



THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

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AL HIPPENSTEEL, EDITOR thedearbornexpress@gmail.com

DEVELOPING THE WABASH ARTS CORRIDOR

As if heralding in a “New Era,” Columbia College hosted a standing room only crowd at the Hilton Chicago, of local community activists and organizations, representatives of local educational institutions, Business Partners, instructors and students, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Alderman Fiorretti. The emphasis was to celebrate Wabash Street present and future. It was not overlooked that Wabash Street and environs was in a downward spiral as a gritty near south neighborhood and home to run down buildings and deteriorating infra-structure twenty years ago. It cleaned up nicely with the help of Columbia College buying up and renewing real estate, the Hilton Chicago Hotel deciding to stay in the South Loop and restore the grandeur of their hotel, and the city making an investment in re-streeting improvements. New businesses have moved in including many new restaurants and grocery stores. Now it is the vision of the WAC (Wabash Arts Corridor) Committee to ratchet it up a notch and make a bold statement with involvement of community members.

The Wabash Arts Corridor Assets include:

- 8 educational institutions
- 19 galleries, special collections, visual and sculptural installations
- Over 30,000 students with 5000 in residence halls
- 14 performance spaces
- 6 major hotels
- Over 40 restaurants
- 1000+ cultural events with an annual audience of 500,000+
- Iconic architecture

The WAC Goals are

WAC becomes widely recognized as a distinct geographical location noted for its character and sense of place.

WAC has the full support of its area residents, businesses and institutions.

With large-scale installations and sculpture, dynamic media displays, distinct and recognizable branding, WAC transforms its urban landscape and captures the imagination of those who transverse it.

Local businesses and institutions use WAC as part of their strategic thinking and development.

WAC emerges as a City of Chicago cultural destination.

WAC unleashes the creative talent of the various college’s faculty, staff and students as it becomes a laboratory for student learning..



Peter Cacciatore President of Cacciatore Real Estate and Nino Rodriguez CCC alumnus: Balbo garage mural (Photo by Stephan DiSantis)

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Mar 21, 22, 23, 24 Tammy McCann & the MicJazz faculty featuring Audrey Morrison, Victor Garcia, Pat Mallinger, Jeremy Kahn, Stewart Miller & Ernie Adams 8PM & 10PM

Mar 25 Vocalist Julia Huff Jam Session Night

Mar 26, 27 Roosevelt University presents Jazz combos FREE ADMISSION 7PM

Mar 28, 29, 30, 31 Dynamic Duos – Willie Pickins, Stu Katz plus Two for Brazil Greg Fisman & Paulinho Garcia 8PM & 10PM

April 4, 5, 6, 7 Eric Reed

April 11,12, 13, 14 Kenny Garrett

April 25, 26, 27, 28 Freddy Cole



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Mayor Backs Wabash Arts Corridor

March 13, 2013, from the Columbia College website

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced a plan on Wednesday to partner with Columbia College Chicago and other South Loop organizations to create public art under the umbrella of the [Wabash Arts Corridor](#), a stretch of Wabash from Congress to Roosevelt. Mayor Emanuel called the dynamic arts corridor an integral part of the newly created City of Chicago Cultural Plan.

"The Wabash Arts Corridor puts into action two major goals of the City's Cultural Plan. First, coordinating our cultural and educational assets, and second, to leverage them in a way that benefits our children's education and spurs local businesses," said Mayor Emanuel. "I have seen firsthand the power the arts can have to transform a neighborhood economically as well as culturally."

Columbia College President Warrick L. Carter reiterated the sentiment, stating, "The Wabash Arts Corridor is a powerful concept that can help bring together the residents, businesses and institutions of this district and allow us to leverage our creative assets in a very exciting and palpable way. This collaboration with the city certainly has put the project on the fast track toward further developing the South Loop into a dynamic arts space including murals, sculptures, image projections, concert series, and more long-term projects."

The public forum also served as the unveiling for concepts of the next Wabash Arts Corridor project, a series of large-scale photographs to be installed on the exterior of the iconic Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave. The images are being developed by Columbia College's [photography department](#) with original student works to be installed in May 2013.

Other projects in the Wabash Arts Corridor include an [aerosol art mural](#) at the northwest corner of Balbo and Wabash Ave. by Columbia College Chicago alumnus and Chicago-based artist Nino Rodriguez (B.A. '05) and the Columbia College's [Papermaker's Garden](#). Photography and [English](#) students will soon collaborate on creating images and text to be installed on the support beams for the Red Line El tracks on Harrison St.



Photo by Stephan DiSantis

NEWCITY

Newcity.com is a Web site about Chicago. We start with the core coverage found each week in Newcity magazine, Chicago's only locally owned and operated cultural weekly, where we've been covering the turf for more than 25 years, and extend it with your input on our site. Please sign up and join the conversation!



ShopColumbia

Columbia College Chicago's art boutique



623 S Wabash Ave, 1st floor. Chicago, IL 60605 <http://shop.colum.edu>

OPINION

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the the editor or South Loop Referral Group.



Rose Laws and me,
photo/Sharon Woodhouse

It wasn't until page 180 of [Gold Coast Madam](#) that I found a South Loop connection to my new best friend, the famous Gold Coast madam [Rose Laws](#). But it was there. *"In the 90s we had a three-bedroom penthouse apartment with a large balcony at River City, 800 S. Wells Street. This very recognizable, curvy building on the Chicago River was practically a city within itself. Inside the building there was a grocery store, pharmacy, dry cleaners, doctor's office, gym. Almost anything you could ever need was conveniently right there. We had a really talented and hardworking girl at this apartment. When she had dates with men, they never wanted to leave when their hour was up. We made a deal with her to keep the other girls in line. She also did the laundry and helped the maid clean. She was sort of a house mom, if you will, and stayed six months. She would take two days off a week so she could explore the city. She loved the arrangement and it worked out well for us too. Everything was fine in River City until some girls solicited the valet help downstairs. Needless to say we were thrown out of the building."*

So I exaggerate when I say Rose is my best friend. Although at one time, we were sort of neighbors. [River City](#) is a mere hop, skip and jump from my home at Roosevelt and State. I've been there many times and have always admired the [Bertrand Goldberg](#) concoction of a building. One of the quirks? Many of the units' windows face inward and over an enclosed atrium, nary a bit of fresh air to be had.

Rose and I met just once, in fact--at a book signing thrown for her at [Nisei Lounge](#) at Newport and Sheffield last Sunday. I'd been reading her book and wanted to meet her in person. She's 78-years-old now. And what a life she's had! The book is quite interesting and I highly recommend it.

Laws was born in rural Tennessee. You would be hard-pressed not to call her a "hillbilly." Her father was no good, very mean, had plenty of non-secret girlfriends and didn't support the family. Her mother was long-suffering. Rose married an abusive husband who she met while he was serving in the military. She had five kids in quick succession; her husband beat her but he didn't drink or cheat. She left him. Her kids ended up in an orphanage and in foster care. And for all practical purposes, Rose used her own sexuality--and the sexuality of others to make a lot of money, get her kids back and do right by her family.

The men in her life couldn't wait to shower her with cash, many simply because they liked her, felt kind of sorry for her or just considered her a fun friend. Her long-term romantic relationships were often like long-term business partnerships, the terms of which she proposed as soon as she set her sights on someone she thought would get it. More often than not, she was right. They got it.

Her journey through life put her in the same social whirl as many famous mobsters--some named, some not. At a certain point, Rose leveled with her kids--four boys and a girl--about how she made a living and to one degree or another, they accepted it all and even helped the family business thrive in one way or another.

Rose has a cute way of talking about her own sex life here and there throughout the book, which she wrote with [writer Dianna Harris](#). The sexy twinkle in Laws' eye jumps out of her words--and right off the page.

Rose got in big trouble twice. When the state came down on her the first time in 1988, she didn't serve any time. But when the feds came-a-calling in 2002, she ended up in federal prison. She tried engaging in a number of legitimate businesses throughout her life but nothing seemed to turn out right. Only being "an agent," as she likes to say, worked for her.

Bonnie McGrath Visit my blog: <http://www.chicagonow.com/mom-think-poignant>



South Loop Neighbors

South Loop Neighbors is a non-profit membership based organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in South Loop's neighborhoods and preserving the area's landmark districts.

South Loop Neighbors represents South Loop residents who are concerned about:

- Ensuring high-quality, reasonably-sized real estate development as well as infrastructure improvements that respect the unique character of our community
 - Preserving and protecting the area's Landmark Districts, including Printing House Row and Historic Michigan Boulevard
 - Promoting quality education, recreation, services, retail, community activities, and events
 - Maintaining a socially, culturally, and economically diverse neighborhood
 - Developing strong relationships with key city officials to ensure they respect, hear, and act on the concerns and ideas of the South Loop community. South Loop Neighbors serves members and residents within the area bounded by Congress Parkway to approximately 25th Street and from the Chicago River to Lake Michigan.
- Www. Southloopneighbors.org**

British School Proposal (from South Loop Neighbors Newsletter)

The owner of the Roosevelt Collection is proposing to construct a building for the British School instead of the park that current zoning requires. The developer showed drawings of the school at a meeting on Tuesday, March 5th, at St. Ignatius College Prep, 1076 W. Roosevelt.

When the Roosevelt Collection retail center was approved, the Planned Development Ordinance (PDO) required construction of a "grand staircase" allowing access from the north and a two-acre "publicly available open space." Now the owner proposes to amend the PDO, to allow construction of a new building for the British School on the park parcel. That building would have some rooftop landscaping, reached by a narrow four-story stairway that would be controlled by the shopping center. In addition, an artificial-turf playing field is proposed west of the school building, but it is unclear who would control its access, besides it seems that the British School would have exclusive use of the site during school or practice hours.

Future residential development will make it even more important to have a real, ground-level park since the Roosevelt Collection already has approval for a residential high-rise next to the movie theater, and can build another 500 units on the land north of the park, between Polk and 9th.



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Music@Grace, Thursdays at 7:30 pm,

Grace Place, 637 S. Dearborn Street in the South Loop. Enjoy performances by graduates and advanced music students from Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts in this award-winning, intimate space with superb acoustics. Reception follows each 45-minute performance. Free. For further information, visit <http://gracechicago.org/programs/>.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Joyce Han and Tadeo Gangotena, pianos; Antonio Cevallos and Francisco Coser, violins; and Davis Perez, viola, performing the following program:

Arthur Bax *Concert Piece*
Telemann *Fantasia No. 1*
Georges Enesco *Concert Piece*
Brahms *Sonata in E-flat for viola and piano*

No concert on March 28 due to the Easter holiday. Happy Passover, beginning on March 25, and Easter.

Miriam Scott



A Good Read!

Islamorda Florida February 21, 2013

Welcome to Sandmeyer's Bookstore!

Independent. Local. Family-owned.
From the moment you walk into Sandmeyer's Bookstore, you can tell the difference.

Sandmeyer's Bookstore has served Chicago's South Loop since 1982, providing quality new books and unbeatable service. A true mom-and-pop shop, Sandmeyer's Bookstore has been family-owned and operated since the beginning.

Come browse our extensive collection of new releases, travel guides and children's books. Whether it's a fresh copy of an old favorite or the latest bestseller, you're always going to find something good at Sandmeyer's

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at Wabash &
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COMPUTER/ CELL
PHONE FOR YOU

IF

YOU WILL TURN OFF
YOUR LIGHTS FOR
EARTH HOUR
MARCH 23, 8:30PM

I WILL

The Alliance for a Greener South Loop will bring your old computer/cell phone to Chicago's Computer Recycling Depot for you

IF YOU WILL

Turn your lights off for one hour on March 23, 8:30pm and drop off your old computer/cell phone to Overflow Coffee Bar, 1550 S. State St., from March 9-22.



Special Offer

Get \$1 off a pastry at Overflow Coffee Bar with purchase of a drink when you drop off your recycled items :)

That's it. It's that simple. Drop off your computer equipment and we'll bring it to the recycling depot for you. But just for these two weeks and be sure to turn off your lights for Earth Hour, March 23, 8:30pm.

Email
info@greenersouthloop.com or
call 312-504-3538 if you have
any questions.

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website
www.greenersouthloop.com



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For Community Bulletin Board

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South Loop Education Task Force

by Janelle Myers, Secretary, South Loop Neighbors

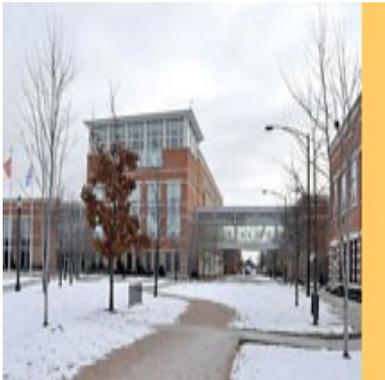
You are invited to join the newly created South Loop Education Task Force to develop an educational vision and guide the future of education in the South Loop.

The South Loop Education Task Force is comprised of South Loop residents, education leaders, organizations, institutions and other stakeholders who are concerned about the current and future educational needs of our South Loop community. The South Loop Education Task Force will be a permanent institution that will be a guiding educational force. It will create comprehensive strategies using a broad range of community stakeholders. It seeks to continuously identify, inform and engage stakeholders including residents, businesses, churches, institutions, and public officials. Stakeholders will be informed of the importance of public and private schools for the South Loop community and how they will benefit.



The South Loop Education Task Force is committed to doing the following:

- Develop a strategic short-term and long-term educational plan driven by data to guide the South Loop's educational growth and ensure it's education needs
- Organize community forums to inform community stakeholders
- Assess the educational needs of the South Loop
- Explore school choice for the South Loop verses other communities
- Review of current and former South Loop education plans and South Loop demographic data analysis
- Advocate for high-quality education options to attract and retain progressive families to ensure a stable South Loop community
- Demand a voice in the use of TIF dollars for educational purposes such as purchasing land, building new schools or modifying current schools
- Investigate the underutilization of the National Teacher's Academy



- Analyze the overcrowding at the South Loop Elementary School
 - Evaluate the relocation of South Loop Elementary school's gifted program ability to solve overcrowding
 - Determine if the 350 seats (plus 75 CTE) set aside at Jones College Prep HS is adequate for the growing South Loop community
- Study the need for a neighborhood high school and middle school
Please join us in shaping the educational future of the South Loop.
The will of South Loop residents, stakeholders and public officials is essential. To become involved in the South Loop Education Task Force, or for more information, contact Janelle Myers at 312-588-1841 janellemy@yahoo.com
From South Loop Neighbors Newsletter



South Loop Referral Group

meets every other Friday at 7:30 am

at Dearborn Station Atrium SLRG.ORG

South Loop Referral Group is a professional organization, made up of individuals with a high level of skill and passion for serving their community. The members all live and work in the south loop area; which means they are well known locally with many resources and testimonials. A referral groups goal is to have only one representative from each category. The quality of their work and the care they provide makes them truly unique, and whether you are looking for a printer, a banker or a contractor, you can be sure whomever you hire from our group, will be attentive, on time, and competitively priced.

The group also serves as a rainmaker, encouraging local business development and supporting a thriving professional community in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood through motivation, communication, and education.

THE DEARBORN EXPRESS

This publication is sponsored by the South Loop Referral Group, a professional and business networking group. It is our mission to provide the Printers Row area with current news and to promote local businesses and organizations. This publication will be distributed through email to individuals who wish to receive it. It is our hope that we will be able to expand our features and publish twice a month by April. If you have any questions or would like to contribute information for news or to our bulletin board, please email us at : Al Hippensteel, editor

thedearbornexpress@gmail.com

Watch Your Back! Police Blotter

Present arms

A man resisted arrest March 6 by flailing his arms after an undercover officer saw him trying to sell CTA fare cards to passing pedestrians at the Roosevelt CTA platform, 1167 S. State St. The man was taken into custody.

Off the rack

A woman allegedly stole \$462 in merchandise from sale racks March 6 at XSport Fitness, 819 S. State St. When confronted by security, the woman dropped the items from her shirt and fled, and was caught and arrested.

Apple picking

A man walking while listening to music on March 2 was mugged by a group of three people around 700 S. Dearborn St. One of them put him in a headlock and the other two took his iPhone 5. None of the thieves have been identified.

Not-so-funny money

While trying to purchase cigarettes March 5 at 70Eleven, 535 S. State St., a man discovered he had a counterfeit bill. He told police he got the fraudulent bills from one of three nearby stores: Epic Burger, Dunkin' Donuts or 7-Eleven.

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

MARCH 11, 2013

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