

**MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM**

**DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**NRP PHASE II  
NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN**

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**DOWNTOWN  
MINNEAPOLIS  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

**NRP Phase II  
Neighborhood Action Plan**

**as of  
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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association's (DMNA) volunteers and staff have put in an incredible amount of time and effort over the past 10 years to connect residents and business owners, support youth, establish and build collaborative relationships, capitalize on the neighborhoods' unique character and strengths and, most importantly, improve people's perceptions of downtown Minneapolis. The DMNA intends to capitalize on the relationships and connections it has established over the past 10 years as it goes through the process of implementing its NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan.

A large debt of gratitude goes to current DMNA Board of Directors: Carletta Sweet, Chair; Gerry Ewald, Vice Chair; Paula Klimek, Treasurer; Wally Swan, Secretary; Andrew Hauer, Land Use Committee Chair; George Rosenquist, Crime and Safety Liaison; Corey Kline; and Andrea Christenson for their assistance and persistence in preparing the Phase II Plan. The DMNA Board would also like to recognize and thank former Board Director Scott Parkin for his contribution to the organization and participation in the development of the Phase II Plan.

In addition, the DMNA would like to recognize and thank Minneapolis NRP staff, including Neighborhood Specialist Barb Lickness and Director Robert "Bob" Miller; and Citizen Participation staff Bob Cooper and Judy Duffey. Furthermore, the DMNA appreciates the work of the Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED) to make the city of Minneapolis a better place to live, work, learn and play. The DMNA would also like to thank 7th Ward Council Member Lisa Goodman for her tireless efforts to revitalize and improve the downtown community. The DMNA looks forward to working in partnership with City staff and elected officials as it implements its NRP Phase II Plan.

Finally, the DMNA Board would like to acknowledge and thank Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock for overseeing the development of the Phase II Plan and keeping the board on task during this process over the past 18 months.

## **I. Introduction – About the DMNA**

The Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA) represents the interests of people living, working and recreating in the Downtown East and Downtown West neighborhoods of Minneapolis.

The DMNA is organized and operated to promote the common good and general welfare of the community, enhance its quality of life, and promote the attractiveness of the neighborhoods for present and future residents, workers, property owners and business owners.

Civic betterment and improvement are sought through discussion, education and change. Major objectives include, but are not limited to, arranging and conducting neighborhood meetings, and studying and reviewing all proposals of a commercial, residential or housing development/rehabilitation nature.

The DMNA executes the neighborhood association functions of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funded by the City of Minneapolis and the NRP.

The DMNA seeks to encourage and maintain open communications between residents and public officials within the Minneapolis City Council and the Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED).

## **II. The Downtown West Neighborhood – See map Appendix A**

The Downtown West neighborhood is Minneapolis' central business district and is a major commercial and financial center in the upper Midwest. Its boundary extends from the Mississippi River on the northeast and along Hennepin Avenue to Washington Avenue to Third Avenue North to 12th Street to Fifth Avenue South to South 5th Street to Portland Avenue South back up to the Mississippi River.

Getting to and around downtown Minneapolis can be achieved via its connections to Interstates 35W, 94 and 394; the Hiawatha Light Rail Line; Metro Transit buses; local taxi services; new and improved on-street dedicated bike lanes; the new Nice Ride seasonal bike sharing system; and the renowned Skyway System, an interlinked collection of glass-enclosed, climate-controlled pedestrian footbridges.

Downtown West is home to the 11 tallest office buildings in Minnesota, the tallest being the iconic, 55-story multiple-use IDS Center that has a popular glass canopied Crystal Court gathering space. The tallest residential building is the 3-year-old, 39-story Carlyle condominium located in the Riverfront District just across from the south end of the multi-arched Third Avenue Bridge that spans the Mississippi River.

Six of Minnesota's twenty-one Fortune 500 corporations are headquartered here as of 2010: Ameriprise Financial, Pepsi Americas Inc., Target, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, U. S. Bancorp, and Xcel Energy.

Major accredited centers for higher learning also call Downtown West home: The Arts Institutes International Minnesota; Capella University; Globe University Minnesota School of Business; the Minneapolis campus of the University of St. Thomas and its School of Law; and Walden University.

MacPhail Center for Music, one of the nation's oldest and most respected music education centers in the nation, remains in the neighborhood after relocating from the southwest section of Downtown West into a recently-built education and performance facility in the Mill District section of Downtown West.

Whether in town for business or pleasure, Downtown West offers a variety of temporary and long-term lodging options and top-notch amenities with convenient access to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and major shopping and entertainment districts.

The destination for live entertainment as well as some of Minneapolis-St. Paul's top restaurants can be found in the Hennepin Theatre District situated along Hennepin Avenue between 5th and 10th Streets. This District is home to the Historic State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres, Block E shopping and entertainment center, and the Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts.

For a variety of retail shops, including major department stores, restaurants with sidewalk dining and/or entertainment, head to the 11-block, car-free Nicollet Mall. The Hennepin County Central Library, designed by world renowned architect César Pelli featuring a 3 green roof system designed by The Kestrel Design Group, is situated at the north end of the mall. Peavey Plaza, the modernist outdoor public space next to Orchestra Hall that is destined for renovation by Minneapolis-based Oslund and Associates, lies at the south end of the mall. In the summer every Thursday and Saturday, the Nicollet Mall is host to the popular Farmers' Market, and in the winter it is host to the family-friendly Holidazzle Parade that begins after Thanksgiving and runs Thursdays through Sundays until the week before Christmas.

Other family-friendly venues within Downtown West for enjoying birthday, school and holiday celebrations, family outings and reunions include the enclosed 3-story WaterPark and enclosed seasonal Ice Rink at the fully-renovated Milwaukee Road Depot in the Riverfront District.

Along First Avenue North, part of the 30-block Warehouse District, are a host of late 19th- and early 20th-century historic buildings that are now home to vibrant nightlife, innovative art galleries, and an eclectic mix of dining establishments. The world famous

Target Center, home to the Minnesota Timberwolves and Minnesota Lynx basketball teams, is also found on this avenue and was the first sports arena in North America to have a green roof installed.

Downtown West is also the seat of government for the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the Minneapolis U.S. District Court.

### **III. The Downtown East Neighborhood – See map Appendix B**

The Downtown East neighborhood is located in the center of downtown Minneapolis and has re-emerged as the historical and cultural center of Minneapolis. Its boundary extends from the Mississippi River on the northeast and along Portland Avenue South to South 5th Street to Interstate 35W back up to the Mississippi River.

Downtown East is home to the world renowned Guthrie Theater and the adjacent 7.5 acre Gold Medal Park; the Mall of America Field at Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome sports stadium and home to the NFL's Minnesota Vikings; the award-winning Open Book literary arts center, a flourishing haven for creative writing, publishing and printing arts activities with retail shops, gallery, meeting and performance spaces; the Mill City Museum which was built into the ruins of what once was the world's largest flour mill; the adjacent Mill Ruins Park which is considered the centerpiece of the revitalization of Minneapolis' historic West Side Milling District; and the Stone Arch Bridge, a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark that spans the Mississippi River.

Developers skilled in historic preservation, adaptive reuse and urban development for people at all income levels have converted many of the old mill buildings into condominiums and lofts, and constructed new residential and/or commercial buildings along South 2nd Street and Washington Avenue South to 11th Avenue South. Undaunting redevelopment has spurred an influx of new residents who, in turn, have attracted a variety of service and retail businesses to the area as evidenced by the arrival of the Mill City Clinic, the seasonal organic Mill City Farmers Market, the Mill City Market grocery and deli, the Minneapolis Veterinary Hospital, and numerous dining establishments offering an eclectic mix of cuisines.

### **IV. NRP Phase II Planning Process**

In June of 2008, the DMNA hired an intern from the University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs to assist with the Phase I Review and development of the Phase II Plan.

As part of the Phase I Review and the Phase II planning process, the intern conducted interviews with six prominent community leaders, including the following:

- DMNA volunteer and former Board Member Paul Barber
- NRP Neighborhood Specialist Barb Lickness
- DMNA volunteer and former Board Member Tom Hoch
- DMNA Board Member Kim Motes
- DMNA Board Member George Rosenquist
- DMNA Board Member Carletta Sweet

The intern also interviewed representatives from 12 of the organizations / entities that benefited from DMNA NRP dollars in the past, including the following:

- Alan Arthur, President and CEO of Aeon Homes, Inc.
- Barbara Banks, Program Director, Restorative Justice Community Action
- Rocco Forte, former Minneapolis Fire Chief
- Sarah Harris, Walking Minneapolis Project Coordinator
- Elizabeth Hintz, Minneapolis Public Schools
- Tom Hoch, President, Hennepin Theatre Trust
- Christine Kendrick, Director, MEDICA Skyway Senior Center
- Luther Krueger, Crime Prevention Specialist, First Precinct, Minneapolis Police Department
- Barbara McCormick, Project for Pride in Living
- Michael McLaughlin, Vice President of District Services, Minneapolis Downtown Council
- Kim Motes, Project Director, Shubert Performing Arts and Education Center
- Reggie Prim, Community Coordinator, Restorative Justice Community Action, Inc.

In addition, the intern also coordinated and facilitated two focus group meetings with community members: one group focused on the past and one looked to the future. The first focus group meeting took place on April 17, 2008, and the second occurred on June 5, 2008. Approximately 20 people participated in the focus groups.

The intern also assisted the neighborhood coordinator with the development of a survey tool that collected feedback on Phase I strategies and also gathered input for the Phase II Plan. Over 60 DMNA stakeholders responded to the survey. The DMNA distributed the survey via the DMNA email list, as well as promoted it on the DMNA website and through the *Downtown Journal*. The results of this survey are presented in Appendix C of this plan.

Finally, the DMNA Board met numerous times in 2008 and 2009 to review the results of the survey instrument, to meet personally with representatives of organizations interested in working with DMNA in Phase II, and to review drafts of the Phase II Plan. All of these activities helped create the final Phase II document presented herein.

**V. NRP Phase II Plan Overview**

To complement and build on programs and activities supported during Phase I, the DMNA intends to implement similar goals and objectives in the Phase II Plan.

**VI. NRP Phase II Plan**

**SECTION 1: Arts, Culture and Education**

**Goal 1:** The DMNA will work to ensure there are arts, cultural and educational opportunities easily accessible to people of all ages and diverse backgrounds.

**Objective 1:** Support efforts to increase or expand the availability of arts, cultural and educational resources and activities to people living, working or visiting the Downtown community.

**Strategy 1:** Assist with, support, and contribute to the creation of the Minnesota Planetarium and Space Discovery Center at the Hennepin County Central Library.

NRP Phase II Resources:                   \$15,000

**PARTNERS:** Hennepin County Central Library and the Minnesota Planetarium Association.

**TOTAL ARTS, CULTURE AND EDUCATION BUDGET:     \$15,000**

**CONTRACT MANAGER:** City of Minneapolis CPED

**CITY GOALS SUPPORTED:**

It is anticipated that in five years there will be plentiful green spaces, public gathering areas, celebrated historic architectural features, and urban forests in Minneapolis. Lakes, rivers and the soil and air will be cleaner; city parks and the Mississippi riverfront will be more valued and utilized; opportunities to experience diverse cultures and the arts will abound; and usage of renewable energy will be increasing.

In addition, Minneapolis will be the economic leader in the region with vast potential for growth and development; investors will see Minneapolis as a sure thing; a distinctive mix of amenities, entertainment and culture will be available downtown and in Minneapolis neighborhoods; people who visit the city will want to come back; the city

will be an attractive landing spot for people in all life stages and will be well positioned for the creative class; and the country will see Minneapolis as a national treasure.

**SECTION 2: Crime and Safety**

**Goal 1:** The DMNA will work to ensure that the Downtown community is a safe place to live, work, learn and play.

**Objective 1:** Support efforts to improve the perception of safety in the Downtown community.

**Strategy 1:** Continue to support safety initiatives that help improve the perception of safety (e.g., bike, foot and mounted patrol, National Night Out, and/or other programming opportunities that may present themselves).

NRP Phase II Resources: \$37,500

**PARTNERS:** Minneapolis Police Department, SafeZone Collaborative, Minneapolis Downtown Council, and the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District.

**CONTRACT MANAGER:** Minneapolis Police Department

**Objective 2:** Support initiatives that help reduce and or eliminate nuisance crime in the Downtown community.

**Strategy 1:** Continue to support safety initiatives that help reduce and or eliminate nuisance crime in the Downtown community (e.g., Court Watch/Downtown 100, Restorative Justice, SafeZone Collaborative, and/or other programming opportunities that may present themselves).

NRP Phase II Resources: \$37,500

**PARTNERS:** Minneapolis Police Department, SafeZone Collaborative, and Restorative Justice Community Action, Inc.

**CONTRACT MANAGER:** Development Finance Division of City's Finance Department

**Objective 3:** Increase efforts to strengthen the neighborhoods' relationship with the police department and other public safety organizations.

**Strategy 1:** Contract with the Minneapolis Police Department First Precinct for directed patrols that address specific neighborhood issues and problems.

NRP Phase II Resources: \$39,975 (COPSIRF Funds\*)

*\* When the City was struggling with Local Government Aid cuts that would impact its budget, and as part of the discussion to ensure NRP access to Common Project and Brookfield Loan repayment funds that began earlier that year, on August 18, 2003, the NRP Policy Board approved the allocation of \$1 million to the Community Oriented Public Safety Initiative Reserve Fund (COPSIRF) that was established for services that are over and above the level of general City public safety services after the budget reductions occur from the reduced level of LGA. The City deducted the COPSIRF dollars from the NRP funds available to all neighborhoods in Phase II before the individual neighborhood allocations were calculated. Downtown East and West was awarded \$39,975 for its project involving Community Response Teams (CRT) for directing patrols to address livability crimes and expanding use of Community Crime Prevention/SafeZone (CCP/SAFE) on problem solving in the area. The COPSIRF project should be a strategy in the neighborhood's Phase II action plan but not a deduction against the neighborhoods' Phase II allocation.*

**TOTAL CRIME AND SAFETY BUDGET: \$75,000 (plus an additional \$39,975 in COPSIRF Funds)**

**CITY GOAL ACCOMPLISHED:**

In five years all Minneapolis residents will have a better quality of life and access to housing and services; residents will live in a healthy environment and benefit from healthy lifestyles; the city's infrastructure will be well maintained and people will feel safe in the city.

**SECTION 3: Downtown Development**

**Goal 1:** The DMNA will work to ensure that the Downtown community is a clean, attractive and vibrant place to live, work, learn and play.

**Objective 1:** Continue coordinating and facilitating the DMNA Land Use Committee to review land use proposals, plans and initiatives related to public works, housing, commercial and institutional development.

**Strategy 1:** Provide staff support for the Land Use Committee

NRP Phase II Resources: \$0

**PARTNERS:** Minneapolis CPED, Minneapolis Downtown Council, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District, East Downtown Council, Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., Citizens for a Loring Park Community, North Loop Neighborhood Association, and 2020 Partners.

**CONTRACT MANAGER:** Neighborhood Revitalization Program

**Objective 2:** Work in partnership with the City of Minneapolis and other Downtown organizations to design and sustain a vibrant, healthy and safe community.

**Strategy 1:** Provide staffing support to help coordinate communications and programming between other Downtown organizations working to create an economically viable and safe place to live, work, learn and play.

NRP Phase II Resources: \$0

**PARTNERS:** Minneapolis CPED, Minneapolis Downtown Council, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District, Minneapolis Riverfront Corporation, East Downtown Council, Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., Citizens for a Loring Park Community, North Loop Neighborhood Association, and 2020 Partners.

**CONTRACT MANAGER:** Neighborhood Revitalization Program

**Objective 3:** Improve the walk-ability and accessibility of the Downtown community.

**Strategy 1:** Support initiatives that improve pedestrian access and make the Downtown community more pedestrian and handicap friendly.

NRP Phase II Resources: \$34,650

**PARTNERS:** Minneapolis CPED, Minneapolis Downtown Council, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District, Minneapolis Riverfront Corporation, East Downtown Council, Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., Citizens for a Loring Park Community, North Loop Neighborhood Association, and 2020 Partners.

**CONTRACT MANAGER:** City of Minneapolis Public Works

**Objective 4:** Improve and expand alternative transportation systems into and around the Downtown and reduce dependency on automobiles.

**Strategy 1:** Support initiatives that improve and expand Downtown transportation systems and ultimately reduce dependency on automobiles.

NRP Phase II Resources: \$34,650

**PARTNERS:** Hennepin County, Minneapolis CPED, Minneapolis Public Works, Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit, and 2020 Partners.

**CONTRACT MANAGER:** City of Minneapolis Public Works

**Objective 5:** Improve and expand green spaces in the Downtown community, particularly in the residential areas of the neighborhoods.

**Strategy 1:** Support efforts to improve and expand green spaces in the Downtown community, particularly in the residential areas of the neighborhoods.

NRP Phase II Resources: \$34,650

**PARTNERS:** Minneapolis CPED, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, Minneapolis Public Works, Minneapolis Downtown Council, Minneapolis Riverfront Corporation, East Downtown Council, Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., Citizens for a Loring Park Community, North Loop Neighborhood Association, and 2020 Partners.

**CONTRACT MANAGER:** City of Minneapolis Public Works

**TOTAL DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT BUDGET: \$103,950.10**

**CITY GOALS SUPPORTED:**

In five years, Minneapolis will be a connected collection of sustainable urban villages where residents will live within walking distance of what they need or of public transit; there will be a connected network of transportation options; streets will be destinations; a mix of unique small businesses will be thriving; and Minneapolis' neighborhoods will have unique identities and character.

In addition, there will be plentiful green spaces, public gathering areas, celebrated historic architectural features and urban forests in Minneapolis; lakes, rivers and the soil and air will be clean; the city's parks and the Mississippi riverfront will be valued and utilized; opportunities to experience diverse cultures and the arts will abound; and usage of renewable energy will be increasing.

**SECTION 4: Housing**

**Goal 1:** The DMNA will work to maintain and build upon the strength, vitality and stability of the neighborhood by providing a variety of housing opportunities to meet the needs of all members of the community.

**Objective 1:** Increase opportunities for affordable housing in the Downtown area.

**Objective 2:** Support the preservation and maintenance of existing housing in the Downtown area.

**Objective 3:** Support the construction of market rate life-cycle housing that will have a long-term, positive impact on the Downtown community.

**Strategy 1:** Establish a revolving loan funding pool. Develop a Request for Proposal to entertain applications for projects that satisfy all of the above objectives. There may be more than one revolving loan funding pool that supports different types of projects.

NRP Phase II Resources: \$500,000

**PARTNERS:** City of Minneapolis CPED

**CONTRACT MANAGER:** City of Minneapolis CPED

**Objective 4:** Support efforts to reduce and/or eliminate homelessness in the Downtown community.

**Strategy 1:** Provide financial support to organizations working toward ending homelessness in the Downtown community.

NRP Phase II Resources: \$139,216.90

**PARTNERS:** Minneapolis CPED, Hennepin County, Heading Home Hennepin, St. Stephen's Human Services, Salvation Army Harbor Lights, and Sharing and Caring Hands / Mary's Place.

**CONTRACT MANAGER:** Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis CPED

## **CITY GOALS SUPPORTED:**

In five years all Minneapolis residents will have a better quality of life and access to housing and services; residents will live in a healthy environment and benefit from healthy lifestyles; the city's infrastructure will be well-maintained and people will feel safe in the city.

In addition, the gap will be closing for access to housing, health care, education and employment; diversity will be welcome, respected and valued; the city's middle class will be thriving; there will be living-wage jobs or entrepreneurial opportunities for everyone; all residents will have confidence in public safety services; and residents will have access to fair, open and transparent decision-making.

**Strategy 2:** Provide affordable housing opportunities for Downtown residents at the Lamoreaux Apartments and St. Anthony Mills Apartments.

NRP Phase II Resources: \$800,000 (\$400,000 AHRF\* appropriation for the Lamoreaux Apartments, and \$400,000 AHRF appropriation for the St. Anthony Mills Apartments).

*\* The NRP Policy Board first established the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund (AHRF) in 2001. It was placed on hold until January 28, 2002, when the City Council first committed to funding Phase II. On March 1, 2002, the City approved the appropriation for the first year of the AHRF. In all, there were three rounds of AHRF allocations (2002, 2004 and 2005). The Lamoreaux Apartments Project in Downtown West was included in the first round of AHRF approvals: by the NRP Policy Board on March 25, 2005, and subsequently by the City on April 19, 2002. St. Anthony Mills Apartments Project in Downtown East was included in the third and final round of AHRF approvals: by the NRP Policy Board on February 28, 2005, and subsequently by the City on April 15, 2005.*

**CONTRACT MANAGER:** City of Minneapolis CPED

## **CITY GOALS SUPPORTED:**

In five years all Minneapolis residents will have a better quality of life and access to housing and services; residents will live in a healthy environment and benefit from healthy lifestyles; the city's infrastructure will be well-maintained and people will feel safe in the city.

In addition, the gap will be closing for access to housing, health care, education and employment; diversity will be welcome, respected and valued; the city's middle class will be thriving; there will be living-wage jobs or entrepreneurial opportunities for everyone; all residents will have confidence in public safety services; and residents will have access to fair, open and transparent decision-making processes.

**TOTAL HOUSING BUDGET: \$639,216.90 (plus an additional \$800,000 in AHRF funds)**

**Section 5: NRP Plan Implementation**

**Goal 1:** Provide members of the Downtown community with an opportunity for self-government and the ability to participate in grass roots initiatives through sustaining and enhancing the activities and programs of the DMNA.

**Objective 1:** Ensure resources and capacities are available to realize the goals and implement the strategies of DMNA's NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan in fulfillment of the organization's mission.

**Strategy 1:** Provide staff and administrative support to help implement all components of DMNA's NRP Phase II Plan.

NRP Phase II Resources: \$80,000

**CONTRACT MANAGER:** Neighborhood Revitalization Program

**TOTAL IMPLEMENTATION BUDGET: \$80,000**

**CITY GOAL ACCOMPLISHED:**

Promote public, community and private partnerships to address disparities and to support strong, healthy families and communities.

Strengthen City government management and enhance community engagement.

**OVERALL NRP PHASE II BUDGET: \$913,167.00**

<b>Phase II Strategies</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Percentage of Plan</b>
Arts, Culture and Education	\$15,000.00	2%
Crime and Safety	\$75,000.00	8%
Downtown Development	\$103,950.10	11%
Housing	\$639,216.90	70%
Implementation	\$80,000.00	9%
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$913,167.00</b>	<b>100%</b>