



OPERATION IMPROVEMENT

PURPOSE:

Although the demands of a fluctuating economic environment have brought considerable modification to the functional structure of Operation Improvement, the major intention and purpose of the organization has remained unchanged. The overriding consideration has always been to assist in the rehabilitation of those individuals who, due to a lack of work experience, basic skills, and accompanying social disadvantages, have remained chronically unemployed and, in many cases, are unemployable in any normal capacity.

BACKGROUND:

At the time of its inception in 1967, Operation Improvement was designated the Department of Beautification of the Central Area was undertaken. The creation of attractive and well-equipped park recreational facilities and parking strip tree planting provided these individuals with productive and meaningful employment. By providing a controlled working environment, counseling and the supervision necessary to develop responsibility; progress was made towards their rehabilitation and numerous individuals were made eligible for acceptance as qualified employees of reputable community businesses and institutions. In addition the entire community was eventually stimulated to undertake its own facelifting and beautification program.

Following the completion of Madrona Park, Leschi Park, Garfield Play Area, numerous "Tot-Lots" and

extensive tree planting, the organization began offering its services to members of the community in general. Under the name of CAMP Operation Mainstream it provided area residents with advice on dwelling refurbishment and maintained a collection service for those who desired having accumulated trash hauled off.

PRESENT STATUS:

Now designated Operation Improvement the organization has attained a degree of specialization which enables it to concentrate almost exclusively on its primary goal-helping people towards worthwhile and satisfying lives by providing them with the character development and occupational training necessary to obtain productive employment. Through a contract with the Concentrated Employment Program, individuals qualified to receive work experience training are referred to OI for placement with various public and private non-profit agencies. Counseling is provided all enrollees and those with erratic work histories are encouraged to develop habits of promptness and stability and thereby build performance records which will be of considerable benefit in obtaining future employment. To facilitate this -- careful records of each enrollee's work performance are maintained. In addition, this counseling aids in helping the enrollees solve or avoid problems that would otherwise interfere with their jobs. A continuous effort is also made to obtain commitments from user agencies to assure the hiring of enrollees upon satisfac-

tory completion of their training.

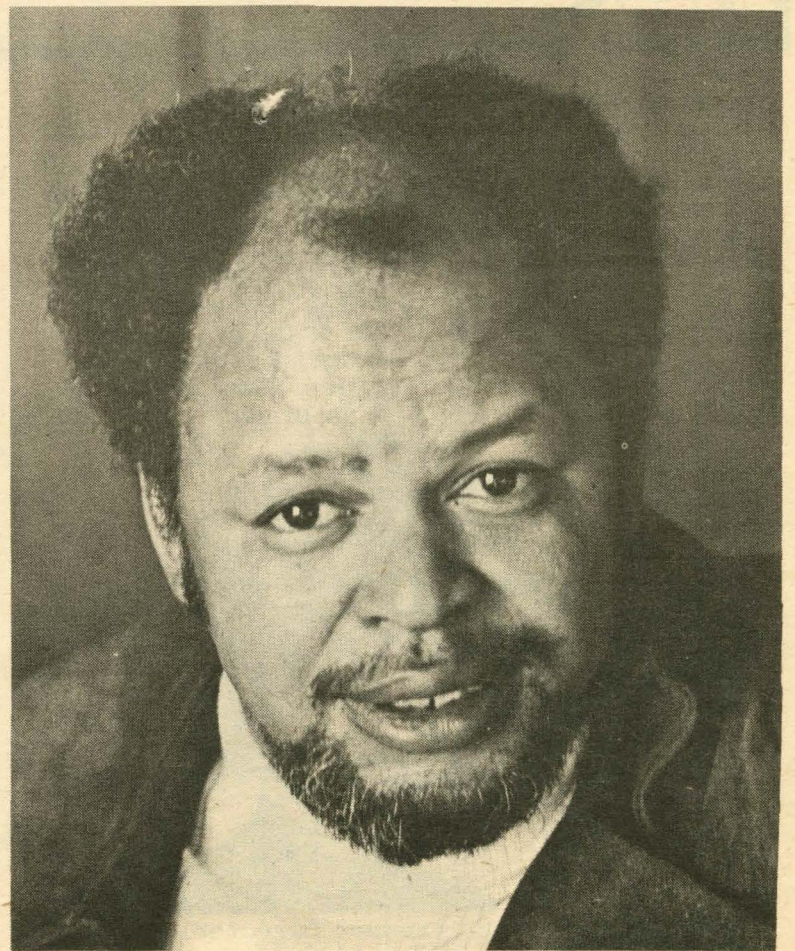
At present approximately Thirty Enrollees are involved in work experience training and the annual budget for the organization falls in the neighborhood of \$150,000. The entire operation is administered by a staff of three--namely, a Project Director, Assistant Director and Secretary.

OUTLOOK:

An investigation is currently underway to determine the feasibility of expanding the work training program to include the private sector of the economic community. If this is successful the number of enrollees who could take advantage of the program would be greatly increased; without affecting the high percentage of enrollees who are hired by their training organization. Because of its past experience in area beautification, OI is also considering proposing to assume maintenance responsibilities for Model Cities Area "Mini-Parks." Not only would this reduce maintenance costs by centralization, but it would provide a training facility for regular city groundskeepers. In a continuing effort all existing and possible funding sources are kept under review in order to remain responsive to any occasion that could contribute to the basic aims of the organization.

CURRENT STAFF:

Garcia Massingale, Project Director; Harold Doss, Assistant Director; and Shirley Cotrell, Secretary.



Black Arts West Director, Doug Barnett

BLACK ARTS WEST

Black Arts/West is a child of the "war on poverty." Founded in the spring of 1967 as the Performing Arts Department of the Central Area Motivation Project (CAMP) -- itself the creation of Seattle's black citizens, the Central Area Citizens Committee, who opened CAMP with the help of funds from the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).

However funds were not available to develop a cultural arm within the community. The concern of a citizen's group resulted in a drive to obtain funds for this undertaking. A local charitable organization bestowed an initial gift of \$10,000 upon CAMP for the purpose of promoting the arts in Seattle's ghetto. Subsequently, Black Arts/West has been sustained primarily by the Seattle Model City program which has allotted CAMP funds earmarked for the arts. Occasional supplemental grants assisted in programmatic development.

In April 1969, the Performing Arts Department moved from CAMP headquarters, an old firehouse, to its own facility, an old but more adequate theatre-in-the-round located within Seattle's central area.

The lobby of the theatre serves as a small art gallery. Along with the move came the new name, Black Arts/West. A recently completed renovation of the firehouse has given the dance group more space and an excellent dance floor.

Additionally, a room for arts and crafts became available.

TALENT SEARCH STAFF
Novella Donavon, Counselor

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY WORK STUDY

Staff Counselor Aids

Marquita Bynoe
Belinda Higgins
Ben Rinonos
Michael Ward
Evelyn Washington

ARTS

C.A.M.P. Talent Search
GARFIELD WORK EXPERIENCE STAFF
STUDENT COUNSELORS

EDUCATION

CAMP EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH

The Educational Talent Search Project is funded by Health, Education and Welfare out of the Division of Student Special Services. The Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP) received its initial grant of \$50,000.00 in July 1969. Since that time CAMP Talent Search has continued to grow. The basic functions of Talent Search are to:

1. Identify qualified youths of financial or cultural need with an exceptional potential for post-secondary educational training and encourage them to complete secondary school and undertake post-secondary training. (This means any brother or sister)

2. Publicize existing forms of student financial aid, including aid furnished under this title.

3. Encourage secondary school or college dropouts of demonstrated aptitude to re-enter educational programs.

CAMP Talent Search is located at 1116 34th Avenue, 323-1003 Office hours are 8:30 to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Talent Search counselors are able to call any school in the United States to assure students of obtaining information immediately.

necessary for individual training.

This work experience is provided and made available to both male and female. The only requirements for enrollment in Operation Improvement are that an individual must be twenty-two (22) years old and live in the target area.

Funds for operation are provided by the Department of Labor.

OPERATION IMPROVEMENT

The name now used by this program is Operation Improvement. It is designed for providing training which will enable an individual to obtain gainful employment.

This program was designed for "people" rather than people just placed in a "Program". As an integral part of the Central Area Motivation Program, Operation Improvement is contracted through C.E.P. as a means of providing the work experience