

Local Arts and Entertainment

More Space for SPACE!

Parents and Faculty Provide Manpower for Expansion at Southport Performing Arts Conservatory (SPACE)

Southport Performing Arts Conservatory (SPACE) has completed their ambitious and much needed expansion project at the organization's Peterson Avenue location. The expansion project, which added approximately 1,100 square feet to the existing facility at 3433 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, includes a new dance studio, new music studios, a dressing/changing room, designated "launch" area, and an additional restroom, as well as extra office and storage space. The expansion took place over a six-month period with SPACE artistic director and founder Altin Naska spearheading the construction project which included time and labor provided by parents of SPACE's students.

"We have wanted to increase the size of our Peterson location for a number of years," said Naska. "When the adjacent storefront location became available, we jumped at the opportunity to increase our physical space to approximately 3,400 square feet. This expansion allows us to best serve the artistic needs of our existing students while providing the ability to teach and nurture more young artists in the Chicago area. Additionally, this extra space allows us to continue to serve the Sauganash area by providing a larger and more comfortable space for our community concerts and student recitals as well as provide a larger rental space suitable for big or small birthday parties or gatherings."

Parents of students studying at SPACE were instrumental in completing the expansion project by donating their time and professional acumen. "Two of our parents own construction companies. They helped frame, build walls, and lay the floor of the new dance studio. Other parents helped paint, clean and decorate or donated toys and books for our waiting area. There was a true spirit of camaraderie to this project," commented Naska.

SPACE parents are enthusiastic about the conservatory's new "launch" area, a comfortable and child-friendly seating area with bright and natural light. "The parents are very happy to wait for their children to finish their classes," said Naska. "In fact, many have jokingly suggested that Starbucks® open next door with a take-out window from their store to our studio!"

Chicago's SPACE is a European-style performing arts conservatory that provides instruction in music and dance. Founded in 2005, SPACE has fueled the artistic dreams and aspirations of hundreds of artists from ages pre-school through adult. SPACE provides personalized instruction for all levels of artistic ability and offers a large range of music and dance education including Suzuki instruction, traditional individual instruction and a Professional Program.

SPACE has two Chicago locations and is located at 1439 W. Wellington Ave., 773-880-1701, and at 3433-37W. Peterson Ave., 773-463-1220. For more information about SPACE, please call either office numbers or visit the website at www.southportarts.com

Stage Wright Theater Takes on Serious Issues in Lighthearted Production of "Hairspray!"

"Hairspray! The Broadway Musical" opens at Stage Wright Friday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. and runs through April 10. Discounted previews occur Wednesday, March 30 at 2 p.m. and Thursday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. Performances are offered on Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. Shows on Thursday, April 7 and Friday, April 8 are at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. There is a 7:30 p.m. show on Saturday, April 9 and a 2 p.m. closing show on Sunday, April 10. Tickets are \$10 for the general public, with discounted tickets for seniors, students, and children. For tickets and group sales, please call the Stage Wright Box Office at (773) 481-8037 or email StageWright@ccc.edu.

Set in 1962 Baltimore, Hairspray! offers a different perspective on the Civil Rights Movement. The musical centers on the experiences of a plus-sized teenager named Tracy Turnblad, her high school classmates, and "The Nicest Kids in Town." Tracy auditions for and joins the cast of the "Corny Collins Show," resembling "The Buddy Deane Show" (an "American Bandstand" rival), during its peak. Turnblad advocates for integration on the TV show.

Stage Wright includes both students and members of the community. The Hairspray! cast includes all students from Wilbur Wright College. Sara Santoria stars as Tracy Turnblad and Elizabeth Gottman, who recently appeared in Stage Wright's fall production of No Exit, plays Tracy's best friend, Penny. Link Larkin is played by David Ruiz and Amber Von Tussle is played by Karlianne Loshbough. Tracy's parents, Edna and Wilbur, are played by Nicholas Rosario and Jose M. Aviles, Jr., respectively.

Dr. Maria Jaskot-Inclan, who founded Stage Wright 10 years ago, is directing the show alongside musical director, Paul Scavone, and choreographer, Kathleen DeMaira. The stage crew is comprised of students of Wright College under the technical direction of Patrick Ham, set and lighting designer.

Hairspray! was written by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, with music by Marc Shaiman and lyrics by Scott Whitman and Marc Shaiman, and based on the film written and directed by John Waters.

Performances are presented as part of the Wilbur Wright College Cultural Events Series in the Events Theater at 4300 N. Narragansett Ave. Wilbur Wright College is a City College of Chicago. Free parking is available.

Stage Wright Theater, Wilbur Wright College, One of the City Colleges of Chicago, 4300 North Narragansett Avenue; Chicago, IL 60634

Phone: 773-481-8037; Fax: 773-481-8211; Email: stagewright@ccc.edu

Village of Skokie Fine Arts Commission Grants

The Village of Skokie Fine Arts Commission offers grants to Skokie schools that promote arts and cultural diversity in the community.

The Cultural Arts Grant is available to Skokie schools for in-school performing arts programming. Skokie public and private schools who host professional visiting artists are eligible to apply for this grant. Awarded programs emphasize on fine arts, music and dance while promoting cultural diversity. The maximum grant level is \$500.

This year, over \$3,900 was awarded to local Skokie schools for various projects, author visits and educational performances. The schools include:

Fairview South	Lincoln Junior High
Hillel Torah Hebrew Day School	Gesher HaTorah
Highland School	Solomon Schecter Day School
Elizabeth Meyer School	Niles West High School

Applications for the Cultural Arts Grants are found online at www.skokie.org or by contacting the Public Information Division at 847/933-8257.

Norwood Park Historical Society to Host House History Day

On April 16, learn the history of your home and gather renovation tips at the Norwood Park Historical Society.

The Norwood Park Historical Society will host its annual House History Day and Renovators Resource Day on Saturday, April 16, noon to 4 p.m. at the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NPHS2011events>.

This is the Norwood Park Historical Society's annual day for homeowners who want to peer into the past or plan for the future. This event is designed to assist those who are trying to trace the history of their property or plan a future renovation. The Society's historians bring out history resources to help research previous owners, construction details, or events. Resources are limited to those in the archives and museum at the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House.

In addition, staff and volunteers make available renovation resources and try to answer renovation planning questions, such as "What kind of windows should my house have?" or "Should my house have a porch?" or "Where can I find the perfect thingamajig or the person to install it?"

Robert Fortune of Fortune Restoration, Chicago, will present at House History Day and Renovators Resource Day. He will answer questions regarding house painting and will have paint color charts and other tools of the trade for demonstration purposes. Fortune Restoration is the preferred painting company for the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House. See the website for details: <http://fortuneresoration.com/restoration-projects/oldest-home-chicago.php>

For more information about the event, please call 773-631-4633 or e-mail info@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org.

The Norwood Park Historical Society, a not-for-profit organization, resides in the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, Chicago's oldest home. We invite you to join our efforts to preserve our community's rich history and architectural integrity and to make the dreams and experiences of our predecessors come to life. Visit us on Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

Evanston to Use Grant to Conduct Historical Survey of Lakeshore Area

The City of Evanston has contracted with Victoria Granacki and Lara Ramsey of Granacki Historic Consultants to conduct an architectural survey. The purpose of the survey is to assess approximately 323 structures included within the Evanston Lakeshore Historic District, prepare an inventory of their architectural features and current condition, and denote any changes to the structures over time. The survey begins this week and the information will be provided to the city in the form of a computerized database as well as hard copy.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency awarded a \$12,000 federal grant to the City of Evanston to conduct the survey. The city's share of \$5,200 or 30% of the total cost is being matched in kind with additional volunteer work and staff work. The total cost of the survey is \$17,200.

The survey boundaries correspond to a southern section of the district, and are roughly described as follows: south side of Greenleaf Street (between Lakeshore Blvd. and Hinman Avenue) to the north; north side of South Boulevard (between Judson Avenue and Forest Avenue) to the south; Sheridan Road, Edgemere Court and Lakeshore Blvd (between Keeney Street and Greenleaf Street) to the east; and Michigan Avenue (between Lee Street and Kedzie Street) and Hinman Avenue (between Lee Street and Greenleaf Street) to the west.

Download architectural and historical survey here>>>

The compiled information will be used to make informed decisions regarding city preservation planning, community development projects, and rehabilitation plans for individual buildings. Property tax assessments are not being changed as part of this survey.

The survey will include photographic documentation of the exterior of each primary and secondary structure in the survey area. Photographs will be taken from the public right-of-way where possible. In some cases, surveyors may be required to walk down driveways to photograph secondary structures (detached garages, sheds, etc). Survey results and photographs will be kept by the City of Evanston, and will be made available online.

Any questions or concerns about this survey should be directed to:

Carlos D. Ruiz
Senior Planner/Preservation Coordinator
Community and Economic Development Department
Planning and Zoning Division
City of Evanston, IL
847/448-8687

SPECIAL INVITATION EXTENDED TO AREA ARTISTS & CRAFTSARTISTS

Artists and craftsartists are invited to jury to be among the exhibitors in the 21st ANNUAL AN ARTS & CRAFTS ADVENTURE, a popular juried arts and crafts show to be presented by American Society of Artists, a national membership organization, on the grounds of Hodges Park, Prospect & Vine, Park Ridge, Saturday, May 7 from 9am to 5pm.

Potential exhibitors in this fine juried pre-Mother's Day event are welcome to jury online (only to Asoartists@aol.com) or by U.S. mail (only to ASA, PO Box 1326, Palatine IL 60078). Please submit 4 images representative of your work you wish to exhibit, one of your display set-up, your first/last name, physical address, daytime telephone number - resume/show listing helpful. Please be sure and include our first/last name, physical address and daytime telephone number.

Art In Action, a popular feature of this well attended event will again be included in the show with some of the exhibitors working/ demonstrating at various times during the show. Programs will be available free of charge at the show listing the exhibitors, their medium and showing their location in the show.

Additional information may be obtained from American Society of Artists, PO Box 1326, Palatine IL 60078 - 312-751-2500 or by calling 847-991-4748. Additional information is also available on our website at www.americansocietyofartists.org