A Quarterly Newsletter Volume 1, Issue 1: Fall 2025

Crooked Creek Cultural Campus Update

"No doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." —Margaret Mead

A Vision: The Crooked Creek Cultural Campus

The Crooked Creek Cultural Campus derived from the recognition that, even before COVID, an already deteriorating "sense of Community" existed in our historic Crooked Creek Community. I recognized that kids were more into phones & social media, adults focused on day to day life — there seemed to be no real focus on community events, gatherings and fellowship.

I recalled my youth performing "summer stock" theater at the old Starlight Musicals — how those summers transformed my life. Few opportunities existed for kids to participate and be exposed to arts and culture then — and fewer now with school programs being cut. I also felt that there was not a "natural meeting place" for the Community.

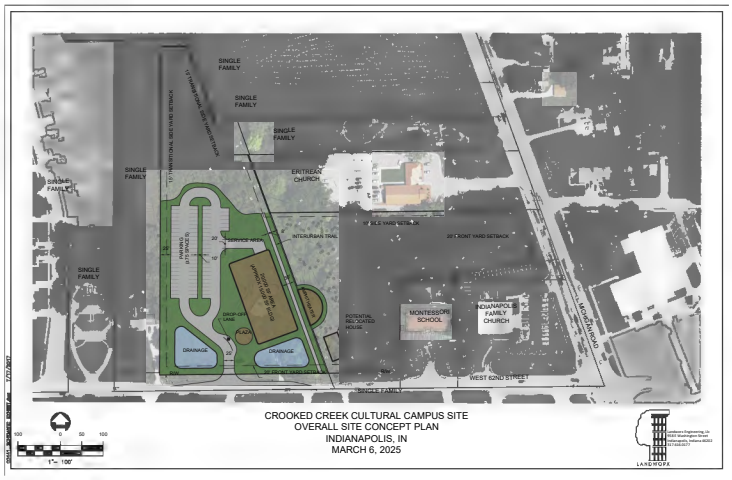
I had a vision which has developed into the Crooked Creek Cultural Campus — to provide access to all ages and backgrounds to art, culture, educational and community-building opportunities, while creating a "cultural focal point" in the Crooked Creek Community that would appeal to the entire City. The Cultural Campus' location, at 62nd Street and Michigan Road, is a natural fit since our Public Library is across Michigan Road from the proposed Campus.

Crooked Creek Community Land-Use Committee, along with the support of Pike Township Residents Association (PTRA), defeated rezoning attempts for a gas station, storage facility and apartment complex proposed for the 3.5 "L" shaped wooded acres. Recognizing we could not prevail forever, I approached Joan SerVaas, informing her of my 25 year mentored relationship with her father, Dr. Beurt SerVaas. I asked her to purchase and donate the site for my vision. She agreed! We are now seeking to add 4.5 acres, giving us an 8 acre Campus. Our plan is to maintain and preserve these woods, including several Heritage Trees, working with Indy Parks for educational tree identification and other environmental programs among other activities.

I developed a "Visioning Committee" with representatives from Newfields, Asante Children's Theater, Pike Performing Arts Center, an architect, lawyer, teachers, clergy, professional fundraisers, area residents, resident performers and others — who shaped my vision over an 18 month period. An initial bubble diagram representing desirable spacial elements has been developed — yet nothing has been finalized except the footprint of the building and Site Plan.

The Visioning Committee envisioned a facility that would have "coffee hours" to exchange Community concerns or issues, collaborating with the Library for family game nights, book clubs, financial & writing literacy classes, inter-generational movie nights — to have kids work with a professional comic book artist to develop their own art, characters and storylines, exposure to puppetry, an educational recording studio, improv theater and the traditional arts — all transferable skills providing critical thinking capabilities that kids and adults can engage in and learn from.

Approved Site Plan for Michigan Road & 62nd Street



We have had early discussions with Indy Parks, Herron School of Art & Design, Brown Hound Studios, Washington Township School District, Pike Township School District, area private schools, Actor's Theater of Indiana, Arts with a Purpose and others seeking collaborations. Our goal is to add to and enhance existing community opportunities in our Community, NOT to duplicate services that already exist.

Please join us in creating this truly transformative, community facility and culturally rich project for our Community. The Crooked Creek Cultural Campus will be a hub of positive activity engaging all ages and backgrounds in our Community. Please share this information with your friends, neighbors, organizations and congregations. Please donate and make this grass-roots effort to improve the quality of life in our Community a success! Add your name to the list of donors — inspiring larger foundations and businesses to "lean in" and support the development of the Cultural Campus! This grass-roots effort can only succeed with our Community's support!

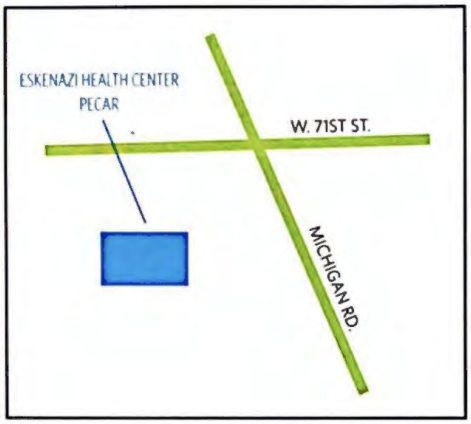
Please donate at: CrookedCreekCulturalCampus.org

The Cultural Campus was originally a KMM Foundation project, but it has been spun-off to have its own Crooked Creek Cultural Campus 501(c)(3) IRS non-profit status.

Please visit my website (KmmFoundationIndy.org) to learn about the thirty plus years I have worked to improve the quality of life in our Community. — Kerry Michael Manders

S E Q U O I A C L U B

Pecar



6940 Michigan Rd.

Indianapolis, IN 46268

317.266.2901

Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Eskenazi Health Center Pecar is a federally qualified health center serving all patients regardless of the ability to pay. Discounts for essential services are offered depending on family size and income.

Your medical team will consist of doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, medical assistants, students, front-desk staff and other team members who are here to provide you with the best care possible.

Eskenazi Health Connections is available 24 hours a day for assistance with health care questions and can be reached by calling 317.880.7666. Connections team members are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. to help patients make appointments.

Please visit our website to see our entire network of locations around Marion County.
https://www.eskenazihealth.edu/locations

This information is not for medical emergencies or medical treatment. For medical treatment, please contact your health care provider's office by phone or go to the nearest emergency room. For emergencies, please call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. If this is a mental health emergency, please call 317.880.8485.

OUR SERVICES

- Diabetes Education
- Dietitian Services
- Financial Counseling
- Healthy Me
- Medical-Legal Partnership
- Mental Health
- OB/GYN
- Primary Care
- SNAP Application Assistance
- Social Services
- Substance Use Disorder Counseling and Treatment

SPECIAL SERVICES

- Optometry/Optical – 317.880.8800

ALSO ON CAMPUS

- B.A.B.E. Store – 317.221.3050
- Crooked Creek Food Pantry – https://www.ccfpindy.org
- Eskenazi Health Infectious Diseases Clinic community-based HIV care and PrEP services – 317.880.3500
- Eskenazi Health Pharmacy – 317.266.2950
- Marion County Public Health Department Dental Services – 317.221.2329
- Marion County Public Health Department Women, Infants and Children Services (WIC) – 317.221.7401
- Overdose Lifeline NaloxBox (accessible 24/7)

ESKENAZI HEALTH CENTER

To learn more, please scan with your smartphone camera.

Important Contacts

Police & Fire Emergencies	911
Police (Non-emergency)	317 327-3811
Mayor's Action Center	317 327-4622
Crime Stoppers	317-262-8477
Parks Department	317 327-0000
IMPD Crime Stats	317 327-3301
Criminal Histories	317 327-3591
Health Department	317 221-2000
Neighborhood Advocate (Ms. Packett)	317 327-5121
District 2 City Councillor Delaney	317-327-4242
District 6 City Councillor Perkins	317-797-5170
District 1 City Councilor Robinson	317-502-0272
City Council President Osili	317-332-0877
City's Web Site	www.indygov.org

Maintaining Home Values

The key to maintaining home values is to keep your property in a clean and attractive condition. Appearance of the neighborhood is paramount in assessing value.

Our neighbors' property impacts our property value. A number of homes are for sale in the area. These folks should be the most pro-active in participating in litter and debris clean-up efforts. Picking-up litter and debris on a regular basis reduces what may seem to be an overwhelming job once litter and debris become a major distraction to the neighborhood. Junk cars and other unsightly code violations also negatively impact home values. A neighborhood clean-up will be organized next summer.

Landscaping beautifies the neighborhood and improves home values. Keeping your home and property in good condition not only increases home values, but improves the community's quality of life.

Zip Codes:

46268, 46228, 46254, 46260, 46278

46208 = live north of 38th St.

2. Be a Eskenazi Pecar Patient

Crooked Creek Food Pantry, Inc

Crooked Creek Food Pantry Hours
El horario de la Despensa Crooked Creek

Wednesdays (miércoles): 10 AM-12:30PM, 1PM-3:30PM
Thursdays (jueves): 1PM-5PM
Fridays (viernes): 10AM-12:30PM, 1PM-3:30PM

Crooked Creek Food Pantry
ccfpindy ccfpindy.org

Zip Codes:
46268, 46228, 46254, 46260, 46278
46208 = live north of 38th St.
2. Be a Eskenazi Pecar Patient

To be added to our email list, please e-mail the following information & send to *kerry@culturalcampus.org* **Please put "Email Update" in the subject line. Or mail this information to P.O. Box 68032 Indpls, IN 46268.**

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Phone:_____

E-mail:_____

Phone Number_____

Did You Know?

Juan Solomon Park's Bridge is Second Longest of its Kind

On November 14, 2008, Mayor Ballard and Indy Parks' Director Lowry dedicated a new 100-foot-long fiberglass bridge. The bridge connects 22 acres of expanded parkland across the creek from 24 acres of the original park. It replaces a concrete bridge that floodwaters washed out in 2001.

Indy Parks officials highlight that the span is the second-longest fiberglass bridge known. This is another unique element in our community park.

Brief Park History

- Original 24 acres acquired in 1971 by Indy Parks and Recreation with the Crooked Creek Community Council (C4) under the leadership of Hal Kunz.
- Park was dedicated Sept. 28, 1975.
- Additional 22 acres of woods was acquired in September 1995 as a Preservation Area with widespread grass-roots donations and local foundation support to Friends of Juan Solomon Park (FJSP) under the leadership of Kerry Michael Manders in conjunction with C4, which purchased the property from the owner — the first neighborhood organization to purchase park land, donate it to Indy Parks — doubling the size of a neighborhood park .
- C4's FJSP competed and won the 1995 National Neighborhood of the/ Year Award for the FJSP project.
- FJSP raised or leveraged additional funds for needed improvements.

Existing Park Improvements

- Restrooms & Water Fountain
- Community Room
- Tennis Courts
- Green Roof
- Playground
- Sports Field
- Hiking Trails
- Two Shelters
- Parking Lot

City's Tox-Drop Program Is FREE To All Indianapolis Residents!

As a service to citizens, the City offers a year-round Tox-Drop collection program that makes it easier for Indianapolis residents to dispose of their household hazardous waste (HHW).

Over the last decade, more than a quarter of a million gallons of HHW have been diverted from the City's sewers, waterways and aquifers. The Tox-Drop program is a significant advancement to help residents properly and safely dispose of HHW.

Tox-Drop helps Indianapolis residents make their homes safer while preventing damage to the environment. The program seeks to encourage participation and make sure waste is not poured down the drain or dumped on the ground.

Tox-Drop's Traders Point Collection Facility is located at 7550 N. Lafayette Road. HHW materials may be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month.

The City also offers newspaper, glass & plastic recycling drop-off locations, including The Pike Township Trustee's Office, 5665 Lafayette Road & Broad Ripple Park, 6380 Evanston Ave entrance. **No HHW is allowed to be dropped-off at these locations.** Please do your part to protect our environment, aquifer and reduce landfill waste by recycling your newspaper, glass and plastic waste!

— Kerry Michael Manders

Future Home of the Cultural Campus Signs Coming Soon

Signs will soon be posted on 62nd Street & Michigan Road locations identifying the future home of the Crooked Creek Cultural Campus.

Scan below to learn more & donate to the Crooked Creek Cultural Campus

The Mission of the Crooked Creek Cultural Campus is to provide a transformative space that engages the community in various art and cultural activities where people of all ages may gather in an environment of fellowship committed to bringing equality, diversity, inclusivity, accessibility, and fun for all.

Crooked Creek Cultural Campus, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the State of Indiana, publishes this quarterly newsletter to inform residents of progress of the Cultural Campus & other Community activities. This newsletter is edited by Kerry Michael Manders. Submit information or questions to kerry@culturalcampus.org.