

Community Art:

A Colorful Quilt on Aging Well



Left to right: Jennifer Lasik Cultural Arts Coordinator for the City Manager's Office and Susan Doyle, Matherlifeways Community Relations Coordinator with the Community Weaving Project.

Photo by Mary Mumbrue

BY MARY MUMBRUE

Last summer, on the first weekend in August Evanston's Lakeshore Art Festival, the Mather Pavilion offered the community a project to work on as they strolled through the festival.

Starting with colorful strips of fabric, people of all ages were asked, "What do you like about getting older?" After writing their responses on a strip of fabric, each visitor wove their response into the community loom.

The unfinished quilt was then taken to the downtown Farmers' Market on their non-profit day where members of the community completed the quilt.

Susan Doyle, community relations coordinator for Matherlifeways, said this was to spotlight the benefits of creativity

and art-making as persons age. People also shared their stories as they worked on the quilt or a memory the quilt evoked in them.

Caroline Edasis, MAAT, the art therapist at Mather Pavilion made a loom out of PVC pipe so that the project could be easily worked on and transported. In a publication from the Mather she says, "the art therapy program at Mather Pavilion offers residents innovative and engaging ways to age well." We explore the creativity and potential of later life by enjoying the life-affirming pleasures of making art.

At the present time, the quilt 'A Colorful Dialog on Aging Well' is being displayed in the lobby of the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center for the month of April. The quilt will be moved to the Levy Senior Center for the month of May.