

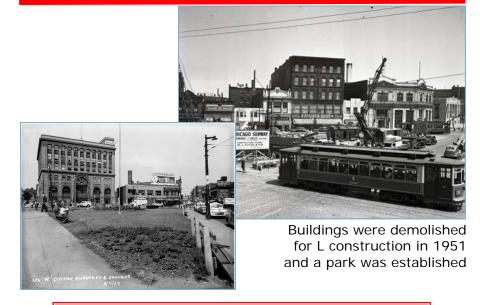
## **Polish Triangle Coalition (PTC)**

Formed in 2010 to improve the environment of the Triangle. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

A volunteer group, it has conducted opinion research and activity experimentation.

info@PolishTriangleCoalition.org PolishTriangle Coalition.org

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# In search of design assistance

for

Chicago's Polish Triangle
Gateway to Four Communities



## Imagine a people plaza where visitors:

- feel welcomed in a clean and safe oasis
- · are geographically oriented
- linger or pass through
- · socialize or are private
- celebrate the neighborhoods' cultural history

The Polish Triangle Coalition is in search of design assistance to create that vision for the space bordered by Ashland, Milwaukee and Division. Renderings will be used in fundraising efforts.



### **Site**

- sits along one of Chicago's historic Native American footpaths (now Milwaukee Avenue)
- has heavy vehicle and pedestrian traffic
- is a transportation hub in the midst of a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) district with commercial and residential usage
- is the primary destination for Blue Line travelers to the city from O'Hare
- hosts public events for children and adults
- is surrounded by educational, religious, food and entertainment as well as retail entities
- faces challenges including loitering and pigeons



A Tuesday at the Triangle evening

#### **Activities**

Usage experimentation began in 2011 with an unsuccessful 2-year WPB SSA #33 weekday market.

PTC began *Tuesdays at the Triangle*, a 16-week, 2-hour series of entertainment events in 2013.

During the 4-year successful endeavor, each year revealed a change in space usage perception.

- Community and travelers began viewing the space as a destination
- Some socialized and others preferred privacy during cultural events
- Individuals and organizations increased participation as their perception of the space changed
- Temporary food service was embraced by locals and transients
- Having a regular presence on site showed that an "caretaker" will result in a cleaner location and more destination visits