

**Contact: Sharon Kilfoy**  
Williamson St Art Center  
Phone 608-256-8878

1020 Williamson Street  
Madison, WI 53703

**Williamson Street  
Art Center**

# Press Release

## **Williamson Street Art Center announces a new community art project: “The History of Willy Street in the 70’s – Changing the World through Art”**

Are you an artist, actor, poet, musician or activist who lived or worked in the Willy Street area during the 1970’s?

**Madison, WI, July 18, 2008:** The Williamson Street Art Center in partnership with Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center and the Social Justice Center announce a community arts project with two parts:

- A web site with oral histories from the artists, poets, musicians, and activists who lived and worked in the Willy St area in the 70’s;
- The creation of a vibrant outdoor community mural at 1202 Williamson St (the Social Justice Center) depicting that history – beginning in August.

This project celebrates the history of Willy Street in the 70’s, when it was primarily a working class industrial area, a place where artists and social activists found cheap rent and minimal restriction on their artistic and political activity. The story of how Madison’s “skid row” became the “hippest” area in town is the story of community renewal that came about because of the value of the human activity that occurred here. ***This is the local history of a generation whose hallmark was hope.***

If you:

- Have a story to tell
- Photos to lend
- Want to help paint the mural

or would like to contribute in any other way, **contact Sharon Kilfoy at 256-8878.**

Thanks.