Letter from the Board Chair  
Erica Christ

Welcome to the Whittier Alliance Annual Meeting! Thank you for choosing to engage in the events of your neighborhood and your neighborhood organization!

2008 was a good year for Whittier, despite many challenges in the larger economy. The work of the neighborhood organization, the residents and the business owners really showed through the year, as we suffered only modest loss of business and had relatively few properties fall into foreclosure. Congratulate yourselves for keeping Whittier healthy and strong!

We are nothing if not an engaged neighborhood. The level and quality of participation in our meetings and events is outstanding. Our meetings have meaningful dialogue. Neighbors are willing to work with other neighbors, businesses and developers to make plans and find solutions that are best for the neighborhood. This is the only way we will maintain the things we like best about our neighborhood and change the things we find challenging. Next time you are planning to come to a meeting, bring another neighbor with you—there are many things to look forward to in 2009 and beyond!

Not only do neighbors build community by showing up to meetings, but also by supporting their neighborhood organization. Thank you for your generous support last year. Our May Day Soirée neighborhood benefit and auction was a success again and the Fall Fundraising Campaign brought in many new donors. Please take a moment to read over the list of financial supporters; we would like them to get all the appreciation they deserve!

Lastly, please join me in expressing gratitude to our skilled, creative and uncompromisingly dedicated Executive Director, Marian Biehn. And we sadly wish bon voyage and best of luck in the future to Josie Shardlow, Community Organizer, who left at the end of 2008 to pursue extensive travel plans. She was the graceful and gracious hand behind neighborhood outreach events including the Whittier Green Fair and the Dog Days of Whittier. We are lucky to have such dedicated people working for the neighborhood and making it possible for the rest of us to participate fully in the process of neighborhood activism.

Whittier Alliance Executive Director Report  
Marian Biehn

In reflecting back over 2008 in Whittier, it was again a very active year with, however, a change in the dynamic as the year progressed. While the evolution of and the investment in the Whittier neighborhood continues, the pace of development proposals has slowed and the proposals and discussion topics have taken on a longer view.

An on-going discussion which started in 2007 is the City’s proposal for the Framework for the Future neighborhood engagement model. This policy change, scheduled to be effective during 2011, will have implications for neighborhood funding as well as possible governance and influence on the ability of neighborhoods to self identify and prioritize issues. The Neighborhood Revitalization Program of the past 15+ years, which stabilized the Whittier neighborhood and created successes like the Whittier School and Eat Street branding will be reshaped into a City department. To assure sustainability during the transition years, the Whittier Alliance has taken steps to secure funding through its NRP Phase 1 program income. This action will secure funding for the outreach, activities and operational functions of the Whittier Alliance through 2010-11 and 12. The Whittier neighborhood will vote at the 2009 Annual Meeting on this proposed reallocation. We ask for your involvement during these policy discussions and your advocacy for the highest level of neighborhood-based voice and funding in the Framework for the Future program to assure that neighborhood needs are recognized and addressed.

The Whittier neighborhood continues to welcome and become home to people from all parts of the world, all life-styles and opinions. It is sought out as a desirable neighborhood. Whittier was #8 on the “Best Twin Cities Neighborhood” list by VitaMN July ’08! Encouragement like that inspires the most meaningful work of the Whittier Alliance to be done on behalf of residents and businesses. Hundreds of engaged community members attended our monthly meetings and brought thoughtful discussion into the decision making process. The Whittier Board worked on a Strategic Plan to continue growth and prosperity in the neighborhood. Additional components of the Whittier NRP Phase 2 Action Plan...
We welcomed many new businesses to Whittier and said goodbye to some old friends. In the current economic climate, it is more important than ever to support your neighborhood independent businesses.

We welcomed the following new businesses

- Blacklist Vintage
- Morelos Grill
- Ranger Security
- Tiger Sushi 2
- Vietnamese Tai
- Nokomi's Dry Cleaners
- Milano Dress Shop
- CVS Pharmacy
- Harriet Ave Storage
- Pho Hoa Noodle Soup

We said goodbye to some Whittier businesses

- Sisaket Furniture
- Sapphian Express
- Taco Morelos
- Morelos Grill
- Vietnamese Thai
- Salon Andrew
- Relax Exotic Chinese Restaurant
- Maharishi Meditation Center
- JP American Bistro
- Hiep Thanh Asian Grocery
We thank our host businesses in 2008: Caterpillar Lounge, Hennepin History Museum, Washburn Center for Children, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, AFC Mortgage, The Murals, U + B Architects, Three Sons Signature Cuisine/Blaisdell Manor, Black Forest Inn, Tanek Architects, and Pancho Villa Grill.

Please join us this year! We have many exciting projects in the works. Our group encompasses non-profit and for profit, industrial and service oriented, big institutions and small, family-run stores. Residents and property owners are also welcome to attend. Whittier is a great place to live, work and run a business!

Community Issues Destin Nygard, Chair
The purpose of the Community Issues (CI) Committee meetings is to address issues vital to the neighborhood regarding safety, housing and land use and community building. The meetings have a “town-hall” meeting format, providing community members with an opportunity to hear updates on the full range of neighborhood events, as well as an opportunity to raise concerns and provide feedback and comments to the Whittier Alliance.

2008 should have been a quiet year for the CI Committee. The crush of development proposals that the neighborhood had seen in previous years slowed—an early sign of the economic difficulties. Instead, we were kept busy with a broad range of new issues that kept popping up. Even meetings with short agendas brought forth rich and rewarding conversations that left us scrambling to leave before the janitor locked us in.

At the Whittier Alliance, we’ve had ongoing discussions about whether or not the CI spends too much time on development proposals, at the expense of quality of life issues, broader city issues, or advancing neighborhood priorities. The strength of discussions of this past year reinforced that too often, important issues and comments aren’t heard when in a mode of responding to a parade of development proposals.

Looking back, two of our most difficult issues were our consideration of light rail transit along Nicollet Ave. and our review of the HCMC Clinic’s site plan. In retrospect, I’m very proud of the work that the Whittier Alliance did on both of these issues—our positions were strong, thoughtful, and in the case of the HCMC project, allowed us to work together with the designers and elected officials to create a much better project.

Looking ahead, we need to work hard to ensure that it’s the neighborhood that sets our agenda, and that we’re not just reacting to the plans of others. Transit and parking remain two intertwined and persistent issues that will ripple through much of the work that we do as a neighborhood, and issues that would be great to take steps forward on our own terms.

Last year’s highlights included:

Informational Presentations
- City Attorney Susan Siegel
- Diane Moe from the Mpls Park & Rec
- Strong Schools/Strong City Ballot Referendum Presentation
- Lt David Hayhoe from the 5th Precinct
- State Representative Karen Clark
- Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan—City Planner Haila Maze
- Mpls Institute of Arts—Strategic Planning—Lisa Vecoli
- Minneapolis City Assessor—Patrick Todd
- Mpls Parks—Tracy Nordstrom Park Commissioner
- WiFi—Jim Farstad—Update on installation in Whittier
- Restorative Justice Community Action, Inc.—Taryn Runck
- SW Transit presentation—Katie Doty and Katie Walker

Reports from Neighborhood Task Forces
- Progress for the development of design guidelines for commercial corridors
- Traffic work group for congestion mitigation for Pillsbury/Pleasant to Lake St.
- Light Rail 3C Nicollet Alignment Task Force Report

Resource Development Marian Biehn
The Whittier Alliance continues to diversify and expand its income sources and reserve funds. Annually, the Whittier Alliance sponsors 2 major and one minor fundraiser. These fundraising events are an important part of our annual budget. Due to the uncertainty of stable funding sources, successful revenue building though fundraising will continue to be an important function of the Whittier Alliance. We are especially appreciative of the generosity of our friends and neighbors who financially contribute to the Whittier Alliance, attend fundraising events or give in-kind donations.

Income from fundraising in 2008
May Day Soirée Silent & Live Auction Neighborhood Benefit $13,601
Hennepin Lake Liquors Multi-Neighborhood Wine Tasting 375
Fall Fundraising Campaign 2008 5,785
Total $19,761
Our Generous Contributors and Supporters in 2008—Thank you! Thank you also to our contributors who wish to remain anonymous.

Michaela Ahern  
Marilyn Anderson Caddy  
Andy Baird  
Dave & Dominique Berenier  
Tom Bissen  
Derf Bistodeau  
Allen Blaich  
Blythe Brenden  
Javier Buenfil Azpiri  
& David Derova  
Chris Carrow  
Giancarlo Casale  
Erica Christ  
Wendy Darst  
John Dean  
Cy & Paula DeCosse  
Don Druke  
Kaywin Feldman  
Dana Fox  
Chris Gottshall  
Verne Greenlee  
Eric Grumdahl  
Elizabeth Grzechowiak  
John & Karen Himle  
Paula Horan  
Alan Inger  
Paul Jablonsky  
Victoria Jaskierski  
& Kelly Linton  
Kelly Koehnen  
Fritz Kreiser  
Melo Lawson  
Michael Lawyer  
& Cara Spaccarelli  
Christina Le  
Diane & David Lilly  
Peggy Lucas  
Larry Ludeman  
Bruce Lundeen  
Harriet McCleary  
Andrew McDermott  
Dana & Mary McDill  
Larry & Mary Miller  
Andrew Mogendorff  
Moses Renault Moses  
Jo Ann Musuren  
Jeffrey Nelson  
Destin Nygard  
Scott & Barbara Olson  
Jesse Oyervides  
Felino de la Peña  
Eric Plotner  
Paul Railsback  
Karla Rehberg  
Rebecca Schuder  
Thomas & Diana Scott  
Mary Simpson  
Scott Smith & Lana Barkawi  
Jeffrey Spencer  
Nancy St. John  
Beverly Stewart  
Daphna Stromberg  
James Thomson  
Heather Turngren  
Pamela Vandalos  
Lisa Vecoli  
Rochelle Woldorsky  
Ralph Yehle  
AAUW  
Blaidsel Housing Limited  
Partnership  
CT March Properties, LLC  
Electric Fetus  
Flower Realty/Rose Manor  
Franklin Bank  
Girard Management  
It's Greek to Me  
Just In Case Staffing  
Kleiman Realty  
Leaning Tower of Pizza  
Mint Properties  
Old Arizona  
Once Upon a Crime  
Plymouth Church  
Neighborhood Foundation  
Source MN, Inc

Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Implementation  
Marian Biehn  
Thanks to a dedicated group of Whittier volunteers, the process of getting funds into the neighborhood based on the Whittier NRP Action Plan continues to move forward. Funding discussions and contracting were addressed in each of the five strategies: Housing, Safety, Youth, Business & Local Economy and Community Building. The following implementation of Phase II funds was accomplished in 2008. A full financial ledger of contracted and remaining NRP Phase 2 funds is available for review at the Whittier Alliance office.

- **Housing:** The **Rental Rehab and Renewal Loan (3-R)** fund is active with Rental Property Owners borrowing to make improvements to their properties. The City is the current administrator for the fund. The Steering Committee reviewed options that would provide better access to the loan fund. The Center for Energy and Environment’s administers the **single family home** improvement fund and made several loans to Whittier residents. Hess Roise was selected to provide a Historic Preservation Context Study and develop a preservation guide.

- **Community Building & Safety:** Over 7500 **2009 Whittier Calendars** were distributed to Whittier households. The calendar features photos taken by Whittier residents who responded to the “Picture Whittier” challenge of capturing the unique character and “visual identity” of Whittier. Improved safety and livability are important to Whittier residents. Funds from the Safety strategy were contracted in a variety of ways during 2008. The **Whittier Walkers** safety patrol is a function of this strategy as well as the tracking of chronic offenders for community impact statements for stricter sentencing. The number of **block & apartment clubs** and contacts grew in 2008 and outreach activities were funded. In 2008 Whittier hosted about a dozen National Night Out events. **Graffiti Removal/Prevention:** Grants are regularly being distributed to residents and businesses to subsidize graffiti removal and abatement projects. One third of the cost of graffiti prevention methods such as lighting, landscaping, murals or mosaics, removal or preventative coating are reimbursed to the applicant.

- **Business & Local Economy:** The Commercial Corridor Design Guidelines were developed to support the Nicollet Franklin Pedestrian Overlay and as a tool to inform and guide future new development as well as rehab on existing buildings.

- **Youth:** The contract with **Family & Children’s Services** was renewed through June 2008. A change in the effectiveness of the program prompted an early termination of the collaboration. Whittier NRP funds covered the cost of Clinton Field Park programming and staff for 8 weeks during the summer.

- **Implementation:** NRP Phase II provides funds to assist in the day to day operations of the neighborhood organization. These funds help defray the cost of public meetings, resource and information dispersal, community building, rent and utilities. All funds are reimbursed after submitting a comprehensive report on the expenses. **NRP Plan Modifications:** In 2008 the Board voted to ensure the sustainability of the organization by reallocating funds from NRP Phase 1 program income. The program income is available for use at the neighborhood’s discretion. The reallocation does not affect availability of Phase 2 funding initiatives. The action effectively closes out NRP Phase 1. The Board forwarded the action for neighborhood review and vote at the Whittier Alliance Annual Meeting on April 2, 2009.

**Whittier Alliance**  
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**Stay Informed!**  
For timely updates on neighborhood meetings and events, sign up for the Whittier e-group by going to:  
www.whittieralliance.org
Finance Committee, Tom Bissen: On a monthly basis the Finance Committee meets to review the income and expenses of the Whittier Alliance. All incoming funds and invoices are identified with an account number to track against the annual budget. Professional oversight of the Whittier financials is provided by Derf Bistodeau, CPA and owner of Romer & Company and his bookkeeper, Nina Sterbuck. In 2008 an independent audit of the 2007 Whittier Alliance financial position, activities, functional expenses and statement of cash flow and an audit of the accounting practices and procedures was performed by the Minnesota State Auditors. The audit showed the Whittier Alliance was in compliance. A copy of the State Auditors Report is available in the Whittier Alliance office.

WHITTIER ALLIANCE
January – December 2008 Financials

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSES

| INCOME | |
| Corporate Grants | $1,050 |
| NRP Phase II Funds | 154,904 |
| Other Donations | 1,087 |
| Citizen Participation | 2,000 |
| WA Fundraising | 19,761 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 166 |
| Interest Income | 911 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **$179,879** |

| EXPENSES | |
| Personnel Expenses | $115,777 |
| Mileage | 130 |
| ADP | 1,616 |
| Delivery (Calendars) | 2,316 |
| Professional Services | 3,352 |
| Bank Fees | 129 |
| Copier | 2,967 |
| Computer | 1,515 |
| Printing (Calendars, etc.) | 5,919 |
| Food/Beverages | 169 |
| Fees, Licenses, Permits, Donations | 635 |
| Insurance-Liability/Workers Comp | 1,418 |
| Operating Expense | 11,790 |
| Office Supplies/Furniture | 1,987 |
| Bulk Mail/Postage Meter Expenses | 4,748 |
| Recognition-Volunteers/Staff | 711 |
| Community Meetings | 429 |
| Theater in Fair Oaks Park | 443 |
| Whittier Walkers | 220 |
| Fundraising | 2,512 |
| Design Guidelines | 6,516 |
| Miscellaneous Expense | 51 |
| **TOTAL EXPENSE** | **$165,350** |

**NET ORDINARY INCOME** $14,529

BALANCE SHEET
As of December 31, 2008

| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Bank Accounts | $102,186 |
| Accounts Receivable | 26,913 |
| **Total Current Assets** | **$129,099** |
| Fixed Assets | |
| Property & Equipment | $8,496 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | -8,496 |
| **Total Fixed Assets** | 0 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS** | **$129,099** |

| LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | |
| Liabilities | |
| Employee HSA | $138 |
| Deferred Revenue NRP | 10,490 |
| Deferred Revenue CPED/BA | 5,358 |
| Graffiti Removal | 303 |
| Façade Improvement Grant | -350 |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES** | **$15,939** |
| Net Assets | $113,160 |
| **TOTAL NET ASSETS** | **$129,099** |
2008 Contributors and Supporters—Thank you!

Michaela Ahern
Marily Anderson Caddy
Andy Baird
Dave & Dominique Bereiter
Tom Bissen
Derf Bistodea
Allen Blaich
Blythe Brenden
Javier Buenfil Azpiri & David Dorava
Chris Carrow
Giancarlo Casale
Erica Christ
Wendy Darst
John Dean
Cy & Paula DeCosse
Don Druke
Kaywin Feldman
Dana Fox
Chris Gottshall
Dana & Mary McDill
Verne Greenlee
Cheryle Grzechowiak
John & Karen Himle
Paula Horan
Alan Ingber
Paul Jablonsky
Victoria Jaskierski & Kelly Linton
Kelly Koehnen
Fritz Kreiser
Fletch Lawson
Melo Lawson
Michael Lawyer & Cara Spaccarelli
Christina Le
Diane & David Lilly
Peggy Lucas
Larry Ludeman
Bruce Lundeen
Harriet McCleary
Andrew McDermott
Dana & Mary McDill
Larry & Mary Miller
Andrew Mogendorff
Moses Renanoff
Jo Ann Musumeci

Jeffrey Nelson
Destin Nygard
Scott & Barbara Olson
Jesse Oyervides
Felino de la Peña
Eric Plotner
Paul Railsback
Karla Rehberg
Rebecca Schuder
Thomas & Diana Scott
Mary Simpson
Scott Smith & Lana Barkawi
Jeffrey Spencer
Nancy St. John
Beverly Stewart
Daphna Stromberg
James Thomson
Heather Turngren
Pamela Vardalos
Lisa Vecoli
Rochelle Woldorsky
Ralph Yehle
AAUW (Carolyn Humphrey)
Blaisdell Housing Limited Partnership
(Tammy Horack)
CT March Properties, LLC (Craig March)
Electric Fetus
Flower Realty/Rose Manor Apartments
(James Bilmann)
Franklin Bank
Girard Management (Emily Doyle)
It’s Greek to Me
Just In Case Staffing
Kleinman Realty (Mark Jossart)
Leaning Tower of Pizza (Khosrow Daivari)
Mint Properties (Jim Rubin)
Old Arizona (Darcy Trumble & Elizabeth Knight)
Once Upon a Crime
Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation (Lee Blons)
Source MN, Inc