



Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

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Discussion Guide

Materials for each session

	Primary session question	Background information	Views to explore	Reading excerpts	Discussion questions	Additional readings
Session 1	<i>How does the community in which we live and our personal experiences as members of that community affect the education of our children?</i>	Introduction to study circle process	Sharing of personal experiences			
Session 2	<i>What does residential segregation mean in the Twin Cities metropolitan area today?</i>	Current metro housing patterns - by race & by income	Different perspectives on the causes of residential segregation			
Session 3	<i>What is the state of educational opportunity and achievement in the Twin Cities today?</i>	Current metro education patterns: -- Racial & socioeconomic makeup across different school districts -- Achievement statistics across different school districts -- Resources available across different school districts	Various perspectives on these differences			
Session 4	<i>How is the composition of our communities affecting these differences in educational opportunity and achievement?</i>	Effects of residential segregation: -- Effects of concentrated poverty on schools -- Need for busing/ desegregation -- Differences in tax resources -- Lack of interaction across races and classes	Different perspectives on this connection and the effects			
Session 5	<i>What can we do in our communities? What larger policies are needed?</i>	Summary of group's discussion thus far	Different approaches and policies proposed		Group development of strategies	

THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE COLLABORATIVE

PLEDGE OF PARTICIPATION FOR: SPONSORS

Responsibilities of the Working Group:

1. Form partnerships with public officials, organizations, and individuals working to address housing, education, employment, and racism issues, and seek their support.
2. Recruit a broad group of Resource Partners and Sponsors to carry out the program.
3. Promote and publicize the project through the media and through Sponsor organizations.
4. Work with Resource Partners to prepare a Discussion Guide for the community circles and provide research support to the community circles.
5. Work with Sponsors as they recruit participants, identify meeting sites, and arrange for the details of individual community circles. When necessary, pair homogenous groups of participants to create diverse study circles.
6. Work with Resource Partners and Sponsors to organize Community Forums I and II.
7. Coordinate fundraising for the project.
8. Train community circle facilitators.
9. Draw on feedback from the community circles to prepare a report for the community.
10. Evaluate the community circles and other components of the project.

Responsibilities of Sponsors:

1. Become a well-informed spokesperson for the program by participating in a pilot study circle, or at least by reading through the Discussion Guide.
2. Establish one or more study circles in collaboration with the Working Group and facilitator(s).
3. Recruit between 8 and 15 people for each community circle.
4. Arrange a site for each community circle and a meeting time convenient for participants and facilitators.
5. Distribute discussion materials prior to each community circle's first session.
6. Recommend possible facilitators and recorders.
7. Promote the program by any means possible, including bulletins, newsletters, and personal contacts.
8. Participate in presentation of results of each community circle at Community Forum II.
9. Where possible, provide in-kind contributions such as child care, meeting space, and transportation (see below).

Name of sponsoring organization or agency that you represent:	
Your name:	
Your address:	
Your telephone & fax:	
Your e-mail (if applicable):	

I understand the responsibilities of Sponsors and commit my organization to this project. This commitment is based on approval from our Board of Directors, Executive Director, or other appropriate authority.

In addition, my organization can provide the following if necessary:

Child care Refreshments Transportation (specify: _____)
 Meeting space Facilitator training Translator(s) Recorder(s)
 Media equipment Volunteers for Community Forums I & II Other: _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Return to:
 Darcy Seaver
 Education & Housing Equity Project, c/o MICAH
 122 W Franklin Ave #320
 Minneapolis MN 55404
 tel: (612) 871-8980 fax: (612) 871-8984

I am interested in receiving more information about participating in the Community Circle Collaborative's metro-wide dialogue project.

Name:	
Organization:	
Address:	
Telephone & fax:	
E-mail (if applicable):	
Role or area that I am interested in:	<input type="checkbox"/> Coordinating Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> Community Circle Participant <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure yet

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Community Circle Collaborative

We need your help!

Who do you know who might be interested in participating as a Sponsor group or as an individual participant in a study circle? We'll invite them to the Kick-Off Event.

Please list contact names and addresses (if it's handy) and return to Darcy at MICAH by October 31. Fax is 871-8984; Mailing address is 122 W. Franklin, #320, Minneapolis 55404. **Thank You!**

1. Contact Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

2. Contact Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

3. Contact Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

4. Contact Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

5. Contact Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

6. Contact Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

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Address:

Phone:

8. Contact Name:

Organization:

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THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE COLLABORATIVE

SUMMARY

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The partners that make up the Collaborative are coming together with a shared belief in the need for civil, informed dialogue and collective analysis - across all racial, economic, and political lines - about the trends and changes taking place in the communities and schools of the Twin Cities metro area today. It is our hope that bringing together such groups will both build understanding and produce practical recommendations for actions that organizations, policy makers, and individuals can take. Our inspiration comes from successful, large-scale programs already launched in a number of communities around the country.

Project Goals

1. To discuss how the community in which we live and our personal experiences as members of that community affect children's education.
2. To educate participants about other communities' perspectives and experiences.
3. To examine the challenges that housing segregation pose for our educational system.
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Community circles are small, highly participatory discussion groups that engage people in controversial, political, thought-provoking topics. The community circles model combines the small-group discussion groups known as "study circles" with a model developed by the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, which stresses providing information and research services to the groups, the cooperative development of strategies by the groups, and subsequent community forums organized by the groups.

A typical community circle will include 5-15 members. Each community circle will be as economically, ethnically, racially, and politically diverse as possible. Each group will meet for approximately 10 hours and be led by a trained facilitator. A common *Discussion Guide* that includes readings, presentations of a range of viewpoints, and discussion questions will be used by all the groups. Beyond these base materials, however, each group is encouraged to set the framework for subsequent circle discussion and request research on specific topics. The community circle approach provides a framework for dialogue that allows participants to address an issue, examine different views on both the problem and possible remedies, and pursue concerns and solutions that interest and motivate them toward action.

Levels of Organizational Involvement

Critical to the success of the project is the effective mobilization of the different organizations that make up the collaborative. To facilitate involvement, the collaborative has identified a specific process and structure. The structure identifies the roles and responsibilities of the project's partners as follows:

Project Coordinators will manage the project by providing the necessary staff support, fundraising, conducting research, and implementing the project evaluation. Organizations that agree to be Project Coordinators will sign a *Pledge of Participation* outlining their roles and responsibilities in the project.

Resource Partners will play an advisory role regarding project design, fundraising, future projects, information/research, in-kind contributions, and/or technical assistance. Resource partners will sign a *Pledge of Participation* outlining their roles and responsibilities.

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Address:	
Telephone & fax:	
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Discussion Guide

5/28/96 draft outline

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Foreword -- Why talk about how residential segregation effects education?

Discussion Materials

Introduction -- New challenges facing our metropolitan-area communities and schools

Session 1 -- *How does the community in which we live and our personal experiences as members of that community affect the education of our children?*

- Introduction to the study circle process
- Sharing of personal experiences

Session 2 -- *What does residential segregation mean in the Twin Cities metropolitan area today?*

- Current metro housing patterns - by race & by income
- Presentation and exploration of different perspectives on the causes of residential segregation

Session 3 -- *What is the state of educational opportunity and achievement in the Twin Cities today?*

- Current metro education patterns
 - Racial & socioeconomic makeup across different school districts
 - Achievement statistics across different school districts
 - Resources available across different school districts
- Presentation and exploration of various perspectives on these differences

Session 4 -- *How is the composition of our communities affecting these differences in educational opportunity and achievement?*

- Effects of residential segregation
 - Effects of concentrated poverty on schools
 - Need for busing/desegregation
 - Differences in tax resources
 - Lack of interaction across races and classes
- Presentation and exploration of different perspectives on this connection and effects

Session 5 -- *What can we do?*

- Presentation and exploration of different approaches and perspectives on what should be done
- Group development of strategies

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5/28/96 draft table

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THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE COLLABORATIVE

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Responsibilities of the Working Group:

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6. Work with Resource Partners and Sponsors to organize Community Forums I and II.
7. Coordinate fundraising for the project.
8. Train community circle facilitators.
9. Draw on feedback from the community circles to prepare a report for the community.
10. Evaluate the community circles and other components of the project.

My/Our Responsibilities as a Resource Partner:

- ___ Act as advisor regarding project design and coordination
- ___ Assist in preparing Discussion Guide (through _____)
- ___ Assist in providing research support to community circles (areas of expertise: _____)
- ___ Make information regarding _____ available to the Working Group
- ___ Assist fundraising efforts (through _____)
- ___ Assist publicity efforts (through _____)
- ___ Train facilitators
- ___ Participate in Community Forums as speaker, panelist, or workshop presenter.
- ___ Other: _____
- ___ Other: _____
- ___ Other: _____
- ___ Other: _____

Name of Resource Partner organization or agency that you represent:	
Your name:	
Your address:	
Your telephone & fax:	
Your e-mail (if applicable):	

I understand my/our responsibilities as a Resource Partner and commit my organization/self to this project. If we are an organization, this commitment is based on approval from our Board of Directors, Executive Director, or other appropriate authority.

Signature

Date

Return to:
Darcy Seaver
Education & Housing Equity Project, c/o MICAH
122 W Franklin Ave #320
Minneapolis MN 55404
tel: (612) 871-8930 fax: (612) 871-8984

THE COMMUNITY CIRCLES COLLABORATIVE

PLEDGE OF PARTICIPATION FOR: COORDINATING PARTNERS

Responsibilities of the Working Group:

1. Form partnerships with public officials, organizations, and individuals working to address housing, education, employment, and racism issues, and seek their support.
2. Recruit a broad group of Resource Partners and Sponsors to carry out the program.
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7. Coordinate fundraising for the project.
8. Train community circle facilitators.
9. Draw on feedback from the community circles to prepare a report for the community.
10. Evaluate the community circles and other components of the project.

My/Our Responsibilities as a Coordinating Partner:

1. Participate regularly and actively in the Working Group.
2. Coordinate activities of at least one committee of the Working Group (Fundraising; Partner Recruitment & Coordination; Discussion Guide & Research Support; Policymaker Outreach; Facilitator Training; Publicity; Forums; Research Support; or others as identified by the Working Group).
3. Become a well-informed spokesperson for the project by participating in a pilot study circle, or at least reading through the Discussion Guide.
4. Promote the project by any means possible, including bulletins, newsletters, and personal contacts.
5. Provide a Letter of Support for fundraising and other purposes.
6. Provide at least ___ staff hours per week to the project between June and July 1996.
7. Provide at least ___ staff hours per week to the project in August and September 1996.
8. Provide at least ___ staff hours per week to the project between October and December 1996.
9. Other: _____
10. Other: _____

Name of collaborating organization or agency that you represent:	
Your name:	
Your address:	
Your telephone & fax:	
Your e-mail (if applicable):	

I understand our responsibilities as a Coordinating Partner and commit my organization to this project. This commitment is based on approval by our Board of Directors, Executive Director, or other appropriate authority.

Signature

Date

Return to:
Dary Seaver
Education & Housing Equity Project, c/o MIC.AH
122 W Franklin Ave #320
Minneapolis MN 55404
tel: (612) 871-8980 fax: (612) 871-8984

Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, Inc.

Date: June 4, 1996
To: Darcy Seaver
From: Bruce Vandal, Research and Evaluation Specialist
Subject: Feedback on pledges of participation

These look very good Darcy. I have only a couple of suggestions.

Under the Responsibilities of the Working Group, should we include evaluation as a component?

Under responsibilities of coordinating partners, should it be clear that the project coordinators is responsible for all of the items listed? I think it is important to make it clear that being a project coordinator requires a pretty significant commitment.

Under Responsibilities of Sponsors. Should we add that the sponsors must participate in the presentation of conclusions from their community circle at the 2nd conference?

Also under Responsibilities of Sponsors, should we ask that the sponsor participate in the planning and implementation of future strategies that come out of their community circle?

Just some suggestions. Let me know if you have any questions.

*I think
too
much.*

- Carol W
will be out
of town for
quickH Polymers

Heidi Kurtze
- ~~S~~ Inuit's
+ Colleen's
for
Bier

The Community Circle Collaborative

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Public Officials and Institutions will sign a *Pledge of Respect* signifying their support of this project and their intent to consider and respect the strategies developed by the groups. Potential institutions may include: the Governor's office; the Metropolitan Council; the State Board of Education; mayors; school boards; etc.

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3. Promote and publicize the project through the media and through Sponsor organizations.
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5. Work with Sponsors as they recruit participants, identify meeting sites, and arrange for the details of individual community circles. When necessary, pair homogenous groups of participants to create diverse study circles.
6. Work with Resource Partners and Sponsors to organize Community Forums I and II.
7. Coordinate fundraising for the project.
8. Train community circle facilitators.
9. Draw on feedback from the community circles to prepare a report for the community.
10. Evaluate the community circles and other components of the project.

My/Our Responsibilities as a Resource Partner:

- _____ Act as advisor regarding project design and coordination
- _____ Assist in preparing Discussion Guide (through _____)
- _____ Assist in providing research support to community circles (areas of expertise: _____)
- _____ Make information regarding _____ available to the Working Group
- _____ Assist fundraising efforts (through _____)
- _____ Assist publicity efforts (through _____)
- _____ Train facilitators
- _____ Participate in Community Forums as speaker, panelist, or workshop presenter.
- _____ Other: _____
- _____ Other: _____
- _____ Other: _____
- _____ Other: _____

Name of Resource Partner organization or agency that you represent:	
Your name:	
Your address:	
Your telephone & fax:	
Your e-mail (if applicable):	

I understand my/our responsibilities as a Resource Partner and commit my organization/self to this project. If we are an organization, this commitment is based on approval from our Board of Directors, Executive Director, or other appropriate authority.

Signature

Date

Return to:
Dary Seaver
Education & Housing Equity Project, c/o MICAH
122 W Franklin Ave #320
Minneapolis MN 55404
tel: (612) 871-8980 fax: (612) 871-8984

THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE COLLABORATIVE

PLEDGE OF PARTICIPATION FOR: COORDINATING PARTNERS

Responsibilities of the Working Group:

1. Form partnerships with public officials, organizations, and individuals working to address housing, education, employment, and racism issues, and seek their support.
2. Recruit a broad group of Resource Partners and Sponsors to carry out the program.
3. Promote and publicize the project through the media and through Sponsor organizations.
4. Work with Resource Partners to prepare a Discussion Guide for the community circles and provide research support to the community circles.
5. Work with Sponsors as they recruit participants, identify meeting sites, and arrange for the details of individual community circles. When necessary, pair homogenous groups of participants to create diverse study circles.
6. Work with Resource Partners and Sponsors to organize Community Forums I and II.
7. Coordinate fundraising for the project.
8. Train community circle facilitators.
9. Draw on feedback from the community circles to prepare a report for the community.
10. Evaluate the community circles and other components of the project.

My/Our Responsibilities as a Coordinating Partner:

1. Participate regularly and actively in the Working Group.
2. Coordinate activities of at least one committee of the Working Group (Fundraising; Partner Recruitment & Coordination; Discussion Guide & Research Support; Policymaker Outreach; Facilitator Training; Publicity; Forums; Research Support; or others as identified by the Working Group).
3. Become a well-informed spokesperson for the project by participating in a pilot study circle, or at least reading through the Discussion Guide.
4. Promote the project by any means possible, including bulletins, newsletters, and personal contacts.
5. Provide a Letter of Support for fundraising and other purposes.
6. Provide at least ___ staff hours per week to the project between June and July 1996.
7. Provide at least ___ staff hours per week to the project in August and September 1996.
8. Provide at least ___ staff hours per week to the project between October and December 1996.
9. Other: _____
10. Other: _____

Name of collaborating organization or agency that you represent:	
Your name:	
Your address:	
Your telephone & fax:	
Your e-mail (if applicable):	

I understand our responsibilities as a Coordinating Partner and commit my organization to this project. This commitment is based on approval by our Board of Directors, Executive Director, or other appropriate authority.

Signature _____

Date _____

Return to:
Dary Seaver
Education & Housing Equity Project, c/o MICAH
122 W Franklin Ave #320
Minneapolis MN 55404
tel: (612) 871-8980 fax: (612) 871-8984

To: seagan@bitstream.net
From: "Bruce Vandal" <vand0011@gold.tc.umn.edu>
Subject: MIAR stuff
Date: Mon, 14 Oct 1996 11:02:24
X-Tick-Nemesis: The Idea Men
MIME-Version: 1.0
Status:

Hey Darcy,

How are things going? I hope well.

I wanted to let you know that I may not make tomorrow's meeting regarding the community circle collaborative. I am a bit under the weather and may not be up to a meeting tomorrow morning.

I am embarrassed to report that I have not done much regarding the training for facilitators. I have received a call from Roy Taylor. Roy has expressed interest in the training. My goal is to connect with the relevant people this week and to determine who might be interested in working on a training.

One potential opportunity to add some student voices to the project is that Christine and I are leading a 9th grade youth group at our church, St. Joan of Arc. The group has expressed a real interest in the "city vs. suburbs" topic and they might prove to be a good group for conducting a study circle of young people. The group is about a 50\50 split, the city vs. suburb. The group is not real racially diverse, but does have a few people of color. Maybe we can talk about how Christine and I can structure a study circle of these young people.

Please keep me updated and I will let you know as I gather info about the facilitator training.

Talk to you soon.

Bruce
Christine Nelson

10/11/96
Carl
Roy
Taylor

Civic Eng. Project

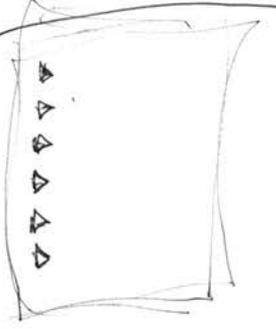
- Trying to define i
- but no so vaguely

- Viewpoints section
- can include after a different scenario, include what action wd be involved for each one

- Civic Eng. Project

Bring for Lon
~~Binder~~ mag SC's
~~Contact~~ chart

STRIP
▶ Rob Dares
Strib
pollster
Laura
▶ Seth
- staff h



Jan-
- Eval, refinement, re-trial, ~~what~~ where were at

- Late Spring: begin to evaluate, review where were @, what were doing

- Promoting it as scary of civic eng.
→ greater visibility
→ case book
→ presentation @ natl conf

Minneapolis Center for Neighborhoods

"Advocating for the enhanced livability and vitality of urban neighborhoods"

Post Office Box 14207

Minneapolis MN 55414-0207

tel 612.379.3602/fax 612.379.5982

MCN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY

Basics

- When: Saturday, November 16th
8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Where: Plymouth Congregational Church
1900 Nicollet Avenue South
- Tentative title: *More Than a Plan: The Role and Potential of Neighborhood Organizations [in Uncertain Times?**

Key features:

- KEYNOTE ADDRESS by **Michael O'Keefe**, Exec VP of The McKnight Foundation
"Bridging to the Broader Community: Foundations, the Private Sector, and Other Civic Mysteries"
(tentative title)
- WORKSHOPS I
 1. **Developing Capacity: The Roles of Neighborhood Organizations Beyond Planning**
Overview of different models from around the Twin Cities and around the country, plus
What can neighborhoods can deliver? What choices do they have? What do they need to accomplish their goals?
 2. **Getting the Word Out (and In): The Role of Information and Publicity in Neighborhood Work**
How to work with neighborhood media; how to think about neighborhood communications; What information do neighborhoods need to do their work? What information do they need to get out?
- WORKSHOPS II
 1. **Creating Partnerships: Tapping the Resources of Private, Public, and Nonprofit Actors**
How to engage different partners; how to sustain partnerships; how to choose partnerships that truly fit the neighborhood's priorities and goals
 2. **Shaping a Neighborhood Agenda: Pushing out Community Priorities to Public Policy**
What issues demand a larger perspective? What are some models? How to move neighborhood work into a broader context and response
- ACTION: **Dialogue to identify specific recommendations and action steps****
- LUNCH (optional; this is the only cost involved for participants)

* What do you folks think? Let me know by Monday noon, please! 379-3602 or 822-7275 (h); fax is 379-3602

** How can we make this sound more compelling and promising?