



Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

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Wilder Foundation
Community Circle Dialogue Facilitators and Sponsors
April 23, 1999
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Lou Schoen	Sheryl Erickson	Ric Rosow	Dennie Scott
Cathy Peterson	Bev Lutz	Pam Jewson	Rosemary Zipoy
Connie McDonald	Harry Greenberg	Rebecca Picard	Linda Draves
John Miller	Barbara Blackstone	Sherilyn Young	Lou Schoen
Mary Gruber			

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Enlightening: a co-pollination of ideas; able to compare and contrast ideas and cultural differences coming from:

- different parts of the country, especially the north and south
- different economic strata

Hopeful: hope to involve more people and more diversity

Eye-opening: discussion results in "peeling back the layers of racism" to see the nuances, hidden, complex and subtle racist attitudes and actions

Beginners: many people felt they were just beginning to learn and grow

Anxious for action: participants were often less comfortable with personal reflection and wanted to rush into action, doing something about problems

Time: it takes time for a group to process and be comfortable with sharing personal issues

Diversity: feel it is important to ensure diversity in the group; diversity in the group results in richer dialogue and is imperative if the group is to understand various facets of "white privilege"; unfair burden for one person to be representative of ethnic/cultural position

Fear: people bring many fears to the group; fears about

- voicelessness—won't be heard, fear that these dialogues are yet another example of all talk and no action; can be reminiscent of institutional structures that represent "not listening" (Ex: a school board meeting)
- diversity—interaction with people who are "different"
- deportation—if they don't have papers, they will be deported

Powerlessness: many participants feel powerless and abused, taken advantage of by the business community and institutional systems, often they are poor and fear entering into a situation that is not familiar

Deeply powerful and humbling: people can connect first through telling their life stories, in the case of a group with Hmong speakers, the presence of a translator was vital

WHAT WORKED WELL

Let people explore their own models

Hmong participants began by telling their life stories, sharing the different meanings of power (In Laos, a powerful person is good and compassionate; In American a powerful person is rich and "the boss")

Make the message practical and tailored for the group

- College-age adults researched minimum wage income and living needs like rent, food and clothing and formed a budget—eye-opening for them
- Get to know your neighbors—try to understand their problems and needs
- There is no word for racism in Hmong

Begin by modeling—share personal experiences from the heart and be vulnerable in describing personal growth struggles; make it safe to share within the group

The Participant's Guide is full of good information and questions—too full (see below). Use the Guide as a framework—allow the group to pick the discussions that are appropriate and of interest to group members

"What the Research Says" has had a variety of responses and uses:

- open up mind with data and research; send it before first session
- passed it out as homework after first session (share personal stories first)
- prep for each session—reflected on it at beginning—use it inside instead of take-home
- used it as a reference document or as the impetus for conversations
- some groups questioned the data's origin, research accuracy

Use current events to fuel discussions; a personal connection with the data is important

Start by asking the group why did they come, give time for each person to tell their "story"

WHAT DIDN'T WORK WELL

The participants manual had so much to do, too much information, 2 hour time frame too short. It might be good to have some information in a more approachable format (Ex: have more in story form) or more choice of topic

Considerations:

- Is this process a "white" process?—coming to a meeting in a building may be seen as "institutional"
- Is the manual "user friendly"—or do the participants need to be white and well-educated?

The process was frustrating for some groups—it was too directed, needed to be more flexible; might be seen as institutional or “white”

The recruitment process for the groups needs to be more customized for the neighborhood—make sure that opinion leaders of the community are included and advocating participation in the Circles

Facilitators meeting minutes, Page 3

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop a strong message of group ownership at first session:
 - develop group interaction guidelines—establish ground rules and support those participants who take ownership of them
 - determine expectations of Circle process
 - try to get to a personal level—“tell your story” has worked well
2. Track action ideas throughout—not just at the end session—but also help group to value discussion as well as action
3. Be flexible and patient
4. Model vulnerability
5. Have faith in the process—dialogue chips away at polarization and plants the seeds of thought

Recommended reading:

- “Living with Racism: Black Middle Class Experience”
- “Unpacking your Backpack” by Peggy Macintosh

Opportunities for Action

HOUSING

Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH)

Mobilizing congregations and people of all faiths to ensure decent, safe and affordable housing for everyone in the Twin Cities metropolitan community.

122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 310

Minneapolis, MN 55404

Contact: Joy Sorensen-Navarre

612-871-8980

Saint Paul Housing Campaign

A broad based coalition for neighborhood development and affordable housing. Members include Saint Paul Tenants Union, Community Stabilization Project, MICAH, Jewish Community Action, SPEAC, and Coalition for the Homeless.

Contact: Bob Walz, 651-646-8805 or Dan Lee, 651-222-5863.

St. Paul Ecumenical Alliance of Congregations (SPEAC)

Faith-based social justice initiatives to address segregation, poverty and urban disparities

Contact: Pamela Twiss

612-333-1255

2720 East 22nd Street

Minneapolis, MN 55406

and **Interfaith Action**

Contact: Jay Schmitt

612-333-1258

Minnesota Housing Partnership

Supporting the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Minnesota through technical assistance, education and legislative advocacy.

122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 230

Minneapolis, MN 55404

Contact: Chip Halbach

612-874-0112

Jewish Community Action

Bringing together Jewish people from diverse traditions and perspectives to promote understanding and action about social and economic justice issues in Minnesota.

621 West Lake Street, Room 209

Minneapolis, MN 55408

Contact: Vic Rosenthal

612-822-1442

HOUSING—continued

Habitat for Humanity

Bringing families and communities in need together with volunteers and resources to build decent, affordable housing.

3001 4th Street SE

Minneapolis, MN 55414

Contact: Julie Gugen or Amy Johnson

612-331-4090, ext. 614

Alliance for Metropolitan Stability

Supports the Inclusionary Housing Initiative which promotes development of housing affordable at a range of incomes and uses innovative building techniques to lower construction costs. Also seeks community support for reduction of regulatory barriers to housing affordability.

612-332-4471

Contact: Russ Adams

Minnesota Fair Housing Center

Dedicated to the elimination of discrimination in housing and enforcement of the Fair Housing Act through fair housing testing, research, education and public policy advocacy on behalf of racial and ethnic minorities, the disabled, and others protected under federal and state human rights laws.

2700 University Ave

Saint Paul, MN 55104

651-917-8869

Contact: Larry Winans or Christy Snow

Urban Coalition 50/30 Initiative

Promoting and researching home ownership for households of color

612-348-8550

Contact: Yusef Mgeni

2000 by 2000 Initiative

A partnership between Local Initiatives Support Corporation and Saint Paul community development corporations to boost affordable housing in Saint Paul

651-649-1109

Contact: Barbara Jeanetta

EDUCATION

Achievement Plus Initiative

A collaborative partnership of the Wilder Foundation, Saint Paul Public Schools, the City of Saint Paul, the State of Minnesota, several Saint Paul neighborhoods and the East Side YMCA that promotes parent and community involvement in the schools and integrated academic and social support programs and services.

651-642-4070

Contact: Mary K. Boyd or Michael Garcia

Jane Addams School for Democracy's Learning Exchange Circles

Circles meet to help Hmong and Latino immigrants improve language skills, prepare for the citizenship exam, learn about employment rights, and focus on policy action projects

Contact: Shelly Rottenberg

651-690-8786

Saint Paul Ramsey County Children's Initiative

Linking Saint Paul's families and community members to with policy makers directing service delivery to families and children through neighborhood family centers

651-917-4891

Contact: Roger Banks

Minnesota Minority Education Partnership

Improving student achievement among students of color through parent and teacher training and collaborative leadership

612-330-1522

Contact: Carlos Mariani-Rosa or Bruce Vandal

Center for School Change

Improving public education through advocacy and research. Opportunities for volunteers include researching how to improve public education.

612-625-3506

Contact: Joe Nathan

And New Twin Cities Charter School Project

612-625-7552

Contact: Nancy Smith

Support Our Schools

Supports public education in St. Paul and works for its improvement through developing new leadership, engaging the public in public education, and working with individual public schools to create projects that improve student achievement.

651-603-8858

Contact: Roger Barr

Minnesota Parenting Association

Provides opportunities for parents and those who care about children to develop and express a collective voice. MPA hosted the *Hopes & Dreams, Challenges & Strengths* roundtable discussions.

651-290-4755

Contact: Roxy Foster

RACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Institute on Race and Poverty

Researching the relationship between housing, segregation, and educational achievement

Contact: jon powell or Gavin Kearney

612-625-8071

Hate Bias Response Team

An educational and communications network for responding to victims of hate incidents and crimes.

Contact: Saint Paul Department of Human Rights, 651-266-8966

**National Conference for Community and Justice
Hope in The Cities**

An inter-racial and multi-faith coalition of individuals and organizations in government , business, education, and media creating a process of healing through honest conversations on race, reconciliation, and responsibility

641-659-0409

Contact: Hector Garcia

Saint Paul Area Council of Churches

Gateways to Justice

Advocacy and education addressing affordable housing, immigration, and literacy.

651-646-8805

Contact: Bob Walz

Hamline Midway Alliance for a Prejudice Free Community

A neighborhood group of volunteers targeting prejudice and bigotry in the Hamline Midway neighborhood in Saint Paul

651-646-1986

Contact: Cathy Lue

May 11, 1999

Dear Community Circle Dialogue Sponsors and Facilitators,

As we approach the end of this spring's round of Community Circle Dialogues on Race, Housing, and Education, I wanted to thank all of you for being involved in this project. Your contributions as sponsors and facilitators are extremely important in ensuring the success of the community circle dialogues, and I hope you will continue to participate in the future. Your professional skills and experience provide a vital dimension to the community circle dialogues, and the time and energy you have volunteered to this project is invaluable.

I also wanted to share some information about some upcoming events that I hope you can attend.

The next public forum in the 1999 *Cities at Work* series, **Face-to Face: How We Interact** will be held on May 18 from 5:00-8:30 p.m. at Bandana Square, on Energy Park Drive just west of Lexington Parkway in Saint Paul. This forum features a theatrical presentation by Illusion Theater based on true stories of many people who have migrated from other parts of the world and from across the United States to make a new life for themselves and their families in Minnesota. The forum will also explore ways to break down cultural barriers and perceptions to embrace the multicultural community we live in. Registration and dinner start at 5:00 and the program begins at 5:30. (For more information or to register, call Kate Murphy at 651-642-2083.) Feel free to tell your friends, neighbors, and colleagues about this forum and please encourage them to pre-register.

I also wanted to invite all of you to a gathering of all interested community circle participants, facilitators, and sponsors on June 22 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at St. Stephanus Church, 739 Lafond Avenue in Saint Paul's Frogtown neighborhood. We will be sending you more information about this soon, but please put this date on your calendar now. This will be an exciting opportunity to learn more about the powerful community circle dialogue experiences of others throughout the metropolitan region and to plan the important next steps. I hope many of you will be able to join us at this event which serves as a prelude to the "Call to Action" in

the fall. If you haven't already done so, please send in the roster of your participants and any completed session report forms.

Last, I wanted to encourage all of you to stay involved with this project. We will be hosting an information meeting for new sponsors next month to jump start the planning for the fall round of dialogues. Many of you have already expressed an interest in facilitating or sponsoring another community circle. Also we will be summarizing the results of the evaluations from the participants and will send a copy of that to all of you when it is available.

Thank you again for all your hard work and continued commitment to making this project a success. I hope to see all of you soon. Please feel free to call me at 651-659-6031 if you would like to talk further about the project.

Cordially,

Barb Rose
Consultant, *Cities at Work*

Bakeri office Fri. aft.
647-4612



AMHERST H.
WILDER
FOUNDATION
ESTABLISHED 1906

WILDER RESEARCH CENTER
1295 Bandana Blvd. N., Suite 210
Saint Paul, MN 55108
651-647-4600
FAX 651-647-4623

MEMO

TO: Carol Lukas
Barb Rose ✓

FROM: Greg Owen *GO*

RE: Evaluation of 1999 Cities At Work Forums and Community
Circle Dialogs

DATE: April 6, 1999

Here is the long promised memo regarding our plans for evaluating the community forums and the circle dialogs. I have located my notes from our first meeting which identifies the following approach to evaluation.

With regard to the community forums:

1. You will again use feedback forms after each forum and collect information from as many participants as possible. These forms will be initially summarized by you but the overall results will be included in the final evaluation report prepared by Wilder Research Center.
2. We will again plan to do a follow-up of a sample of forum participants approximately two months after the completion of the last forum. With the first two forums scheduled for April 28th and May 18th, I would expect to begin follow-up for these participants sometime around mid-July. I understand that the third and fourth forums in the series are scheduled to take place sometime in the fall. Therefore, our follow-up efforts for these forums will be scheduled later.
3. Our follow-up interview will be structured in a manner similar to previous forums and will focus on the examination of recognized forum benefits that can be described by participants. This would include asking questions about new things participants have learned, any changes they may have observed in their own attitudes or opinions regarding the topic area, any new activities that have been undertaken that might be attributed to forum participation, any new connections with others in the community as well as opinions about other gains that might be attributed to forum participation.

With regard to the circle dialogs, I understand that we are in the middle of our first wave of dialogs and that some are nearing completion. To evaluate these activities, we propose to:

1. Conduct some type of content analysis of the information reported out of each group. As soon as the Ramsey Action Program group and the University of St. Thomas group have concluded their meetings, I would like to examine any resulting reports to consider their applicability for analysis using our Atlas software. This software provides the opportunity to conduct computerized content analysis which identifies both main themes and sub-themes within groups as well as comparisons across groups.
2. We will also conduct follow-up interviews with dialog participants at approximately the same time as the first wave of forum participant interviews in mid July.
3. We would expect to have a stratified sample identified for follow-up which includes the following three groups:
 1. Community forum participants only.
 2. Circle dialog participants only.
 3. Community forum and circle dialog participants.

The point of conducting interviews with participants identified in this way is to determine whether or not there is a cumulative affect on participants based on their involvement in both types of activities.

4. Interviews with circle dialog participants will also focus on what may have been learned as a result of participation in the dialogs, any changes in attitude or opinion experienced by participants, subsequent discussions with others around the topics addressed in the dialogs as well as any changes in behavior or activities that participants would attribute to their involvement in the dialogs.
5. From our most recent phone call I understand that you may also be interested in gathering some type of pre and post test examination of knowledge and attitudes and that you have some examples for me to look at.

The final component of the evaluation focuses on the organizations that have been involved as sponsors for the circle dialogs. Evaluation activities for this group would include the following:

1. The identification of each sponsoring organization and key contacts within those organizations.
2. A brief follow-up phone interview to identify the reasons for becoming involved in the circle dialogs, the type of benefits expected from their involvement, as well as the benefits that the sponsor feels have been realized as a result of involvement in the dialogs.

I hope this is reasonably close to the plan that we originally discussed. Please call me with your comments. I am sorry it has taken me so long to act upon our discussion and get these ideas in writing but I'm now prepared to begin work on each of the activities identified as part of the evaluation effort.

Cities At Work 4 Forum Series
Stop Talking, Just Do It!
Saint Paul Youth's Perspectives on Bridging Differences
 April 28, 1999

of attendees: 215
of surveys returned: 96
response rate: 45%

Question:

Please rate the overall value and usefulness of this forum to you:

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	0	4	9	21	32	26

Forum Comparison:

1999 AVERAGE	1998 AVERAGE	1997 AVERAGE	1996 AVERAGE
4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5

Informal estimates:

50% attendees 18 years and under
 63% attendees people of color

1999 Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues

Evaluation Form

Participant Feedback

This circle dialogue is part of a pilot project. Your thoughtful comments and criticism will be valuable in shaping future community circles. Please take the time to give us your suggestions and ideas.

1. How would you rate your overall experience as a participant in this community circle dialogue:

<i>Terrible</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>O.K.</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Fantastic</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6

2. Please identify one or two things you gained from participating in this community circle.

3. What would have made this experience better?

4. Do you think that your participation in this dialogue will have any effect on your thoughts or actions in the future?

Yes Please describe: _____

No Why not? _____

5. What issues would you suggest community circle dialogues address in the future?

Which neighborhoods/cities were represented in your community circle and how many people were from each neighborhood/city?

City	Neighborhood	Number of participants
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Using your best judgment, please rate how diverse your group was according to the following categories?

	Very Diverse	Somewhat Diverse	Not Diverse	Have no idea
Income Levels (ex. low, moderate, high)	1	2	3	4
Political Affiliations (ex. DFL, Republican)	1	2	3	4
Political Ideology (ex. Conservative, Liberal)	1	2	3	4
Housing Situation (ex. home owner, renter)	1	2	3	4

What, if anything, do you know about the religious diversity of your group?

Did participants seem to be satisfied with the dialogue process, or did they express dissatisfaction?

__ participants seemed satisfied; please explain:

__ participants expressed dissatisfaction; please explain:

12. What important comments did participants share with you about their discussions?

• SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS

13. Summary Report

a) What perspectives were well represented in your group?

b) Which perspectives were missing?

c) Did the discussions focus on the two central questions?

(3)

d) What were your own observations about the dialogue and group process?

- e) What did members of the group say about their discussions?
- f) What was the topic of the group's liveliest discussion?
- g) What were the areas of general agreement and consensus?
- h) What were areas with little agreement or consensus?
- i) What suggestions and recommendations came from the group about how individuals might better address the issue?
- j) What suggestions and recommendations came from the group about how organizations or institutions might better address the issue?
- k) What suggestions and recommendations came from the group about how government might better address the issue?

• EXPERIENCES OF FACILITATOR AND/OR SPONSOR

14. Additional Comments (Please feel free to use additional sheets)

- a) Did you have adequate support from your study circle's organizer, or not? Please explain:
- b) Did you have adequate support from the project coordinator, or not? Please explain:
- c) What additional support would have been helpful?
- d) If you were to lead another study circle, what would you change (for example: discussion materials, overall organization of project, meeting site, your performance as discussion leader, etc.)?
- e) Other impressions, concerns and comments ...

(see other side)

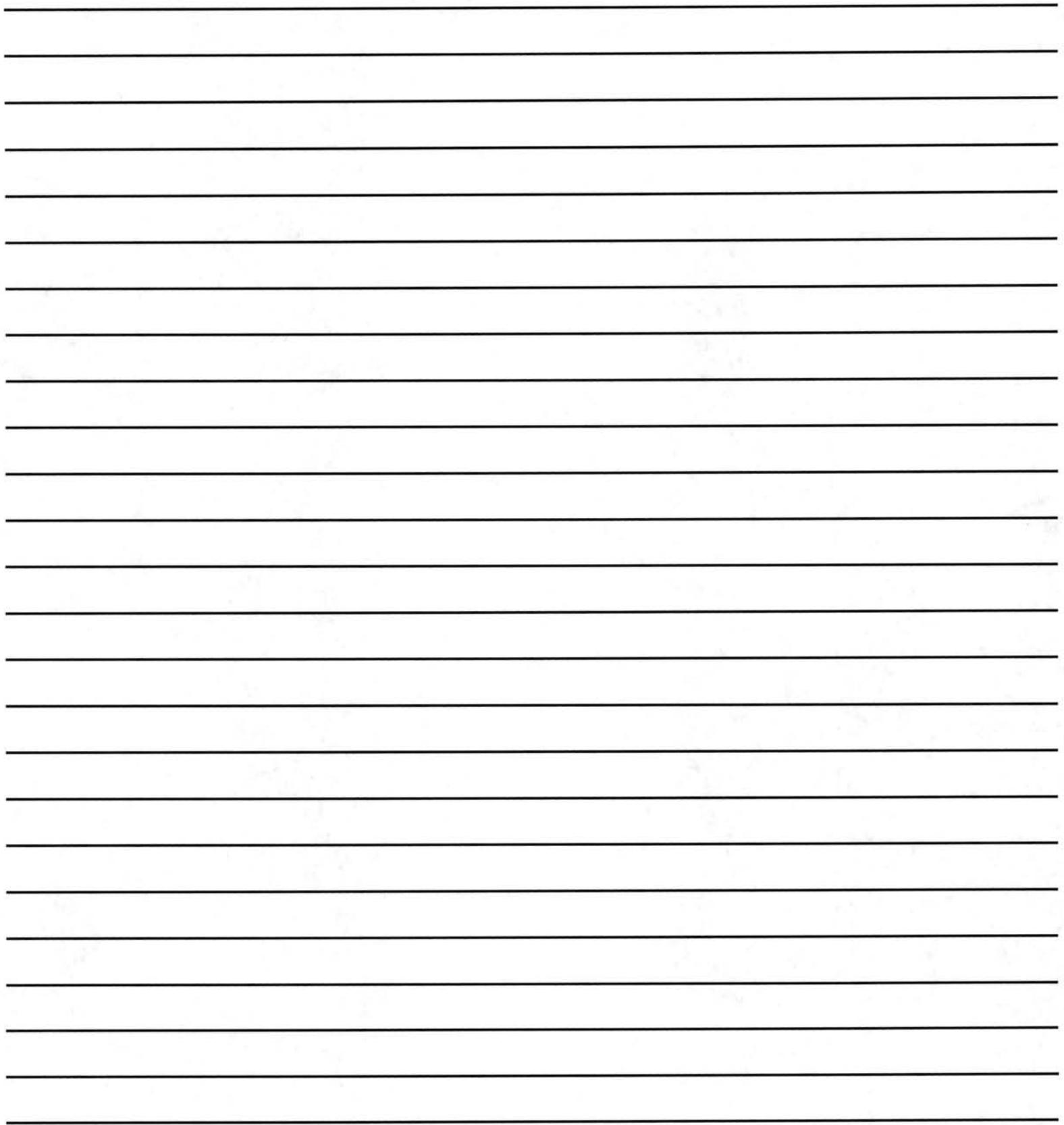
(4)

15. Participant Roster (Please include sponsor(s), facilitator(s), recorder(s))

Name

Address

Tel #



“Community Choices” Community Circle Information Report

Community Circle Sponsor and Facilitator:

To document who participated in the Beyond Busing Community Circles, we are asking community circle sponsors and facilitators to complete the following information report. This report will be used in the on-going evaluation of the project, in planning for future efforts, and to report results to funders and other stakeholders. Thank you in advance for your assistance in these efforts !!!

Please return the completed form to: Dick Little, Coordinator, Education and Housing Equity Project, #320
122 West Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Name of your Community Circle (e.g. geographic, organizational designation/affiliation) _____

1. Sponsor Organization(s) _____ Contact Person(s) _____

2. Facilitator Name(s) _____ Recorder Name(s) _____

3. How many people participated in your community circle? _____

4. How many times did your community circle meet? _____

5. Where and when (day of week and time) did your community circle meet? _____

6. How many participants were men? _____ women? _____ youth? _____
families? _____ single parent(s)? _____ seniors? _____

7. How many in your community circle represented each of the following cultural groups?

_____ African American	_____ Hispanic/Latino
_____ American Indian/Native American	_____ White/European
_____ Asian American	_____ Don't Know

8. Which neighborhoods/cities were represented in your community circle and how many people were from each neighborhood/city?

City	Neighborhood	Number of participants
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

9. Using your best judgment, please rate how diverse your group was according to the following categories?

	Very Diverse	Somewhat Diverse	Not Diverse	Have no idea
Income Levels (ex. low, moderate, high)	1	2	3	4
Political Affiliations (ex. DFL, Republican)	1	2	3	4
Political Ideology (ex. Conservative, Liberal)	1	2	3	4
Housing Situation (ex. home owner, renter)	1	2	3	4

(see other side)

Fax: TO DICK LITTLE

Subject: Interfaith Discussion on Race, Schools and Housing (Education and Housing Equity Project)

Date: Fri, 22 Jan 1999 06:58:12 -0600

From: Robert Walz <rwalz@PioneerPlanet.infi.net>

Organization: InfiNet

*Copy of email
see notes on p 2*

To: Tom Duke <tduke@PioneerPlanet.infi.net>, Mark Peters <peters@lcppm.org>, David McDonell <davidscots@aol.com>, Virginia Greenman <green079@gold.tc.umn.edu>, Amy Walter <amywalter@uswest.net>, Wayne Tellekson <telekler@juno.com>, "Fr. David F. McCauley (Toby Pearson)" <mmmm@connectinc.com>, Brian Rusche <BRIAN_RUSCHE.parti@ecunet.org>, Wayne Wittman <wjwittman@aol.com>, Allan Lovejoy <allen.lovejoy@stpaul.gov>, Wade Schemmel <Wade580@aol.com>, "(Brian Rusche) Joint Religious LegislativeCoalition" <jrlc@ecunet.org>, Ron Krietemeyer <rkriet@mtn.org>, Mary Jane Steinhagen <bomojove@aol.com>, "Elaine, Jodi and Joan MICAH" <jodi@micah.org>, Ron Macker <rmaecker@luthersem.edu>, Pat Ellison <ptellison@aol.com>, Sister Marge Boyle <margeboyle@aol.com>, Tim Polk <tpolk@gw.hamline.edu>, Norman Broadbent <shoreview@juno.com>, Eleazar Fernandez <jfernan@sprynet.com>, Dawne Brown-White <dbrownwhite@hotmail.com>, George Gorbatenko <gorby@maroon.tc.umn.edu>, Joan Pearson <joan@micah.org>, Pat Katzenmeier <PKatzen@aol.com>, Jan Frederickson <PFREDERI@worldnet.att.net>, Jackie Sinykin <volctr@mtn.org>, "Rev. Daniel Yang" <HUMC@pconline.com>, Mary Doyle <msd@wilder.org>, Chloette Haley <cvs@pressenter.com>

The Saint Paul Area Council of Churches is forming an interfaith discussion group in cooperation with the Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP) and Wilder Foundation's Cities at Work Program.

The discussion group will meet in the evening on either Monday or Thursday at the Council of Churches, beginning in mid-February. There will be five discussions:

1. Overview
2. Race
3. Housing
4. Education
5. Call to Action

Discussion participants also will have the option of attending Wilder Foundation's Cities at Work series -- two lunch or dinner presentations in the Spring and two in the Fall. The topic this year will be on race relations in St. Paul.

Let me know if you are interested or if you have a person to recommend to be part of our interfaith discussion. We will limit the number of participants to 8 to 15. Like our Poverty Among Us discussion group, we will have a professional facilitator, our conclusions will be published, and our final session will focus on *action*. And we are encouraging congregations and community groups to form their own discussion groups. Call for more information on that option (EHEP will provide or train a facilitator for

your group).

The focus, again, is addressing racism, affordable housing and inequities in schools; all critical issues in our communities.

For more information, call me at 651-646-8805, extension 19.

Dick

I am concerned about weather this afternoon + tonight. Our group

gives any consideration to

cancelling or re-scheduling or

adding a later training date.

Please call me ASAP with

answers

CIC FAX

St. Paul Area Council of Churches
1671 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105-1884



Date December 29, 1998
Number of pages including cover sheet 3

To: Barb Rose
Wilder Foundation
Cities at Work

Phone _____
Fax Phone 651-642-2088
CC: 612-330-1507

1671 Summit Ave

From: Saint Paul Area Council of Churches
Robert G. Walz *55403*
Congregations in
Community

E-mail rwalz@pioneerplanet.infi.net
Phone (651) 646-8805 x19
Fax Phone (651) 646-6866

REMARKS:

- Urgent For your review Reply ASAP Please comment

Marylyn Dencen
St. Timothy Lutheran
831 West Nebraska Ave.
St. Paul MN 55117
651-488-1426

Peter Boeve & Kevin Walli
House of Hope Presbyterian Church
797 Summit Avenue
St. Paul MN 55105-3392

Eleazar Fernandez
New Brighton UCC
c/o United Theological Seminary
3000 5th St. NW
New Brighton, MN 55112
651-415-0392

*Congregations
for Circles*

Karen Meslow
Augustana Lutheran
1386 Knollwood Lane
Mendota Heights, MN 55118
651-457-2160

Wade Schemmel
St. Paul UCC
900 Summit Avenue
St. Paul MN 55105
651-224-5809

Jean Sites
First Presbyterian of South St. Paul
1530 Bellows, #202
South St. Paul MN 55118
651-455-0434

KD Steward
175 Charles Avenue, #236
St. Paul, MN 55103
651-293-0363

Robert Walz
Saint Paul Area Council of Churches
Interfaith Discussion Group
1671 Summit Avenue
St. Paul MN 55104-1884
651-646-8805x19

in addition, I would add the following congregations

Ascension Episcopal Church
Rev. Margy Matlin
214 North 3rd St.
Stillwater MN 55082
651-439-2609

- **Unity Baptist Church**
Rev. Ron Smith
118 N. Victoria St.
St. Paul MN 55104
651-222-3393

- **St. James AME Church**
624 W. Central Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-227-4151

- **San Martin Lutheran Church**
Rev. Juan Fernandez
463 Maria Avenue
St. Paul MN 55106-4428
651-776-5681

Wayne Witman
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1498 Fremont Ave East
St. Paul MN 55106
651-774-4008

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FYI

For information about the 1999 Cities at Work public forum series or to host or participate in upcoming community circle dialogues, contact Barb Rose, (651) 659-6031.

ST. PAUL

Community discussions set to begin today

Process intended to note problems, identify solutions

PAT BURSON STAFF WRITER

St. Paul neighborhood residents, businesses, churches, teachers and others are being invited this spring and next fall to participate in a series of conversations about education, housing and race.

What are being called "community circle dialogues" have been planned to raise awareness and generate suggestions about threats to the city's health and vitality, including an affordable housing crisis, an academic achievement gap between white students and students of color, and segregated housing patterns in many communities.

The first discussion will be 7 to 9 tonight at J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School, 998 Selby Ave. Similar gatherings will be held this year at community centers, schools, businesses and houses of faith throughout the Twin Cities area.

The dialogues are presented for the first time this year in connection with the Cities at Work public forum series, an effort that began several years ago to promote public conversations about various issues affecting the city. So far, the forums have attracted more than 2,000 participants.

The Wilder Foundation, along with other nonprofits, community organizations and local businesses, are helping convene the Cities at Work forums, which began in February and continue through November in St. Paul neighborhoods. The Education, Housing and Equity Project is helping convene similar community-based conversations in Minneapolis.

The theme for this year's Cities at Work forums is "Unleashing the Power of Our Community: A Public Dialogue on Race, Connections and Commitment."

Other upcoming community circle dialogues:

J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School will sponsor other dialogues this spring from 7 to 9 p.m. on March 25 and April 8, 15 and 22. Information: Steve Sonnabend, (651) 266-6499.

Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on March 23 and 30 and April 13, 20 and 27. Sponsor: Lexington-Hamline Community Center. Information: Sherilyn Young, (651) 645-6687.

Goodwill/Easter Seals, 2543 Como Ave.: 5:15 to 7:15 p.m. on March 22 and 29 and April 12, 19 and 26. Sponsor: Merriam Park Community Center. Information: Diana Huseth, (651) 646-2591.

Ronald M. Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning, 1030 W. University Ave.: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on April 6, 13, 20 and 27 and May 4. Sponsor: St. Paul Public Schools. Information: Teri Turner, (651) 293-5211.

Black Bear Crossings Coffee House & Community Circle, 831 Como Ave.: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on March 22, April 5 and 26 and May 3 and 10. Sponsor: The St. Paul Cos. Information: Monica Bryand, (651) 310-7385.

Cities at Work also will host four larger public forums later this year:

On April 28, local youths are invited to discuss their feelings and experiences with cultural differences, race and sexual orientation from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Arlington Senior High School, 1495 Rice St.

The discussion shifts on May 18 to the way communication affects how people from different cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds interact. It will be held from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at the Bandana Banquet and Conference Center, 1021 E. Bandana Blvd.

Both the forum series and community circle dialogues will conclude this fall, culminating in October with the final Cities at Work forum, "Beyond Tolerance: A Call to Action."

At that time, all the ideas and concerns generated during the community dialogues will be discussed. From that meeting, organizers hope a plan for future community action will emerge.

- [Help](#)
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- [Back to Top](#)

Staff writer Pat Burson, who writes about St. Paul neighborhoods, can be reached at pburson@pioneerpress.com or (651) 228-5397.

Public dialogues

planned: Housing, education and race are the topics of "Community Circle Dialogues" scheduled for March and April.

Residents are invited to participate in the dialogues that are expected to last about two hours each. Eight to 15 participants are being sought for each of the sessions. They are being sponsored by the Amberst H. Wilder Foundation, Catholic Charities, United Way of the St. Paul Area, YMCA of Greater St. Paul, Urban Coalition, St. Paul Council of Churches, the St. Paul Planning Commission and some district councils.

The dialogue locations and times are:

■ J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School, 998 Selby Ave., Thursday, April 8, 15 and 22, starting at 7 p.m. For information call (651) 266-6499. (The first session of this group was held March 18).

■ Merriam Park Library, 1871 Marshall Ave., Tuesday, March 30, April 13, 20 and 27, starting at 6:30 p.m. For information call (651) 645-6687. 6887

■ Goodwill/EasterSeal, 2542 Como Ave., starting at 5:15 p.m., Monday, March 29, April 12, 19 and 26. For information call (651) 646-2591.

■ Ronald A. Hub Center, 1031 W. University Ave., starting at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4. For information call (651) 293-5211.

■ Black Bear Crossing Coffee House, 831 Como Ave., starting at 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 5, 26, May 3 and 10. For information call (651) 310-7385.

St. Paul community news and announcements should be submitted by Wednesday for Sunday publication to Don Effenberger at the Pioneer Press, 345 Cedar St., St. Paul, Minn. 55101, or by e-mail at deffenberger@pioneerpress.com or by fax at (651) 228-5500.



AMHERST H
WILDER
FOUNDATION
ESTABLISHED 1906

MEMO

TO: Community Circle Dialogue Facilitators & Sponsors

FROM: Barb Rose, *Wilder Foundation*, Barbara Blackstone, *Minnesota Office of Dispute Resolution*, and Dick Little, *EHEP*

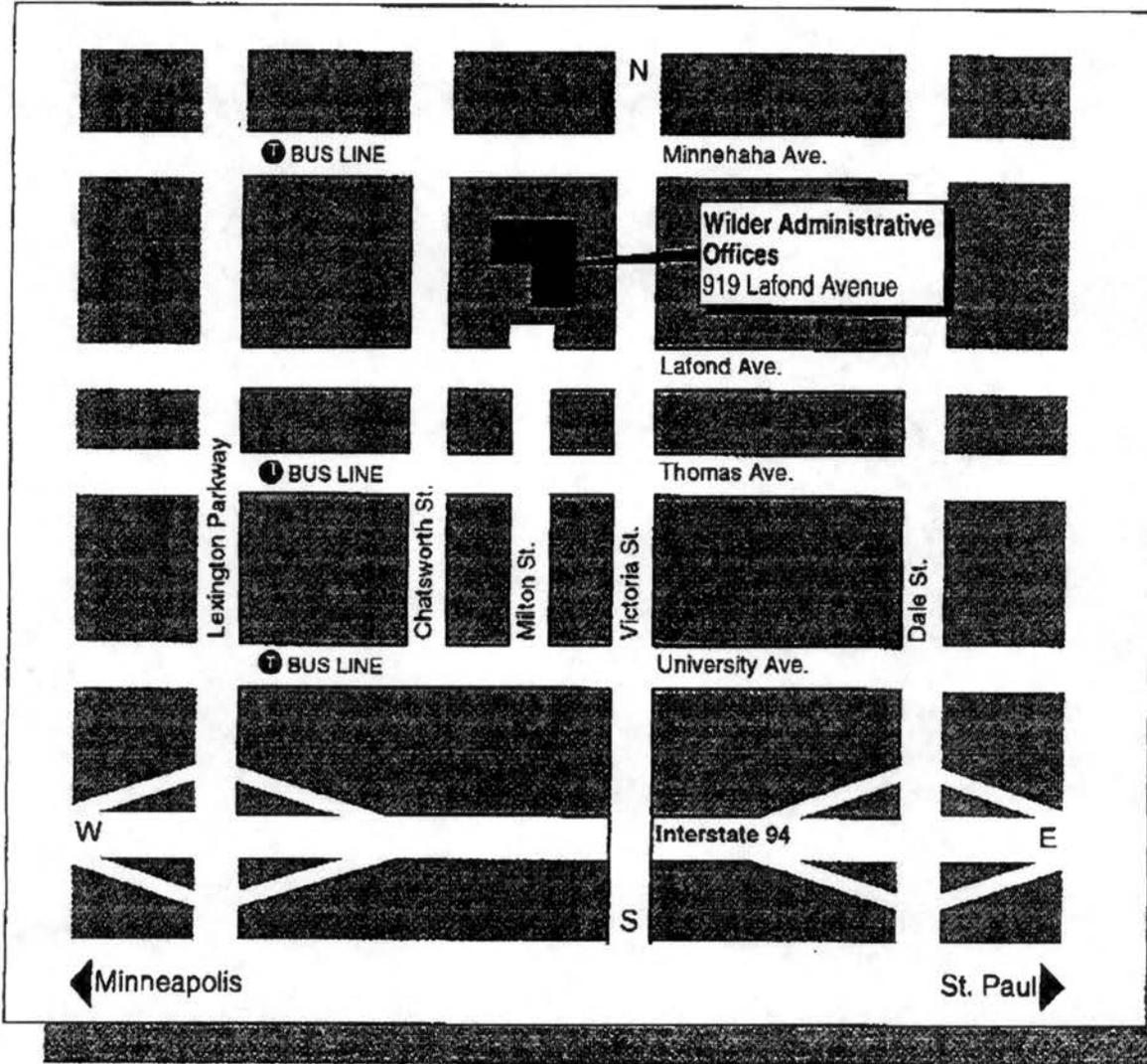
RE: April 23 meeting

DATE: April 9, 1999

It's already mid-April and spring emerges little by little every day!! It's been several months since our facilitator trainings. Many of you are already well into are close to completing the five sessions. Others of you are just getting ready to start. The process of evaluation what's working and what isn't and of getting some feedback from all of you is a *key ingredient* to the success of this project. A chance for all of you to share and learn from each other is also important. **Please join us for a meeting to share our experiences and learnings on April 23 from 4:00-5:30 p.m., Wilder Foundation Auditorium, 919 Lafond Avenue in Saint Paul.** A map is attached but feel free to call Barb Rose, 651-659-6031 if you need more detailed directions. **Please RSVP to Linda Hoskins, 651-642-4060** if you can attend. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your ideas and suggestions!

Community Services Group

Map



Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

Since 1906

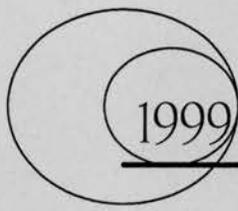
919 Lafond Avenue
 St. Paul, MN 55104
 612/659-6030

642-2020

The Wilder Foundation's Administrative Offices are located at 919 Lafond Avenue in St. Paul's Midway Area. It is:

6 blocks north of University Avenue and 3 blocks east of Lexington Parkway.

There is ample free parking available near the building.



CITIES AT WORK

1999 FALL FORUM TIMELINE

Establish goals and objectives	June-July
Confirm agenda, keynote speakers, presenters and locations	July-September
Contact and confirm sponsors	August 1-15
Draft and print Forum brochure	August
Distribute brochure	September 3-10
Track registrations	September-October
Contact and train small group facilitators	Early September
Select and confirm caterers/food	August-September
Recruit volunteer help	September
Gather handout materials	September-October
Hold the Business Forum	October 14
Hold the Call to Action Forum	November 8

→ John Powell - intro speaker - focus on Action
 Arlington High School - location
 → (how to facilitate small groups -)

↳ What's come out of last 3 CAW forums

entertainment during dinner -

Peace Ball -

Cities At Work 1999
Planning Group
9/23/98

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Review *Cities at Work* history and goals.
3. Clarify focus for 1999 forum series.
4. Determine interest in planning forum series:
 - planning committee - who else needs to be invited?
 - sponsorship
 - funding
5. Next steps

Cities At Work 1999 Proposed Focus

Background

Historically the purpose of *Cities At Work* is to educate, link and mobilize people in Saint Paul to strengthen the vitality of our community. The forums provide information and a bridge to connect sectors - business, government, community, and citizens, building much needed relationships and partnerships to support community development and community building efforts. The goals of the forums series are:

1. Increased connections and linkages between various individuals, groups and organizations working to strengthen Saint Paul.
2. Increased knowledge and awareness of individuals and groups in the community about key issues facing the community, national and local strategies and programs that have worked, and local events and resources that can support community efforts for people active in community development.
3. Support of joint action on key issues affecting Saint Paul neighborhoods and communities.

Cities At Work started in 1996. Since then, 500 - 800 citizens, neighborhood leaders and grassroots activists, business and corporate representatives, community development corporations, district councils, foundations, community-based service providers, elected officials and government staff attend one or more of the forums each year.

Cities At Work 1999

At the conclusion of the 1998 Cities At Work Forum Series the planning group met to begin to shape the focus for the 1999 forum series. Based on comments shared during the 1998 forums, and their own experiences, the group is suggesting a forum series focused on:

How to build effective cross-cultural coalitions, alliances and collaborations for positive neighborhood and community change.

Our premise is that in order to make the range and scale of improvements in our neighborhoods, communities and city that we need, we have to work in cross-cultural and cross-economic partnerships. The community will weaken unless we can learn to do this well. And we have to learn how to do it together. There are examples of efforts locally and nationally from which we can learn tools, skills and processes that get results.

The forums would each highlight 1-2 national people as well as local people working in the featured areas. Each forum would include approximately 50% presentation and 50% audience discussion. Preliminary thinking is that the forum series would include three days, spaced about one month apart in March, April and May, 1999. Each forum day would include a lunch meeting for policy level and institutional leaders, and an evening forum running from about 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. open to the public.

Some of the design questions or concerns raised by the planning group include:

1. Is this the right focus for the next forum series? Is there a hunger in the community to learn about this? If no, what is a better focus, or how can we make it more concrete?
2. What do we want to learn from the series? What questions do we want to answer, or what outcomes do we want? How much emphasis should we put on follow-up action planning?
3. What are some local and national models or examples we might learn from? For the working cross-culturally topic, there are some efforts in Chicago, the Jane Adams School, Education Summit (got high participation, though results uncertain), Holding Ground video on Dudley Street in Boston, PBS special on Saul Alinsky.
4. Who needs to be involved in planning the forum series to make it successful?

Ideas for Future Forums

26 Housing Issues

- Affordable housing strategies for working families, seniors and low-income families
- The role of the private sector and the private employer in housing development
- Funding sources for home improvement and rehab
- Systematic barriers to balancing housing and neighborhood values
- Housing and transit/transportation
- Acceptance of rental housing

21 Transportation Issues

- Solutions to reducing traffic congestion, reducing neighborhood car traffic and petroleum-based economy
- Pros and cons of transit investment: Bus transit, LRT, PRT
- Highway transportation plans impact on neighborhoods: Ayd Mill Road: Will the neighborhood character be sacrificed to make a freeway connection from 35E to I-94?
- Transit alternatives: What can make them viable and workable?
- Density issues and transit corridors

14 Urban Design Issues

- Big box development in the city: What are the alternatives? Impacts? How does the market relate to or deliver new urbanism?
- Innovative residential development around the country (i.e. Oakland, CA)
- Neighborhood-oriented urban design: influences and issues
- Urban green space (natural habitat areas, community gardening, etc.)
- Economics of development and lifestyles

10 Community Partnerships

- Fostering the spiritual and cultural life of the city
- Partnerships that work, i.e. schools and community organizations, colleges and communities
- Cooperation and collaboration between non-residential organizations (churches, businesses, etc.) and residents
- Neighborhood planning: How does it work? Citizen participation vs. reaction
- Riverfront development and community development

8 Diversity Issues

Comment: "This forum was very Caucasian and that ought to be worked on."

- Community leadership among communities of color
- Racism and ethnicity: Celebrating St. Paul's diversity as a gift to acknowledge and value
- Racial prejudice and impact on schools, housing and economics
- Cultural diversity and new immigrant communities in St. Paul
- Cultural awareness (or lack thereof) in real estate and banking industry

8 Regional Challenges

- Disparity and poverty in metro area
- Suburban-Urban Relations: How can we redress the seemingly bitter division between the cities and the suburbs? How does this relate to regional decisions about schools, roads, housing, etc.
- "Pull-together" forums, i.e. How does a community do a good job of economic development, urban design, good transit and housing mix all at the same time?
- Regional pollution, i.e. traffic, noise, smells
- Density standards in the metropolitan region

8 Story-Telling: Promoting Success in St. Paul Neighborhoods

- Building a sense of community: Where and how is this happening in St. Paul?
- How do we market our neighborhoods?
- What do we do and have we done that is right?
- Local success stories of sustainable community development and positive urban design
- Examples of community-wide planning successes and neighborhood group activity

6 Economic Development Issues

- Brownfield development
- Distribution of employment opportunities, job creation strategies for St. Paul
- Light industry development and potential job opportunities
- Financing community development activity, equity in community development
- Small business development

6 Education Issues

- Challenges for teachers: Integrating service - learning and technology
- Pros and cons of neighborhood schools

4 Crime and Safety Issues

- Community policing
- Violence prevention as a tool to building communities

1 Childcare Issues

- Quality childcare as an economic tool

Cities at Work 1998 Evaluation Results

<i>Question: Please rate the following aspects of the program*:</i>	N'hood Design 3/21/98	Jeremy Rifkin 4/21/98	Housing 4/28/98	Transportation 5/19/98	1998 AVERAGE	1997 AVERAGE	1996 AVERAGE
<i>The basic content of the forum:</i>	4.5	5.8	4.8	4.5	4.9	4.8	4.7
<i>The value of the reaction panel:</i>	4.2	N/A	4.6	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.4
<i>The amount of time allowed for audience questions and discussion:</i>	3.4	N/A	3.5	2.4	3.1	4.4	4.2
<i>The extent to which you can apply the information presented to your work or community:</i>	4.1	5.1	4.3	3.8	4.3	4.2	4.2
<i>The overall value and usefulness of this forum to you:</i>	4.2	5.6	4.6	4.1	4.6	4.5	4.5

* Rating scale:

<i>Terrible</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>O.K.</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Fantastic</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6

1998 Cities at Work Participant Profile

1998 Cities at Work Forum Series Luncheon/Forum Breakdown

	Percentage: Forum Series Attendees (luncheons & evening forums)	Luncheon Only	Forum Only
<i>Category</i>			
<i>Individual</i>	18%	-----	22%
<i>Govt.</i>	20%	30%	17%
<i>Business</i>	8%	6%	28%
<i>Education</i>	5%	3%	5%
<i>N'hood Organizations</i>	14%	20%	13%
<i>Other NPO's</i>	23%	30%	22%
<i>Funders</i>	2%	8%	1%
<i>Wilder Employees</i>	7%	4%	7%
<i>Misc.</i>	5%	-----	6%

1998 Cities at Work Series: Comprehensive Breakdown

Total # of Attendees	Evening Forums	Luncheons
<i>1998</i>	481	81
<i>1997</i>	361	139
<i>1996</i>	547	142

Cities at Work 1999

Building the Heart of Saint Paul - A Dialogue on Race, Connection, and Commitments

Focus

Saint Paul is changing, and we are at a crossroads. One road leads to community; the other to the chaos of competing identities and interests. We have numerous examples around us of dramatic changes that can strengthen our community or increase separation due to racial or cultural differences.

Nearly forty percent of our public school students do not speak English at home. We have nearly the highest level of poverty among people of color of any major city in the United States. Many employers, from both large and small businesses, are supporting on-site English as a Second Language classes for employees. We see increasing geographic and economic segregation in the schools, workplace, housing and neighborhoods. These changes offer an opportunity to recreate our communities and city, to build community and opportunity for all.

Cities At Work is an inter-racial, multi-neighborhood, collaborative effort made up of individuals, government, neighborhoods, funders, community organizations and faith-based groups committed to public dialogue on topics important to Saint Paul's future. The 1999 Cities At Work forum series will explore how Saint Paul can more effectively come together as a community to respond to demographic and cultural trends that will create an increasingly diverse St. Paul over the next 10-20 years.

We will explore:

- Why working together to strengthen our community is important
- How other cities have responded to similar demographic and cultural shifts
- The tension created by deeply imbedded assumptions about differences
- How youth view diversity, and what we need to do to support them
- How Saint Paul can cultivate an environment that makes it an attractive place to live, work, and do business
- The need to re-define our identity as a community so that everyone's contributions are welcome and used

The 1999 *Cities at Work* forum series will focus on ways we can address and embrace the impacts of these changes both as individuals and as a community. Dialogue is needed among neighbors, businesses, community-based organizations and associations, nonprofit agencies, faith-based groups, policymakers, and educators as we acknowledge the changing face of our community.

Forum Series Events

Between February and June, 1999, a series of events will bring people together to learn, share ideas and make commitments for future action as a community. Forum series events include:

Public Forums

Four evening forums, open to the public, will be the centerpiece events in the series. Each forum will examine the impact of our increasingly multi-cultural community:

Face-to-Face: How We Interact

The first forum will focus on the changing face of Saint Paul and the individual awareness and interpersonal dynamics that help connect us across cultural differences. The forum will use theater and

interactive discussion as a springboard to focus on the power of words and other symbols of communication that separate or connect us. The forum will emphasize the importance of intercultural communication as an important first step toward tolerance, acceptance and community reconciliation.

Stop Talking, Just Do It: Youth's Perspectives on Bridging Differences

Saint Paul youth will present their perspective on how to build relationships across cultural differences, focusing specifically on differences of race and sexual orientation. The forum will utilize a talk show format with youth, as well as participatory activities with the audience. The forum is intended to educate participants about youth and their experiences with diversity, and suggest how adults can provide better direction and opportunities for the future leaders of our community. The youth forum will explore the impact of moving beyond tolerance to acceptance of a rich and diverse multicultural community.

The New Face of Business

Many have viewed the private sector as separate from the work of community building. But as our community's make-up changes, the private sector is dramatically altering how they operate and connect with neighborhoods and ethnic communities in Saint Paul. We also have a new generation of business entrepreneurs investing in neighborhood business corridors, many of whom represent a rainbow of racial and ethnic backgrounds. These new business owners play a key role in revitalizing, and building wealth in, core neighborhoods in our city. The challenge is to get the different parts of the private sector working together - the entrepreneurs networked into the mainstream economy, and the larger businesses investing in the core city. This forum will stimulate dialogue about how these challenges can be met.

Beyond Tolerance: A Call to Action

During each public forum and the community circle dialogues, people will be identifying actions that are needed from individuals, neighborhoods, organizations and as a community to address racism, promote multiculturalism and reconciliation, and develop a strong and vital community. This final forum will take us beyond passive tolerance to create a community-wide agenda for action.

Community Circle Dialogues

The *Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues* are discussion groups of 10-15 people from diverse backgrounds who will meet five times between February and May for honest and respectful discussion of challenges our community faces regarding race, housing and education. A trained facilitator, a written discussion guide and other resource materials will help the keep the discussions focused. At the final forum in the *Cities at Work* forum series, "A Call to Action", community circle participants will share their experiences and ideas for future community action.

Lunch Forums

Lunch or breakfast forums will be held the day of each public forum. Community leaders, elected officials and funders will be invited to give them a brief overview of the ideas that are presented at the public forums. These forums are not a substitute for the "real thing"; they are intended to provoke discussion and keep people who ordinarily wouldn't come to the public forums apprised of the community discussion. Lunch forums have historically been sponsored and hosted by local corporations or organizations.

Sponsors and Funders

The *Cities At Work* forum series is sponsored and hosted by a broad array of groups and organizations in Saint Paul. These organizations have developed the forum series design, and contribute time, expertise, money and promotional and outreach capabilities to make the forum series a success.

Sponsors

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
City Solutions
Education and Housing Equity Project/Community Circles Collaborative
Jane Addams School for Democracy
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
MRA Twin Cities
National Conference for Community and Justice
St. Paul Council of Churches
The Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice/Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs
United Way of the St. Paul Area
YMCA of Greater St. Paul

Funders and Contributors

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
City Solutions
Education and Housing Equity Project/Community Circles Collaborative
F. R. Bigelow Foundation
Otto Bremer Foundation
St. Paul Council of Churches
The McKnight Foundation
The Saint Paul Foundation
The St. Paul Companies
United Way of the St. Paul Area
(plus other lunch sponsors, TBA)

~~Supt.
Stillwater Area Public Schools~~

TO: WINDA HOSKINS

~~Stephen Seidel~~

~~Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity~~

Metro Council HRA

Mary Ahearn Mears Park Centre

230 E 5TH ST

St. Paul, MN 55101

Mary Anderson, Mayor

City of Golden Valley

3030 Scott Ave North

MPIS, Golden Valley, MN 55422

Ray Aponte

3335 Garfield St. N.E

Minneapolis, MN 55418

Diane Cowdery (AA Coordinator)

Hopkins School District

1001 Highway 7

Hopkins, MN 55305

Trisha Cummins Kaufman

East Metro Women's Center

3521 Century Ave North #213

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Kenneth Drageeth, supt.

Edina Public School

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Sunny Floun

400 Greenland Ave., #1011

Mpl, MN 55403

Dolores Fridge

6752 Sunburst Drive

Eden Prairie, MN 55346

Linda Harriet-Johnson

FAST FORWARD - 78 East 10TH St Apt 1001

Pacer Center St. Paul, MN 55101

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Champlin Library
1215 Ensign Ave. N.

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Chip Halbach - Suite 522

Minnesota Housing Partnership - 122 W. Franklin Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Lois Hamilton

492 Montrose Ave.

St. Paul, MN 55116

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Marion Helland
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Caty Royce

Community Stabilization Project

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ST. Paul, MN 55102

John Ruffin, Exce. Director

Hawthorne Area Community Council

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MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55411

Mort Ryweck

League of Human Rights Commissions

1225 La Salle Ave

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Steve Sandell, Director

The Humphrey Forum

Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

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Stephen Seidel, Exec. Director

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Minneapolis, MN 55409

Art Serotoff - 310 East 38th St - Rm 200

Sabathani Community Center

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Jack Tumble - 1006 West Lake St
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Rev. Stephen Van Kichen
~~707~~ Presbyterian Church of the Apostles
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Burnsville, MN 55337

W Karla Weigold
(on MLEAH Board - Joy's address)

Sandra Weise, et. al.
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P.O. Box 80301
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Larry Werner
Star Tribune
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Minneapolis, MN 55488

No Roland Westerlund

Jay Wilkerson
Housing Discrimination Law Project
2929 4th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Christy Snow - 2469 University Ave W. ^{LOWER} ^{LEVEL}
Minnesota Fair Housing Center
(the address on flyer) St. Paul, MN 55114

Ron Wirtz
Citizens League

708 S. 3rd St., Suite 500
Mpls, MN 55415

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Minnesota Public Radio
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St. Paul, MN 55101

Dorothy Woolfork
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+ Christina Fiebach - UNIV of MN
MN Journalism Center

Univ. of MN

→ get address off
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5005 Minnetonka Boulevard
St. Louis Park, MN 55416-2290

Interested Community Circle Sponsors or groups that we should contact:

Rainbow Foods
CUB Foods
Super Valu

Target
Department Stores? - Dayton Hudson?
Macy's,
Nordstrom's,
Bloomingdale's

3M
Minnesota Twins - Kirby Puckett
the *WILD*
Timberwolves - Community Circle with sports figures?

Tax breaks or incentives for keeping small satellite stores in inner city
dual partner ship with business and schools for hiring, training working with students through teachers - build a program
Matching Funding for support of EHEP & Circles - a commitment to working with the Community to fight racism and discrimination to support a bill or piece of legislation to promote business growth and opportunity in the urban and suburban areas

Becky Thoman - running to fill Myron's spot

Rev. Albert Gallmon - running for school board
Catherine Shreves - running for school board

lm



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Children's Initiative

might come

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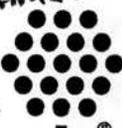
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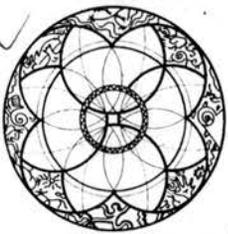
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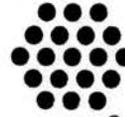


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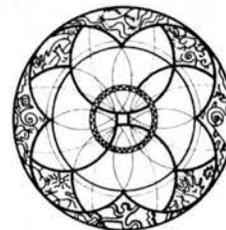


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Community Services Group
919 Lafond Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
Our Fax Number: 651-642-2088

Date: 12/11/98 Time: _____
To: Committee Members Phone: _____
Organization: _____ Fax: _____
From: Barb Rose Phone: _____

Instructions / Notes _____

Total number of pages following this page: 5

If this message is not received in its entirety, please call _____
at (651) _____

Community Circle Dialogues 12-10 meeting minutes

Present: Leslie Byzewski, Mary Doyle, Patricia James, Dick Little, Barb Rose

Note: Our Next Meeting will be January 5, 1999 from 9:00-10:00 at Wilder in Room 10.

We reviewed the potential sponsor list which is being sent with this fax. Barb is also sending a sample of the letter sent out to contacts at these potential sponsoring organizations. Please feel free to use this or a version of this if you need to but send a copy to Barb as well so we can keep track of the correspondence.

Dick Little and Barb are preparing for the January 13 information meeting at Black Bear Crossing and may call on some of you to help with this. We will hopefully have all the materials done by that time to distribute.

Patricia James is updating the demographic information in the discussion guide and making it more St Paul friendly.

Hope everybody has a good holiday. See you next year (ha ha) Please call Barb before our next meeting if you need to update her on any contacts or other information.

Potential Cities at Work Community Dialogues Sponsors

- **Childrens Initiative- Kathleen Velenga**
West Side Family Center
East Side Family Center
American Indian Family Center

- **HECUA-Amy Sunderland**
- **Mt Zion Synagogue-(Shelly Rottenberg)**
- **Americorps Multicultural Community Action Group- Julie Cruz (Mary doyle)**
- **District Councils (Barb Rose/Dick Little)**
- **Ditriect 13- Sarah Martin and Sherilyn (Barb)**
- **District 5-Chris Vandel (Barb)**
- **District 4-John Vanne and Karin Depaul (Barb)**
- **Quebecor(Mary Doyle)**
- **SP Companies-Mary Pickard (Carol L)**
- **HECUA-Amy S. and Leslie B (Barb)**
- **Congregtions in Communties-St Paul Churches- Bob Walz (Dick and Barb) with Black Ministerial Alliance (Dick Little)?**
- **Youth Forum (Sally, etc)**
- **St Paul Area Chamber of Commerce-Marcia Fink (Barb)**
- **Frogtown Healing Circle- Melvin Giles (Barb)**
- **Adopted Families-Tom Kingston and Children;'s Home Society**
- **Hmong American Partnership/CAAR-Leslie McMurray (Barb)**
- **JJ Hill Magnet School-(Dick and Barb)**
- **Univ St Thomas (Dick and Chris Toffolo)**
-



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SAMPLE

December 7, 1998

Marcia Fink
Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
322 Minnesota St.
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear Marcia,

We have talked briefly over the phone about the Chamber's potential interest in becoming a sponsor or community partner for the *Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues* project. I wanted to clarify for you what is involved so we can help ensure the success of the project. We are in the process of putting together materials, including an update of the discussion guide, a "pledge of participation" for sponsors, and a brief fact sheet describing what the *Community Circle Dialogues* will look like. I will share those with you as soon as they are available.

The *Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues* serve as a framework for a group of 10-15 people to get together five times over two to three months for honest and respectful discussion of some critical public issues affecting Saint Paul and the metropolitan region. A trained facilitator would be provided as well as a discussion guide and other resource materials to help guide the discussions. In addition, we would provide facilitator training for any individuals you could recruit to serve as co-facilitators or scribes for the dialogues. The discussion materials focus on various challenges our community is facing around housing and education. The fifth or final community circle session guides the groups to share best community practices and to brainstorm some ideas for future community action to address the issues discussed in the previous sessions.

We hope to begin the *Community Circle Dialogues* in mid-February or early March. The final forum in the *Cities at Work* forum series, "A Call to Action," will be an opportunity for all community circle participants to share their experiences and ideas for future community action.

The roles and responsibilities of a sponsor or community partner include:

- **Recruiting** between 8 and 15 participants for each community circle.
- **Designating** a scribe or co-facilitator for each community circle who can capture and record in writing the highlights of each session.

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- **Arranging** a meeting space and time for each community circle or recruiting participants for a designated time and location. (We can help find sites for the groups if needed.)
- **Distributing** discussion materials to each participant.
- **Promoting** the program including bulletins, newsletters, and personal contacts.
- **Participating** in the evaluation process of the community circle.
- **Providing** childcare, transportation, and translation services as needed by participants.
- **Providing** meeting set-ups, including nametags, flip charts, and light snacks and beverages at each meeting.
- **Maintaining** a record of community circle participation with complete phone and address listings.

We have scheduled an informational meeting for all sponsors/community partners and designated co-facilitators for **January 13 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.** at Black Bear Crossing Coffee House, 831 Como Ave. Please let me know whether or not you will be able to attend, because we may need to find a larger facility and relocate this important meeting. I would also encourage anybody you think would be a likely candidate to become a co-facilitator or scribe to come to this meeting.

There are also training sessions scheduled for **Friday evening, January 22 and Saturday, January 23** for all sponsor contacts and co-facilitators. The Friday evening session will be a facilitator training; on Saturday, Nadine and Jim Addington are conducting an anti-racism workshop. (Times and location to be announced.)

We spoke briefly about the possibility of recruiting community circle participants from the current and past Leadership Saint Paul groups. Maybe there are some other possibilities with one or more of the Chamber's membership committees. I would like to discuss this further with you and go over any other questions or concerns you may have about this exciting project, so please give me a call at your earliest convenience at (651) 659-6031. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rose
Wilder Foundation

What are the Cities at Work Community Circle Dialogues?

- **A group of 10-15 people who come together to talk to each other about critical public policy issues and to identify some possible ideas for community action.**
- **A group of people who can participate in a small, democratic discussion and share common concerns, thoughts, and perspectives.**
- **A group of people who can agree that it is not necessary to agree with each other but that it is important to listen and respect all viewpoints to learn from each other.**
- **The groups meet for five sessions over a period of two months followed by a call to action forum.**
- **The discussions are facilitated by a person who is not there to act as an expert on the issues, but to keep the discussion focused and to insure that all voices are heard.**
- **The facilitator and participants use a framework provided in a discussion guide that includes differing points of views about critical issues, questions for discussion, and reference material that can be used to inform the circle participants.**

**1999 Cities at Work
Community Circle Dialogues**
Evaluation Form

Participant Feedback

This circle dialogue is part of a pilot project. Your thoughtful comments and criticism will be valuable in shaping future community circles. Please take the time to give us your suggestions and ideas.

1. How would you rate your overall experience as a participant in this community circle dialogue:

<i>Terrible</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>O.K.</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Fantastic</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6

2. Please identify one or two things you gained from participating in this community circle.

3. What would have made this experience better?

4. Do you think that your participation in this dialogue will have any effect on your thoughts or actions in the future?

Yes Please describe: _____

No Why not? _____

5. What issues would you suggest community circle dialogues address in the future?
