



Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

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MINNESOTA OFFICE OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION
340 CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

MEMORANDUM

To: Jan Frankman, Jim Deye, Karima Bushnell, Bill Hannon, Jim Noonan, Vicki Underland-Rosow, John Miller, Mark McCrea, Jean Greenwood, Dick Little

From: Barbara Blackstone *BB*

Subject: Community Circles in Minneapolis

Date: October 7, 1998

The final text for the discussion guides is now completed and enclosed. Copies will be formatted to an easier style and printed in time for the Minneapolis Circles but we wanted you to get the final text as soon as possible.

We would like to have the facilitators and the school contact people gather together for a review of the materials and for an overview of the project from the school district's perspective. The date we have chosen is **Monday, October 19 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** The location will be determined in the next few days and I will let you know where we will be meeting (most likely one of the school sites).

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, etc. and whether you can attend the gathering on the 19th. I'm at **297-4635** (tho I'll be at the SPIDR conference Oct. 14-18).

Thanks for your participation in this exciting project. NPR had announcements on it the other day!

Community Circle Conversations: Addressing the Challenges of Education, Housing and Segregation

Thoughtful consideration of different perspectives can lead to better understanding of problems, more practical solutions, and citizens who can help make a difference. Groups of 8 to 14 persons will meet for 5 sessions. Community Circle Conversations promote learning and understanding from many points of view. Participants will be part of a metro wide dialogue culminating in the opportunity to share insights with other groups. This program will meet at and is cosponsored by East Lake Library, 2727 E. Lake St. For more information about participating in one of the following Community Circle Conversations or to register call Scott Bol at 627-7229.

- **Barton School** (43rd & Colfax Ave. S.): 5 Wednesdays, October 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Facilitators: **Jan Frankman, Jim Deye**
- **Bryant Square Park** (31st & Bryant Ave. S.): 5 Thursdays, October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Facilitators: **Bill Hannon**
- **East Lake Library** (28th and E. Lake St.): 5 Thursdays, October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Facilitators: **Karima Bushnell**
- **Pratt Center** (66 Malcolm Ave. SE) 5 Thursdays, October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Facilitators: **Jim Noonan, Barbara Blackstone**
- **Northstar** (24th and Girard Ave. N.): 5 Saturdays, November 7, 14, 21, December 5, 12, 10:00a.m. - 12:00 noon.
Facilitators: **Vicki Underland-Rosow, John Miller**

Substitute Facilitators: Mark McCrea, Jean Greenwood

Circle Project

Name

Phone / E-Mail /Address

X _____ x _____

Co-Facilitators

X _____

Recorder

Circle Participants

x _____

Circle Project Page 2

X _____

X _____

X _____

Please Check upon confirmation

Audio _____

Video _____

Translator _____

Local Newspaper _____

Community Circle Project

10/98

To: All Community Circle Participants
Fr: Thomas Ross Minneapolis Urban League
Re: Community Circle Project Agreement

Participants,

Please accept this letter to confirm your full participation with the Community Circle Project. This American Civil Service Project will affect Local public opinion as well as Minnesota public policy. By signing this agreement you are committing to full participation on this Historic 10 hour conversion around this country's most difficult issues to discuss. How does racial and economic segregation affect housing and educational achievement and life opportunity of Minneapolis families and children? What can or should we do, as individuals and as community, to enhance the educational, housing opportunities in our Community.

Community Circles are small, highly participatory discussion groups that engage people in controversial, political, thought-provoking topics. A typical community circle will include 5-15 members. Each community circles will be as economically, ethnically, racially, and politically diverse as possible. Each group will meet for approximately 10 hours and be lead by co-facilitators from the alternative dispute resolution community. A common Discussion Guide that includes readings, presentations of a range of view points, and discussion Questions will be used by all groups. The community circle approach allows participants to address an issue, examine different views on both the problem and possible remedies, and pursue concerns and solution that interest and motivate members toward actions.

We in the community thank you for your time and open an honest participation

X _____
participant

X _____
Community circle organizer

October 26 Community Conversation About Our Students

RESPONSE FORM

Please choose one of these easy ways to respond

By October 16, 1998

FAX TO 627-7008

OR

Call 627-2191

OR

Mail to District Support Services

807 NE Broadway, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Yes! I am available to join you for the *Community Conversation about Our Students*.

I am sorry, but I will not be available to attend.

I will not be able to attend, but I would like to hear about the outcome of the meeting and next steps planned to support asset development in our city's children and youth.

Name _____ **Organization** _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **FAX** _____

Additional representatives from our organization who wish to attend

Geographic Area in which I/representatives would like to meet during the conversations. Please see the enclosed information about the new district area organization to help you make your choice. Some organizations which work in more than one area may wish to bring a representative for each area conversation.

North Northeast Southwest South East

Our organization works with students in:

Elementary Middle School High School All Ages

We are involved in programs with students including:

After-School/Weekend Activities Tutoring
 Mentoring Mental, Physical Health
 Athletics Other _____

We are involved with a Minneapolis School/s: _____

Minneapolis Community Circles, fall 1998

Participant Profile

1. Community Circle Location _____
2. Community where you live: City _____ Neighborhood? _____
School District _____
3. Community where you work: City _____ Downtown or Business District? _____
4. Ethnic/Racial background?

_____ African American	_____ Hispanic/Latino/Chicano
_____ American Indian/Native American	_____ White/European
_____ Asian American	_____ Mixed Racial Background
_____ Arab/Middle Eastern	_____ Other
5. Gender Male _____ Female _____
6. Age/Generation: Born in... _____ 1920's _____ 30's _____ 40's _____ 50's
_____ 60's _____ 70's _____ 80's
7. Household/Family: Married/Partnered no children _____ Married/Partnered with children _____
Single alone _____ Single with children _____ Minor living with family _____ Room Mate _____
Other family configuration (e.g., extended family) _____ Other _____ Number in your household _____
8. Income Level: Low _____ Moderate _____ Middle _____ High _____
9. Education (highest level attained): Grade or Middle School _____ High School _____
College studies _____ Community College/Vo-Tech _____ College Degree _____
Graduate studies _____ Graduate School Degree _____ Are you currently a student? _____
9. Political Affiliation: DFL _____ Republican _____ Reform _____ Other _____
Independent (no affiliation) _____
10. Political Perspective: Liberal _____ Conservative _____ Moderate _____
Libertarian _____ Other _____
11. Housing Situation: Home owner _____ Renter _____ Landlord _____
Single-Family _____ Multi-Family _____ Other _____
12. Religious Affiliation/Faith Group: Catholic _____ Protestant _____ Jewish _____
Muslim _____ Unitarian _____ Other _____ No affiliation _____
13. Employment/Occupation: Government _____ Education _____ Private Industry _____
Corporate _____ Small Business _____ Self Employed _____ Non-profit _____
Not Employed _____ Retired _____ Other _____
14. Do you have children attending K-12 Schools? _____ Public School _____ Private School _____ Other _____

Fax Transmittal Cover Sheet

To: - Dick Little

From: Rita Keltgen, Sanford Community Education

Fax Number: 612-627-2730

Date: Tue, Oct 13, 1998 • 2:43 PM

Pages, including cover: 2

If there is difficulty with this transmission, please call: 612-627-7192

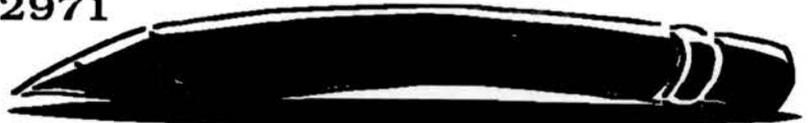
Note:

Here is the North flyer.

Help Make A Difference In Minneapolis

You are invited to lend your voice to historic talks that are being held throughout the Twin Cities. The topic is education, housing and segregation and how these factors impact all of us. Participants agree to attend 5 two-hour conversations in a Community Circle. Community Circle Conversations promote learning and understanding from many points of view and respect for differing opinions. Participants will be part of a metro wide dialogue culminating in the opportunity to share insights with other groups. This project will be used to inform local and state public policy. Minneapolis School Board members and other elected officials have been invited to this or similar conversations.

Day: 5 Saturdays
Dates: November 7, 14 & 21, December 5 & 15
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Place: **North Star School**
 24th & Girard Ave. N.
 Mpls. MN 55411
627-2971



Registration Form - North Star School Community Conversation Circles

Name _____ Day Phone# _____ Evening Phone # _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zipcode _____
 Special Needs _____

To register for this Community Conversation Circle, fill out this form and mail it to Sandi McDonald, **North Star School**, 2410 Girard Ave. N., Mpls. MN 55411. **Call Sandi McDonald at 627-2971** if you have questions or need more information.

Fax Transmittal Cover Sheet

To: - Dick Little

From: Rita Keltgen, Sanford Community Education

Fax Number: 612-627-2730

Date: Wed, Oct 21, 1998 • 12:48 PM

Pages, including cover: 2

If there is difficulty with this transmission, please call: 612-627-7192

Note:

Scott and Dick - I have some more names to add to conversations. Here they are.
I may have a few more that I am still trying to contact.

Community Conversation Circle - Newly Recruited Participants-10/21/98

Name	Site	Other Information
Irma Kafalgjazal 5215 Main St. East P.O. 433 Maple Plain, MN 55359 479-2511	East Lake	Cannot come to Oct. 29 session.
Peter Koelz 5833 11th Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55417 861-1867	Barton	Cannot come the first night (10/21/98)
Connie Scott Audubon School 4030 Chowen Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55410	Barton	
Scott Skordahl 5917 14th Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55417 869-8464	Barton	

Fax Transmittal Cover Sheet

To: - Dick Little

From: Rita Keltgen, Sanford Community Education

Fax Number: 612-627-2730

Date: Wed, Oct 21, 1998 • 2:46 PM

Pages, including cover: 2

If there is difficulty with this transmission, please call: 612-627-7192

Note:

Dick - The list I faxed earlier did not have the last the last name (Pratt site) on it.

Community Conversation Circle - Newly Recruited Participants-10/21/98

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Scott Skordahl 5917 14th Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55417 869-8464	Barton	

Names Not on List Previously Faxed

Talley Sjoberg 251 Appleby Hall 128 Pleasant St SE Minneapolis, MN 55455 626-7292	Pratt	Needs Directions
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Here is information about Community Circle Conversations scheduled throughout Minneapolis. You are invited to choose a site that is convenient to where you live.

Place	Dates and Time	Contact Person
Barton School 43rd & Colfax Av. S.	5 Wednesdays October 21 & 28, November 4, 11, & 18 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Cindy Smedberg Barton Comm. Ed. 4327 Colfax Av. S. Mpls. MN 55409 627-2378
Bryant Square Park 31st & Bryant Av. S.	5 Thursdays October 22 & 29, November 5, 12, & 19 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Joann Nelson Jefferson C. Educ. 1200 W. 26th St. Mpls. MN 55405 627-3202
East Lake Library 28th & E. Lake St.	5 Thursdays October 22 & 29, November 5, 12, & 19 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Scott Bol Seward Comm.Ed. 2309 28th Av. S. Mpls. MN 55406 627-7229
Pratt Center 66 Malcolm Av SE	5 Thursdays October 22 & 29, November 5, 12, & 19 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Brenda Eccleston Pratt Center 66 Malcolm Av. SE Mpls. MN 55414 627-2279
North Star School 24th & Girard Av. N.	5 SATURDAYS NOVEMBER 7, 14 & 21 DECEMBER 5 & 15 10:00 - 12:00 NOON	Sandy McDonald North Star C. Educ. 2410 Girard Av. N. Mpls. MN 55411 627-2971

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Registration Form - Community Conversation Circles

Name _____ Day Phone# _____ Evening Phone # _____

Address _____ City _____ Zipcode _____

Special Needs _____

Check Site (See back of flyer for details.) Barton School Bryant Square Park

East Lake Library Northstar School Pratt Community Center

To register for a Community Conversation Circle, fill out this form and mail it to the contact person listed for the site indicated (see the back of this sheet). **For more information call the site contact person at the site you are interested in attending or Scott Bol at 627-7229 for general information.**

Fax Transmittal Cover Sheet

To: - Dick Little

From: Rita Keltgen, Sanford Community Education

Fax Number: 612-627-2730

Date: Tue, Oct 13, 1998 • 3:22 PM

Pages, including cover: 5

If there is difficulty with this transmission, please call: 612-627-7192

Note:

Dear CCC participants - I apologize again for confusion about the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19 (see attached) and we will be meeting with the facilitators.

Memorandum

To: Al Ickler, Jerry Blue, Scott Bol, Janine Freij, Brenda Eccleston, Joe Horan, Dick Little, Joann Nelson, Sandy McDonald, Thomas Ross

From: Rita Keltgen

Date: 10/13/98

Subject: Community Conversations Meeting October 19, 1998

Opps! Opps! Opps! Opps! Opps! Opps! Opps! Opps! Opps! Opps!

I forgot to change the date on the last agenda I faxed out. I had the meeting as being on October 12, but Dick Little and I were the only two there (except Al Ickler stopped in briefly). I'm sorry for the confusion. Scott Bol did go to meet with the persons who had the meeting as being on Tuesday to get their updates. Please note that there is **no other meeting this week, but we are asking all who can to come to meet with the facilitators next Monday evening.** See the attached memo and list of facilitators for more information. In the mean time:

1. Call names, addresses, and phone numbers of any persons whom you have identified as wanting to participate to Scott Bol at 627-7229.
2. Continue to work on recruitment and other tasks you volunteers to do.

Here is accurate information on the next meeting:

Date: Monday, October 19, 1998
Time: 6:30 to 8:00
Place: Sanford Middle School
36th Street and 41st Ave. SE
(Enter the 36th Street door closest to 41st Ave.)

Please let me know at 627-7192 if you will not be there.

AGENDA

- I. Meet with facilitator
- II. Updates - All present report results of previous assignments*
- III. Logistic for meetings being held

*** I am faxing updates and assignments that Dick and I went over on Monday.**

Notes from October 12, 1998 Community Circle Conversations (CCC) Meeting

Present: Al Ickler, Rita Keltgen, Dick Little

1. What Has Been Done Since the Last Meeting

- The study guide is just about ready to go to Kinko's where it will be copied in an attractive format.
- It was reported at the last minute that Dick has gotten a commitment from the Urban League to provide at least 3 recorders hereafter referred to as scribes. In addition Jefferson Center has committed 2 scribes. AAUW is also considering providing scribes to be available as backup.
- Thomas has not heard back from KMOJ yet.
- Rita did a mailer based on the current flyer, but asking for registration to be mailed to the specific site where a conversation is hosted. These were mailed to about 600 people who have expressed interest in Community Conversation Circles.
- Our PSA has been played on public radio.
- Dick will be heard on KFAI on a show hosted by Kinshashu Kombai.
- Flyers were given out at the Minneapolis Center For Neighborhoods.
- Thomas is working on getting commitment from the Asian American Community.
- Thomas has gotten a verbal commitment from the St. Paul Chicano Community to recruit representatives to attend.
- John Ruffin (sp) from Hawthorne Neighborhood Association is interested in attending the North Star conversation or sending a representative.
- Dick Westby from the Longfellow/Nokomis Community Education Advisory Council is working on recruiting high school students.
- Dick has talked to the Star and Tribune. They are going to do a story, but it will be too late to have likely impact on this round of talks.
- Thomas has been in contact with Minneapolis Public Schools headquarters about arranging for audio taping of conversations.

2. What Needs To Be Done

- Rita Keltgen will call John from Hawthorne Neighborhood Association to follow up..
- Joanne Nelson is asked to call Gretchen Nichols at 379-3602 to follow up with the Center for Neighborhoods.
- Joanne Nelson is also asked to call Steve Cramer from PPL as follow up. One major reason that Joanne is being asked to do this follow up is that East Lake is nearly full, so we want these persons steered to the Bryant Park or other less full groups.
- Rita will put notice about the conversations in the Hot Line that goes to all MPS employees.
- Rita will contact Matthew Ramadan from Northside Residence Development about participation.



MINNESOTA OFFICE OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION
340 CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

MEMORANDUM

To: Jan Frankman, Jim Deye, Karima Bushnell, Bill Hannon, Jim Noonan, Vicki Underland-Rosow, John Miller, Mark McCrea, Jean Greenwood, Dick Little

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Date: October 7, 1998

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**Community Circle Conversations:
Addressing the Challenges of Education, Housing and Segregation**

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Facilitators: **Vicki Underland-Rosow, John Miller**

Substitute Facilitators: Mark McCrea, Jean Greenwood

**Contact: Rita Keltgen
Sanford Community Education
3524 42nd Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406
627-7192**

FOR BROADCAST

October 10 through October 21

Concerned citizens are invited to join a small group for a Community Circle Conversation. The topic is housing, education, and segregation and how these factors effect each other and all metro area residents. During late October and November Conversation Circles will meet throughout Minneapolis. Discussions will be used to inform public policy. For details, call Minneapolis Community Education at six two seven seven two two nine (627-7229) or six two seven seven one nine two (627-7192). That's six two seven seven two two nine (627-7229) or six two seven seven one nine two (627-7192).

30 seconds



Minneapolis Public Schools

Facsimile

Seward Montessori School
2309 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Page 1 of 15

Date _____

To: Amy Rodquist

Fax: _____

From: Scott Bol

627-7229

Phone: 612-627-2447

Fax: 612-627-2420

Subject: 29^{possible} Participants so far

Comments:

If your calling we should talk to these folks & better assess diversity. Have people describe themselves give a brief bio Age, culture.

A FEW have already shared with me & some need child care.

The information contained in this facsimile may be privileged and confidential. It is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is sent. If the recipient of this transmittal is not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you received this communication in error, did not receive all pages, or transmission is not legible, please notify us by telephone.

I mailed 4 sheets to people back to back

Names, addresses
were entered
Com. Circles database
1997-1999
Group - MPS —

Diversity Awareness

East Lake Library

answered questions

- 1 Janet Keefe 348-9502
4217 Garfield Ave | Arise
Mpls 55409 Pacific Woman
- 2 Joe Hensch same A Man. Age in 70's

NO answer

- 3 Heidi Adelsman 724-9025
3315 33rd Ave S
Mpls 55406

~~Christi~~

- 4 Kristin De Grande
4151 Minnehaha Ave
Mpls 55406

NO phone #

swedish & American woman

N.H. left message

- 5 Dick Westby 722-2853
29th Ave @ 24th
Mpls 55406

N.H. message maybe

- 6 Eileen Collar 724-5303
4412 47th Ave S
FAX 729 3321 Mpls 55406

Interested Participants

Amy Rodquist
 705 59th St
 Apt 302B
 Mpls 55404
 *Barton site
 Fax 330-1649

PAT Wright # 721 8908
 4614 16th Ave S
 Mpls 55407
 N.H. message Barton

Jan Kormann 290 6227
 At Common Bond
 328 Kellogg Blvd W
 St Paul 55102
 N.H. message Barton

Maggie Gallon 722-1673
 (? & John) 3916 46 Ave S
 Mpls 55406-3604

Karen Olson 888-0307
 11005 Glenwadding Ln
 *called to check Address left Message
 Today
 New Not Mailed

Interested participants

N.H. message

Needs child care →

— Lisa Mallon # 381 0695
with Sales & Affordable Housing
121 N Cedar Lake Rd Mpls
55405
w# 341 1655

No answer

— George Brady (? 724 9591)
Work with Dignity
3207 37th Ave S.
Mpls Mn 55406

N.H. message
Barton site →

— Juliana James E 928 4967
4920 Upton Ave S.
Mpls 55410
0627 2050

N.H. message
Bryant square →

— Barb Weiss 824-3677
4319 Harriet Ave
Mpls 55409

Interested Participants

N.H. message

cando
pratt
cando site

Karla Weigold 566-6357
5849 73rd Ave S
Brooklyn Park
55429

no questions,
very interested
Lake
Library

Mary Parle 722 5390
3817 41 Ave S
Mpls 55406

New
Not Mailed

N.H. message

Barton

Jeremy Nichols E374 4880
Evelyn Turner 0767 6469
2436 Sheridan Ave S
55405

N.H. message

New
Not Mailed

Barton

Heather Vick E822 3701
0627-3193
4632 Colfax Ave S
Mpls 55409

N.H. message

New
Not Mailed

Lake
Library
child
care
nude

Nancy Schraider E726-1726
0341 1655
5700 Sander Dr #3
Mpls 55417

interested participants

N.H. message

Patrice Rosenbloom 778-0516
1822 Hyacinth African
St Paul 55119 American

no questions or concerns

Bryant square

Neva Walker 3411650 African
414 S 8th St American
Mpls 55404

Bryant square

Jackie Byers (SAME) African
American

Not mailed yet

Tania Doroshov 0374-5022
W.E. 827 3003
2609 Fremont Ave
Mpls B-13 55408

Needs child care

N.H. message

Dennis Hayden e = 487-8069



A comparison of dialogue and debate

Dialogue is collaborative: two or more sides work together toward common understanding.

Debate is oppositional: two sides oppose each other and attempt to prove each other wrong.

In dialogue, finding common ground is the goal.

In debate, winning is the goal.

In dialogue, one listens to the other side(s) in order to understand, find meaning, and find agreement.

In debate, one listens to the other side in order to find flaws and to counter its arguments.

Dialogue enlarges and possibly changes a participant's point of view.

Debate affirms a participant's own point of view.

Dialogue reveals assumptions for reevaluation.

Debate defends assumptions as truth.

10/7/98

COMMUNITY CIRCLE SPONSORS

The growing list of project partners includes:

Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
Citizens League
Center for School Change, Humphrey Institute
Center for Democracy and Citizenship,
University of Minnesota
Civic Journalism Initiative, Minnesota Public Radio
Eden Prairie Human Rights Commission
Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs
Hungry Mind Review
Institute on Race and Poverty
Intercultural Workshops, Inc.
Metropolitan Interaith Council on Affordable Housing
Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program
Minneapolis Public Schools
Minneapolis Urban League
Minnesota Churches Anti-Racism Initiative
Minnesota Fair Housing Center
Minnesota Journalism Center
Minnesota Minority Education Partnership
Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution,
Minnesota Chapter
Study Circles Resource Center
The Urban Coalition
West Metro Education Program

Project funders include:

Otto Bremer Foundation
Bush Foundation
General Mills Foundation
Minneapolis Foundation
St. Paul Foundation
Star Tribune

Community Circle
conversations will
take place at five
sites in Mpls.
Please call the
coordinator in your
area to confirm
your registration.
Discussion guides
will be mailed out
soon. They will
serve as a jumping-
off point for the
five conversations. SB

EDUCATION & HOUSING EQUITY PROJECT

Revised 3-20-98

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 to promote racially and economically inclusive communities that give 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 1998 that focuses on the questions:
 1. "How does racial and economic segregation of housing affect educational achievement and life opportunities of Twin Cities' children and families?" and,
 2. "What can and should citizens do individually and collectively to enhance education and life opportunities for all children in the Twin Cities metropolitan area?"

Contact Information:

122 West Franklin Ave, #310
Minneapolis MN 55404-2452
Tel: 871-2519
Fax: 813-4501
E-mail: ehp@micah.org

Principal Staff:
Dick Little, Executive Director

122 WEST FRANKLIN AVENUE, #310 * MINNEAPOLIS, MN * 55404-2452
PHONE: 612-871-2519 * FAX: 612-813-4501 * EMAIL: EHEP@MICAHA.ORG



What is a study circle?

A dozen people are comfortably seated around a living room or meeting room, one speaking, several others looking like they would like to make a point, one skimming an article as if searching for a particular item, another scanning the group, and the others listening attentively. This is a study circle in action.

A study circle is made up of 5–20 people who agree to meet together several times to learn about a social or political issue in a democratic and collaborative way. Complex issues are broken down into manageable subdivisions, and controversial topics are dealt with in depth. While single-session programs can result in meaningful and productive dialogue, multiple sessions generate continuity and camaraderie within the group. Reading material serves to catalyze the discussion and provides a common reference point.

Philosophy and background

As an informal, practical, and effective method for adult learning and social change, the study circle is rooted in the civic movements of 19th century America, and the use of study circles and similar small-group discussion programs is growing rapidly in the United States and many other places around the world.

Study circles are voluntary and highly participatory. They assist participants in confronting challenging issues and in making difficult choices. Study circles engage citizens in public and organizational concerns, bringing the wisdom of ordinary people to bear on difficult issues. Cooperation and participation are stressed so that the group can capitalize on the experience of all its members.

The study circle is small-group democracy in action; all viewpoints are taken seriously and each participant has an equal opportunity to participate. The process – democratic discussion among equals – is as important as the content.

Roles

The study circle leader is vital to the group's success. The leader makes sure the discussion is lively but focused. He or she models respectful listening and encourages participants to share their knowledge, experiences, and opinions. Some people find it helpful to share leadership tasks with a co-moderator.

The study circle organizer – who may be the same person as the leader – selects the reading material, recruits participants, arranges the logistics for the meetings, and chooses the discussion leader.

Participants, whose commitment and interest are essential for a study circle's success, ultimately "own" the study circle. Their clear understanding of both their role and the leader's role helps create a democratic and collaborative environment.

Goals

The goal of a study circle is to deepen participants' understanding of an issue by focusing on the values that underlie opinions. Perhaps the most important question a study circle leader can ask is: "What experiences or beliefs might lead decent and caring people to support that point of view?" The group works through difficult issues and grapples with the choices that society or their organization is facing. Study circles seek "common ground" – that is, areas of general agreement – but consensus or compromise is not necessary.

Study circles differ from typical meetings in that they do not begin with a specific desired outcome. *Deliberation* is the goal. However, study circles often lead to social and political action, both by individual participants and by the group. In the final session, leaders may encourage participants to share information about what is going on in their community or organization and to discuss action they might take after the study circle ends.

Suitability to a variety of organizations

Churches and synagogues, civic and community groups, businesses, advocacy organizations, schools, and unions have all used study circles to help their members consider vital issues. Sponsorship of study circles provides opportunities for members to gain knowledge, empowerment, and improved communication skills in an enjoyable and challenging setting.

Variations on the basic format

There are many variations to the basic format for a study circle. Though ideal study circles meet once a week for at least three sessions, other schedules can also work well. Some groups may want to combine a study circle with their regular monthly meetings. For those groups that cannot meet regularly, a workshop format can be used at a conference or a retreat, with the entire study circle taking place in one or two days.

Videotapes or audiotapes as well as written material can be used to spark discussion. Small-group activities and exercises are included in some study circles to add variety to the sessions.

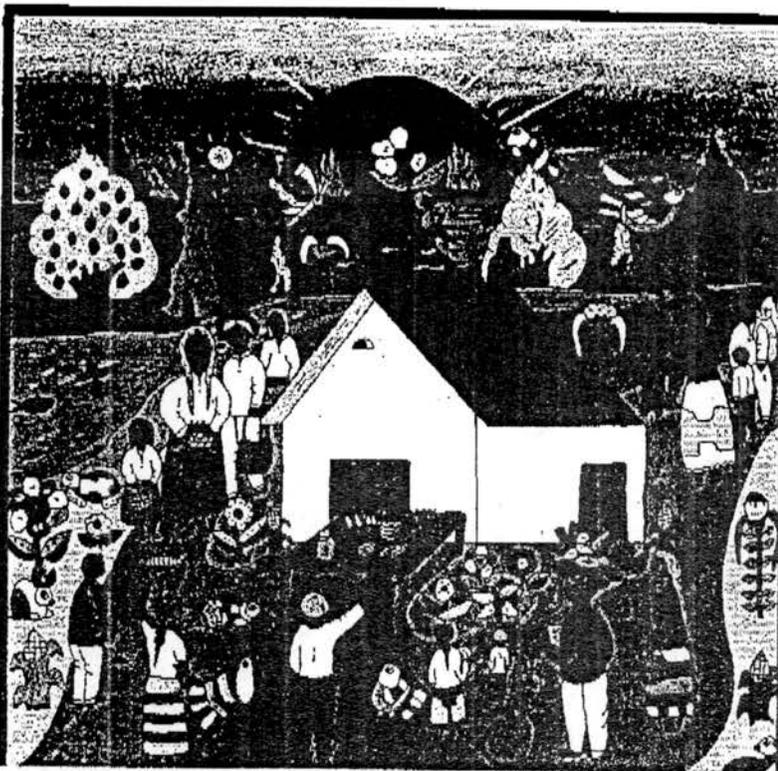
The strength of the study circle is its flexibility. Every group's situation is unique, and study circle organizers are encouraged to adapt the basic format to the needs and goals of their community or organization.

WATERS ROLLING

LIKE

But let Justice roll down like waters; Righteousness like an ever flowing stream.

Amos 5:24



DOWN

A Musical Play about Justice in Housing

Created and produced by
The Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing and Illusion Theater

"My property values will drop if they move in here."

"I moved here to get away from crime."

"I worked hard to get here. Now they get subsidies to move here."

"We already have our fair share of affordable housing in our community."

These common reactions to the issue of affordable housing reflect the beliefs and fears of some community residents and policy makers.

"Like Waters Rolling Down" educates communities about the dire need for affordable housing. Performed by professional actors and musicians from Illusion Theater, the play presents a series of thought-provoking and moving scenes that explore both individual and systemic barriers to fair and affordable housing.

An audience discussion will follow the show. Individuals and congregations will be challenged to take action to overcome discrimination in housing, and to work to create and preserve more affordable housing in their communities.

Please plan to attend the only performance of this exciting event in our community!

NEXT PERFORMANCE

**SUNDAY,
October 25, 1998
6 PM - 8 PM
Guardian Angels
Catholic Church
194 E Radio Drive
Woodbury**

For more information call
MICAHA at 871-8980 or
jodi@micah.org



Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing
Phone: 871-8980
www.micah.org

*community circle
participants*

*may want to
car pool to this.*



Overview of a typical study circle

What follows is an outline for a single study circle session. It may be helpful to have this handy for reference as you lead a study circle.

1. Introductions. Start by giving group members the opportunity to briefly introduce themselves. If you've already met several times, at least go around the room to give names.

2. Ground rules. Remind everyone of the ground rules for study circles, and ask the group for their consent or possible additions to these ground rules. Be more elaborate in your first meeting, but even in subsequent meetings the leader can provide a brief reminder by saying, "My role is to keep discussion focused and moving along. Your role is to share your concerns and beliefs and to listen carefully to others. You should be willing to examine your own beliefs in light of what others say."

3. Discussion of personal connection to or interest in the issue. Ask group members to discuss why this issue is important to them. "Why are you concerned about this issue?" "How have your experiences or concerns influenced your opinions about this issue?" This is especially useful if this is your first session, or if the topic of discussion is a new one for the group.

4. Laying out a range of views. If the reading material you are using lays out well-defined and distinct views on the issue, this part will be straightforward. One useful way to make sure all the views are adequately presented is to ask for an explanation of each view. To accomplish this you can divide the participants into small groups of three to five people. Give each group the task of preparing a brief presentation of the best possible case for one of the views; when time is called, the small groups reassemble to make their brief presentations. This exercise may call for some degree of role playing, but it helps make sure that a variety of ideas will be considered in the discussion. Make it clear that this is just a way to give each view a fair hearing, that this isn't yet the time for an open discussion of the views.

If the reading material does not distinctly lay out a range of views, you may wish to ask participants to volunteer what they see as the main views on the issue based on the reading material and their knowledge of the issue. Here the leader's acquaintance with the subject will be necessary, so that he or she can help to raise views that did not come forth from participants.

Help Make A Difference In Minneapolis

You are invited to lend your voice to historic talks that are being held throughout the Twin Cities. The topic is education, housing and segregation and how these factors impact all of us. Participants agree to attend 5 two-hour conversations in a Community Circle. Community Circle Conversations promote learning and understanding from many points of view and respect for differing opinions. Participants will be part of a metro wide dialogue culminating in the opportunity to share insights with other groups. This project will be used to impact local and state public policy. Minneapolis School Board members and other elected officials have been invited to attend. Community Conversation Circles will start in mid-October at various times and sites throughout Minneapolis. See the back of this flyer details.



Registration Form - Community Conversation Circles

Name _____ Day Phone# _____ Evening Phone # _____

Address _____ City _____ Zipcode _____

Special Needs _____

Check Site (See back of flyer for details.) Barton School Bryant Square Park
 East Lake Library Northstar School Pratt Community Center

To register for a Community Conversation Circle, fill out this form and mail it to Scott Bol, Seward/Matthews Community Education, 2309 28th Avenue S. 55406. Call Scott Bol at 627-7229 if you have questions or need more information.

throughout Minneapolis. You are invited to choose the site that is most convenient to where you live.

Place	Dates and Time	Contact Person
Barton School 43rd & Colfax Ave. S.	5 Wednesdays October 21 & 28, November 4, 11, & 18 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Janine Freij 627-7152
Bryant Square Park 31st & Bryant Ave. S.	5 Thursdays October 22 & 29, November 5, 12, & 19 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Joann Nelson 627-3202
East Lake Library 28th & E. Lake St.	5 Thursdays October 22 & 29, November 5, 12, & 19 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Scott Bol 627-7229
Pratt Center 66 Malcolm Ave SE	5 Thursdays October 22 & 29, November 5, 12, & 19 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Brenda Eccleston 627-2279
North Star School 24th & Girard Ave.	5 Saturdays November 7, 14 & 21 December 5 & 15 10:00-12:00 noon	Sandy McDonald at 627-2971

Have called

possible participants
list from Thomas Ross
urban league

- Douglas Mann 822 3776
3619 Grand Ave S
Mpls 55409

No questions

Rose Engstrom 789 1826
2531 Polk St NE #1
Mpls 55418 AA.
N.A. Comm. Circle

* not interested
in participating

Evelyn Eubanks 521 5554
2410 Ferrant Place N
Mpls Mn 55411

* Note

Pauline Thomas H 287 9683 W 627-7072
2649 Penn Ave N
Mpls 55411



Pauline was somewhat upset
(people tired of meetings)
(meetings out want change)
Did mail her information too
Thomas said he called her & she's interested in coming

Memorandum

To: Al Ickler, Jerry Blue, Scott Bol, Janine Freij, Brenda Eccleston, Dick Little Joann Nelson, Kathy Nelson, Thomas Ross, Pamela Taylor,

From: Rita Keltgen

Date: 9/8/98

Subject: Community Conversations Meeting

Hi! I am faxing the agenda for next Tuesday's meeting on Community Conversations. I am also sending:

1. Notes from our last meeting.
2. The final description for community conversations in a format that includes dates, times and places at which all meetings are offered.

Date: Tuesday, September 8, 1998
Time: 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Place: Lehmann Center
Fourth Floor Conference Room

Please let me know at 627-7192 if you will not be there.

AGENDA

- I. Additions to this agenda
- II. Updates
 - Times, dates, places
 - Facilitators
 - Urban League meeting
 - NRP
 - Other potential partners
- III. Next steps
 - Recorder/Video taping
 - Recruiting diverse participants (suggestion 4 parents, 2 teachers, 2 non parent "tax payers", block club leaders, school board,
 - Publicity
 - Materials
 - Other logistics
- IV. Next meeting?

Notes from May 28, 1998 Community Circle Conversations (CCC) Meeting

1. Update from Scott Bol

- Scott has been in contact with Dick Little. He is confident that we will be able to get at least 5 facilitators for the fall conversations through an organization called SPIDR (?).
- Scott handed out a list of participating community organizations as well as partner organizations from last year. There will be some changes, but most of these groups continue to support this effort.

2. Description for brochures / tabloid

- A draft description was handed out and revised by the CCC task force. (See separate sheet.)

3. Sites, dates, times

- The following sites, times have been set.
 - **East Lake Library** (LN team area) Thursdays starting October 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 - **Bryant Square Park** (South team area) Thursdays starting October 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- The following possible sites in other team areas.
 - **Luxton/Northeast Library** (NE/SE team area)
 - **Northside Church/North Library** (North team area)
 - **Sabathani** (Daytime - focus on but not limited to older adults)
 - **Washburn Library** (Southwest area)
 - **St. Marks** (Not sure of area)

4. NRP participation

- Joann has been in contact with NRP and they are behind this effort. The single biggest thing they can probably do is market it to all of the NRP neighborhood groups.

5. Other potential partners

- The Longfellow/Nokomis Advisory Council has officially taken on helping with the Community Circle Conversations as one of its tasks next year. It was suggested that we try to get other Advisory Councils to get behind this project as well.
- Jerry Blue will ask the Minneapolis Public Library staff to officially get behind this project.
- It was agreed that we need to target a manageable number of other potential partners, so our time contacting partners is productive.

6. Tasks Agreed to

- Jerry will get the number of the Black Ministerial Association.
- Brenda will work on finding a site in the NE/SE team area.
- Joanne will call Sandy McDonald about finding a North team area site.
- Rita will call Jaynine Frej about finding a non-school site in the Southwest team area.
- Rita will see that something gets into brochures/tabloid.
- Rita will send press release to neighborhood papers.
- Scott will line up facilitators.
- Scott and Rita will work on getting special support from the Carol Johnson and the mayor.
- Jaynine will be asked to try to get the Southwest Advisory Council behind this project.
- Joanne will ask Leon Oman to get the Andersen Advisory Council behind this project.
- Joanne will work on getting information out in NRP and Community Crime Prevention Newsletters.

**COMMUNITY CIRCLE CONVERSATIONS:
ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF EDUCATION, HOUSING AND SEGREGATION -**

Thoughtful consideration of different perspectives can lead to better understanding of problems, more practical solutions, and citizens who can help make a difference. Groups of 8 to 14 persons will meet for 5 sessions. Community Circle Conversations promote learning and understanding from many points of view. Participants will be part of a metro wide dialogue culminating in the opportunity to share insights with other groups. **This program will meet at and is cosponsored by East Lake Library, 2727 E. Lake St.** For more information about participating in one of the following Community Circle Conversations or to register call Scott Bol at 627-7229.

BARTON SCHOOL (43 & Colfax Ave. S.): 5 Wednesdays starting October 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Free, but preregister.

BRYANT SQUARE PARK (31st St. & Bryant Ave. S.): 5 Thursdays starting October 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Free, but preregister.

EAST LAKE LIBRARY (28th and E. Lake St.): 5 Thursdays starting October 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Free, but preregister.

LUXTON PARK, (112 SE Williams Ave.) 5 Thursdays starting October 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Free, but preregister.

NORTHSTAR (24th and Girard Ave. N.): 5 Saturdays starting November 7, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Free, but preregister.



Fax Transmittal Cover Sheet

To: - Dick Little

From: Rita Keltgen, Sanford Community Education

Fax Number: 612-627-2730

Date: Thu, Sep 10, 1998 • 5:25 PM

Pages, including cover: 5

If there is difficulty with this transmission, please call: 612-627-7192

Note:

Dear Community Conversation Participants - Here are the notes I typed up from our Tuesday meeting. There were a lot of details. Let me know if you see any significant oversights or mistakes.

Thanks to all for being part of this process.

Memorandum

To: Jerry Blue, Scott Bol, Janine Freij, Brenda Eccleston, Dick Little Joann Nelson, Kathy Nelson, Thomas Ross, Pamela Taylor,

From: Rita Keltgen

Date: 9/10/98

Subject: Community Conversations Meeting

Notes from September 8, 1998 Community Circle Conversations (CCC) Meeting

Present: Scott Bol, Janine Freij, Brenda Eccleston, Rita Keltgen, Dick Little, Joanne Nelson, Thomas Ross, Pamela Taylor

1. Updates

- Times, dates, and places for fall conversations have all been set. (see separate sheet.)
- Dick Little reported that two facilitators have been identified for each of the sessions that we are offering.
- Associate Southwest Area Superintendent Joann Heryla and FACES representatives Al Ickler and Rita Keltgen met with Dick Little (Education and Housing Equity Project), Thomas Ross (Urban League) and Pamela Taylor (Neighborhood Revitalization Program - NRP) on Friday September 4. These three organizations are strongly in support of the project. Specific strategies for achieving success were discussed. Dick Little, Thomas Ross, and Pamela Taylor have come to today's meeting and will join this group in implementing the program.
- Dick Little has developed a list of supporting agencies from which we can seek to find partners for this project. (See below for specific organizations being approached.)

2. General Assignment For Those Present

- Develop a commitment letter for participants to fill out (**Thomas Ross**).
- Develop a roster forms for each location that includes information on co-facilitators, reporter, audio/visual person, and participants. (**Thomas Ross**).
- Find necessary assistant for any participant that is disabled (**FACES Access Services**).
- Ask Joann Heryla for MPS support in finding translators and for assistants in recruiting school board participants and other policy makers to participate (**Dick Little**).
- Develop a commitment letter for participants to fill out (**Thomas Ross**).
- Contact Central Chicano for help in recruiting participants and finding translators (**Joann Nelson**).
- Work on finding recorders (**Thomas Ross & Pamela Taylor**).
- Write up notes of this meeting and names and phone numbers of those participating. Get these to participants (**Rita Keltgen**).

3. Partnership and Recruiting Assignment For Those Present

Those present agreed to make the following contacts to ask for support of and involvement in this project and for help with recruiting participants.

Scott Bol

- Job's and Affordable Housing Campaign (Joe Haverman-sp?)
- Trinity Lutheran Church

Brenda Eccleston

- Interested Northeast/Southeast organizations including those provided by Dick Little.

Janine Freij

- First Universalist Church
- Greater Minneapolis Day Care

Rita Keltgen

- LUYF
- Longfellow Ministerial Association
- St. Joan of Arc Church (Jim Mauer)
- FACES Youth Service
- FACES Volunteer Services Parent Council
- FACES Family Outreach Program

Dick Little

- Minneapolis Civil Right Commission
- Get list of interested Southeast/Northeast organizations to Brenda

Joanne Nelson

- Legal Aide Society
- Sam Grant - Ask Leon for number
- Shirly Stone - Ask Leon for number

Thomas Ross

- NAACP

Pamela Taylor

- Seed Academy
- Summit Academy
- Sabathani
- New Salem Baptist Church
- Hawthorn Neighborhood Group
- Club Fed (Mona Moede)
- Talk to Howard Root and Sandy McDonald about recruiting for North team area.

3. FACES Community Education Team Assignments

All FACES teams are asked to do the following for their team area

- Find a way to have their team area conversation recorded on video (preferable) or audio.
- Look for bilingual persons to serve as translators.
- Put out notices to area media
- Contact Family and Community Centers, Beacon Schools, Neighborhood Organizations, area business and agencies to recruit participants and get support for the project.

4. Next meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 23

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Lehmann Center, Fourth Floor Conference Room.

Items for Agenda Reports on Assignments
Wrap Up Meeting



**Community Conversations Committee
Calling/Fax List**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area or Organization</u>	<u>Voice Number</u>	<u>Fax Number</u>
Scott Bol	Longfellow/Nokomis	627-7229	627-2420
Jerry Blue	East Lake Street Library	630-6550	630-6555
Brenda Eccleston	Northeast/Southeast	627-2279	627-2281
Janine Freij	Southwest	627-7152	627-2479
Rita Keltgen	Comm. Ed. Specialist	627-7192	627-2730
Dick Little	Ed. & Housing Equity Project	330-1505	813-4501
Sandi McDonald	North	627-2971	627- 2964
Joann Nelson	South	627-3202	627-3204
Thomas Ross	Urban League	827-9273	823-0720
Cindy Smedberg	Barton Comm. Ed Coord.	627-2378	627-2376
Pamila Taylor	NRP	673-5074	673-5138

MINNESOTA OFFICE OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION
340 CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

MEMORANDUM

To: Jan Frankman, Jim Deye, Karima Bushnell, Bill Hannon, Jim Noonan, Vicki Underland-Rosow, John Miller, Mark McCrea, Jean Greenwood, Dick Little

From: Barbara Blackstone *BB*

Subject: Community Circles in Minneapolis

Date: October 7, 1998

The final text for the discussion guides is now completed and enclosed. Copies will be formatted to an easier style and printed in time for the Minneapolis Circles but we wanted you to get the final text as soon as possible.

We would like to have the facilitators and the school contact people gather together for a review of the materials and for an overview of the project from the school district's perspective. The date we have chosen is **Monday, October 19 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** The location will be determined in the next few days and I will let you know where we will be meeting (most likely one of the school sites).

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, etc. and whether you can attend the gathering on the 19th. I'm at 297-4635 (tho I'll be at the SPIDR conference Oct. 14-18).

Thanks for your participation in this exciting project. NPR had announcements on it the other day!

**Community Circle Conversations:
Addressing the Challenges of Education, Housing and Segregation**

Thoughtful consideration of different perspectives can lead to better understanding of problems, more practical solutions, and citizens who can help make a difference. Groups of 8 to 14 persons will meet for 5 sessions. Community Circle Conversations promote learning and understanding from many points of view. Participants will be part of a metro wide dialogue culminating in the opportunity to share insights with other groups. This program will meet at and is cosponsored by East Lake Library, 2727 E. Lake St. For more information about participating in one of the following Community Circle Conversations or to register call Scott Bol at 627-7229.

- **Barton School** (43rd & Colfax Ave. S.): 5 Wednesdays, October 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Facilitators: **Jan Frankman, Jim Deye**
- **Bryant Square Park** (31st & Bryant Ave. S.): 5 Thursdays, October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Facilitators: **Bill Hannon**
- **East Lake Library** (28th and E. Lake St.): 5 Thursdays, October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Facilitators: **Karima Bushnell**
- ~~Pratt Center (66 Malcolm Ave. SE) 5 Thursdays, October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.~~
Facilitators: **Jim Noonan, Barbara Blackstone**
- **Northstar** (24th and Girard Ave. N.): 5 Saturdays, November 7, 14, 21, December 5, 12, 10:00a.m. - 12:00 noon.
Facilitators: **Vicki Underland-Rosow, John Miller**

Substitute Facilitators: Mark McCrea, Jean Greenwood

no longer running

→ Child care ☐

—

→

10/19/98 - Meeting w/ facilitators
scribes

scribes, ask participants if they would
mind having their quotes

Talking to own constituencies
Winter = week after MLK throughout the
metro area, & CCC begin.

Written report given to • City
• School board
• Met Council

- An Action Forum + Citizens Forum
- place to connect people w/ organizations
"recruiting ground"

Big Picture → no problem
Small details → Killer!

Just stop making them!

Excuses, someone stop the excuses!

★ Question: Scott, which groups do you know
of providing child care?
transportation?

★ white structure to begin with!

Community participation!

So uptight, don't be afraid of losing a bit of control.

Alternative way to demonstrate commitment vs. signing, etc.

No - this does not work w/out communities
of color.

Here is information about Community Circle Conversations scheduled throughout Minneapolis. You are invited to choose a site that is convenient to where you live.

Place	Dates and Time	Contact Person
Barton School 43rd & Colfax Av. S.	5 Wednesdays October 21 & 28, November 4, 11, & 18 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Cindy Smedberg Barton Comm. Ed. 4327 Colfax Av. S. Mpls. MN 55409 627-2378
Bryant Square Park 31st & Bryant Av. S.	5 Thursdays October 22 & 29, November 5, 12, & 19 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Joann Nelson Jefferson C. Educ. 1200 W. 26th St. Mpls. MN 55405 627-3202
East Lake Library 28th & E. Lake St.	5 Thursdays October 22 & 29, November 5, 12, & 19 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Scott Bol Seward Comm.Ed. 2309 28th Av. S. Mpls. MN 55406 627-7229
Pratt Center 66 Malcolm Av SE	5 Thursdays October 22 & 29, November 5, 12, & 19 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Brenda Eccleston Pratt Center 66 Malcolm Av. SE Mpls. MN 55414 627-2279
North Star School 24th & Girard Av. N.	5 SATURDAYS NOVEMBER 7, 14 & 21 DECEMBER 5 & 15 10:00 - 12:00 NOON	Sandy McDonald North Star C. Educ. 2410 Girard Av. N. Mpls. MN 55411 627-2971

Bruce -

NAMES
+ ADDRESSES
+ PH. #S

P-2
only

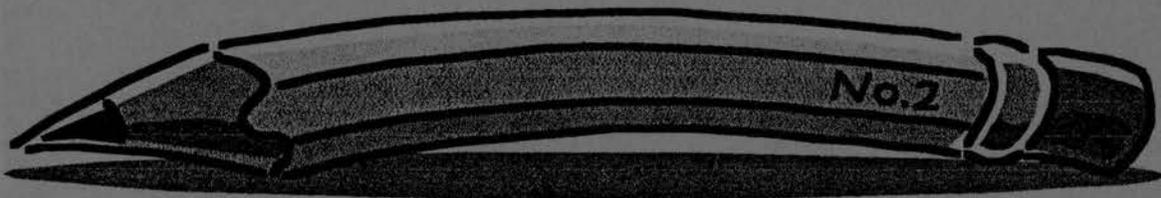
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STILL
IN
SECTION

Help Make A Difference In Minneapolis

You are invited to lend your voice to historic talks that are being held throughout the Twin Cities. The topic is education, housing and segregation and how these factors impact all of us. Participants agree to attend 5 two-hour conversations in a Community Circle. Community Circle Conversations promote learning and understanding from many points of view and respect for differing opinions. Participants will be part of a metro wide dialogue culminating in the opportunity to share insights with other groups. This project will be used to inform local and state public policy. Minneapolis School Board members and other elected officials have been invited to attend. Community Conversation Circles will start in mid-October at various times and sites throughout Minneapolis. See the back of this flyer details.



Registration Form - Community Conversation Circles

Name _____ Day Phone# _____ Evening Phone # _____

Address _____ City _____ Zipcode _____

Special Needs _____

Check Site (See back of flyer for details.) Barton School Bryant Square Park

East Lake Library Northstar School Pratt Community Center

To register for a Community Conversation Circle, fill out this form and mail it to the contact person listed for the site indicated (see the back of this sheet). **For more information call the site contact person at the site you are interested in attending or Scott Bol at 627-7229 for general information.**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dick Little
Amy Rodquist
Barbara Blackstone

DATE: November 19, 1998

FROM: Jan Frankman

RE Community Circles; Observations and Suggestions

I thought it might be helpful to commit to writing my evaluation of the round of Community Circle dialogue which I completed as facilitator at Barton School last evening. I also have some suggestions for changes in the materials and, perhaps, in the formatting of the circles for the next round in the Winter.

It is most unfortunate that Amy was unable to be with us last night. I felt the experience was the best we had. I had contacted two very strong participants who had missed the week before, and they both attended. They played a very important role in providing substance and in confronting, very fully and effectively, statements and opinions expressed particularly by two participants who have been quite difficult both in demeanor and with respect to the content of their statements. Although I had decided to be more directive than I had been in the first four sessions, the participation of the Circle members was very strong and of high quality. I found myself following the discussion in large measure and ensuring that those who wanted to be heard, were heard and that there was safety in the confrontation which occurred. I used some strategies that I thought were helpful. First, before we began with the prepared materials, I posed a question which I asked everyone address and that was: "What is the problem/issue for which we are asked to evaluate solutions?" It was amazing and revealing, I believe, to all of us, the difference in viewpoints of what it was we had been addressing over the weeks. It turned out to be a very good way to begin. Second, I did not even try to cover all of the material - instead, I combined my own choosing with the opportunity for participants to also choose what they knew about or wanted particularly to discuss. I had each of the participants read the lists of action that may be taken toward the end of the material for the session. Finally, I announced at the beginning of the session that we would spend the last 15 minutes evaluating and debriefing our experience together. The comments, once again, were very revealing. They were honest and forthright and I believe, on the whole, reflect a positive experience. There is a high level of interest in following this work into the next round of circles. Please be sure to mail announcements of future circles to each of these participants. They want to be able to encourage others to attend. They also wanted to know how locations are chosen. There was a comment that Jefferson School would be a good place to have one group.

I have several suggestions which you may want to consider in future planning and as the materials are critiqued:

1. A companion facilitator's guide might be created which includes notes and hints for each session. It might include sections on the process (the uniqueness of dialogue), dealing with difficult people, ground rules (creating, reminding and expanding)

and additional strategies/questions that might be used during each of the prescribed sessions.

2. Either the first session could be expanded or an additional session added which focuses on self-examination and knowledge particularly with regard to the issue of race and racism.

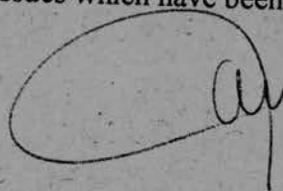
3. It is important that participants receive the materials before the first session. Although all will not read and be prepared, some will and they will be helpful in getting a circle off to a strong start.

4. Our circle was too large - 19 of us with a recorder and two facilitators. It was a bit unwieldy to ensure equal opportunity to speak. I think 12 is a good maximum number.

5. It is important to ensure hospitality wherever the circle is scheduled to meet - we had scheduling conflicts which required us to move at the last minute and treats were provided one time - otherwise, I brought treats and one participant brought something one time. The facilitator should simply know what to expect.

6. If possible, either through affirmative action or by adjusting groups between locations, diversity and balance within each circle is desirable. There was a call for more youth by one of the members of our circle.

I am pleased to have been a part of this work. I believe it is a very important first step. It provides an opportunity for participants to know and understand differences and, more important, to recognize that we are all much more alike than we are different. Hopefully we will be lead to meaningful solutions to the very important issues which have been raised.

 JKF

?s for group participants

- Bio

- age - generation
- race / ethnicity / nationality
- gender

- Do you need childcare? E. Lake ~~_____~~

~~_____~~ Rita ⇒ what about transportation
+
child care?
part of ~~_____~~ agreement.