Neighborhoods 2020
Third Large Gathering

Center for Urban and Regional Affairs | cura
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Presentation Includes

Major principles that should guide the development of Neighborhoods 2020 Program Guidelines
Commentary from Second Large Gathering responses

Major Principles To Be Implemented

1. Neighborhood associations are independent organizations and not an extension of a city department
2. Oversight and accountability should not be cumbersome, but it should be meaningful
3. Oversight and accountability needs to address racism in system and outcomes
   a. Funding should be removed from neighborhood associations and community-based organizations where outcomes are egregious (i.e. not representative of neighborhood)
   b. More carrots than sticks
4. Expectations of neighborhood associations should match the investment being made
5. Funding for neighborhood associations should be diverse (e.g. the City is not the only funder)
6. Funding for neighborhood associations should be based on a formula that is based in equity and neighborhood size
7. Program is specifically geared towards racial equity

On independence versus part of government structure

"They're independent nonprofit organizations run by volunteers. They're not guided by city policies or supported in a meaningful way by city staff. Just getting money from the City doesn't make you a part of the City."

"Neighborhood organizations have no formal relationship with decision-making in the city of Minneapolis, and play no meaningful role in city processes. There is no objective way to consider them part of the city's government."

"Neighborhood associations are independent non-profit organizations that happen to receive city funding. While they're technically democratically elected, few if any elections get more than 1% turnout, and the results can not be honestly said to be representative of the neighborhood. The City of Minneapolis should not officially recognize neighborhood associations or give them any influence in city processes that other non-profits do not receive."

On funding

"Public dollars should support public goals. Neighborhood groups (and any recipient of City funds) should do some work, and achieve a measurable outcome, in exchange for public money. We shouldn't just give it away for no reason."

"We should get some funding no matter what, however there should be expectations we must meet in forms of programming, connecting with residents, and other ways to show we are actually serving all types of people"

"It should further the goals for the city yet it should also allow food."

"neighborhoods that are historically poorer or have more BIPOC should have opportunities for funding that wealthier neighborhoods don't get."

"Equitably, not equally - historically disadvantaged neighborhoods should potentially receive more funding, and funding should probably be proportional to population/size in some way, if not completely dependent on it"

On accountability

My majority renter neighborhood gets lots of $$ from Mpls, but fails to engage renters in any meaningful way. The org doesn't represent them, or me -- a homeowner and landlord. They need to be welcoming and representative if they want taxpayer $$.

"I believe that under leadership, a re-visioning could occur that would create feedback loops that would allow neighborhoods to rate NCR's performance as well as other tools. Antiquated tools like POC % on boards, etc. are outmoded tools to look at progress and often mask a lack of true of empowerment".

"It depends! But generally, organizations that receive money from the City should be able to show some sort of results. The results don't all have to look the same: Door-knocking, community meetings, art fairs, or whatever. But something! And if their job is to engage the public, but they're engaging disproportionately white residents, they should have their funding pulled. The City should support orgs to merge with one another and develop sustainable sources of (non-public) funds, too."

On racism

"That would be both unethical and illegal."

"Racism is bad. What kind of a question is this?"

"Seriously? Do I need to explain that excluding the historically marginalized is NOT OKAY?"

"This question is asinine."