

Imago Dei Youth Arts Initiatives

New KIDS on the BLOCK!

Imago Dei Art Center is one of the newest art galleries in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. This unique art gallery is one of City Vision Ministries' newest tenants. The Imago Dei facility has two levels. The street level space is being used as a beautiful art gallery and has offices and a kitchen area. The lower level is big enough to have the performing arts students stretch, dance and do drama rehearsals on one side, while the visual art students create their special photo projects, drawing projects, and special interest creations. The staff and students enjoy a spacious rehabbed facility that was occupied in the early months of 2008.

Imago Dei has selected several students for the initial session of the Youth Arts Initiative. There are two teams. The Youth Visual Arts Team (YVA Team) includes: Adrian Borunda, Kenan Meadows, and Joshua Wilson. The Youth Performing Arts Team (YPA Team) includes: Tania Calvin, Marissa Smith, Oscar Whitmore, Jami Wilson, and Kaila Wilson.

Kenan, a freshman at F. L. Schlagle High School, said he loves the arts. He plans to make art part of his career goals. Kenan said his favorite projects are photography and drawing cartoon characters. He mentioned that the entire YVA Team is putting together a collage of photos that will be exhibited as individual portraits of each team member.

The YPA Team shared that their favorite performance piece is called the "Machine." Kaila, a junior from Sumner Academy, said that the "Machine" allows each performer to use creative ways to be part of a movement and beat that work simultaneously and connect with other team members. Their demonstration of this unique art form was fun, different, and most intriguing.

The youth expressed appreciation for Imago Dei Youth Arts Program. One of the



From left: Joshua Wilson, Kenan Meadows, Kaila Wilson, Oscar Whitmore, Tania Calvin, Marissa Smith, Jami Wilson

Not in the photo: Adrian Borunda, Alan Soltero.

most important reasons for their appreciation is that they will get a pay check every two weeks. Imago Dei and City Vision put together some resources to provide a stipend for youth salaries. One of the funders for the program is the Francis Family Foundation. This Foundation grants committee contacted City Vision Ministries and mentioned how excited they were, to be a part of a Youth Arts Program

in Wyandotte County.

Imago Dei Art Center will exhibit youth art on July 11 at the next KCK Downtown ArtWalk. Viewers will have the opportunity to meet some of these talented youth as they "follow-the-dot" to 730 Armstrong Ave. and witness the amazing photos, collages, and numerous art pieces created by these talented youth. ■

Wheat State Pizza Comes to Strawberry Hill

Wheat State Pizza Company plans to open its first store in Wyandotte County at 612 N. 5th on Strawberry Hill. Known for their high quality ingredients and hometown atmosphere, the pizza shop plans to be open in August. The pizza company will certainly add to the blossoming café and restaurant district developing on Strawberry Hill.

According to Paul Davidson, one of the organization's first investors, the Strawberry Hill Wheat State Pizza location is the first store in a pre-World War II urban core city neighborhood. Paul said he first learned about Strawberry Hill neighborhood while in elementary school in Topeka. Strawberry Hill is one of KCK's most famous neighborhoods

and is known for its ability to maintain itself with a strong sense of community through many generations and changes.

Paul said gourmet pizza and superior taste are what drives Wheat State Pizza owners to provide the best quality and service to all of their customers. "We look forward to serving our great pizza to the Strawberry Hill neighborhood, downtown KCK employers, workers and surrounding neighborhoods like Turtle Hill, St. Joseph's, and Riverview," Paul says.

The 1911 historic building, closed and vacant for decades, is being developed by City Vision. It last housed a corner grocery store and ice cream shop. The interior finish for Wheat State will preserve the historic feel

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Wheat State continued

with a high-pressed tin ceiling, hardwood floors, and a quaint atmosphere.

Wheat State Pizza and City Vision Ministries are making every effort to go “green” wherever possible. City Vision will be installing new, energy-efficient, all electric heating and air conditioning systems and Wheat State Pizza is using all compact florescent and LED lighting.

Wheat State Pizza will have an affordable lunch buffet every weekday, starting at 11:00 a.m. Expect some great deals on carry-out on your way home any time after 4:00 p.m. until the closing at 7:00 p.m. ■



Paul Davidson of Wheat State Pizza

5th Street East Townhomes Set to Open

New, energy-efficient townhomes at 5th and Armstrong on Strawberry Hill will officially open to the public at a ribbon cutting at 10:00 a.m., Friday, Aug. 1. Mayor Joe Reardon and other officials will be on hand for the event and for tours of the new homes.

John Harvey, President of City Vision Ministries, stated that “these will be the first townhomes in the metro Kansas City area to be Energy Star rated.” The Energy Star rating results from highly energy-efficient insulation technology, heating and air conditioning systems, and other design features. A total of five homes are available for purchase with prices from \$215,000. Each home features 3 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, 2 car garage and full basement. The interiors feature hardwood floors, fireplace, oak woodwork, and a master bedroom with skyline views.

The 5th Street East Townhomes are the first of 60 new townhomes and condo flats to be developed on the north end of the historic Strawberry Hill Neighborhood. The townhomes are within walking distance of many major downtown employers and are minutes from the new Power and Light/Sprint Center Entertainment District. For more information see the Strawberry Hill section of the website or go to strawberryhilldevelopment.com. ■



Leaving A Legacy Part 1

Friends and supporters of City Vision Ministries have the unique opportunity to leave a legacy through planned giving, the “*gift that keeps on giving*.” City Vision is launching this new program, which features opportunities for tax reduction as you plan for tomorrow. Here are some options:

1) gift of cash, 2) appreciated stock, 3) bequest through a will, 4) charitable remainder trust, 5) retirement accounts, 6) CD’s, savings, checking accounts, 7) gift annuity, 8) gift of life insurance, and 9) gift of real estate.

For more information on planned giving, please contact Evelyn at 913-371-5200 or visit our website at www.cityvisionkck.org. ■



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