

Preservation Wayne VIP News ~ November 2003

Welcome to the fifth edition of the 2003 **VIP (Volunteers in Preservation)** Newsletter. Lots going on, so this newsletter is a little later than usual, but it **will** go out in November!! And will finally go to our 'mail only' VIP's.

VIP News this month

- Remembering Patricia Broms
- Notes from the Board
- PW Tours named "Best Walking Tours" by Metro Times
- Tour Team and Facilitators meetings (October/November)
- Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities (you are always needed!!)
- Calendar
- VIP Spotlight – New VIP Michelle Nesbitt
- Plaudits – for the Theatre tour
- Notes from the Editor

Remembering Patricia Broms

Preservation Wayne (and especially the Eastern Market team) is **very sorry to lose member and long-time volunteer Patricia Broms**. Patricia passed away on November 1 at a 'much too young' age, after a long illness. **Patricia and her husband Rich Bone** have been volunteers at most PW events over the years - the Festival of the Arts, the Theatre tour, and many others - but they were **so very enthusiastic about Eastern Market**. Last year, Patricia did an oral history interview of Sal Ciaramitaro for [Learning@theOperaHouse](#). Patricia's questions drew out the surprisingly shy Sal to tell some wonderful stories. (Sal had 75 years of merchant experience in the Market before he retired last winter.) The Eastern Market team will miss Patricia's sweet smile, quiet voice and insight, and we wish she had been able to guide a tour, since she would have loved sharing her enthusiasm for the place. **Please keep Patricia and Rich, and their family and friends in your thoughts. We'll miss her.**

Notes from the Board

Congratulations to everyone on a successful tour season. The Detroit Heritage Tours (Saturday and Tuesday) attendance continues to grow with **over 1000 people taking our tours** this year. The Tuesday after-work tours have a great audience – lots of new people working in downtown Detroit who are interested in discovering the city. And even though the Theatre Tour was rescheduled due to the power outage, it was sold out once again!! (3rd year in a row!!) In addition, VIP's helped with the recent Detroit Synergy Pedestrian Connection event and are scheduled for the Gallery Crawl on December 6. **More on the tour program later in this newsletter.**

Lots of other things going on with PW:

- the **Advocacy committee** has been formed and needs members who are interested in **proactively promoting** the adaptive re-use of historic buildings in Detroit. They will be doing research, whitepapers, and will respond to the many lecture and information requests that PW often gets on these buildings. One approach is to divide the city into several key areas to concentrate on. **Contact the PW office at 313 577-3559 if you are interested in getting involved** in this committee. **Advocacy is one of the core directions that PW has established**, and with the interest in Detroit for the Super Bowl, **the time is right**.

- the **recent Loft forum on Tax Credits** (which are a HUGE incentive for redevelopment) and new initiatives planned from PW in the areas of education and advocacy.

- also, the Board is looking at **expanding the Board membership** (to essentially double it) and is aggressively working on staffing the committees. Active **PW VIPs** would be a great addition in getting involved. **If you're interested, please call the office (313) 577-3559**. Your skills and interest are greatly appreciated as we plan to go forward.

- **Watch for more news** on all of these initiatives in the December (**Preservation Works!**) Members newsletter.

PW Tours named "Best Walking Tours" by Metro Times

Did you see that Metro Times named Preservation Wayne as the Best Walking Tours in their annual "Best of" survey this fall? Yay – **all due to our great VIP's!!** Here's what they said:

'For a mere \$10, Detroit's oldest preservation group offers fascinating and informative tours of the city's historic sites. Sign up for the Albert Kahn tour, which includes 15 buildings designed by Detroit's premier architect. The 170-year old Eastern Market, theaters, homes and other gems are also tour options.'

(By the way, Eastern Market was also named "best Saturday morning escapade!!")

Tour Team and Facilitators meetings (October/November)

Most tour teams got together in October or November to review the previous tour season. The Facilitators met twice in early November to review the tour season, raise your issues, and begin to make plans for next year.

Although we had a good tour season, **several themes were raised by the tour teams**. These were in the areas of: -

- future direction of the tour programs and publicity
- the general future direction for PW
- how do the VIP's and the Board interface?
- financial considerations. This year we did not have an annual meeting and report to show this information to our VIPs and members.

The **Facilitators will be meeting with the PW Executive Committee on Wednesday, December 3 regarding these issues. (Note – this meeting had to be cancelled and will be rescheduled after the holidays.)** If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact your Facilitator for details. VIPs are welcome, but attendance will be limited due to the room size.

Results of this meeting will be published in the next newsletter.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities (you are always needed!!)

- **December 6** – the annual Detroit Cultural Affairs Department **Gallery Crawl** (11 am – 5 pm). This is a fun event showcasing the many Detroit art galleries, just in time for the holiday season. PW will be assisting on the bus tours and providing occasional commentary as the busses travel their routes. Shifts are 11-2 and 2-5. Tours begin at the new Compuware headquarters downtown. **Contact PW** if you are interested in volunteering. Training was held on Nov. 22, but you can easily catch up if you missed it.

Calendar – save the dates!!

- **January 31** – the **2004 Tour Recruitment meeting**. At the Hannan House (4750 Woodward, just south of Warren on the east side of the street.) 10 am – Noon. This is the meeting where we introduce our tours and recruit Tour Guides, Shepherds, and support personnel. It is always great to have experienced people there who can explain and answer questions on our tour programs and people who can help with the logistics. **More details to follow** in the next VIP newsletter or separate email.

Downtown Historic Churches Association tour – December 27

We often get questions about church tours. As you all know, we do not do these but several other organizations do. The Detroit Historical Society's 'first Monday of the month' tours are the most well known. Another **once-a-year opportunity** is this tour, held on the Saturday between Christmas and New Year's. These are 'all day' bus tours (includes a box lunch) and there are 4 different tour options – 5 churches on each tour, and of course, they are all decorated for the holidays. All for just \$20 per person. Although PW does not participate in this tour, I thought you might want to know about this. More info is at <https://www.historictrinityinc.org/dhcatour.html> Or call (313) 567-3100 or 1-800-268-3058.

VIP Spotlight – new VIP Michelle Nesbitt

This month we are spotlighting **one of our brand-new VIPs - Michelle Nesbitt**. Michelle joined us in late summer, and she has really jumped in with both feet and hands!! **Like most of us, Michelle joined PW after taking one of our tours**. Since then, she has been an on-site Guide at the Music Hall for the Theatre tour (with very little notice!!), a Shepherd for a church group tour of Eastern Market, and she'll be a Gallery Crawl guide next month. Wow!!

Michelle works full-time at a furniture showroom at the Michigan Design Center in Troy. She is also pursuing an Interior Design degree at Baker College and plans to graduate in 2005. She first heard about Preservation Wayne with a school archive project with GM. As part of the project, they took the New Center tour and saw those great Albert Kahn buildings (the former GM building (now Cadillac Place), the Albert Kahn building, and the fabulous Fisher Building.) Michelle has a real appreciation for the architecture and wishes that we would again create the beautiful buildings that were built in the past.

But she's doing her part!! Last May, Michelle moved into a loft in the City – off Jefferson near the River. In her spare (!) time, she likes to dabble in faux painting and textures. She also likes to design and build accessories for her home and other projects.

Michelle's enthusiasm for the City and revitalization is very contagious!! She is well aware of the stereotypes of the city and wants to dispel them, in order to give back something positive. She's had a great start so far!! She has taken family members on the Eastern Market tour, where Guides Tom and Cathy were excellent recruiters!! Michelle's plans are to continue being involved with PW, perhaps as an Eastern Market Guide or Shepherd next year. She's also interested in

learning more about the loft proposals in the city. (And I'm sure you'll see Michelle at our various other events!!)

Welcome, Michelle!!

Plaudits ~ for the Theatre tour!!

We always get **'thank you notes' from our tours**. Here are some **excerpts from an email regarding this year's Theatre tour** (from Marty):

"I thoroughly enjoyed your theatre tour as did my friend.... The tour was excellent -- it was wonderful to see the theatres as the audience sees them and behind the curtains, and to learn the history of the theatres and the parallel history of the city. The guides -- ours was Rebecca Binno -- were enthusiastic, knowledgeable and clearly believed in what they were doing, as did the managers at the various theatres that spoke to us. I was in London, England in May '02 and found they had a complex network of tours of the historical and important sites of their downtown area and am happy that Detroit offers the same. Please maintain your preservation activities and the tour experiences. ... Where American life can be anonymous or overly commercialized, you have brought us (your fellow citizens) to a familiarity with our environment, our history and pressing future considerations, through what you show us and through the obvious enthusiasm of your guides. Thank you."

(from the editor) Thanks to all involved in scrambling to reschedule the Theatre tour due to the August power outage, **and especially to Mike Hauser and Karen Nagher** who managed to do this with about zero notice. This is always a popular tour and I'm sure we all agree that we are glad that we could do it again this year. Comments like these just reinforce the interest that our audience has, as well as the fun we have doing this tour!!

Notes from the Editor

Thank you to the contributors to this newsletter – **Sandy Novacek, Karen Nagher** and alert reporter **Emily Smith**.

The **email distribution lists have been updated** and I hope we will now be able to communicate with more of you. We also now have a list of 'mail only' VIP's who will get this in hard-copy.

Effective with this newsletter, this will only be sent as an attachment in email and also posted on the PW web site shortly after I get it to Susan. Due to the translation trouble between the various carriers, this will no longer be sent out in email text format. If you can't read attachments or do downloads, please reply to PresWayneNews@aol.com or call PW at 313-577-3559 and ask to be on the VIP 'mail only' list and include your address.

Next newsletter will have a survey on how we can make this newsletter better for your interest and needs. Stay tuned and I want to hear your thoughts.