

In 1970 a folded poster appeared on the streets of Kansas City heralding something new. It proclaimed Communiversity, a beginning... It was the beginning of a new kind of education program, a free university: where teachers learn and participants teach. It is also a journey of new beginnings for the countless number of people who have benefited from this simple idea. Communiversity has helped teachers and participants alike through many life changes.

Today, Communiversity is a non-academic, non-credit program affiliated with UMKC. Our belief is that a community is strengthened when its members have avenues to share their skills and ideas with others.

All of our teachers are volunteers from the community and our classes are fun and informative. Subjects include walking tours of historic districts, art classes, first-time home buying workshops, how to build your financial portfolio on \$25 a month and aerial dance. Many classes are offered in libraries, community centers and private homes. Our teachers are always amazed at the diversity of participants that sign up. The catalog can be found everywhere throughout the metro area.

The first semester boasted 40 classes and over 400 people signed up! The second semester saw 80 classes and 800 participants. Today we offer over 300 classes 3 times per year. Our classes bring in over 7500 registrations per year. Classes were free when Communiversity began but you can still take a class for as little as \$8. We print 100,000 catalogs per year.

Through a process of change and attrition Communiversity is now the largest adult education program in the country with all volunteer teachers. We continue to charge only a nominal fee for some exceptional experiences and its right here in Kansas City.

We'll celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Communiversity Sign up Party, Tuesday, September 7 from 6-8 PM at the Writers Place, 3607 Pennsylvania. Admission is free. Snacks will be served and live jazz will fill the room with music.