

UPTOWN PCE

JOURNEY OF THE GUILD

In Sept. 1976, the Uptown 5 Guild was the primary structure through which the PCE : Uptown Lab was catalyzed and implemented. The Guild met (and has continued to meet) every Tue. evening to do battleplanning for Uptown 5. After looking at the Vision, Contradictions and Proposals, the Guild decided to organize itself into 3 working task forces for the year under the categories of Engagement (which included such projects as T.M. Training College and Beautification Workdays), Relationships (which included work in Agency Coordination and a Neighborhood Visitation Scheme) and Consciousness (which included projects such as Community Celebrational Events and the Voice of Uptown 5).

Major community-wide events this year were:

1. Symbol Impact Day: 60 people helped to distribute 1,400 buttons and signs door to door to businesses and residences sharing the story that "Uptown 5 is a Great Place to be Alive!"
2. Christmas Carolling: 200 community residents walked in 5 groups through the 5 Wards singing and beckoning others. All, then, gathered at People's Church for a celebration complete with Santa, prizes, refreshments and singing.
3. 3rd Annual Uptown 5 Swing Along Valentine Ball: More than 100 people of all ages from the community worked together to bring off a fantastic event for approx. 1,500-2,000 other Uptown Residents.
4. "Uptown You're Beautiful" Beautification Work Day: 150 residents turned out to clean up the trash in the streets in the target area and paint over grafetti on Argyle St. buildings. The "happening" of the day included professional clowns, workers from the Asian Forum dressed in their native costumes, and a free lunch for everyone provided by local grocers and businessmen.
5. Victory Celebration: 70 people (from the Uptown 5 Guild and the year's Steering Committees) gathered to celebrate the greatness of the past year and resolve to continue the effort in the coming year. The evening was highlighted by short talks by Uptown residents on the various year's projects.
6. International Festival: to be held on July 30, 1977.

BREAKLOOSES

The key breakloose in uptown 5 this past year was in the arena of Community Steering Committees. After the Town Meeting in March 1976, we became aware of the possibility of using the Steering Committee structure to plan and implement other community projects. During the fall, 1976, we decided to make this year an experiment in doing community Steering Committees and so catalyzed and coordinated 3 community steering committees for projects previously done by the Guild. Eight groups worked on the Christmas Carolling, 25 groups worked on the Valentine's Day Ball and 39 groups participated in the Beautification project. For the first time in the recent history of Uptown, many organization of the community sat down together and planned and implemented a common project. For the first time, agency workers, businessmen and local residents worked together in practical task forces. One of the exciting results of operating in this way was the opportunity that this provided for elders to engage directly in practical care for their community.

The Elders Node structure merged into the other working task forces and this year, we saw an increase in elders participation in project work.

During the year, a stronger core of guild leadership emerged. Each guild task force had a community gun and these guns met weekly with ICA staff and frequently more often, to plan for the Guild and Steering Committees.

The Voice broke loose this year in the arenas of regularity, community anticipation and economic support. This year, the Voice went from a 6-8 wk publication frequency to being published on the first Sat. of every month. We have also doubled the number of business ads from an average of 6-8 / mo. to 14-16 every mo. This work was handled by a local resident, too. This has brought the Voice very close to not only covering the cash expenditures but also paying ICA for the paper. As a result of these efforts, there has grown a wide recognition and anticipation of the Voice throughout Uptown 5. It is not unusual now for people to call to place ads, submit articles and information for articles and ask when the next issue is coming and where is their copy.

This past year, the Uptown 5 project has been nearly self-supporting relative to cash expenditures for our programs. The only major program expense was a \$200.00 contribution for the Valentine Ball. The remainder of the \$5,000.00 budget for the Ball came from elsewhere: \$2,800. in cash was raised from local businesses and residents and \$2,000. in kind from city wide sources. All other projects were at no or minimal cost to program funds.

There has been a dramatic increase in Uptown residents participating in broader movement activities, also. This past year, residents participated in the Ivy City Consult, Evanston T.M., Spring Academy and the Global Research Assembly and Canoe Negro Consult.

As a result of our work in the past 18 months, the community's stance toward the ICA has shifted from one of caution and sometimes suspicion to considering the ICA as a positive resource in the community. It is not unusual for other agencies and individuals to call us for advice or support on their projects. We have shifted from an incognito group of residents to a staff of people qualified and able to catalyze, consult, coordinate and lead community projects.

TRENDS IN UPTOWN

There appear to be 4 major trends of the future in Uptown.

1. The first is that in the midst of the ongoing state of collapse, as evidenced in the high incidence of fires, vacant buildings and lots and criminal activity, a stronger sense of renewal has appeared over the past year. This is a back and forth kind of relationship where some weeks the collapse exceeds the renewal efforts but overall, renewal seems to be winning out. This can be seen in the increasing stability of the area east of Sheridan; the upsurge of new business on Argyle (all are other than Chinese) and the physical improvements on Wilson Ave by Uptown Federal Savings and Bank of Chicago. In addition, there has been an increase in the number of individual family renovation projects.

2. A second trend appears to be in the area of decrease fragmentation of social services. In the recent past, the number of agencies serving

TRENDS (cont.)

Uptown has grown to over 90. In this past year, there have been no new social service agencies open in Uptown and, in fact, a few have closed their doors. In addition, the inter-agency work on the Valentine Ball and the Beautification Project seem to be part of a greater spirit of cooperation than before.

3. This past year has also seen an increase in the broader public interest in Uptown especially through the public media. It is quite possible that this type of attention is heralding a period of traditional urban renewal for Uptown.

4. The last trend is somewhat more elusive and more related to our work in particular but just as real. We have this year seen an increasing number of Those Who Care come forth to give their time, talent and resources to work in the community.

POSSIBILITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT IN UPTOWN 1977-78:

Direction- To continue with the image of Uptown as a lab for our PCE work and move more 'agressively' forward

Implications- Need to rethink our geography and the specific tasks to be done there, moving toward more visible, lasting, 'hard' miracles and more intensive local training.

Issues &

- Questions-
1. tackling such a large pop. (25,000) greatly reduces the possibility of the Uptown project being a sign.
 2. question of location of the greatest need and of a rational plan for where to target work.'
 3. Areas that the community senses that work needs to go on in are: crime, housing, economic development-- which would put us in direct dialogue with city government and Federal agencies (like in 5th City)
 4. our "next step" in Uptown needs to move towards serious work in developing an urban care net

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Direction- To continue our community involvement with a low-key approach similar to this past year

Implications- 2-4 people would need to work as Steering Committee Consultants and we would also be able to continue to provide training for International Interns in work with local man in urban context.

Issues &

- Questions-
1. The revolutionary edge of our work would need to be examined if we take little or no new direction in our experiment.
 2. Do we need to "be covered" relative to a story of working in our own community?
 3. What demands will the ever-expanding Steering Committees put on our resources?

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Direction- To discontinue all direct community work but maintain a public relations presence through attendance at the "right" meetings, key visits, etc.

Implications- Assignments to this type of role could come under the Development Centrum-- especially as people handled our local political relations-- or a new Community Relations Post-- particularly as they deal with the large number of phone calls and "walk-in" inquiries that the Uptown Post has been dealing with.

POSSIBILITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT- (cont.)

Issues &

- Questions
1. How to deal with the frustrated expectations of the community relative to our past involvement
 2. It appear that the Uptown 5 Guild would not carry on the work at this time without ICA consultants
 3. How to keep the "good name" we have developed with the other agencies in Uptown that have come to see ICA as an institution that concretely cares about Uptown.