Dr. Charles Smith & Fred Scruton

Artist Dr. Charles Smith will describe his African-American Heritage Museum + Black Veterans Archives sites, first in Aurora, IL, now also in Hammond, LA, and how museum involvement with his work has impacted his creative process. Photographer Fred Scruton will discuss the yearly documentary process at Dr. Smith’s site from 2013 to 2016, and his case study of “collaborative documentation.” The artist’s site provides the photographer’s subject matter, and Dr. Smith and Scruton have worked together to produce photographs that don’t fit within the traditional “photographed as found” strictures of documentary photography. Redefinitions of “documentation” will be addressed in a historical and contemporary context.

Jenenne Whitfield

Heidelberg 3.0

Using art as his catalyst, Tyree Guyton breathed life into Heidelberg Street by transforming detritus into a massive art installation drawing attention to a once-forgotten neighborhood. This work became known as the Heidelberg Project. Through educational programs, services, and a cultural destination serving nearly 300,000 visitors annually, our mission of changing lives and communities has been realized. Tyree’s vision worked! Just as the city of Detroit is changing, the narrative and landscape of the Heidelberg Project is changing. The time has come to transform the Heidelberg Project with a new and fresh vision that we call Heidelberg 3.0. Led by the Heidelberg Project, 3.0 is a unique opportunity to integrate our experiences into a larger plan that is driven and embraced by residents, artists, and a wider constituency of supporters throughout Detroit.
Emily Smith & Isaiah Zagar

Opened to the public in 2008, Philadelphia’s Magic Gardens is a 3,000-square-foot art environment in the heart of Philadelphia created by artist Isaiah Zagar. The nonprofit organization, which manages the site independently of Zagar, has grown its attendance over 600% since opening and the site has become a must-see destination for locals and tourists. Zagar and Philadelphia Magic Gardens Executive Director Emily Smith discuss the challenges and accomplishments of their partnership, as well as their harmonious vision for the future of the organization.