



2020-2021 Neighborhood Programs Annual Report

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Introduction

Until 2021, with the launch of new neighborhood and community engagement funding programs, the City of Minneapolis funded neighborhood organizations through two major programs: the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), which focuses on projects, and the Community Participation Program (CPP), which neighborhood organizations used to:

1. Identify and act on neighborhood priorities.
2. Influence City decisions on plans, policies, procedures, programs and services.
3. Increase resident involvement in civic and community life.

Starting in 2010, each of the City's 70 recognized neighborhood organizations created an action plan to direct the use of these funds after extensive outreach within their neighborhoods. These plans outlined the community's priorities, initiatives and how they want to allocate their funding.

In 2020 and 2021, neighborhood organizations spent \$13,576,103.37 through their CPP and NRP funding contracts. Using these funds, they engaged residents through volunteering, community events, outreach, affordable housing initiatives, community-approved developments, meetings and partnerships.

In an annual survey, the City's Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) collected data from neighborhood organizations about their progress towards accomplishing their neighborhood goals and the impact of their engagement activities. Organizations also shared stories about their outcomes that are not easily described in numbers.

Challenges, crises and change

This year's neighborhood programs report is unique. 2020 and 2021 was a period of challenges, crises, change and a renewed sense of the importance of community. Minneapolis neighborhoods experienced a global pandemic, the murder of George Floyd, civil unrest, an ongoing opioid epidemic, a loss of security and greater need for basic social support services such as housing. Neighborhood organizations had to adapt and change to meet these and other challenges in their neighborhoods.

During this time of uncertainty, unpredictability and social distancing, neighborhood organizations rose to the challenge. They organized food drives, neighborhood and citywide clean-ups, took on responsibility for encampments, created mutual aid networks, offered healing spaces, delivered food and medication to people with limited mobility and many more activities that addressed needs in their communities and the city at large.

The response to the crises of 2020 and 2021 highlights the power of the Minneapolis neighborhood network. Neighborhood organizations were able to quickly mobilize to share important information and provide community members a sense of comfort and belonging.

Methodology

NCR asked neighborhood organizations to report on their efforts to reach underrepresented communities, communicate with residents, host neighborhood gatherings and address their neighborhoods' priority issues between January 2020 and December 2021. This consolidated report includes data from the 68 organizations

(out of a possible 70) that submitted their data by the date of this publication.

CPP and NRP funds

From 2011 to 2021 neighborhood organizations were funded, from the City of Minneapolis, through the Community Participation Program and remaining Neighborhood Revitalization Program funds. The CPP program has sunset, setting the stage for the new Neighborhoods 2020 program.

The Community Participation Program began in 2011 (replacing the former Citizen Participation Program). Allocations were made each year from 2011 through 2021 (with Neighborhoods 2020 beginning in 2022).

During that time, \$40,767,199.86 was allocated to neighborhoods; additionally,

- 2015 Community Innovations Fund allocations of \$239,973.63;
- 2011-13 allocations through the Rebuilding Our Communities fund totaling \$52,119.40.

Over the years, neighborhood organizations have utilized both their annual CPP funding and remaining NRP funds to support their ongoing work, below is a chart of the previous three years funding usage:

<u>Year</u>	<u>CPP Funds</u>	<u>NRP Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>2019</u>	<u>\$4,282,122.95</u>	<u>\$4,453,183.01</u>	<u>\$8,735,305.96</u>
<u>2020</u>	<u>\$4,209,577.12</u>	<u>\$3,539,079.98</u>	<u>\$7,748,657.10</u>
<u>2021</u>	<u>\$4,971,070.47</u>	<u>\$2,274,337.90</u>	<u>\$7,245,408.37</u>

*Above graph does not include the first allocation of Neighborhoods 2020 funds (\$2,189,757.00) in 2021

Volunteers

Volunteers are an invaluable and driving force for neighborhood organizations. From serving on the board of directors to organizing to solve community problems, volunteers improve neighborhoods, communities and the city.

The skills that volunteers brought to their organizations in 2020 and 2021 include teaching English, landscaping, photography, graphic design, balloon art, advocacy and accounting. Volunteers provide a valuable service to the communities that they serve. In this reporting period, volunteers dedicated 224,178 hours which is worth \$6,554,965, according to the Independent Sector’s¹ estimated hourly value of volunteer time in Minnesota. This figure is nearly 150% of the \$4.1 million annual CPP allocation neighborhood organizations received in 2020 and 2021. Even in a pandemic, volunteers gave over 200,000 hours of their time to support their neighbors.



Members from Heritage Park Neighborhood

Volunteer hours 2018 to 2021

	2018	2019	2020 & 2021
Neighborhoods reporting volunteer service	69	68	62
Volunteer hours reported	134,760	125,267	224,178
Estimated hourly value of volunteer time	\$28.15	\$29.44	\$29.24
Estimated total value of volunteer time	\$3,793,494	\$3,687,860	\$6,554,965

¹ Source: <https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>

Neighborhood and committee meetings

Neighborhood meetings are an important part of keeping the community up to-date on important issues, celebrating their community and planning the work ahead.

Often, organizations hold meetings to discuss issues happening in the community, such as public safety, program development, housing developments and racial equity. Be it a zone variance meeting or a vote on how funding is allocated, meetings are where community members are to make decisions in their community.



East Phillips Institute Coalition utilizes social distancing for its meetings

Organizations might also include awards and accolades for their volunteers and community stars and provide a place for neighbors to meet and connect.

Of the 68 neighborhoods who reported:

- **92%** held regular committee meetings or discussion groups that were open to all.
- **82%** held at least one general membership or community meeting (in addition to their required annual meeting) to gather input from residents about a neighborhood-specific initiative.
- **80%** hosted at least one general membership or committee meeting in response to a City request for input, such as a Public Works project.
- **46%** conducted one or more focus groups with residents.

Racial equity work

In 2020, Minneapolis became a catalyst for an international movement calling for changes in policing and public safety after the murder of George Floyd. Community members took it upon themselves to reckon with historically oppressive systems to fight for changes they wanted to see. Standing publicly in support of racial justice, neighborhoods stepped up to facilitate and educate neighbors about racism in their communities. They

looked at systematic changes to both themselves and the organization to address systemic racism in their communities.

Representation matters, and neighborhood organizations have worked to create boards and volunteer bases that better reflect the diversity in their communities. Neighborhood organizations are using innovative strategies to engage historically disenfranchised communities. In addition to targeted outreach approaches, they are working on ways to build a bigger table and ensure that all community members have the opportunity to be decision-makers in their community.

Neighborhood equity work highlights

Fulton looks inward

Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA) organized their neighbors around racial equity in 2021, forming a new subcommittee in the neighborhood association that consisted of 20 members. Some of their projects include a racial equity resources webpage, a book club and "story strolls" at Pershing Park featuring books featuring or authored by members of communities of color.

FNA has also actively supported businesses owned by people of color in its purchasing, produced articles on equity topics for each newsletter published in 2021 and connected neighbors to additional anti-racist resources.



Members of Fulton Neighborhood Association racial equity committee

Starting the conversation

Victory Neighborhood Association (ViNA) created an anti-racism initiative, an intentional, topic-based educational discussion series was created to address racism and to assist in helping educate residents on how to become anti-racist. From this discussion series, additional conversations continued, which has been led by Victory residents.

Partnering with arts organizations to address racism

Waite Park Community Council (WPC) partnered with Tru Ruts, a multi-disciplinary arts organization, to lead a dozen conversations around anti-racism and transformative change over the course of six months. The series was facilitated by artists and Waite Park neighbors, Shá Cage and E.G. Bailey of Freestyle Films and Tru Ruts. Through these discussions, participants were able to create space in order to unlearn internalized racism as they tackled topics such as raising anti-racist children, creating welcoming and inclusive neighborhoods and challenging implicit bias.



Final in-person gathering of the series of discussions held by Waite Park

Kingfield stands in solidarity

Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA) began a weekly Bridgil (a bridge and vigil) over 35W the highway bridge that started after the murder of George Floyd and recurred through the beginning of 2021. In 2021, KFNA continued to amplify the message that Black Lives Matter, including bringing back their weekly Bridgil during the trial of former officer Derek Chauvin and donating their youth-painted street murals, which were created after the murder, to Save the Boards, a group working to preserve and share the artwork created over boarded windows from this period.



Kingfield residents displaying signs at a Bridgil event

Educating community members about racial covenants

The East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association (EHFNA) participated in the Just Deeds program, giving Minneapolis homeowners the chance to learn about and discharge the racial covenants recorded on their properties. Racial covenants were a legal tool that was used to segregate the metro area and build a hidden system of institutional racism by prohibiting the sale or occupation of property to certain groups of people. Though racial covenants are no longer enforceable under the Fair Housing Act, racial covenants are still embedded within some properties in Minneapolis. Discharging them has been a large movement in order to make a stand against systematic racism.

EFHNA wrote letters to all of the of the houses in East Harriet that had racial covenants attached to them, letting homeowners know what racial covenants were. They supplied the paperwork and instructions on how to follow up with the City to remove the covenants.

Incorporating equity into neighborhood operations

The Tangletown Neighborhood Association (TNA) created an equity task force that is now a formal committee of the neighborhood organization. This group created equity resources and educational events, examined internal processes that could be made more equitable, and worked on advocacy for racial justice issues around Minneapolis.

Outreach and engagement

Neighborhood organizations across the city use a variety of methods to engage residents. Some of these activities are community-wide, while others are focused on specific groups in their communities, such as renters or non-English speaking residents. Notably in these past two years, there has been an increase of neighborhood

organizations using targeted approaches to engage and work on issues of interest to historically and under-engaged and underrepresented groups within their neighborhood.

- **72%** worked on an issue of interest to an underrepresented group within the neighborhood.
- **27%** provided notices of annual and special meetings in multiple languages.
- **26%** provided newsletter articles or web pages in multiple languages.
- **59%** targeted apartment buildings to reach renters.
- **44%** tabled at events or locations such as farmers markets and cultural events.
- **39%** held focus groups or public meetings inclusive of underrepresented communities.
- **62%** reviewed participation activities and identified new leaders and volunteers for programs, committees and boards.
- **34%** held pop-up events.

Door-knocking and direct communication

Door-knocking is one of the most effective ways that neighborhood organizations have engaged residents in-person. Although door-knocking is resource-heavy, it remains one of the most successful ways to build community and to identify issues that impact a neighborhood's most underrepresented community members.

In addition to door-knocking, flyering households is another method many neighborhood organizations use to increase participation or inform residents about things happening in the community. Over two-thirds of neighborhoods distribute flyers to increase participation or inform residents about a pressing issue. Of the neighborhood organizations responding:

Door-knocking

- **50%** canvassed some of their neighborhood.
- **33%** canvassed primarily to gather input or inform residents about a City or neighborhood issue.
- **33%** of canvassing was conducted primarily by volunteers.
- **31%** of canvassing was conducted primarily by neighborhood staff members.
- **37%** canvassed all or most of their neighborhood.
- **36%** canvassed regularly.

Flyer distribution

- **67%** distributed flyers primarily to inform and increase participation.
- **50%** distributed flyers primarily to request input or inform residents about a City or neighborhood issue.
- **60%** left flyers at most or all residences in their neighborhood.
- **60%** left flyers at some residences in their neighborhood.

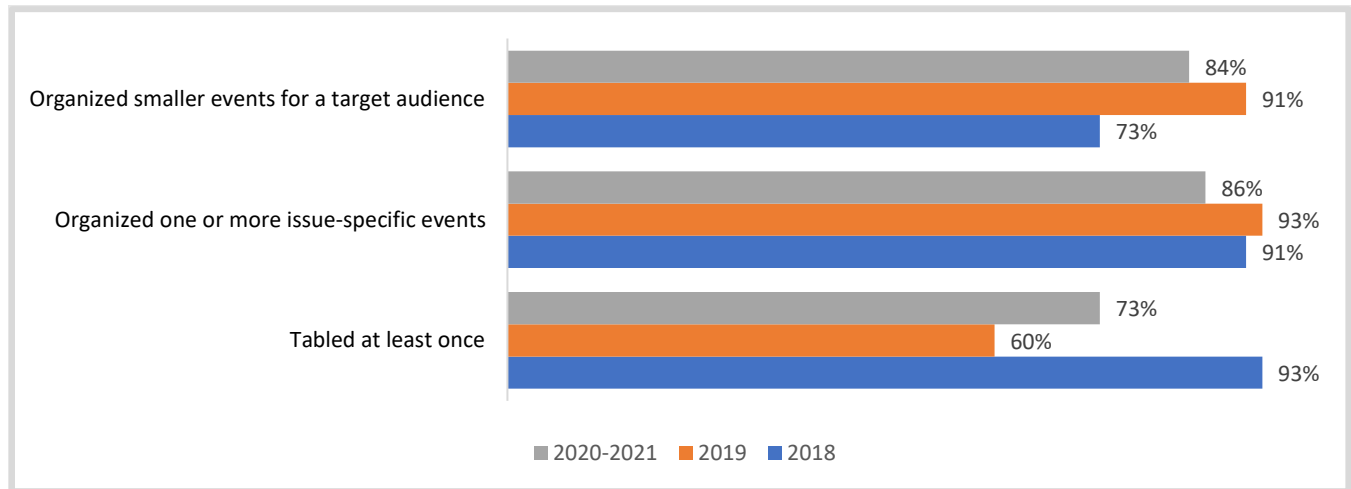
Events

Events have been used by neighborhood organizations to bring people together and create a sense of community. For the majority of 2020, organizations suspended their events to combat the spread of COVID-19 and to keep their communities safe. There were still a few social-distanced outdoor events in 2020 and more in 2021, with nearly every neighborhood organization tabling at least once, and the vast majority held events that focused on a specific issue or audience.



Elliot Park Street Festival

Participation in community events



Outreach and engagement highlights

Expanding access through internships

The Sheridan Neighborhood Organization (SNO) created their first paid internship program in fall of 2021 with the focus on reaching underrepresented immigrant populations in Sheridan. They hired a Somali-speaking intern and a Spanish-speaking intern for three months, in which time they were able to door-knock all of the apartments in the neighborhood, host their first Community Health Fair, and promote their programming to a much larger population. The most important part of this program was introducing SNO to many residents who did not speak English and had never heard of the neighborhood organization before.



Sheridan Neighborhood Organization Health Fair event

Youth partnerships

Northeast Park Neighborhood Association (NEPNA) worked with local businesses and government agencies to fill NEPNA totes bag and completed a full neighborhood door-knock campaign where they partnered with the Edison High School girls' tennis team to complete outreach throughout their neighborhood. Residents were really excited to support a group in need, and they really enjoyed getting to chat with young folks about the neighborhood association. Northeast Park Neighborhood Association also had an opportunity to connect with new businesses and start building relationships.

Adapting traditions to keep the community safe



Afoutayi Haitian dancing at Stevens Square Community Organization (SSCO)'s Red Hot Art event

Stevens Square Community Organization's (SSCO) annual arts programming, Red Hot Art, was adapted from a weekend-long arts festival of thousands, into a smaller, months-long program to prioritize community health and safety. It provided a space for shared healing and connection in a time of isolation and uncertainty.

In 2021 they brought back what was most successful from that experiment: the ability to appreciate and enjoy the work of local artists, to safely spend time and work collaboratively with community, to directly support and elevate the voices of underrepresented artists, and to expand programming so more participants could share stories, express joy, and build unity and solidarity with one another.

Red Hot Art took several steps to be more inclusive and equitable, including accepting artists at any level on a first-come-first-served basis, eliminating all costs for participation, adding artist stipends, providing non-English language-specific

programming and virtual participation options, making sure their events are as physically accessible as possible, giving priority to artists from underrepresented communities and providing ASL interpretation.

Saint Anthony East Neighborhood Association works to improve transportation hubs

The Saint Anthony East Neighborhood Association (SAENA) had major success with their transportation and mobility neighborhood priority. In 2020, they received an mobility hubs grant through the Musicant Group for the mobility hub at Central Avenue Northeast and Spring Street Northeast.

The grant helped SAENA do targeted outreach to the low-income housing buildings near the intersection. Because of the pandemic, they chose to send postcards to the buildings asking folks to call their office to complete a 15-minute survey about their experience at the intersection. Using grant funds, SAENA was able to offer \$20 gift cards to Cub Foods as incentive for the participants' time. They surveyed about 35 people, most of whom had not interacted with the organization before. SAENA got participants' contact information to connect with them further about neighborhood happenings.

Both Metro Transit and the City of Minneapolis benefitted from the data collection. SAENA is using this data to further advocate for what they heard from residents: better access to transit, intersection improvements for pedestrians and slower car traffic.

Kenny welcomes new neighbors

The Kenny Neighborhood Association (KNA) organized a “New Neighbor Gathering” in June 2021 to recruit new members and provide a free dinner at Kenny Park. To advertise the event, they door-knocked and delivered flyers all over the neighborhood.

At this event, KNA helped connect neighbors to one another, introduced the work that KNA does in the neighborhood and explained how to get involved in their work. With over 60 attendees, it was a great success. Kenny has since made this an annual tradition and has expanded their scope to also include renters.

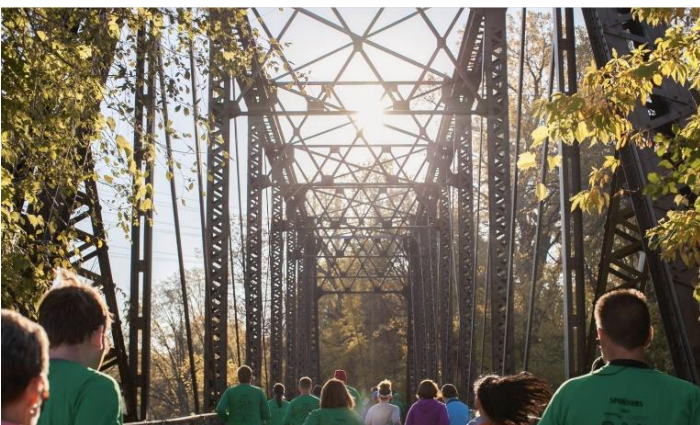


Kenny Neighborhood Association’s New Neighborhood Gathering

Elliot Park engages renters through door-knocking campaign

In 2021, the Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. (EPNI) hosted a VISTA tenant organizer who focused on outreach and support of renter households. The tenant organizer worked full-time as a resource to renters, pro-actively door-knocking rental buildings to connect face-to-face with individuals. Additionally, the tenant organizer worked with HOMELine to identify residents facing eviction and reached out directly to those residents to offer a connection to legal counsel.

A return to a tradition



Historic Riverfront 5k Run and Walk

After the tumultuous years of 2020 and 2021, the Saint Anthony West Neighborhood Organization (STAWNO) was proud to once again host their annual Historic Riverfront 5kRun/Walk in October 2021. STAWNO has hosted this event for over 15 years and had to cancel the 2020 event. The 2021 run/walk brought a much-needed sense of a return to normalcy for the community. Many neighbors had not seen each other in person for over a year and a half at this point, and this was a safe, fun way

to bring the community together and continue a long-standing neighborhood tradition.

Mobile music: Tunes on Trucks



Craig Clark, a local musician, performing at the Tunes on Truck event

Volunteers from the Marshall Terrace Neighborhood Organization (MNTN) created an event called Tunes on Trucks. This socially distanced event helped elderly and disabled neighbors by bringing music to everyone at or near their home and break the isolation. The event was a great success.

Volunteer musicians rode on the back of various trucks playing music throughout the streets of the Marshall Terrace neighborhood. After much advertisement and social media invites, it was incredible to see so many residents sitting in their yards enjoying musical entertainment. Not only was this a great way to get out of the house for an evening, but also neighbors were

overcome with gratitude for the neighborhood and the musicians were thankful to be able to pay again publicly. This event was such a huge success, the neighborhood organization hosted another Tunes On Trucks a couple months later with the same response from the residents.

Programs and projects

Since 1991, neighborhood organizations have allocated more than \$334 million to improving neighborhoods through the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and the Community Participation Program (CPP). Through these two programs, neighborhood organizations implement a variety of programs and projects including housing and business support, crime prevention, environment and infrastructure, and initiatives geared towards immigrants, refugees and renters. While this report focuses primarily on neighborhood engagement efforts, a small sampling of neighborhood programs and projects is highlighted below.

Neighborhood program and project highlights

Creating narratives that reflect their community and placemaking through public art

Beltrami Neighborhood Council (BNC) identified a need for more public art in their community. They partnered with Northeast Park and Logan Park neighborhood organizations to bring murals to each of their respective neighborhoods. The neighborhood collective selected Creatives After Curfew, a collective of artists and allies who mobilized during the Minneapolis uprisings in June 2020 to share resources, skills and knowledge as a contribution to the movement.

The artists and neighborhood organizations gathered input from the community for inspiration and details. Each mural highlights people, diversity, equity and inclusion in Northeast Minneapolis, while reflecting the uniqueness of each neighborhood.



Mural at Beltrami Park

They then partnered with Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) to host a mural on each of their respective community parks.

Tangible environmental outcomes

Prospect Park Neighborhood Association (PPA) approved a climate action plan for the neighborhood that set out to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and bolster the community's resilience in the face of climate change. With these goals in mind, PPA designed and installed three rain



Prospect Park volunteers in front of Glendale Townhomes, a site of one of their community

gardens to mitigate rainwater runoff and protect the environment. The rain gardens capture part of the runoff from nearby buildings, reducing pollution. Twenty volunteers gathered at three places to install the rain gardens and bring the project to completion.

NRP home improvement program and home buyer programs

Home improvement and homebuyer assistance programs have been a staple among neighborhood programs for years. Currently, 28 neighborhoods have active programs, and 44 have outstanding loans that are returning program income to NRP plans.

Over the last two years however, particular attention has been paid to supporting lower income property owners.

Neighborhood home improvement highlights

In 2020 and 2021, the Jordan Area Community Council’s program with the Center of Energy and Environment (CEE) provided 22 loans; 86% of these loans were deferred loans for homebuyer assistance, seniors, or emergency or safety improvements.

In 2020 the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association started the Staying in Place Grant Fund. Administered by Rebuilding Together Minnesota, Staying in Place supports low-income, senior, disabled and veteran adults by addressing outstanding housing issues. The program helps property owners living on fixed incomes, who often also have limited physical abilities and sometimes limited cognitive abilities, make repairs so they can live safely in place with economic stability.

Response to community needs

Neighborhood organizations are constantly assessing needs and issues that appear in the communities that they serve. In 2020 and 2021, many themes that came up included COVID-19 response, equity work, public safety, and unhoused resident support. Below are some highlights of these themes.

COVID-19

In 2020, 72% of neighborhood associations reported that they stepped up to create initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of these include ensuring that people had proper protective equipment, boosting resources and hosting vaccine events.

The Neighborhood COVID-19 Response Fund

Neighborhood organizations recognizing both the global and local implications of COVID-19 worked with the City of Minneapolis to create a response fund. The Neighborhood COVID-19 Response Fund consisted of multiple neighborhood organizations providing \$42,000 for materials and programs needed to respond to COVID-19.



Additionally, other neighborhoods set up their own responses to the pandemic for local neighborhood use in the amount of \$75,750.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) distribution

- **St. Anthony East Neighborhood Association (SAENA)** conducted a fundraiser to purchase homemade masks for residents in public housing buildings, distributing 400 masks before protective equipment became widely available.
- **Kingfield Neighborhood Association** created and distributed masks to hospitals for healthcare workers.
- **West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council** distributed masks. They also partnered with LTR Digital, LLC to promote on social media the importance of social distancing and masking up.
- **Sheridan Neighborhood Organization (SNO)**, in March 2020, created the Sheridan Support Network to support Sheridan residents struggling at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. SNO sent out postcards to all residents, flyer and spread the message through community organizations that it was connecting volunteers and donations with people who needed support. This included distributing over 300 reusable cloth masks.
- **Citizens for a Loring Park Community** distributed masks and hand sanitizer.

Vaccine events

- **Marshall Terrace Neighborhood Organization (MTNO)** hosted a vaccination event at Marshall Terrace Park.
- **Bottineau Neighborhood Association (BNA)**, in the fall of 2020, partnered with East Side Neighborhood Services, Minneapolis Health Department and Sheridan Neighborhood Organization to hold two bilingual COVID-19 testing and flu shot events. BNA volunteers helped promote and staff the event, including help with translation for participants.
- **Cedar-Riverside Community Council (CRCC)**, with funding from the Minnesota Council on Foundations, executed an educational and promotional project from July through November 2021 to encourage members of the East African community, especially school-aged youth, from Cedar-Riverside and around the Twin Cities to receive their COVID-19 vaccination.

Resources

- **Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA)** created a program with Working Partnerships to provide assistance to hospitality workers that were displaced due to COVID-19.
- **Kenny Neighborhood Association** has shared COVID-19 resources since the pandemic began to help neighbors find food assistance, housing assistance, vaccines, testing and more.
- **Heritage Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA)** created the Northside Pandemic Pulse which shared COVID-19 data specific to North Minneapolis zip codes. HPNA also hosted multiple COVID-19 information sessions with members from NorthPoint Health and Wellness.
- **Bryant Neighborhood Organization (BNA)**, in partnership with Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization (CANDO) and a local health worker, held a Spanish information session about COVID-19 resources.
- **Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association (MHNA)** created the Marcy-Holmes COVID-19 Cares program in spring 2020 as a response to the needs and concerns of the residents and businesses within the neighborhood.
- **Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA)** provided businesses in the neighborhood “Keep

Calm and Take Out” signs during the COVID-19 shutdowns.

Mutual Aid

Along with COVID-19 outreach, neighborhood organizations also stepped up in 2020 in response to their community’s needs by providing direct aid to people. During this past reporting period:

- **Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc.** partnered with House of Charity to secure funding to deliver weekly bags of food to 150 households.
- **Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRCC)** created a grocery delivery service for seniors and single parents after the closure of the neighborhood grocery store.
- **Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA)** started a pop-up food shelf from July 2020 to October 2021 and was able to donate over 800,000 pounds of food and supplies before transitioning the program.
- **Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization (CANDO)** started a pop-up food shelf in direct response to the destruction of community grocery stores. The emergency food shelf was portable and served residents from Lake Street and 38th Chicago. With amazing partnerships and mutual aid, CANDO was able to serve an estimated of 6,200 people.
- **Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association** raised \$10,000 on a donation website to provide gift cards for families of students at local schools needing help with basic needs.
- **Aubudon Neighborhood Association (ANA)** established a network that made up the Northeast Emergency Food Growers Network to immediately begin growing, collecting and distributing produce that is grown by residents in the Northeast community.
- **Bancroft Neighborhood Association** began a pilot snow shoveling program primarily for seniors and people with mobility issues. This helped people to be more involved in the community while giving work skills and a wage to youth in the community.
- **South Uptown Neighborhood Association** reinvented the annual Chili Fest from an in-person event into an online fundraiser and food drive benefitting the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf, raising more than \$10,000 and 400 pounds of food.
- **Whittier Alliance** launched an emergency fund to aid neighbors with rent assistance, monthly bill pay, food and other household essentials. By year-end, the Alliance had distributed over \$34,000 to 87 applicants.
- **Cleveland Neighborhood Association (CNA)** gathered community members and supplies to provide needed essentials to families including diapers, wipes, food, water and clothing. CNA also reached out to business owners in the area to help with relief funds and to coordinate cleanup projects with neighborhood youth.
- **Field Regina Northrup Neighborhood Group (FRNNG)** partnered with New Creation Church to provide food to residents in the neighborhood experiencing food insecurity.
- **Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association** hosted a summer fun toy giveaway for children when park play areas were closed.
- **Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA)** administered a Renter Support Fund which provided 335 cost-burdened households in Minneapolis with \$900 of cash assistance, distributed a total



Volunteers from Elliot Park Neighborhood Inc. securing donations

of \$301,500.

- **Prospect Park Neighborhood Association (PPA)** supported and fundraised for a mutual aid project from Crossing Barriers/Defend Glendale. PPA also contributed \$2,000. The project served over 900 public housing residents, including 184 families in Prospect Park neighborhood, at a time when supplies were expensive or impossible to obtain.
- **Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA)** created a small, neighborhood-level mutual aid network in 2020.
- **Tangletown Neighborhood Association** organized a food drive for Joyce Uptown Food Shelf. In 2020 and 2021, they collected over 2,000 pounds of food each year and have made an annual event.



Donations delivered by Tangletown Neighborhood Association

Public Safety

These past two years, 92% of neighborhood organizations have reported increased security concerns in their communities. Some of the ways neighborhood organizations have responded to the issue include:

- **Phillips West Neighborhood Association (PWNO)** used a collaborative budgeting process to direct safety funds in their neighborhood. PWNO created a community committee, sent out a neighborhood survey, knocked on doors and hosted a safety-themed community dinner to gather feedback. Based on this information, they invested in safety interventions ranging from rent support, to lighting infrastructure, a community resource fair and support for their unhoused neighbors.
- **Webber-Camden and McKinley Neighborhood Association** sponsored an event known as 'Youth Safety in a Time of Civil Unrest' with 30 youth and community members. It was a panel with educators and activists about staying safe when joining protests. WCNO also partnered with Folwell, McKinley & Jerry Gamble to host youth events over spring break to provide engagement opportunities.
- **East Phillips Improvement Coalition** created the Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) Workgroup in response to the overdose crisis and syringe litter their neighborhood. The workgroup put together a concept paper outlining a harm reduction approach to creating a center for unhoused neighbors and people who use drugs. The group did deep canvassing around this issue to gauge neighborhood support for such a site.
- **East Isles Residents Association, Windom Community Council, and Southeast Como Improvement Association** all held community conversations about public safety, engaging with their neighbors about how to improve conditions in their



PWNO engaging residents about safety funds

neighborhood.

- **Corcoran Neighborhood Association** partnered up with T.O.U.C.H Outreach, a violence prevention organization, to work via contract with the Office of Violence Prevention. T.O.U.C.H. Outreach has a 30-person team of violence interrupters who work along the Lake Street corridor. The violence interrupters also are equipped with resources such food assistance, bus cards, personal hygiene products and more. Corcoran continues to be a food resource to community as well as engaging and leading conversation around violence prevention and neighbors getting to know neighbors.
-

Response to Property Damage



After the murder of George Floyd, Minneapolis experienced civil unrest in multiple locations within the city. Recognizing the need to increase support in areas of the City most effected by destruction, multiple neighborhood organizations adopted a program to pool funds to assist with immediate needs.

Neighborhood organizations contributed \$28,500 dedicated for Lake Street and \$49,500 for the West Broadway area for reconstruction efforts. These funds were available for immediate use, before any other outside assistance was available.

Through combined efforts of multiple neighborhoods, a new concept of adaptive support for citywide projects emerged. Through tragedy a new sense of cooperation, solidarity and partnerships arose.

Whittier Alliance

In 2020, Whittier Alliance secured a grant from the Minneapolis Foundation to provide grants to small businesses that sustained damage during the June uprising. They established paid and volunteer support to ensure that Spanish-, Somali- and Vietnamese- speaking business owners had access to this opportunity. The project distributed over \$92,000 to 25 applicants. These businesses and others were referred to pro bono assistance technical assistance providers for help with digital marketing, insurance claims, legal questions and other needs.

Longfellow Community Council

Longfellow Community Council (LCC) worked with Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH®), Community Design Group (CDG) and Biko Associates, to assist the residents and businesses of Greater Longfellow create a rebuild plan for the affected area. A steering committee of residents, business owners and community organization representatives led the project. This work was ultimately handed off to a coalition of impacted business and property owners.

LCC secured over \$104,000 through a combination of grants and individual donations to create several programs to support small businesses and community members. These included grant programs for small businesses, food support and a residential security lighting program. Remaining funds are being allocated for new projects.

Unhoused Community Member Support

In 2020, 61% of neighborhoods have reported encampments being in their neighborhood and 70% have reported that housing insecurity was an issue that was affecting their community. Several neighborhood organizations have taken initiative to support housing insecure people in their communities in the following ways:

- **North Loop Neighborhood Association** actively supported establishing the neighborhood's Avivo Little Village, a residence for 100 unhoused people, and developed a good neighbor agreement to support them. They also conducted a donation drive for residents and engaged them in a monthly Service Saturday neighborhood cleanup event.
- **Phillips-West Neighborhood Association** partnered with ZACAH to support residents of the neighborhood encampment with temporary hotels. Some of the residents were able to use these hotels as they transitioned into permanent housing.
- **Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association** formed a small working group with Hennepin County staff regarding 110 tents on the Midtown Greenway. They met every Friday until everyone was in a shelter and the Greenway was cleaned up.
- **Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA)** secured support from its office property owner, The Land Stewardship Project, to allow the conference room to serve as a supply depot for a group of community volunteer who were coordinating donations for over 10 months.



Construction of Avivo Little Village in North Loop

Conclusion

Minneapolis' network of neighborhood organizations and the thousands of volunteers and community members who get involved in their neighborhoods enrich our city. Their donation of time and skills creates strong, resilient and inclusive neighborhoods. Neighborhood organizations hold a unique place within the realm of geographically based organizations.

As our world and our communities change, the work of neighborhood organizations also changes. In the effort to create decision-making bodies that better reflect the diversity of our neighborhoods, organizations are changing how they interact and build relationships with historically underrepresented communities. For many this has meant changes to institutionalized processes and policies.

The strength of our neighborhood organizations lies within the relationships cultivated over the decades with community members and other organizations. These multi-faceted networks help to keep community members active and engaged in important issues that impact our world.