



The Rondo neighborhood, 1952

Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

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FRAN: THE NEXT GREAT CHAPTER IN FROGTOWN-RONDO'S HISTORY

Interstate Highway 94 decimated a flourishing, primarily African American, social and economic community along Rondo Avenue some forty years ago. Frogtown/Rondo Action Network (FRAN) has been working to ensure that the neighborhood's history will not repeat itself; intentionally preparing, strengthening, and helping residents and businesses not only survive the Light Rail's arrival, but thrive with the economic opportunities it presents. In the Frogtown and Rondo neighborhoods of St. Paul, LISC's Building Sustainable Communities investment is being built on twenty years of relationships with, and investments in, community partners and their work. FRAN's ten community based partners are ready to take implementation leadership around twelve action agenda items, sifted and prioritized from many important community projects identified in the central corridor community planning process coordinated by the City of



Nieeta Presley at FRAN planning meeting.

Courtesy FRAN

St. Paul in 2007. They believe the action items are the ingredients that will help people and businesses thrive, align with the community building strategies in the central corridor plan, and address concerns and opportunities of neighborhoods adjacent to the University Avenue corridor.

"In community development it is important to have residents be a part, because then development isn't done to them; it's done for them and it's done with them being involved in the whole process."

—Nieeta Presley
 Executive Director,
 Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood
 Development Corporation

The I-94 development in the 1960s displaced people, decimating Rondo community businesses and homes.



Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Photo by Del Bey

ANDRIANA ABARIOTES

Executive Director

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Almost every day these past few months I've been involved in a conversation about *achieving scale*. Sometimes with public and philanthropic partners, other times with community developers or policymakers, and certainly with staff and our Local Advisory Committee members. We talk about achieving scale within the Twin Cities community development industry in often vague and undefined ways (but I have to assume with some undisclosed, individual assumptions) asking questions such as: *Who is working at scale? How can we get to a higher scale?* What do we mean by scale? For me, these conversations raise additional important questions: Would we know scale, or share its definition or recognition, when we achieved it? Is the issue just one of scale, or do we really mean impact?

I believe everyone in this industry is attempting to seek impact from their work (or investments) in our neighborhoods and ultimately across the region as a whole. The tension or rub as I see it comes from the fact we may be seeking different forms of impact—impact for people, impact of projects, impact in places, etc. Needless to say, we have different views on how and at what level to achieve impact and the notion

“Would we know scale, or share its definition or recognition, when we achieved it? Is the issue just one of scale, or do we really mean impact?”

—Andriana Abariotes
Executive Director

of “working at scale” is certainly one of the leading viewpoints. At Twin Cities LISC, we have been grappling with the issues of scale and impact, and how we can best align our resources to support community developers to achieve broader impact from their efforts. Let me highlight a few examples.

Earlier this month, Twin Cities LISC issued a Request for Proposals for our newly redesigned capacity building program—the COACTION Fund (see sidebar, page 3). This new fund combines the basic components of our existing capacity building programs—the Twin Cities Fund for Neighborhood Development and the Fund for Affordable Production—and brings a new focus on connecting production of affordable housing and vital community and commercial facilities with enhancing economic opportunity for people in neighborhoods. This strategic shift is grounded in the belief that community developers can achieve a greater level of scale and impact by seeking creative partnerships, by connecting their work to other strategies—linking physical improvement to increased economic opportunity—and by focusing on outcomes for both people and places.

Another example of how LISC is attempting to match the scale of community development activity with the scale of growing and persistent community needs is the creation of the Twin Cities Community Land Bank (TCCLB). Twin Cities LISC has joined with the Family Housing Fund, the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, and community developers to create this new tool for helping address neighborhood recovery from the subprime lending and foreclosure crisis.

At LISC, we've seen the successful utilization of land banks in communities across the country, and we believe the TCCLB can be a

transformational resource to effectively use the federal resources coming through HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program and other national resources such as the National Community Stabilization Trust, of which National LISC is a founding member (see *Feature Article*, page 3). However, I believe TCCLB will only be truly transformational and achieve the desired impact when it is deeply connected to the community building vision and recovery activities of communities disproportionately affected by foreclosures, most notably communities of color living in core neighborhoods of Minneapolis and St. Paul and many inner-ring suburbs. Furthermore, the TCCLB's greatest value will be realized when we can connect its emerging financial resources with community development and implementation capacity at scale.

Both of these examples highlight new opportunities for changing the way our local community development industry does business. I realize that while both will be disruptive, I believe both can also inspire creativity and catalyze innovation in the field. Across the board, people involved in community development recognize things have changed, whether it be at the neighborhood level, within the economy, at our public and philanthropic institutions, or across the region. And, at the same time, we're attempting to sustain the historic levels of community development activity and do it at scale and in a way that adds more value and impact for people in our neighborhoods. Doing business differently and sustaining (and potentially enhancing) our collective work are not antagonistic goals. They present daunting challenges but I also have confidence that the Twin Cities community development industry can and will meet them.

NATIONAL LISC: A POWERFUL PARTNER

An often forgotten or overlooked fact of Twin Cities LISC is that over its local twenty-year history, National LISC has secured well over two-thirds of the \$370 million of loans, grants, and equity provided to local community development efforts, reflecting net new resources for the Twin Cities.

In 2009 alone, National LISC helped us secure corporate and philanthropic support for local efforts from the likes of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Home Depot, State Farm, NFL Charities, Living Cities and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In addition, on-the-ground work being done by community-based organizations in the LISC network has also allowed National LISC to work closely with Congressional leaders to secure critical federal resources.

“I am proud to be a strong advocate of LISC. Their policy priorities are informed by day-to-day challenges and trends that we are experiencing here in Minneapolis. I am honored to support legislation that reflects our community needs—and that is what LISC does.”

—Keith Ellison,
Minnesota Congressman

Recent investments in the Twin Cities include support from AmeriCorps, the Department of Justice, and Housing and Urban Development’s Section 4 program. Kathy Wetzal-Mastel, Executive Director of PRG, Inc. commented on the direct impact of this kind of investment: “The AmeriCorps position helps us add 50 percent more capacity in our foreclosure counseling work for very little cost. We have a 93 percent success rate in helping homeowners avoid foreclosures, and this position couldn’t be more timely for helping PRG assist more people.” The experience of PRG, Inc. is one of many stories in which LISC has played a pivotal behind-the-scenes role.



Keith Ellison is sworn into office.

Courtesy Congressman Keith Ellison

This past year National LISC secured a total of 248 AmeriCorps positions nationwide—up from 100 just one year ago. For the Twin Cities that means thirteen new AmeriCorps positions, such as PRG’s, have been funded to directly reduce the ravages of the foreclosure crisis and support Building Sustainable Communities efforts in targeted neighborhoods.

“The West Broadway Business and Area Coalition is very excited and grateful to be a part of the LISC National Community Safety Initiative. The ability to hire a safety coordinator goes a long way towards implementing safety and security strategies that will reduce nuisance crimes and behaviors and improve the perception of safety on and around the commercial corridor and in North Minneapolis as a whole.”

—Sarita Turner,
Executive Director,
West Broadway Coalition

National LISC’s Community Safety Initiative was able to secure federal funding to support local community safety efforts throughout the country. The West Broadway Coalition was successful in securing one of these competitive grants and received \$15K to help with the hiring of a Safety Coordinator along West Broadway Avenue in North Minneapolis.

Above all, National LISC has been a strong partner with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Through LISC’s tireless advocacy and community development leadership on

Capitol Hill, they have been able to bring more than \$5 million in HUD Section 4 allocations to the Twin Cities alone—dollars that are passed-through entirely to participants in Twin Cities LISC’s capacity building program. (See sidebar, page 4.)

There is little question that over the years LISC has been a persuasive voice in Washington, D.C., helping to establish, influence, and protect critical community development resources. The current political—and, in many ways, economic—climate provide a unique and promising opportunity for National LISC to be an even more effective advocate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

COACTION

Twin Cities LISC (with the generous support of The McKnight Foundation) is soliciting Letters of Inquiry for its new COACTION Fund until **8:30 a.m., October 5, 2009**. COACTION is intended to help grow the capacity of community-based organizations to increase their impact on people and places by either producing affordable housing, especially for those below 50 percent of metropolitan median income, or developing critically needed commercial and community facilities and linking these physical improvements to income and asset opportunities for people such as job training, small business development or other income and asset building strategies. For details and downloadable information, please visit www.tclisc.org.

NATIONAL LISC: A POWERFUL PARTNER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and partner to local LISC sites, helping secure additional resources and shape the national community development agenda.

“It’s such a dramatic change to have a federal administration that deeply values community development and understands the importance of LISC’s work. It provides us unprecedented access for elevating how to get things done in communities.”

—Michael Rubinger,
President @ CEO,
National LISC

National LISC continues to work tirelessly to secure federal resources for local priorities (*see sidebar at right*). Specifically, LISC is working to influence the passage and structure of proposed initiatives such as the Choice Neighborhoods, Sustainable Communities, and Promise Neighborhoods being proposed in the 2010 Federal budget. These efforts would systemically link programs and investments in various Federal departments such as Department of Education, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Department of Labor, and others in an effort to coordinate activities and investments to ensure

West Broadway Safe Zone Celebration speaker



Courtesy West Broadway Coalition

LISC’s Policy Impact

National LISC has a small, but effective National Policy staff that works with policymakers to help support local efforts across the country. National LISC also has a variety of centers and initiatives that focus on specific areas such as community safety, income and wealth, and green development. Combined, these efforts provide a persuasive voice that has helped establish the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, Community Revitalization Act, New Markets Tax Credits, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, the National Community Stabilization Trust, and recently, economic stimulus resources. LISC has also been one of the lead organizations establishing the National Community Stabilization Trust to help put vacant and foreclosed properties in the hands of community developers.

This year, National LISC is carrying on this role with increased vigor as more and more opportunities arise to both secure additional funding for local efforts as well as shape future Federal programming.

Current Efforts:

HUD Section 4: Federal funding from HUD to LISC and other national intermediaries to provide flexible capacity building grants to community developers. This year, an astounding \$50 million for Section 4 has been proposed by the administration—nearly a 50 percent increase over the \$34 million approved for FY 2009. Over 100 members of Congress (40 Senators and

66 Representatives) have either signed the letters or privately communicated their support to the subcommittees.

National LISC Green Development

Center: Is pursuing stimulus funds for green projects through the Department of Energy’s Weatherization Assistance Program and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, the Department of Labor’s Green Jobs Training Programs, and HUD’s Neighborhood Stabilization Program and Assisted Housing Green Retrofit Program.

National LISC Family Wealth and Income Building Initiative:

Is actively working with 10–12 local LISC offices on applying for stimulus grants related to workforce development, including Twin Cities LISC’s application to the Department of Health and Human Services Strengthening Communities Fund.

National LISC Community

Safety Initiative: Has applied to the Department of Justice for \$1.5 million to address crime around foreclosed and vacant properties in seven cities, including Minneapolis and St. Paul. Funds will support intensive neighborhood organizing efforts to help mobilize residents to maintain vacant properties, and to collaborate with police to improve community safety in areas of highly concentrated foreclosures.

greater opportunity for people in neighborhoods and communities across the country.

To inform its work in Washington, National LISC actively draws upon the knowledge and experience of local sites such as the Twin Cities. In return, local LISC offices provide rigorous, evidence-based facts and achievements regarding community and capacity building allowing our national organization to effectively make the case for broad support and hold the attention of

policy and business leaders far removed from the neighborhoods and corridors of our local work. Twin Cities LISC will—just as it has done for over twenty years—work vigorously to ensure that these national resources are deployed to support local community development initiatives here across the region.

PARTNER PROFILES



Minnetonka Planning Meeting with CDI

Courtesy: Kate Theuring

MINNETONKA TRIES LISC'S CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Minnetonka residents want to participate earlier in the City of Minnetonka's development proposal process. Frustrated that much of the work to define a development proposal had already been done by the time the community is allowed to participate, they asked the City to consider a new way of doing business. And the City has responded. Specifically, by engaging LISC's Corridor Development Initiative (CDI).

Through the Urban Land Institute of MN/Regional Council of Mayor's Opportunity Cities pilot program, with funding from the Family Housing Fund, the City of Minnetonka used CDI to embark on a learning process to rethink community development. CDI provided an opportunity for the city to test out a new way to engage the community around potential redevelopment sites.

"It's through the Corridor Development Initiative process that city leaders are given the best opportunity to learn about the issues ahead of time, and then find the best ways to plan to address those concerns and issues. When city leaders have that kind of political cover, they can get the courage to make the right decision that's the best for the community," Karen Anderson, member of the Minnetonka Mills CDI Advisory Group and past Mayor of Minnetonka commented.

The success of the Corridor Development Initiative process in Minnetonka has sparked interest by the City to replicate the approach for other key areas that are attractive for redevelopment. For more information on LISC's Corridor Development Initiative or the Minnetonka Mills district recommendations, visit: www.corridordevelopment.org.

PAYNE LAKE COMMUNITY PARTNERS IS NOW NEXUS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Nexus Community Partners, formerly known as Payne-Lake Community Partners (PLCP), is a key Twin Cities LISC partner on the Eastside of St. Paul, South Minneapolis, and now in North Minneapolis.



Begun in 2003, Nexus' initial focus was to accelerate investment and revitalization along Payne and Lake Street and in the surrounding neighborhoods. Over time, its focus evolved in response to the changing needs and opportunities of the Twin Cities' communities of color and immigrant communities and it has now also expanded its work into North Minneapolis.

Today, Nexus Community Partners has a distinctive role in the emerging field of community building. Community building utilizes community outreach, community education, community organizing, civic participation, and community engagement as tools to engage residents often excluded and isolated from neighborhood revitalization efforts. Community building complements and strengthens community development.

Nexus' mission is to support inclusive, place-based community building initiatives that expand community assets, build social and human capital, and result in more engaged and powerful communities. For more information about Nexus Community Partners, please visit their website at www.nexuscp.org.

LUPE SERRANO: A LIFE DEVOTED TO LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Twin Cities LISC honors Guadalupe "Lupe" Serrano, who passed away in May. Lupe reached out to so many, and was especially known as president of Casa de Esperanza in St. Paul for her tireless efforts in mobilizing and engaging Latinas and the Latino community to end domestic violence; she was recognized nationwide for

her work at causes for women and children. Lupe was a wonderful role model and an inspiration for all of us. She shared her wisdom and experiences with LISC through serving on our Local Advisory Committee for several years. Lupe was a steady anchor and advisor, a knowledgeable practitioner and advocate, and a great friend. She is truly missed.



Courtesy: Casa de Esperanza

2009

ACTIONS TO DATE

SUPPORTING DEVELOPERS

COMMUNITY CAPACITY INVESTMENTS

Twin Cities Fund for Neighborhood Development (TCFND) and Fund for Affordable Production (FAP)

Total = \$1,094,184 in capacity building support to CDCs that promote physical, economic, and social health particularly for families with low and moderate incomes.

Commercial Corridor Revitalization Programs

Total = \$115,000 in operating and technical assistance to the following CDCs to support their work to strengthen key neighborhood commercial corridors and nodes in partnership with the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

East Side Neighborhood Development Company—\$20,000 in operating support grants and \$40,000 in technical assistance grants to continue ESNDP's work along Payne Avenue and Arcade Street.

Selby Area Community Development Corporation—\$20,000 in operating support grants to support SACDC's efforts along Selby Avenue.

Sparc—\$20,000 in operating support and technical assistance grants to support Sparc's activity along Rice Street.

Northeast Community Development Corporation—\$15,000 in operating support grants to support NECDC's commercial corridor work along Central Avenue in Minneapolis.

Centers for Working Families

Total = \$150,000

Lutheran Social Service—\$75,000
Project for Pride in Living—\$75,000
to support two Centers for Working

\$2,698,362 IN TWIN CITIES INVESTMENTS

Families sites—one on the East Side of St. Paul operated by Lutheran Social Service and the other in South Minneapolis led by Project for Pride and Living.

PROJECT FINANCING

Technical Assistance and Feasibility Grants

Total = \$34,000 including the following:

Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation—\$5,000
ASANDC is using a co-op model to create a community gathering space for events, programs, weddings, and other special occasions. In addition, they are assessing the feasibility of housing a social service program, called Brotherhood, Inc., in the same building. Brotherhood, Inc., is an innovative reintegration and prevention program for males ages 14–21.

Hmong American Partnership—\$5,000
HAP is preparing for the acquisition and rehabilitation of foreclosed properties, which will be rented to members of the Hmong community in the Twin Cities. HAP provides Hmong and other refugee communities with support to help them adjust to life in America and maximize available opportunities.

Latino Economic Development Center—\$5,000
LEDC is considering plans to transform their Plaza Verde property into an enterprise business incubator that links entrepreneurs together with green business development strategies. The planned incubator is another of LEDC's investments in the development and revitalization of the Lake Street area, and would be a community resource that is sustainable as well as socially and environmentally responsible. LEDC's work has been critical to supporting the Latino community in Minneapolis.

Model Cities Community Development Corporation—\$5,000
to address the high volume of vacant

and foreclosed properties in the Thomas-Dale/Frogstown neighborhood, MCCDC is exploring the possibility of a scattered site affordable rental strategy.

Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation-Redeemer Center for Life—\$7,000
PCNF will use this grant to perform initial surveying and preliminary architecture consultation for visioning and exploring the possibilities of a one-acre site to be used for affordable housing development adjacent to Glenwood Avenue.

Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation—\$5,000
“Life-Cycle Housing” is a concept that combines senior rental housing and mixed income ownership housing. PCNF has engaged preliminary feasibility work for the Riverview Senior Housing development in the Nokomis neighborhood of South Minneapolis.

Riverview Economic Development Association—\$5,000
This feasibility grant will be used for completion of an environmental assessment on the Angel Industries and Kreager Vending sites at the southeast corner of Robert Street and Cesar Chavez Avenue. REDA considers this site a prime redevelopment opportunity in the District del Sol commercial corridor; the project will eventually compliment REDA's development of the Commercial Club site.

Urban Homeworks—\$4,000
PROJECT:Reclaim is a program run by Urban Homeworks that helps provide homeownership opportunities to those with credit and debt challenges. These funds will be used to hire a consultant to help in various areas of program construction.

Predevelopment Recoverable Grants

Total = \$172,000 including the following:

Aeon – Franklin Steele Commons—\$35,000
Aeon is poised to begin the

last stage of development at Franklin-Portland Gateway with the Franklin Steele Commons project—a multi-phase project which is a prime example of transit-oriented development in the Twin Cities. As this fourth and final phase of the development is finished, Aeon and nonprofit development partner, Hope Communities, will have completed 270 units of quality mixed-income housing and up to 30,000 square feet of neighborhood scale retail space.

American Indian Community Development Corporation, 24th & Bloomington—\$40,000 Twin Cities LISC funds will be used to prepare a site at 24th & Bloomington Avenue for a two phase development project being undertaken by AICDC in conjunction with CommonBond Communities—the first is Native Elder housing; a community visioning process will be engaged to identify a project for the second phase.

Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation – Single Family Rehab—\$20,000 GFCDC is addressing the foreclosure and vacant building problem plaguing the area by renovating six to ten single-family and/or small multifamily homes on scattered sites.

Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation-Riverview Senior Housing—\$40,000 This grant, following the preliminary feasibility funds also noted in these actions, supports the architectural and engineering work for designing “Life-Cycle Housing.”

Selby Area Community Development Corporation—\$30,000 This grant will be used by SACDC to reconfigure a development plan for 940 Selby Avenue. Plan ideas for the site include business incubators for Minority & Women Business Enterprises (MWBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), and Small Business Enterprises (SBE).

Loans

Total = \$400,000 including the following:

Emerge Community Development Corporation-North Library Renovation—\$300,000 The former North Regional Library is a highly visible, architecturally and historically significant building that is presently underutilized due to functional obsolescence. Emerge seeks to honor the heritage of the past by offering this landmark as a unique community gathering place, with plans to renovate the building into a Community Technology Center and nonprofit office space.

Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation and NEDU-Frogtown Square—\$100,000 The Frogtown Square project site is located at a pivotal corner with tremendous economic opportunities. This loan covers predevelopment costs associated with NEDU’s plans to develop a four-story building with underground parking, 16,000 square feet of commercial space on the first floor, and fifty units of affordable housing.

EDUCATING LEADERS

Changing the Face of Housing in Minnesota and Careership

Total = \$212,428 to help fourteen mid-career professionals of color gain experience and jobs in the community development field.

LISC AmeriCorps

Total = \$247,000 Through the LISC AmeriCorps program, the Twin Cities office will provide thirteen AmeriCorps members to community development organizations throughout the Twin Cities. These AmeriCorps members will support LISC’s Building Sustainable Communities activities as well as foreclosure recovery efforts in Twin Cities neighborhoods.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

Sustainable Communities

Total = \$177,000 to support planning, engagement of neighborhood residents and organizations, and implementation of coordinated strategies in Hopkins along the Blake Road Corridor, North and South Minneapolis, and the Central Corridor and East Side neighborhoods of St. Paul.

Policy Activities

Total = \$24,750

Minnesota Housing Partnership—\$15,000 to support its 2009 legislative advocacy work.

Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers—\$9,750

to support MCCC’s 2009 legislative advocacy work and OwnAHome.org, a website designed to help prospective low- and moderate-income home buyers find quality, affordable homes built by community-based nonprofit organizations.

Other

Total = \$72,000

HousingLink—\$12,000 to track the progress of the Minnesota Foreclosure Partners Council’s Statewide Foreclosure Recovery Plan.

Family Housing Fund—\$10,000 to support the development and delivery of a single family green rehab technical assistance tool and training related to green rehab specifications for single family homes.

Friends of South High Foundation—\$50,000 for costs associated with the construction of a new fieldhouse for the athletic field at South High School in Minneapolis.

HIGHLIGHTS

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009 MEMBERS

Julie Causey (Chair), *Chairman,*
Western Bank

Claire J. Chang, *Director, Program*
Planning & Special Initiatives,
The Saint Paul Foundation

Mike Christenson, *Director,*
Community Planning & Economic
Development, City of Minneapolis

Steve Cramer, *Executive Director,*
Project for Pride in Living

Neal Cuthbert, *Vice President of Program,*
The McKnight Foundation

David Fey, The Creative Margin

Mike Haley, *Assistant Commissioner,*
Minnesota Housing—Minnesota
Housing Finance Agency

Alison Halley, *Vice President,*
Community Dev. & Spec. Lending,
Wells Fargo

Maykao Hang, *Division Director,*
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

Nancy Homans, *Senior Policy Aide,*
St. Paul Mayor's Office

Shawn Huckleby,
Shawn Huckleby Consulting

Rev. Craig Lewis, *CEO,*
Abundant Life Enterprises

Janet Ludden, *CEO,*
Employer Solutions, Inc.

Bob Miller, *Executive Director,*
Neighborhood Revitalization Program

Mike Newman, *Vice President,*
Travelers Foundation

Elizabeth Ryan, *Vice President,*
Regional Housing Initiatives,
Family Housing Fund

Stephen Seidel, *Senior Director of Global*
Program Design & Implementation,
Habitat for Humanity International

Vicki Murray Shipley, *Vice President,*
Community Development Manager,
US Bank

Ken Stabler, *Manager, Economic*
Development, Xcel Energy

Polly Talen, *Program Director—Duluth*
and St. Paul, John S. & James L.
Knight Foundation

Missy Youmans, *Public Affairs Specialist,*
State Farm Insurance

TWIN CITIES LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORPORATION

Hamline Park Plaza
570 Asbury St., Suite 207
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SUMMER ART EXHIBITION ENJOYS SUCCESS

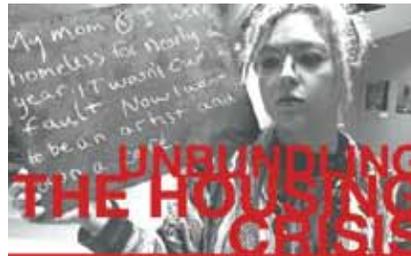


Photo by Wing Young Huie

Hundreds visited “Unbundling the Housing Crisis,” a thematic exhibition at the Form + Content Gallery which ran from July 30–September 5, 2009. The exhibit was funded by LISC and the Family Housing Fund, and brought together responses to the housing foreclosure crisis and its effects on communities and families from artists, architects, designers, scientists, and writers. The show attracted many new visitors to the gallery, and received a very favorable review from the Minneapolis Star Tribune. To close the exhibit, the collaborators came together on September 10, to present their projects, discuss their process, and share their creative approaches in a discussion and panel on understanding and creatively unbundling the housing crisis.

WWW.TCLISC.ORG

Please stop by and see us online! While you are there you can check our events calendar and view our video, “Twin Cities Community Development: Creating Opportunity Together.” We hope you will visit us on the web!

SOUTH HIGH FINALLY GETS A FIELDHOUSE; MOVES FROM “WORST” TO WORLD CLASS!

In 2007 the Minneapolis Star Tribune deemed the South High field “the worst in the city.” With funding through the LISC-NFL Grassroots Program, LISC has contributed \$50,000—half of the \$100K cost associated with the construction of a new fieldhouse for the athletic field at South High School in Minneapolis. LISC, youth athletes, community leaders, and the Minnesota Vikings recognized the completion of the new building with a “Big Check” celebration at the field on September 29. The school’s sports teams have been sorely in need of amenities for decades; South High’s athletic field is heavily used to support practices and games for a large number of school and inter-mural teams, as well as physical education classes. This improvement project has been long in coming, and will benefit the entire community.



Courtesy South High School

LISC
Twin Cities
Helping people
and places prosper

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