

It's time to catch up with each other again! Rather than going through my usual detail on the last meeting, positives / negatives, etc., I thought I'd take advantage of the end of summer to focus on some upcoming events, beginning with the August 20th OPENING OF THE FOURTH AVENUE UNDERPASS!

Events will be taking place all day and night, with the primary focus at 4PM when the Underpass will be officially dedicated! This truly is an historic event. I do hope you'll join us for the MANY activities taking place that day.

Here's a link to the specifics: <http://www.downtownucson.org/news/?p=229>

This is a celebration two years [and more] in the making! Perhaps a brief history would be appropriate, just to put next Thursday's festivities in context:

- *The original Fourth Avenue Underpass was constructed in 1916! It served our community nobly for close to a century, but it no longer met modern traffic standards or needs.*
- *Discussions to renovate the Fourth Avenue Underpass started in the early 1990s as part of the extension of the Barraza-Aviation Parkway.*
- *The underpass design was completed in May 2005, but in February 2006 we revised the plans from simply renovating the old underpass and creating a new utilitarian underpass for cars and the Streetcar, to creating a more appropriate - and spectacular - bike and pedestrian friendly link between Downtown and Fourth Avenue.*
- *In order to secure the best possible pricing and control costs, we held a competitive selection process for a Construction Manager at Risk. Although this process is frequently misunderstood, it allows the City to work closely with the contractor every step of the way to the City's advantage.*
- *Sundt Construction was selected as the contractor.*
- *In May 2007 project plans were 60 percent complete and on June 4, 2007, Sundt Construction began construction of the project with underground utility work and street modifications, construction not dependent on final design of the Underpass itself.*
- *Preliminary cost estimates were established, to be modified once final design elements were in place.*

Then followed two years of tearing down the old, building the new, creating shoe-flies to move the railroad tracks north ... then back to their location ... photographing 5,000 Tucsonans for the tile art, working with our delegation in DC on funding for the streetcar, and trying to help businesses on Fourth Avenue and the East End of Downtown to survive through construction!

SO! Mark Your Calendar! The Fourth Avenue Underpass official dedication is at 4:00PM NEXT THURSDAY, AUGUST 20th. Once again, here's the link for more information on all the festivities, but it's real! It's happening! I hope you'll join us as we celebrate Fourth Avenue and Downtown again being linked, this time with a modern, beautiful welcoming underpass that will serve as a gateway in both directions!

<http://www.downtownucson.org/news/?p=229>

Mark Your Calendar! Saturday, August 29th - Downtown DrawAbout! The Drawing Studio, in

the heart of Downtown Tucson, is hosting the first ever Downtown Drawabout on the morning of Saturday, August 29. Like the Australian Walkabout, the Downtown Drawabout is a journey of discovery. Artists, art students, and art lovers—at least 100—of all ages and skill levels will fan out across 10 different sites in Downtown Tucson to discover and communicate the beauty, changeability, grittiness, quirkiness, vibrancy, and sparkle at the heart of Tucson.

Under the guidance of teaching artists from The Drawing Studio, draw-ers will register and receive a map from 8:30-9 am, move from site to site from 9 am – Noon, drawing as they go, then regroup at The Drawing Studio, 33 S. 6th Avenue, for an impromptu, free and open to the public exhibition, which will be open Noon – 4 on the 29th, and during regular gallery hours through September 4th.

Learn to Draw: **FREE LUNCHTIME CLASSES!** For anyone who works or visits Downtown, The Drawing Studio will offer a free “Brownbag Intro to Drawing” class from Noon – 1 pm each day from Monday, August 31st through Friday, September 4th. This class will introduce participants to The Drawing Studio’s unique drawing fundamentals curriculum. Eat with one hand, draw with the other! Brownbag lunches will be available for \$6.

For more information, contact The Drawing Studio, 520-620-0947 or tds@thedrawingstudio.org

I hope to see you at one of these Truly Tucson events taking place in the coming week. And - one more Mark Your Calendar event takes place September 24th when we hold our

4th Annual Go Green!

at Ward VI! This year’s focus is on All Things Water!

Have a great weekend!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nina". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.