



# **2014 Annual Report**

*A Collaborative Vision*

# WBCC Annual Report 2014 - *A Collaborative Vision*

## Who We Are

The WBCC is the official citizen participation group for the Cedar Riverside West Bank neighborhood. Our mission is to strengthen and celebrate the neighborhood by promoting connections between its residents, businesses, institutions, and organizations.

The WBCC is dedicated to preserving its neighborhood's strengths, identifying and helping to address the neighborhood's changing needs, and bring positive opportunities for all.

## A Melting Pot

The Cedar Riverside neighborhood's diversity is its strength; it has been home to various waves of immigrant groups for over a century. In 2010 43% of neighborhood residents spoke a language other than English at home (Census 2010).

The many languages, cultural practices, holiday schedules, and modes of communication give the community an uncommon vibrancy, but also creates new challenges and opportunities for community participation.

## The Year in Review

We believe community engagement is the foundation of a strong and thriving community. With this in mind, we developed the following three step plan:

1. Engaging the residents, business owners and other neighborhood stakeholders by sharing relevant news and information about events and issues;
2. Educating community members about issues and policies of importance to them; and
3. Ensuring that a diverse group of community stakeholders are actively involved in the process.



## The WBCC's Accomplishments

Our plan for community engagement has and will continue to enable a diverse group of community stakeholders to be actively involved in the process of defining critical policies and tools for the community's future growth. Civic engagement is important to the residents and other stakeholders of the Cedar Riverside neighborhood and the WBCC tapped into this energy and put it to work for the community. Below are some examples of what we have been able to do through collaborative resident, organization, institution and business action.

- A highlight of 2014 was the Corridors of Opportunity Outreach and Engagement Capacity Grant we applied for and received, called: Creating Opportunity and Resources for West Bank Businesses. This grant happened through heavy collaboration with the Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization Program, with much support from Nexus Community Partners. Through a series of community roundtables, we were able to bring in over 20 minority-owned businesses to hear about the issues they are facing today. We then brought together a consortium of resources all the way from the West Bank Business Association to the City of Minneapolis to talk about what opportunities were available for the business owners, and identified needs that required collaborative follow-up action to address.
- Sometimes space is tight in Cedar Riverside, but with all of the important programming happening it's critical to make sure all organizations are accommodated. This year we were able to accommodate various organizations' programming in the neighborhood, including finding space for a 2-month girls' health program led by Ka Joog, a youth-focused placemaking arts workshop for youth led by Irrigate (a program of Springboard for the Arts), and a potential space for a resident-led youth and adult martial arts class. All of these collaborative efforts with connecting programming and space are due to our organization's capacity and recognized role in the neighborhood for coordination. More importantly however, the key to these collaborations has been our positive relationship with other proactive community partners offering space, such as the Brian Coyle Center, Mixed Blood Theater, West Bank Safety Center, and The Common Table.
- A critical need in the neighborhood is library services. Our organization convened two input sessions, one youth-focused with 30 youth in attendance and one focused on elders with 20 in attendance, where community members were able to express their desires and needs for learning in a space within our neighborhood. These Southeast Library input sessions couldn't have been possible without the support from the Hennepin County to initiate this process and include Cedar Riverside in the study, as well as from the support of the Humphrey School team studying the needs of the community making an effort to come listen to our residents. As always, a collaboration to achieve these input sessions was critical with the partner community organizations, the Cedar Riverside NRP, the Somali Education and Social Advocacy Center, the Riverside



Plaza Tenants Association, and the Brian Coyle Center youth staff helping to turn out residents.

- In collaboration the West Bank Community Development Corporation, the Brian Coyle Center and with exemplary leadership from the West Bank Business Association, we were able to apply for, receive, and act on a grant from the University of Minnesota's Good Neighbor Fund / Vikings Partnership for the Clean Sweep / Cedar Cleanup program. The Clean Sweep happened four times with residents and organizational partners like Augsburg College helping pick up 50 bags of trash, do plantings, hang up 100+ graffiti prevention posters, and remove countless graffiti around Cedar Avenue.
- As a place of coordination and collaboration, many conversations happen in the WBCC office that help move initiatives forward. This includes helping important organizations like HOME Line, a statewide tenant advocacy organization, to connect with communities in need of advocacy; helping Southside Community Health Services' "Q"mmunity Health identify current girls' health programming in the neighborhood and encourage them to fill the gaps in programming; and sometimes even stepping out of the office and into others' office, such as the Commissioner of the Minneapolis Health Department to talk about the bigger picture of health and wellness programming at the City level and how it currently connects to our neighborhood and identifying where they can help us address gaps.
- This year the University of Minnesota is taking big steps towards the construction of a new power plant just across the river from our neighborhood. The new power plant will be critical in reducing the University's overall negative impact on climate change, which we support. However, the WBCC is very concerned about the potential local air quality impacts from this new power plant and has successfully moved the conversation one step deeper in an attempt to make sure residents are fully informed and comfortable with the project before advancing.

## Moving Forward

Many people can feel it in the air, things are changing in Cedar Riverside as stakeholders across the board are recognizing and acting on the need for a collaborative vision and action plan for the neighborhood that goes even deeper than what is currently happening. Below are some of the collaborations we look forward to advancing as we keep working to preserve our neighborhood's strengths, identify and help to address the neighborhood's changing needs, and bring positive improvements to all.

- Cedar Riverside Explorers is a grant program the WBCC envisioned, applied for, and received through collaboration and support from Augsburg College and the



University of Minnesota Good Neighbor Fund / Vikings Partnership. After a delay in implementation, we are excited to get this programming rolling in the new year, which will focus on middle school aged youth - bringing them on important education and enrichment monthly field trips in the surrounding area, such as to chemistry demonstration labs, cultural events at museums and theaters, sporting events with our local teams, and to City Hall to learn about civic engagement. The youth will interact and learn from students and faculty about a world that could be their future.

- As we talk about youth and young adult programming and resources in our neighborhood through a series of meetings with many community partners, the WBCC is now helping lead a process to explore the creation of a Youth Coordinating Board. Found throughout the city in different forms, our neighborhood would benefit from the coordination of youth resources and services to make sure there are no gaps in the infrastructure and community surrounding and empowering our young people.
- Much talk has arisen about the potential program in the Twin Cities by the United States Department of Justice that focuses on youth programming as a means for anti-radicalization. The WBCC has asserted itself as a community organization in Cedar Riverside that, if programming and resources come to our neighborhood, we would work to ensure it happens as part of a common and collaborative vision among all community partners working towards positively empowering our youth - focusing on such things as work readiness, training, and placement as well as health, wellness, and education.
- An initiative of the Cedar Riverside Partnership, which the WBCC is a part of, is the creation of a neighborhood Workforce Center. As the potential of such a place is being considered, we will work with the community partners at the table to make sure this initiative moves forward and is set up in a way that will truly serve our neighborhood.
- The re-envisioning of Southeast Library has only just begun and we've already played a critical role in informing a study on our community's needs and desires. We will continue to advocate for library and learning services, focusing on possibilities of cooperation between Hennepin County and community partners to deliver ongoing services in a space that is easily accessible for those with many barriers to reach any of the current libraries.
- After supporting an initiative of University of Minnesota students, who have rallied support from many other community partners as well, we are now entering the planning phase of a new community garden on the West Bank campus where we hope students, staff, faculty, business owners, and residents can come together around the importance of growing healthy, fresh food.
- As the Land Use Committee begins anew, there are many priorities WBCC will lead on throughout the new year. These include advancing the lessons learned



from the West Bank Community Development Corporation's "Don't Pass Us By" initiative that the WBCC helped lead, where we think about how we can make sure the residents are aware and active of development pressures and leading the vision to shape development towards the interests of the community. As a part of this, we will be looking closely at Lot A & Dania Hall, two city-owned lots that have very important development potential - we will try our hardest to make sure whatever happens in these sites serves the community's interests. Part of our current discussion is the need for a dedicated older youth and young adult space - whether that be in the potential expansion of the Brian Coyle Center or in a new building at the Dania Hall site, we will also work hard to get as many people to the table to make sure our process represents the desire of our community.

The needs and challenges in our community are big, but the energy working to address those is greater. There is so much happening everyday in Cedar Riverside and the West Bank Community Coalition will continue to work on building a common vision and a more coordinated collaborative to achieve that vision.

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## WBCC Financial Snapshot

	LAST YEAR	YEAR-TO-DATE	NEXT YEAR
	2013	2014	2015
	Jan - Dec	Jan-Sept (9 mos.)	2015 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4030 · Contributions Income	100	-	-
4110 · Grants	7,777	-	-
4140 · Governmental Grants	72,638	48,358	84,120
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>80,515</b>	<b>48,358</b>	<b>84,120</b>
Expense			
Salaries & Related Expenses			
6010 · Salaries	37,049	28,860	53,000
6210 · Payroll Taxes-Employer	2,747	2,483	4,749
6230 · Benefits	-	-	5,805
6250 · Payroll Processing Fees	1,213	1,146	1,200
6260 · Worker's Compensation Premium	308	280	310
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Related Expenses</b>	<b>41,318</b>	<b>32,768</b>	<b>65,064</b>
6310 · Accounting	309	-	800
6320 · Legal Fees	100	-	-
6370 · Professional Fees	970	2,035	4,496
6670 · Program Contract Services	14,948	3,415	-
7010 · Office Supplies	213	254	3,000
7090 · Website Fees	149	149	-
7210 · Rent	4,260	3,195	4,260
7510 · Liability Insurance	178	-	-
7520 · Licenses, Fees, Permits	100	-	-
7550 · Bank Service Charges	294	106	-
7590 · Other Expenses	69	150	2,500
8110 · Communications & Outreach	48	-	2,000
8120 · Festivals & Events	575	1,500	2,000
8130 · Food & Refreshments	100	-	-
6155 · Depreciation Expense	100	-	-
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>63,731</b>	<b>43,573</b>	<b>84,120</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>16,784</b>	<b>4,785</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>16,784</b>	<b>4,785</b>	<b>-</b>



## WBCC 2014 Board of Directors

<b>AJ Siddiqui, Chair</b>	<b>Resident Homeowner*</b>
<b>Mohamed Jama, Vice President</b>	<b>Resident Tenant</b>
<b>Osman Ahmed, Secretary</b>	<b>Resident Tenant</b>
<b>Russom Solomon, Treasurer</b>	<b>Business Owner*</b>
<b>Ali Farah</b>	<b>Business Owner</b>
<b>Deqa Adan</b>	<b>Resident Tenant</b>
<b>Bashir Gelle</b>	<b>Resident Tenant</b>
<b>Asma Haidara</b>	<b>Resident Tenant*</b>
<b>Liban Alishire</b>	<b>Business Owner*</b>
<b>Nichole Buehler</b>	<b>Resident Tenant*</b>
<b>3 Resident Homeowner Vacancies*</b>	<b>2 Resident Tenant Vacancies*</b>

\*Spot open for election.

