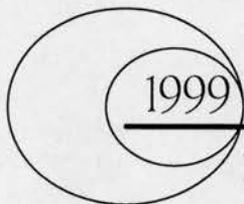




Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

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1999 CITIES AT WORK COMMUNITY CIRCLE DIALOGUES
EDUCATION AND HOUSING EQUITY PROJECT

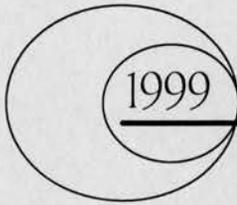
AGENDA

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

5:30—9:00 p.m.

St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, 739 Lafond Avenue, St. Paul

- 5:30 Registration and refreshments
- 6:00 Welcome and introduction
- 6:15 Small group discussions
- 7:15 Open mike: Small group reports, questions and concerns
- 8:15 What's Next?
- 8:30 Closing—Healing Ceremony



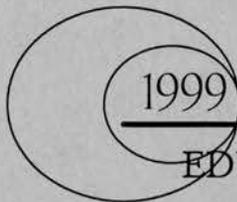
1999 CITIES AT WORK COMMUNITY CIRCLE DIALOGUES

EDUCATION AND HOUSING EQUITY PROJECT

CIRCLE DIALOGUE SPONSORS

1998-1999

Bloomington Human Rights Commission
Crystal Human Rights Commission
District Five Teen Council
Frogtown Family Center
Hamline/Midway Coalition Alliance for a Prejudice Free Community
HECUA (Metro Urban Studies Term)
Hiawatha YMCA and Longfellow-Nokomis Family & Community Resource Center
J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School
League of Women Voters of Minneapolis
Lexington/Hamline Community Council and the Merriam Park Community Council
Mayflower Community Congregational Church
Merriam Park Community Council & Goodwill/Easter Seals
Minneapolis School District
Southwest Area (Barton Open School)
South Area (Bryant Square Park)
East Area (East Lake Library)
North Area (Northstar Elementary School)
Partnerships for Tomorrow
Project for Pride in Living
Ramsey Action Program
Ramsey International Fine Arts School
Richfield Human Rights Commission
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
St. Paul Area Council of Churches
St. Paul Neighborhood Network
The St. Paul Companies
University of St. Thomas
Wooddale Lutheran Church
Young Leaders Caucus



1999 CITIES AT WORK COMMUNITY CIRCLE DIALOGUES

EDUCATION AND HOUSING EQUITY PROJECT

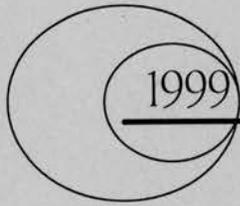
JUNE 22 GATHERING

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Looking back at your five sessions of your community circle dialogue, please share one new thing that you learned or gained from your community circle dialogue experience?
(How has the community circle dialogue affected the way you think or feel about economic or racial segregation, or the challenges of housing or education?)*
2. How will the experience with the community circle dialogue influence your future thoughts and actions? *(How will it affect how you are involved in your community?)*

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

- Use the above questions as a guide to lead the discussion. They are simply to be used as a starting point to generate the conversation.
- As a facilitator, you may offer your own thoughts to get the discussion going, but be careful not to dominate or focus on your personal contribution to the discussion.
- Solicit participation from all people in the group if possible.
- Capture key comments and responses to questions on flip chart to share during open mike wrap-up session.
- Allow time to choose the three best ideas that emerge from your discussion to report to the larger group.



1999 CITIES AT WORK COMMUNITY CIRCLE DIALOGUES

EDUCATION AND HOUSING EQUITY PROJECT

Sponsorship Commitment

Sponsoring Organization: _____

Contact: _____
Name Phone E-mail FAX

Mailing Address: _____

We will provide space for a *Cities at Work* Community Circle Dialogue as follows:

Location

Dates and Times

Name of location: _____

Day of Week: _____ Time: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Dates: _____

On Site Contact: _____

Scribe (if available): _____

Co-facilitator (if available): _____

_____	We will be able to provide a diverse group of 8 - 15 participants per Circle (not more than half of the group from any one racial/ethnic background).
	-or-
_____	We will need assistance to insure the diversity of our group.

Please fax or mail to:

Barb Rose

Fax: (651) 642-2088

Wilder Foundation, 919 Lafond Ave.

St. Paul, MN 55104

or

Dick Little

Fax: (612) 330-1507

EHEP, 2211 Riverside Ave., CB 185

Minneapolis, MN 55454

IDEAS FOR ACTION

Community-Wide Initiatives

The following list is a sampling of community efforts already underway. It can be used as a resource for exploring what you as an individual can do to begin organizing for action and to identify organizations already engaged in activities you may want to join. It can also be used as a tool for exploring possibilities for collective action as a community. Note: This list is by no means comprehensive, but is intended simply as a starting place for generating ideas for action.

HOUSING

Saint Paul's City Comprehensive Housing Plan outlines plans for the building of 6,000 new units over the next 20 years. 651-266-6657

2000 by 2000 Initiative, a partnership between Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the City of Saint Paul, and eight community development corporations to boost production of affordable housing in Saint Paul. 651-649-1109

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, an assisted housing program which works to revitalize neighborhoods and provide opportunities for home ownership to low-income families who work with volunteers to construct or to refurbish their new home. 612-331-4090

State legislative initiatives, i.e., proposed amendments to the Fiscal Disparities Act and the Livable Communities Act, the Housing and Economic Vitality Initiative, and proposed affordable housing legislation containing inclusionary housing strategies.

Metropolitan Council Livable Communities demonstration projects. 651-602-1140

Urban Coalition 50/30 Initiative promotes home ownership for households of color. 612-348-8550

Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH) Suburban Housing Initiative is a Housing Advocate Network of over 1,000 volunteers. 612-871-8980

The Alliance for Metropolitan Stability's Inclusionary Housing Initiative. 612-870-3443

EDUCATION

Achievement Plus Schools Initiative is a partnership of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, the Saint Paul Public Schools, the City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, the State of Minnesota, several Saint Paul neighborhoods, and the East Side YMCA. The collaboration's goal is to improve student's academic achievement and promote parent and community involvement in the schools. The schools provide integrated academic, health, social, and recreational programs and support services for families and the community during traditional school hours and on evenings, weekends, and vacations. 651-642-4070

Jane Addams School for Democracy's learning exchange circles with neighborhood residents and college students meet twice a week at Neighborhood House on Saint Paul's West Side to help Hmong and Latino immigrants improve English skills and prepare for the citizenship exam, learn about employment rights in the workplace, share cultural stories, and focus on policy action projects on welfare reform and immigration legislation. 651-690-8786

Saint Paul/Ramsey Children's Initiative, an effort to link the wisdom of Saint Paul's family and community members with the decision-makers directing service delivery to children and families through the establishment of neighborhood family centers. 651-917-4896

Multi-district schools (Tri-district Magnet School for Maplewood, North St. Paul and St. Paul). 651-487-5450

The Minnesota Minority Education Partnership's (MMEP) Project Empowerment focuses on improving student achievement among students of color through parent and teacher training and collaborative regional and community leadership; and **Institute for Multicultural Connections**, which works to prepare young people of color for teaching careers. 612-330-1522

RACE RELATIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

City of Saint Paul's Human Rights Department's Hate Bias Response Teams's educational resources and communications network for responding to victims of hate incidents and crimes. 651-266-8966

Project Common Ground, a collaborative sponsored by the Saint Paul and Stillwater public schools to promote understanding and interaction among students of diverse backgrounds, increase academic performance, and provide leadership development training through multi-ethnic cross-district teams of students. 651-433-1113

MRA in the Twin Cities/Hope in the Cities, an inter-racial, multi-faith coalition of individuals in government, business, education, media, religious, and community organizations creating a process of healing through honest conversation on race, reconciliation, and responsibility. 651-646-8617

Voices of Pain and Hope is a report by the Saint Paul Planning Commission completed in 1992 that surveys the level of poverty, social isolation, and racial tension in Saint Paul. 651-266-6573

Saint Paul Area Council of Churches, **Congregations In Communities Gateway to Justice** program, a lunch-time brown bag series of conversations on social justice issues such as affordable housing, immigration, and literacy. 651-646-8805, ext. 19

Better Together 771-1152

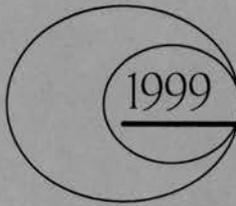
The Hamline Midway Alliance for a Prejudice Free Community, a group of community members in Saint Paul's Hamline Midway neighborhood who have joined together to eliminate prejudice, bigotry, and hate crimes in their neighborhood. They have developed an "on call" system to support people who are targets of hate crime, prejudice or bigotry and work with local businesses and other community groups and individuals to heal and strengthen the community.

Faith-based social justice initiatives to address segregation, poverty, and urban disparities led by Interfaith Action and the St. Paul Ecumenical Action Council (SPEAC).

Research initiatives, such as the work on 40 developmental assets of young people by the Search Institute 651-376-8955; research on the status of Twin Cities communities of color by the Urban Coalition 612-348-8550; culture-specific research by HACER (Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research) and the American Indian Research and Policy Institute 651-644-1728; and research on the relationship of housing, segregation, and educational achievement by the Institute on Race and Poverty 612-625-8071.

What You Can Do As An Individual

- ◆ **Attend meetings** of your local school board, planning and zoning commission, city council or other groups that make important decisions affecting the issues you have discussed. Do your homework, share your ideas, get others to attend with you. Volunteer to serve on local problem-solving task forces.
- ◆ **Be informed** about local and regional issues. Read and contribute commentary to local and ethnic newspapers. Express your opinion on race and multicultural concerns with local papers and radio programs. Write letters to your government representatives on issues of fair and affordable housing and on the need for creating communities and schools that enable all kids to succeed.
- ◆ **Build new relationships**, especially with people from different racial, ethnic, linguistic and religious groups than your own.
- ◆ **Assume leadership**. Take initiative. You don't have to be a public official or a well-known person to be a leader. Become a regional citizen.
- ◆ **Rally and demonstrate** at the legislature on issues of important moral and economic consequence to the region.
- ◆ **Become involved** in your child's, or your local school's, site based management council or Compensatory Aid team.
- ◆ **Volunteer to tutor or mentor** students-at-risk in your school district.
- ◆ **Volunteer to be a tester** for a fair housing testing organization such as the Minnesota Fair Housing Center. **Challenge discriminatory practices** wherever and whenever you encounter or witness them.
- ◆ **Get involved** in any of the promising practices and organizations noted above. Nearly all of these initiatives are volunteer-driven or supported. Join a housing or education advocacy organization and become an advocate. Create a movement for active involvement in countering NIMBY responses when affordable housing is proposed in your community. Tell your story if you have one that expands public awareness of affordable housing as a need and an asset in our communities. Inform and influence public policies on important legislative initiatives dealing with the critical regional linkages between housing, education, race relations, social equity, transportation, environment, land use and economic development that lead to greater stability and equity in the metropolitan area.



1999 CITIES AT WORK COMMUNITY CIRCLE DIALOGUES

EDUCATION AND HOUSING EQUITY PROJECT

Volunteer Opportunities

Check the box if you would like to help with any of the activities below. Be sure to fill out your name, address and phone and turn-in your completed form as you leave.

- Promotion and publicity
 - Sponsor and participant recruitment
 - Office and meeting coordination
 - Facilitator or scribe training
 - Call to Action forum planning or other special events
 - Other ideas?
-

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax/e-mail:

Metropolitan Citizens Summit

Education, Housing and Race in the Twin Cities Area

December 1999

At the conclusion of the 1999 Community Circle Dialogues, circle participants will be invited to participate in a "Citizens Summit" on creating better schools and affordable housing for every resident of the Twin Cities.

This event will be designed to bring "closure" to the "Community Circles" meeting this and previous years, and to move the community forward on these important issues:

- to honor the work these dedicated citizens have undertaken;
- to provide a forum for further exchange of ideas among these diverse citizens (in the form of more concrete solutions and next steps);
- to further build connections among citizens metro-wide to *act*;
- and, finally, to generate attention for citizens' ideas among local, state and national policy leaders, the media and the public.

The ultimate goal is to "change how we do business" as a racially diverse community.

The Citizens Summit will have two parts:

1) **A Citizens Forum with participants from the Community Circle project**

At the forum, participants will present their best ideas for moving from ideas to action on better integrating the metropolitan area (i.e., building more inclusive communities and schools). This session will be fully interactive, with participants having the ability to electronically vote on or rate the various ideas presented. The forum will be moderated by a known and trusted community leader.

In addition, the forum will be attended by a number of local policy makers – elected officials from suburban, urban, metropolitan, school, county and state government – all key officials working on or influencing these issues. The goal of the meeting will be to have these policy makers present to listen to the citizens who participated in the community circle conversations, and to understand the depth of support of their ideas.

2) **A Minnesota Meeting address**

In conjunction with the forum, the Minnesota Meeting will also host an address by a nationally prominent leader in civil rights, education and housing (who will have observed the citizens summit). A larger group of community leaders – largely from business and the professions – will join the participants from the citizens forum for the Minnesota Meeting, a luncheon event which will be broadcast live on the stations of Minnesota Public Radio. This event will give the speaker an excellent opportunity to relate to a larger public (luncheon guests and radio listeners) her/his understanding of the work among the citizens that happened at the forum.

Sponsored by: ***The Minnesota Meeting, the Minnesota Public Radio Civic Journalism Initiative and the Education & Housing Equity Project***

Funded by: ***The Minneapolis and the Saint Paul Foundations***

EDUCATION & HOUSING EQUITY PROJECT

Revised 11-10-98

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Education & Housing Equity Project (EHEP) is to build broad-based partnerships that engage Twin Cities area citizens in public discussion, analysis and action that promotes racially and economically inclusive communities which provide families and children of all races, incomes and ethnic backgrounds access to quality housing and schools throughout the metropolitan area.

Current Activities:

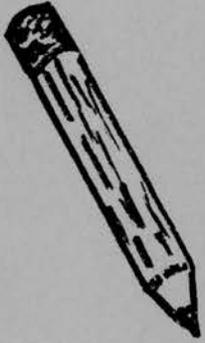
- (1) Exploring how to build a coalition that can work for racially and economically inclusive communities and respond to the segregation and disparities now developing in the housing and schools of the Twin Cities metro area.
- (2) Working in collaboration with other housing, education, religious, business, community and anti-racism organizations to plan and implement a metro-wide study circle and community forum project for 1997 and 1999 that focuses on the questions:
 1. "What are the impacts of existing patterns of residential, economic and racial segregation on the educational achievement and life opportunities of Twin Cities area children and families?" and,
 2. "What can or should citizens do, as individuals and as a community, to enhance the educational, housing, and economic opportunities of all children and adults in the Twin Cities metropolitan area?"

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E-mail: ehp@augsborg.edu

Principal Staff:
Dick Little, Executive Director

2211 RIVERSIDE AVENUE, #185 * MINNEAPOLIS, MN * 55454-9934
PHONE: 612-330-1505 * FAX: 612-330-1507 * EMAIL: EHEP@AUGSBURG.EDU



Add your ideas....

WRITE HERE