UNP Community Affairs Committee Brief
April 15, 2009
cac@unpmn.org - www.unpmn.org

Companion to the agenda for the UNP Community Affairs Committee meetings.
UNP Co-chairs: Raymond Dehn & Makeda Zulu-Gillespie
Kelly O’Connor, guest editor

UPDATES

UNP Community Affairs Committee
The UNP Community Affairs Committee will soon have a web presence; minutes and briefs will be available online at http://www.unpmn.org/cac/index.html. To reach the co-chairs, Makeda Zulu-Gillespie and Raymond Dehn, please use the following email address: cac@unpmn.org.

Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center
Space: As spring approaches, the interior demolition of the UROC facility is scheduled to begin. Selection of finishings are underway, and ideas about how to integrate art into functional elements is taking place. The ideas that emerged from community workshop “Imagining Art and the New Landscape” in December 2008 have already had an impact. The shape of the parking lot has been altered in the current designs, and additional green space has been reclaimed close to the sidewalk. While the design is not final, an indication of these changes will be available in the published proceedings from the workshop. This document will be available online, and in limited printed quantities by early May.

Staffing: Kelly O’Connor is completing her fifth month as UROC’s communications intern. A senior majoring in journalism, Kelly has been a tremendous resource to the UROC staff.

Research: In February, 2008, UROC collaborated with the University of Minnesota’s Institute for Advanced Studies and CURA, and its UNP partner, the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, to host a “Conversation on the Mortgage Crisis in North Minneapolis.” The major point was made by Sherri Pugh-Sullivan, director of NRRC, that much of the discussion to date missed the “human side” of the mortgage crisis.

UROC convened several meetings afterwards, some of which were held during the CAC meetings, about this issue. The result of these meetings is UROC’s first community-identified research project on “Effects of the Mortgage Crisis on Individual, Family, and Community Health and Wellness.” The group is currently conducting data collection using a rapid assessment method, which is designed to have results in a short period of time. The group meets every Thursday at the MUL from 10:45-12:45. Anyone interested in being involved, and learning how to code data, do text analysis of newspaper articles, and assist with surveying organizations is invited to attend. Please contact Makeda Zulu-Gillespie for further details.
UROC Building Renovation Project
Bids will be reviewed in mid-April and subcontractor awards announced by the end of the month. Construction is scheduled to begin in April with project completion by Fall 2009.

For more information, please contact:

University of Minnesota's Office for Business and Community Economic Development
Sharon Banks
612-626-8043

University of Minnesota's Owner's Representative
Archie Givens
952-831-1448

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MN Best Enterprises
Charo Nickens
763-502-2355

University of Minnesota’s Owner’s Representative
Archie Givens
952-831-1448

Stahl Construction Company
Deborah Aldrich
952-767-2118

CURA Seed Grant Program
On February 23rd, 2009, CURA convened community and university participants in the Northside Seed Grant program to share their experiences with one another and others interested in the Northside. Sixty people attended, including 26 university faculty graduate research assistants and staff, and 34 community members and organizational representatives. Participants appreciated the opportunity to learn about the breadth of projects and the value of the community-university partnerships. The evening concluded with sessions on university funding opportunities from CURA and the Health Disparities Research Program to support community partnerships. Special thanks to Plymouth Christian Youth Center for hosting the event and to Sarena Wright from the College of Education and Human Development for helping with registration and workshop arrangements.

CURA received six applications for summer Seed Grant projects. The Kwanzaa Community Church project on post-traumatic stress disorder and HIV/AIDS among African American women was approved for support. CURA is investigating other university resources to support a project from Stairstep Foundation on faith and healthy behavior in African American youth. Technical assistance will be provided for other applications to assist with developing more focused applied research applications for resubmission by the June 15th deadline for Fall 2009 projects.

The Office for Business and Community Economic Development
The OBCED Digital Divide Initiative, in collaboration with University of Minnesota Extension Services Center for 4-H and Community Youth Development, has created a 4-H/TryScience club at Northside Child Development Center (NCDC). Focused on science, engineering and technology, the club consists of ten young people in grades 5-10 who are interested in learning about science. The club members will work on science projects that they will demonstrate to the NCDC community at the end of the school year, and later at the Ramsey County Fair, and the Minnesota State Fair during the summer.

The club will conduct TryScience experiments and activities that foster science literacy and critical thinking skills, emphasize career exploration in science and engineering, and support technological skill development. At the same time, youth participants will build teamwork, communication, and presentation skills while working on their science projects. The DDI hopes to mobilize a variety of community volunteers, NCDC staff, and other adults to support youth participants in their pursuit of science.

UNP Community Affairs Committee Brief – April 15, 2009
FIPSE/UROC Work Groups Project Update
The following is a brief summary of issues discussed and actions taken at the three FIPSE/UROC Project Oversight Groups.

Out of School Time
The Northside Guiding Team (NOST) was formed as a planning group to review priorities identified by the larger providers’ group and to develop a schedule of networking meetings training sessions, particularly to benefit hourly youth workers.

- A schedule of meetings for the Providers Group has been identified, to take place on May 19th, July 21st, September 15th and November 17th, from 9:00 – 11:00am at the Peace Foundation, to continue to foster collaboration among North Minneapolis youth serving organizations and to address staff skill development needs.
- An initial training session is being planned for May; details to follow.

Health and Nutrition
Schoolyard Gardening
- Efforts are underway at Cityview Schools to offer classroom instruction in the Beacons after school program on schoolyard gardening, life cycles of plants, and the nutritional value of growing and eating fruits and vegetables. Once the growing season begins in May-June and the garden at Cityview is again active, students will also have opportunities to grow fruits and vegetables in the school’s garden.
- Establishment of similar programs is underway at Bethune School and the Hmong International Academy to begin classroom instruction. Gardens will be planted at these two schools once the ground has thawed.

Youth Entrepreneurship
A planning group has been formed in this area, with the agenda to continue offering supper pilot efforts in youth entrepreneurship training, and to explore how the FIPSE/UROC project can identify resources that would benefit all organizations seeking to offer youth entrepreneurship training program, such as data needs, fostering collaboration with the Minneapolis Public Schools, an evaluation plan, and addressing academic and workplace skill needs of participants.

Update on Trent Tucker University Scholars
Trent Tucker's work in youth development and community outreach has made it possible for 15 sixth and seventh-grade students from the WISE charter school in North Minneapolis to engage in early college awareness activities at the University of Minnesota during this school year. In alignment with UROC’s commitment to educational programming, the Trent Tucker University Scholars program is giving these bright students the opportunity to tap into the U’s resources and opportunities.

Sixteen weeks into the 17-week program, this after-school opportunity, with an emphasis on science and math, has exposed students to workshops focusing on science (led by student athletes), art, nature, Minitex library navigation, electrical engineering, ACT/SAT practice, as well as beneficial mentor messages. With these workshops, students will be able to apply valuable skills to school, home, community, college, and career.

Trent Tucker University Scholars is a partnership with the Trent Tucker Non-Profit Organization, the Office of the Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration, CLA Connections (College of Liberal Arts K-12 Outreach Program), and WISE charter school. WISE exists to ensure the academic and social
Community Affairs Committee Brief (continued)

development of students while restoring the essence of the family and community, with an emphasis on academic achievement, cultural awareness, and responsible citizenship. For more about the program, visit http://www.academic.umn.edu/system/community_youth_development/index.html

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Announcements

InsideNorthside.org
InsideNorthside.org, a North Minneapolis community site, has started a community events calendar. If you have additions, feel free to email them to Ariah Fine, ariah@ariahfine.com. You can see the calendar, as well as links to others here: http://insidenorthside.org/Community+Calendars.

Space Available for Lease
The Minneapolis Urban League is currently leasing space and if someone is interested they should call Va-Lesha Davis at 302-3100.

Events

Show Your Support and Provide Input
Friday, April 17th, 2009 at 3 pm, Rainbow Terrace will host Congressman Keith Ellison and State Representative Bobby Jo Champion to give an update on issues important to the North Minneapolis Community. Community elders will be speaking on behalf of a petition for a grocery store in the neighborhood.

Ajamu Baraka @ the Minneapolis Urban League
Ajamu Baraka will be at the Minneapolis Urban League Friday, April 17th, 2009 at 1:30 pm for a community conversation on human rights struggles in Minnesota. Mr. Baraka is a nationally and internationally recognized human rights scholar, advocate, and organizer. He is the executive director of the U.S. Human Rights Network, and a veteran grassroots organizer with roots in the Black Liberation Movement, anti-apartheid and Central American solidarity struggles. Refreshments will be served.

Meet the Authors & Book-signing Event at Magers and Quinn Booksellers
Join us Monday, April 20th, 2009 at 7:30 pm to engage in a conversation about the role of spirituality as women leaders everywhere survive and even thrive while navigating through the challenges of organizational "toxicity" and turbulent times with local co-authors Darlyne Bailey, Kelly McNally Koney, and Katrina Uhly. Music will be provided by Barbara McAfee.

Target Optical Offers Free Eye Glasses
Bring your child’s (ages 12 and under) prescription to a Target Optical store before April 29th to receive a free pair of glasses. Visit www.target.com to find a participating store in your area.
Get a Glimpse of How Cultural Heritage Includes the Lives of Asians and Asian Americans

Vietnamese Legends & Rituals
Learn about legendary warriors and heroes who built the Vietnamese kingdom. Includes demonstrations of ancestral rituals at an altar. Presented in collaboration with the Vietnamese Community of Minnesota.

- Augsburg Park Library, 7100 Nicollet Ave., Richfield - Saturday, May 2nd, 2009 11 am
- Brooklyn Park Library, 8600 Zane Ave. N., Brooklyn Park - Saturday, May 9th, 2009 1 pm

Looking for Asian America
Celebrated photographer and author Wing Young Huie will present images and stories that both mirror and contradict popular stereotypes of Asian Americans.

- Ridgedale Library, 12601 Ridgedale Dr., Minnetonka - Wednesday, May 20th, 2009 7 pm

Hmong Art, Photography & Writings
Local Hmong artists and author will show slides and discuss how their bicultural experience plays a part in their work and lives.

- Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy., Brooklyn Center - Thursday, May 28th, 2009 6:30 pm

For more information, visit http://www.hclib.org/pub/events/.

Meetings, Workshops & Trainings

Student Learning Colloquium Series
A new colloquium series entitled Self-Authorship and Learning Partnerships: Intersections of Student Learning, Development, and Diverse/Multicultural Identities is to be held during the month of April. Eight faculty and staff from the University of Minnesota campus will share their research, practices, and expertise on such concepts as fostering reflection and meaning making, creating provocative moments, and establishing effective learning partnerships among diverse/multicultural students. More information about this series of presentations can be found at http://www.academic.umn.edu/provost/selfauthorship/

Free Participatory Action Research Workshop
The Office for Public Engagement (www.engagement.umn.edu) is pleased to sponsor a three-hour introductory workshop designed to engage community members, university faculty, students, and staff in exploring the principles and practice of Participatory Action Research (PAR), which engages community stakeholders and university resources in collaborative investigations. Organized by Professor Darlyne Bailey, assistant to the President, the workshops will be facilitated by Kelly McNally Koney, an organization and community development consultant.

Wednesday, April 22nd, 2009, 6-9 pm, Minneapolis Urban League, Laura Scott Williams Room, 2100 Plymouth Avenue.
There is no cost to attend this workshop; RSVP to Anna Bates at public@umn.edu at least seven days prior to the respective workshop session you wish to attend.
Save the Date!
MOAPPP's 18th Annual Conference will be held on May 7th and 8th, 2009 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, MN. The conference features two days of dynamic speakers, challenging workshops and countless opportunities for networking and conversation. Several workshops specific to those working with adolescent parents will be offered. 
For more information, visit http://www.moappp.org/outreach/events.html#conference_may7-8.
For more resources and information about adolescent parents, go to http://www.moappp.org/outreach/adolescent_parent_programs.html.

Community Outreach

CleanSweep
The time has come to plan your 2009 Neighborhood CleanSweep! CleanSweep as well as other CleanCity programs provide an opportunity to gather neighbors, friends, and community partners to clean up your community at little or no cost to you! We are encouraging all neighborhoods, block clubs, and community groups in the city to get involved. If your neighborhood or block club is interested, contact Angela Brenny, CleanCity Coordinator, Solid Waste and Recycling, at 612-673-2789.

Northside 5K and Finish Line Festival
Mark your calendar for May 30th! Join hundreds of others running or walking in this third annual event. Or, join neighbors from the Northside and friends from the broader community to cheer on the runners and celebrate the transformation underway on the Northside.

Free Home-Exterior Updates
A Brush with Kindness serves low-income homeowners who live in targeted Twin Cities neighborhoods and whose homes need exterior restoration. Volunteers from businesses, churches, and service organizations process applications year-round. To see if you are eligible, call 612-788-8169.

Minneapolis Advantage Funding Offers Aid to Home Buyers
The City of Minneapolis has made $2 million available through Minneapolis Advantage, a city-funded home mortgage loan program to help people buy a home in Minneapolis. Applications are now being accepted for two hundred $10,000 loans, forgivable after five years, for the purchase of homes in targeted neighborhoods hardest hit by the foreclosures. For more information, visit http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20090407MplsAdvfundsAvailable.asp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Executive Director, West Suburban Teen Clinic
West Suburban Teen Clinic's vision is that all youth are educated and empowered to make responsible decisions regarding their health and relationships. In order to achieve our vision, West Suburban Teen Clinic provides youth with health care and information services that are confidential, comprehensive and non-judgmental.

Duties include:
• Serve as executive director and provide program, financial, operational, and administrative management for the agency.

UNP Community Affairs Committee Brief – April 15, 2009
• Provide leadership that fosters a mission focused, holistic, team oriented approach to the achievement of the agency’s goals, objectives, and strategic plans.

• Ensure staff operates in a manner that is safe, respectful, and in accordance with all relevant professional, legal, and ethical standards of care.

• Work with and report to a highly committed board of directors, and serve on appropriate committees. Receive professional medical consultation from the medical director.

• Assure financial stability of the organization: grant and report writing for government, public, and private funders. Prepare and manage the annual budget, and work with the board, staff and/or professional consultants to help ensure that the agency operates in a legal and fiscally responsible manner.

For more information or to apply, visit: http://www.mncn.org/jobs/user_detail.asp?jobID=27070.

Research Assistant, Child Trends
Child Trends has a job opening available for a research assistant in their Early Childhood Care and Education area in their Minneapolis office (part-time to full-time). Current research projects focus on professional development of the early care and education workforce, evaluations of state quality initiatives, school readiness, transition to kindergarten, and educational outcomes for low-income children and English language learners. For more information or to apply, visit: http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/events/jobopps/ResearchAssistantMinneapolis2009.pdf

Minnesota Census Support, Census Bureau
The 2010 census will provide a total of 8,000 jobs in Minnesota. We encourage anyone who is a U.S. citizen to contact the Census Bureau for further information. There is additional information on our website (http://www.mn2010census.org/) and on the Census Bureau’s 2010 Census site (http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/index.php).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour
Tom Sis at 1524 Girard is having his house open on this year’s Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour on the weekend of April 25th and 26th. We need neighborhood volunteers to help Tom staff the shifts through Home Tour weekend.
We will need at least 4 people per shift. The following slots are available:
• Saturday April 25th, 2009; 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, 12:30 – 3:30pm, and 3:30 – 5:30pm
• Sunday April 26th, 2009; 12:30 – 2:30pm and 2:30 – 5:15pm
Duties include, answering questions and guarding roped off areas. The Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour gives Old Highland a good opportunity to pitch our neighborhood to people who are considering buying a home or perhaps upgrading to the quality housing in Old Highland.
If you are interested, please contact Angie Nelson at angienelson@comcast.net or 612-522-3817.

Tutors Needed!
La Escuelita is an award-winning after school program that offers academic assistance and leadership opportunities for Latino youth in Minneapolis. Tutors are needed Monday-Thursday 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm.
For more information or to sign-up, contact Terrell Webb, twebb@laescuelita.org.

UNP Community Affairs Committee Brief – April 15, 2009