The Southside and Strathmore Neighborhoods hosted the 5th Visioning Voices Event on March 8th at Believers Chapel. A total of 40 city residents and community organization members participated in a series of activities on the topic of life long play and how play can improve neighborhood residents’ lives. They learned that play is not just fun but can be a tool for engagement and placemaking.

Following the driving tour that highlighted Onondaga and Kirk Parks, participants gathered for a presentation by Joy Kuebler, a landscape architect from Buffalo area. Joy presented a lecture about the many values of play in individual and community life. During dinner, participants gathered together and accomplished the first workshop activity which explored various activities that participants do in their free time alone and with friends. After dinner, workshop activities that engaged the entire group were facilitated by Joy with the help of community volunteers. Participants shared their experiences and ideas with each other. The interactions were lively, fun and promoted smiles and laughter. Participants evaluation comments revealed that there are many reasons to they were interested in this topic and attending this event such as learning more about design and creativity, improving the conditions in the neighborhoods and parks, and getting to know more about the southside and its parks.

You are never too old to play and bring joy to your neighborhood!

“Hoping to continue energy around using our parks more.”
“Keep bringing the message to Syracuse!”
“Community oriented events and meeting new people are the reasons to participate.”

- Event Survey Responses

Upcoming Event:
There are upcoming Visioning Voices Events being planned for 2018. If your neighborhood is interested in becoming a host neighborhood for future events, or would like to suggest topics and/or future speakers please email the Center for Community Design Research at cccd@esf.edu

A special thanks to the Speaker Series Organization Committee, Southside and Strathmore neighborhoods event volunteers, and community partners who helped with the preparation of this event of Visioning Voices Speaker Series:

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Cali Khakoo  Kelly McDermott Wise  
Maren King  Anna McDermott Wise  

Look for the video and materials for this session at: http://www.esf.edu/ccdr/