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MILWAUKEE'S SECOND ALL-CITY PEOPLES PARADE PROJECT

We invite all Milwaukeeans of any age and background to express their concerns and share their hopes by participating in a series of brainstorming sessions. These sessions will help in the creation of a theme for the parade at the end of the summer 2010.

Inspired by the May Day Festival developed by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre (HOBT) in Minneapolis, the project is a collaboration between Milwaukee Public Theatre, the Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre and numerous community organizations, funding sources, individual artists, and most importantly, the participating public.

A display of floats, puppets and masks used in the 2009 Labor Day Parade is on exhibit at Milwaukee City Hall Rotunda, 200 E. Wells, through May 14.

Community Brainstorming sessions will bring together the general public as well as social service agencies, neighborhood organizations, labor groups, individual and corporate sponsors, foundations, educators, and artists. Everyone is invited to attend any or all of these public meetings. Facilitators will lead participants in sharing their greatest concerns and hopes. Every voice will be heard in a community effort to establish a theme. Participants will be invited to imagine and describe visual, musical, and movement elements to be used in the parade.

Brainstorming session dates so far include:

Friday, April 23rd, 10-11:30 AM
UWM Kenilworth Bldg.,
1915 E. Kenilworth Place, Rm # 492

Wednesday, April 28th, 6-7:30 PM
True Skool/Urban Underground,
4850 W. Fond du Lac Av.

Tuesday, May 4, 6-7:30 PM
Core El Centro, 611 W. National Av.

Wednesday, May 5th, 6:30-7:30 PM
Agape Gym, 6100 N. 42nd. St.

Monday, May 10th, 7:30-8:30 PM
Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place

Thursday, May 11th, 4:45 PM
City Hall Rotunda, 200 E. Wells

Saturday, May 15th, 3-4:30 PM
Woodland Pattern, 720 E. Locust Street

Tuesday, May 18th, 6-7:30 PM
Bay View Library, 2566 S. Kinnickinnic Av.

Wednesday, May 19th
time TBD
MIAD, 273 E. Erie St.

Please RSVP to mptheatre2@gmail.com to help us plan for facilitators and refreshments.

MPT/MMPT will also present a "Train-the-Trainer" Workshop for as many as 50 artists and teachers to learn building giant puppet techniques. The exact date and time TBD.

During the months of June through August Community agencies and schools can contact MPT about bringing artists in to create parade elements with children and families. There will also be free-to-the-public Open Workshops to build parade elements. Workshops will culminate in several neighborhood mini-parades and/or exhibits and the All-City People's Parade—to be held on Labor Day in collaboration with Laborfest.

The project is partially funded by the Helen Bader Foundation, the Elizabeth Brinn Foundation, the Faye McBeath Foundation, the Gardner Family Foundation, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation Abert Fund, the Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation, Milwaukee County CAMPAC, the United Performing Arts Fund, the Wisconsin Arts Board and the National Endowment for the Arts and many other organizations and individuals.

For more information go to www.milwaukeepublictheatre.org. To sign up to attend any of these events, email mptheatre2@gmail.com or call Milwaukee Public Theatre, 414-347-1685.

Milwaukee Public Theatre is a member of the United Performing Arts Fund and receives ongoing support from Milwaukee Arts Board, Milwaukee County CAMPAC, National Endowment for the Arts, Wisconsin Arts Board, corporations, foundations, families and individuals.