

# KIDS MATTER HERE

## Good Stuff About Our Grantees

### Get Ready for a Merry-Go-Round Family Fun Down by the River

Hey Kids! ♦ Have you heard about all the exciting news going on in downtown Detroit?

The news that will stretch from the **Ambassador Bridge** in the west to beyond the **MacArthur Bridge** to the east? ♦ The news that more than five long miles along the Detroit riverfront are being prepared for you and your family to enjoy?

So, you haven't heard about the bike paths and walkways, fishing off the pier and fountain fun, picnics and butterfly gardens? ♦ Really? ♦ Well, along with tons of other fun, exciting treats, there will be a tall, spinning piece of art known to most as a **Merry-go-Round!** ♦ That's right. Your very own **River Carousel** has come to town.

The carousel arrived in Detroit in late April and was installed the first week of May. ♦ It will be ready for you to board in **June** when other parts of the **RiverWalk** open to the public.



#### River Carousel Facts:

- The carousel will feature 10 separate species, native to the **Detroit Riverfront**. The native species include: a **sturgeon**, **bass**, **catfish**, **walleye**, **egret**, **eagle**, **wood duck**, **snail**, **frog** and **heron**.
- The carousel will feature two mythical creatures: the **River Monster** and the **River Mermaid**.
- There will be 19 saddled creatures in total, with six appearing more than once. ♦ Of the 19 creatures, 17 will move up and down.
- The carousel will feature one swan chariot, allowing for a seated and stable ride.
- The carousel is handicap accessible.
- The **Detroit RiverFront Conservancy** commissioned the carousel through **Fabricon Creations**, a national carousel company, whose other works include the carousel at **Chicago's Navy Pier** and the **Bryant Park Carousel** in **Manhattan**.
- Sculptor **Jeffrey Briggs**, who has been creating custom carousels for more than 20 years, created each individual and unique creature. ♦ **Briggs** is based in **Newburyport, Massachusetts**.
- **Briggs** sketched each creature as they would appear on the carousel and sculpted each piece out of a metal frame covered with plaster. ♦ The sculptures were then made into molds and each final creature was produced in fiberglass.
- Artist **William Rogers**, also based in **Newburyport**, painted each creature individually.
- At the center of the carousel, there is a 33-foot mural of the **Detroit River estuary**. ♦ Outside panels will feature natural wildlife scenes and species.
- The finished carousel will include 600 large lights and about 200 small ones.

