

## Introduction

Although this is a report on the City of Minneapolis' progress in working toward six major goals, this is by no means a typical government report. You'll find no charts, graphs or statistics in these pages. What you *will* find is a personal and subjective assessment of our community's achievements and shortcomings from people who live and work in Minneapolis. You will also see their constructive suggestions for helping reach the five-year goals set by the mayor and City Council in July 2006.

Since the mayor and City Council identified these six overarching goals and their 31 supporting strategic directions, City staff have used hundreds of performance indicators to track our overall progress on meeting these outcomes. This data has been a helpful way to ensure accountability, but data doesn't tell the whole story. In the end, people will tell the story of Minneapolis' success in reaching its vision.

That's why, as the City neared the halfway point in this five-year process, scores of people were invited to come to City Hall and participate in conversations aimed at assessing our community's progress in reaching its goals by 2011. You can see a list of the people invited to these conversations beginning on page 67 of this report. In all cases, the invitees have direct knowledge of the issue the strategic direction seeks to address. We thank them for their candor and their willingness to share their time and opinions with us.

Obviously, this report can't offer a verbatim transcription of each conversation; nonetheless, we think these summaries will give you a glimpse into these spirited exchanges among people who deeply care about the future of Minneapolis. More importantly, you can be assured that City staff and our community partners will take their criticisms to heart and use the suggestions to move us toward even greater accomplishments.