

NCEC Committee of the Whole

Staff Report

TO: Members of NCEC Committee of the Whole
From: Lance Marcus Knuckles, Access & Outreach Manager
Date: February 20, 2013
Subject: **Blueprint for Equity, Engagement Discussion**

Action Requested

This item is before the Committee of the Whole for purposes of discussion. No action is requested.

Discussion

Community engagement within the City of Minneapolis has risen to be one of the high priorities for new leadership with the City of Minneapolis leadership from the Mayor to program staff. Currently, there is a very significant amount of engagement happening and that has great opportunity to shape the way community engagement is conducted throughout the engagement system.

Current Engagement Activity:

- Blueprint for Equity Conversations (on-going)
- CPP submission development and engagement (on-going)
- Joint HECE/NCEC meetings (March)
- CIF community meetings (Feb/Mar)
- Minneapolis for a Lifetime (Jan-June)
- Driver's License (undocumented residents (Jan-June)
- Community Connections Conference

Up-Coming Engagement Activity:

- City Goals - Strategic Directions (April – June)
- City Council Committee Work Plans (???)

- Target engagement within Native American community, East African community, African American community and South East Asian and Pacific Islander community

Prior to this new leadership within the City the commission and NCR set out on an ambitious engagement plan to engage 80% of neighborhood organizations and 30 community/cultural bases organizations. The Blueprint for Equity is intended to be an on-going engagement strategy to address racial equity; more specifically racial equity within the community engagement system and to develop shared understanding of defining and implementing racial equity strategies. These engagement sessions have been moving forward but is this the opportunity to assess next steps in thoughtful and meaningful engagement around racial equity? In addition, we must keep in mind the new leadership is seeking more from engagement. So, are we asking the right questions in the right places and the right way?

Developing a clear path with thoughtful outcomes and benchmarks that can measure our success in realizing racial equity within community engagement; more specifically, a transformation of the level of access under-represented residents have to decision making opportunities to shape the policies that impact their lives.