

THE ORANGE SHOW

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

THE ORANGE SHOW is a monumental piece of folk art sculpture located at 2401 Munger. It was built by Jeff McKissack over a 25 year period. He was an inspired craftsman obsessed by the need to build a private utopia dedicated to the orange. McKissack was fascinated with the orange and saw it as one of nature's purest and healthiest foods, as well as being a perfect source of simple energy. He built a multi-level structure and complex colorful maze complete with 100 seats around a small stage and performance area, a small museum and a pond with a steam powered boat. The maze is beautifully designed fantasy walk filled with mosaic work, metal relief sculptures, art work and favorite quotes of McKissack's. Mosaics everywhere say, "Eat oranges, be strong, I love oranges." Art critics, architects and artists from all over the world agree that THE ORANGE SHOW is one of the finest examples of folk art phenomena in the country.

Our goals for THE ORANGE SHOW are three-fold: restoration, maintenance, and programming. The most immediate objective is restoration of the facility and documentation of the site. One of the primary objectives in the restoration is to strengthen the structure and provide the maximum protection for all outer surfaces in order to reduce the ongoing maintenance of the site. We are working simultaneously on both problems.

Once the restoration process is complete our energies will be devoted to a program that would demonstrate through tours the many unique qualities of this particular art form.

Over a long term we hope to work with UH, H.I.S.D., H.S.P.V.A. and other interested educational facilities and see THE ORANGE SHOW as a project background for students in video, photography, dance, architecture, drama and music. However, our most important priority would be development and promotion of field trips from the Houston Visitor and Convention Center, and all interested school districts that would emphasize and integrate the obvious relationships between art and science, philosophy and good health.

THE ORANGE SHOW lends itself to a great many levels of enjoyment. The possibilities are endless. We feel THE ORANGE SHOW is a major cultural resource for the city of Houston and our long term and continuing goal is to see it designated and generally known to our community as such.