont began their dramatic giant puppet parades and pageants and their "Resurrection Circus", which inspired the work of the *Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre* and the *Milwaukee Public Theatre*, then known as *Friends Mime Theatre*.

Thirty-five years ago another company, *In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre* (HOBT) of Minneapolis, also inspired by Bread and Puppet, initiated a May Day Festival—a grass-roots puppet, mask and float theme parade made by artists and community members. Today, it has grown into a beloved institution attracting over 50,000 people.

The process of developing a theme for Milwaukee's All-City Parade began in April and was modeled on the method used by HOBT. Groups of Milwaukeeans gathered throughout the city to express our woes and joys, our fears and hopes. We learned through this process that indeed people are hurting and concerned, but they see a transformation occurring. A person who had lost his job spoke of people coming together to help; youth described the community uniting in the face of violence; others had started organic gardens as their response to an unhealthy food chain and global environment.

A group of community members and artists then continued to meet and discuss how these ideas could be synthesized and represented in images. In May, thanks to an NEA grant, Milwaukee Public Theatre was able to bring Sandy Spieler, the Artistic Director of HOBT, to Milwaukee to help us develop our own unique version of this parade. She gave nine dynamic and colorful presentations describing the process to interested organizations throughout the city, culminating in a hands-on workshop in giant puppet-making. Her visit helped to crystallize the ideas that have resulted in the parade storyboard you see in this program.

What is "All-City"?

The parade tells an allegorical tale of our collective nightmares and dreams. In the recent past we have seen the bankruptcy—literally—of the idea that untrammelled individual greed will lead to the public's benefit. Add to that a sprinkling of ignorance and shortsightedness and we find our economy sinking, our neighborhoods violent, our city divided, our environment poisoned, and the very food we eat unhealthy.

Have we temporarily lost our way to a place of unity where there is truly opportunity enough for all, justice for all, equality for all, and prosperity and resources enough for all? A place we call "All-City?"

We Milwaukeeans believe we can find that way now and into the future by working together.

We believe that by working together we can spark the transformation from unhealthy to healthy, unnatural to natural, from stuck to unstuck. We can renew the balance of forces that are sinking the ship of the economy, tearing apart our neighborhoods, polluting our natural legacy and heritage.

We hope that this Parade is one step toward finding a new way together, toward taking the road favoring everyone's interests—the road to All-City—a lasting place of unity and prosperity. And thus the parade culminates in a joyous musical dance celebration of our dreams!

Milwaukee Public Theatre

Milwaukee Public Theatre has been acclaimed by audiences throughout the country for its artistry, creativity, diversity and accessibility. Since its inception in 1974 as Friends Mime Theatre, MPT has been one of the very few professional theatres in the state committed to free-to-the-public programming that makes the arts accessible to all our citizens. Each year the company reaches over 100,000 people of all ages, cultures and abilities/disabilities with socially and culturally relevant theatreworks, large-scale community events and parades, commissioned works for businesses and corporations, and educational workshops and arts residencies in all art forms.

Shows for youth and families:

NEW! *Camp We-Kan-Tak-It!* The Wisconsin Civilian Conservation Corps is brought to life through original songs and stories based on CCC camp newspapers from 1933-1940. This multi-media musical play gives us perspective on today's hard times by taking us back to the years when three million young men across America found hope in the CCCs. Touring shows are planned in September and October, 2009. 60-minute play with a 20-minute discussion with humanists, sponsored by the Wisconsin Humanities Council.

Healing arts: *Tobaccosaurus Rex*, an intimate puppet show for children about Big Tobacco; ***Applied Theatreworks*,** audience-participation vignettes dealing with social issues, providing tools and solutions to problems kids face every day; ***FAQS (Facing Adolescent Questions About Sex)*,** an original show with music by and for young people about HIV and sexually transmitted diseases; ***Unclothed ...the naked truth:*** survivors' stories of sexual abuse and healing; and ***Capaz*** and ***Tasawari*,** interactive plays about health care issues for Latino and African-American families of special needs children.

Customized special events: *Rainbow Spectacolo*, jugglers, mimes, acrobats, dancers, magicians, clowns, puppets and musicians entertain all ages.

Cultural Stories: *African Tales*, ***Pirates of the Caribe*,** ***Cuentame un Cuento*,** and ***Winter Voices: Native American Stories to Warm the Heart.***

Parades and Pageants

(414) 347-1685

www.milwaukeepublictheatre.org

Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre

The company primarily designs and builds puppets of varying styles to perform in our own independent theatrical productions or in collaboration with other local theater companies. With the beguiling use of puppetry we enchant young and old, performing stories with important themes, emotional impact, and complex characters.

Last year we produced ***The Ballad of Josef K*,** an adaptation of Franz Kafka's ***The Trial*,** performing it in Milwaukee and Minneapolis. In recent years we have collaborated with the former Theatre X (***The Unfinished Life and Death of Edgar Allan Poe*,** and ***The Apollo of Bellac***) with First Stage Children's Theatre (***Einstein: Hero of the Mind*,** ***Smoldering Fires*,** and ***Stones of Wisdom*,**) with Milwaukee Public Theater (***The Dream Carnival***) and with The Milwaukee Dance Theatre, now called Teatro Gigante (***Fair and Balanced***). Next year we are planning a revival of ***Poe*** in Boston in collaboration with a university and an experimental theatre company there.

Over the last decade we have toured extensively in the Milwaukee area including Summerfest, Winterfest, the Milwaukee Public Museum, the Betty Brinn Children's Museum, the Brady Street and Third Ward Festivals, the Peck Pavilion, various youth centers and many schools and parks.

Our shows are eclectic, featuring many styles of puppets including hand puppets, 12 inch to 18 foot rod puppets, backpack mounted puppets, marionettes, small modified tabletop Bunraku and full sized Bunraku puppets, strange and unique odd constructions, and varied masks. Most of the shows we work on are original or adapted pieces. Live music is an integral element in our productions. Many local actors, musicians, writers and directors have contributed their talents to making our theatre a success.

Founder and Artistic Director Max Samson first worked with puppets with the *Bread and Puppet Theatre* in 1970 in New York City and on a tour of the Southern United States. He founded the *Heavy Bulky Puppet Theatre* in Israel which toured Europe in 1973. Other puppet artists are Jeffrey Holub and Michael Pettit. Board members are Nancy Pincher and Barry Barkan.

www.maskandpuppettheatre.org

Prologue: "PROSPERITY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER"

Herbert Hoover, 1932

Lead Artists: Jeff Holub and Lynette Obara

The Ideas: Herbert Hoover was the last president to oversee a real prolonged financial collapse and net loss of jobs — until now! Today there are several million fewer jobs and that number is still growing. Many Milwaukeeans we talked with in our theme brain-storming sessions said: “Jobs are

hard to come by, real wages are falling, health care costs more and covers less; we are watching our retirement funds disappear.” People are also frightened by the level of violence in our community, and how lack of income can spiral into increasing violence. Peace in our neighborhoods is a vital element of

prosperity and seemingly, again, “just around the corner”. Another major concern they expressed was about our environment. What is prosperity if our air, soil and water are polluted and our food is destroying our health?

How do we overcome these problems?



The parade opens with a **Fantasy City Sculpture** by sculptor *Eriks Johnson*, sponsored by the Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University.



The **Band of South Shore (BOSS) Drum Line** picks up the beat.



A variety of characters carry signs proclaiming their individual problems: “Unemployed”, “Hungry”, “Sick”, “Afraid”. They try to put their problems into a giant trash can labeled: “Put your problems here!”



But the **Band of Villains**, including the Fat Cat, Shark, Pig, and Wolf (representing selfishness, predatory behavior, greed, and trickery—in ourselves and others) prevent anyone else from getting rid of their problems in the trash can.



The All-City giant puppet carries our collective problems on his back: accumulated garbage, polluted rivers, overcrowded prisons, the over-heated globe, the Treasury spilling money, and bulls and bears boxing each other on top of it all.

MOTHER SIGHED

Why do we smother Earth, smother Mother Earth?
 Oh brother, Earth! There is no other Earth
 No other orb to absorb us, the cost's enormous
 To every plant and animal, that surface specks are powerful
 ENOUGH to suck the life from Mother Earth
 Why don't we strain the dimming brain
 ENOUGH to see we must go back towards Eden
 If we wish to keep on breathing
 Sacrifice technology, retool the auto industry
 For buses trams trains bicycles, to perpetuate our life-cycles
 Recognize simplicity, revive the craft society
 Cultivate our gardens, limit electricity
 Give up on fossil energy
 Lest we become the fossils, no air to fill these nostrils
 Mother Earth, Father Time, what will we humans leave behind
 Just troubled rubble, toxic slime?
 An empty earth will still revolve
 And nothing on it can absolve
 Our species of its crime

~ Suzanne Rosenblatt

Act One: TOWARD AN ECONOMY OF LASTING VALUE

Lead Artists: Max Samson, Stewart Johnson, Angela Livermore, Andrew Parchman

The Ideas: In our brainstorming sessions about our greatest fears and hopes, nearly everyone talked about the economy. People had lost their jobs, houses were in foreclosure, they couldn't afford health insurance, some had to quit school. A prosperous economy means getting more of those things and qualities that we truly hold dear.

So if our prosperous community were to parade around as a character showing his or her wealth, bedecked in jewels, what would those jewels be? What is really of true, lasting value? Everyone involved in the parade was invited to write a value on a "jewel" with which they wished to adorn our community. Some of their jewels are: "Pearls of

Peace!"; "Diamonds of Respect for Each Other!"; "Getting into the Creative, Playful, Unique Parts of Ourselves!"; "Laughter With All Those People We Love!". The jewels were then placed on the All-City puppet's robe for all to see as we parade down the street.

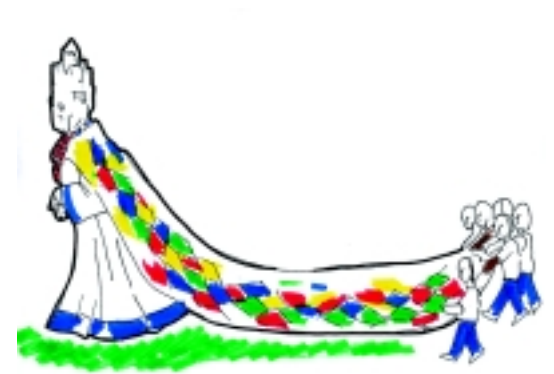
Thus will our community wealth be valued.



The **USS Economy**, a teetering tottering ship, is listing along. Its hull is made of credit cards, its two smokestacks declare "Borrow" and "Consume". People slide down the deck wearing signs saying "Foreclosed" and "Unemployed". An **Octopus** wearing a sailor's cap labeled "Greed" grabs at a huge bag of consumer goods, weighing the ship down. Homeless people struggle beneath the waves.



A second huge **Octopus** of greed directs a feeding frenzy of **Sharks**. Fending off the sharks is a flotilla of **Lifeboats** and **Lifesavers** named "Education", "Savings", "Healthcare", "Green Jobs," "Family," and "Justice". These are the types of actions that can reassert community values, save us from drowning, and free our spirits.



Arising out of the lifeboat scene is a flock of birds with hands as wings. It is through the work of our hands that we can soar free of the morass. The birds escort the *All-City giant puppet* who is bedecked in jewels of real value.



Friday, August 7, 2009

Join us for another Parade!

11 a.m. "Visions of Peace Parade" with Milwaukee Public Theatre, from Pierce School down Holton Avenue on sidewalks to Kadish-Kilbourn Park

12 noon Summer of Peace events at Kadish-Kilbourn Park

On Friday, August 7, Milwaukee's youth deliver their messages of peace and unity through dynamic speeches, music, dance, peace art exhibits and recognitions at the annual **Summer of Peace** event. The day begins at 9 a.m. with a press conference and a youth-moderated "Peace Summit" and continues with an 11 a.m. "Visions of Peace Parade" led by the *Milwaukee Public Theatre* from Pierce School down Holton Avenue to Kadish-Kilbourn Park. From noon to 4, activities include:

- the Milwaukee Peacemaker Recognition Ceremony
- the "Stop the Violence" Youth Performance Showcase
- Peace Ceremony with peace pledge signing
- Children's Play Area with carnival games, face painting, super slide, sports, and more

- free food and giveaways for pre-registered groups
- Special Guest Speakers including Mayor and Community Leaders
- community agencies Resource Fair and Exhibits

For over seven years, Co-founder/Director Tanya Cromartie-Twaddle and Co-founder/Coordinator Fidel Verdin have engaged thousands of Milwaukee's young people in creative anti-violence programs. Teen and young adults are trained as community organizers and compensated for their work. Organized as a grassroots effort to promote peace principles and provide an outlet for creative expression, the SOP Initiative challenges residents, the business community, educators and policymakers to support new, youth-led efforts for peace and safety in our city.

For more information, contact 414-326-0507 or visit www.summerofpeace@ning.com.

Act Two: TOWARD HARMONY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Lead Artist: Ron Fry

The Ideas:

“Much violence is based on the illusion that life is a property to be defended and not to be shared.”
~ Henri Nouwen

“In violence we forget who we are.”
~ Mary McCarthy

“Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him.”

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

In the brainstorming sessions for the All-City Parade, people in Milwaukee were asked to share their hopes and fears for their communities. Many spoke of a direct fear of violence in their neighborhoods, city, nation, and world. They spoke in less direct terms of violence in homes. And they spoke of hope—hope that the families, neighborhoods and communities of Milwaukee will come together to create a peaceful place for all of us. We move from Violence to Peace. We move from Division to Unity. We move from Fear to Hope.



The **Crash Band** opens the scene, wearing symbols representing violence, and making concussive, mechanical, disturbing sounds.



The **Rage Cage**, a cart on heavy wooden wheels carrying images of the causes and effects of violence, rumbles along behind.



“**PV**”, our **Potential Victims**, are humans wearing white T-shirts with a red heart. The **Stridents** entrap **PV** in a circle of violence and menace.



The somber **Summer of Peace Memorial** marchers carry headstones, each headstone representing a person who died from violence in Milwaukee during the past year.



PV comes along again, still menaced by the **Stridents**. But this time, **Neighbors** try to defend **PV**. Their efforts are in vain until they join together and create ...



“**Harmony**”, the *All-City giant puppet*, has a face made up of other faces, individuals gathered to make a greater whole. **Neighbors** bring her hands together to repel the **Stridents** and to protect **PV**.



The **Jubilation Choir** follows **Harmony**, their blending human voices the antithesis of the mechanical **Crash Band** that began the section.

Act Three: OUR CHOICES GROW THE WORLD

Lead Artist Michael Pettit

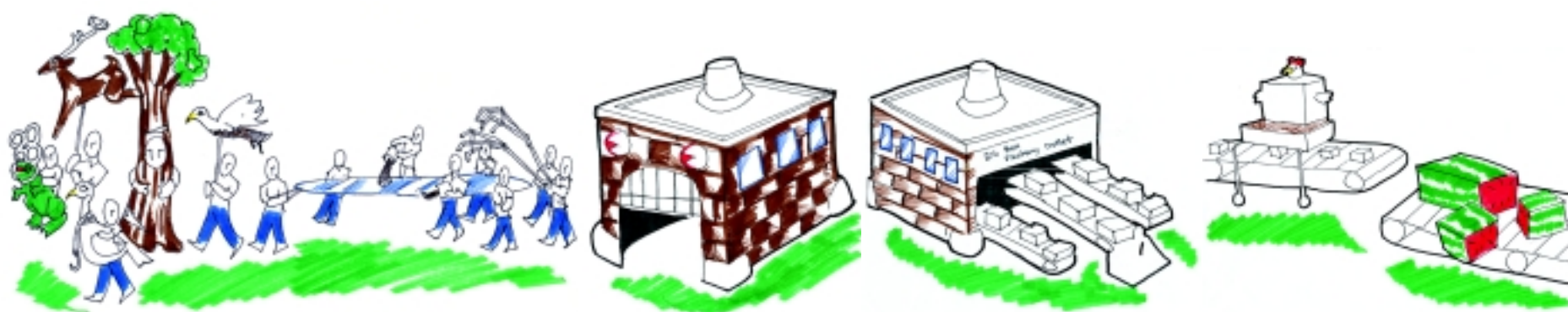
The Ideas: In the brainstorming sessions, many voiced concerns for environmental health issues. Many also reported a growing knowledge and interest in how our consumer choices shape the health, quality and safety of our food sources. There is a growing network of people in Milwaukee supporting and participating in local and organic Urban Agriculture. In fact, one of our nation's most prominent and successful urban, organic, self-sustaining

agriculture operations, Growing Power, stands on the last remain-ing plot of land in the City of Milwaukee zoned for farming. The voice of its founder, Will Allen, has reached many in our city:

“For years I have argued that our food system is broken, and I have tried to teach what I believe must be done to fix it...Severe economic recession certainly has not helped matters, but the current economy is not alone to blame. This situation has been spinning toward this day for decades. And while many tend to point the

finger at the big agro-chemical conglomerates as villains, the fault really is with all of us who casually, willingly, even happily surrender our rights to safe, wholesome, affordable and plentiful food in exchange for over-processed and pre-packaged convenience.”

The visual design reflects the tension that many are feeling today in the effort to choose between the convenience of factory-produced consumer goods and a more organic and sustainable way of life.



A crowd of plants, animals and water run for their lives away from a gigantic **Big Box Factory** that spews pollution.

The **Henchmen** chase after the plants, animals and water, trying to scoop them into the **Factory's** large hungry mouth.

At the other end of the **Factory** a long conveyor belt presents an endless stream of square, unnatural-looking consumer goods.



The **Which Way Do We Go? Dancers** wear backward-facing masks and are torn between the glittering factory-produced abundance and the world of organic health and harmony with the land which follows. These dancers also carry “the Weights of Decision”, four barbell-like structures depicting the beneficial or destructive consequence of our choices upon the environment.

Gardeners, Farmers and native plants and animals steer floating land masses representing organic gardening and environmental stewardship. They are connected by the **Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic River** banners. Two characters on stilts, the **Spirits of the Rivers**, accompany the river banners as they flow into Lake Michigan.



The “**Angel of the Land and Water**”, the *All-City giant puppet*, wears a map of Milwaukee featuring bits of green cloth woven into it by workshop participants to represent their favorite green spaces throughout the city. Lake Michigan is depicted as a large cape worn by the puppet. The Angel's face is the Sun rising over the lake.

Epilogue: YES, WE CAN CAN-CAN!

Lead Artists: Jeff Holub and Lynette Obara



The parade finale begins with a **Grasshopper** playing a slow solo version of Offenbach's Can-Can on violin, who is joined by a **Frog** on trombone. A **Ballerina Cow** plays accordion a bit faster, and is followed by three **Ants** pulling a rubber tree plant.



An **Orchestra** joins in, followed by a group of **Dancers** doing the high-kicking Can-Can. **Ballerina Hippos** and **Cows** pull the **Yes, We Can-Can** filled with discarded problems.



Costumed **Dancers** representing the people with problems earlier are now dancing and hugging, free of their burdens. In the pandemonium and joyous celebration, the **Villains** also dance with everyone else. They pull a diorama of the City of Milwaukee.



Out of the city leaps the *All-City giant puppet*, glittering, spinning, and lifting a more perfect vision of the city to the sky.

Thank you to our numerous participating volunteers: community groups, artists, and individuals

Participating Community Agencies
 ACLU
 Amaranth Cafe
 Artists Working in Education (AWE)
 Art Links/ACAP
 Band of South Shore Drum Line
 Boys and Girls Clubs (Summer of Peace event only)
 Bucketworks
 Carter Productions
 Children's Outing Association
 Goodwill Industries
 Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University
 HeartLove Place
 Hmong American Friendship Association
 Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre
 Lisbon Avenue Neighborhood Development
 Lincoln Center of the Arts
 LISC
 Martin Drive Neighborhood Association
 Milwaukee American Indian Resource Network
 Milwaukee Bicycle Federation
 Milwaukee Christian Center
 Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities
 Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design
 Milwaukee Public Schools
 Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
 Neighborhood House
 Next Door Foundation
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 Our Next Generation
 Project Respect
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 Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
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 Stand Together Milwaukee
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 University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
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 Walker's Point Center for the Arts
 Washington Park Neighborhood Assn.
 Washington Park Senior Center
 Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development

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 Pahoua Vang
 Cacy Williams
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 Myron Dickerson
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 Asia Nash
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 Bo Willingham
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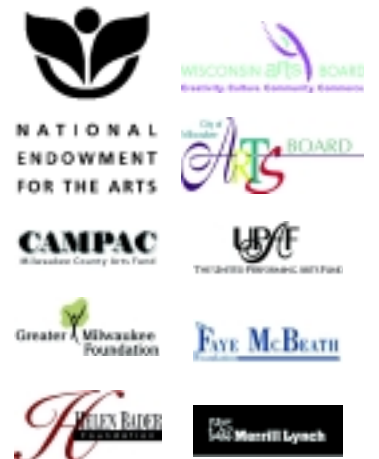
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...and so many others. We apologize for any names that may have been missed due to deadlines.

ALL-CITY PEOPLE'S PARADE & PAGEANT

MAKING A NEW WAY-TOGETHER

Saturday, August 8, 2009, Washington Park

- 11:00 am Parade starts at Wick Field, moves north on 51st, turns east onto Washington Blvd. to Park Bandshell
- 12 noon LANDFARE Opening Remarks by Local Dignitaries
- 12:30 pm Pageant in front of Bandshell
- 1 to 3 pm LANDFARE Entertainment

A Special Thank You to

Alderman Michael Murphy
 Alderman Willie Hines
 Alderman Nik Kovac
 County Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.
 Third District Police Department
 Cecilia Gilbert, City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works
 Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department
 Guy Taylor, Milwaukee County Parks, Washington Park
 Louis Fortis and the Shepherd Express staff
 Toni Anderson and Delores Green, LAND
 Milwaukee Public Theatre Board of Directors



DONATE~PARTICIPATE

*Get involved for 2010!
 Help us do this again!*

Mail a check in any amount to
Milwaukee Public Theatre
 626 E. Kilbourn Ave., Suite 802
 Milwaukee, WI 53202

Please note "All City Parade". Include your name, mailing address, zip code, email and phone number. Or just give us your email address:

and we'll include you as an artist, musician, float-builder, sponsor, materials donor, parade marcher, maker of noise or papier mache and invite you to next year's community brainstorming sessions to develop the 2010 parade theme.

Call MPT at 414-347-1685

All-City People's Parade Directors

Barbara Leigh,
 Milwaukee Public Theatre
 Max Samson,
 Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre
Stage Manager

Azeeza Islam

Lead Artists

Ron Fry
 Eriks Johnson
 Jeff Holub
 Angela Livermore
 Lynette Obara
 Andrew Parchman
 Michael Pettit
 Max Samson

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www.milwaukeepublictheatre.org

LANDFARE - August 8, 2009 in Washington Park

LANDFARE is a fabulous free annual community picnic, information fair and resource festival. The festival is a wonderful opportunity for organizations and individuals to promote their programs and services to the community. This year, LAND is celebrating its 13th annual community celebration on August 8, 2009, in Washington Park beginning at noon. But come at 11:00 if you want to see the exciting *All City People's Parade*. LAND is partnering with Milwaukee Public Theatre and other groups in this special event. LANDFARE and the parade will bring residents from different ethnic groups of all ages together to have fun, and more importantly, to learn about resources that can improve their lives and the community.

Lisbon Avenue Neighborhood Development (LAND) is a non-profit Community Development Organization that is a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization. Working in collaboration with residents, businesses and partners, LAND furthers Economic and Community Development. Over the past seventeen years, LAND has partnered with many different organizations and groups to connect and provide residents with resources that improve their quality of life.

Contact Toni Anderson or Delores Green at 414-934-8540.