



RESOLUTION ADOPTING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR CEDAR RIVERSIDE OPPORTUNITY CENTER

WHEREAS, the Cedar Riverside Partnership is committed to working 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;

WHEREAS, the Partnership has identified that young adults in Cedar Riverside ages 18-25 are often lacking important resources and support to advance their education and find employment opportunities; further deliberation has identified the importance of extending the focus to include youth ages 16-17 in this effort;

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2014, the Partnership identified potential public and private resources that could align to provide support for a Cedar Riverside location for integrated education and job counseling and placement resources;

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2015, the Partnership adopted a preliminary planning framework to pursue a collaborative model for an opportunity hub that would integrate workforce development, library, and other services, and the Partnership directed its Counsel to provide support to Hennepin County and other partners in the development of this opportunity hub, to identify short-term opportunities among community partners, and to provide a report on its feasibility by June 30, 2015;

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2015, the Partnership adopted a refined planning framework that detailed participating partners and identified the FIVE15 on Park building as a suitable and feasible site for the combination of workforce, library and other services for this Opportunity Center;

WHEREAS, community partners have continued to meet regularly to develop plans for this Opportunity Center, and have formed a Core Team of participants to devote focused effort to this initiative and keep other key parties informed;

WHEREAS, these partners continue to affirm the concept of a creative hybrid -- made up of library, workforce, and other community services -- delivered through collaborative model and managed by trusted connections navigators; this collaborative model would have a managing partner that acts as a backbone by bringing together a series of programs from multiple organizations, coordinating the use of space and managing the facility; Emerge has agreed to serve as this managing partner and to lead the fundraising effort with support from the Partnership;

WHEREAS, Hennepin County, Emerge, and Minneapolis Community & Technical College, together with the Core Team, have continued to refine and update a detailed Program Design for the Opportunity Center which details the roles of various partners, the specific role of a Cultural Navigator, and the general importance of cultural competency and youth accessibility in the design and operation of the Opportunity Center;

WHEREAS, the current list of public and private organizations that have expressed interest in delivering scheduled services and programming in the opportunity center includes:

- Hennepin County Workforce;
- Hennepin County Libraries;
- City of Minneapolis;
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board;
- Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board;
- West Bank Community Coalition;
- Pillsbury United Communities;
- Emerge;
- African Development Center;
- Riverside Plaza Tenants Association;
- Augsburg College;
- Minneapolis Community & Technical College;
- St. Catherine University;
- Fairview Health Services;
- Cedar Riverside NRP;
- University of Minnesota; and
- West Bank Business Association;

WHEREAS, Hennepin County has executed a Letter of Intent with Fine Associates to negotiate a lease for the Opportunity Center at the FIVE15 on Park site, which provides until June 30, 2016 for the County to make a "go/no go" decision on this lease, based on the Partnership's success in raising sufficient funds to undertake the necessary improvements in the space for use as the Opportunity Center;

WHEREAS, Hennepin County has committed \$250,000 for the funding of the improvements; the City of Minneapolis has committed \$100,000; Senator Kari Dzeidzic and Representative Phyllis Kahn introduced legislation which resulted in state funding for the Opportunity Center of \$400,000 in the tax bill; this tax bill was not signed by the Governor and did not become law, and it is hoped that a special session will include a revised tax bill that continues to include this funding commitment to the Opportunity Center; and there are currently approximately \$775,000 in pending grant applications with private funders;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cedar Riverside Partnership hereby adopts the following Implementation Plan for the Opportunity Center:

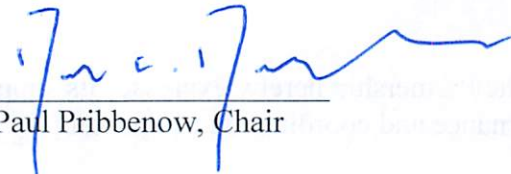
1. Support for Hennepin County Commitment: The Partnership hereby expresses its continued support for the Opportunity Center, and the commitment of its counsel to assist

in raising the necessary funds (\$1 million for capital improvements, \$500,000 to launch programming support and operations) sufficient for the County to proceed with its commitment decision on the lease at FIVE15 on Park;

2. Updated Program Design: On April 11, 2016, the Partnership adopted a draft of the Program Design to guide the programming of the Opportunity Center, with the understanding that the Core Team and community partners will have a critical ongoing role in refining and guiding this process; Core Team members have continued to meet to revise and update this Program Design;
3. Support for EMERGE as Managing Partner: The Partnership recognizes that EMERGE has committed to a sub-lease and has assumed fundraising and operating responsibilities as the managing partner of the Center; the Partnership hereby expresses its support for EMERGE in this role as the backbone organization for this collaboration of multiple partner organizations; the Partnership also specifically expresses its support to pursue the necessary resources so that sufficient and appropriate new youth program staff may be included in the Opportunity Center;
4. Support for a Governance Framework: The Partnership hereby expresses its support for the following framework to provide governance and coordination of this unique collaboration:
 - a. Recognition of Legally Responsible Parties: The Partnership recognizes that Hennepin County is the party that will sign a long term lease for the Opportunity Center, and that EMERGE will sign a sub-lease with Hennepin County; accordingly, the parties with the ultimate decision making responsibility for the Opportunity Center are Hennepin County and EMERGE, as detailed in their respective lease agreements;
 - b. Core Team in Collaborative Advisory Role: The Partnership recognizes that the Core Team of participating partner organizations who are committed to contributing programming and services at the Opportunity Center has played a critical role in developing the vision and program design, and also in serving as communication channels to a larger group of stakeholders and impacted residents and clients; the continued advisory role of the Core Team will be an essential element to assuring the vitality and success of the Opportunity Center; the Core Team will be a key resource to EMERGE and Hennepin County in the launch and ongoing operations;
 - c. Recommendation for a Memorandum of Understanding: the Partnership hereby expresses its support for a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by all organizations that would provide programming or services at the Opportunity Center, and identify how the Center will link its services with those provided by community organizations and partners, in order for all participants to understand clearly their roles and responsibilities and the Opportunity Center's mission and purpose as a one-stop destination to provide pathways to employment for Cedar

Riverside residents, with a special focus on the needs of East African youth and young adults ages 16-25; Partnership Counsel is directed to work with Hennepin County and EMERGE, and may consult with the Core Team as available to develop this MOU;

- d. Partnership in Ongoing Oversight and Coordination Role: the Partnership will continue to serve as a forum for the integration of policies and the mobilization and coordination of resources to support the Opportunity Center in successfully pursuing its mission.
5. Establishment of Anchor Employer Relationships: The Partnership shall encourage its employer members to be among the initial public and private sector employers committing to establishing anchor employer relationships with the Opportunity Center – providing youth internships, regularly scheduled and ad-hoc recruiting events, outreach and conducting interviews of youth and adults onsite at the Center.

Attest: 
Paul Pribbenow, Chair

Date: June 20, 2016