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"Charrette" design process planned
UIC team seeks public input on development concepts

Progress of a comprehensive study by the University of Illinois Chicago to help shape the future look of the Harrison Street and Eisenhower/Oak Park Avenue business districts will be showcased at a community meeting at 7 p.m., Thurs., April 3, in Percy Julian Middle School, 416 S. Ridgeland Ave.

This public meeting will be a "charrette" design presentation where citizens can build upon and help improve proposed concepts developed over the past few months by graduate students from UIC's prestigious Urban Planning Program. The charrette is one of the final phases of a yearlong program that began last August when the Village launched the cooperative agreement with UIC to create visions for future development in the community.

During the fall, faculty and graduate students studied transportation, traffic and land use trends in Oak Park and other similar communities, and gathered public input on what residents and business operators' think should be done to improve the vitality of the two business districts. The information then was refined into specific development concepts, including streetscape designs, that will be discussed at the charrette, which is intended to allow the community to help further refine the concepts into workable programs.

The joint endeavor has brought together UIC students and faculty, Village officials, members of the local business community and civic-minded Oak Park residents, but more public input is needed to ensure the best possible results.

For more information on the program or the charrette, visit <http://oakparkinfo.lib.uic.edu>, email lib-docs@uic.edu or call 358.5418. Residents also can visit the local project design studio at 828 S. Oak Park Ave. from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturdays, or call the studio at 386.6401.

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