

THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER



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PAC HIGHLIGHTS: 2018 IN REVIEW

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22nd Annual VIP Awards— Since 1995, Friends of the Parks has been honoring the outstanding volunteers, community groups, and city and county employees who have made significant contributions to their parks and forest preserves. The “Volunteer-in-the-Parks” Appreciation Reception, endearingly known as the VIP Awards Reception, helps Friends acknowledge and celebrate these community-nominated volunteers and stewards who help make our parks and open spaces great. Below is the list of the 2018 VIPs who were honored at the 22nd Annual VIP Awards Reception at Promontory Point on November 3rd, and a highlight of our Outstanding PAC VIP awardee.



OUTSTANDING PARK DISTRICT EMPLOYEE AWARDEES

Denise Raymond (Gompers Park)
& Daryl Roberson (Foster Park)

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER AWARDEES

P.C. Gooden-Smilely (Buttercup Park)
& John Friedmann (Horner Park)

ADVOCACY AWARDEES

Wesley Wyatt (Essex Park), Leslie Borns
(Montrose Beach), & Michelle Molise, Karen Lamiot
and Laurel Naegel (Brooks Park)

STEWARDSHIP AWARDEE

David Wright (Nichols Park)

SMOKY SAKURADA “FRIENDS OF FRIENDS” AWARDEES

Brian Stevens and Mary Stevens (Dunning Read
Conservation Area)

OUTSTANDING PAC AWARDEE

Willye White Park Advisory Council (Triangle Park)

COMMUNITY GROUP AWARDEE

Claretian Associates (South Chicago parks)
& Opera-Matic (Humboldt Park and Logan Square
parks)

VIP Spotlight: *Willye White Park Advisory Council* — see the December 2018 edition for the full article on our PAC Resources page at www.fotp.org/parks/pacs.

2018 Seed Grants — Spotlight: Mozart Park Advisory Council (MPAC). MPAC was one of nine recipients of a 2018 Seed Grant, and received \$750 to support their Mural Program. What initially began as a Seed Grant application inquiry about revitalizing an existing mural, turned into something much richer and more impactful. The group has now completed two seasons of the program and installed 15 temporary “murals” on the chain-link fence around the park’s previously rather bleak parking lot. The colorful panels create welcome visibility to the corner of Armitage and Avers. (Continued on page 2 —>)



(continued from page 1) For the community, the murals create a sense of ownership for all those who participated in the painting of the murals and a celebratory vibe for everyone who routinely walks or drives passed. MPAC hired a professional mural painter, Christian Roldan Aponte, to instruct the children on the value of public art and painting techniques for their second mural season. His skillful communication style was very helpful in the process of brainstorming ideas and making the youth feel connected to the work and to their park.



2nd Annual “Parks as Democracy?” Annual Luncheon and Conference — “In Black and White? A Continuing Conversation about Parks as Democratic Spaces” was held in June at Roosevelt University. The two-day event brought together over a hundred park advisory council members and other park partner organizations, concerned residents, community activists and organizers. 2018 served as the 125th anniversary of the World Columbian Exposition held in Jackson Park and Midway Plaisance, and the 35th anniversary of the 1983 Chicago Park District and Department of Justice Consent Decree. With this backdrop, the provocative day-and-a-half gathering featured expert panels, round tables, and working groups to analyze the issues and develop action plans collaboratively to more fully promote and preserve our public lands as democratic spaces.

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS...



...use a project management tool when planning with your group. Project management tools can help everyone keep track of both small and large projects, and all of the to-do's and small deadlines to get you to the big day. Using something as simple as an excel sheet can help keep the group accountable and organized, including tracking of who is doing what action item and by what date. There are also a plethora of online project management resources, both free and fee-based, that can be used to bump up the organization level of your group. Tell us what your favorite tools are!