



## Help Make A Community Quilt: No Experience Needed.

The North Lawndale African American Heritage Quilting Project will help North Lawndale residents research the history and culture of African American residents and express their learning in a community quilt. Subject matter can include family trees, family traditions, poems, stories, famous quotes, neighborhood traditions, church or organization traditions, famous people from North Lawndale, North Lawndale icons, the relationship between African American and Jewish experiences in North Lawndale; the Civil Rights Movement; the African influence in Mexico; the Migration of African Americans from the South, etc. Whether or not you have experience with quilting, or regardless of how long you have lived or worked in North Lawndale, you are welcome to participate. Your participation level is up to you. You may donate a patch, or assist in the construction of at least one community quilt. Finished products will be displayed during Black History Month 2012 and donated to various organizations in the community. If you have any questions, contact Valerie F. Leonard at 773-521-3137 or [valeriefionard@msn.com](mailto:valeriefionard@msn.com)

## Help Collect North Lawndale Stories

We need your help in capturing the African American heritage of North Lawndale. Please suggest links to websites featuring African Americans from North Lawndale, videos, articles, pictures, poems, oral histories, family traditions, recipes, etc. You may also submit your own material. Not only will you help preserve history, but your stories can inspire the development of quilts depicting the African American culture in North Lawndale. We will post links and other content on the blog for the North Lawndale African American Heritage Quilting Project at <http://northlawndalequilting.blogspot.com/> You may send or drop off materials to Blanche Suggs at Neighborhood Housing Services, 3555 West Ogden Avenue. Please call in advance at 773- 522-4637.

## Free Workshops

*Unless otherwise noted, quilting workshops will occur at BBF, 1512 South Pulaski, from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. Participants are encouraged to bring scissors, thread, ½ yard of a cotton print fabric and ½ yard of batting.*

### 1. North Lawndale Stories (9/20/11)

History of North Lawndale community, highlighting everyday heroes, entertainers, athletes, and civic leaders. Come share your story. **Facilitators: Blanche Suggs, Paul Norrington, Martel Williams**

### 2. Explore the Possibilities (9/27/11)

Review project website, videos and other media to study African American quilting as an art form and as a means of documentation. Get ideas for your role in the quilt. **Facilitators: Valerie F. Leonard, Ife Williams, Martel Williams**

### 3. Basic Embroidery (10/4/11)

Learn basic embroidery stitches and use lessons learned to develop and/or adhere patches and appliques to quilts. **Facilitator: Essie Leonard**

### 4. Basic Quilt Construction (10/11/11-11/1/11)

Hands-on workshop covering all stages of the quilting process in preparation for the construction of a community quilt. **Facilitators: Jacquelyn Gipson and Lisa Wilcoxon**

### 5. Mixed Media Quilting-Urban Art Retreat

Use mixed media (ie, paint, paper, crochet) to create artistic squares depicting African American culture for community quilt. Adults: Saturdays from 11a.m -2p.m. Youth: Saturdays from 1 pm -4 p.m. Location: Urban Art Retreat, 1957 S. Spaulding Ave. Chicago, Il. 60623. **Contact Dianna Long (773) 542-9126.**

### 6. Underground Railroad Quilting (TBD)

Participants will learn the meaning of patterns used for quilts that guided slaves to freedom, and ways to combine them with modern techniques.

### 7. Message Quilt (10/25/11)

We will combine African symbols, fabrics, pictures and messages of your choice to create quilts or patches to celebrate a person, tradition, or place of your choice. **Facilitators: Valerie F. Leonard, Blanche Suggs**

## Donations Are Welcome

This project is volunteer-driven and is not funded. We would appreciate any cash or in-kind donations to help offset project costs. We have provided a list of supplies for your convenience.

Muslin (white or black)	Batting
Transfer Paper	Iron
Sewing Machine (or use of one)	Ironing Board (or use of one)
Rotary Cutter	Quilting Patterns
Rotary Rulers	Rotary Mat
Threads (cotton )	Scissors
Seam Ripper	Embroidery Thread
Machine Needles	Quilting Needles
Thimbles	Pins
Tape Measures	Pin Cushions
Tracing Wheel	Chalk Marking Pencil
Plastic Bins	Tracing Paper
Fabric Paint	Yarn
Embroidery Hoops	Crayons
Quilting Hoops	Bias Tape
	Fabrics (cotton, African prints are preferred)

**Please mail or drop off cash or in-kind donations as follows:**

The North Lawndale Historical and Cultural Society  
c/o Neighborhood Housing Services  
3555 W. Ogden Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60623  
Attn: Blanche Suggs (773) 522-4637

## Project Planning Committee

Billy Brooks, Jacquelyn Gipson, Valerie F. Leonard,  
Dianna Long, Paul Norrington, Blanche Suggs,  
Lisa Wilcoxon, Ife Williams, Martel Williams, Annetta Wilson



## Response Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

We/I will participate in the North Lawndale African American Heritage Quilting Project as follows:

- Research/Sharing Stories
- Conduct a quilting workshop/ demonstration
- Attend  Workshop 1  Workshop 2
  - Workshop 3  Workshop 4
  - Workshop 5  Workshop 6
  - Workshop 7
- Lead the construction of a quilt
- Help pull pieces together/ finish the quilt
- Participate in the Urban Retreat Project
- Participate in the construction of an Underground Railroad Quilt
- Sponsor the creation of a quilt on behalf of an organization
- Work with a group of people from around the community to construct a quilt
- Attend a workshop in which I make a square and donate it to the project
- Cash or in-kind gift of \_\_\_\_\_

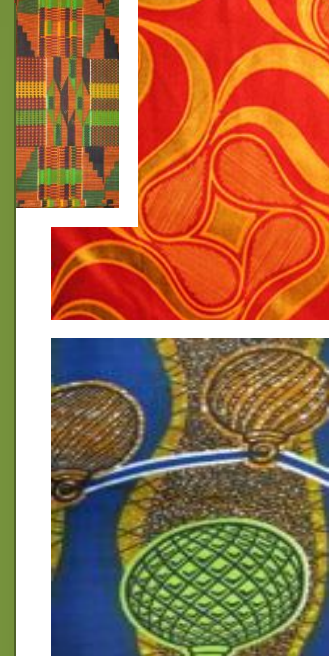
### Please return the Response Form to:

The North Lawndale Historical and Cultural Society  
c/o Neighborhood Housing Services  
3555 W. Ogden Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60623  
Attn: Blanche Suggs (773) 522-4637

The North Lawndale Historical and Cultural Society  
c/o Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago  
3555 West Ogden Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60623  
Attn: Blanche Suggs

North Lawndale African American Heritage Quilting Project:  
Strengthening the Social Fabric of the Community.

# North Lawndale African American Heritage Quilting Project



*Strengthening the Social  
Fabric of Our Community*

## Lead Organizations

Art Forward  
Better Boys Foundation  
Historic K-Town  
Lawndale Historic and  
Cultural Society  
Prevention Force  
Family Center  
Sankofa Safe Child  
Initiative  
Urban Art Retreat

**Project Manger:**  
Valerie F. Leonard  
773-521-3137