

Minneapolis Neighborhood Organizations:

Are Assets to their community and the City of Minneapolis.

- Catalyze volunteerism on a huge scale
- Address local needs with surgical specificity
- Provide the venue for residents to identify specific needs and concerns at their neighborhood level, often seeming more accessible than City Hall
- Give participants a sense of ownership and local stewardship in a personal, relevant way
- Are ambassadors for programs and initiatives from all levels of government
- Provide a physical and organizational geographic-based structure for diverse voices to come together to discuss issues, create solutions and simply interact
- Take on several responsibilities once owned by the CCP/SAFE program
- Build a greater sense of community at the neighborhood level (primarily through all of the activities above)

Factors that make Minneapolis Neighborhood Organizations Effective include:

- Legal entity (non-profit) with an ability to enter into contracts
- Mechanisms to ensure the organization is representative of the neighborhood and accountable for funds spent on local activities
- Residents with the ability to easily affect change in the organization's leadership
- Administrative funding that provides continuity in execution and an institutional memory
- Non-trivial levels of discretionary funding to affect important neighborhood-level change in a timely and efficient manner
- Reliable funding that allows the organization to focus on their mission (and not become simply a fundraising entity)
- Ability to affect capital improvement changes and provide seed capital for new neighborhood specific projects (that also attracts and energizes volunteer base)
- Recognition as part of the government planning process at the hyper-local level
- Input into prioritization of projects and programs that are multi-jurisdictional

Minneapolis Neighborhood Organization's have a History of Success and Effectiveness:

- Grant programs and low-interest housing loans to improve the housing stock in the city measured in millions of dollars
- "Venture capital" for innovative programs which otherwise would not be able to get started, and have been able to spread to other neighborhoods
- Capital improvement projects and program development in partnership with the City, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, Library Board, School Board and the County
- Successfully taken on additional crime prevention and reduction responsibilities as City programs suffered budget cuts
- Support of local businesses and neighborhood-level business associations
- "Pride of Place" – Community building in all manner of ways