



# The Future of East 38 Street

January 2015

Dear Neighbors:

Starting February 4, we invite you to participate in a four-part series on “The Future of E 38 Street,” focused on the corridor between Nicollet to Chicago.

Why this focus on East 38 Street? Change is happening and we want to ensure neighbors are part of the conversation. Over the years, our residents have begun to reflect a more multicultural neighborhood, with new Latino and Somali residents in what has been a historically Black area of South Minneapolis. And while East 38 Street has been a quiet area with little development interest for some time, property owners are now exploring options for growth and change. Most prominently, the Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church sold its property to the Seward Coop in 2014, with that store set to open in 2015. Other property owners are exploring development visions as well. One such business is Kente Circle, at 345 East 38 Street. Kente Circle’s owners, Larry and Pam Tucker, have purchased a neighboring vacant lot with hopes to grow their business and further invest in the neighborhood.

Discussion of the future of East 38 Street prompts reflection on the past. Historic African-American led organizations are still a major presence on East 38 Street, including Sabathani Community Center, the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder, and the Urban League’s Sharon Sayles Belton Center. This area has been home to African American entrepreneurs, civic, community, and faith leaders, home builders and architects -- all of whom have contributed to the Minneapolis we know today. Notable living Minneapolitans from this area include Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, artist Seitu Jones, and Met Council Member Gary Cunningham.

The East 38 Street corridor remains an integral site for entrepreneurs of color, from long-term investor Terek Propes, who owns a building and operates a business at 38 and Nicollet, to new owners at 38 and Portland who run a Somali-focused day care.

We hope you will attend our entire series. The meetings will culminate in community recommendations to the city and Ward 8 Council office, property owners and developers, neighborhood-serving organizations and more. Thank you to all of the participating co-host organizations, who are helping to support this community process.

Happy New Year. We hope to see you at “The Future of East 38 Street”!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Glidden", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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