



Minneapolis Connects



Minneapolis **Neighborhood & Community Relations**

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First Annual Community Connections Conference “Building Better Communities Through Neighborhoods”

The 1st annual Community Connections conference was held on February 11, 2012 with the theme of “Building Better Communities through Neighborhoods” focused on building diversity and increasing participation in neighborhood organizations. The City has a five-year vision of realizing the City goal of **Many People, One Minneapolis**. The conference was a key step in exploring how the City’s key partners – neighborhoods and community organizations – can help us achieve this goal.

A total of 430 participants attended the conference. Of the 430 participants, 306 (85%) reside in the City of Minneapolis. Of the participants identifying their neighborhood when registering, 72% or 63 of the 87 neighborhoods in the city were represented at the conference. In a post survey conducted by the department found that 90% of conference participants completing the evaluation survey rated the conference as a whole as good or excellent.

The keynote address was given by Angela Glover Blackwell, founder and CEO of PolicyLink. Her address focused on her work on Equity as a superior growth model. As the country witnesses the emergence of a new racial and ethnic majority, equity—long a matter of social justice and morality—is now an economic imperative.

The full Community Connections Conference Report to the Community can be found online: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/conf/index.htm>.



Latino Engagement Task Force – Back in Action!

The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department together with the offices of Council Vice President Robert



Lilligren, Mayor R.T. Rybak and the department of Health and Family Support brought together a core group of influential Latino community members to help shape the City and the department’s efforts to engage with the community and to contribute broadly to city-wide comprehensive community engagement efforts. The Latino community is a valued and important part of Minneapolis and is the fastest growing segment of our population.

Over of next few months, the group will meet to develop a framework for sustainable tools to engage with the Latino communities in Minneapolis and come up with policy recommendations and a roadmap to achieve key strategic goals and objectives. NCR will provide staff support and provide other assistance as needed.

2012-13 Community Participation Program Guidelines approved by City Council

On Friday, March 30, 2012, the City Council approved the proposed guidelines for the 2012-13 Community Participation Program. The Community Participation Program funds neighborhood organizations to identify and act on neighborhood priorities, inform City decisions and priorities, and increase involvement of residents and other stakeholders.



In addition to approving the guidelines, The City Council approved \$5.7 million to be allocated to neighborhoods through the Community Participation Program, as well as \$860,000 in additional allocations for those neighborhoods that lost NRP funds in the December 2010 City budget action and that were not able to access at least 70% of their original (April 2004) Phase II NRP allocation. These additional "Equity Funds" will be allocated according to the amount necessary to allow any neighborhood to access up to 70% of its NRP Phase II allocation, and will be added to those neighborhoods' CPP allocation. Neighborhoods may choose to use Equity Funds in support of their CPP activities, or in support of NRP Phase II strategies in accordance with the CPP Guidelines.

The 2012-13 CPP funding cycle will be 18 months, running from July 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013. Neighborhoods may submit funding proposals between Monday, April 16, 2012 and Friday, June 15, 2012 for funding to start in July. The final guidelines will be sent to neighborhood organizations the week of April 9, 2012. In the meantime, you can find more information, including the draft guidelines and allocations, on the Neighborhood and Community Relations website at http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs/ncr_community-participation.

Help shape our city – apply for openings on Minneapolis Boards and Commissions

Applications are now being accepted for openings for a number of boards and commissions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this spring. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis 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 58 open positions on 11 City boards and commissions.

Applications will be reviewed beginning April 13, 2012. However, 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.

Applications are now being accepted to fill Access & Outreach Specialist – Spanish position

The Neighborhood and Community Relations department is looking for candidates to fill one Access and Outreach Specialist – Spanish position. The primary responsibilities are to provide liaison services to residents and community groups, promote integration of diverse communities into the work and priorities of the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis neighborhood organizations, and work with City Departments regarding equal access to City services for all residents.

The incumbent must be able to speak, read, write and comprehend Spanish. A full job description, application details, and to apply online please go to: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs/>. **Applications are due by Friday, April 13, 2012.**

Register for the Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) 2012 Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana!

Register now for Neighborhoods, USA's 37 Annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns being held in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 23 – 26, 2012. This year's conference is being hosted by the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center.

NUSA is a national non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. NUSA was created in 1975 to encourage networking and information sharing to facilitate the development of partnerships between neighborhood organizations, government and the private sector.



Early registration (by April 27, 2012) is \$200 and late registration (registration on or after April 28, 2012) is \$300. For more information and to register, please go to: <http://www.nusa.org/>.

Help NCR welcome new Neighborhood Specialists

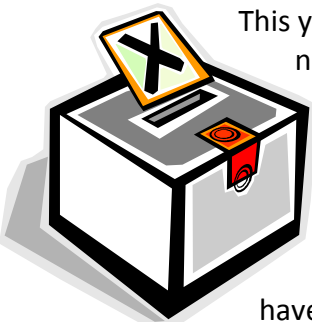
In January the department hired Lance Knuckles and Jack Whitehurst to fill the two remaining vacant Neighborhood Specialists Positions.

Lance Knuckles has been actively involved in community engagement in Minneapolis for 12 years, particularly on the Northside. Lance was formerly the Executive Director of the Jordan Area Community Council as well as the Outreach Coordinator with the Hawthorne Area Community Council. In addition to his work within neighborhood organizations, Lance has worked most recently with Emerge as the Director of Community Strategies. Lance currently resides in the Stevens Square neighborhood.

Jack Whitehurst brings 21 years of NRP history and experience into the department. Jack was an original staff member of NRP during the program's start in 1990. Prior to Jack's work at NRP was spent at the Center for Regional and Urban Affairs (CURA) and the National Center for Urban and Ethnic Affairs. Jack currently resides in the Prospect Park neighborhood.

Please help us in welcoming them into the department. Contact information and neighborhood assignments for Lance and Jack as well as other NCR staff can be found online at: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs/WCMS1P-084120>.

Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission neighborhood districts 2,4,6 and 8 are up for re-election



This year, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) seats from neighborhood districts 2, 4, 6 and 8 are up for election through the neighborhood election process. The City-wide meeting to elect four neighborhood Commissioners will be held on Thursday, June 28, 2012. The location is yet to be determined. Neighborhoods in these 4 districts should also be prepared to appoint an elector and an alternate elector for the city-wide election by Wednesday, June 27, 2012.

The candidate application period opened on Monday, April 2nd. Interested candidates have until the end of the business day on Friday, May 11th.

For additional details, including the election process and candidate applications, please go to: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMS1P-089624>.

Vision: North First implementing a common vision for a successful North Minneapolis

On Saturday, March 24, the Northside Neighborhood Council, a collaboration of North Minneapolis neighborhood organizations, convened a gathering of community leaders, organizations, and residents for the first of several “North First” gatherings. More than 100 residents participated from most of the 13 neighborhoods making up North Minneapolis. Presenters addressed housing, transportation, economic development, and arts and recreation with a common theme of how community work can be connected through a larger vision for a sustainable, diverse and successful north Minneapolis. Additional gatherings will take place over the next five months and result in a published progress report to the community that will mark the next step which we hope will begin the implementation phase of North First strategies.



On Tuesday, April 24, there will be a follow-up dinner gathering for participants to get to know each other. Following the April gathering, in May, June, July, August and September groups lead by resident conveners will meet to define the goals and objectives - the next steps - that will move North Minneapolis neighborhoods—to what they want—and can become. The NNC will continue to meet to actively seek and encourage cross-sector partnerships that advance a shared vision of an equitable North Minneapolis. For more information, please visit www.NorthFirst.org.

Changes to yard waste collection

NCR has been fielding increased number of phone calls about the recent changes to yard waste collection. The Access & Outreach team particularly has received many calls about the new rules. Below is information from Solid Waste and Recycling to remind everyone what the changes are. Starting the week of April 9th, in accordance with state law and City policy, residents who bag their yard waste must put the yard waste out for pickup in compostable plastic bags, Kraft paper bags, or reusable containers that are less than 33 gallons in size, with sturdy handles.

A four-week grace period will allow a transition for folks who have plastic leaf bags from last season. An educational tag will be left by collection crews during this 4 week transition period. Through collection day the week of April 30, you may set out plastic bags of leaves from last fall for collection. Your yard waste crews will debag and collect your yard waste placing the empty plastic bags in your garbage cart. After the week of April 30, all yard waste in conventional plastic bags will be left and tagged for you to repackage. While NCR staff will be happy to assist callers/residents, calls related to the new rules will be best handled by calling 311 or Solid Waste & Recycling directly at 612-673-2917.

Jordan Area Community Council moves to a new accessible home

Jordan Area Community Council (JACC) moved to a new accessible office space at 2900 Fremont Ave N, Suite 108. Neighborhood and Community Relations worked with JACC in their efforts to expand access to all neighborhood residents and meet ADA standards. We thank JACC board of directors and all of their staff for their commitment to improve access and increase participation. The City strives to make all its programs, services and activities accessible to all residents and are working with neighborhood organizations to do their part.

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