



Monday, October 20, 2008

Bronzeville playground funded by Lollapalooza

by Wendell Hutson

A new playground was unveiled today at a South Side park in the Bronzeville community, thanks to funding received from the 2005 and 2006 Lollapalooza festivals.

The playground at Washington Park, 5531 S. King Drive, pays homage to Bronzeville's cultural history through a timeline that highlights significant contributors and events in the community. The unique design also features tiles painted by children at the Lollapalooza festival's Kidzapalooza area as well as children in the Chicago Park District's after school scholarship program.

Other donors for the playground included Charter One, Motorola and Parkways Foundation, the philanthropic partner of the Chicago Park District, which helped raise more than \$700,000 in private funds to build the playground.

The playground has soft surfacing and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which allows children with disabilities to enjoy the playground.

Mayor Richard M. Daley, who attended today's ribbon cutting ceremony with Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners President Gery Chico and Chicago Park District Superintendent Tim Mitchell, said teaching kids about their culture makes the playground unique.

"This new playground provides a safe area for our children to play, and it also educates them on the rich cultural history of the Bronzeville community," he said.