

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Meeting Notes
Bottineau Community Works Steering Committee
July 17, 2023 – 10:30 PM – 12:00 PM
Brooklyn Center

1. Welcome & introductions

Members present: Irene Fernando, Hennepin County; Reva Chamblis, Metropolitan Council; Hollies Winston & Nichole Klonowski, Brooklyn Park; Therese Kiser, Crystal; Aaron Wagner, Robbinsdale; Jennifer DeJournett, Three Rivers Park District;

Staff present: Andrew Gillett, Kerri Pearce Ruch, & Zack Avery, Hennepin County; Kathryn Hansen, Metro Transit; Paul Mogush & Kim Berggren, Brooklyn Park; Dan Olson, Crystal; Suzanne Sobotka, Bethany Turnwall, Jim Voll & Rattana Sengsoulichanh, Minneapolis,

Others present: Kyle Mianulli, Anna Schmiel, Cathy Gold, Richnetta Parker, Hennepin County; Kjerstin Yager, Metro Transit; Joanna Ocasio-Maisonet, Met Council; Kim Berggren & Paul Mogush, Brooklyn Park; Brigid Higgins, Minneapolis; Dr. Bruce Corrie, Cultural Destinations; Joo Hee Pomplun, The Alliance; Jamie Schumacher, LISC

2. Administrative items

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Therese Kiser moved approval of the May 15, 2023 minutes; Council Member Nichole Klonowski seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Presentation: Cultural Districts

There were three presentations on cultural districts beginning with Dr. Corrie, leader of Cultural Destinations, as well as an economist and cultural entrepreneur. Dr. Corrie notes that studies have calculated a cultural economy value at 1.4 trillion dollars in Minnesota. He provided information about cultural destinations and the difference with cultural placemaking, drawing on examples from the Green Line and work done in St. Paul to develop cultural destinations and districts. He emphasized that a cultural destination is rooted in the culture of a business owner and therefore it is important to work directly with business owners. Dr. Corrie concluded his presentation with information about the Cultural



Destinations booth in the Education Building at the State Fair.

Questions followed Dr. Corrie's presentation. Commissioner Dejournett asked how that booth is different than the International Bazaar and other cultural opportunities. Dr. Corrie responded that the booth will be free of charge for participants and marketed and branded differently. It also provides an easy opportunity for vendors to have space at the fair. Commissioner Fernando commented on Dr. Corrie's statement concerning cultural denial. Commissioner Dejournett asked about experiences and events being organic versus planned. Dr. Corrie responded that one was not necessarily better than the other. He went to say he prefers the term culture destinations since it isn't confused with museums. Anna Schmiel asked if there was any funding for the development of cultural destinations. Jamie Schumacher responded that LISC has funds for cultural destinations.

The second presentation was conducted by Jamie Schumacher of LISC. Schumacher presented on creative placemaking. LISC employs six guiding principles for creative placemaking, which are: enlist and support artists as leaders; pursue racial equity; affirm the distinctiveness of place; develop without displacement, support approaches that are community driven, comprehensive, and collaborative; and build enduring capacity.

Schumacher then listed several cultural districts in the Twin Cities that have been supported by LISC. One of these areas is Little Mekong in St. Paul that is both a business and cultural district. Little Mekong had positive community impacts during the construction of the Green Line, during the COVID pandemic, and during the Twin Cities uprisings.

Since 2022, LISC has been using creative placemaking as economic recovery. They have done this through capacity grants, quarterly cohort meetings, using data and mapping, and directly funding efforts in St. Paul. LISC is currently five cultural districts in Minneapolis and four in St. Paul. Schumacher stated that LISC brings value as an intermediary by providing data support to help demonstrate value of creative placekeeping, provides technical assistance and support for districts, works as a convener / facilitator, and provides funding and opens doors.

Schumacher concluded her presentation by providing the key takeaways that art & culture is a critical part of communities and our economy; communities and economies thrive in relation to art and culture; and investing in the creative sector pays for years to come.

The final presentation was by Joo Hee Pomplun of The Alliance. Ms. Pomplun spoke about the alignment between health and cultural identity. She used the example of the Little Mekong Night Market to highlight the importance of cultural districts for the existing community, not just visitors to the events or area. She offered that to support cultural districts, it is vital to invest in leadership and emerging organizations as well as embrace the principles of Equitable Development. Small grants to businesses can be very helpful in this regard.

4. Partner Highlight: Minneapolis Developer Technical Assistance Program

Brigid Higgins presented on this item. The goals of the Developer Technical Assistance Program are to support community wealth building through real estate development; diversify the pool of real estate developers; increase local ownership of residential and commercial property; and build capacity for

developers doing small and mid-sized projects. The program has three main components: Intro to Real Estate Development training, project-specific assistance, and small business team/resource navigation.

The intro to real estate development training is free of charge and consists of four sessions, totaling 12 hours. It follows a cohort model with 35 participants per cohort. The goals of the training are to provide participants with knowledge to navigate the real estate development process, evaluate and manage the risks of development, and work on projects in Minneapolis.

Intro to Real Estate Training has had 530 graduates since 2016. For the years 2022-23, 85% of graduates have been BIPOC and 54% have been women or nonbinary. Seventy-two total projects have enrolled in the project specific assistance. Participants were 97% BIPOC and 49% women or nonbinary.

The project-specific assistance is new since 2022 and provides free project advice and consulting services for all project types. Support must be for a specific site within Minneapolis, though site control is not required. Every 1:1 applicant gets a 30 minute project meeting to discuss project needs and eligibility for other Minneapolis programs.

The total budget and dollars leveraged through 1:1 Program includes \$600,000 contracted, approximately \$380,000 dispersed to-date. Over \$7.5 million of financing awarded with DTAP assistance, leveraging at least 20:1 or 2000% dollars secured/invested.

Council Member Klonowski asked if the program was only available in Minneapolis. Higgins responded that it is, but participants can live anywhere as long as their business or project is in Minneapolis.

5. Partner updates/announcements

Affordable Commercial Incentive Fund – Zack Avery provided the update that this fund, also referred to as ACIF, is a limited re-launch of the earlier Corridor Investment Initiative. This fund has \$500 thousand available for projects within a half mile of Blue Line Extension stations that provide new or rehabbed below market commercial space. The grant applications will be released on July 20 and will be due August 17.

Hennepin County Predevelopment Assistance – Zack Avery answered questions about this program and stated that it provides technical assistance using a cohort model. There is \$30 thousand available per applicant. Members expressed interest in a presentation on this program at the September Steering Committee meeting.

Station Area Planning– Robbinsdale/Crystal – Kerri Pearce Ruch provided the update that station area planning work for Robbinsdale and Crystal is wrapping up and timeline extensions had been provided for both bodies of work to conclude. A more formal presentation on this work is planned for the September Steering Committee meeting.

Elevate Hennepin Outreach – Kerri Pearce Ruch provided an update on efforts funded through Hennepin County to connect Blue Line Extension station area businesses to the services of Elevate Hennepin. These include doorknocking with Elevate Hennepin advisors and BLRT project staff, a series of events targeted to corridor business owners, materials and attendance at BLRT and community events and direct mail.

Anti-displacement Next Steps – Cathy Gold provided a brief update on anti-displacement/community prosperity work. Now that the report is complete, focus is turning to the steps toward implementation. Additional work with partners will continue into the fall.

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM