

Daymon Day Mural 2014

Tuttle Park

2014 Project Update:

In light of this being our 9th annual Daymon Day, we thought this would be a good year to reinforce our concept as we approach our 10 year anniversary. This year definitely felt more crystalized than years past and we felt less pressure to switch it up. We tried to keep to the cannon of mural wall, parade and after party. The ultimate spirit of Daymon Day is about enjoying each other's company and being positive influences in our friend and families lives. Our mural wall this year included roughly a dozen and a half artists and the festivities were attended by a couple hundred friends and family. It was decided to keep the wall simple and more colorful this year. Personally, I'd like to see the wall evolve into being more explanatory of the event to passersby. However, this wall continues to serve as a means of bringing old friends together and has created a sacred space for the community that Daymon created.

Project Background:

Daymon Day is an annual event celebrating the life of Daymon Dodson. It is put together by an informal group of friends and family. The first Daymon Day took place the month following Daymon's untimely death on August 16, 2006 and has since taken place every year on a Saturday in mid-September. Daymon was a key character in Columbus' Music and Art communities and was especially known for his ability to bring people together who otherwise would not have done so.

In that spirit, the activities on Daymon Day are intended to bring people together and to celebrate all of those who are no longer with us. Activities include a parade, mural painting, live shows, dance parties and cook-outs. There are no sponsorships or outside organizations involved in the planning or funding of Daymon Day. Parade fees, mural permits, supplies and promotion are all raised informally through friends and family as well, the proceeds from each event are usually thrown in at the end of the evening and given to a private venue or performance space.

The day is broken into three parts; cook-out/ park jam/ mural painting at Tuttle park, Parade, and an After-Party (or Pre-Party the night before) including live bands and DJs. The location of Tuttle Park was chosen due to it being the location of a past event Daymon was fond of, "The Omnimix 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament", as well as its proximity to the parade route and ideal physical layout.

The mural wall at Tuttle Park has great importance to Daymon Day. It allows us to have an artistic representation and visual documentation of the event year to year. It also serves as a venue to memorialize other members of Columbus' Art and Music scene who have passed away, which, unfortunately has grown. The wall proves to be a compelling piece which has made its way to national websites, as well as onto the pages of local media -- each time spreading the memory of

Daymon and raising the profile of Columbus' Art and Music Scenes.

All of the artists involved donate their own time and supplies. The mural wall is located on the south side of the handball/tennis wall located at the south-east corner of Tuttle Park. The wall is painted annually on the weekend of Daymon Day with touch-ups done sometimes throughout the following week. There is no maintenance necessary. In the five years we've been doing the event, we have

always left the area clean and, as permit holder; I have yet to receive any complaints regarding the event, formal or otherwise.