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Local non-profit organization uses collaboration and art to reach out to diverse community

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Center For Neighborhoods (CFN) and fiber artist Pat Sturtzel are conducting a community-building public art project called "Weaving Unity Into Community." The project is geared towards the youth residing at Parkway Place, a public housing development in Louisville that is home to many African-American and Somali-Bantu families. The dates for the project are every Tuesday and Thursday in August from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. The location is the Parkhill Community Center at 1703 South 13th Street.

The purpose of this youth-focused summer project is to execute a new public artwork by weaving a variety of different textile materials into a chain linked fence fronting the housing development, creating vibrant designs and beautifying the community. Prior to the project, a group of teen leaders are being trained to work with and supervise younger children participating in the weaving project. Residents of the neighborhood will be invited to join in on the project by participants during work nights.

Pat Sturtzel is a fiber artist, art therapist and teaching artist with a Master's Degree in Art Therapy from the University of Louisville who is experienced in community art projects. "I love working with diverse communities and have grown in my abilities as an artist and mentor. The themes of respecting differences, diversity, contrast, and balance repeat themselves in interactions with the participants, the volunteers, and in my own art."

CFN is in partnership with Sturtzel, Center For Neighborhoods' "PAINT program", Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, the Louisville Metro Housing Authority, and Jefferson County Public Schools. Project support is provided by The Cralle Foundation and the Kentucky Arts Council.

Weaving – Make from a number of interconnected parts.
Unity – Harmony or agreement between people or groups.
Community – A group of people living together in one place.