

Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund

The Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations department has set aside funds for neighborhood organizations to work together and merge some of their work with other neighborhoods.

\$15,000 is available when **2** neighborhoods apply together. Funds can be spread over the course of 3 years.

We can use funds to

- . Merge neighborhood organizations
- . Share costs and resources

The focus of the funds are to

- . Supporting groups of neighborhood organizations
- . Finding ways to work together

See our application below for funding MPNAI and EPIC's development of our cooperative efforts.

Application submission

Submit the following information by email to neighborhoods2020@minneapolismn.gov to apply for this funding program:

- Application form as a PDF or Word document.
- Project budget.
- Letter of intent from each board of director



Application for EPIC & MPNAI Collaboration

Applicant information

Key contact: David Ingold	Project name: EPIC & MPNAI Collaboration
Primary organization (fiscal lead) name: East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Inc.	Phone: (612) 276-2655
Email: david@eastphillips.org	Address: 2433 Bloomington Ave Minneapolis MN 55404

About your collaboration

- Which neighborhood organizations are involved?
Midtown Phillips, East Phillips
- What is the combined population of the neighborhoods represented?
\$10,112 (5,208 + 4,904)
- What is the annual operations budget for each participating neighborhood organization?
\$10,000 + \$188,848
- How much in total are you requesting from the Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund for this collaboration?
\$15,000
- Date of board approval for each organization approving this application. Also include a letter of intent from each organization’s board of directors.
MPNAI: 10/25/2024
EPIC: 10/30/2024

Rationale for collaboration or shared resources

Please include what will be accomplished, the long-term expected savings and the overall benefits to the organization(s).

Work to Accomplish:

Merger Evaluation: Evaluate core-strengths of each organization and the resource needs of each neighborhood, investigate strategic opportunities for merging operations and programs, and bring results to each board and neighborhood. Share information with community and gather input on

Unite organizational calendars and communications, especially developing unitedphillips.org and other means of communication.

Long-term Cost Savings: \$8,247 / year

Subscription Costs:	\$ 126 / year = \$126 (MailChimp)
Insurance Costs:	\$ 2,750 / year
Accountant Costs:	\$ 1,320 / year
Administrative Staff Costs:	\$ 4,051 / year



Organizational Benefits:

Strong Board: A 501c3 non-profit requires responsible and involved board members to oversee its direction and operations. Presently, two of the three neighborhood organizations have unfilled seats, threatening the organization's ability to operate successfully. Additionally, certain seats on the executive committee requires a specific skill-set and significant investment to serve in the role (e.g. Treasurer). A merged organization would reduce/eliminate the unfilled seats, while also eliminating the redundancy in executive committee responsibilities. By concentrating the strengths of the boards and bolstering its numbers, the organizational burden of responsibility can be effectively carried by a strong board in order to focus on the mission.

Strong Staff: By being able to have a larger cohesive staff team, unique skills and assets from staff members are able to be resourced to the needs of the neighborhoods as needed. For example, while one bi-lingual community engagement staff may primarily focus on a neighborhood (e.g. Midtown Phillips), they would be able to be easily resourced for spanish-speaking needs for contacts coming from any neighborhood being jointly served. A larger staff-ecosystem also lends itself to greater resilience, rather than being dependent on 1-2 staff members to fulfill all executive, administrative, communication, programming, planning, and outreach needs.

Neighborhood Identity: Through the development of a merged organization, *United Phillips*, the board, staff, and—most important of all—the community members will be reminded of both the united identity of the entire Phillips neighborhood and the distinct identity of each neighborhood. As a collective neighborhood community, we are united in our plights for community flourishing, neighborhood safety, and distributed justice. And at the same time Midtown Phillips, and East Phillips remember that we are distinct neighborhoods with unique personalities, features, and resources, and we bring those into our united efforts, so that we can move up and forward, stronger together.

Stakeholder involvement

Provide a narrative about how your organization will ensure stakeholders are involved in the decision-making process. NCR will coordinate with the partner organizations to ensure an acceptable engagement plan is created for this project.

As our organizations have already begun our collaboration, we have ensured regular communication about our collaborative efforts. EPIC and MPNAI have joined communications in newsletters and in the Alley Newspaper, putting our logos together for clear communication, and developed clear imaging for the Greenway Gala event to demonstrate the partnership.

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY:**

Because many of our neighborhood stake-holders are completely unaware of neighborhood organizations and the nature of their work, let alone our organizational collaboration, we prioritize keeping our residents and community members informed. At each of our events, the staff make clear the nature of the partnerships so that they understand the role of these organizations in the neighborhoods and are then able to give input when it comes time to making decisions. Events like the Greenway gala serve as good opportunities to connect with stakeholders who would not typically come to business meetings, and we are improving our communication and voting systems to allow for a more diverse means of community member connection and input.

Board members and staff have also reached out to previous board members of the existing organizations to get perspective on the history of the dissolution of People of Phillips into the distinct neighborhood organizations that exist today, listening to the wisdom from previous generations. This opportunity for organizational mergers has been a point of community conversation at our public meetings in the last year, and will be the focus of specific community meetings prior to bylaw revisions or executive decisions (see phased plan below).



Timeline

Our timeline is illustrated below in terms of a phased plan:

EPIC/MPNAI Collaboration and Merger

	<u>Description of Activity</u>	<u>Timeline and Progress</u>
Partnering Phase 0	Partner on events; Investigate priorities, events, and programming	October 2022 - MPNAI Began Internal Conversation February 2023 - Connection Initiated, idea shared at MPNAI 2023 Annual Meeting Notable partner event: Clean Sweep
Collaboration Phase 1	Agreement to Collaborate on Events/Programming/Staff	April 11th 2023 - Partnership agreement entered into, September 2023 - 3 new staff hired
Uniting Phase 2	Unite Board Meetings and Newsletter Coms, Community Outreach	July 2024 - merged newsletters and board meetings
Feedback Phase 3	Draft new bylaws, engage neighbors, bring to a Board vote	October 1, 2024 - Board Review Bylaw/Merging Proposal for Community Feedback October 10, 2024 - East Phillips/Midtown Community Meeting Feedback (multilingual documents by end of October) October 17th - Community Feedback Poll Opens October 17th - November 27th - Staff and Board meet with community members at locations in neighborhoods (Little Earth, Madina Mall, Community Centers, Midtown Global Market, Waite House, Banyan, Pow Wow) Nov 27th - Review Feedback
Voting Phase 4	Finalize bylaws, continue engagement, bring to a Community vote	November 2 - Board Finalize Bylaw/Merging Proposal Additional Community Meetings Tentative: Nov-February - East Phillips/Midtown Community Vote
Launching Phase 5	New Merged Organization: MEPNA (Midtown and East Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc)	TBD

Budget

Provide a complete budget for the activities being undertaken to collaborate, consolidate or share resources. This is the amount of funds being requested. If no funding is needed in subsequent years, please indicate with a zero (0).

Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund multi-year budget template

	2025	2026
Income		
NCR Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund amount requested	13,300	1,700
Total income	13,300	1,700
Expenses		
Staff expenses	10,000	
Employee benefits		
Professional services (legal, accounting, etc.)	1200	900
Translation, interpretation and ADA support	800	
Supplies and materials	500	
Meetings/community building events	800	800
<i>Other (describe)</i>		
<i>Other (describe)</i>		
Total expenses	13,300	1,700
Cumulative Total for contract:	13,300	15,000

Budget narrative

Provide any information you feel is necessary to explain your budget. Indicate if there are any other sources of income for this project.

\$10K Staff Expenses will primarily contribute to the half-time role of the Director for Partner Development (employee rate: \$27.50/hour), who with this funding will be overseeing the phased process for neighborhood outreach, organizational development and merger, neighborhood information sessions, and local partner development, including in the business and faith communities.

The \$1200 for professional services will go to a lawyer for review of the merger documents, and any remaining funds in 2025 and 2026 will go towards shared accounting services.

The remaining expenses will go towards collaborative community outreach activities and connection events in Midtown Phillips and East Phillips.



Adjusted timeline of expenditures:

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