

# WHITTIER ALLIANCE CITY CONTRACT – PROPOSED 2019 MODIFICATION



Motion: “To approve the NRP funding contract modifications as outlined in *Whittier Alliance – City Contract Proposed 2019 Modification*, presented at the Whittier Alliance Annual Meeting, March 26th, 2019.”

## What is this about?

- Whittier Alliance is funded in large part by the City of Minneapolis. Our 2 primary City contracts were created 13 & 14 years ago when the neighborhood’s biggest needs were largely different than they are today.
- Per the terms of the City of Minneapolis’ Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), the program under which these contracts are administered, to modify an existing contract by more than \$25,000 neighborhoods must secure a community approval vote through a meeting with quorum (50 people).

## Why do we need this?

- This contract modification proposal will allow us to bring our funding streams into alignment with the priorities and goals of the Whittier Alliance strategic plan.
- We will be able to pull into contract roughly \$1.1 million in NRP funds that are reserved for the Whittier Alliance but are currently uncontracted and unavailable to us, with about half of that going directly to housing support.
- The neighborhood is quickly changing, and this plan and this funding contract modification would allow us the flexibility to change our approach to neighborhood issues and concerns as needed.
- These modifications would simplify processes, improve transparency, and would also save staff/bookkeeper/City staff time.
- About 1/3 of the total proposed new contract is already under contract but largely inaccessible due to the specificity of the buckets it has been tied to. The other 2/3 was previously inaccessible, uncontracted funds that we would be activating in support of this plan and future plans to come.

## What is the proposed modification?

- The graphic on the reverse side shows how our funds were allocated previously and how they would be reorganized under the proposed modification.
- We have kept 8 existing strategies or “buckets” that already align with our strategic plan goals and are broad enough to encompass activities laid out in this plan. In recent years, we have only been able to utilize a small handful of these buckets, and they are no longer adequately funded to continue covering our expenses as is.
- There are few, if any, old activities or “buckets” that couldn’t fall under one of these new, broader categories. We would still have the ability to fund a new project or program related to some other topic not explicitly covered in this strategic plan if it was evident that the community viewed it as a priority in the future and was prepared to act on it.

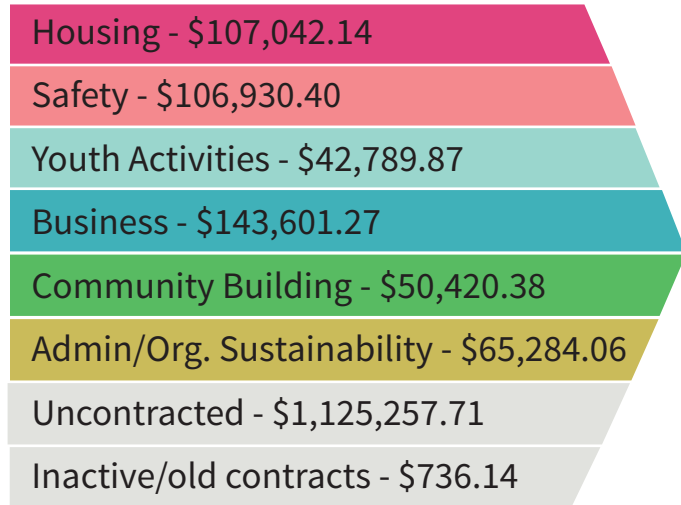
## How can I be involved?

- To learn more about where these funds have gone, how they’re used today, or how decisions are made about them, contact any of our staff or board members to find out how to get involved, or stop by the office, a few doors east of Spyhouse Coffee on Nicollet.
- The latest volunteer opportunities and upcoming events and meetings will be included in our monthly e-newsletter, as well.
- Attend any of these upcoming meetings:

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## Current Contract Balances

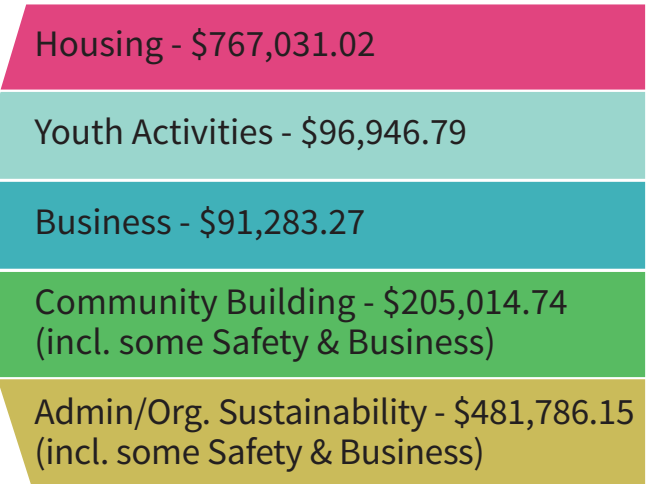
By Issue Area. 34+ Strategies/Buckets and Uncontracted Funds



**Total: \$1,642,061.97**

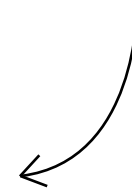
## Proposed Contract Balances

By Issue Area. 8 Strategies/Buckets



**Total: \$1,642,061.97**

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 Proposed Modification: 8 Strategies, Titles and Descriptions (“The Buckets”)



**Housing Programs:** “Develop housing programs and/or participate in the NRP Housing Investment Fund/s, which best serves the needs of the potential applicants, improves housing quality, quantity, and affordability; and increases housing options in the City. NRP funds may also be used to purchase and rehabilitate 1-4 unit residential structures and commercial properties.”

**Housing/Commercial Development Manager:** “Provide funding for professional staff to assist Whittier Alliance committees, Board and general membership for review and neighborhood input on housing proposals and implementation of NRP housing programs.”

**Youth Programming and Activities:** “Support direct service youth programs in Whittier, including learning opportunities, emerging initiatives and community and school activities relating to youth in the Whittier neighborhood.”

**Outreach to Diverse Businesses:** “Conduct outreach to businesses in areas beyond Nicollet and to small businesses in Whittier.”

**Outreach Plan:** “Develop and implement outreach plan for the Whittier neighborhood to connect the Whittier Alliance to the following communities: African American, Asian, Latino, and Somali.”

**Community Activities:** “We will conduct at least one community activity in Whittier each year to increase volunteerism and participation in NRP plan implementation.”

**Public Art:** “Create at least 5 community arts spaces (e.g. public murals), involving youth and racially/ethnically diverse individuals.”

**Plan Implementation Management - Personnel and Operating Expenses:** “Hire professional staff and provide an appropriate budget to conduct planning, monitoring, evaluation and oversight to implement the approved NRP Phase II Plan.”