



MEETING SUMMARY

OPPORTUNITY NEIGHBORHOODS FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY

Positioning opportunity neighborhoods, such as North Minneapolis, as high potential assets toward the regions economic growth & prosperity

March 30, 2016

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Northside Funders Group, 1015 North 4th Avenue, Minneapolis

Attendees: Bryan Lindsley, Larry Hiscock, Eric Muschler, Cecile Bedor, Marcus Owens, Lee Sheehy, Kevin Murray, Aasim Shabazz, Shauen Pearce, Beth Kessler, Mary Kay Bailey, Sarah Hernandez, Dane Smith, Peter Frosch, Gary Cunningham, Tawanna Black, John Thorson, and staff: Luke Weisberg, Tammy Nolen; Guest - Darlene Walser, Bottineau LRT Community Works

1) Welcome, Agenda Review & Introductions

Participants were asked: *“What have you seen or been engaged in over the last 60 days that gives you hope?”* Answers included:

- Little Mekong Plaza groundbreaking
- Open mindset and worldview among individuals around many of our tables
- Met Council Equity Advisory Council selection process now complete. New businesses on Glenwood and new sites! Northside master plan work underway
- Municipal consent for Blue Line Corridor now complete and there have been a few positive developments for communities along the way, including Blue Line station area planning in the Brooklyn’s
- Positive press for N@W and resulting employment connections
- Focus from Saint Paul Mayor’s Office and others on “Transit Smart” efforts moving forward
- Development on Broadway in three sites and at NorthPoint Health
- Getting closer on moving Center Cities initiative together
- Focus within the Governor’s budget on career pathways and racial equity efforts
- Partnership with Growth & Justice to tell some critical stories of program participants moving forward
- Opportunities to connect our work with East Side efforts in Saint Paul
- Resident engagement in this work
- Consideration of new ideas: savings account for each child in Promise Neighborhoods; and, “Work Rewards” points for working adults
- Local hiring efforts by public and private employers

- Greater engagement by regional parties to pursue racial equity and other efforts (as evidenced, in part, by *Hungry for Equity* event)

2) Opportunity Neighborhoods Overview & Updates

a) Presentation on Blue Line Development

Darlene Walser (guest from Hennepin County) and Aasim Shabazz shared a presentation on the Blue Line Corridor development. Darlene emphasized that the common themes are increasing access to jobs, strengthening opportunity for business development (particularly among communities of color); and, increasing access to services and amenities for residents, including affordable housing. While Bottineau has unique challenges, there is an inherent advantage to Bottineau entering what will be an existing/emerging transit system vs. the other lines that were more ‘one-off’ initial developments.

Darlene drew several comparison points to the Green Line and Southwest line (under development), noting that the Blue Line has perhaps the most significant opportunity of all currently planned rail development to impact the well-being of lower-income and/or communities of color in the region (slides on portal).

b) Living Cities Updates

Tawanna shared materials distributed during a recent DC convening with Living Cities staff. There is a regular (annual) learning community, convened by Living Cities, for grantees to learn about cross-city activities. The MSP team included Shauen Pearce, Aasim Shabazz, Cecile Bedor, Bryan Lindsley, Beth Kessler, Lee Sheehy, Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, Paul Williams, Sondra Samuels, and Tawanna. Mary Kay also presented. Tawanna reported that the visit was useful on many fronts. Other insights from those who attended included:

- New Orleans is working on very similar strategies (like North@Work). It would be valuable to strengthen our connections and do more real-time learning and problem solving together. There was also discussion about how to support more investment in CDFIs of color... to advance employment strategies. It was noted that in years past, Living Cities regarded investment in NDC’s strategies to be “very risky” and yet, we’ve shaped their thinking in the intervening years. There’s more work to be done on that front!
- Albuquerque is promoting multi-cultural connections among several different cultural communities. There is a lot of valuable learning from them about how we communicate and help shape our “image” of what diversity means in a region.
- There was strong sentiment that our outcome reporting for workforce programs is now making big steps forward. We are increasingly able to share data in real-time to make tangible decisions about program direction and outcome to benefit individual participants. There was significant conversation about what it would mean to bring this ‘to scale’ in the region. Bryan Lindsley noted that this will be a

major focus going forward, as it aligns with Living Cities' priority focus on data infrastructure.

- In continued conversation about 'scale' and having a community-level impact on employment equity, wage growth, and other measures, we need to consider the capacity of the system in terms of its "throughput" and our "dosage" levels to understand how close we are to actually shifting from majority unemployed to majority employed in North Minneapolis and other key neighborhoods throughout the region. Some noted that our spending is already significant: philanthropy contributes about \$15M and public funds are well over \$60M.
- Finally, there was acknowledgement that a table such as ONRP needs to create a constructive space for changes in behavior and practice so that, as we learn about more successful interventions, dosage, and approaches, we can simultaneously change our public and private systems to accommodate those innovations.

Tawanna noted that we went deeper today into our economic development/land use space. We will provide substantive updates going forward about both capital development and other workforce development efforts. We anticipate beginning a new three-year relationship with Living Cities in June that brings all three of those efforts forward, with an underlying focus on data infrastructure for regions to effectively manage our programs and services toward the collective impact we are seeking.

3) Next Steps

Tawanna said we would schedule the May meeting in short order and then likely plot out next steps on a longer timeframe with the start of our next three-year commitment. Tawanna thanked participants for their contributions and engagement!

The meeting was adjourned.