



# Minneapolis Connects



Minneapolis Neighborhood & Community Relations

Call 311 or visit [www.minneapolismn.gov](http://www.minneapolismn.gov)

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August 2013

## Upcoming Events

- 8/2-8/4: Uptown Art Fair
- 8/3-8/4: Powderhorn Art Fair
- 8/3-8/4: Loring Park Art Fair
- 8/3: Kenny Summerfest
- 8/4: Victory Garden Tour
- 8/6: National Night Out
- 8/6: Indigenous Music and Movies in the Park
- 8/6, 8/7 and 8/14: Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Project Open Houses
- 8/7: Live on the Drive
- 8/8: Longfellow Corn Feed
- 8/10: Community Garden Day 2013
- 8/10: Como Corner Commotion
- 8/11: Minnehaha Open Streets
- 8/11: Lyndale Slammin'
- 8/12: Armatage Summer Festival
- 8/15: East Isles Ice Cream Social
- 8/16: Senior Citizens Safety Pride
- 8/17: Windom Festival
- 8/20: Prospect Park Community Concert
- 8/20: Windom Park Ice Cream Social
- 8/24: Bancroft Neighborhood Garage Sale

Event details can be found online:

[www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar).

## Minneapolis celebrates the passage of the Prosperity Act

On Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> members of the Latino community, State Legislators, City Council members, Education Leaders and the City of Minneapolis' Neighborhood and Community Relations Department celebrated the enactment of the Prosperity Act (Minnesota Dream Act).

During this past year, we have seen a historic collaboration between the City of Minneapolis and the local Latino community to address several major equity issues. Mariano Espinoza, the Spanish Access and Outreach Specialist for the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department worked with the community to shape how they wanted to engage with the City. The community created the Latino Engagement Task Force – an informal community group comprised of community leaders.



First, work was done to determine what work would be done together. By understanding what resources the City has, the Latino Engagement Task Force identified three priorities that were most impactful to the Latino Community. This collaboration then mobilized both City and community resources, leading to major policy changes. The process included over 30 community meetings where more than 5,000 people attended.

Through this work:

- Minneapolis was the first City in the nation to support President Barack Obama's Dream Act, a federal policy that allows youth to continue to call America home.
- Significant progress was made at The Minnesota State Legislature to expand Driver's License eligibility to undocumented residents. Discussions on this policy with law makers and the Latino Community continue today.
- The Minnesota Legislature approved the Prosperity Act, which expands access to in-state tuition and state financial aid to all Minnesota students regardless of their immigration status. Passage of this act now opens higher education opportunities for many Minneapolis residents and thousands of people across the state that did not have access before.

This work at the State level not only benefits our local residents but benefits thousands of families across the state. This process has led to a strong relationship between the City of Minneapolis and the Latino community, which has opened the door to allow for future collaborations.

## Help us welcome our new Access and Outreach Manager: Lance Knuckles



In early July, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department hired Lance Knuckles as the new Access and Outreach Manager. Lance worked for 1 ½ years as a Neighborhood Support Specialist in the department. Prior to Lance joining the department he had experience working with various local community organizations and initiatives. As the Access and Outreach Manager, Lance will lead the department's work with the City's cultural engagement, Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act education and awareness, Limited English Proficiency, Senior Strategic planning and many other programs. Please join us in welcoming Lance to his new leadership position.

## Neighborhood Stories: Mosaic Quilting Project

In April 2013, the Kingfield Neighborhood Association and Volunteers of America - Minnesota's Southwest Senior Center unveiled new community art project, a 10-paneled "quilted" mosaic, at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park. Over 300 volunteers, aged 2-97, built the panels over six months at 33 community workshops. Each panel presents an artistic interpretation of traditional textile patterns from cultural communities that use the park.



The primary goal of the Mosaic Quilting Project is to demonstrate, through visual art, the diversity of cultures in the community and celebrate their shared public space at MLK Park. It will serve as a welcoming backdrop to the new playground, which will be designed with community-input beginning in early summer, 2013, with an anticipated opening date of August 2014.

The project brings together diverse organizations and their constituencies to work together for the good of the community and will enhance intergenerational and intercultural understanding.

This project was co-led and organized by Kingfield Neighborhood Association and Volunteers of America - Minnesota's Southwest Senior Center and funded by a City of Minneapolis Graffiti Prevention Grant and by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. The project artist was Sharra Frank. For more information, please visit: <http://kingfield.org/mosaic-quilting-project/>.

## Congratulations to the newly seated Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) members!

Please join the NCR Department in welcoming the 10 newly seated members on the NCEC. At the City-wide election held on Thursday, June 13, neighborhoods in NCEC Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7 chose 4 members to serve their neighborhoods on the commission. Kirk Roggensack is the newly elected member from District 3. Kenya McKnight, District 5, and Carol Pass, District 7 were re-elected. In addition, Jeffrey Strand who served on the NCEC as an appointed member was elected from District 1.



On Friday, July 19th, the City Council approved 3 new appointments and 1 re-appointment to serve on the commission. The Mayoral appointee is Abdirahman Muse, Ward 6, and the Council appointees are Andres Hortillosa, Ward 12, Brittany Lewis, Ward 4, and Tessa Wetjen, Ward 9.

The vision for the NCEC is a City and community engagement process that increases inclusiveness, empowerment and greater opportunities for participation by all community members of the City of Minneapolis.

To learn more about the NCEC, please visit: [http://www.minneapolis.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/ncec\\_aboutus](http://www.minneapolis.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/ncec_aboutus).

## MAD DADS and Phillips West Neighborhood Organization will host Senior Citizen Safety Pride Day

Senior Citizen Safety Pride Day will be held on Friday, August 16th from 10:00-3:00pm at Boom Island Park. The event offers information and resources for the senior community. For more information, visit: [www.minneapolismaddads.org](http://www.minneapolismaddads.org).

## Job Announcement: Neighborhood Support Specialist

The City of Minneapolis' Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) is currently seeking qualified applicants to fill one Neighborhood Support Specialist Position.

The primary responsibilities of the Neighborhood Support Specialist are to provide support to neighborhood organizations for the Community Participation Program and other funding programs developed and administered by the department; monitor and disseminate up-to-date strategies and practices for supporting community engagement; support linkages between neighborhood organizations, City departments and community groups.

For a full job description, application details, and to apply online please go to: <http://www.MinneapolisMn.Gov/jobs>. If you'd like to submit your application and resume through USPS, please contact Janis Lajon at 612-673-3751 or email at [Janis.Lajon@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Janis.Lajon@minneapolismn.gov). **Applications are due by Wednesday, August 14, 2013.**

## Volunteers are needed to help get all Minneapolis residents "Election Ready"



Serve as a voter ambassador! The voter ambassador program will create a network of community volunteers who will provide resources and information about this year's election directly to their neighborhoods and civic circles. Ambassadors will be trained in election law fundamentals, voting procedures, and how ranked-choice voting works. Each ambassador will be supplied with materials to share information about this year's election with their friends and neighbors and will be equipped to answer frequently asked questions about ranked-choice voting.

The concept behind this program is that connecting with volunteers will increase the City's capacity to engage all voters across all segments of the community—including those targeted populations that have historically been under-represented in elections.

For more information about this exciting program, visit: <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/volunteer/> or contact Anissa Hollingshead at 612-673-2296, [anissa.hollingshead@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:anissa.hollingshead@minneapolismn.gov).

## Neighborhood Priority Plans Approved to Date

Neighborhood Priority Plans identify major initiatives for the neighborhood organization, communicate neighborhood priorities to the City and other jurisdictional partners, and marshal resources to deal with neighborhood issues or plan for improvements.

The following Neighborhood Priority Plans have been approved to date:

- Bottineau Neighborhood Association for Crime solutions.
- Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association for Southwest LRT Impacts.
- East Calhoun Community Organization for W. 36th St. bikeway, pedestrian space and transit improvements.
- East Isles Residents Association for Parks and green spaces.
- Fulton Neighborhood Association for Farmers Market support.
- Kenny Neighborhood Association for Neighborhood signs.
- Kenwood Isles Area Association for Neighborhood livability.
- McKinley Community for Continuation of 11 Phase II strategies.

To view each approved plan, please visit: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs/cpp/npp>.

## Simple steps can help prevent kitchen fires

Play it safe when cooking this summer. Most home fires begin in the kitchen, and taking simple precautions can help you and your family prevent fires and burns.

Kitchen fire safety is explained in English, Hmong, Somali and Spanish as part of the City's "Did you know.," series of short videos that can be viewed at [www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis](http://www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis) and on City cable channels 14 and 79. Residents who have friends or neighbors who speak these languages are encouraged to share links to the videos.

## Back to School Jam, Saturday, Aug. 17



MINNEAPOLIS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Urban Education. Global Citizens.

Come and join the fun when Minneapolis Public Schools hosts its Back to School Jam from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 17 in the parking lot of the Davis Center, 1250 W. Broadway Avenue in Minneapolis. At the Jam, families and students can learn more about school enrollment, educational programs, family resources and community partners. Entertainment, refreshments, games, prizes and giveaways will also be available. Visit [http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/resource\\_fair](http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/resource_fair) to view flyers for this event

in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong, and to read more on back to school information.

## NCR teams up to help elderly, disabled, and low-income residents handle housing violations

The Neighborhood and Community Relations and Regulatory Services Departments have teamed up to help homeowners who are elderly, disabled, or low-income to address housing violations on their properties and bring these properties up to code.

The Housing Inspection Services division of Regulatory Services is dedicating a full-time employee to the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department to help property owners understand the steps they are required to take when there are housing violations at their property. The Regulatory Services person assigned to this position will work to develop ways the City enforcement system can better address the complex issues that come up when property owners are not able to resolve their housing violations on their own. They will also assist property owners who need help addressing code violations, so those folks can remain living in their homes. The goal is that code enforcement will not be a hardship, but a solution for resolving the problems with their property. Developing new strategies and aligning with Neighborhood and Community Relations strategies will not only help people better address issues on their properties, but it will also mean those properties won't continue to be a drain on the City's enforcement resources.

If residents need help in their home regarding repairs or chore services they should call 311 and they'll be connected to local groups and nonprofits that provide support.

## Neighborhoods can begin to submit proposals for 2014-16 CPP funding cycle

On August 1, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department requested and received Committee of the Whole approval for a three-year funding allocation for the Community Participation Program (CPP). Final approval will be requested at the August 16 City Council meeting and neighborhoods can begin submitting proposals.

First initiated in 2011, the Community Participation Program provides recognized Minneapolis neighborhood organizations for community participation activities in the following key areas: (1) identifying and acting on neighborhood priorities; (2) influencing City decisions and priorities; and (3) increasing involvement.

Over \$11 million will be provided during the 2014-16 program cycle. Proposed neighborhood allocations, base data, and the CPP Program Guidelines (which have not changed) can be viewed at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs>.

NCR will be holding three informational sessions in late August and early September to answer questions about submitting Community Participation Plans for funding, and for neighborhood organizations to meet with NCR's Access and Outreach staff about ideas for reaching under-engaged communities. For more information, please contact Robert Thompson at [Robert.Thompson@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Robert.Thompson@minneapolismn.gov) or at 612-673-2523.

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*The City of Minneapolis invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event within our city. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or should you require this document in an alternative format, please let us know by contacting 612-673-3737.*