

New Orleans has been conceived in the tradition of the great international biennials, and will showcase new artistic practices as well as an array of programs benefiting the local community.

Over the course of its eleven-week run, Prospect.1 New Orleans is placed to draw international media attention, creative energy, and new economic activity to the city of New Orleans. A Chicago artist selected to participate in Prospect.1 New Orleans is **Tony Fitzpatrick**, whose spiritual connection to the Crescent City is reflected in his current work.

Donors interested in helping to underwrite this ambitious project can get more information here: <http://www.prospectneworleans.org/join.html>

## **SOME REASONS TO GO TO NEW ORLEANS THIS FALL**

**New Orleans Film Festival** -- October 10-16, 2008: <http://www.neworleansfilmfest.com>

**Voodoo Music Experience** -- October 24-26, City Park <http://www.voodoo music fest.com>

**Prospect.1 New Orleans** -- November 1, 2008 - January 1, 2009:  
<http://www.prospectneworleans.org/>

## **OUR SAINTS OF THE MONTH**

In May 2007 our newsletter inaugurated a "Saint of the Month" feature, inspired by the words of the late Kurt Vonnegut:

*"But I replied that what made being alive almost worthwhile for me, besides music, was all the saints I met, who could be anywhere. By saints I meant people who behaved decently in a strikingly indecent society."*

As our "Saint of the Month" feature aims to honor people who behave decently and creatively on behalf of New Orleans, this month we salute (for the second time) retired Hinsdale Center teacher **Dick Flesher** and his non-profit, **Schools Count Corp.**, plus the many volunteers who labored in the hot climate to help him distribute school supplies in New Orleans this month:

From Chicago: Anna Albrecht, Kristen Bronke, Dick Flesher, John Hill, Megan LaForte, Dawn Oler, and Joe Prieto.

Volunteers in New Orleans: C. J. Aucoin, Rev. Deschner, Spencer Didriksen, Severin Didriksen, Dalton Howard, Helen Howard, Mel Howard, Nell Howard, Happy Johnson, Aaron Lob, Stuart Lob, Derin McLeod, Virginia Ruffin, Trent Strasburg, and Maureen Toolan

In a project that Dick organized over many months with fundraising, logistical planning, and elbow grease, free school supplies were delivered on August 11 and 12 to 23 schools in New Orleans. See the list of schools and photos of the massive operation at this link: <http://schoolscountcorp.blogspot.com/>

*As always, we hope our Saint of the Month feature inspires others to think about how their special talents and interests -- or even their ability to carry heavy loads -- might be used to help in the recovery of New Orleans.*

## SAINTS PRESERVE US!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE  
TO RAISE A CHILD.

IT TAKES A NATION  
TO RAISE A CITY.

**BE A SAINT**  
HELP SAVE NEW ORLEANS.

## ABOUT THE NOLA IN CHICAGO NETWORK

The NOLA in Chicago Network is an informal grassroots network of New Orleans expatriates and other Chicagoans who care about the future of New Orleans and its displaced citizens. All are welcome. The network aims to be an inclusive and diverse group, bringing together NOLA expatriates who are long-time Chicago residents; hurricane survivors and other recent arrivals; alums of Louisiana universities; and all others who love New Orleans. The group's mission is:

- To help support the recovery of New Orleans by raising public awareness of the city's needs.
- To help Katrina-displaced New Orleanians in Chicago connect and rebuild their lives
- To promote appreciation of New Orleans' unique culture in the Chicago area.

The group has its origins in a November 2005 "Race and Katrina" discussion organized by New Orleans-born Chicagoans Louise LeBourgeois and Melissa Perrett Cook and several others, in conjunction with "Bittersweet," Louise's exhibit of paintings of Louisiana sugar cane landscapes at a Chicago gallery. The event was attended by former *Gambit Weekly* editor Michael Tisserand, who relocated to Chicago after Hurricane Katrina, and conversations with him led to the planning of a Mardi Gras observance in February with free admission for hurricane evacuee families, generously hosted by the Chicago Children's Museum. Since then, the grassroots network has continued to spread the word about New Orleans-themed events in Chicago, organize group outings, reach out to social service agencies serving displaced New Orleanians, and add names to its roster.