

# 2016-2017

## Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission Annual Report



*The Vision for the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission 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.*

## Members of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission

2016-2017

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<b>David Boyd</b>	District 1 Representative	<b>Denis Houle</b>	District 2 Representative
<b>Jeanne Montrese</b>	District 3 Representative	<b>Marcus Mills</b>	District 4 Representative
<b>Nicholas Cichowicz</b>	District 5 Representative	<b>Kenya Weathers</b>	District 6 Representative
<b>Peter Eichten</b>	District 7 Representative	<b>Marcia Mariani</b>	District 8 Representative
<b>Braulio Carrasco</b>	Mayoral Appointee	<b>Nasser Mussa</b>	Mayoral Appointee
<b>Shannon Bean</b>	City Council Appointee	<b>Raya Esmaeili</b>	City Council Appointee
<b>Patricia Vogel</b>	City Council Appointee	<b>Jeffrey Strand</b>	City Council Appointee
<b>David Zaffrann</b>	City Council Appointee	<b>Maleta Kimmons</b>	Park Board Appointee

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## Executive Summary

Members of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) volunteered countless hours while working towards the commission's vision of *"a City and community engagement process that increases inclusiveness, empowerment and greater opportunities for participation by all community members of the City of Minneapolis."* Between June 2016 and June 2017, commissioners dedicated their time and energy to commission meetings, including seven active committees and task forces, as well as many community engagement events.

NCEC members engaged Minneapolis resident while supporting the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Departments annual Community Connections Conference, and also had a major role in planning and conducting five Neighborhoods 2020 meetings. In addition, commissioners met with neighborhood organizations, community groups and City Council members on a range of issues.

For most Commissioners, this commitment of time to their city was in addition to other volunteer work with neighborhood and community organizations.

## Major Initiatives

### Community Connections Conference

The Neighborhood and Community Relations Departments annual conference is a platform for residents, neighborhood organizations, cultural communities and the City to collectively address systemic issues and explore unique-innovative solutions to create and strengthen successful collaborations.

The 2017 conference was a large success with a record breaking attendance of 540 and a 10% increase in representation of people of color (40%), compared to 2016 (30%). This year's conference theme was "Your Voice, Your City, CommUnity" and emphasized bringing people together to build power and unity across cultures and communities. This was accomplished through a strong program of influential speakers, robust conversations, interactive exhibits, and best-practices to impact policies and community-based issues.



The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission hosted a booth in the conference exhibit hall and engaged participants to increase awareness and interest in the work of NCEC. Commissioners also supported the conference by volunteering in many capacities and sitting on Learning Lab panels.

### Neighborhoods 2020

In January-February 2015, the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) identified the community engagement process to facilitate a citywide dialogue on redefining the roles and expectations of neighborhood organizations that are funded by the Community Participation Program, aimed at making neighborhood organizations more inclusive and effective, as one of its strategic planning priorities for action during 2015.



Continuing this work in 2017, NCEC and the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) partnered with neighborhood organizations across the city in hosting a series of five meetings to discuss the future role of neighborhood organizations. The five meetings were held between April 25 and May 8, 2017 in each sector of the City: Downtown, North, East, South and Southwest. A total of 517 people signed in at the five meetings, and 262 filled out demographic cards.

To prepare for facilitating these meetings NCR staff, NCEC commissioners, neighborhood organization leaders and community members participated in a three-day workshop on the Art of Hosting Conversations that Matter. The training program taught participants about a suite of practices and methodology designed to engage the community in an effective and equitable way. Participants-

practiced their new facilitation skills by using them to develop the three questions asked at each sector meeting.

### Neighborhoods 2020 questions:

Q1- What services, opportunities and information should neighborhood organizations provide?

Q2 – What are characteristics of an effective neighborhood organization?

Q3 – How can neighborhood organizations empower engagement?

NCR is currently compiling data from the meetings and will publish a report in the near future.



## City Council Directive – NCEC/NRP Policy Board merger discussion

In July 2016 the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee (HECE) of the City Council directed Neighborhood and Community Relations staff to work with the NCEC and the Neighborhood Revitalization Policy (NRP) Board to identify options for combining their functions and merging into one board or commission. The commission met a total of four times between November 2016 and June 2017 to discuss the directive. Two of these were joint meetings with the NRP Policy Board. In June 2017, the commission reached three final recommendations which will be presented to HECE in August 2017.



Photo credit: St. Paul Evangelical Church and Heart of the Beast Theater – 2015 One Minneapolis Fund project.

## 2017 One Minneapolis Fund

The One Minneapolis Fund was created in 2013 to provide community-based nonprofit organizations with the ability to support diverse leadership development and community engagement in the City of Minneapolis. Funded programs are meant to increase the number of residents from underrepresented groups on Minneapolis boards and commissions, involved in policy making decisions, and in neighborhood and community organizations.

Now in its fifth year, the One Minneapolis Fund made \$182,000 available to non-profit organizations in the city for a variety of programs. The One Minneapolis Fund Committee of the NCEC reviewed 26 applications submitted by the May 1, 2017 deadline and made funding recommendations to the full Commission at the May 23, 2017 meeting. Grant recommendations were later forwarded to the City Council which approved them in their entirety.

In early 2017, the NCEC One Minneapolis Fund Committee reviewed and updated the application form and review criteria to incorporate feedback and lessons learned from past years. Based on the Council directives for NCEC and the One Minneapolis Fund, \$25,000 of available funds has been set aside for Neighborhood and Community Relations Department initiated projects. This amount will be spent according to established criteria for advancing One Minneapolis Fund objectives. Further improvements to the application and review process are expected to take place before the 2018 funding cycle.

## Grants were awarded to the following organizations:

### **Lao Assistance Center: \$20,000**

Engagement Project that seeks to build stronger ties between and among 150+ Southeast Asians and 8 different Minneapolis departments.

### **Project Diva: \$15,000**

Conduct trainings around life skills, career exploration and coaching, as well as child-parental programming for girls in North Minneapolis.

### **Neighborhood Youth Academy: \$15,000**

Engage young men in North Minneapolis through basketball around topics that include: life skills, citizenship, conflict resolution, and other related topics.

### **Pangea World Theater: \$25,000**

Partner with the Community Planning and Economic Development department of the City of Minneapolis to engage diverse residents on Lake Street through creative place making around the City's 'Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth'.

### **Courageous heARTS: \$25,000**

Conduct leadership development for Roosevelt High School youth to strengthen leadership pipelines and build capacity for youth to feel comfortable and capable of pursuing these opportunities.

### **Cedar Cultural Center: \$10,000**

Create a Youth Leadership Council engaging Somali youth aged 15-22 in a leadership development program that will leverage the organizations history and success with Midnimo as a platform for youth to develop leadership skills.

### **Lake Street Council: \$10,000**

Conduct trainings to prepare small business and community leaders of color in South Minneapolis for positions on City of Minneapolis Boards and Commissions and other civic leadership roles.

### **Urban Homeworks: \$12,000**

Conduct community engagement events amongst the organizations housing residents to increase participation on their resident boards, eventually leading to participants serving on other Boards and Commissions.

### **One Family One Community: \$15,000**

Training program for low-income, African American renters and youth in North Minneapolis focused on leadership development and serving on Boards and Commissions.

### **YouthLink: \$10,000**

Partner with various organizations to engage young people in a thorough evaluation of the Youth Opportunity Center model. Young people involved will also complete leadership development training and will serve as Leader-Ambassadors for the upcoming year.

## Resolution – The Role of Minneapolis Neighborhood Organizations in Facilitating Engagement

In response to a public comment published in the Minneapolis 2040 Phase 2 Engagement report, members of Minneapolis neighborhood organizations attended the January 24, 2017 Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission meeting to voice their objections. These objections led to the creation of a resolution that laid out City policies related to the role of neighborhood organizations in community engagement conducted by the City of Minneapolis and proposed actions to address their objection.



The NCEC endorsed the resolution and forwarded it to the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, the Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board, the Community Planning and Economic Development Department, the Minneapolis Planning Commission, the Minneapolis City Council and the Mayor of Minneapolis. The resolution led to the addition of a clarifying statement in the report explaining that “It is important to note that the information in this table is not proposed or adopted City policy. It is simply a reflection of the range of input received.”

## Committees and Task Forces

### Neighborhoods 2020 Committee

This Committee is tasked to explore funding options for neighborhood organizations past the year 2020.

As stated above, the NCEC and the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) partnered with neighborhood organizations across the city in hosting a series of five meetings to discuss the future role of neighborhood organizations. The five meetings were held between April 25 and May 8, 2017 in each sector of the City: Downtown, North, East, South and Southwest.



A report of findings will be issued and neighborhood organizations and other stakeholders will have 45 days to review and comment on what was heard.

### City Department Engagement Committee

The purpose of the Committee is to report to the NCEC on findings and recommendations regarding City engagement practices.

In collaboration with NCR, study issues, courses of action, policies, and programs that affect the quality of life for City residents and make recommendations for improvements to City departments and the City

Council as they pertain to community participation policies and delivery of services while integrating the voice of residents into the City’s decision-making processes.

**Work Plan**

1. Develop a relationship with the City’s Engagement Design Team.
2. Review case studies of completed City project for community engagement practices.
3. Review City department outreach strategies.
4. Develop a set of guidelines for commissioners to understand the elements of good community engagement when the commission is sought out for advice on City engagement projects.



**One Minneapolis Fund Committee**

The One Minneapolis Fund grants funding to community organizations for leadership development in historically underrepresented communities in the City. The Committee makes recommendations to the full NCEC on the Fund’s guidelines and request for proposals (RFP), reviews applications, and makes recommendations to the NCEC on projects to receive funding.

**Community Connections Conference Task Force**

The Community Connections Conference is an annual gathering of neighborhood and community leaders to discuss common issues and priorities. NCEC members serve on the Planning Team. This group has served as an integral part to connecting and engaging with neighborhood organizations through the conference.

**Crime and Safety Task Force**

The Crime and Safety Task Force was established in December 2016 to develop a report on the impacts of community engagement has on crime. The Task Force invited members of the public and subject matter experts to join the task force. Ultimately, the group developed a Crime and Safety Guide to be used by neighborhood organizations that has examples and strategies used by neighborhoods to reduce crime in communities.



**Grievance Task Force**

The Grievance Task Force was established in January 2017 to work with staff from the Neighborhood and Community Relations department to update the commissions Policies and Procedures manual to develop and outline a clear process for hearing grievances. The Task Force will bring forth changes to the process at the July 2017 commission meeting and then send the changes out for a 45-day review period.

**Bylaws Task Force**

The Bylaws Task Force was established in November 2016 to review the Executive Committee Election Process.

## Presentations

### ADA Action Plan

July 2016

NCR Director David Rubedor presented the City of Minneapolis' newly adopted Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Action Plan. In 2015, the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department elected to pro-actively conduct an evaluation of programs and services. At the same time, Finance and Property Services began an ADA assessment of city-owned and leased buildings. In 2012, Public Works evaluated City owned public right of ways, sidewalks and curbs. The culmination of NCR, Property Services, and Public Works assessments lead to the development of a comprehensive and updated ADA Plan.

### Neighborhood Programming and Support Audit Report

July 2016

Biko Associates presented an evaluation of neighborhood programs that was requested by the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department as part of the 2015 budget request. The evaluation was led by the City's Internal Audit Department which contracted with Biko and Associates in July 2015 to conduct the evaluation. The scope of the review included the NCR Departments administration of neighborhood programs and the work of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC).

### 2014 One Minneapolis Fund Outcomes Report

November 2016

NCR Administrative Assistant Justin Gaarder presented the 2014 One Minneapolis Fund Outcomes report which highlights the accomplishments of the programs grant recipients. The projects supported by the One Minneapolis Fund in 2014 advanced the City's goal of creating an equitable, inclusive and engaged community. Through events, trainings and advocacy campaigns, more than three hundred Minneapolis youth and adults were directly engaged. Project participants developed leadership skills, gained a better understanding of how to navigate and participate in City government, contributed to policy change and have taken on leadership roles within the City.

### 2016 Appointed Boards and Commissions and Neighborhood- Board Diversity Survey Reports

December 2016

NCR Administration and Internal Services Manager Cheyenne Brodeen, and Neighborhood Specialist Aria Fine, presented the departments 2016 Appointed Boards and Commissions and Neighborhood Board Diversity Survey Reports. Every two years the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department administers two surveys that track how diverse our Neighborhood and City Boards and Commissions. The reports track seven diversity measures: age, persons with a disability, educational attainment, gender, income, people of color and own/rent. The reports show progress from previous years and compare results to City demographic data (2014 American Community Survey).

### 2016 Minneapolis Resident Survey

December 2016

NCR Community Specialist Christina Kendrick presented the 2016 City of Minneapolis Resident Survey which was conducted by Wilder Research. The purpose of the survey is to measure residents' opinions about their quality of life, understand residents' overall satisfaction with the City's services and amenities, and determine residents' need for new City services.



### **Oromo Community Assessment**

April 2017

Nicole Martin Rogers and Ryan Evans of Wilder Research and Germa Hassan, Chair of the Oromo Cultural Institute of Minnesota, presented the key finding of a survey conducted in 2016 about the concerns of Oromo people living in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis. Examples of key findings include language barriers, lack of knowledge about and support for Oromo culture, Political representation, money for basic needs, and education.

### **20 Year Street Funding**

April 2017

Liz Heyman, Transportation Planner from the Public Works Department presented an overview of the City's newly adopted 20 Year Street Funding Plan. The plan details the process and criteria for how the City of Minneapolis plans to select street improvement projects for inclusion in the annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The plan is informed by the Neighborhood Park and Street Infrastructure ordinance.

### **Patrick Henry High School Herobotics Program**

June 2017

Students and staff from Patrick Henry High School attended the June 2017 full commission meeting to share information about the schools Herobotics program. FIRST Team 2500 Herobotics is a sustainable urban FRC team that seeks to increase inclusion and diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Herobotics has advanced to the FIRST Championship seven times over the past ten years through dedicated work to inspire youth with the message that everyone can succeed in science and technology.