



Whittier Alliance Annual Report — 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR | Erica Christ

Welcome to the Whittier Alliance Annual Meeting! Thank you for taking the time to join us in reviewing 2016 and electing new board members.

This is my last meeting as your board chair. My term is up and I'm stepping aside. It has been an honor, a pleasure and, in all senses of the phrase, a learning experience to serve on the board for the last twelve years and to serve as the chair for the last nine.

If there's one thing I've learned it's that I believe absolutely in the value of neighborhood level work. I believe in the value of neighborhood organizations. I believe in the value of showing up, of speaking up and of not giving up. As I said in last year's note, a strong neighborhood organization is the community's best hope in tackling big questions. We have the resources, the deep roots and history in the neighborhood, and the strong connections across the neighborhood and the city to make this vision of a prosperous, eccentric, accessible, diverse, loveable, livable world class neighborhood a reality.

Our Executive Director Ricardo McCurley has been with us for over a year now and he is ready to get to work, with your help, on a new strategic plan for the Whittier Alliance. This will be our guiding document for the next five years so please take every opportunity to participate in this planning process. We are the ones who know our neighborhood best so let's use our expertise to work towards our shared vision for the future of Whittier!

Thank you, again, for trusting me for so many years with a leadership role in the Whittier Alliance and I'll see you around the neighborhood!

Board of Directors Serving in 2016

OFFICERS

Erica Christ, Chair
Laura Jean, Vice Chair
Andy Cohen, Treasurer
Erin Sjoquist, Secretary

COMMITTEE CHAIRS / REPS

Michael Malone, Community Issues
Andy Cohen, Business Association
Araceli Perez, For-Profit Bus. Rep
Fadumo Canab, Non-Profit Bus. Rep
Geri Jerez, Non-Profit Bus. Rep

AT LARGE MEMBERS

David Bagley	Daphna Stromberg
Erica Christ	Kenya Weathers
Laura Jean	Christine Popowski
Christina Le	Mary Gazca
David Bagley	Michael Malone
Jesse Oyervides	Marie Listopad
Erin Sjoquist	

Staff

Ricardo McCurley, Executive Director
Paul Shanafelt, Community Engagement Manager
Joey Whitesman, Office Coordinator
Camilla Fartun Jamal, Community Liaison



WHITTIER ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT | Ricardo McCurley

The Neighborhood is Good...The Neighborhood can be Better...A More Perfect Union.

We celebrate our Somali women with whom we shared our skills, who created resumes and who found jobs. We celebrate the physical spaces we created with our apartment communities through Friendly Fronts. We celebrate Eat Street through the start of our Eat Street Oral History Project and the cookbook Zeus Jones created. We celebrate water and its protection through the creation of rain gardens, the removal of excess salt and the sharing of those skills with neighbors. We celebrate Calvary Church and their creation of the Whittier Farmers Market. We celebrate difficult conversations we hosted on hiring felons and recovering addicts, affordable housing, development, street harassment and sex offenders. We celebrate all the work by our youth grant recipients. We celebrate all the good that was done in Whittier and for Whittier, so much of it unnoticed and too much to list. Thank you.

This year marks the end of our current strategic plan. This means a lot of work for all of us in the year that follows. We started this work in August with the creation and adoption of an engagement plan including Asset-mapping, Outreach, Priority Identification, Drafting and Financial Allocation. Students from the Urban Studies department of the University of Minnesota are helping identify and map assets in Housing, Transportation, Commerce, Culture and Environment. This summer we need everyone to look at our past priorities, our maps, our data and answer these questions: What is still important? What is not? How should we grow? Where do we have physical, financial and/or cultural space to grow? There will be surveys, focus groups, public meetings and internet forums in multiple languages to give anyone who wants to share their thoughts a chance to do so. After each phase of the process, we'll bring it back to the community for comment.

We will know we have done well if everyone in the community sees their ideas and work reflected in the plan. This does not mean we will all agree. In fact, if done well, the plan will reflect the nuance and complexity of our distinctive and diverse neighborhood. It will be clear, not simple. It will reflect the conflict and compromise that makes this a good neighborhood, trying to be a better neighborhood...A More Perfect Union.



Community Issues Committee

Development & Ordinance Reviews

2905 Harriet Ave - Curt Gunsbury, Solheim Companies
26th St & Stevens Ave- DJR Architecture
2601 Lyndale Ave – Don Gerberding
2542 Clinton Avenue S, Historic Preservation Application
2900 Pleasant- Sabri Properties Development

Informational Presentations

I35W Transit/Access Lake St Project-Jim Grube, Hennepin County Highway Engineer, and Jennifer Hager, City of Minneapolis Director Transportation Planning & Programming
St. Stephen's Human Services- Mike Huffman from St. Stephen's and Robert Hofmann
Red Cedar Gardening- Madeline Leslie
Whittier Farmers Market – Mark Yamaguchi
Youth Farm Pillsbury Ave Site – Phil Rooney
Whittier Bike Patrol – Sgt. Kristopher Brown, MPD
Neighborhood Crime Report – Chelsea Adams, 5th Pct. Crime Prevention Specialist
Whittier Place & Serenity Place – Teresa Dieveney
MPLS Park and Recreation- Anita Tabb, District 4 parks Commissioner
MN House Representative Karen Clark
Friendly Fronts Project – The Musicant Group
Rain Gardens – John Bly, Metro Blooms
November Election – Omar Fateh & Lourdes Francisco, City of Minneapolis
MetroTransit- Max Holdusen
HOME Line- Jessica Mikkelsen, Housing Attorney
Gentrification and Affordability Discussion- Malik Shabazz, CURA & Owen Duckworth, Alliance for Metropolitan Stability

Community Engagement Manager Report

The Whittier neighborhood was a hive of activity in 2016. A bevy of phenomenal volunteers and organizations helped strengthen Whittier by supporting over 30 neighborhood events, programs, and projects. Thank you to all of our collaborators and volunteers for their invaluable support!

Whittier Alliance 2016 Sponsored & Supported Events/Projects/Programs

Somali Employment & Training Program-Supporting Somali women's community with job searching skill development. All women in the four-month program found full-time employment.

Friendly Fronts-Co-creation of friendly front yards at six apartment buildings along Blaisdell Ave and Pillsbury Ave.

Art Mesh-The Whittier Alliance office transformed into a public art gallery for a month to showcase works created by MCAD students and Whittier residents.

Whittier Dining Guide-Brochure & digital guide to Whittier's diverse array of eateries

Youth Field Day & Ice Cream Social-Summer social that provided over 80 backpacks & school supplies for Whittier kids

Community Conversation Circle-Hosted at Mia, an in-gallery exploration and discussion about resistance, protest, and resilience.

Volunteer Appreciation Mixer-End-of-year party for volunteers and the Whittier Business Association

National Night Out-Twelve block parties hosted in Whittier!

Civic Buzz-A monthly civically-minded discussion at Black Forest Inn hosted by League of Women Voters.

Eat Street Oral History Project-Capturing the stories of Eat Street originators through research and interviews; these narratives will be unveiled in late 2017.

Whittier Annual Meeting-Yearly neighborhood gathering featuring a resource fair and board elections.

Future of Neighborhoods Meetings-Discussions about the challenges neighborhoods face and how the city can empower neighborhoods to find local solutions.

Somali Independence Day-Annual street festival celebrating Somali independence.

Board Meet and Greet-Social bringing Whittier Alliance board members and neighborhood residents together.

Somali Women's Leadership Program-Four-month class covering leadership, advocacy, and civil rights.

Whittier/Lyndale ESL Program-English language classes for Latino and East African residents of Lyndale and Whittier.

Whittier Faith Leaders Meetings-Quarterly gathering of Whittier faith leaders.

Whittier Youth-Serving Organizations Meetings-Quarterly gathering of youth organization leaders in Whittier.

Whittier Farmers Market-June-September showcase of local vendors hosted on Saturday mornings outside Calvary Church.

Whittier Youth Micro-grants-Annual funding program for organizations providing positive services, programming and activities to Whittier youth.

Facade Improvement Grants-Program aiming to revitalize and maintain neighborhood business districts through storefront improvements.

K-Mart Pop-Up Park-Collaborative placemaking project that created a welcoming space for neighborhood gathering.

Environmental Sustainability Task Force

Whittier Wheels-Incentive program encouraging cycling and engaging neighbors with Whittier businesses.

Participating businesses: My Huong Kitchen, The Bad Waitress, Green Machine, A Slice of New York, Rainbow Chinese, Bob's Java Hut, Loon Grocery & Deli, Wesley Andrews Conversation Complements, Green Garage.

Raingarden Workshop-Whittier residents learned about and installed rain gardens with the help of master water stewards.

Lake Street Energy Challenge-Collaboration between Xcel Energy and neighborhoods along Lake St. corridor to promote community-driven clean energy.

Caffeine & Kickstands-Over 40 free bike tune-ups were performed by Sunrise Cyclery while Whittier bikers socialized and enjoyed complimentary Spyhouse coffee.

Whittier Bike Fair-Event hosted at Sunrise Cyclery that offered free bike tune-ups, food, games, and community resources.

Salt Cleanup-Cleanup of excess salt along commercial corridors to reduce pollutant from seeping into Minnehaha Creek and the Chain of Lakes.

Earth Day Cleanup-Annual volunteer-driven trash cleanup of the neighborhood.

Green Your Business Initiative-Collaborative effort offering free energy audits and recycling education to Whittier businesses.

Livable Street Task Force

27th Street Corridor Improvement Project-Collaboration with Minneapolis Public Works and Whittier International Elementary School to make problematic intersections safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

Crime & Safety Task Force

Whittier Bike Patrol-A Whittier-funded program where MPD bike officers patrolled the neighborhood during the summer months to help reduce crime and build positive community/police relationships.

Street Harassment Seminar-Community discussion facilitated by Sexual Violence Center to help combat street harassment.

Whittier Alliance 2016 Collaborations & Partnerships

- Minneapolis College of Art & Design
- The Minneapolis Institute of Art
- Minneapolis Police Dept. - 5th Precinct
- Law Enforcement Group
- League of Women Voters Minneapolis
- Preservation Alliance of Minnesota
- Musicant Group
- Ka Joog
- Nice Ride Minnesota
- Zeus Jones
- Spotlight Oral History
- Hennepin County - Midtown Community Works
- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
- Lake Street Council
- Midtown Greenway Coalition
- Minneapolis Public Works
- Metro Blooms
- Sexual Violence Center
- Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Twin Cities
- Art Buddies
- New Americans Youth Soccer Club
- The Sanneh Foundation
- Homework 'n Hoops
- Children's Theatre Company
- Voices of East African Women
- Center for Urban & Regional Affairs - U of M
- Sunrise Cyclery
- Brian Coyle Center
- Stevens Square Community Organization
- Lyndale Neighborhood Association
- Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association
- Corcoran Neighborhood Organization
- Whittier International Elementary School
- Whittier Farmers Market
- Hmong Farmers Association
- Whittier Faith Based Organizations
- Blaisdell Housing Apartments
- Whittier Community Housing - Common Bond
- Learning In Style
- St. Stephen's Shelter
- Supportive Living Solutions



VISION | A World Class Neighborhood

MISSION | The Whittier Alliance is dedicated to building a flourishing and distinctive neighborhood



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FINANCES

The Finance Committee meets with our accountant on a monthly basis to review the income and expenses of the Whittier Alliance. The monthly financial report is then forwarded to the Whittier Alliance board for final review. All incoming funds and invoices are identified with an account number to track against the annual budget. Expenses are coded to the appropriate funding sources. Professional oversight of the Whittier financials is provided by Petersen Paquin, CPA.

Financials January 1 – December 31, 2016

Balance Sheet

Assets

Checking/Savings	\$ 342,824.21
Accounts Receivable	215,594.45

Total Assets \$ 558,418.66

Liabilities

Deferred revenue—NRP contract	27,900.00
Deferred revenue—NCR	10,000
Simple IRA—temp rest	680.75
Façade—temp rest	1,101.70

Total Liabilities 39,682.45

Equity

Net Assets	518,342.29
Net Income	393.92

Total Equity 518,736.21

Total Liabilities & Equity \$ 558,418.66

Total Income 324,718.71

Cost of Goods Sold 0.00

Gross Profit \$ 324,718.71

Expense

Mileage	\$ 71.50
Payroll	150,643.66
Advertising	35.00
Payroll Service	2,690.81
Professional Services	50,595.44
Subcontractors	37,848.90
Bank Fees	293.49
Copier	4,175.96
Computer	2,396.69
Printing	8,948.99
Food/beverages	1,136.73
Fees, licenses, permits	150.00
Insurance	610.68
Operations	12,546.96
Office Supplies	1,430.81
Postage	2,258.59
Recognition	411.18
Community meetings & Events	3,077.03
Training	427.50
Fundraising	0.00
Housing	0.00
Façade Improvement Grant	12,676.36
Whittier Community Event	5,898.51
Youth Micro Grant Exp	26,000.00

Total Expense 324,324.79

Net Income \$ 393.92



Business Association

Business Association Meeting

Hosts:

- Black Sheep Pizza
- Nightingale Restaurant
- Black Forest Inn
- Daalo Grill
- Bad Waitress
- Zeus Jones
- The Blaisdell/Common Roots
- Wesley Andrews

Business Association Discussion Topics:

- 29th & Harriet
- 26th & Lyndale
- 29th & Pleasant
- Environmental Task Force
- Plastic Bag Ordinance
- Bike Patrol Proposal
- Whittier Business Grants & Loans
- Open Streets Nicollet
- Showcasing Local Art in Businesses
- Over-Salting
- I-35W/Lake St Reconstruction
- Metro Blooms – Stormwater project at Black Forest Inn
- Whittier Farmer's Market
- Organics Recycling & Energy Efficiencies through Lake Street Council
- Securonet Virtual Safety Network
- Whittier Community Bike Patrol
- Whittier Wheels
- Minneapolis Super Bowl Update
- Eat Street Oral History project
- Kmart Pop-Up Park
- Reopen Nicollet Neighborhood Vision
- Eat Street 20th/Whittier Alliance 40th Anniversaries
- Lyndale Pedestrian Overlay
- Hiring Local/English Learners/Recovering Addicts/Felons

FUNDRAISING

The Whittier Alliance depends on fundraising to supplement its annual budget. Thanks to your generosity, we met our 2016 fundraising goals. Our Fall fundraiser was boosted by the sale of “From Eat Street, with Love” Recipe Books created by our neighborhood’s own Zeus Jones.

The Whittier Alliance thanks residents, businesses, friends, and supporters for their financial contributions. The revenue from these fundraisers is reserved for future use and for expenses that are not covered by other, more restricted funding sources.

Many thanks to our generous contributors:

David & Tamar Bagley	Larry Ludeman
Andrew G. Baird	Mint Properties LLC
Lee Blons	Kate Nettleman
Roger Brake	Nicollet Avenue Business Association
Stephanie Brown	Jesse Oyervides
Richard Delroy Calhoun & Rebecca Saito	Carol & Gus Parpas
Erica Christ & James Wrayge	Araceli Perez
Christos Greek Restaurant	Christine Popowski
Andy & Mary Cohen	Natascha Shawver & Matthew J Harmon
DBA Plus Six Productions	Erin Sjoquist & Kurt Nelson
The Electric Fetus	Stevens Community Associates Ltd.
Mary Gazca	Daphna Stromberg & Tod Skallerup
James Gray	Thomas M. Tulien
Sharon F Hilberer & John F Collier	John Wetherall
Ted & Molly Irgens	Steven B Wiese
Irving Properties	Monet R Wong
Lake Wine & Spirits	Zeus Jones
Laura Jean & David Schroth	
Bihn & Christina Le	
Marie Listopad	



Thanks to all the businesses and individuals that donated in-kind—food, products, gift certificates, etc.:

A Slice of New York	Daalo Grill	Learning In Style	Springhouse Ministries
Bad Waitress	Five Watt Coffee	MCAD	Spyhouse Coffee
Banadir Fashion	Galactic Pizza	MEFE Career Pathways Charter School	Starbucks
Bike Cops for Kids	G & L Furniture	Minneapolis Institute of Arts	Sunrise Cyclery
Black Forest Inn	Greater Goods	Musicant Group	Tasho Community
Bob's Java Hut	Glam Doll Donuts	Office Depot	Wedge Table
Calvary Church	Kmart	Pimento Kitchen	Wesley Andrews
Copper Hen	Lake Wine & Spirits		Zeus Jones

NRP II and Strategic Plan Progress

Our NRP funds continue to support both our basic operations and targeted programming. This year, we devoted \$26,000 to organizations serving Whittier Youth through our Youth Micro Grants. Whittier youth got to play soccer with Sannah Foundation, make art with Art Buddies, connect to mentors with Big Brothers Big Sisters, see art at the Children’s Theater Company, and learned with Homework and Hoops. We devoted over \$22,000 to a new Bike Patrol and received a lot of positive feedback from residents and businesses. Officers were able to target alleys and engage one-on-one with residents young and old. NRP funds also supported our efforts to document the history of Eat Street through an Oral History project. The final product will become an exhibit at the Hennepin History Museum and, with further fundraising, a documentary.

NRP funds also helped further the work identified in our 2012-2017 Strategic Plan. The Friendly Fonts pilot program, in partnership with the Musicant Group, focused on renter engagement by creating public/private spaces in front of apartment buildings. Our work on supportive and subsidized housing continued with our participation in the Fair Housing Advisory Committee and the collection of affordable housing data. Our Environment and Sustainability Task Force addressed many of our goals through a variety of events and projects including: bicycle incentive programs to lower our carbon footprint and salt clean ups to protect our waterways. 2016 also marked the beginning of our internship program. We had 7 interns from MCAD, Southwest High School and the University of Minnesota. Internships increase our operational capacity for projects and events, provide learning opportunities and bring a lot of energy to the neighborhood.