



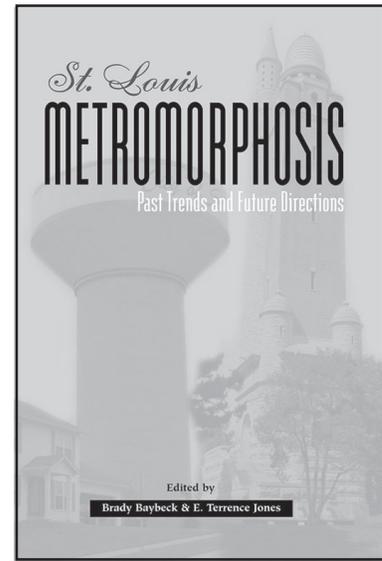
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ST. LOUIS'S METRO-MORPHOSIS IS DOCUMENTED IN UPCOMING BOOK

Early in July, *St. Louis Metromorphosis: Past Trends and Future Directions* will hit the bookshelves. Published by PPRC in partnership with the Missouri Historical Society, it will be the first in a series of volumes that documents and analyzes economic, social, political, and historical aspects of the St. Louis metropolitan area.

St. Louis Metromorphosis offers a sophisticated analysis of what has been happening within the St. Louis region over the last five decades. Using data sets extending back as long as a century, twelve scholars from four area universities, including UM-St. Louis, analyze key policy issues and trends. A chapter by PPRC Director Mark Tranel elucidates the implications of shifts in jobs from manufacturing to service, and



examines which enterprises have flourished and which have withered. In another chapter, Scott Decker, Curators Professor of Criminology

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PPRC RECEIVES GRANT FOR RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION RESEARCH

The PPRC, in collaboration with Mid-County Partners for Progress (MCP) was awarded a solid waste analysis grant from the St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District (SWMD).

MCP is a community development corporation that was created by the small cities in the Normandy area. Established in 1999, MCP provides a vehicle for intergovernmental cooperation. Through this grant project, PPRC will assess and evaluate the solid waste needs, recycling

habits, and obstacles in the Mid-County communities. PPRC will utilize written surveys as well as focus groups and community meetings. "Our goal," says Miranda Duncan, Community Development Specialist with PPRC, "is to discover effective approaches to recycling and to identify ways that municipalities can reduce their service costs by working together." The research results will be used to develop and implement intergovernmental material collection programs.

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**LIVABLE communities don't just HAPPEN.
They are CREATED by the PEOPLE who LIVE in them.**

3rd Annual Creating Livable Communities Symposium Attracts More Than 150 Participants

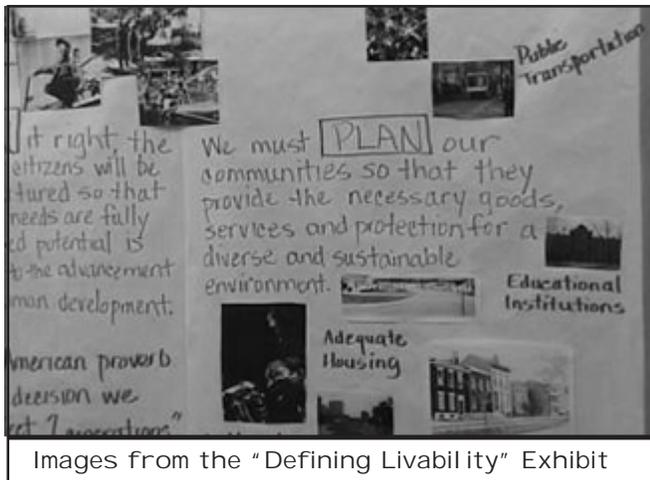
The third annual Creating Livable Communities Symposium was held April 12-13, 2004, at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Approximately 150 researchers, policy makers, and practitioners participated in plenary and concurrent sessions, exploring research findings related to intergovernmental cooperation, philanthropy, brownfields, housing trends, health indicators, transit-oriented development, and revitalization.

The Symposium opened with a keynote address presented by Dr. David Cox. Cox is Executive

Assistant to the President for Partnerships and Administration at the University of Memphis and is also a Professor in the Division of Public Administration. From 1998-99 he was Director of the Office of University Partnerships for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. His keynote speech addressed the potential impact of community-university partnerships. The Symposium also included concurrent sessions, opportunities to network, luncheons and a poster exhibit.

One highlight of the Symposium was the “Defining Livability” Photo Exhibit. This collection of images reflected community members’ interpretations of what makes a community livable. Four “jurors” representing such diverse interests as youth development, urban living for young professionals, greenway development, and journalistic photography, arranged the images into three distinct exhibitions, and these were on view during the Symposium.

To see images and presentations from the Symposium, visit the CLC webpage at <http://pprc.umsl.edu/clc/symposium.htm>.



Images from the “Defining Livability” Exhibit

PPRC Chosen to Evaluate County Library User Satisfaction

The MIDAS division of the PPRC was recently awarded a contract with the St. Louis County Library District. MIDAS will spend the summer working with District administration and staff to determine patron satisfaction with the level and types of services offered by the County Library. The District is also seeking to understand the reasons that persons without library cards within the service area do not use library services. Finally, the study will determine the extent to which residents are willing to pay for additional library services and programs. One area of intense interest to the District is computer education and other technology-related services.

To obtain accurate data, PPRC will study four subdistricts—North, West, Central and South. The sample from each subdistrict will survey library users and non-users.

Questions will focus on satisfaction with library services, the need for additional services, and willingness to pay for new services. Library non-users will be asked to identify barriers to library use and also to list services which would persuade them to become active card users.

“This research will help library administrators find the best mix of services and programs for current and potential users, and for all ages and interests,” says MIDAS Director David Laslo. “It will also increase the efficacy of providing and delivering those services to about 870,000 St. Louis County residents. We are excited to be asked to conduct this research and to provide information that will be so beneficial for such a large segment of the region’s population.”

New Direction for PPRC Photo Gallery Images Document Residents' Eye View of Life in St. Louis

When Mel Watkin became the Director of the PPRC gallery last August, she brought a new lens to the project. The gallery will continue the tradition, established by founder Jean Tucker, of exhibiting top quality photography. However, the new project will mirror the working methods of PPRC by partnering with St. Louis area community groups to capture images of life from the perspective of the people who live there. PPRC will host three Point of View exhibitions annually, focusing on photographs taken by citizens in three of St. Louis's diverse community groups. These images will be displayed in the PPRC gallery and also in the featured neighborhood.

The three groups that will participate in PPRC's 2004 Photography Project are Old North St. Louis Restoration Group, Gateway Greening, and a collaborative group formed by Normandy High School students and the Normandy Area Historic Association.

"Taking photos is an experience shared by people across the boundaries of geography, age, race, language, religion, and economic standing, but taking good photos requires effort, knowledge, and technical skill," says Watkin. Because the gallery will continue to emphasize high quality images, Watkin will work with each group, providing education along with the equipment and materials. The three community exhibitions will be



Images from the "Portraits Along the River" Exhibit in the PPRC Gallery

documented through an annual publication, and copies will be distributed to museums, schools, and libraries throughout the metro area. The first exhibit of the new project will open in September 2004. The Old North St. Louis exhibit, which will run through December 7, will feature images of life in a community that is in the process of a strong economic and social revitalization.

And don't miss the current exhibit, "Portraits Along the River: Working in the City of St. Louis". This exhibit, featuring the work of Bob Reuter and Thomas Crone, runs through August 6.

See more images from the current show on page 8

VISTA Volunteer Housed at PPRC

Mary Rocchio will be housed in the Public Policy Research Center during the 2004-2005 academic year. She is an Americorps VISTA Volunteer working in conjunction with 4-H Community Youth Development and University of Missouri Extension. Throughout the next year she will be starting and expanding after-school computer labs in the St. Louis area. She will support existing labs in the West End and North St. Louis, and assist communities in Webster Groves and Pagedale as they begin their own programs. The main objective of the VISTA project is to ensure that upper elementary and middle school students have adult supervision and access to computers after school. Mary received her



bachelor's degree in Sociology from Southwest Missouri State University in December 2002.

PPRC Launches Service to Interpret the Past Program Assists in Development of Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing

Community History Research and Design Services (CHRDS) is a new service offered through PPRC to help communities rediscover their past to shape the future. History is a powerful vehicle for strengthening communities because it deepens residents' attachment to place and promotes their investment in its future. CHRDS has already worked on several projects in the Old North St. Louis neighborhood, and in that context CHRDS has mapped out a historic bike trail and has engaged in archaeological digs. This work has drawn tourists and academic groups to the community, which has in turn boosted the local economy. "Historical perspectives promote a sense of unity and purpose," says CHRDS' Andrew Hurley. "This perspective allows a community to make informed policy decisions and to envision a future."

The CHRDS program channels the resources of the University—the expertise of its faculty and the energy of its students—to individuals and groups who wish to strengthen and enrich their communities through the practical application of historical research. CHRDS also aims to enhance the educational experience of students at UM-St. Louis by providing them with hands-on training in history projects that have a practical application. Students and faculty work

together on community research projects through the creation of specialized classes and seminars. The most promising students are employed in directed research assistantships and internships. The core of the program revolves around students and faculty in the fields of history, museology, and urban archeology.

Currently, the CHRDS program is lending its support to the development of the Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing historic site in North St. Louis. The site commemorates one of the few documented episodes in

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Applied Research Division Studies Child Care Programs

United Way and ARCHS selected the Applied Research division to conduct an evaluation of their child care initiatives. United Way supports the *Success by 6*[®] (SB6[®]) program, and ARCHS supports the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program. Applied Research is performing an outcome and implementation evaluation for the programs. Susan Catapano, Assistant Professor in the Division of Teaching and Learning at the College of Education, joins PPRC staff for this evaluation. She has the faculty appointment in Early Childhood Education.

Funded by St. Louis 2004's Families and Learning Initiative Work Group, SB6[®] and ECCE have worked through four components in their current action plan. Their immediate objective is to add more child care

centers and education programs for young children. This step will meet agreed-upon standards of quality, as well as accommodate the needs of families transitioning from welfare to work.

"Improving the availability and the quality of care for preschool children are the goals of the *Success by Six*[®] program," says PPRC Director Mark Tranel. "Achieving these goals is critical for all children, but has particular impact and urgency for households affected by welfare reform. Our multi-method, comprehensive evaluation will measure the impact of *Success by Six*[®] on the community as well as on individual participants." The study will be completed in Fall 2004.

Community Fellows Focus on Brownfields and Greenspace

In October, the Public Policy Research Center named Elizabeth Connolly and Linda Fried-Ellis as its 2003-2004 Community Fellows.

Ms. Connolly currently serves as planner for East-West Gateway Council of Governments. She has also served as the Project Manager for the Revitalizing Brownfields and Preserving Open Space project. As a Community Fellow with PPRC, her primary focus is to examine community and local government capacity for brownfield redevelopment.

Ms. Fried-Ellis is President of the Board of Directors for the Green Center. She is one of the founding members and current Chair for the Water Quality Working Group of the River des Peres Watershed Coalition. Ms. Fried-Ellis's Community Fellows project focuses on mapping the River des Peres watershed, with a particular emphasis on green space and development opportunities in inner-ring suburban communities. Both Fellows remain in their current positions during this one-year commitment to working with the University. Each Fellow receives a

predetermined stipend for the implementation of her project, and may also access PPRC's research expertise.

The PPRC's Community Fellows program is an innovation that connects experienced members of community-based organizations working to improve the region with UM-St. Louis faculty and students. The program, now in its third year, is designed to foster partnerships that will strengthen the St. Louis metropolitan area. During the fellowship, each Fellow develops collaborative projects that benefit their organizations and the greater St. Louis community. The program links the Fellows with UM-St. Louis resources as well as national networks of people concerned with community-based development. The Community Fellows program is coordinated by Kay Gasen, Director of the PPRC's Community and Neighborhood Development division. Support for the program is provided by the E. Desmond Lee Endowment at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and by the Outreach Development Fund of University Outreach and Extension.

MIDAS Job Openings Study Shows Unchanged Market

The most recent job openings survey results, just published by the MIDAS division of PPRC, show that the economy is largely unchanged since May 2003. The study compared the number of job openings for May and October 2003. During the week of October 21, 2003, there were an estimated 15,701 full-time positions and 12,150 part-time positions open for immediate hire in the twelve-county St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

The survey results, overall, reflect that economic conditions have remained relatively unchanged since the May 2003 survey. There is a measurable decrease in estimated job openings but this is due to a decrease in reported estimated job openings in the healthcare sector. The greatest decrease in estimated healthcare job openings was found in companies with 100-249 employees. In the May survey, the increase in jobs was due to an increase in healthcare industry jobs found in companies of this size. Essentially then, the changes

balanced one another and presented an unchanged economy. The data collected during this period reflected a continued soft labor market and economy.

The Job Openings Survey was conducted in partnership with the Center for Advanced Social Research at the University of Missouri -Columbia and the Center for Urban Research at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. MIDAS's Workforce Information System (WIS) provides the data from this study. The WIS, developed and maintained by MIDAS, is a web-based data system for workforce development planning. The WIS also offers data on the MSA's economy, population, school districts, and local systems including transportation and workforce training entities. You can read the full report at <http://pprc.umsl.edu/wis/>. You can also read past survey results and search the jobs and employment database.

Lunch and Learn Series Serves a Variety of Topics

In June 2003, PPRC kicked off the Lunch and Learn series with a discussion on the ways Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is being used to explore inner-ring housing strategies for community development in Jennings. Two weeks later, in another session Kay Gasen of PPRC's Community and Neighborhood Development division offered perspectives on why residents choose to stay – or leave – their city neighborhood. Now, almost a year later the series draws a broad audience of students, faculty, community members, neighborhood leaders, and people who care about St. Louis. As part of PPRC's work in connecting community and university folks interested in St. Louis area neighborhoods, the Lunch and Learn series is offered monthly. The presentations serve as a springboard for discussion on a broad range of topics that affect local communities. The gatherings support networking and sharing of information, and often highlight projects that are actively shaping St. Louis.

One recent Lunch and Learn offered a presentation by students in UM-St. Louis's College of Business Administration. Over the last semester, the group of students assisted small business owners in developing and writing targeted business plans. This presentation looked at university-community partnerships in action

and examined the role that small business entrepreneurs can play in community revitalization.

The Lunch and Learn series will continue to offer monthly gatherings. These are free and open to anyone interested, and attendees are invited to bring a lunch. Upcoming discussions will focus on the elements of community revitalization, including the role of CDCs, the impact of new technology, the importance of



Students at UMSL's College of Business Administration Present at Lunch and Learn

historical preservation, and other ways that true university-community partnerships can happen. Check the PPRC website for upcoming dates and topics.

Best Practices Sessions Promote Intergovernmental Collaboration

Scarce resources require leaders to take a closer look at how they can preserve and even expand municipal services for their constituents. Toward this end, Mid-County Partners for Progress, the Public Policy Research Center, University of Missouri Extension and the Local Government Partnership are offering *Best Practices and Creative Solutions for Mid-County Municipalities*. This is a series of talks designed to help both leaders and residents better understand the issues local governments face, and to explore ways to address them.

Best Practices and Creative Solutions for Mid-County Municipalities is intended for interested residents, business leaders, municipal administrative and professional staff, law enforcement personnel, mayors,

council members, and trustees of the 21 Mid-County municipalities. There is no cost to attend. The remaining scheduled sessions are as follows:

May 21, 2004	Code Enforcement
June 25, 2004	Municipal Budgeting and Finance
July 23, 2003	Economic Development
August 20, 2004	Infrastructure and City Master Planning

For more information about any of these, please contact the PPRC at 314.516.5277.

St. Louis's Metro-morphosis (Continued from cover)

and Criminal Justice at UM-St. Louis, writes on “a century of homicide.” He explores the ways ethnicity, neighborhood composition, and population have influenced the number and nature of murders in St. Louis.

The book will be available at the bookstores at UM-St. Louis and the Missouri History Museum. To obtain a copy, you may also send an email to pprc@umsl.edu.

Recycling and Waste Reduction Grant (Continued from cover)

Education will be a significant portion of this project. “Research has already demonstrated that in order for a household to develop consistent recycling habits, the children must be invested in the practice, and that these habits must be developed early if they will last into adulthood,” states Duncan. For this reason, the education efforts will be aimed at elementary and secondary schools in the MCPP municipalities. Educational programs will also be offered to the government offices as well as to

community groups in the MCPP areas. The curriculum will be developed by Rebecca Pastor, PPRC’s Communications Coordinator, and Miranda Duncan. The combined approach of education and research will ultimately increase waste diversion rates and improve cost effectiveness.

New Service Documents, Interprets History (Continued from page 4)

the history of the underground railroad. In 1855, Mary Meachum, a free woman of color, helped a group of slaves cross the Mississippi River to Illinois where they hoped to gain their freedom. Although the crossing was unsuccessful, Meachum’s courage and dedication to the pursuit of freedom remains an inspiration to the ongoing struggle for social justice. The Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing represents an unprecedented opportunity to revitalize the riverfront, highlight African American history in North St. Louis, and boost tourism.

CHRDS recently published *Streets and Neighborhood History: A Handbook for Researchers in St. Louis*. This book offers more than 15 striking photos of St. Louis’s past, and it provides guidance for any community seeking to explore its own history. Complimentary copies of this publication are available upon request.

The CHRDS program is directed by Mark Tranel, PPRC Director, and Andrew Hurley, PPRC Faculty Fellow and Professor of History at UM-St. Louis. For more information about the CHRDS program, please contact PPRC at 314.516.5273.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Finding good information on the web can be a tricky task. If the numerous sites devoted to research, community development, politics, and public policy leave you feeling overwhelmed, let our suggestions help you navigate the world of electronic information.

PPRC SITES:

PPRC offers a number of websites, devoted to its rich, community-focused programs. In addition to our main PPRC site (<http://pprc.umsl.edu>), check out the following:

Creating Livable Communities Network:
<http://pprc.umsl.edu/clc/index.htm>

Workforce Information System:
<http://pprc.umsl.edu/wis/>

Old North Neighborhood Partnership
<http://pprc.umsl.edu/onnp/>

OTHER RESOURCES

Keep current on local and national political issues during this year of elections.

Congress.org
<http://congress.org/congressorg/home/>

PPRC GALLERY

CURRENT EXHIBIT:

Portraits Along the River: Working in the City of St. Louis

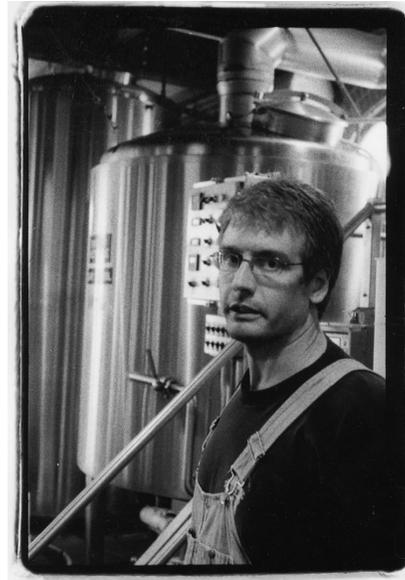
May 5 - August 27, 2004

COMING IN SEPTEMBER 2004:

Old North St. Louis

Images of and by the people who live in Old North St. Louis. A perspective of a community through the eyes of the people who create it. With special thanks to the Old North St. Louis Restoration Group.

Exhibits curated by Mel Watkin. For more information on current or upcoming shows, call 314.516.5273



Images from the current Gallery exhibit. James Ottolini, above, chief engineer, St. Louis Brewery, and Amy Oshiro, left, violinist, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. See story, page 3.

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