



uptown

5

THE GREAT NEW WORLD
ON MY DOORSTEP!

UPTOWN ACADEMY
TOWN MEETING
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
APRIL 16, 1977

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SONG

UPTOWN ACADEMY

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TOWN MEETING

"UPTOWN 5"

Tune: "Yellow Bird"

The Big Bands came, they played at the Aragon
The movies played, they came here and then moved on.
Where the nation danced
Now no hopes advanced
Human tragedy
Wasteland destiny
Here the people cry
"Come here for to die"
Local man, time to rise.

Uptown 5, great place to be alive
Uptown 5, great time to do and strive
In this very place
Folks from every race
Came to build a way
For a brand new day
Now that day is here
There is naught to fear
Uptown 5 is alive
Uptown 5... Uptown 5... Uptown 5...

APRIL 16, 1977

TOWN MEETING

"UPTOWN'S GREATNESS REDISCOVERED"

In its early days, Uptown was known as a center of cultural activity "The Place to Go" - manifest in the Aragon Ballroom and the Uptown Theatre, in the location here, before Hollywood, of the movie industry and the place where Charlie Chaplin films were made, in its reputation as a second downtown, and as a tourist resort.

The present struggle in Uptown is the presence of "No-Hoper Gropers". People experience themselves in isolation from one another, from the rest of Chicago, from the larger society and cut off from their own dreams and hopes for the future - yet still moving from day to day surviving in the midst of the crumbled concrete of this urban no man's land.

Uptown holds the possibility for the future of becoming a beehive of creativity, as we decide to build a community which is a place where all individuals and ethnic groups can participate significantly in the life of Uptown as a sign for all local people.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STRUCTURE

In the arena of The Economic the fact that no comprehensive Community Organizations exist indicates that the underlying contradiction is no image of corporate involvement structures. This contradiction is illustrated by crowded unemployment offices, the number of uninvolved people on streets.

Guild A

FRAGMENTED CITIZEN GROUPS

In the arena of Local Economic Power Base the fact that overlapping community organizations work on isolated issues indicates that the underlying contradiction is the Absence of a Common Plan. This contradiction is illustrated by sporadic tenant strikes, short range structures that come and go, failure of business and poor upkeep of town property.

Guild C

PROVIDING PROFIT-CREATING STRUCTURES

In the arena of Economic Commonality the fact that there is insufficient training and skills and lack of local ownership indicates that the underlying contradiction is an insufficient enabling income base. This contradiction is illustrated by the store manager who never sees the owner and never sees the profit and cannot improve his situation.

Guild B

Chicago, Illinois
April 16, 1977

POLITICAL CHALLENGES

Uptown Academy
Town meeting

INEFFECTIVE PUBLIC VOICE

In the arena of Corporate Order the fact that youth are unengaged, laws are inflexible and people have no voice to change their situation indicated that the underlying contradiction is Ineffective Public Voice. This contradiction is illustrated by resigned attitude of elders, people complaining without hope of change, personal and public space is uncared for and youth vandalize property.

Guild C

RISKING SECURE EXISTENCE

In the arena of Severe Existence the fact the fragmented existence of ethnic groups indicates that the underlying contradiction is preserving secure existence within group over against building larger communities. This contradiction is illustrated by fragmented ethnic oriented social agencies, no political clout, crime, lack of responsibility of physical care.

Guild B

UNFORMULATED COMMUNITY IDENTITY AND INITIATIVE

In the arena of Political Commonality the fact the ineffective local political structures exist indicates that the underlying contradiction is Unselfconscious community identity and unexpressed community initiative. This contradiction is illustrated by Uptown allowing itself to become a "dumping grounds" for the unwanted people of Chicago.

Guild A

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
APRIL 16, 1977

UPTOWN ACADEMY
TOWN MEETING

FRAGMENTED COMMUNITY IDENTITY

In the arena of Community Style the fact that a wide variety of community groups are operating in separate and unco-ordinated efforts indicates that the underlying contradiction is fragmented community identity. This contradiction is illustrated by the hostile anti-social activity of youth, the indifference and complaints about community affairs by adults, the stop-gap image, and "outsider" welfare groups.

GUILD C

DEBILITATING DUMPING- GROUND STORY

In the arena of Final Meanings the fact that there is no meaning to life, no motivation to care and no story of Uptowns greatness. Indicates that the underlying contradiction is a debilitating story of Uptown as Chicago's dumping ground. This contradiction is illustrated by run-down housing, vacant lots, vacant faces, halfway houses, and drug addiction.

GUILD C

NO GRASSROOTS VEHICLE FOR ASSUMING COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

In the arena of Culture the fact that the diverse needs and concerns of the community are unengaged and uncared for indicates that the underlying contradiction is no grassroots vehicle for community responsibility. This contradiction is illustrated by no community center, no co-ordinating social agency-council, port entry myth.

GUILD A

UNWILLING TO COMMIT SELF TO COMMUNITY

In the arena of community responsibility the fact that inappropriate engagement structure are present indicates that the underlying contradiction is no vision of self as responsible to the community of Uptown. This contradiction is illustrated by presence of intentional destruction and neglect of persons and property.

GUILD B

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
APRIL 16, 1977

PROPOSALS FOR
ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

UPTOWN MEETING
TOWN MEETING

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPEMENT

We the citizens of Uptown 5 in order to give people responsible awareness, of involvement and awareness of community resource propose to set up buiseness and industrial exhibition, safe street patrol and preschool. Through contradicting federal funding organization, recruiting existing local groups, finding available facilities, and compiling list of available business and industrial resourses.

GUILD A

COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPEMENT AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

We the citizens of Uptown 5 in order to assure comprehensive, coordinated community growth of physical surroundings and structures, propose a community task force to develop a comprehensive community plan that includes; a world wide restaurant, park system and a care model, for all structures through task force recruitment, task force meetings, community needs assesment, comprehensive funding campaign.

GUILD B

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PROPOSALS FOR
POLITICAL CHALLENGES

UPTOWN MEETING
TOWN MEETING

BLOCK MEETING SYSTEM

We the citizens of Uptown in order to create a positive new image in relation to community identity and involvement propose the starting of a block-meeting system through a "know-your-neighbour-campaign" followed by a community day to build a common story and symbols and to form a voluntary corps to incorporate the new story and symbols into the community.

Guild A

DEMONSTRATION WARD PROJECT

We the citizens of Uptown in order to catalyze comprehensive Uptown reconstruction propose a demonstration ward project through 1) ward selection screen 2) forum for demonstration ward consensus 3) 6 month T/L by weekly steering committee 4) planning consult 5) initiate month of miracles.

Guild A

EDUCATION CO-ORDINATING CENTER

We the citizens of Uptown 5 in order to equip community members with the practical occupational, political, and social skills, and the opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of community life propose a life education co-ordinating center through surveying and evaluating existing youth / adult educational/vocational training programs and assessing community needs and developing curriculum in line of assessed needs.

Guild B

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PROPOSALS FOR
CULTURAL CHALLENGES

UPTOWN ACADEMY
TOWN MEETING

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

We the citizens of Uptown 5 community in order to build individual and corporate community care and worth propose celebrating the ethnic and social gifts of Uptown 5 through holding a fourth of July community wide fair, an Argyle street art fair and rotation block street celebrations.

Guild B

INFORMATION ENSURANCE PROGRAM

We the citizens of Uptown 5 in order fo ensure information flow to community residents propose a community center and information bank which includes large community calender, time line chart and the job social service through local community meetings and comprehensive funding drive.

Guild B

COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER

We the citizens of Uptown 5 in order to expose the community to the gifts of its diversity propose to create a community cultural center through finding a sponsor group, locating a source of funds, finding a location and recruiting local residents in the planning process.

Guild A

SYMBOLIC IDENTITY

We the citizens of Uptown in order to develop a symbol that forges common community direction propose a symbol/banner creation day through a symbol creation workshop including a banner design contest, with the banners to be hung above streets.

Guild B

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PARTICIPANTS

UPTOWN ACADEMY
TOWN MEETING

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Montgomery, Judy	
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UPTOWN ACADEMY
TOWN MEETING

The Uptown Town Meeting is sponsored by the Global Academy in cooperation with the Institute of Cultural Affairs.

We wish to thank the Kemper Kitchen for donating their time to provide the meal.

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HONORED GUESTS AND DIGNITARIES:

Mayor of Chicago - Honorable Adrian Laurie-Rhodes
Alderman - Donna Wallace

T.M. COORDINATOR: David Lazear

WORKSHOP LEADERS:

M.C. Thomas
Evelyn McDonald
Andy Clyde
Jackie Cress
Beth Skillman
Troy Jarvis
Ed Mancini
Helen Arnold
Charles McDermott
Mohini Thiara

REGISTRAR: Colleen Smith

EMCEE: Vic Smith

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Jean Baringer
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