

CANDO: Strategic Plan

General Overview:

The Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization (CANDO) is a 501c3 non-profit corporation formed in 2004 to promote the livability of the Central neighborhood, to foster economic development, to strengthen communication and to serve as an inclusive, representative organization for the residents, business owners, property owners, institutions, and fellow organizations in the neighborhood. In 2006, the City of Minneapolis designated CANDO as the officially recognized Citizen Participation organization for the Central community, and the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Board of Directors awarded the organization status as the administrator of NRP funds allocated to this community, which is bounded by: Lake Street on the north; 38th Street on the south; Chicago Avenue on the east; and 2nd Avenue/I 35W on the west.

Over the past 14 years, the City of Minneapolis and other units of government have made significant financial resources available to Minneapolis communities through the NRP. These resources are spent according to a neighborhood action plan defined by the community it is designed to serve. Central neighborhood's NRP action plan, which incorporated a five year strategy, was approved by the Minneapolis City Council in 1995. Since that time, new challenges and opportunities have presented themselves in the community, including:

- * A global revolution in information technology;
- * Pronounced demographic changes in Central neighborhood;
- * Changes in the economy leading to hard realities in jobs, energy and housing;
- * The redevelopment of the old Sears site just beyond Central's boundary, leading to one of the largest commercial complexes in Minnesota, the Midtown Exchange on Lake Street.

To properly acknowledge these and other changes, the CANDO Board of Directors and its membership have developed a five year strategic plan that will sustain the critical emphasis necessary to ensure housing and economic development needs are met, while adding new directions in arenas that engage residents of all age groups, support programming relevant to Central's needs, and maintain old, while developing new, partnerships.

To help forward this work, CANDO has established three sub-committees, Building, Land Use and Housing; Community Leadership Committee; and Economic Development; for which the components of the strategic plan are named, with an additional component designed to ensure administrative and capacity building of the organization itself. The content of the strategic plan includes an outline, a narrative and a projected five-year budget, for each of these components. Budgets have been designed to be inclusive of, and thoughtful toward, of all sources of funds. Finally, the strategic plan offers a partnership addendum acknowledging past CANDO partnerships.