

## Upcoming Events

**9/2:** Community Conversation: Integration of Immigrants  
**9/3:** HMinneapolis Forum  
**9/7:** East Calhoun Labor Day Celebration  
**9/10:** Lyndale Fall Fundraiser  
**9/10:** Sheridan Ice Cream SNOcial  
**9/12:** East Isles Super Sale  
**9/12:** Minneapolis Monarch Festival  
**9/12:** Waite Park Push Cart Derby  
**9/12:** Como Cookout  
**9/12:** Fulton Fall Festival  
**9/12:** Open Streets University of Minnesota  
**9/12:** West Bank Block Party  
**9/12:** Powderhorn PorchFest  
**9/12:** Cinema in the Cemetery: The Haunting  
**9/13:** People for Parks 5K Run, Walk & Stroll  
**9/15:** Longfellow September Community Happy Hour  
**9/15-9/17:** Citywide bicycle and pedestrian counts  
**9/17-9/19:** Household hazardous waste collection event  
**9/19:** Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic  
**9/19:** Bancroft and Lynnhurst / Fulton Garage Sales  
**9/19:** Seward King's Fair  
**9/20:** Minneapolis Bike Tour  
**9/20:** Open Streets Nicollet Ave.  
**9/22:** **Voting Rights Act 50th Anniversary Celebration**  
**9/24:** Minneapolis Trans\* Equity Summit  
**9/26:** Linden Hills Nice Neighbors Day  
**9/26:** Open Streets Lowry Ave North  
**9/26:** Cinema in the Cemetery: Poltergeist  
**9/29:** Fix-It Tech Event  
**9/29:** North First: River Connect  
 Additional events and details can be found online:  
[www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar)

## Help shape our city— apply for openings on Minneapolis boards and commissions



Applications are now being accepted for a number of open boards and commissions positions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City.

Applications will be reviewed beginning **Oct. 23**. However, the positions are open until filled. There are open positions on the following 12 City boards and commissions:

- Capital Long-Range Improvements Committee.
- Charter Commission.
- Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council (application review will start after Oct. 2).
- Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging.
- Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities.
- Minneapolis Arts Commission.
- Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights.
- Minneapolis Planning Commission.
- Minneapolis Police Conduct Oversight Commission.
- Minneapolis Police Conduct Review Panel.
- Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board.
- Public Health Advisory Committee.

The City of Minneapolis has more than 50 volunteer-based boards, commissions and advisory committees that advise the City on issues and help with policy development and administration of services. Boards and commissions fall into a handful of categories: appeal boards, development boards, general advisory boards, and special service districts, which are defined areas within the city where special services are rendered. Appointments to board and commissions are made twice a year — in the spring and fall. Visit the City's website for full details: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards/openings/index.htm>

## Next Steps: Blueprint for Equitable Engagement

The review and comment period for the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement closed on August 14th. All public comments that were submitted during the 45 day review period are currently being reviewed and documented. Neighborhood and Community Relations staff and a member of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) will be redrafting the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement document based on comments and input received. Another public comment period will be opened later this fall for additional input on the redrafted document. Thank you to every resident who participated in an information session and or provided input.

To learn more about the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement, please visit:  
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/initiatives/EquitableEngagement>.



## NCR employee participates in panel discussion at the American Swedish Institute

Abdirashid Ahmed, East African Community Specialist for the NCR department participated in a panel discussion at the American Swedish Institute on September 2nd that compared and contrasted the experience of Somalis in Sweden and the United States. Abdirashid joined Swedish scholars Dr. Benny Carlson and Dr. Tobias Schölin (Lund University) and Nasibu Sareva, Executive Director of the African Development Center of Minnesota (ADC) to discuss contemporary integration of immigrants in their new countries.

Dr. Carlson and Schölin recently led a study that compared integration policies, with a focus on mainstreaming versus targeted measures (including training programs for specific ethnic minority populations), in eight countries (including the U.S. and Sweden). While Sweden often ranks globally at the top and the U.S. at the bottom regarding policies for mainstreaming immigrants, Carlson and Schölin found that the opposite can also be true when comparing actual results.

Abdirashid spoke on behalf of his work with the East African Community in Minneapolis and finds that Somalis are integrating well, have their own shopping malls, restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, transportation companies, real estate, money transfer businesses (local banks), charter and private schools, and mosques. Their involvement in politics is also increasing.

To learn more about the work of Abdirashid and the Access and Outreach Team, please visit:  
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/outreach/WCMS1P-143464>.



## City of Minneapolis' work on equity featured in national blog

The City of Minneapolis was recently featured in the [Government Alliance on Race and Equity's national blog on race and equity in local governments](http://www.racialequityalliance.org/2015/08/18/the-twin-cities-boards-and-commissions-leadership-institute-using-board-and-commission-appointments-to-advance-racial-equity/). The NCR department and Nexus Community Partners co-wrote an article on the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute (BCLI) program, a 7-month leadership program that supports, trains and places people of color and other underrepresented community members on city and county publicly appointed boards and commissions. This is one aspect of a larger strategy to build diversity and equity into the City's engagement work. NCR works closely with Nexus Community Partners to ensure that graduates of the BCLI are aware of the opportunities on Minneapolis' boards and commissions. Read the blog story here: <http://racialequityalliance.org/2015/08/18/the-twin-cities-boards-and-commissions-leadership-institute-using-board-and-commission-appointments-to-advance-racial-equity/>.

## Neighborhood Stories: Corcoran neighborhood organizes back to school welcome for South High Students



The Corcoran Neighborhood Association (CNO) organized a community welcome for 1800 incoming South High School students on their first day of school. The idea came from Corcoran board member and long-time resident Gerry Tyrrell. Tyrrell has two kids who graduated from South High and lives ½ block away from the school. He felt it would be a wonderful positive thing for students coming back to feel that community support. On August 24th, Corcoran staff and board members lined up with City and State elected officials, the Mpls. Fire Chief, local business leaders, and many other leaders to cheer on the arrival of students.

When asked why he wanted to do it, Tyrrell said “After all the negative publicity about the South High fights a few years back, it felt like we needed to be a role model in the community and model that good behavior.” “We wanted to show students that there is a community that cares, is diverse and we are all working together to make the community safe.” “(Minneapolis) has a wonderful diversity of leadership who are working really hard to have excellence in the neighborhood and at South.”

When asked how they were able to pull off such an event with so many local luminaries, he stated, “Over the years we (Corcoran) have established relationships with all these leaders and business owners. We can rally support for an event like this. It was actually just so much fun. It was like laugh therapy, it just made everybody so happy. The kids reactions were hilarious. Hopefully they got the message that community cares about them.”

## Loring Park Neighborhood receives Greening and Public Realm Award from the Downtown Improvement District

The Loring Park neighborhood received an award for Best Downtown Neighborhood from the Downtown Improvement District’s (MDID) 6th Annual Greening and Public Realm Awards. Additionally, the Loring Greenway received the award for Best Large Green Space.

The Greening Awards, an MDID initiative since 2010, celebrate outstanding examples of private greening and placemaking happening in Downtown Minneapolis. MDID accepted nominations through an open social media and email submissions campaign throughout July. Submissions were divided into 12 categories based on the nature of the project. Finalist voting began August 10 and concluded August 24. For more information, please visit:

[http://www.minneapolisdid.com/news\\_article/show/547620?referrer\\_id=399053](http://www.minneapolisdid.com/news_article/show/547620?referrer_id=399053).

## Renters: what does “home” mean to you?

This summer the City of Minneapolis [Innovation Team](#) has been busy examining the broad issues of racial and placed-based disparities within Minneapolis, getting to know the City, and digging into its first priority area: reducing racial and placed-based housing disparities in Minneapolis.

As part of that effort, the “i-team” wants to hear from people who rent their homes. Minneapolis renters are encouraged to share their thoughts about “home” by tweeting @CityMinneapolis using the #HomeIsThePlace hashtag.

## Save the Date: Minneapolis Energy Fair on October 10

Learn how to save money and help the environment. This family-friendly event will feature a variety of presenters highlighting ways to make your home energy efficient with the opportunity to learn more about solar options. The event features free LED light bulbs, free Home Energy Squad visits, a grand prize give-away and a complimentary continental breakfast. The Energy Fair will be held from 9:30 –12:30 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

## 2016 budget process underway

Mayor Betsy Hodges presented her 2016 recommended budget to the City Council August 12. Council members will consider the budget from now through early December, with final approval of the 2016 budget scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2015.

The mayor's proposed budget includes:

- \$13 million in affordable housing, including investments in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, \$1 million flexible dollars to help create affordable housing options for large families, and targeted rental assistance for families leaving shelters.
- \$10 million for the City's portion of the 10th Avenue bridge rehabilitation project.
- \$400,000 to accelerate Minneapolis' conversion of City-owned streetlights to LED technology, which will save an estimated \$113,400 a year – enough to have the conversion pay for itself in four years.
- Funding to raise the sworn complement of police officers to 862.
- Funding for 30 TechHire Initiative scholarships that would provide women and people of color with job training to meet the growing demand for employees with technology skills.

The City of Minneapolis has tentatively scheduled two public comment hearings on the proposed 2016 property tax levy and budget:

**Nov. 18 at 6:05 p.m.**

Room 317 of City Hall

**Dec. 9 at 6:05 p.m.**

Room 317 of City Hall

Additional key dates in the 2016 budget process include:

- 1:30 p.m., Sept. 8 – Ways & Means budget overview presentation.
- 5:05 p.m., Sept. 9 – Board of Estimate and Taxation meeting and public hearing on maximum property tax levies and the mayor's budget.
- Sept. 18-Nov. 3 – Ways and Means presentations and consideration of City departmental budgets hearings (tentative dates can be found at [www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget)).
- 1-4 p.m., Dec. 4 and 7 – Ways and Means Budget Subcommittee budget markup.
- 6:05 p.m., Dec. 9 – City Council final vote on budget after the public hearing.

**Watch the 2016 budget process live on TV or the City website**

You can watch the mayor's budget address and upcoming budget hearings on Minneapolis 79 (Comcast Cable channel 79) or on a smartphone, tablet or computer by visiting the City of Minneapolis website at [www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79).

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*For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department at 612-673-3737. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.*