

Transcribed Tape

Jeffery Davis

1. How long have you been involved with the cultural gardens and how did it come to be?

1996-1997, I was taking picture I'm a photographer and I was at the greenhouse and the horticulturist asked me to be a representative, quite by accident not with intended purpose.

I represent community and try to get a more established garden.

2. What has been your role?

-Glue to stick it together- couple other groups. African American Cultural gardens group and Mayor's task force. -Two groups working to get a more established garden -we have plans by Robert Madison and trying to implement that.

3. What is your vision of the garden?

As a gardener, I see beautiful flowers...connection of people with the earth.

4. How do you feel an African American Garden may effect the community?

I thin it should give them a sense of pride that they too belong in the great boulevard of nations...we have a garden that's been est. since 1977. Now we work on recognition so they can fill that certain pride they can walk sown here and say do have a garden too. Doesn't mean physical structures...gardens have become more used

5. Have you lived in the area?

I live in S. Euclid, originally from Mansfield.. All ground is sacred.. the gardens them self actually represent an international theme because this is one of the only places in the world you have this Rockefeller park dedicate to ethnic diversity... were dedicated to peace and understanding through the gardens and shown how even though your diverse how that created the fabric of the community to be strong.

6. Please illustrate the location debates?

This garden was dedicated in 1977 by the efforts of on Booker Tall and many of us feel that since it's been here it hasn't changed it's still here... some people

would like to move it to other places that suits their needs or political agendas, but then there are people who say that this is a great location on Martin Luther King Blv. What better place to commemorate the struggles of M.L.K. this will be great because it's right here... this is the 1977 dedicated spot.

7. What has been one of the biggest changes you've seen in the gardens?

When I first came it wasn't as neat and clean.. in fact they put in new bike path since I've been here... a lot of the gardens have rejuvenated there's been a lot of work done and a lot more people are becoming to notice the gardens. I see a lot of people taking walks through here where as before they weren't..it was kind of shadowy as they perceived it....._people are beginning to notice it..for a while it had turned into disarray.. a while new group in Cultural Gardens Federation is trying to get listed as a national monument....

8. Any stories?

Well, I guess when we planted the gardens... people stopped and talk ... greater sense of unity.

9. Do you see the gardens as a place of brotherhood or a battleground?

..I see it as a place of brotherhood cause you see all these people coming together... I see it as bringing people together... learning and diversity.

10. Comments after interview.

It's a long journey political things, were going to get flagpoles and signs to recognize.....

They had a head start and all that behind them the gardens coming now have a longer struggle.....

Robert Madison.... Each circle represent the development of the African American community as grows its coming into America... as they grow it shows development and coming into America and each one was a different point in the struggle.....

Each group history here is American history even though it has a certain ethnic flavor... we have to remember that its all American history America is a hodgepodge and we have to embrace everyone's history just think it was European.. We all are here what makes America.

About Madison..... The size of the circles represents growth and expansion....

No statues in his approach cause it would be hard to find out who with out controversy could represent... what is Africa... a lot of different countries.... 21st century N. Africa Egypt Algeria, needs to be included....What is African American... we need to include all....

That is the history of the world what was, the history is dynamic...so what just happened 50 yrs ago don't mean anything this is what deal with today...

America all these different people if they were on other sides of the world they might be at each other's throat, but they can come here and coexist and live in harmony.