



## Progress toward Sustainable Growth & Development

### 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



*Photo courtesy of HealthForce MN*

## Executive Summary

### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

#### JOBS & YOUTH

- SUPPORTED 45 YOUTH AND 255 ADULT JOB PLACEMENTS
- 73 HIGH SCHOOLERS ATTENDED SCRUBS CAMP, 66% ON SCHOLARSHIP
- ENGAGED IN EXPANDED RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PLANNING

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- DEVELOPED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOT A DEVELOPMENT RFP

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

- TRACKED I-94 CONNECTIVITY REPORT

#### SAFETY

- CONVENED CHEMICAL HEALTH WORK GROUP

**The Cedar Riverside Partnership** is a public private partnership committed to investing in the sustainable growth and development of the Cedar Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis.

We work collaboratively to identify and mobilize long-term, strategic investments to promote a vibrant Cedar Riverside neighborhood as a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work, and play.

We formed in 2008 to focus on initiatives that have identifiable support through neighborhood and community planning including safety, transit and transportation infrastructure, economic development, and youth.

Our Partnership includes Augsburg University, African Development Center, Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization Program, M Health Fairview, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Pillsbury United Communities, Sherman Associates, West Bank Business Association, and West Bank Community Coalition.

2019 saw the second anniversary and continued growth of the Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center, a one-stop shop for educational and workforce resources and a pipeline to good jobs for people of all ages through the committed presence of public and private sector employers.

Areas of focus in 2019 included CNA training, increased youth-focused program planning, new employer connections, and partnering with the Brian Coyle Center.



In 2019, the Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center provided services to 603 individuals. 300 youth and adults were placed in jobs. After 90 days, the retention rate for those placed in jobs was 78% – 100% for youth placements. Retention after 180 days was 77% overall. The Center assisted 42 participants in beginning short-term training programs and by December. Five participants enrolled in a GED program and 35 enrolled in or applied to college.

Augsburg University hosted another successful Scrubs Camp in 2018, with 73 students in attendance, 66% of whom received scholarships to attend. 51% of participants were youth of color and 13% will be the first in their family to attend college.

Augsburg University, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, YMCA, and Pillsbury United Communities continued work begun in late 2017 to explore cooperative recreation and programming facility needs in Cedar Riverside. These partners closed out 2019 engaging with community through meetings to help define the composition of programs and services at the proposed east and west side facilities. 2020 will see partners working to envision operations at these facilities among different groups.

The Partnership engaged a partner work group to review City of Minneapolis' RFP for the Lot A site adjacent to light rail in Cedar Riverside. The Partnership's recommended revisions to the RFP criteria were memorialized in a Partnership resolution and fully adopted into the final RFP circulated by the City of Minneapolis.

In August, the Murphy park pedestrian bridge connecting Cedar Riverside and Seward neighborhoods was struck by traffic. Temporary repairs by MnDOT rendered the bridge usable by autumn, but an improved, permanent fix remains a Partnership engagement item for the new year.

Chemical health and opioid use concerns in Cedar Riverside drew Partnership focus to a new area in 2019. The Partnership convened a task force comprised of partners and community voices to inform understanding of existing resources and best practices to implement in response to the opioid crisis in Cedar Riverside.



## Jobs & Youth

The Partnership has long focused on youth engagement and job connections for residents of the Cedar Riverside community. It has focused these efforts through specific initiatives and partnerships to connect residents to education and career opportunities.

### Opportunity Center

The Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center opened in March 2017 with the goal of reducing unemployment and increasing higher educational attainment and enrollment within the Cedar Riverside neighborhood.

The Center serves as a one-stop shop for educational and workforce resources and a pipeline to good jobs for people of all ages through the committed presence of public and private sector employers.

### New Pathways and Partnership

The Opportunity Center focused in 2019 on ways to increase engagement with youth, connect more deeply with existing and develop relationships with new employer partners, and partner with other service providers to reach community members.

Activities included: offering an English for industry course through partner Minneapolis College; promoting a skill-development course, offered by EMERGE, to prepare individuals seeking jobs in the trucking industry to take the Class A CDL test; hosting two certified nursing assistant (CNA) trainings for job seekers, several of whom were hired by employer partner M Health Fairview; engaging with the City of Minneapolis and Generation Hope, a group comprised of local youth and young adults, to help support resource identification and allocation toward combatting opioid use in Cedar Riverside.

The Hennepin County Library site at the Opportunity Center continued to engage youth and teens through the Teen Tech Squad, which employs teens to facilitate STEM activities for other youth. The library continued to offer its daily drop-in homework help program for elementary through high school students.



## Opportunity Center in 2020

2020 will see the Opportunity Center collaborating with the trade unions to offer targeted pathways training in the construction trades. The construction training program will begin with a pre-apprentice program from which successful participants will ladder into apprenticeship positions.

The Opportunity Center and Brian Coyle Center will partner to offer an IT Core Skills course aimed at youth 18+. WSB engineering will offer a surveyor and construction material technician training program and include field training and networking opportunities. Finally, the Opportunity Center will continue to develop and build existing employer and community relationships.

Hennepin County Library at the Opportunity Center will continue to engage the Cedar Youth Leadership Group, members of which plan to participate in a 10-week college readiness series.

## Youth Collaborative & Youth Outreach

The Partnership tracked work led by the Youth Collaborative and funded by the City of Minneapolis to incorporate a Cedar Riverside outreach team into the community. Seven adult youth work professionals of East African descent worked with youth and helped them find opportunities over the summer and fall, from late June through Thanksgiving.

Partners plan to look for funding opportunities to continue the program in 2020.

### *Opportunity Center: 2019 summary*

665 served

169 youth and adults placed in jobs

84% 90-day retention

76% 180-day retention

55 individuals began short-term training programs

5 enrolled in a GED program

35 enrolled in or applied to college



## Scrubs Camp: A Vision of College and Health Career Pathways

Augsburg University again hosted a successful Scrubs Camp with the support of partners and community. Since 2008, the camp has introduced high school students to a vision of college and health care careers.



*Photo courtesy of HealthForce MN*

In 2019, 51% students of color and 66% low income students participated in the camp.

Many Partnership partners supported the camp by providing scholarships for camp participants, while other partners provided in-kind support during camp sessions and camp field trips.

The immersive camp included a week of hands-on sessions with professionals on a college campus. Campers engaged in real-world tasks such as monitoring hear rates, creating dental molds, and performing forensic science tests. The camp offered 4-5 sessions per day led by volunteers from local health care and educational organizations.



## Recreational Development

Partners continued work begun in 2017 to explore the potential for shared recreational facilities in Cedar Riverside. One facility would be integrated into development on the east end of the Augsburg University campus, and would supplement the programming at the Brian Coyle Community Center.

Included in the exploration is renovation or nearby relocation of the Brian Coyle Community Center. In 2019, planning partners Augsburg University, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Pillsbury United Communities, and the YMCA engaged in a predesign phase funded by Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) state bond funds to look at the new facility and the Brian Coyle Community Center.

Throughout the predesign process in 2019, MPRB engaged in community outreach through open house, focus groups, and pop-up events to test key project decisions, and began to align a formal Community Advisory Committee to provide a recommendation to the MPRB Board on key project decisions.

## Economic Development

### Lot A Site Planning

The Lot A property adjacent to Metro Transit light rail and S 4<sup>th</sup> Street has been the subject of city and community planning since at least 2008. In 2019 the City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development announced plans to release an RFP in fall 2019 for the redevelopment of Lot A.

The Partnership convened a working group comprised of a representative from each partner entity and commented and provide recommendations on the development objectives in the draft RFP. The Partnership submitted these recommendations on the content of the development objectives for the RFP to the City of Minneapolis.

## Infrastructure

### I-94 Connectivity

The Partnership monitored the I-94 re-connectivity work being led by Seward Redesign and received an update on the final Reconnecting Neighborhoods report providing specific recommendations for each existing bridge crossing over I-94.

In August 2019, the Murphy Park pedestrian bridge structure was struck by traffic passing below, rendering the bridge unusable. It was repaired by MnDOT in fall 2019. Replacement of the bridge is a priority for 2020, and an item the Partnership will continue to support, advocating for elements to make the bridge more inviting, visible, connected, and safe, as identified in the robust community engagement and planning work already conducted for the bridge.

## Safety

### Safety Updates

The Partnership worked with the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Police Department to encourage resource commitments to support two East African-descent beat officers in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood. The Partnership advocated for beat officer hours that better aligned with the needs in the community, typically in the late afternoon and evening, and the Minneapolis Police Department authorized this shift.

### Chemical Health

The Partnership revised its work plan in mid-2019 to include action on the opioid use crisis in Cedar Riverside in the form of convening a work group to identify opportunities for the Partnership to engage in safety issues, including opioid use, in the community. The group convened in October and will continue to pursue meetings and next steps in 2020, including:

- Education and training in Cedar Riverside, including specific needs and issues in the East African community;





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- Mobilization of community health and addiction medicine resources for community education and training;
- Exploration of the potential to mobilize a career pathway for certified peer specialists and laddering to counseling, to address cultural navigation and improve access to treatment resources; and
- Establish a living archive of resources and information on local response to the opioid crisis on the Cedar Riverside Partnership website.