

# TROOST AVE.

# *Festival*

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR: Troost Festival Folks Committee

SUBJECT: Troost Avenue Festival

CONTACT: Fr. David, Reconciliation Ministries: 816/588-3038

Fred Culver, CGC: 816/756-0099

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## 4th Annual Troost Avenue Festival

(Kansas City, MO)- The 2008 Troost Avenue Festival is set for Saturday, April 19 in the 3100 block of Troost Avenue, 12 noon to 10 pm.

The 4th annual Troost Festival will feature music, the stories of Troost, vendors and exhibitors, children's activities and a "Coffeehouse on the Street" to encourage dialogue for a new vision of Troost as a 'gathering place' rather than a 'dividing line'.

### BACKGROUND

What was to become Troost Avenue was a Native American hunting path, then, when the first white explorers and settlers arrived, a trail past a huge slave plantation, an exclusive street lined by millionaire's estates, the hub of an eclectic urban life that fostered Jazz, Walt Disney, the Isis Theater, and a vibrant commercial center. Yet, for the past 40 years, following riots and 'white flight', Troost has been viewed as the racial dividing line of the city which local broadcaster Walt Bodine referred to it as the "Berlin Wall of Kansas City".

### TROOST FOLKS

The Troost Folks, organizers of the Festival, are a loose collaboration of activists dedicated to integral community.

For more on the Troost Ave Festival

<<http://www.creativeprocess.net/cgc/troost>>

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