

Market on the Move

Holiday shoppers looking for handmade gifts at the November Mid-City Art Market could have searched all over Mid-City and not found the tents selling crafts, paintings and photographs. The market had permanently relocated to Palmer Park at corner of Carrollton and Claiborne avenues.

In October, the Voodoo Music Experience forced the market to decamp to Palmer Park. “The reception was phenomenal,” says director Wendy Laker. “These people have been wanting something in this park for a long time.” The park, crisscrossed by sidewalks, was

a good space for the artists, and the Uptown location drew larger crowds. It also offers stability. At the former location in City Park, the Celebration in the Oaks and the Crescent City Classic would have again forced the market to find temporary locations.

“I’m a homeowner in Mid-City, I’m a Mid-City girl, I love Mid-City,” Laker says. “It broke my heart to do it.” Laker, who is also Chairperson of the Mid-City Neighborhood Organization, doesn’t see the move as a negative sign for Mid-City’s recovery. The neighborhood hopes to open a charter school,

has plans for a community center and received a grant to create a bike trail. “There are so many things happening in Mid-City,” she says. “Everyday I see a new business opening.” There are no immediate plans to change the market’s name.

The departure of the Mid-City Art Market from Mid-City was about putting the needs of the artists first. “It was all about the artists coming back after the storm and really making a living, trying to live in the city,” Laker says. “A lot of them are able to do that.”

—Todd A. Price