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NEWSLETTER

# Urban Times


The downtown lowdown on Indy's historic neighborhoods

SEPTEMBER  
2011



# THE WALKER

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## NEW LIFE FOR NORTH LOCKERBIE

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Place to host  
'Oktoberfest'  
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## Melina Kennedy to appear at HUNI forum

**M**AYORAL CANDIDATE MELINA KENNEDY WILL BE the guest speaker at a city-wide forum to be hosted on Thursday, Sept. 15, by Historic Urban Neighborhoods of Indianapolis.

Mayor Greg Ballard was invited to take part in the event, but declined.

The free public forum will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Grand Hall of the Indiana Landmarks Center at 1201 Central Ave. in The Old Northside.

Kennedy will lay out her plans regarding neighborhood economic development, education and public safety. She will present her "Vision 2021 Plan: A Plan to Make Indianapolis a Quality of Life Capital."

HUNI Chair Lorraine Phillips Vavul said the forum stems from discussions surrounding Woodruff Place's legitimate concerns of neglected infrastructure and delayed maintenance. Those concerns were articulated by Tom Abeel in his President's Message published in the Woodruff Place Post, part of the June 2011 issue of Urban Times.

"HUNI felt it important for Indianapolis residents to have a sense of how both Mayoral candidates would tackle community development particularly related to urban neighborhoods," Vavul said. "I agreed with Tom and other HUNI representatives that it made good sense to start a dialogue on how to move forward in a constructive way," she added.

"We are delighted Mrs. Kennedy accepted our invitation and to learn more about her vision for the community," Vavul added. "We feel it essential for urban residents to gain an understanding of Mrs. Kennedy's plans if she is elected."

Vavul continued, "Regretfully, Mayor Ballard will not be participating. We encourage residents to seek other opportunities to hear his vision on urban communities. We would, of course, welcome Mayor Ballard to address attendees of our Forum if his schedule permits."

Created by Indiana Landmarks (formerly Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana) in 1985, HUNI is an advocacy group supporting the preservation, revitalization and interests of Indianapolis' historic neighborhoods. HUNI membership includes neighborhoods recognized as being historic either nationally by their listing on the National Register of Historic Places and/or locally by the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission.

Twelve Urban Times neighborhoods are among the historic neighborhoods which comprise the HUNI effort.

More details along with an event flyer may be found on the HUNI website, [www.HUNIindy.org](http://www.HUNIindy.org). ■

## Grant will help train people, fix brownfields

**T**WO ORGANIZATIONS WORKING to increase local job opportunities have been boosted by a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Environmental Workforce and Brownfield Training Grant was awarded to Southeast Neighborhood Development and Southeast Community Services.

The grant will fund a two-year program to train Southeast-side residents for careers in environmental remediation while supporting the revitalization of brownfield sites throughout Indianapolis.

Keramida, a remediation consulting and engineering firm and a SEND partner, wrote the grant application. "These EPA grants are highly competitive," SEND President Mark Stewart said. "That we secured one this year is a significant victory for SEND, SECS and southeast neighborhood residents."

After narrowly missing out on the grant last year, SEND put together a pilot program in which 17 graduates received certifications in green remediation technologies, lead-based paint and asbestos removal, and other environmental remedial techniques. Fifteen of those graduates eventually obtained employment in the environmental field.

Upon the signing of a cooperative agreement, SEND will expand its efforts to recruit and train predominantly low-income and minority, unemployed and under-employed residents from solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities. Meanwhile, those residents will acquire the skills needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field.

"Getting jobs for our neighborhood residents is a top priority," Stewart said. "And so is improving the environment – not just in our neighborhood, but throughout Indianapolis. Winning this grant is truly a win-win." ■

## Earth House, IndyCog to get '24-Hour' boost

**I**NDYCOG AND THE EARTH HOUSE Collective will be this year's beneficiaries of the 24-Hour Web Project, an event likened to a college all-nighter organized by a Broad Ripple-based enterprise known as SmallBox.

In each of the past two years, SmallBox has partnered with one Indianapolis nonprofit organization to create a website for that organization. But since the SmallBox team has grown considerably over the past three years, the company decided to double the size of this year's pro bono event.

This is no small feat, SmallBox officials said, considering that a single project of this scale usually takes upward of eight weeks to plan, design, and build.

For IndyCog, this donation comes at an especially pivotal point. The nonprofit organi-

zation, which promotes bicycling as viable means of transportation and recreation in Indianapolis, is preparing to move into a new office inside of the City Market. Their space will be strategically placed, with the Indy Bike Hub YMCA also opening at the City Market.

An equally forward-thinking organization, the Earth House Collective is a common gathering space with a commitment to the arts, wellness, and conscious living. The Earth House Café is also Indiana's only 100-percent fair trade and organic coffee shop.

"The new website from SmallBox will give us the opportunity to capture the Earth House experience in a way we haven't been able to yet – to interact with the artists, musicians and audiences outside of the walls of this place," said Earth House executive direc-

tor Jordan Updike.

Said SmallBox owner Jeb Banner, "Earth House Collective and IndyCog are both terrific organizations; they're big supporters of each other's work and have partnered together before for various events. Both organizations are also aligned with our culture at SmallBox – we have an office full of local music lovers and avid bicyclists."

SmallBox estimates the in-kind value of its donation is in the range of \$30,000. Previous 24-Hour Web Project beneficiaries include Second Helpings and the Madame Walker Theatre.

IndyCog, Earth House Collective and SmallBox are in the process of selecting a day in September for the project. For updates, follow @24hrwebproject on Twitter or visit [www.24hourwebproject.com](http://www.24hourwebproject.com). ■