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## A Year of Community Exhibits Highlights "the People Who Live in Them"

Livable communities don't just happen. They are created by the people who live in them. So goes the signature phrase of the Public Policy Research Center (PPRC). In April, the PPRC Gallery will open the third exhibit in its new Point-of-View series, thus completing a year of community photography. The Point-of-View series, directed by Mel Watkin, mirrors PPRC's mission by spotlighting photographs that explore life in St. Louis neighborhoods from the perspective of the folks who live and work in them.



"Lydarrell's First Sitting," from the upcoming PPRC Gallery Exhibit

"The images we've been getting back are quite striking," said Watkin. "These photos are statements of tremendous enthusiasm and honesty from people about their neighborhoods." The project relies on community photography, a highly specialized and somewhat uncommon area of the photographic arts in which the

people who are usually the subjects of photo documentation become the photographers. By placing cameras in the hands of residents, the exhibits allow residents the opportunity to decide how their lives are portrayed. "It's a very personal statement by the artists," added Watkin. Another way that the Gallery's new mission engages the community is by physically placing the exhibit

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## CREATING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES SYMPOSIUM TO FOCUS ON HISTORY

On May 21, PPRC will host the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Creating Livable Communities Symposium. The theme of this year's Symposium is Linking Public History and Community Revitalization. The Symposium will offer a cross-disciplinary look at ways that the practice and presentation of public history can create strong bonds between people and place and serve as a tool to invigorate, strengthen, and revitalize communities.

Speakers for the 2005 Symposium include:

**Dr. Robert Archibald**, Missouri Historical Society

**Marci Reaven**, Place Matters

**Michael Frisch**, University at Buffalo, State University of New York

In addition to the plenary presentations, concurrent sessions will highlight case histories and projects will be presented

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**LIVABLE communities don't just HAPPEN.**

**They are CREATED by the PEOPLE who LIVE in them.**

# Neighborhood Leadership Academy Continues Tradition of Training Neighborhood Leaders, Wins Prestigious Award

In February, just weeks after the Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) kicked off its 2005 session, Kay Gasen was notified that the program would receive the Recognition of Excellence Award for Innovations in Outreach and Engagement from the University Continuing Education Association. "This is a wonderful recognition for UM-St. Louis," said Gasen, the Director of PPRC's Community and Neighborhood Development division and coordinator of the NLA. "We are pleased that UCEA recognizes the importance of programs that create and support community leaders."

This is the fourth year that NLA has been offered. Each year the NLA brings together a diverse group of current or potential neighborhood leaders for a series of training sessions in a hands-on leadership training program that emphasizes community building principles, organizational leadership and management practices, and personal leadership skills. Over the years, NLA's curriculum has evolved to meet the needs of St. Louis's ever-changing communities. This

year class topics include volunteer and board development; raising funds; project planning; and public speaking. The sessions will also include two neighborhood tours and a retreat that focuses on community building principles.

"The Neighborhood Leadership Academy is open to

anyone that wants to work in partnership to improve their community," said Gasen. "It's a unique program in that it trains community professionals and volunteers, both new and experienced. Anyone who can make the 11-session commitment will come away with tools that can be applied immediately."



2003 Neighborhood Leadership Academy Graduating

## The Recognition of Excellence Award for Innovations in Outreach and Engagement

The Recognition of Excellence Award for Innovations in Outreach and Engagement is a highly competitive award, granted annually by the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA), Outreach and Engagement Community of Practice. UCEA is a national organization of more than 425 public and private accredited colleges and universities with a significant commitment to continuing higher education.

The Neighborhood Leadership Academy was nominated for this prestigious award by Continuing Education and Outreach at University of Missouri – St. Louis. The UCEA awards program recognizes institutional excellence, individual achievement, and contributions to the Association and to the field of continuing higher education. It also honors creative and innovative programs in the field.

The UCEA was particularly impressed with the NLA for its emphasis on community-building principles, personal leadership skills, and organizational leadership. It also made note of NLA's long-term region-wide connections and the networks that have been created to sustain the NLA graduates after the training session has concluded.

Congratulations to the Community and Neighborhood Development division, and special thanks to UM-St. Louis's Continuing Education and Outreach.

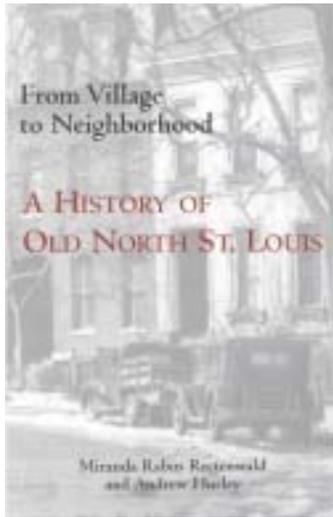
Participants will bring an individual community-based project of their choosing to the table, and throughout the course of the Academy they will receive assistance, feedback, and resources that will help them to shape and implement their project. "Many leaders have never had this kind of training," said Gasen. "The Academy was designed to make professional level community development training accessible and relevant to grass roots community leaders at all levels."

Participants who successfully complete the program will receive the Chancellor's Certificate in Neighborhood Leadership. A total of 3.45 Continuing Education Units also will be awarded to participants. Past sessions of the NLA have trained leaders from communities as far away as Jefferson County, and as close as Jennings.

The Neighborhood Leadership Academy is a collaborative training initiative of the University of Missouri – St. Louis, Public Policy Research Center, the Nonprofit Management & Leadership Program, and University of Missouri Extension.

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## Book Documents Recovery of History in Old North St. Louis



Over the last three years, faculty, students and staff at the University of Missouri-St. Louis have collaborated with residents of Old North St. Louis to cultivate a sense of place and spur neighborhood revitalization through historical research. One outcome of this partnership is a new book, ***From Village to Neighborhood: A History of Old North St. Louis.***

This book, written by PPRC Faculty Fellow Andrew Hurley and by Miranda Rabus Rectenwald, bears witness to the significance of the past and the importance of place. It documents the recovery of the history of the Old North St. Louis neighborhood through research, interviews, and archaeological excavations.

Much of the work documented in this book has been done with the assistance of PPRC's Community and Neighborhood Development division, through its Old North Neighborhood Partnership Project (ONNP) and through PPRC's Community History Research and Design Services (CHRDS). The ONNP has worked to integrate the neighborhood's recent history with

its more remote past and to involve the community in the process of interpreting this history.

Old North St. Louis was placed on the National Historic Register in 1984. The neighborhood has since received a lot of attention, and many of the neighborhood's 19th-century homes have been restored. The neighborhood has also seen the construction of new homes, and new families have moved into the area. Through its work with the Old North St. Louis Restoration Group, the ONNP has sought to cultivate social bonds, help residents understand how the past has shaped the neighborhood in which they now live, and promote community stability and growth. The ONNP has been involved in other projects in the neighborhood, including the development of a bicycle tour, community museum and video documentary; training programs for residents in home maintenance and financial fitness; and the development of resources for safe home rehabilitation and environmental safety.

This work was recognized most recently when the Old North St. Louis Restoration Group received the 2005 McReynold's Award. The award is given annually by the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation, the only non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, supporting, and coordinating historic preservation activities throughout Missouri.

To receive a complimentary copy of the book, please contact the PPRC by email at [pprc@umsl.edu](mailto:pprc@umsl.edu), or call us at 314.516.5277.



### PPRC IS SEEKING GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

The Public Policy Research Center is currently accepting applications and resumes for graduate research assistants. Assistantships will be available during the summer, fall and winter 2005-2006 semesters. Knowledge of statistical and database software and languages, including STATA, SPSS, and Excel is required. Some web page development familiarity is desired. This is a half-time position requiring 20 hours of activity per week. Interested students who do not have provisional or restricted student status should immediately contact:

**Mark Tranel**, Director 314-516-5289 **OR** **Telesa Nolan**, Administrative Associate, 314-516-6595

**Students must be enrolled at University of Missouri - St. Louis.** Assistantship includes a monthly stipend and a full tuition scholarship (non-educational fees for books, parking, activity & health fees, etc., are not included).

*The University of Missouri-St. Louis is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity.*

## PPRC Helps Gateway Greening Achieve National Recognition

The American Horticultural Society selected St. Louis's Gateway Greening as recipient of the 2005 Urban Beautification Award. This award is a part of the Society's annual National Awards program, initiated in 1953, which "celebrates outstanding achievements, encourages excellence, and inspires innovation in the art and science of horticulture."

The Public Policy Research Center started working with Gateway Greening in 2000 to measure their impact on the communities in which they work. PPRC developed a targeted research methodology, conducted surveys, and collected secondary data to examine the impact of 55 gardens in the City of St. Louis. Although Gateway Greening is one of many urban greening projects nationwide, none of these programs have ever had an external evaluation to determine their effectiveness. The research has been privately funded by Mr. and Mrs. Blandon Whitmire. PPRC will extend its work on the Whitmire Community Garden Study for another three years, this time looking at community garden areas and changes in community crime rates. "Gateway Greening is very fortunate to have the long-term commitment of

the Whitmire's to fund this research," said PPRC Director Mark Tranel. "It has allowed PPRC the opportunity to develop appropriate methodology that not only has demonstrated results in St. Louis, but also can be replicated in other metropolitan areas to measure the impact of community gardens."

PPRC's photographic gallery has also worked closely with Gateway Greening, and the gallery currently is hosting an exhibit featuring photos by Gateway Greening members. This exhibit is the second of three such projects in the PPRC's new Point-of-View photography series, and it will be on display until April 13 (see gallery story, front cover).

Gateway Greening is a nonprofit organization dedicated to community development through community gardening. Since 1984, Gateway Greening has helped transform neglected and abandoned lots in St. Louis into productive gardens and beautiful landscaped areas. Its mission is to provide resources and training to neighborhood groups who believe in their communities and want to reclaim them from urban decay. □

## Gateway Greening's Community Gardens

**The following images are from the current PPRC Photo Gallery Show, "Gateway Greening's Community Gardeners." These images were taken by Gateway Greening's community volunteers. The Gallery exhibit runs through April 13.**



Images from left to right: Molly's beets, by Kristin Lindner; Pumpkin Harvest, by William Bennett; Blooming Protected, by Bob Byrne. Opposite page, Leafy Canopy Shading Ajuga, by Ruth Kampenhoefer (top); Flocking #3, by Marilyn Lane (bottom).

## Recovering the History of Lewis Place

The Community History Research and Design (CHRDS) and the Community and Neighborhood Development divisions of PPRC are working with residents of Lewis Place to uncover the area's history. Lewis Place is the oldest private street in St. Louis. Established in 1890, it became a residential destination for affluent African-Americans during the civil rights movement. It also became a focal point in the battle for housing rights. "Like many private streets in St. Louis, Lewis Place imposed restrictive covenants to prevent the sale of homes to Blacks," explained Andrew Hurley, CHRDS researcher and Professor of History at UM-St. Louis. "The residents of Lewis Place want to recover this history, particularly the stories of the civil rights struggle."

Through CHRDS, a research team consisting of faculty and students from UM-St. Louis has been working with the Lewis Place residents to recover their stories. The team has been analyzing census data, newspaper archives, legal documents, and property deeds in an effort to reconstruct this history. The project will examine the early history of Lewis Place as well as the racial transition of the area. The fact that Blacks were banned from buying homes there becomes more significant in the face of the present, because this private street is now primarily African American-owned.



This project was recently featured on KWMU's talk show, St. Louis on the Air, and also on KETC-TV's channel 9. Both broadcasts may be downloaded from the PPRC webpage.

Community History Research and Design Services (CHRDS) is a service offered through PPRC to help communities rediscover their past to shape their 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. CHRDS has worked on several projects throughout the St. Louis area, including the development of a bicycle tour in Old North St. Louis. The program is working with the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood on a brochure showcasing local historic landmarks.

CHRDS's publications include *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. It also recently released *From Village to Neighborhood: A History of Old North St. Louis*, by Andrew Hurley and Miranda Rabus Rectenwald. Complimentary copies of both books 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.



## PPRC Calendar of Upcoming Events

### April

#### **Assessing Polling Places in the St. Louis Area, an Applied Research Seminar**

April 13, 12 noon – 1:00 p.m. PPRC conference room, 427 Social Sciences Building, UM-St. Louis  
Presented by David Kimball, PPRC Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor of Political Science at UM-St. Louis.

#### **Lunch and Learn**

April 21, 12 noon – 1:00 p.m. PPRC Conference Room, 427 Social Sciences Building, UM-St. Louis  
Mel Watkin, Director of the PPRC Gallery, will present “Community Photography: The PPRC Point-of-View Exhibits.”

#### **15 Kids: By Us, For Us, and About Us, a PPRC Gallery Exhibit Opening**

April 21, PPRC Photo Gallery, 362 Social Sciences Building, UM-St. Louis  
The next exhibit in the Point-of-View series will feature photos taken by and of the children who attend the Pagedale Beyond Housing after-school program. This event will immediately follow the Lunch and Learn.

#### **Creating Livable Communities Seminar Series: The Ins and Outs of Population Migration**

April 28, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. JC Penney Conference Center Room 222, UM-St. Louis  
PPRC’s David Laslo and a panel of regional experts will present an analysis of recent migration trends.

#### ***St. Louis Metromorphosis* Book Discussion**

April 25, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the St. Louis Tap Room  
The St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange continues its book group with the next discussion of *St. Louis Metromorphosis: Past Trends and Future Directions*. One of the book’s contributors, TBA, will facilitate the discussion.

### May

#### **Lunch and Learn**

May 5, 12 noon – 1:00 p.m. PPRC Conference Room, 427 Social Sciences Building, UM-St. Louis  
The Community and Neighborhood Development division will present “A Year in Review.” We’ll showcase recent partnerships and projects, and highlight goals for the year ahead.

#### **Creating Livable Communities Symposium: Linking Public History and Community Revitalization**

May 21, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. JC Penney Conference Center, UM-St. Louis  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium will offer a cross-disciplinary look at ways that the practice and presentation of public history can create strong bonds between people and place. See story, page 1. .

#### ***St. Louis Metromorphosis* Book Discussion**

May 30 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the St. Louis Tap Room  
The St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange continues its book group with the next discussion of *St. Louis Metromorphosis: Past Trends and Future Directions*. One of the book’s contributors, TBA, will facilitate the discussion.

## A Year Of Photos (continued from front cover)

in the community. “For each show, two exhibits are organized, and two sets of images made. Each show is displayed in the PPRC Gallery on UM-St. Louis’s campus, and each exhibition will also be hosted by a business or organization in the neighborhood featured in the photos,” said Watkin.

Photography is not a new endeavor for the PPRC, but this direction is. PPRC has been committed to photography since 1978, when the Gallery was founded. Since its inception the Gallery has been a beacon for both nationally known and local photographers, professionals and amateurs alike. The mission of the Gallery has evolved in alignment with PPRC’s larger mission, and in 2004 it formally adopted a new objective: the Gallery now seeks to foster university-community partnerships and to give communities a new tool for broadening their knowledge of themselves and each other.

The Point-of-View series kicked off in September 2004 with “Photography Project: Old North St. Louis.” Containing more than 23 images, this show featured the work of residents of the historic Old North St. Louis neighborhood. The exhibit complemented PPRC’s ongoing historic preservation projects in that neighborhood. The second and current show, “Gateway Greening’s Community Gardeners,” opened in January 2005 and showcases images from the organization’s volunteers. Per its mission statement, Gateway Greening is a community gardening group dedicated to forming “gardening partnership for

community development.” The show can be viewed in the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor’s and Education Center in Forest Park through April. The third show, “15 Kids: By Us, For Us, About Us,” will open on April 21 in the PPRC Gallery and on April 22 in the St. Vincent’s Community Center. It will feature photographs taken by and of the children (ages 10-13) who attend the Pagedale Beyond Housing after school program.

“This project is completely unique to public policy organizations. In looking for models across the country, I’ve found nothing at all like it,” said Watkin. Taking photographs is an experience shared by people across the boundaries of geography, age, language, religion, economic standing, and race, but taking good photographs requires a concentrated effort along with knowledge and technical skills. Community groups interested in participating need not be intimidated by the thought of using a camera, however. Watkin will meet regularly with the participants, helping them to select its own “assignment” and providing photography basics so that they can create top quality, visually captivating pictures. Groups are provided with all equipment, materials, and educational information, and will also be connected to UM-St. Louis resources that can offer technical assistance at no cost to the participants.

If your group is interested in participating, or to view images from the current Gallery, please visit our website at <http://pprc.umsl.edu>. Email us at [pprc@umsl.edu](mailto:pprc@umsl.edu).

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## Creating Livable Communities Symposium (Continued from front cover)

by communities from across the state. Workshop sessions will focus on creating historic districts, developing oral history projects, building collaborations between museums and communities, and uncovering community history.

The 2005 Creating Livable Communities Symposium is organized by Lynn Josse, PPRC Community Fellow, as part of her research on the connections between historic preservation and community revitalization. Symposium co-sponsors include the Missouri Historical Society,

Missouri Humanities Council, Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, the Central West End Association, and University of Missouri Extension.

For more information, visit the PPRC website (<http://pprc.umsl.edu>) or email us at [pprc@umsl.edu](mailto:pprc@umsl.edu).

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## Recent Publications

**Research Paper 6: Spiritual Integration Test and What It Predicts About Elder Health And Well-Being** — 2003 Faculty Fellow Van Reidhead reports on his findings about the relationship between spiritual integration and the physical and emotional well-being of elder citizens. View online slide show: <http://pprc.umsl.edu>, visit publications page.

**From Village to Neighborhood: A History of Old North St. Louis**, by Andrew Hurley and Miranda Rabus Rectenwald. This volume is witness to the significance of the past and the importance of place. It documents the recovery of the history of the Old North St. Louis neighborhood through research, interviews, and archaeological excavations.

**Metropolitan Governance Without Metropolitan Government**, edited by PPRC Faculty Fellow Don Phares. This book examines in detail the governance of metropolitan regions in the United States, Canada and Mexico, and provides an overview of the regional governance experience in several European cities.

**St. Louis Metromorphosis: Past Trends, Future Directions**, edited by E. Terrence Jones and Brady Baybeck. *St. Louis Metromorphosis* offers a sophisticated analysis of what has been happening within the St. Louis metropolitan area over the last five decades.

### PPRC is updating its mailing list

If you wish to change your address, join our e-mailing list, or be removed from this mailing list, please let us know.

**Call:** 314.516.5273

**Email:** [pprc@umsl.edu](mailto:pprc@umsl.edu)

**Visit:** <http://pprc.umsl.edu> and fill out an online form.

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