



# Minneapolis Connects



Minneapolis **Neighborhood & Community Relations**

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

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*February 2014*

## Upcoming Events

### February is African-American History Month

- **2/6:** Kingfield Empty Bowls
- **2/7:** NCR East African Community Specialist - application deadline
- **2/7:** NCR Southeast Asian Community Specialist - application deadline
- **2/7:** Seward Fire N Ice Family Skating Party
- **2/8:** Linden Hills Sustainability Forum
- **2/8:** Karen National Day Celebration
- **2/8:** Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic
- **2/10 and 2/12:** Southwest LRT Town Hall Meetings
- **2/15:** We Love Our Presidents Walk
- **2/19:** Nicollet Mall Redesign Ideas and Update
- **2/22:** Dog Days of Whittier
- **2/22:** SNO Ball 2014 – Fire & Ice
- **2/27:** Giving Garden informational meeting

Additional events and details can be found online:  
[www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar)

## Dr. Verna Cornelia Price will present the Keynote Address at 2014 Community Connections Conference

The 2014 [Community Connections Conference](#) will be held on **Saturday, March 22nd from 8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m.** at the [Minneapolis Convention Center](#). **The conference is FREE to everyone participating!**



This year's Conference theme "**Common Ground: A City that Works for All**" was chosen to better understand how we can work with and influence city government and build broad-based efforts that involve all segments of our neighborhoods and community-at-large.

Dr. Verna Price is an internationally known human potential expert who specializes in personal power, excellence and change. Additionally, Dr. Price has been involved in community engagement efforts around the City of Minneapolis. Her keynote address will focus on how you have the power to change and

influence your community for the better.

Dr. Verna Price is the CEO of The Power of People Consulting Group™, a leadership and management consulting firm which specializes in personal power and leadership, she consults with diverse audiences spanning from corporate executives, government agencies, not-for profits, universities and Pre-K-16 educators.

Dr. Verna Price is the author of three bestselling books, [The Power of People: Four Kinds of People Who Can Change Your Life](#), [The Silent Cry: Dealing with Subtractors in Work and Life](#), and [Change Your Life in 30 Days](#). She received her Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Administration from the University of Minnesota and is currently a Leadership Institute Faculty at St. Catherine University.

## Register for an Exhibitor Table at the Conference

We invite you to present your ideas, experiences and knowledge as an exhibitor at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Connections Conference!

- Exhibitor tables are an excellent way to promote your services or work, launch a new idea, or simply network with a wide range of participants.
- As an exhibitor, you will also be featured within our **Community Connections Conference** program that is provided to each conference participant.
- Hosting an exhibitor table exposes you to a large group of active residents and neighborhood organizations who are looking for information, ideas and assistance to help them further their work.

The cost for an exhibitor space is **free** to neighborhood organizations and non-profits with operating budgets of \$250,000 or less. The cost will be \$100 for government, for-profit and large non-profit agencies.

Registration will open mid-February. For more information about the conference or to download the Exhibitor Registration packet please visit:

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

## Neighborhood Stories: Cleveland Neighborhood Association hosts innovative community building events

Last summer the Cleveland Neighborhood Association (CNA) and their neighborhood Step-Up Youth built a mobile Ball Pit, not for kids, but for adults to release their inhibitions, get in and sit down with a neighbor and to get to know one another. The ball pit was not only fun, but contained questions to ask one another, such as “What’s the nicest thing a neighbor has ever done for you?” or “What do you love about your neighborhood?”

CNA also hosted roving pop-up block parties throughout the neighborhood, which were inspired the creation of a Neighborhood Engagement Cart and provided an easy way to launch pop-up block parties.

In 2014, CNA plans to use the lessons they learned and the inspiration they received from residents to launch a "Connector Lab" project that will support residents in creating innovative community-building projects, train residents to become leaders in their community and work together to make change in the neighborhood.

CNA received support for the Ball Pit from a the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Minnesota, support for Neighborhood Engagement Cart from the Pohlad Foundation, and support for the Connector Lab from the Bush Foundation.

If you would like to have your Neighborhood Story shared in this newsletter, please send information to Stacy Sorenson at [Stacy.Sorenson@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Stacy.Sorenson@minneapolismn.gov).



## Neighborhoods asked to help develop Community Innovation Fund (CIF) Program



NCR is asking for help from neighborhoods to develop a new funding program, the Community Innovation Fund (CIF). This fund would allow neighborhood organizations to apply for funding to develop innovative projects which address City of Minneapolis priorities.

The Community Innovation Fund was first proposed in the 2008 Framework for the Future Report which recommended new programs for funding Minneapolis neighborhood organizations. In the Framework for the Future an emphasis was placed on fostering collaboration between neighborhoods and other organizations. The Framework also envisioned the fund as a means to advance innovation in addressing city goals.

The Community Innovation Fund is scheduled to begin accepting applications in the fall of 2014. A total of \$300,000 has been allocated for the program for the period 2014-2015. A competitive process will be established to award the grants.

The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) is asking members of neighborhood organizations to participate in developing this new program. The meetings have been scheduled throughout the month of February, for a list of dates and locations, please visit: [www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/CIF](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/CIF).

## NCR seeks qualified candidates to fill two vacant positions

There are currently two (2) exempt, full-time vacancies to be filled in the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department - one **Southeast Asian Community Specialist** and one **East African Community Specialist**.

For a full job description, application details, and to **apply** online please go to: <http://www.MinneapolisMn.Gov/jobs/>. Applications are due by **Friday, February 7, 2014**.

## Help shape our city — apply for openings on Minneapolis boards and commissions

Applications are now being accepted for a number of open board and commission positions that the City Council and mayor will appoint this spring. Board and commission members provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City.

There are more than 40 open positions on the following six City boards and commissions:

- Civil Rights Commission
- Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Workforce Council
- Public Health Advisory Committee
- Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee



Applications will be reviewed beginning April 25, but the positions are open until filled. Visit the City's website for a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm>.

The City of Minneapolis has more than 50 volunteer-based boards, commissions and advisory committees that advise the City on issues and help with policy development and administration of services. Boards and commissions fall into a handful of categories: appeal boards, development boards, general advisory boards, and special service districts, which are defined areas within the city where special services are rendered.

Appointments to boards and commissions are made twice a year — in the spring and fall. This streamlined appointment process makes it easier for folks to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensures a more open and understandable process for residents and staff, and increases the diversity of the applicant pool.

## Now is the time to sign up for STEP-UP internships

Even though summer might feel a long way off, 2014 summer internship deadlines are coming up fast, so now is the time for youth and employers to get on board. The City's STEP-UP summer internship program prepares youth for future employment by offering summer work experience and training at Minneapolis businesses.

STEP-UP trains and matches Minneapolis youth ages 14-21 in summer internships at local businesses. STEP-UP is focused on serving youth from low-income families or youth that have risk factors making it challenging to find employment on their own.

Minneapolis youth ages 14 to 21 can apply for a summer internship with STEP-UP until Feb. 21, 2014. All applications must be completed online. As part of the process of getting a STEP-UP internship, youth must complete a competitive application process and work readiness training through the program. Internships are paid, and youth are matched up with a wide range of local businesses for summer jobs.

Internships are generally 20 to 40 hours per week for 6-10 weeks from mid-June to August. Depending on the age and skill level of the intern, interns may work in subsidized jobs at a non-profit organizations or employer paid positions in the business community.

To apply and for more information on the City's STEP-UP program, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/cped\\_stepup](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/cped_stepup).

The logo for STEP-UP features the word 'STEP' in blue and 'UP' in orange. The 'U' in 'UP' is stylized with an upward-pointing arrow integrated into its top curve.

Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce Today

## Order a compost bin or rain barrel now, pick it up in the spring

Get a jump start on gardening by ordering a \$55 compost bin or a \$69 rain barrel for your home. (These regularly cost \$106 and \$139.)

By using a compost bin, you can keep more than a quarter of your household waste out of the garbage while making valuable compost for your garden.

A rain barrel will help you save water and money by using rainwater rather than the faucet for your garden and trees. Rain barrels are also a way of trapping the stormwater that runs toward the storm drains – picking up pollutants along the way – and into our lakes, streams and rivers.

You will pick up your compost bin or rain barrel in Minneapolis Saturday, April 26, from the Recycling Association of Minnesota. To pre-order now or to find more information, go to [www.recycleminnesota.org/ram-store/ram-sale-events](http://www.recycleminnesota.org/ram-store/ram-sale-events).

## Remember to keep sidewalks shoveled this winter

With the recent substantial snowfall, now is a good time for residents and business owners to make sure they're keeping up with sidewalk shoveling this season. Sidewalks are a critical part of our city's transportation system. That's why Minneapolis ordinance requires that property owners clear sidewalks after a snowfall within 24 hours for houses and duplexes and four daytime hours for apartment and commercial buildings. For your own benefit and to help your neighbors who are walking, pushing strollers and using wheelchairs, please do your part.

When you shovel snow and clear ice, shovel the sidewalks on all sides of your property, the full width of the sidewalk down to the bare pavement. When possible, remove all ice from sidewalks. Remember, you are as responsible for clearing ice on your sidewalk as clearing snow.

Ice can be more of a barrier and more dangerous than snow. The sooner and more completely you shovel, the less likely ice will form.



### Help shoveling

When it snows, some seniors in the city need help shoveling their walks. Want to lend them a hand this winter? The City is working with the Neighborhood Involvement Program to find individual volunteers or volunteer groups to commit to shoveling for at least one client for one month or for the entire winter. It's a great way to spend some time in the snow with friends and make a difference for a senior in your community.

For more information, go to [www.neighborhoodinvolve.org](http://www.neighborhoodinvolve.org) and click on "volunteer opportunities" under the "seniors programs" link. To sign up, contact Jeanne Rasmussen at [rvolunteer@neighborhoodinvolve.org](mailto:rvolunteer@neighborhoodinvolve.org). Seniors can call Senior Linkage at 800-333-2433 to find out if they can get help shoveling.

### Snow shoveling videos

When it snows, make sure to clear your sidewalks of snow and ice to keep them safe and avoid a possible fine from the City. Learn more in this edition of the Minneapolis "Did you know..." video series. The City of Minneapolis has videos in English, Spanish, Hmong and Somali, you can view them on the City's YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/cityofminneapolis>.

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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.*