

PERRY MANSION
Cultural Center

The blending of cultures through art

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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FORMER ENGLEWOOD DRUG HANGOUT CONVERTED INTO THE NEWLY RESTORED PERRY MANSION CULTURAL CENTER AND ART GALLERY

PRE-GRAND OPENING FUNDRAISING RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 20 7:30 P.M. RIBBON CUTTING GRAND OPENING SEPTERMBER 27 10A.M.

CHICAGO—7042 S. Perry was once an eyesore and a menace in the community. It was the hang out for drug dealers and addicts…until they set it on fire in 2004. A man with a vision rescued this 110-year-old Queen Ann Victorian home from the ashes. It has regained its popularity on the block...but for all good reasons. People stop and admire the outstanding remodel and detail of the finely manicured grounds. The wraparound porch beckons you to come and relax.

However, it is the plans for the inside that will astound you more that the initial view of the new Perry Mansion Cultural Center. The walls trimmed in the original wood feature the artwork and sculptures of local artists. The mission is the blending of culture through art. The many cultures that make up the fabric of Chicago will be featured through the display of all genres of art.

Samuel Smith, a journalist, has combined his real estate development career with his passion for art when he discovered a diamond in the rough at 7042 South Perry Avenue. Smith wants to remain in the background, while his work of art, the mini mansion and its programs get all the attention and guest partake of the art, special exhibits and even culturally based entertainment.

Smith's goal was to make the space breath taking and those who stop by to take a peak seem to agree. He is busy working night and day to put the final touches on the main level for a **Pre-Grand Opening Fund Raising Reception on Saturday, September 20. The V.I.P. Reception kicks off at 6:00 p.m. with special celebrity guest planned to join guests. The donation is**

ADD ONE PERRY MANSION

only $75. At 7:30 p.m. the public can join the festivities for only $50. The reception features music by some of Chicago's best jazz and R& B groups. Malik Yusef and K-Love, popular spoken word artists will wow the guests with electrifying and thought provoking poetry. Featured sponsors for the event include, Home Depot and WineStyles (South Michigan location).

Cook County Commissioner Deborah Sims, Alderman Carrie M. Austin, Alderman Fredrenna Lyle, and Alderman Howard B. Brookins, Jr. are among elected officials embracing the project. They agree that to support the new cultural center means that the Chicago metro area is enhanced and the residents have a wonderful place to be enriched and to enjoy. While the Perry Mansion is located in the sixth Ward, Ald. Austin is welcoming the second component to the project into the 34th Ward. Youth Art programs will be housed at The Warehouse a building located at 11026 S. Wentworth. The Warehouse will be a safe haven and place for youth during out of school hours. According to Ald. Austin, "I welcome the Perry Mansion art programs to the 34th Ward because our youth can be engaged in constructive programs that can keep them out of trouble and safe."

Comm. Deborah Sims, 5th District, explains, "I am excited to see partnerships that will result in youth and families benefitting from the addition of the arts and celebrating culture. I know this is going to be great for our communities."

Perry Mansion offers school field trip, membership and sponsorship opportunities. Members will be able to enjoy special exhibits and other special events. "Slave Ship Experience" is the first special exhibit scheduled to open in February 2009. This interactive exhibit will allow guest to "experience and learn about slave transport in the Middle Passage. Sponsors can be instrumental in helping to complete the additional levels and bring future exhibits to the space.

Special events including Monday Night "Open Mic" will feature Chicago's spoken word poets. Sunday Jazz Brunches will begin shortly after opening. Perry Mansion is also available for rent for private parties. The outside space is ideal for weddings and other festivities. There are plans to make the outdoor garden area available during colder months.

For more information on the new Perry Mansion Cultural Center and Youth /art Programs, call 773-494-9526 or email perrymansion@gmail.com.

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