



Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

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First Universalist Foundation Grant Application

Summary Information

Title of Project: Choices for Community: A Regional Conversation About the Challenges of Education, Housing and Segregation in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Name of Organization: Education and Housing Equity Project

Contact Person: Dick Little, Director

Address: 2211 Riverside Avenue, #185
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Phone: (612) 330-1505

Requested Amount: \$1,500

Project Summary:

The Education and Housing Equity Project is collaborating with other partner organizations to engage citizens from all walks of life in informed public conversations and action forums to address the interrelated challenges of residential segregation, racial and economic inequality, and access to quality education and life opportunities for all citizens, especially students and families of color. To accomplish this objective, we have developed the Community Circles Collaborative, an initiative that involves citizens in *community circles*. A community circle is a democratic, highly participatory process for small group deliberation, which we have modeled after the study circles promoted by the Study Circles Resource Center, the issues forums developed by the Kettering Foundation's National Issues Forums, and the Communities of Color Empowerment Model of the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (one of our partners in this project). Community circles are comprised of 10 – 15 people who meet over a period of weeks or months (for example, 5 sessions of two hours each) to address a critical public issue in a democratic and collaborative way. We have collaborated with 30 different organizations representing a diversity of viewpoints and expertise to develop a discussion guide which will help to inform and focus the conversations. We have also collaborated with facilitator organizations, such as the Minnesota Facilitators Network and the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution, to moderate the conversations. At this time we are reaching out to partner with potential sponsor organizations to help recruit participants, provide meeting spaces and supporting services to enable diverse participation (child care, transportation, interpretive services, copy services for informative reading material, food and beverages), and scribes to capture on paper the conversation highlights. The conversations will culminate with an Action Forum to connect participants with social justice opportunities and promising action initiatives. A Citizens Summit will also be held at the conclusion of the circle discussions to bring together the community circles and to share findings, conclusions and recommendations with area policy officials and the larger community.

The grant from the Universalist Foundation will be used for a critical part of this project: Special training for the facilitators and sponsors that will assure that the conversations focus on issues of race, equity and social justice. The first training event will consist of an all-day workshop on the nature of institutional racism and how we can collectively undo it. The second event will be a workshop on cross-cultural communication multi-cultural collaboration. These workshops will be offered to the facilitators in lieu of financial compensation and as an incentive. The racism workshop will also provide a lens through which the issues can be understood and will strengthen the facilitators ability to deepen the level of participant conversations to address underlying and structural, root cause issues. The intercultural workshop will expand facilitators' ability to effectively work with a diverse range of participants and sponsors' ability to reach out and include a diverse range of participants.

Attached is a copy of our proposal to the St. Paul Companies for operating funds, which resulted in a grant award this last month. This should answer most of the questions contained on your grant application form. We fully expect to be working with the First Universalist Church, which sponsored a successful community circle in the first round of conversations in 1997, and with the Unitarian-Universalist Metro Stability Committee as a project planning partner •

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**First Universalist Foundation
Grant Application**

ADDRESSING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Public conversation about the possibilities for inclusive and integrated communities is rare, usually divisive and poorly informed, not conducted in a systematic or sustained way, and with too few groups and individuals involved. These barriers imperil the chances of building inclusive and integrated communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The principal danger is that public discourse can quickly settle into simplistic, distorted polarities – neighborhood schools versus forced busing, quality education versus desegregation, core cities versus suburbs, rich versus poor and, of course, whites versus people of color (especially African-Americans). A climate of public opinion poisoned by these divisions inevitably limits what policy makers and elected officials, as well as advocates and community leaders, feel they are able to do.

The Education & Housing Equity Project (EHEP) was created in early 1995 by education and housing advocates to link the issue of school desegregation with the broader issue of segregated housing and neighborhoods. The organization's mission is to build broad-based coalitions and engage the community in open dialogue to promote racially and economically inclusive communities that give families of all incomes and ethnicities access to schools and housing throughout the metropolitan area.

EHEP pursues its mission through a three-part strategy:

- (1) Coalition building and advocacy;
- (2) Community education and public conversation; and
- (3) Assistance to communities in becoming more inclusive and integrated.

During the early development of EHEP, the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAHA) served as the sponsoring organization and fiscal agent for the group. EHEP has since developed into an independent organization with 501(c)(3) status, established its own Board of Directors, begun a process of strategic planning, and collaborated with other organizations and individuals to determine the best strategies for making progress on the issues of school and housing segregation. Several months of one-to-one interviews and numerous discussions were conducted with a broad range of community leaders and experts in the fields of housing, education, race relations, and metropolitan stability. EHEP then brought together over 30 organizations to begin building a broad-based coalition to address and work on these issues. EHEP has helped expand the base of existing partners by connecting them with related organizations and encouraging them to link housing and school issues in their work. It has also worked to re-draft the State Board of Education's desegregation rule and encouraged a fair housing coalition in suburban Hennepin County to frame this issue in the context of schools and broader life opportunities.

In February 1996, EHEP partnered with the Minneapolis Initiative Against Racism, the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing, the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, and the Minnesota Fair Housing Center to create the Community Circle Collaborative (CCC). During 1996, the Collaborative grew to become a broad-based partnership of community-based organizations, public officials and individuals that shared a commitment to the issues of educational inequities and housing segregation. They were joined by sponsor organizations and facilitators to form and implement a metro-wide study circle project in which citizens from all walks of life have joined together – 5-15 at a time – throughout the metro area to discuss two central questions:

- “What are the impacts of existing patterns of residential, economic and racial segregation on the educational achievement and life opportunities of Twin Cities area children and families?” and

- “What can or should we do, as individuals and as a community, to enhance educational success, and housing and economic opportunities for *all* children in the Twin Cities area?”

During 1997, 25 Community Circles consisting of more than 300 citizens completed their deliberations. Reports prepared by these study groups are being synthesized into a single summary document that will be published next month.

PROPOSAL

Current plans for the Community Circles project include a second, expanded round of Community Circle discussions to be held in the fall of 1997 and winter of 1998. This round will build upon the findings of the first round of community circle discussions, and include updated training for moderators and facilitators and a discussion guide with a bibliography and readings. It will also include additional partners not significantly represented in the spring of 1997 round, such as the business community, outer ring suburbs and additional groups representing communities of color. It will also build more diversity within each study circle group. Sponsors of the first round of discussions strongly recommended that the second round “pair” disparate groups, e.g. city-suburban, whites-people of color. The discussions will also be more sharply clearly focused on the questions of building more inclusive communities and on identifying specific action steps. The Collaborative will conclude the second round with a metro-wide Citizens Summit, co-sponsored with the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio.

The Community Circle Collaborative has developed a unique methodology of fostering conversation among disparate members of the Twin Cities communities. The community circle study groups not only discuss issues and problems, but also develop action registers and common solutions that can be used by the social justice groups, decision makers and the community at large.

The CCC is also unique in that it has focused on the region as a whole and on consciously linking the issues of housing, education and employment. According to the Study Circles Resource Center, we are the only organization/project *in the nation* that is currently engaged in this kind of collaborative, grassroots dialogue and mobilization effort.

In order to ensure the success of the Community Circle Collaborative’s “Choices For Community” Study Circle Project, it is essential to provide increased recruitment efforts for persons of color as sponsors, facilitators and participants. It is also important to provide a “welcoming” atmosphere that reflects the value and appreciation of their participation and contributions. The First Universalist Foundation Grant would be used to assist the Community Circle Collaborative and participating sponsors in providing increased efforts for the recruitment, outreach efforts and involvement of both facilitators and participants of color. In addition, part of the funding would be allocated to Community Circles to enable successful “pairing” of groups and participants by providing support and amenities, such as childcare, transportation, refreshments, sponsor/facilitator stipends, and of relevant reading, training and discussion materials. The CCC has established as a primary goal increasing the diversity of Community Circle participants, with regard to race, ethnicity, income, place of residence and political perspective. The involvement of more people of color in each Community Circle will be also be enhanced by recruitment of more Asian-American, African American, Latino and American Indian facilitators and sponsor organizations that include or represent communities of color.

INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

The First Universalist Church participated in the first round of Community Circle discussions as a sponsor with the Metro Stability Task Force, and hosted a study circle. In addition, members of the First

Universalist Church participated in this and other study circles as facilitators and participants. Based on the new features and improvements for a second round of discussions, we anticipate that the First Universalist Church will continue to participate by involving other members of its congregation and, hopefully, by encouraging participation by other Unitarian-Universalist congregations in the metropolitan area. The involvement of the Church has been of great value to the Community Circle project and prior participants will be encouraged to recruit additional members for involvement.

PROJECT TIMELINE / SCHEDULE

October 1997:

- report of the Community Circle discussions conducted from March - June 1997 to be published and distributed.
- a "Blue Ribbon" Advisory Committee, including representatives from the Round I Community Circles, to review the final report and survey results and make recommendations for Round II
- meetings with Community Circle Sponsors to communicate the results of Round I.
- recruitment of Sponsors for Round II.
- recruitment and training of Facilitators for Round II begun
- Round II Community Circle discussions arranged and organized.
- Reporting format and system for gathering and assessing the results for Round II discussions to be designed.
- synopses and abstracts of selected reading and other resources to be prepared and made available in collaboration with libraries (Librarians for Social Responsibility).

November 1997:

- Round II kick-off events to be held with Sponsors, Facilitators and Participants
- Community Circles to be "paired" to increase diversity for Round II discussions
- Community Circles may begin Round II discussions
- speakers resource panel established for making requested presentations to Community Circles.

December 1997:

- Round II Community Circle discussions to begin for some, continue for others already begun.

January 1998:

- Round II Community Circle discussions to continue.
- survey of Community Circles and gathering of preliminary Round II discussion results to
- mid-course review meeting with Sponsors and Facilitators to be conducted.

February 1998:

- Round II Community Circles discussions to be completed.
- Community Circle reports compiled.
- "Blue Ribbon" Committee to formulate questions for use in the Citizens Summit.

March 1998:

- Citizens Summit to be held.
- combined report for Rounds I and II to be prepared.
- Community Circle follow-up activities and action phase to be inaugurated.

<u>Objective / Action</u>	<u>Timeline</u>	<u>Evaluation Method</u>
Recruit 75 additional Sponsors & Facilitators (50% people of color)	10/97 – 11/97	Registration Forms Data Analysis
Recruit additional Participants	10/97 – 11/97	Data Analysis
Provide Training for 75 Facilitators	10/97 or 11/97	Evaluation Survey
Match Facilitators with 50 new		Data Base Analysis

Conduct Round II Community Circles	11/97 - 2/98	Evaluation Survey
Compile Reports & Formulate Questions for Citizens Summit	2/98 - 3/98	Data Analysis
Conduct Citizens Summit	3/98	Evaluation Survey

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Funding Sources (operating funds)

	1997	998
Otto Bremer Foundation	\$25,000	\$25,000
Cowles Media Foundation	\$10,000	\$10,000
Bush Foundation (Community Circle Collaborative Project)	\$10,000	
Minneapolis Foundation (Citizens Summit)	\$ 5,000	
St. Paul Foundation (Citizens Summit)	\$ 5,000	
Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (in-kind contributions, internships)	\$ 5,000	
Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (Discussion Guide)	\$ 300	
General Mills Foundation (Discussion Guide)	\$ 500	
Norwest Bank-Maple Grove	\$ 500	
Collaborative Partners (in-kind support)	\$13,500	

ORGANIZATIONAL BUDGET and PROJECT BUDGET

	ORG. BUDGET	PROJ. BUDGET
INCOME	Current Fiscal Year (ending 12/97)	
Corporations / Foundations	56,300	2,500
In-Kind / Community Circle Partners	14,600	1,000
Total Income:	72,900	3,500
EXPENSES		
Salaries	25,000	
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	3,900	
Professional Services	9,700	
Fiscal Agent Fee & Rent	2,600	
Utilities (LD Phone/Fax)	300	
Printing & Copying	4,500	
Supplies	800	
Postage	1,600	
Equipment	2,000	

Insurance	1,000	
Conferences/Meetings/Training	3,600	
Staff Develop./Expenses	600	
Transportation	600	
-----	TOTAL EXPENSES	56,300
		3,500 for use by community circles
		Grant will be used to leverage additl. \$

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

The Community Circle Collaborative project has and will continue to measure its success in tangible ways. These measures include:

- the breadth and depth of participation in the study circles by local and regional citizens.
- Breadth and depth means diversity of participants in terms of ideas, race, place of residence, age, and economic status.
- It also includes number of participants and conversations.
- The project's impact will also be measured by having its findings and recommendations publicly addressed by the State Legislature, and included in the agendas of state and local public, private and civic non-profit / community-based organizations (the NAACP mediation process, the Holman Settlement, Minnesota Milestones, the Metropolitan Blueprint, the Urban Coalition's 50-30 initiative, MICAH's Suburban Housing Initiative, etc).

ATTACHMENTS

IRS Tax Status Identification Letter

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

The Education & Housing Equity Project (EHEP) was created in early 1995 by a group of education and housing advocates who shared a belief in the pressing need to link the issue of school desegregation / integration with the broader issue of segregated housing and neighborhoods. The organization's mission is to act as a catalyst to build broad-based coalitions and engage the community in public conversations and advocacy for the purpose of promoting racially and economically inclusive communities that give families of all incomes, races, and ethnicities access to schools and housing throughout the metropolitan area. EHEP pursues its mission through a three-part strategy: (1) Coalition building and advocacy; (2) Community education and public conversation; and (3) Assisting communities in becoming more inclusive and integrated.

EHEP worked to develop itself as an organization which has included beginning a process of strategic planning, and collaborating with other organizations and individuals to determine the best strategies for making progress on issues of school desegregation / integration and housing / neighborhood segregation. EHEP collaboratively brought together over 30 organizations to begin the process of building a broad-based coalition that addresses and works on these inter-related issues. EHEP has also helped expand the base and scope of existing coalitions by connecting them with related organizations and encouraging the linkage of housing and school issues in their work.

In February 1996, EHEP partnered with the Minneapolis Initiative Against Racism, the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing, the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, and the Minnesota Fair Housing Center to create the Community Circle Collaborative (CCC). This is a metro-wide dialogue project in which at least 500 citizens from all walks of life have joined together – 5-15 at a time – in 35 study circles held throughout the metro area to discuss two central questions:

- “What are the impacts of existing patterns of residential, economic and racial segregation on the educational achievement and life opportunities of Twin Cities area children and families?” and

• “What can or should we do, as individuals and as a community, to enhance educational success, and housing and economic opportunities for *all* children in the Twin Cities area?”

At the conclusion of each round of Community Circles, local community meetings and metro-wide Citizens Forums will be convened with representatives from the sponsor organizations as well as policy makers, educators, community leaders, and other study circle members. These local meetings and metro-wide forums will provide opportunities to discuss the results of the Community Circle deliberative conversations and will enable broader engagement and education of the public. A specially selected Collaborative Task Force will consist of public, business, church and community leaders and will focus on engagement and education of public policy and institutional leaders.

In order to ensure the success of the Community Circle Collaborative’s “Choices For Community” Study Circle Project, it is essential to provide skilled and well-trained facilitators for the study circles. The First Universalist Foundation Grant would be used to provide increased recruitment efforts for persons of color as sponsors, facilitators and participants, to provide support services and amenities for “paired” groups of participants and to develop relevant training and discussion materials. The CCC has established as a primary goal the increase in the diversity of Community Circle participants, with regard to race, income, and political perspective. The promotion and involvement of more people of color in these Community Circles would be greatly enhanced by the involvement of more sponsors and facilitators who are representative of the constituencies of communities of color.

First Universalist Foundation Grant Application

Summary Information

Title of project:

Name of your organization:

Contact person:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Requested amount (we particularly encourage applications between \$500 and \$2500):

Briefly summarize your project and its purpose. (Please include answers to the following questions: What are the project goals? Who will it serve? What makes it important or unique?)

Attach to this sheet the answers to the following questions and a copy of your IRS tax status identification letter (or that of your fiscal agent). Please do not exceed five pages of attachments.

1. How does your project address the social justice needs of our community?
2. Do you have a plan for involving members of First Universalist Church? If so, please describe it.
3. What is the timeline/schedule of your project?
4. What other financial resources are you pursuing? Have you received commitments from any other sources?
5. What is your budget for (a) this project, and (b) your overall organization (if applicable).
6. How will you evaluate your project? What are your criteria for success?

Return 10 copies of your proposal to: First Universalist Foundation 3400 Dupont Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55408

18457

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

3400 DUPONT AVE. S.
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55408

RICHFIELD BANK & TRUST CO.
RICHFIELD, MN 55423

75-1649/910

12/04/98

\$*****2,000.00

DATE

AMOUNT

**2,000 and NO/100 Dollars

PAY
TO THE
ORDER
OF

Education and Housing Equity
Augsburg College - Dick Little
2211 Riverside Ave. #CB 185
Minneapolis MN 55454

Kent Myhrum
Margaret Keintz
TWO SIGNATURES REQUIRED OVER \$500.00



18555

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

3400 DUPONT AVE. S.
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55408

RICHFIELD BANK & TRUST CO.
RICHFIELD, MN 55423

75-1649/910

01/11/99

\$*****1,000.00

DATE

AMOUNT

**1,000 and NO/100 Dollars

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