TOGETHER IN LEARNING:
CREATING THRIVING LEARNING
COMMUNITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN
IN NORTH MINNEAPOLIS
DECEMBER 13, 2013 8:30-11:00 A.M.
UROC~ 2001 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

SUMMARY REPORT

PURPOSE
- Build reciprocal relationships between the funding community and North Minneapolis partners
- Increase collective understanding of the local context/landscape of North Minneapolis as it relates to creating thriving learning communities for all children.
- Stimulate holistic community inquiry around emergent issues and opportunities

THE EXPERIENCE
- Approximately 60 non-profit, philanthropic and public sector leaders attended. We estimate 95% of attendees participated in the entire session.
- NFG provided an organizational overview and outlined our goals for the Together in Learning events.
- A context map was offered as a discussion starter; Northside Funders Group (NFG) members pre-populated the Emerging Issues & Trends, Trends in Physical Space, Initiatives & Collaboratives and Community Needs & Gaps categories and invited attendees to add to their summary.
- Participants discussed the three remaining categories (Political & Economic Climate, Community Assets & Aspirations and Opportunities for Collective Action Between Funders & Partners) in table discussions facilitated by NFG members.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION BETWEEN FUNDERS & PARTNERS

Each table shared their top 3 opportunities for collective impact verbally. Following the event, participants were asked to rank the opportunities during the online evaluation. At that time, opportunities with common themes were combined.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION - PRIORITIES – In order of attendee prioritization

1. Public Awareness Campaign: Highlight disparities, initiatives, collaborations and abilities of Northside youth. Create a new narrative. (50%)
2. Information Mapping & Sharing: Incent organizations to share data, best practices, practice in context, ways of empowering the community, funder’s support and organizational capacity. Ensure data includes social and emotional and academic. (47%)
3. Develop framework for holistic and coordinated services that address academics and youth development. (38%)
4. Build agreement on quality standards and align funding to support organizations achieving quality (38%)
5. Convene to build public will around data sharing, common indicators, etc. (32%)
6. Public Policy Advocacy: Collaborate to influence state government policies and funding allocations (29%)
7. Address 2 major OST Barriers to Participation: Transportation & Youth who need to provide childcare for siblings (20%)
8. Build a Network of Networks to identify 3 goals/outcomes they can align to strengthen their individual and collective work. (17%)
9. Convene to outline the actionable detail that further explains and examines the “how” of our work (9%)
10. Create spaces for life-long, intergenerational learning (12%)
11. Increase access to Northside schools (6%)

THEMES- In order of attendee prioritization

1. Engage End Users: Parents & Children in Strategy Design (76%)
2. Public-private partnerships (56%)
3. Ensure a focus and commitment to programs and services for teens. (56%)
4. Focus on reconciliation and creating processes that lend themselves to building new, authentic relationships (56%)
5. Adopt “No decisions about us, without us” philosophy for all program design and implementation. (38%)
6. Conversation about what ‘we’ need (15%)
7. OTHER: Address school district and superintendent’s SHIFT plan (3%)
POST-EVENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

Survey Participation: Approximately 61% of participants completed the online survey.

Overall Rating: 91% of respondents rated the event as Very Good or Excellent

Achieving Event Goals:
- 97% of respondents agree that the event helped build reciprocal relationships between the funding community and North Minneapolis partners, providers and business owners.
- 89% of respondents agree that the event helped increase attendees’ collective understanding of the local context and landscape of North Minneapolis as it relates to employment and training.
- 100% of respondents agree that the event helped stimulate holistic community inquiry around issues and collective opportunities for improving outcomes in employment services and training in North Minneapolis.

Narrative Comment Highlights
- Networking Worked: 'I learned about organizations doing this work that I didn’t know about.'
- Information Sharing Is Needed: Learning about the organizations doing work in this sphere is helpful. The work could be strengthened by learning more about the experiences of each organization; what’s working, what’s not working, what you’re learning and how it’s changing the way you do the work.
- Relevant Data Is Critical: The data provided was helpful, but we didn’t focus on it enough. There may be additional data that could help challenge our assumptions and perceptions and help us create impact. The Environment Was Open & Inclusive: The ground rules and opening comments helped remove the power dynamic from the room.
- The Event Created a Sense of Shared Values: The event exposed leaders to others leaders who are all committed to creating thriving learning communities for North Minneapolis youth. Knowing that more peers are committed to this work is encouraging.
- Continue the Dialogue & Shift to Action: The ability to brainstorm ideas with a diverse and engaged network was powerful; we must shift to action quickly and avoid loss of momentum.
After reviewing the rankings in the context of our strategy and goals, the Northside Funders Group has identified the opportunities below for further exploration. Over the next few weeks we will define next steps and communicate those to all attendees.

- **Public Awareness Campaign**: Highlight disparities, initiatives, collaborations and abilities of Northside youth. Create a new narrative.
- **Information Mapping & Sharing**: Incent organizations to share data, best practices, practice in context, ways of empowering the community, funder’s support and organizational capacity. Ensure data includes social and emotional and academic.
- **Build a Network of Networks** to identify 3 goals/ outcomes they can align to strengthen their individual and collective work.
- **Increase access to Northside schools**
- **Engage End Users**: Parents & Children in Strategy Design
- **Leverage Public-private partnerships**: Non-profits and schools can strengthen outcomes for youth by exploring partnerships that produce multiple impacts and outcomes.