ATLANTA BELTLINE INC.



June 2010 Volume Three Issue Two

#### From the desk of the **President and CEO:**

This spring, the Atlanta BeltLine has seen tremendous progress in the construction of parks and trails with new groundbreakings and ribbon cutting ceremonies celebrating each new project.

In March, renovations began on the eight-acre D.H. Stanton Park in Peoplestown. Also this spring, we started construction on the second phase of Historic Fourth Ward Park, including Atlanta's first skate park, and we broke ground on Boulevard Crossing Park, the third park currently underway along the Atlanta BeltLine. Winding through Tanyard Creek Park, Louise G. Howard Park and Bobby Jones Golf Course, the Northside BeltLine Trail opened in April, marking the first segment of trail to be completed on the north side of

In addition to the construction progress made along the Atlanta BeltLine, community participation has reached a new level with a first-ever temporary art project along nearly eight miles of the BeltLine corridor. Kicking off June 5, Art on the BeltLine: Atlanta's New Public Place united Atlanta's eclectic art communities with local residents to draw people to the Atlanta BeltLine with more than 40 visual and performance pieces that will be on display through October 2010.

Neighborhoods throughout Atlanta have begun paying serious attention to the Atlanta BeltLine and how it will benefit their communities. Southeast Atlanta's King Middle School integrated the scope of the Atlanta BeltLine into its eighth grade curriculum in order to engage students with the developments that will affect their communities. Students created unique visual displays and video presentations to represent how they predict the Atlanta BeltLine will shape their neighborhoods throughout the next 25 years.

With continuous construction and increasing community involvement along the Atlanta BeltLine, we are excited for the developments still to come. We encourage you to look for opportunities to volunteer, attend events and help shape your neighborhoods through Study Groups and other opportunities. Please visit us online for the most up to date information on all of these exciting new developments and programswww.BeltLine.org.

-Brian Leary







### **Great Progress this Spring** for the Atlanta BeltLine:

Progress on the Atlanta BeltLine has been moving full steam ahead this spring with new projects constantly underway. March 27 marked the first park groundbreaking of 2010 with the renovation of the eight-acre D.H. Stanton Park in Peoplestown, which will feature a playground, a ball field, a multi-purpose field, a spray pad and a new piece of public art. As part of the Historic Fourth Ward Park construction, Atlanta BeltLine began

work on Atlanta's first skate park which received a \$25,000 grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation.

In April, Atlanta BeltLine celebrated the grand opening of the Northside BeltLine Trail with support from the City of Atlanta, the PATH Foundation, the Trust for Public Land, The BeltLine Partnership, the Brookwood Alliance, and residents of surrounding neighborhoods. Most recently,

Atlanta BeltLine broke ground on Boulevard Crossing Park Phase I in Southeast Atlanta, the third park currently under construction along the BeltLine corridor. The Atlanta BeltLine's strong momentum continues with construction and essential community input and participation at events, meetings and celebrations of new milestones.



U.S. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan spoke (foreground) in the Pittsburgh neighborhood along the Atlanta BeltLine with (right to left) Mayor Kasim Reed, Rep. Hank Johnson and Atlanta BeltLine President and CEO Brian Leary. Credit: Christopher T. Martin



The communities of Southeast Atlanta celebrate the ground-breaking of Boulevard Crossing Park Phase I, a brand new park slated for completion by the end of 2010. Boulevard Crossing Park will replace several acres of vacant former industrial land with new ballfields. Credit: Chicker

## **Mayor Welcomes Officials from Washington DC HUD Secretary visits Atlanta BeltLine**

Mayor Kasim Reed hosted the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan on a tour of parts of the Atlanta BeltLine, stopping in the Pittsburgh neighborhood to observe the beginning accomplishments of a national model for neighborhood transformation. During his visit,

Secretary Donovan said the Atlanta BeltLine "is one of the most comprehensive and sustainable urban redevelopment efforts in the nation.' Secretary Donovan was in town addressing the 18th Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) about sustainability efforts taking place nationally to make communities healthier and more

economically competitive. He cited the Atlanta BeltLine as the kind of smart growth he hopes HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities will be able to initiate and support in communities throughout the country.





Following months of preparation, Art on the BeltLine: Atlanta's New Public Place, the first-ever temporary art exhibition along the BeltLine corridor, kicked off June 5, tapping Atlanta's eclectic art communities to contribute unique installations and performances to highlight the Atlanta BeltLine as the city's new public realm.

Art on the BeltLine launched in southwest Atlanta's Gordon White Park, which was completed as part of the Atlanta BeltLine's West End Trail in 2008. Opening performances included Klimchak, an experimental percussionist and composer; Beacon Dance's "A Bountiful Feast," a visual and performance art project beginning with story circles told through dialogue and movement; and The Story Messengers, storytellers sharing

original and African folktales incorporated into Atlanta's history and future.

Performances will continue through the month of June, with visual art exhibits, history tours and special events continuing through October. Atlanta residents are encouraged to participate in the ongoing activities, experience local history and art through guided walking tours and explore the Atlanta BeltLine to discover its beauty and benefits to the city.

To learn more about this exciting initiative and to view a comprehensive event schedule, visit us online at art.beltline.org, or look out for an Art on the BeltLine brochure in your community.



Emma Adair's "Be My Solar Friend" Credit: Christopher T. Martin



Jeff Morrison's "Cribbing" Credit: Christopher T. Martin



Katie Hall's "BeltLine Takes Flight" Credit: Christopher T. Martin



The Loss Prevention Collective (untitled) Credit: Christopher T. Martin



J.D. Koth's "Cultivated Chaos" Credit: Christopher T. Martin



Hense (untitled) Credit: Christopher T. Martin



Jeffry Loy's "Stargazers" Credit: Christopher T. Martin



Phil Proctor's "Bud"

#### Tony Hawk Foundation Awards \$25k Grant to Atlanta BeltLine

The Tony Hawk Foundation awarded Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. a grant of \$25,000 to help with the construction of a new 15,000-square foot skatepark, Atlanta's first, which is now under construction as part of Historic Fourth Ward Park in the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood. The park will help redefine an historic neighborhood that is lacking in grand public recreational space. A total of 19 projects received the Tony

Hawk Foundation Spring 2010 Skatepark Grants. Worth a total of \$150,000, the awards bring each of the recipients closer to their goal of building a free, quality public skatepark in their community.

Within the next year, Historic Fourth Ward Park will bring 17 new acres of greenspace to the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood.





Local community members admiring the work of more than 200 King Middle School students' custom curriculum projects that tie in the Atlanta BeltLine and its potential positive impact on their neighborhoods. Credit: Christopher T. Martin



A collection of exhibits created by King Middle School's eight grade class embodying their visions of the Atlanta BeltLine and how their neighborhoods will evolve throughout the next 30 years. Credit: Christopher T. Martin

UPCO	MING EVE	NTS J	une - August 2010
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	Meeting/Event	<u>Location</u>
6/17/10	6:00-8:00 PM	Atlanta BeltLine Quarterly Briefing	130 Trinity Ave SW, Atlanta, 30303
6/26/10	9:30AM-1:00 PM	Atlanta BeltLine 5K Run/Walk & Ribbon Cutting for West End/ Westview Trail	Race starts at Rose Circle Park & finishes at Kipp Strive Academy, 1444 Lucile Ave, Atlanta, 30310
6/26/10	11:30-4:00 PM	Westview 100 Year Celebration	1444 Lucile Ave, Atlanta, 30310
6/28/10	6:30-8:30 PM	Westside Study Group- Subarea 10	Joseph B. Whitehead YMCA 101 Ollie St., SW, Atlanta, 30314
7/1/10	6:00-7:00 PM	Northeast Atlanta BeltLine 101	Morris and Raper In Town, 245 North Highland Ave., Suite 210, Atlanta 30307
7/10/10	12:00-1:00 PM	Southwest Atlanta BeltLine 101	West End Performing Arts Center - 945 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd, Atlanta, 30310
7/12/10	6:30-8:30 PM	Southeast Study Group - Subarea 4	Trees ATL, 225 Chester Ave. SE, 30316
7/13/10	6:00-7:00 PM	Westside Atlanta BeltLine 101	Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, 535 Means St., Atlanta 30318
7/14/10	6:00-7:00 PM	Northside Atlanta BeltLine101	Piedmont Hospital - 1968 Peachtree Road, 77 Building, Classroom 4, Atlanta, 30309
7/20/10	6:00-7:00 PM	Southeast Atlanta BeltLine 101	Historical Concepts - 490 Brasfield Square (Glenwood Park), Atlanta, 30316
7/22/10	6:30-8:30 PM	Southwest Study Group - Subarea 1	Washington High School, 45 Whitehouse Drive SW, Atlanta 30314
8/5/10	6:00-7:00 PM	Northeast Atlanta BeltLine 101	Morris and Raper In Town, 245 North Highland Ave., Suite 210, Atlanta 30307
8/5/10	7:10-10:00 PM	Atlanta BeltLine Night at the Atlanta Braves Game	Turner Field, 755 Hank Aaron Drive Atlanta, 30315

For more information on events, study groups and volunteer opportunities, visit www.BeltLine.org.

# **Custom Curriculum Engaging Eighth Graders** with their Neighborhoods' Development

Throughout the eighth grade classrooms and hallways of Southeast Atlanta's King Middle School, handcrafted displays and student-directed videos posed the question, "Where will you be in 2030?" Through their "Learning Through the Eyes of the BeltLine" curriculum, King Middle School eighth graders explored how the Atlanta BeltLine directly affects their neighborhoods. Following a fieldtrip around the Atlanta BeltLine,

teachers engaged students with customized classes that integrated the BeltLine's relevance within their communities with their traditional

areas of study. Students constructed models of Atlanta neighborhoods, exemplifying how the Atlanta BeltLine will connect them to the rest of the city with new trails and transit. Using video montages and interviews, they demonstrated potential revitalization through new greenspace, affordable housing, and development projects. They asked important questions about how the changes would affect existing communities, a discussion prevalent throughout the neighborhoods along the corridor. Not only does this program reinforce the

importance of community engagement and interaction, it reunites young adults with nature and the environment in a way that includes them in the short and long term tangible developments.

The Atlanta BeltLine will dramatically affect the lives of the communities it touches, especially today's k-12 students. To quote one of King Middle School's eighth graders, "The Atlanta BeltLine: It's the Right Time."

## Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. **Begins Summer Fellowship Program**

To increase the capacity of its workforce and to provide invaluable experience for qualified graduate students, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. launched a new summer fellowship program. The fellows will play active roles in the Atlanta BeltLine project's mission to positively impact Atlanta's redevelopment.

Five graduate students have been hired to join the Atlanta BeltLine team:

Elan Buchen, Art Fellow; Savannah College of Art and Design Atlanta Campus, Sculpture MFA candidate.

Laura Joseph, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Fellow, Georgia State University, Master of Arts in Geography, Focus on Urban Studies and GIS.

Emily Libman, Communications Fellow, Georgia State University, Master of Public Administration, Focus on Park Planning and Preservation.

Amit Shemesh, Community Engagement Fellow, Georgia State University, Master of Public Administration, Focus on Planning & Economic Development.

Scott B. Fields, Law Fellow, Georgia State University, College of Law, Focus on Land Use/Growth Management.





Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. • 86 Pryor St. SW Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30303 • Main Phone: (404) 614-8300 FAX: (404) 880-0616

**Director Community Engagement** Community Contacts: Beth McMillan • BMcmillan@BeltLine.org **External Affairs Manager** 

Rukiya S. Eaddy • REaddy@BeltLine.org

**Director of Communications** Ethan Davidson • EDavidson@BeltLine.org

#### Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. Board of Directors

Elizabeth B. Chandler Chair of the Board, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. ADA Appointee

Clara Axam

Vice Chair of the Board, Director of Atlanta Office, Board of Directors, MARTA

The Honorable Kasim Reed Mayor, City of Atlanta

The Honorable Joyce M. Sheperd Atlanta City Councilmember, District 12

The Honorable Emma Darnell Fulton County Board of Commissioners District 5

John Somerhalder President and CEO, AGL Resources, Chair of the Board, BeltLine Partnership LaChandra Butler Atlanta Board of Education, District 5

Joseph A. Brown Director of Equity/Structured Finance, Centerline Capital Group, Board of Directors, ADA





#### **About the Atlanta BeltLine**

The Atlanta BeltLine has the extraordinary potential to transform the City of Atlanta. It will combine parks and greenspace, transit and trails, transportation and pedestrian access, affordable workforce housing and public art along 22 miles of historic rail segments that encircle the urban core. The Atlanta BeltLine will ultimately connect 45 neighborhoods. As one of the most comprehensive economic development efforts ever undertaken in the City of Atlanta and the largest, most wide-ranging urban redevelopment currently underway in the U.S., the Atlanta BeltLine will serve as a model of environmental sustainability, effective land use and historic preservation.

Atlanta BeltLine Inc. (ABI), formed by the Atlanta Development Authority, is the entity tasked with planning and executing the implementation of the Atlanta BeltLine in partnership with the BeltLine team including City of Atlanta Departments. Its functions include specifically defining the Atlanta BeltLine plan; leading efforts to secure federal, state and local funding; continuing the community engagement process; and serving as the overall project management office to execute the Atlanta BeltLine plan, including the coordination of planning and execution activities with other City of Atlanta departments and managing all vendors and suppliers. Atlanta BeltLine Inc. is also responsible for tracking and reporting progress to the Atlanta City Council, Atlanta Public Schools and Fulton County, the three taxing authorities that authorized the BeltLine TAD legislation in 2005.

> Atlanta, GA 30303 Suite 200 86 Pryor Steet SW



