

LOAD OF GENTRIFICATION

Your article about Load of Fun ("Load of Trouble," Mobtown Beat, Sept. 11) includes the statement: "Others in the community blame the changing nature of the neighborhood".

We are provoked to write and tell your readers about an emerging project called "Gentrification (K) not," which will take place in and around the Station North area of Baltimore City in June 2013.

The focus of this project is to explore, examine, and create alternative ways of thinking, being, and doing so that gentrification does not occur during the restoration and revitalization of Station North.

Let's be clear: we are NOT against the revitalization of Station North. We ARE concerned that gentrification—a traditional consequence of neighborhood revitalization—does not result from the development of the area.

For the purpose of this project, we define gentrification as the dynamic that emerges when poor urban neighborhoods—through a process of renovations, restoration, and residential shifts—change in ways such that current residents can no longer live or work in their neighborhood.

It is our desire to prevent this dynamic from emerging and we need your help. So we are looking for people, artists, activists, academics, and others (even politicians) who are interested in participating in exhibits, events, and dialogues throughout June 2013 (kNotGentrification@gmx.us).

KEVIN BROWN
JUDE LOMBARDI
LEO ZIMMERMANN
BALTIMORE