UROC UPDATE
The first Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center is the University's response to concerns and recommendations expressed through numerous community meetings over the last three years, and reflected in the formation of the University Northside Partnership. The mission of UROC is to provide a physical presence for the University in the community, coordinate University research, outreach and engagement activities related to North Minneapolis, and create multi-disciplinary teams and sustained partnerships. In December 2007, the University hired Dr. Irma McClaurin, most recently a Program Officer at the Ford Foundation, as Executive Director. Dr. McClaurin acknowledges that a rich foundation of dialogues, critiques, and recommendations have emerged from this three-year process, all of which will be considered in the development of UROC's Urban Action Agenda. Through her attendance at different community meetings, and discussions with different community residents, Dr. McClaurin has identified two areas in need of immediate attention: coordination of activities at the University related to North Minneapolis and communications about UROC, and the UNP process. She is embarking on a strategic planning process that will place these two areas at the forefront, and in which the Community Affairs Committee will have a vital role to play.

FIPSE—FUND FOR IMPROVEMENT OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION
A $750,000 grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) has been awarded to Senior Vice President Robert Jones and Associate Vice President Geoff Maruyama to develop collaborations as part of the University Northside Partnership (UNP). The grants extends over a three year period from Nov 1, 2007 - Oct 31, 2010.

Focused on needs—education, economic and community development, and urban health—identified through a community input process and will seed efforts of teams in each area of need, selecting where expertise exists and opportunities for greater collaboration and coherence also exist: education focuses on out of school time, economic development on youth entrepreneurship programming, and urban health on healthy foods, nutrition, obesity, and exercise, including healthy food availability and consumption in North Minneapolis. For more information on this FIPSE grant please contact Geoff Maruyama at geoff@umn.edu or (612) 625-5861.
CENTER FOR URBAN & REGIONAL AFFAIRS (CURA)

--Involving Immigrants in Community Organizations In 2007 CURA supported six Minneapolis neighborhood groups with mini-grants to increase the participation of immigrants in their organization. Come and find out what happened and to learn about practical strategies you can use to involve immigrants in your organization. The mini grants were Minneapolis based but all are welcome to attend. Wednesday, January 30, 2008 – 5:00 to 9:00pm Law School - 229 19th Avenue S - Minneapolis, MN 55455 West Bank Campus - University of Minnesota http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps/MondaleH/index.html (Location to be confirmed) Dinner provided to registrants! Visit: www.cura.umn.edu/Conference/Register.html to register or see attached registration form Registration Deadline Monday January 28th.

--Charles Krusell Community Development Fellowship The Krusell Fellowship is the most comprehensive scholarship program for students interested in community development. Krusell Fellows are recruited from diverse backgrounds. During the two years of their academic program, students receive a full scholarship plus three paid field placements with community agencies. Prospective students interested in more information about the Krusell Fellowship can contact the Humphrey Institute Admissions Office at 612-626-7229 or HHHAdmit@umn.edu.

--The Neighborhood Partnership Initiative Program (NPI) at the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) supports innovative and effective partnerships that involve new constituencies, solve problems, and improve the community for everybody. Grants up to $10,000 will be awarded to successful applicants. Deadline: April 15, 2008. For more information visit: http://www.cura.umn.edu/NPI.php

-- Northside Seed Grants (NSG) Spring Round of Competition These seed grants support community organizations that operate programs serving residents of the Minneapolis Northside community by providing student research assistants and faculty researchers to carry out neighborhood-initiated and neighborhood-guided projects. The program provides approximately 200 hours of student time to work on a project defined by the community (260 hours during the summer.) Applications are available online at the Center for Urban & Regional Affairs (CURA) website: http://www.cura.umn.edu/NSG.php For more information contact Kris Nelson, the University-Northside Partnership Seed Grant coordinator, by phone at 612-625-1020 or by e-mail at ksn@umn.edu. Deadline: March 15, 2008.

NORTHWAY TO HOST ACADEMIC AGENDA SIGN-UP SESSIONS

Northway Community Trust will host one final community meeting for those interested in being involved in the next phase of the UROC/UNP’s Academic Agenda. Darlyne Bailey, dean of the University’s College of Education and Human Development will be the featured speaker at the meetings. Dean Bailey will discuss the emerging structure and give those present the opportunity to sign up for the Work Groups that will play a role in the next stages.

Wednesday, January 30, 5:30-7:00pm at the NorthWay Community Trust office. A light dinner will be served. For more information or to RSVP, please call 612.521.4500.
**JUXTAPOSITION ARTS - GREAT IDEA! EXCHANGE**

You are invited to participate in the Great Idea! Exchange Event on the evening of March 27, 2008 in North Minneapolis at Bean Scene I on West Broadway. This event will showcase the jointly developed Great Ideas! of several youth and arts based Northside grassroots organizations, the ongoing collaborative work of Juxtaposition Arts and the UMN College of Design, and University resources available to Northside community-based organizations. Utilizing our organizing model of "Caucus, Exchange, Vote, Act!" at the Great Idea! Exchange you will have a chance to learn about, exchange information, and vote on your favorite Great Idea! The winner will be announced that night and a new collaborative initiative will be launched! The outcome of the "Great Idea! Exchange" project will not only be the actualization of our shared Great Idea!, but also a new model for grassroots, self-empowering, community organizing. For more information or to receive a print or electronic invitation contact Carrie Fathman at fathm002@umn.edu or (314) 495-0602.

**Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC) Community Benefits Agreement Presentation**

NRRC has requested time to share with the community the results of their work on the CBA. Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 20, 2008 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the Minneapolis Urban League Boardroom. Questions? Please contact Makeda at zulug001@umn.edu or call her at (612) 436-5414.