

MADE FOR EACH OTHER UPDATE

1. Competed projects with notes on future efforts

Lafayette Square

On Nov. 13, 2010 — as part of the Spirit & Place Festival — 20 people representing nine different cultures made presentations about their cultures and offered food to sample in the aisles of Saraga International Market. More than 300 people — some there for the event and others who just came to shop — enjoyed these presentations that day. These presentations included three-panel boards with images and details shared in multiple languages. And hundred more saw the boards that stayed up in the store for three more days. We followed this event up with a well-attended exhibition of the boards and videos from the presentations at Big Car Gallery on the December, 2010 First Friday. All of this will be available online.

The project, called Learning About the World at the Grocery Store, was the idea of social practice artist Harrell Fletcher who came to Indianapolis to work with volunteers from Big Car and the neighborhood to make it happen. He was later one of three panelists for the Public Conversation, Spirit & Place Festival's trademark event. For the Saraga project, members of each cultural group paired with at least two people from Big Car, Herron and Provocate.org to create the event.

The idea for doing the project at Saraga during Spirit & Place came during a visit in 2009 by Fletcher. One of the leading figures in social practice art, Fletcher was in Indianapolis for a lecture at Herron.

In 2011, we are working on plans to open a space for art, community and culture at a former Firestone tire service shop in front of Lafayette Square Mall. The mall has said we can use the space as long as we pay for expenses such as utilities.

Binford Area Redevelopment and Growth (BRAG)

Test Fest 2010, a partnership with the Friends of Skiles Test Nature Park, was a temporary environmental art installation show located in the Skiles Test Nature Park. This was the first special event to ever take place in this park's 40The focus of the show is on temporary works made with what materials are available in the park itself. The event was sponsored by NUVO and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and was a great success, with more than 1,500 people attending on the day of the show and hundreds more seeing it as the work remained in place in its changing state through spring.

Test Fest happened on Oct. 16, 2010 at Skiles Test Nature Park, an 80-acre park located on the northeast side of Indianapolis. It was the former homestead of Mr. Skiles Edward Test and after his passing the land was given to Indianapolis Parks. The park has several gravel trails and is seen from the highway.

Made for Each Other selected 11 artists or teams of artists to develop environmental installations (sticks, leaves, mud, stone, scrap metal, etc.) All works were made of materials found within the park (with a couple of fun exceptions).

Participating artists are coming from as far away as New York and California. Test Fest artists were: Jason Bord, Matt Bua, Jose Di Gregorio, Lukas Schooler, Cindy Hinant, Nathan Monk, Jeremy Efroymson & Lori Miles, Dan Hottle, Flounder Lee, and NERS. Several students a class at Ivy Teach also participated.

Big Car involved people from the neighborhood in the planning and organizing of the event. Students from nearby Skiles Test Elementary School also learned about environmental art. In the spring of 2010, we completed the first half of this two-part project that focused on the environmental art of Andy Goldsworthy. For this project, titled Playing Andy Goldsworthy, we showed Skiles Test Elementary students the Rivers and Tides documentary, talked about Goldsworthy's art and visited the park to make artwork out of found natural materials. Students then connected sticks and vines found on the ground at the park with a steel cornucopia sculpture designed and created by MFEO artist Thomas Streit with fellow MFEO artist Todd Bracik. This piece is installed in the courtyard at the school located near the park and is inspired by Goldsworthy's work.

In 2011, we plan a celebration show of documentation from 2010 Test Fest and we will bring Test Fest back to the park — we are also looking into taking the concept to other parks in the city.

Near Eastside

For the MFEO project in the near east, Big Car opened its ongoing Made for Each Other community art space in the Moon Block Building at 10th and Rural. On Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010, featured an exhibition in the space that featured 200-plus drawings by near east neighbors of their homes. These drawings were gathered by MFEO artists at neighborhood meetings, pitch-in dinners, after-school programs with kids and programs for seniors. This was part of a grand opening celebration for the block that includes the Little Green Bean resale shop for baby clothes and the Pogue's Run Grocer food co-op.

In 2011, we'll continue to program neighborhood-related shows and events on an ongoing basis with regular hours in the Made for Each Other space.

West Indy

Made for Each Other-West Indy featured a performance that included storytelling, video and dance and shared the story of those who live in the West Indianapolis neighborhood. Members of the community, including first time performers of all ages, performed on two nights — Oct. 1, 2010 and Oct. 2, 2010 — with members of the nonprofit dance/theater group Susurrus. The performances took place on the stage at the Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center and included video interviews by David Yosha.

In 2011, we'd like to continue to collaborate with local business, Barry's Pizza, who distributed flyers about our event on pizza boxes he delivered to people in the neighborhood. In this collaboration, we would copy artwork and poems created by children at the Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center.

Martindale-Brightwood

Kountry Kitchen food project with Project School: In May of 2010, Big Car and the Second Story writing project for kids partnered with The Project School to work with students there on a food-related project. This project is sponsored by the Indiana Humanities Council's Food for Thought program. For this project, students took a field trip to a neighborhood soul food restaurant, Kountry Kitchen. They took photos, wrote poems and reviews and made recordings. We presented the images and audio to parents and students during an open house at The Project School on June 12, 2010.

In 2011, we will present this project to the public in a second way after continuing to gather food-related stories and a cookbook in the neighborhood.

Near West

For the Near West neighborhood, we worked with 100 residents on a project that brought the diverse groups of neighbors together to make a collaborative art exhibition. Here, residents — kids and adults — teamed up in random pairs to make 50 surreal collage creatures. The collages featured images connected to Day of the Dead and the neighborhood's Hispanic community and other various images of people and animals from historic times. This allowed for collages that represented the rich history of diversity and immigrant cultures in the Near West area.

MFEA artists attended the Near West neighborhood picnic at Haughville Park, the Haughville Library branch and neighborhood after-school programs to work with neighbors to create Creature Collages shown at the Hootenanny Fiesta neighborhood celebration on Oct. 29, 2010 at the Hawthorne Community Center. All participants in the collage making received free passes for food at this well-attended community event.

We also created and distributed new bilingual posters and flyers about the event, helping bring people in and leaving the neighborhood with a lasting, fun identity for the event that they already used this year on really cool T-shirts that we purchased for staff and volunteers to use.

In 2011, we will work with the neighborhood to create a bilingual mini-publication or "zine" that serves as sort of a guide to businesses and entities that residents of different backgrounds may not know about.

Southeast

The exhibition, part of the 2009 Spirit & Place Festival, brought in more than 250 people from the neighborhood on Nov. 13 and 14, 2009 at the Wheeler Arts Community. For this project, Big Car Collective members distributed 100 disposable film cameras to residents in the neighborhoods southeast of downtown and displayed the results as part of Made for Each Other: Southeast — the first in a series of eight community art projects happening around the city in 2009 and 2010. The exhibition and celebration was part of the Spirit & Place festival and also featured photos taken by artists at the other seven neighborhoods in the project. The celebration was capped off by a special reading event by eight local writers and community leaders who contributed to this year's Spirit & Place Festival magazine.

The community-driven photography project was in line with what Big Car will do as the Made for Each other series continues. The idea with each project is to include people from all walks of life in the process of making art and enjoying cultural experiences together. For this project inspired by the work of Portland, Oregon-based social practice artist Harrell Fletcher — an advisor and artist working on the series — participants received a recyclable disposable camera and a list of 20 assignments such as take a picture of two people kissing, take a picture while jumping, take a picture of what makes your neighborhood unique, and take a picture of a hero in your neighborhood. They all received a copy of the pictures on the night of the event.

In 2011, Big Car will continue to support art in the neighborhood through our programs at Big Car Gallery in Fountain Square and through supporting events like Masterpiece in a Day and the Fountain Square Art Fair.

2. Projects to be completed

Crooked Creek

We are working with leaders from the neighborhood on ideas for 2011. So far ideas have been about identity for the neighborhood, connecting it to the Indianapolis Museum of Art and highlighting upcoming community garden projects.

Overall Celebration and catalogue

These will come later in 2011 — our target is May — once we have completed all aspects of the 2010 projects and have the catalogue designed and printed to distribute to the public. Central Library will host the celebration and we'll feature a show of the work from the series at Big Car Gallery or another prominent First Friday location.