



# MinneapolisConnects

News and Information from Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations  
Call 311 or visit [www.minneapolismn.gov](http://www.minneapolismn.gov)

**February 2015**

## Upcoming Events

*February is Black (African-American) History Month*

- **2/3:** SUN Neighborhoods Immigration Information Session
- **2/5:** Kingfield Empty Bowls
- **2/7:** Longfellow Energy Fair
- **2/7:** Prospect Park Fire & Ice Festival
- **2/12:** MWMO Stewardship Fund Grants information session
- **2/13:** Seward Fire N Ice Family Skating Party
- **2/14:** We Love Our Presidents Walk
- **2/16:** Community Organizer for the Somali Community in Lyndale & Whittier: applications review begins
- **2/18:** Corcoran Community Awards Dinner
- **2/20-2/21:** Harrison "Winter of Love" / Black History Celebration
- **2/21:** Mpls Lantern Fest
- **2/22:** CARAG Chilly Chili Fest
- **2/24:** Healthy Communities Transformation Initiative presentation
- **2/27:** Fix-It Tech Event
- **2/27:** Phillips West: Revolutionize Wellness

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

## NOW OPEN: Village Square Exhibitor Registration at the 2015 Community Connections Conference

The 2015 Community Connections (non) Conference – ***Creative Engagement and Action Using Arts and Placemaking*** - will be held on **Saturday, March 21st** from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m., at the [Minneapolis Convention Center](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/CommunityConnectionsConference).

The (non)conference is **FREE**.

The (non)conference theme – ***Creative Engagement and Action Using Arts and Placemaking*** - is an in-depth look at creative engagement strategies and creative placemaking. Participants will be immersed into a experiential atmosphere where they will gain the skills and strategies to take creative placemaking techniques back to their own community and do it from start to finish.



## Join us in the Interactive Village Square

The Village Square is not your average Exhibit Hall - it is the focal point of the Community Connections (non) Conference! This year, conference organizers have a goal of increasing the number of exhibitors from 50 to 100!

### We are looking for creative, interactive exhibits from:

- Neighborhood Organizations
- Community Organizations
- Organizations who have completed placemaking projects
- City Departments and other government agencies

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.

To register as an exhibitor in the Village Square, visit: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/CommunityConnectionsConference>. Conference registration will open mid-February.

## Now Seeking Proposals for the One Minneapolis Fund

The One Minneapolis Fund provides grants to community organizations for leadership development programs and community engagement activities.

A total of \$182,000 is available from the One Minneapolis Fund in 2015. Community organizations may apply for up to \$25,000 in funding for projects. To be eligible for funding from the program, an organization must be a non-governmental, non-profit organization serving residents of Minneapolis. Neighborhoods who receive Community Participation Program funding are not eligible to apply, however, they may partner with a community organization on a project in which the community organization serves as the applicant to the One Minneapolis Fund.

Proposals are due by 4:00 PM on April 6, 2015. Any questions on the program should be submitted in writing to [howard.blin@minneapolis.mn.gov](mailto:howard.blin@minneapolis.mn.gov). To submit a proposal, visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/finance/procurement/rfp>.

## Neighborhood Stories: Bridging the Digital Divide in East Phillips



Partnerships are helping to bridge the digital divide in the newly ramped up computer lab at East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center. The lab features a large flat screen instructor display to facilitate teaching, along with individual workstations. Tutors help follow class content on each person's computer. Current classes focus on computer literacy and financial literacy, with additional classes and classes offered in Spanish coming soon.

The computer lab serves residents from a many of cultural communities, the including American Indian, Latino, and East and West African communities. The project is the result of many partners' contributions. The Minneapolis Information

Technology (IT) Department provided technology expertise, the services of a CTEP AmeriCorp volunteer, and staffed the Phillips Tech Hub meetings. The Park Board provided both space, and working with the Osiris Organization, equipment for the lab. Wells Fargo offered tutors. Finally, EPIC, the East Phillips Improvement Coalition, pushed to keep community issues at the forefront and provided leadership, marketing and coordination .

While computer labs within parks are have been around for several years, this project shows true results in bridging the digital divide through flexible staffing, networking, and community organizing.

**Have a *Neighborhood Story* that you'd like to share? Email us at [ncr@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ncr@minneapolismn.gov)**

## NCR partners to help cultural communities during emergencies and disasters

The Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) department partnered with the Minneapolis Health department and Hennepin County to establish a Cultural Services Unit (CSU) in the City of Minneapolis. CSU members are a multicultural group of resident volunteers who aid the City during emergencies, events and more. CSU volunteers bring cultural understanding, relationships, and some language abilities to the table. When emergency responders are encounter emergencies, cultural communities in Minneapolis are more trusting when accompanied by a CSU volunteer.

Volunteers are trained to prepare for a range of disasters and emergencies. In December 2014, NCR organized a flu training that involved a presentation from a HCMC doctor, updates and information on the Ebola Virus and fact sheets and resource guides on clinics offering free flu vaccines to distribute within their cultural communities. For more information on the CSU volunteer program, please contact Ayianna Kennerly at 612-673-5475 or [Ayianna.Kennerly@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Ayianna.Kennerly@minneapolismn.gov).



## The City of Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging is seeking immediate applicants for vacant ward representative seats

The City of Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging is the lead committee charged with oversight and evaluation of the Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy. This strategy's vision is to create a city that is a premier location for older residents and visitors offering comprehensive housing options, easy access to all places and amenities, healthy and safe environments, and opportunities for civic engagement, leisure, entertainment and lifelong learning. There are five goal areas and we are seeking applicants who are active, engaged and have a passion and knowledge base around these goals. The core of the goals are housing (all options), transportation (all modes), civic, employment, supportive and positive environments (valuing contributions of older adults), health and wellness and city services.

There are open seats in Wards 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Please contact the City of Minneapolis Clerks office at 612.673.2216 to request an application or send an e-mail request to [openappointments@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:openappointments@minneapolismn.gov).

## You can order a \$25 tree to plant on your Minneapolis property this spring

Starting Monday, March 9 in City Council wards 3, 4, 5 and 6 and Monday, March 23 for the entire city, the City of Minneapolis is offering more than 1,200 three- to eight-foot trees for only \$25 each. Mark your calendar now. Order your tree at [www.treetrust.org](http://www.treetrust.org) or call 952.767.3886. You must pick the trees up on May 16, 17, 18 or 19 at the Minneapolis Impound Lot.

Trees are available for Minneapolis property owners, including residents, businesses and nonprofits.

Choose from several varieties and sizes of trees, including fruit trees. First-come, first-served – order early for best selection. Limit one tree per property, maximum three properties.

Healthy trees look beautiful in your neighborhood, increase property values, help clean the air you breathe, absorb carbon dioxide, save on your energy bills with strategic planting, keep the city cooler in the summer, provide homes for wildlife and help manage storm water.

## City supports President Obama's executive action on immigration reform

The Minneapolis City Council has approved a measure authorizing Mayor Betsy Hodges to sign onto an amicus brief in support of President Obama's executive action on immigration reform. Mayor Hodges is one of more than 30 mayors who've signed onto the amicus brief. The effort is led by Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York City and Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles as part of a nationwide coalition of mayors called Cities United for Immigration Action.

The group, including Mayor Hodges, announced their plans for the amicus brief during the United States Conference of Mayors in Washington D.C. on Jan. 23. The brief opposes a lawsuit pending in Brownsville, Texas (Texas vs. United States) brought by states seeking to block President Obama's immigration reform actions. The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities also signed onto the amicus brief.

The City Council vote authorizes the City to join an amicus brief in support of Obama's November executive action, which would stop the deportation of millions of people. The amicus brief argues that the public interest across the country is served clearly and overwhelmingly by implementing immigration reform by executive action. The brief also argues that blocking executive action with preliminary injunction will stall desperately needed changes to the federal government's immigration policies. The cities represented by the amicus brief account for approximately 28.2 million people, including 7.5 million immigrants.

Cities United for Immigration Action was launched last fall as an effort for support immigration action. Mayor Hodges is one of roughly 50 mayors from across the country who make up the Mayors' Steering Committee for the group.

### Texas v. the United States

In December, Texas and other states, including Wisconsin and South Dakota, brought a lawsuit in Federal District Court challenging the President's executive action plan. They claim it's unconstitutional and are seeking a preliminary injunction to block implementation of executive action. Twenty-six states are now plaintiffs in that lawsuit

## Minneapolis Solid Waste customers will have an organics recycling option starting in 2015-16

Organics recycling is coming for Minneapolis Solid Waste customers. Residents now have a black cart for garbage and a blue one for recycling; organics will be collected in green carts. Any organics from the home can be put in the green cart for pickup on the same day as garbage. Customers must opt in for this service and will be invited to sign up starting in April. But people don't have to wait; any Minneapolis Solid Waste customer can sign up now. Service will be available to 25 percent of customers in August, and the rest will roll out in spring 2016. The early sign-up gives the City time to order carts and plan the routes.

### What can be composted?

Organics collection will include all food scraps, including fruits, vegetables, bones, meat trimmings, breads, pasta, nut shells, egg shells, coffee grounds, tea bags and dairy products. Some of these can't be managed in a backyard compost bin. Organics recycling also includes food-soiled paper that can't be recycled in the blue cart, including paper towels, napkins, facial tissues, wax paper, egg cartons and pizza boxes. Just make sure the paper is not lined with plastic. Other things that can go into organics recycling include wood chopsticks, wood Popsicle sticks, toothpicks, dryer lint, animal and human hair, certified compostable plastic and houseplant trimmings.

Items not accepted include milk cartons, plastic-lined paper products, paper vacuum cleaner bags, liquids, oils, greases and fats. If an item can go into the regular recycling, it should go there instead of in the organics cart. Yard waste must remain separate; customers should keep using yard waste collection for branches, leaves, grass clippings and other outside plant material.

### Managing organics

It is recommended that home users keep a small organics container conveniently near the kitchen to collect materials. There is no reason to expect a new household smell from organics; separating organics doesn't introduce any new materials that aren't already there. It's simply putting them in a different place to make use of a resource, instead of managing it as trash. Organics will need to be placed in compostable bags inside the green cart to keep it clean year-round and to avoid freezing to it in the winter.

### Rollout by geographic area

Rollout will take place in two phases by geographic area, with 25 percent of customers having organics recycling available in August and the rest in spring 2016. People can start using the green cart as soon as they get it. The phases are by area for the most efficient collection routes. The carts will be distributed only to customers who opt in. To get a green organics collection bin, Minneapolis recycling customers can request one at [swrcustomer@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:swrcustomer@minneapolismn.gov) or by calling 612-673-2917



## Volunteers needed to help seniors this spring

The Household and Outside Maintenance for Elderly (HOME) program is looking for volunteers to help local seniors with leaf raking and yard cleanup this spring. This is a great opportunity to get your family, friends, and coworkers together to support the seniors living in your community. This is a one-time, fun and flexible activity that can be done for 2-4 hours, weekdays or weekends. Interested? Please contact the HOME program Volunteer Coordinator at [scsvolunteer@seniorcommunity.org](mailto:scsvolunteer@seniorcommunity.org) or call 952-767-7894 for more information. Senior Community Services is a nonprofit organization serving seniors and caregivers in Minneapolis. For more information on these supportive services please visit [www.seniorcommunity.org](http://www.seniorcommunity.org) or call 952-541-1019.

### Neighborhood and Community Relations Department Director, David Rubedor

Crown Roller Mill, Room 425  
105 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Office: (612) 673-3737  
[ncr@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ncr@minneapolismn.gov)  
[www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr)

*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.*