

Leadership



Julianne Leerssen

MPZ/Equity & Inclusion Manager

612-673-3094

Julianne.Leerssen@minneapolis.gov



Jake Akervik

HUD Federal Liaison,
Community Initiatives

612-370-3282

Jacob.S.Akervik@hud.gov

2017-18 VISTAS

- **Tina Weitzel**, Lead
- **Michael Waldegerma**, Research Analyst
- **Kattie Evans**, Resource Development Coordinator
- **Sam Calahan**, Economic Development Coordinator
- **Jenny Melin**, Communications and Marketing Associate

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Projects and Highlights

The following is a sampling of the MPZ Team and Working Groups' activities:

Communication and Engagement

- **2017: Published 25 issues of the [Minneapolis Promise Zone email newsletter](#).**
- **Conducted first [interview with MPD 4th Precinct Inspector Aaron Biard](#)**
- **Created and presented Government Grants 101 training** for community members and organizations at the Community Connections Conference.

Community Health and Public Safety

- **Community Policing Survey Project:** Community Health and Safety Working Group is partnering with MPD Assistant Chief Mike Kjos, in collaboration with 4th Precinct Inspector Aaron Biard, to complete market research on community-driven ideas.
- **Advising ReCAST Community Trauma Program**, which is funded by a five-year, \$5M Federal HHS grant.
- PZ participates in Community Moral Voice working group, part of the **Group Violence Intervention (GVI) crime reduction strategy, funded by DOJ.**



Inspector Biard chats with Anisha Murphy, Program Director at NEON, home of the MPZ Office

Economic Development and Housing

- **Revolving Loan Fund Project:** The MPZ Economic Development Working Group submitted grant application, designed plan, and received a \$500k commitment from City matching Federal, public-private, and/or philanthropic grant dollars to start a Revolving Loan Fund. The RLF would serve as a more accessible lender, filling a need, researched by NEON, for over \$1.3M in access to capital gap financing for North Minneapolis business owners and entrepreneurs.
- **Partnership with Bloomberg Minneapolis Innovation Team and CPED** on Equity and Inclusion projects: Access to Capital, Eviction Mitigation, Northside Home Fund, Infill Working Group, and the new Bloomberg Mayors Challenge application, which will focus on helping North Minneapolis families build equity and wealth through homeownership. Objectives include training, support, and financial assistance for purchasing owner-occupied multifamily properties.
- **HUD Technical Assistance to analyze underused CDBG Section 108 loan guarantee capacity** for economic development and housing investments via low-risk loan pools. Other cities have successfully employed this tool and strategy.
- **Assisted Northside Investment Cooperative Enterprise formation; NICE** is modeled on the [NorthEast Investment Cooperative charter and bylaws](#).
- **Capital Investment Analysis Project:** Partnership with U of MN, CURA, UROC, and CLIC to collate data and report on equity in government investment.

Place-Based Investments Pay Off: Five Minneapolis Promise Zone VISTAs, Including Four Women of Color, Hired by Partners After Completing Year of Service

One of the underrated and often unmeasured aspects of place-based and collective impact work is the capacity building that occurs through the education and training of young professionals who dedicate themselves to a cause as a volunteer or entry-level employee. When they move on, the perspective and experience they gain moves with them into the next phase of their growing careers.

MPZ Manager Julianne Leerssen, HUD Liaison Jake Akervik, City staff, and partners helped train and mentor the VISTAs, building capacity for both the initiative and the community. Shortly after the end of the year, the efforts of and investments in the VISTAs paid off.

Former VISTA	Employing Partner	Federal and Local Partner Investments	Return on Investment
 Mariah Mendoza	Promise Neighborhood: Northside Achievement Zone	Education and Affordable Housing: The Northside Achieve Zone (NAZ) received \$30M in Federal Dept. of Education Promise Neighborhood funding. Assistance with affordable housing is part of wraparound support model.	NAZ, which enrolls 2,300 children, is now a self-sustaining organization that continues its mission of providing wraparound education support for families. In June 2017, NAZ received a \$10M grant from the Ballmer Group.
 Angeline Earley	City of Minneapolis Small Business Team	Economic Development: Three City staff provide customer service and outreach to entrepreneurs and business owners. Angie started her economic development role and learning with the MPZ.	This is a new program that is a direct result of businesses in the MPZ asking for more assistance and better services.
 Christina Manancero Villagran	City of Minneapolis: Resilience in Communities After Stress and Trauma	Community Engagement: The Dept. of Health and Human Services awarded \$5M in program funds over five years. Christina supports the program using the communication and engagement skills she learned from her time as the MPZ communication associate.	Funded by Dept. of Health and Human Services ReCAST grant. Brings together partners, including police, nonprofits, faith-based orgs, and more, building capacity for the community to respond to trauma in the wake of violence.
 Izak Gallini-Matyas	NEON: Northside Economic Opportunity Network	Economic Development and Employment: NEON is a partner and home to the MPZ Office. NEON partners with many organizations in the MPZ that receive Federal grants, such as Appetite For Change, which has received \$500k in community food projects grants. NEON also receives Treasury community investment funds, to then be funneled to organizations such as CDFIs and nonprofit support orgs.	NEON is a shared-space model which hosts many partner and community meetings and events. This leads to many community engagement opportunities for MPZ staff. NEON's President, Marcus Owens, led the Economic Development Working Group for the first year.
 Helina Haile	MAP: Minnesota AIDS Project	Community Health: Receives Federal investments from HHS Centers for Disease Control (CDC).	Serves residents across Minnesota, including North Minneapolis. MAP's work in AIDs treatment and prevention furthers the PZ's capacity to increase health and wellness of North Minneapolis residents.