

# UNP Community Affairs Committee Brief

Companion to the agenda for the UNP Community Affairs Committee meetings.

October 2008 - Makeda Zulu-Gillespie, guest editor

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## UPDATES

### **Phyllis Wheatley Community Center**

Phyllis Wheatley is having its 84th Anniversary celebration on Saturday November 1 featuring Beasley's Big Band (bandleader Chuck Beasley is a Wheatley alum!)

A Student Centered Accelerated Learning Community – a strategic partnership with the U of M's Center for School Change, the U of M's Department of Educational Psychology and Hamline U's Center for School Change to support students at Bethune School and their families to rapidly close the achievement gap. We're looking for volunteer tutors and mentors! For more information contact Steven M. Gustafson-612-374-4342- [steveg@phylliswheatley.org](mailto:steveg@phylliswheatley.org)

### **Center for Innovation and Economic Development**

The mission of the Digital Divide Initiative (DDI) is to develop innovative collaborations that bring technology to underserved populations. DDI began as a program under The Patchwork Quilt, a non-profit that operates out of The Church of St. Philip, to serve young people in the North Minneapolis community. The DDI program collaborates with several community based organizations doing work in technology, including Centro, Project for Pride in Living (PPL), and the AmeriCorps Community Technology Empowerment Project (CTEP). With these partners, DDI developed and implemented a plan to refurbish and redistribute donated computers into communities where technology access and education are needed. During the first year DDI distributed nearly 400 computers to low income households. DDI also provides technology education, literacy and math skills development/training for young people and limited software training for adults. All curriculum used and developed are designed to be shared with collaborators and other community members.

Recognizing the benefits of working as partners, the Center for Innovation and Economic Development, a new expansion of the University of Minnesota's Office for Business and Community Economic Development (BCED), saw an opportunity to build the capacity of DDI, by including it as one of its initiatives.



university northside partnership

*building healthier families and stronger communities together*

## Community Affairs Committee Brief (continued)

### Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center

**Activities:** UROC has contracted with the Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) to engage community partners and University faculty in the planning of a fun and exciting way to deliver information about healthy living, nutrition, fitness, culture and community values. This project would plan for the development of a community-based exhibit kiosk, similar to the Science Museum's award winning **Science Buzz exhibits and website** (<http://www.smm.org/buzz/>). The Science Museum will begin contacting community organizations and interested residents for their input into the development of this project. If you are interested, please contact Makeda Zulu Gillespie.

**Space:** The UROC Space Planning Committee has met weekly since May. There are two components of the current phase: design and construction.

*Design:* Urban Design Perspectives with Charles Levin architects have provided preliminary drawings that emphasize collaborative work spaces, a resource area, and the construction of flexible class and multipurpose rooms. We have tentatively scheduled the November Community Affairs Meeting as a time for a public presentation of the design.

*Construction:* The RFP for the General Contractor at Risk was sent out on September 26, 2008. On Tuesday, October 7, 2008 approximately 34 interested contractors and subcontractors met at the UROC site for a walkthrough and question session. There was a good representation of minority contractors in attendance. The "Targeted Business Goal" on this project for Women and Minority Business Enterprises (WMBE) is 30%, a 20% increase over the University of Minnesota's standard 10%. From the submissions, a short list (approximately 4-6) of contractors will be selected for interviews, currently scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>. A final selection will be made after that date, and the full renovation is scheduled for completion in summer 2009. For more information on the RFP contact: Owner's representative Archie Givens at (952) 831-1448 or Sharon Banks, Business & Community Economic Development Project Manager at (612) 612-626-8043.

### FIPSE-UROC WORK GROUPS (supported by a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education)

Out of School Time: Staff is working with a group of youth service providers to develop an agenda for monthly meetings that will address professional development needs among youth workers, and to share more information among providers about service needs and program capacity among participating organizations.

Health and Nutrition: The Community/Youth Gardening planning group is developing an approach in partnership with three middle schools to institute youth gardens that will be tied to the school's curriculum to enhance math and science education.

Youth Entrepreneurship: Planning is underway with four organizations to offer entrepreneurship training during the current school year.

For more information about the work groups and/or the FIPSE-UROC grant, please contact Geoff Maruyama at [geoff@umn.edu](mailto:geoff@umn.edu) or (612) 625-5861.

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## Community Affairs Committee Brief (continued)

### Community Benefits Agreement

Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, as the facilitator of the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) process, has secured William Mitchell law school to draft the CBA. Once the draft is completed, the UNP and FIPSE-UROC work groups will be asked to review the document and provide feedback, along with the Community Affairs Committee, and other residents of North Minneapolis. For more information, contact Sherrie Pugh Sullivan at [spugh@nrrc.org](mailto:spugh@nrrc.org) or (612) 335-5924.

### Northside Seed Grants (NSG) Winter Round of Competition

The deadlines for the next 2 rounds of the NSG are today, October 15, 2008 and March 15, 2009. These seed grants support community organizations that operate programs serving residents of the Minneapolis Northside community by providing student research assistants and faculty researchers to carry out neighborhood-initiated and neighborhood-guided projects. The program provides approximately 200 hours of student time to work on a project defined by the community (260 hours during the summer.) Applications are available online at the Center for Urban & Regional Affairs (CURA) website: <http://www.cura.umn.edu/NSG.php>. For more information, contact Kris Nelson, the University-Northside Partnership Seed Grant coordinator at 612-625-1020 or [knsn@umn.edu](mailto:knsn@umn.edu).

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Obama Effect October 23-25, 2008

From his keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention to his nomination for the presidency, Sen. Barack Obama has challenged conventional wisdom about race, politics, media, and generation. Participants at “The Obama Effect” conference will discuss the compelling issues and events that have surrounded Obama’s campaign. The conference is sponsored by the Cowles Professor of Journalism, Diversity and Equality, School of Journalism & Mass Communication, the Minnesota Journalism Center, Department of African and African American Studies, PRISM, a multicultural journalism and mass communication student organization and the Immigration History Research Center. All events are free and open to the public. For more information visit: <http://www.sjmc.umn.edu/obama.html>

### FREE Legal Clinic at Minneapolis Urban League

The Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis and the Cardozo Society attorneys provide a FREE legal clinic Mondays ONLY from 1-4 pm at the Minneapolis Urban League, 2100 Plymouth Avenue North. No appointment necessary. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call the Minneapolis Urban League at (612) 302-3100.

### Mary McEvoy Lecture

*Reducing Racial and Social Class Gaps in School Readiness: What we know and what we need to learn* Free lecture by Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, PhD (National Center for Children & Families)  
Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at Cowles Auditorium, Humphrey Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Free Event—Pre-Registration is Requested by Friday, 10/31/08. For more information about the Lecture Series and to register, visit <http://education.umn.edu/ceed/events/mmlectureseries/default.html>

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