



As a whibition based on Chicago women's experiences

An exhibition based on Chicago women's experiences and aspirations for their homes, families, neighborhoods, communities, and city.









Il adore the sounded Smills. There are \$ 20 umany languaged vices & foods & meats & butter I hair products I eyes 2 moses & faces & color Stins. Let's diversel colon ful, a morthside compalicat ion amalgamation.



Ne encantaria hobiera mas zxte en mi ba-TTIO, Albany park

I would like to see more art in my made by locals or by the school children?



REFUSE TO BE AFRAID

Everyone deserves the right to read and with and be active agents in their lives.

There's an abundance of lead in the community I'm from and I think it has a lot to do with failure of education in Englewood.

I like that the schools in Pilsen have ant programs Proximity & outs FREE ant's programming.

WISH THERE WE'RE MORE COMMUNITY EVENT

PEOPLE What hattens

It's good to Know your surroundings. especially 44 your not able to get out to socialize.

THERE'S JUST ENOUGH HAPPENING BUT I DON'T ALWAYS FEEL LIFE I'M A PART OF IT.

to PEOPLE

or are in close

I would change outdated to the curriculum by LAW.

What started as a conversation about building the Woman Made Gallery community, and the challenge of the seeming exclusivity of the art world, has become a 150-person-plus group expression of self and community empowerment, with the neighborhoods of Chicago as a backdrop.

Beginning

In February of 2011, Woman Made Gallery sent out a survey to its network and beyond to gather ideas and start a conversation about expanding access to the gallery and building broader participation in its programs, particularly in terms of age, ethnicity, and class.

This was a new approach for us, going beyond the outreach projects and identity-focused exhibitions that had aimed to diversify artists and audiences in the past. The survey led to a roundtable discussion with some of the survey respondents, who gave generously of their ideas for how we could grow. Much of the feedback has made its way into gallery programming or is in an active planning stage: exploring contemporary art forms like New Media; reconfiguring the gallery's space; providing more opportunities for younger artists; and changing our mission statement and exhibition practices to support not only women but also gender nonconforming artists.

Respondents also suggested that we do some exhibition programming focused on Chicago neighborhoods, and that we do this in collaboration with community-based organizations so as to make the programming deeper and more reciprocal. Since Woman Made was approaching its 20th anniversary, we challenged ourselves to create an exhibition in partnership with 20 neighborhood and/or community-based organizations. Thus 20 Neighborhoods was born.

First Phase

We developed the project's structure in consultation with multiple artists. With the idea of neighborhoods at the forefront, we wanted the exhibition to feature work by women from each community that spoke to their personal experience of "place." We wanted the project to not only serve the gallery by attracting people or communities to our space, but also to create a new artistic community that would connect neighborhoods and communities with each other.

We chose "Self, Home, Community, and City," as the theme of the project and the art workshops that are at its core, because we wanted the project to encompass the multiple places we inhabit as individuals, as well as create conditions for project participants to bond with other people and communities across Chicago. For a medium we decided on assemblage, focusing on found objects and personal possessions because these materials contain qualities that inspire conversation and the creation of symbolic content. And in seeking partners for our project, we looked for organizations that reflected diversity in geographic location, communities of people, and organizational mission and structure.

Once we hired teaching artists and began working with them to hone in on the workshop curriculum, the project shifted. The teaching artists pushed for a new goal, beyond expanding the gallery's artist and audience community and providing access to space — a goal that would reflect the project's aspirations for interconnectedness across the city and, more importantly, direct accountability to all the individuals who were going to be creating the art. It was from there that we developed our mission: Empower to Discover Define, and Evolve.

This shift set the tone for the project's subsequent development, as continued input from teaching artists, partner organizations, and some participating artists, made for a workshop structure that was both asset-oriented and flexible. While the workshop content reflected the teaching artists' unique backgrounds as educators, we engaged in skill and resource sharing which led to many of the workshops featuring similar techniques. For example, many participating artists learned to create gel medium transfers and practice memory-based writing inspired by George Ella Lyon's poem "Where I'm From." Some teaching artists greatly modified the project based on participants' needs, particularly in terms of differences in culture and ability that made some of the original workshop plans irrelevant.

Workshops

In June of 2012 the workshops began. Most were made up of one teaching artist, at least one teaching assistant, and between three and ten participating artists, who learned about the workshops through our partner organizations. The breadth of skill, experience, and generosity that those involved brought to this project, made it more vibrant and meaningful than anything we

could have imagined. Women, and in some cases youth and gender nonconforming people, were sharing childhood memories as well as ideas about how to build stronger connections with one another, teaching each other new art-making techniques, and for some, making artwork for the very first time.

People took their artwork in amazing directions and chose to engage with and represent the overall project themes in multiple and exciting ways. The majority focused on explorations of self and/or family, and when they did include community, neighborhood, or city, it was usually from a proudly personal point of view.

What does this primary focus on self and family exploration, and a more subjective focus on neighborhood, city, and world, say about the participating artists? About Chicago? About community-building? About the project's original impetus and ambitions?

Meetings

We considered these questions throughout the exhibition's development and implementation, and brought participating artists, teaching artists, and partner organizations together in the gallery to meet one another, share experiences and aspirations, give input on the design of the exhibition and catalog, and further strengthen this new arts community.

With about 115 people present over the course of four evenings, each meeting pulsated with conversation, shared ideas, and strong emotions. We discussed the questions, "What would make you feel safer?," "If you could travel anywhere in Chicago where would you go?," "What do you like about the schools in your neighborhood, and what would you change?," and "If you could put your artwork from this project anywhere in your neighborhood for others to see, where would you put it?". This catalog holds a record of these conversations in the post-it notes we used to record and share our ideas.

Looking Forward

We talked about the challenges of creating an exhibition that is meant to accomplish so many goals: showcasing fine art pieces created by the participating artists, and in some cases the teaching artists, while illuminating the process behind the art's creation; envisioning a unified city that holds neighborhoods, families, and people, while addressing the problems that keep Chicago disconnected; maintaining the integrity of the individual artists and their work while highlighting the shared experiences and conversations that took place in the workshops; and deepening the practice of collaborative art-making that originated in the workshops through extending it out into the physical space of the gallery and opening it up to exhibition audiences, while maintaining continuity and simplicity in exhibition design.

As we planned for the catalog, we wanted to show the communities that were created and strengthened through 20 Neighborhoods. So we decided to present the story beginning with the larger community that emerged and work backwards to show the communities of workshops, and then the individuals behind the artwork, along with their own voices in a selection of their quotes and poetry. We hope that you will enjoy the story that follows.

Thank you

Here at Woman Made Gallery, 20 Neighborhoods has altered and elevated our understanding of art-making, community-building, and feminism. This project and all involved have made the gallery stronger and more relevant as we move into our next 20 years.

Heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all who made this project possible: the teaching artists, participating artists, interns, teaching assistants, volunteers, and all 20 partner organizations. We are most grateful for generous project grants from the Efroymson Family Foundation and from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. And we could not have done this project without generous material and monetary donations from our many individual supporters.

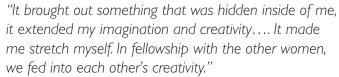
Ruby Thorkelson, 20 Neighborhoods Project Director,
 September 2012



COMMUNITY









"What I've learned really is...to wrap my head around the label of being an artist because I don't personally feel like an artist...or what I do is artistic, but it's slowly starting to grow on me."









"Though we are not ignorant we are often ignored. This is an oppressive system to resist. As such, our greatest potential lies in creating and sustaining community. The women agreed that they are the ones raising family, they are the ones working to make a future for their children and therefore they are the ones who must continue to form communities among themselves to support one another."







"We have young people, they're in their 20's and they're going postal. That means our young people aren't being looked out for and feeling like they're valued, especially our young men."

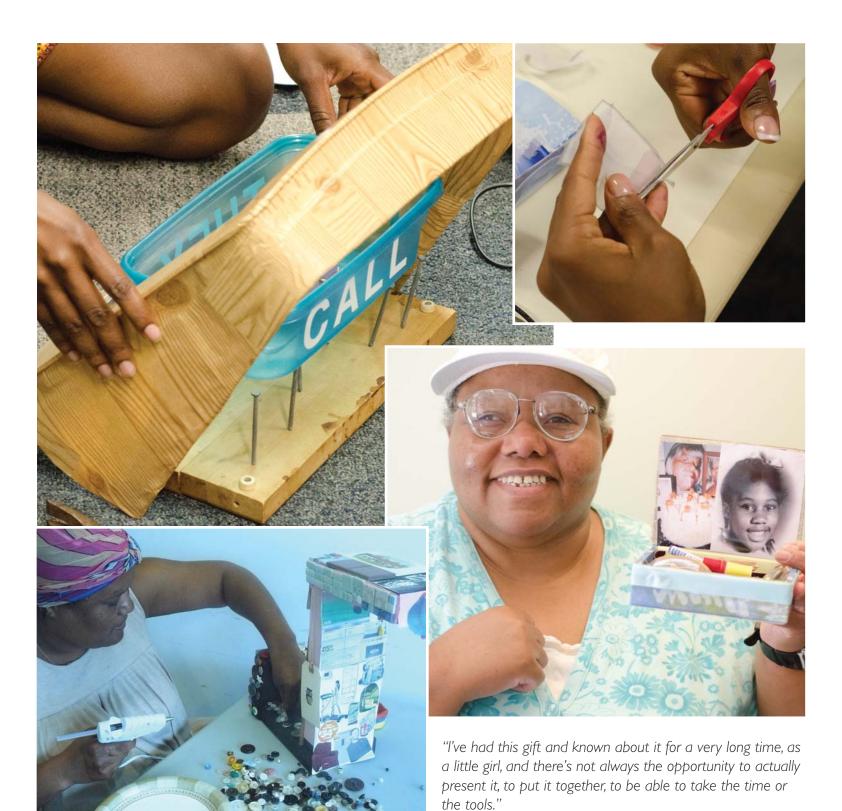




"I am working to reduce the self-doubt many experience in regards to their artistic abilities. As such, I encouraged participants to listen carefully to their intuition, for the conscious and sub-conscious minds maintain an intimate relationship."



"Making honest and powerful declarations about their own potential and fulfillment has become a great motivator for encouraging others to do the same. Passing on these ideas of empowerment has become a matter of responsible action; there is a sense of responsibility in helping other women find themselves emerging into their potential and fully embracing themselves in the process. It is a desire to build and support a larger family among them, as women, mothers, and community members."



 $| \cdot |$



"I put down all of the states I've been in and lived in. As you can see in my adult life, I've had 8 major moves so far, and none of these places I've ever considered home... [the elements of my piece] represent the suicides that have been happening to active duty and veterans everyday. The idea of it is I think some of us, we run and we never stop running until we make it home, and for me I'm guessing that won't be until I'm in the cold embrace of death."



"Living on a military base is like a city itself, and also there's more emphasis on teamwork and community and survival and being a part. And then you come home and it's not there... Each place we go changes us, we learn, we grow, and then to come back and...it's like people haven't grown and the country hasn't grown. They don't grow mentally, emotionally, spiritually."







From Benton House, Bridgeport

I am from Bridgeport and the Quarry Coffee, Bakery goods and Bars Maria's I'm from a family that is Hispanic from Mexico And I have a desire to see the 31st Street Bus in my neighborhood

I am from MC Allen and from German and Filipino I'm from brown eyes that see inequalities I'm from education, culture and maps that make me feel cynical and optimistic I'm from talking to myself when stressed

I am from pen strokes cramped & crowded, spicy I'm from the lamb's quarter whose long gone limbs I remember as if they were my own I'm from lechon and thriftiness, from Mother and Father I'm from "save your money, hard work, and life's not fair" I'm from pansit and bratwurst From don Quixote caring on my wall

I'm from Pilsen and Harrison Park, tortillas and Benton House, Bridgeport I'm from tacos I'm from a desire to see more gardens in my neighborhood.

I'm from Harold Washington Library where I feel at ease On majestic Roads to Perdition and street festivals I am from segregation but also diversity

I am from a modest home in the country with a tiny orange teapot that sits in my cabinet Upon the safety of my own bed I am from a fragrant lilac bush on the side of the House, Long gone limbs I remember As if it always blooms a little too late

I am from a Catholic family and a family that opens presents on Christmas Eve because we just can't wait for Grandpa Len and Uncle Fred I'm from "Forgetta 'bout it!" and "Life's not fair!" Beneath beetles playing on my dad's radios I'm from lasagna and corned beef & cabbage From memories of my Uncle's brain injury when he was sick
Weeping over him and needing strength

I am from countless religious books such as:
PUT A RESTRAINING ORDER ON SATAN
I am from home cooking and my favorite tea pot
I'm from Chicago and all the German holidays
I'm from memories of the tooth fairy
And old McDonald Had a Farm

I'm from Illinois and potato salad and the rocking chair in my room

I am from Women's group at Benton House, Prayer groups at First Trinity Church, Protests with Bridgeport Alliance I'm from walks at McGuane Park I'm from a home called Bridgeport

I am from Chicago
From Ireland
I'm from brown eyes and brown hair
I am from an unfinished house with lots of stairs
A home that makes me feel loved
I'm from where everyone has a sense of humor
I'm from Bridgeport

I'm from piles of toys
A loud house with children running
I'm from insecurities
I'm from pride and confidence
I'm from Girls Action League
Beans and rice
Playing in Bosley Park
I'm from Bridgeport

From Mercy Housing, Roseland

K Frances

Fashionable, energetic, artistic, articulate

Has an unusual sounding voice

Very fun loving

Sometimes a very quiet person

My Community

Full of opportunities to teach and be taught

At times resembles a ghost town

full of people packed with talent, but lacking opportunity

Are in need of a leader

My World

Very beautiful

Filled with music

Filled with the sounds of nature

Filled with the comings and goings of life.

-Kay Frances

Ramona

Purposeful, undeserving, abounding, grateful

Created in God's image,

Filled with a servant's spirit,

Swirling endlessly to achieve his purpose.

My Family

Faithful, loving, resilient, supportive

Always reaching for the best,

Striving to be God's instruments,

Knowing our strength is in our unity

My Community

Provocative, creative, unconventional, entrepreneurial

Strangers encountered in an imposing city,

Once nothing but small bits of paper,

Soon became by companions on a journey of possibilities.

My World

Challenging, relentless, unrestricted, unexpected

Filled with doors,

Diligently knocking

In anticipation of overflowing prosperity

-Ramona Lindsey

From Artforward in

Partnership with Breakthrough Urban Ministries, Garfield Park

I am from the era of segregation

Welch's grape juice on a cool Summer eve

From Madea

A survivor, entrepreneur

Sunday nights of old school Gospel

keeper of memories of the heart

fresh homemade sausage, buttermilk biscuits, fresh orange juice

I am She

surrounded by the color red that was shed

I am a child of God

Holy and acceptable, fearfully and wonderfully made

fearfully and wonderfully loved

I AM SHE

-Denise Watson

From AG47, Logan Square

Finding a similar horizon line, two places put together. Where we grew up & where we ended up.

The use of old photos, sketches and found objects to show the two places that I'm from, Chicago and El Rincon de Dolores.

-Janet Gomez

I am from a wet towel on the floor from fruit pancakes, the night sky and medicine in my chocolate milk

I am from I 23 S. Taylor and the play-set covered in ivy from exquisite corpse, contact and a game we call cumquat

Now split between,

I look for memories in cardboard boxes

The things we've made, our matching ankle scars,

his missing breast and

"Apple pie without some cheese is like a kiss without a squeeze."

-Katherine Robinson

From Yollocalli Arts Reach, Pilsen

Flowing inside trees,

Makes me wonder of my growth

I will encounter.

-Victoria Martinez

Foam never ceases,

The sea cleanses the spirit

The light, white water.

-Liz Morales

Breath, breath out, relax

Time brings growth, decay, beauty.

Float, move, stand still, thrive,

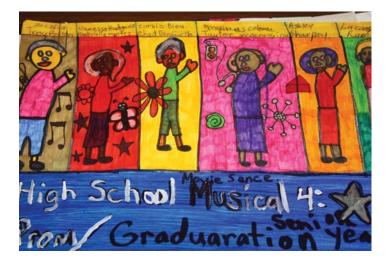
-Vanessa Rondini

New life beginning,

Life frozen under the sea.

Silence not a sound.

-Victoria DeLeon



From ETA Creative Arts Foundation, Grand Crossing

FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Powers surround us

Noble efforts new solutions

Our homes our country and theirs

-PIStewArt

BFI IFVF

I BELIEVE God protects us, if we let Him!
I BELIEVE 'LOVE, PEACE, FAITH and VISION' are God's keys to unlocking the unlimited riches in us, our family and our community.
I BELIEVE we must LOVE ourselves and live according to 'God's

purpose' for our lives.

I BELIEVE we must share God's gifts with others.

I BELIEVE we must teach our children to live in PEACE. We should start with our families teaching our children that they are children of God. They are the sons and daughters of a strong ancestry and heritage. We must empower them by surrounding them with 'family' who has FAITH in them and their future.

I BELIEVE we must hold onto our VISION for our communities. We must protect our 'community' by watching over and caring for others who are in need. Loving others as God loves us! I BELIEVE God!

-Beverly Gatewood-Hall

From South Side Community Arts Center, Bronzeville

I Am

I am the South Side.
The summer breeze
blowing through the jasmine
I am red light basement parties and the bop
I am of sharecroppers and Stagolee.
Miles and Mathis,
Jackson 5 and 45s
I am the daughter of South Siders
of Nnyala,
of Carrie,
of Annie,
ancestors who tell me to keep lookin' up.
-luarez Hawkins

EMENTS CKNOWLED

Woman Made Gallery wishes to thank all of the 20 Neighborhoods Partner Organizations, Teaching Artists, Teaching Assistants, Participating Artists, Interns, and Volunteers for their contributions to this project.

LOGAN SQUARE

Organization: AG47

Teaching Artist: Katherine Robinson Teaching Assistant: Elyse Schauer

Participating Artists:

Lauren Gill

lanet Gomez

Frin Watson

GARFIELD PARK

Organization: Artforward in partnership with

Breakthrough Urban Ministries

Teaching Artists: Ife Williams

Teaching Assistant: Chaz Morales

Participating Artists:

Elizabeth Bonzani

Amy Coles

Janet Milkovich

Gabrielle Myers

Denise Watson



WESTTOWN

Organization: Arts of Life Teaching Artist: Sabba Elahi Teaching Assistant: Caitlin Law Participating Artists:

Christianne Msall

Frances Roberts

Linda Ruzga

Debbie Vasquez

Marianne Wehr

Jean Wilson

Christina Zion

BRIDGEPORT

Organization: Benton House

Teaching Artist: Kristina Tendilla

Teaching Assistants: Elise Cody, Colleen Krupa,

Zakiyya Latif, Emma Roetzer

Participating Artists:

Mary Cantore

Julia Dowling

Amaya Fabela

Olema Fernandez

Claudia Rojas

Elma Rubio

less Saldana

Peggy Watson

LAKEVIEW

Organization: Center On Halsted

Teaching Artist: Veronica Stein

Teaching Assistant: NIC ole K.

Participating Artists:

Ashley Brazil

Azalea Fairley

Carol Hedin

Cassandra Herring

Louise Klie

Sandra "Sandi" Simmons

Eva Skye

CHINATOWN

Organization: Chinese American

Service League

Teaching Artist: Elaine Luther

Teaching Assistant and translator:

Bianca Lee

Participating Artists: Yuet Har Chan Cui Ying Chen Shu Ying Chen Hui Yan Mei Chen Ling Cheun

Ling Cheun Lai Fong Lee Wan Yu Ma Rui Fang Tan Nancy Yung

HUMBOLDT PARK

Organization: Community Counseling Centers of Chicago in partnership

with Rumble Arts

Teaching Artist: Jeannette Perkal Teaching Assistant: Maritza Bautista

Participating Artists: Maricela Andraca Isabel Cruz Maria Mandujano Lizzette Martinez

LITTLEVILLAGE

Organization: Enlace Chicago Teaching Artist: Olga Marroquin Teaching Assistants: Melissa and Natalia Lopez

Participating Artists: Teresa Berumen Laura Lopez Yolanda Lozano Crystal Lozano Angelica Martinez

GRAND CROSSING

Organization: ETA Creative Arts

Foundation

Teaching Artist: Patricia Stewart

Participating Artists:

Kim Atkins

Acquanetta Bluing Linda Covington Laci Gatewood

Beverly Gatewood-Hall

Shirley Jones Naeida Stevens

FDGFWATER/FAST ROGERS PARK

Organization: Hamdard Center Teaching Artist: Karen Light Translator: Arun Chander Participating Artists: Raheema Bahlim Famida Begum Shameem Humayun Shahzadi Kaleemulla Gurcharan Kaur Hamida Khatoon Misba Sultana Zarina

WEST ROGERS PARK

Organization: Howard Area

Community Center

Teaching Artist: Lindsay Obermeyer Teaching Assistant: Kristin Abhalter

Participating Artists: Marie Celerin Anne Hona Batoul Khayyat Sherly Lande

Fashion Dynasty Saunders

Samantha Wright

WRIGLEYVILLE

Organization: House of the

Good Shepherd

Teaching Artist: Stephanie Wernet Teaching Assistant: Betsy Zacsek

Participating Artists:

Anonymous

FNGI FWOOD

Organization: Imagine Englewood If...

Teaching Artist: Laura Miller Teaching Assistant: Ruthie Butler

Participating Artists:

Cora Butler
Sparkle Ford
Tasha Johnson
Bettye Neely
Marcella Rankins
Pat Roberts
Shirley Wilhite

ANDERSONVILLE

Organization: Living Arts Center's Women

Veterans Art Group

Teaching Artist: Suellen Semekoski

Teaching Assistants: Elissa Heckendorf and

Laura Maruzzella Participating Artists: Iris Feliciano Lilia Hodges Haneefa Mateen Rachel Pingel Jessica Rose

Emily Siefkin Callandra Tapp



OLDTOWN

Organization: Mercy Housing Margot and

Harold Schiff Residences Teaching Artist: Ruth Hodgins Participating Artists:

Arlene Johnson Brenda Jones Crystal Smith

ROSELAND

Organization: Mercy Housing Roseland Place

Apartments

Teaching Artist: Ramona D. Lindsey

Participating Artists:

Ina Bell
Kay Carter
Minnie Houston
Tisha Jackson
Emma Jones
Mary Lloyd

SOUTH LOOP

Organization: Mercy Housing South

Loop Apartments

Teaching Artist: Lily Mayfield

Teaching Assistant: Nicole Wingate

Participating Artists:

Michele Hite

Robyn Pio

Sharon Stillwell

ALBANY PARK

Organization: Mexico Solidarity

Network's Centro Autónomo

Teaching Artist: Silvia Gonzalez

Teaching Assistant: Claire Jakubiszyn

Participating Artists:

Silvia Esquivel

Elena Navarro Garcia

Nelsy Sanchez

Isabel Valenzuela

BRONZEVILLE

Organization: South Side Community

Art Center

Teaching Artist: Juarez Hawkins

Participating Artists:

Irene Cabello

Iris Gist Cochran

liton Davidson

IC (lacqueline) Finley

Marian Hayes

Sakile Ramir

Renee Robinson

Victoria Rowels Izola Wright

PILSEN

Organization: Yollocalli Arts Reach Teaching Artist: Victoria Martinez

Teaching Assistant: Vanessa Rondini

Participating Artists:

Deborah Garcia

Victoria de Leon

Elizabeth Morales

Project Interns:

Ionit Behar

Christen Calloway

Hannah Fehrman

Meredith Lancaster

Diandra Miller

Monica Padilla Arlene Wanetick

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Hannah Fehrman

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Susan Mazzeri

Project Director: Ruby Thorkelson



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Woman Made Gallery, 685 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60642.T 312-738-0400 Hours: Wed., Thurs., Fri. 12-7 p.m.; Sat., Sun. 12-4 p.m. Closed Mon. & Tues. www.womanmade.org



me gustavia conocer mas

I would

I've to draid

I've to draid

change the mutulion of my schools

meet people
in a garden
ov
church
on our sidwalk

Teachers should want to be teachers.

It should be a position that is well respected and difficult to achieve.

Teachers should also a not be treated so poorly timing the respection of the property of the property timing the respective of the property timing the property times and the property times the property tim

If the gang burger wouldn't stand on my Corner or stand or front of people hours IF the police officers patrol the hood better than what they gredon.

Arte mas Simple, de detalle. Arte personal

· Create more activities for the youth!
· Remove the drug declars and gang members from the

streets.

Those with medical

conditions should be

required to get help an

take medication.

· Communicate more.

ADD MORE

ART - ADD

CONFLICT

RESOLUTION

CHASSES TO SCHOOLS

INING IN Chicago
In a neighbor hord
with so many apartment
building does not allow
me to get to know
more people in my
neighborhood. I would
neighborhood. I would
really enjoy knowing more
people in my neighborhood







LIVE IN A HIGHPUSE CHESAME ONE FOR 5 48 AND KNOW ONLY 4 OFMY NEIGHBORS, THE ENERBY IS COLD



TO EACH ETHEN. NEIGHBOR HOOD

I would take
Them to the
Oullman Noighborn





I would

of skil

classes,



WOMAN MADE GALLERY

20 YEARS STRONG

Woman Made Gallery supports, cultivates and promotes the diverse contributions of women in the arts through exhibitions and other programs that serve, educate and enrich the community

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