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## Northeast Futures Partners

[www.necdc.org](http://www.necdc.org)  
*Northeast Community Development Corporation*

[www.nemplschamber.org](http://www.nemplschamber.org)  
*Northeast Chamber of Commerce*

[www.nemaa.org](http://www.nemaa.org)  
*Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association*

## ABOUT NORTHEAST FUTURES

*Northeast Futures is a community visioning and planning project for Northeast Minneapolis, MN.* The purpose of the project is to help Northeast get on the same page and to work proactively and consistently when dealing with land use and community development issues.

*Northeast Futures seeks to evoke commonalities from a variety of groups and individuals, while encouraging them to work together on shared interests.* We want to unite the Northeast community behind a common vision for the future of Northeast that Northeasters create! The Northeast Futures Project will produce a Common Values and Vision statement for Northeast.

Our project partners are the Northeast Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce and the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association.

## COUNCIL of WISE ELDERS WORKS

We have formed a 9 member **Northeast Futures Council of Wise Elders** which will make a powerful group presentation at the **Northeast Futures Community Convention** based on the findings from our Northeast Futures outreach activities.

The Council of Wise Elders will (i) analyze the canvass surveys and Community Dialogue responses, (ii) propose a common values and vision statement at the Northeast Futures Community Convention where they will also (iii) recommend principles and goals for future land use and community development in Northeast.

### The Northeast Futures Council of Wise Elders are:

Genevieve Peltier	Marty Schirber	Joseph Landry
Mike Fahey	Perry Ingli	William Smith
Margo Ashmore	Casey Perkins	Jean Rarick

Our first meeting was held on Monday March 31<sup>st</sup> at Holyland. We are planning to meet 5 times prior to the Convention at different restaurants in Northeast. We'll meet a couple times to rehearse the group presentation and then on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> the Council of Wise Elders will make history at the plenary session!

## REACHING OUT MORE

To learn the values and visions of Northeast residents for Northeast, NE CDC embarked on a Northeast-wide door to door canvass with the goal of interviewing a resident on every block in Northeast. According to the Minnesota Center for Survey Research we needed to complete 385 surveys to achieve a representative sample of +/- 3.5%. We've completed nearly 400 surveys before the winter stopped us. We will complete the remaining Northeast blocks in mid May '08. *PLEASE* help us canvass the rest of



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## Northeast Neighborhoods

- Audubon Park
- Beltrami
- Bottineau
- Columbia Park
- Holland
- Logan Park
- Marshall Terrace
- Northeast Park
- Sheridan
- St. Anthony East
- St. Anthony West
- Waite Park
- Windom Park

“My parents moved to Northeast in 1954. My husband grew up in this house we live in now. It was like a small town within a big city. It’s changed in the last 50 years - more diverse neighborhoods. This was known as a Swedish neighborhood. It’s good that it’s blended.”

- Community canvass interviewee

Northeast! If interested, contact Marcus.

We’ve begun a series of Community Dialogue meetings to engage different segments of the Northeast community in the sharing of stories, information and ideas to gain useful perspectives and insights. We’re trying to ensure diverse participation in the creation of Northeast’s COMMUNITY VISION. With the help of staff, I’ve recently begun organizing students at Edison high school who live in Northeast to help me organize the Community Dialogues. We’re targeting the following communities within the Northeast community:

Latino	African
Middle Eastern	Asian
African American	European American

### WHAT NORTHEASTERS SAY

I’ve had the great fortune of speaking with hundreds of Northeast residents. I’ve listened attentively to mostly good stories (though many bad stories too) of diverse community experiences and perspectives that have significantly increased my understanding and fondness of Northeast.

Indeed there were many commonalities and there are certainly shared interests across the diverse spectrum of "race," class, gender and family status. We should all know this intuitively, because regardless of the myriad individual and group differences, collectively we are all members of the one human race and we all live a human experience. In random order, the following list highlights some of the greatest common values of Northeasters in the context of community: ‡

- Safe, quiet, clean neighborhoods
- Good neighbors
- Healthy (holistically) families with kids
- Excellent community schools
- Home ownership
- Affordability
- Responsible landlords and renters
- Community events
- Economic development
- Thriving, independent businesses
- Quality parks, green space and bike paths
- Programming and resources for youth development
- Highly efficient public transportation
- Convenience and accessibility
- Diversity

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‡ Please note that the list above was compiled from my own recollections and is not a complete analysis of the surveys. I’m still working on that (including quantification)! Besides, the Values and Vision Statements that will be proposed at the Community Convention this October will be determined by the analysis of the Council of Wise Elders and will most likely be limited to 10 items. I’m only the facilitator of the process. Please feel free to email me your thoughts / feelings.



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**PLEASE FORWARD this E-NEWSLETTER**

*Visit our website for previous editions*

### WHAT this COMMUNITY ORGANIZER SAYS

My vision for Northeast involves the development of a greater, more prevalent “sense of community.” I’d love to hear of and see more residents getting to know and looking out for their neighbors. Furthermore, I envision a more inclusive neighborliness with **“those people”** who may appear or sound different and have different cultural customs but are essentially more like you than you think. A Jewish Northeaster told me that he had some Muslim neighbors whose family was more like his family than any of his other neighbors. An East Indian man told me that it isn’t skin color or ethnic features that make a person “bad,” it’s either their upbringing or their habits (or both). Several of the best statements I recorded during the canvass interviews were made by African Americans. I’m talking about statements that would resonate with the vast majority of Northeasters, including many racist folks who seem to despise black (or Latino or Arab) folks wholesale.

NE CDC is a community organization with a mission to “promote the economic development of Northeast in a manner that furthers the interests of both residents and businesses.” With this *Community Visioning Project* we’re striving to truly be representative of authentic community interests by inquiring of residents to learn their values and visions for the future of our community. I am committed to doing the best I can as an Organizer to facilitate more and better civic engagement here. The NE CDC vision for community development in Northeast is the vision that Northeasters create.

### NORTHEAST FUTURES COMMUNITY CONVENTION 11-11-08

This Community Visioning project will culminate with a *Northeast Futures Community Convention* on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> 2008 between 9:30am - 3:30pm at Eastside Neighborhood Services - 1700 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE. Mpls. 55413. *At this memorable event we’ll celebrate the old and new Northeast (people, places and things) with a focus on planning for the community’s future.* Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak will kick off the Convention with opening remarks. We’ll present several interesting break-out workshops. We’ll have a “Taste of Northeast” lunch. We’ll feature a major keynote speaker - TBA. The most important part of this event will be the plenary session featuring the Council of Wise Elders when and where we will publicly reach consensus on Northeast’s shared values and common vision for future land use and community development.

*The Northeast Futures Community Convention will be inspiring!*

**TO VIEW A VARIETY OF NORTHEAST MAPS & DATA VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

We would like to thank our funders and the volunteers who have helped to make the NE Futures Project possible:

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• Marcus Harcus • [mharcus@necdc.org](mailto:mharcus@necdc.org) • 612-627-9366 •