

Dear Neighbors,

I had an idea, following my attendance at a City meeting last Wednesday about the Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant for 2010. As you might recall, the Mitchell Park West Neighborhood Association applied for a grant in 2009 for a community garden, but was not funded.

Mitchell Park East Neighborhood Association, however, was awarded a \$50,000 grant to fund art projects enhancing the traffic-calming round-a-bouts and chicanes being introduced to our neighborhoods. This money will fund the start of an arts neighborhood “feel” to where we live. In Linda Knudson’s talk about their funded project last week, I was most struck by her image of MPE Neighborhood becoming a “point of pride” for the whole City.

That thought really got me excited. Could Mitchell Park Neighborhood (East AND West), become a “point of pride” for ALL of Tempe? Childsplay’s Campus of Imagination and Wonder boundaries surrounds our Mitchell Park on two sides, so there’s a start—might we extend this partnership so that both of our neighborhoods become recognized as an arts friendly neighborhood adjacent to downtown Tempe?

I think we should consider applying for the \$50,000 grant to add “Art” to the round-a-bouts and chicanes being added to OUR neighborhood. With this proposal we could “connect and extend” to what the Mitchell Park East Project proposes to do?

The advantage, from a practical stance, is that the grant is already partially written. We could add on, and benefit from, the experience of Mitchell Park East. While we might use some of the same artists we are by no means required. But we would be well-advised to keep the two neighborhood projects compatible!

Together, we can work to make additions to our ENTIRE neighborhoods that might so improve them. Please let me know what you think of this idea. Thanks! This is something that I would like to talk about. Please send your thoughts.

David Saar
618 W. 11th St.