



Railroad Park, Historic Valley Junction

Valley Junction

The City of West Des Moines was incorporated on October 9, 1893. 500 residents settled around a railroad junction, Valley Junction. As the town grew and the railroad became prosperous there was a strike. New immigrants and blacks took the available jobs. The railroad tracks segregated the town leaving the new hires to the swampland "across the tracks". Hard times and hardworking people bonded their families together. Blacks and Mexicans became interdependent friends. The village became a family. Still today there is unity in the community, many families are six generation descendants of this historic neighborhood called Valley Junction.



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Committed to the Vision to advance to awareness and preservation of the diverse culture of Valley Junction.

Sponsor & Volunteer Opportunities

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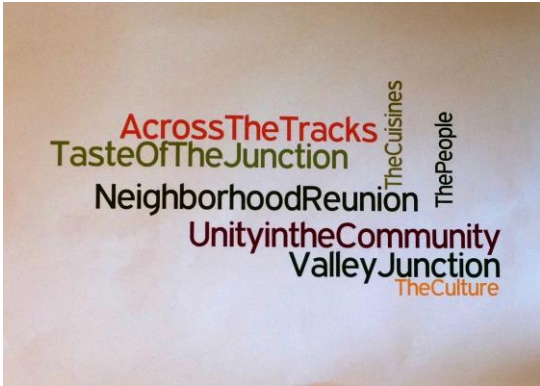
PO Box 65284
West Des Moines, IA 50265



The People, the Culture, the Cuisines



*Taste of the Junction, Inc.
P O Box 65284
West Des Moines, IA 50265*



The Taste of the Junction, a nonprofit formed in February 2013 to advance the awareness and preservation of the diverse culture of Valley Junction neighborhoods. This is accomplished by a diverse collaboration of Iowans presenting an annual enrichment celebration day, an education day, and other culture events throughout the year.

Proudly Celebrates

- the people, culture, cuisines,
- multiracial, multiethnic, & multicultural

Unity in the Community

Growing up in Valley Junction we often crossed the lines of culture, religion, race, and traditions. We embraced each other and mixed it up like Gumbo.” 2015

*~Rachelle Long, President & Founder
3rd Generation Descendant*



**Valley Junction
Neighborhood Reunion
Labor Day Weekend**

The Junction Speaks



Honors the rich history of the neighborhood through educational, cultural dance performances, oral storytelling, slide and video presentations. the complimentary buffet delights. Generations



shows, Enjoy of ethnic share



their experiences learning and growing together during an open mic session. Each year a commemorative booklet is published sharing the rich history.

“There were lots of houses that we lived in and lots of friends of every race.”

*~Dorothy Pryor 92yrs old, 2nd generation,
Across the Tracks, 2014*

Community Street Festival



The Street Festival event honors the people, culture, and cuisines that create the unique “taste” of the area. Fun for the entire family. The street fills with vendors and live entertainment. Families bring lawn chairs and enjoy the festivities. Street dancing becomes contagious as the tunes electrify the crowd.



People~Culture~Cuisines

SIX GENERATIONS



UNITY IN



THE COMMUNITY



FAMILY LOVE



FAITH HOPE



NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY



