

July 22, 1996

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FACT SHEET



History: A Youth Center serving East St. Louis has long been a dream of Jackie Joyner-Kersey. Jackie wants to give back to the community that provided her great opportunities as a youngster. Jackie's community foundation has joined with a group formed by Martin Mathews to establish a new foundation that is committed to making Jackie's dream a reality.

Mission: The mission of the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Youth Center is to motivate, educate and prepare youth to become productive, responsible citizens. To the maximum extent possible, the Youth Center will coordinate total community effort to emphasize existing programs, and initiate new programs that will impact area youth and their families for life preparation and successful achievement.

Where: Located on approximately 37 acres at Interstate 64 and 25th Street in the heart of East St. Louis. Readily accessible by auto, bus or the planned extension of the MetroLink light rail.

Target Audience: The approximately 14,000 children of school age (6 to 18) who live in East St. Louis and its surrounding communities.

Facility Plan: To be developed in phases, eventually the complex will contain indoor sport courts and locker rooms, baseball and football fields, track and field stadium, wellness center, education rooms, library and tutoring programs, computer laboratory and eventually an indoor swimming pool and performing arts center. Phase 1 will consist of the multi-purpose indoor recreation and education center, plus the baseball and football fields, a wellness center and administrative offices.

DSW 137121

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Fundraising Goal: Phase 1 construction costs are \$5 million, with full development costing about \$11 million. Endowment to be established to pay for ongoing operating expenses: target \$5 million to provide \$350,000 of annual operating revenue. Agency and Foundation support of \$300,000, annually plus pledged corporate support of \$100,000 annually, will complete required funding sources.

Pledges of \$10 million will be obtained from corporations, individuals, foundations, both locally and nationally, before construction begins; \$3,000,000 million of corporate pledges and \$600,000 of Foundation support has already been committed. Fundraising will continue throughout '96 and '97.

Opening Date: If fundraising has met its goal, construction could begin in mid-'97 and the Youth Center could commence operations in the summer of '98.

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