

UPTOWN 5  
1973 Accomplishments

I. Social Model

1. Other community projects were examined and a model for initiation of Uptown 5 created.
2. Research data on Uptown was gathered and analyzed.
3. Models to interrelate community dynamics were studied to develop methods for community motivation.
4. The Uptown area was gridded to five communities.
5. Social agencies were examined and their services analyzed.
6. An urban physical services survey of the 46th Ward was done at request of the alderman to demonstrate a method for citizens to provide information to city departments on conditions requiring action.

II. Community Education

1. Sixty-nine Uptown residents were trained through the LENS seminar in using a comprehensive social analysis screen, creating contexts for social change, locating major contradictions, building constructive proposals for change, and forging tactical plans.
2. Nearly all of these LENS graduates were further trained in social methods through a series of workshop meetings to analyze Uptown and develop practical plans.
3. An elders' study plan was designed and taught weekly, starting July 1.

III. Community Motivation

1. The community history was researched and a brochure prepared "Uptown--a Great Place to be Alive".
2. A poster was designed, printed, and distributed, saying "In any language, Uptown is a great place to be alive" --in six languages.
3. A billboard similar to the poster was displayed on a prominent street corner.
4. Veal's Barbecue, a community node for the black community, was painted to brighten the street, and involve this minority.
5. A small park, with grass, trees, and shrubs, was created on a major corner, in a portion of a rubble-covered vacant lot.
6. An art gallery was placed in a series of unused storefront windows.
7. A "Cabaret" program, including music, songs and humor dramatized possibility in community gathering places such as elders' homes and bars.
8. An outdoor cafe event, with local merchants selling food from five continents and an ethnically diverse entertainment program, was attended by over 1000 people.

IV. Community organization

1. A group of 48 (average bi-weekly meeting attendance, 30) LENS-trained community people (called the Uptown Guild), whose membership the nine major ethnic groups, is currently doing work in the following areas: social model, guild design, community training, and signal action in housing and elders programs.
2. At least sixty-two community agencies and groups are being impacted by the LENS graduates. As officers and members of these

organizations, they are bringing vitality into the meetings and provide systematic planning methods for the activities.

3. Direct consultative services have been performed for a variety of local organizations, including the alderman and senior citizen groups.

V. Signal Action

1. Housing, a crucial factor in community morale as well as in its physical survival, has been chosen as a signal project. Potential buildings for rehabilitation are being located for which a community corporation, already set up, is ready to be the agent.
2. As elders form the largest neglected group in the community, a major effort in elders education and engagement is being planned. A funding proposal has been prepared and submitted.