



3556 Sullivant Avenue Suite 103  
Columbus, Ohio 43204  
Hilltop, USA  
[www.FriendsOfTheHilltop.org](http://www.FriendsOfTheHilltop.org)

❖  
Celebrating Twenty  
Years of Service  
to the Hilltop Community  
❖

**Board of Trustees**

John D. Lowry – President  
Barbara Lowry – Vice President  
Judy Manley – Secretary  
Marilyn E. Zimmerman – Treasurer  
Dan Downing  
State Rep. Michael Stinziano  
William “Jeremy” Tankovich  
Danielle X. Weber

**Executive Director**

Gary L. Baker, II



**Keep Columbus Beautiful  
Awards Recipient:**

- Volunteer of the Year Award
- Neighborhood Beautification Award
- Take Pride in Columbus Award

November 17, 2014

Ms. Patricia Von Niessen  
Summer Jam Westgate  
254 South Westgate Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43204

Dear Ms. Von Niessen:

I write this letter in support of your public art proposal for the rain garden at Westgate Park. Westgate Park is a jewel in the crown of CRPD. The park is also an important asset to the Greater Hilltop area. Summer Jam Westgate is developing a reputation of bringing art to the park through its events and your decision to commission public art is commendable.

Friends of the Hilltop is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been serving the Greater Hilltop area for nearly twenty years. Our efforts to bring about a Hilltop Renaissance have focused largely on beautification and community service. We own and maintain a small pocket park at 2105 West Broad Street, own and maintain 17 large decorative planters along West Broad, have hosted countless cleanups collecting tons of refuse, have planted dozens of trees throughout our community, host an annual beautification awards ceremony, present the annual Karen Whitman Hilltop USA Award, operate a graffiti removal program and the Greater Hilltop Area League for the Arts, beautify numerous city and state rights-of-way, and have hosted the Uptown on the Hilltop Parade, among other endeavors. We are sincere in our belief that the west side is the best side and we work diligently through our own members and partner organizations to exhibit and build west side pride. Please visit [www.friendsofthehilltop.org](http://www.friendsofthehilltop.org) for more information.

Friends of the Hilltop will work with you to publicize the 2015 Summer Jam Westgate and the art installation. We will also serve as your fiscal agent for this project if necessary, just as we did for the creation of the Heroes of Camp Chase mural at the handball courts.

Adding public art to the rain garden will enhance its status as an attraction for people visiting Westgate Park. The monarch butterfly is an especially interesting topic. It is my hope that the City of Columbus Arts Commission will look favorably upon your proposal. Please feel free to contact me at 614.404.3024 or [friendsofthehilltop@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthehilltop@gmail.com) with any questions.

Regards,

Gary L. Baker, II  
Executive Director