

PROJECT INTRODUCTION: INVESTING WITH NORTH MINNEAPOLIS

PURPOSE

The Investing with North Minneapolis project worked with Northside community members to develop urban designs using grassroots strategies. Because these strategies originate from North Minneapolis community members' values, the resulting designs have meaning for the people that live there. When design has value within a community, it builds wealth

by nurturing the relationship between places and the people for which they are made.

The project is collaborative, bringing together North Minneapolis organizations, individual community members, interns from Northside Safety NET Environmental Initiative (an environmental careers exploration program for Northside youth of color) and

students and others from the University of Minnesota School of Architecture. Together they developed and communicated a vision for the future of the North neighborhoods over three years (2021- 2024). Designs were developed in class and community design meetings in a fall semester urban design class.

ORIGIN OF INVESTING WITH NORTH MINNEAPOLIS

Motivated to advance the future of North Minneapolis based on the ideas and goals of Northside inhabitants, in the fall of 2021, the Northside Community Connection project was developed by research team members Julia Robinson (UMN School of Architecture), Jamil Ford (Mobilize Design), Cathy Spann, (Jordan Area Community Council), Tim Griffin (UMN Minnesota Design Center and Brandon Champeau (United Properties). The research based University of Minnesota architectural design studio worked with community members from North Minneapolis, and University experts to create equitable and regenerative urban designs that elevate the neighborhood and respond sensitively to its needs.

In 2022 the project continued, titled Investing in North Minneapolis, supported by the University Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) and adding Savannah Steele (UMN School of Architecture), Michael Chaney and Catherine Fleming (Project Sweetie Pie), and Jaycie Thomsen (Northside Safety NET, Environmental Initiative) to the research team. Regular classroom meetings and Co-Design Events at Farview Park allowed for collaboration between community experts, Environmental Initiative interns, University of Minnesota graduate students, and North community members helped the group work toward the goal of creating urban designs based on the community's insights and needs.

In 2023, renamed Investing with North Minneapolis, and funded by the Minneapolis Foundation, the project worked with additional North Minneapolis organization representatives including Rochelle Washington and Patricia Bauknight (Webber Camden Neighborhood Association), Shawn Lewis (Minneapolis Parks Foundation), John Jamison (Northside Residents Redevelopment Council), and with support of Ar'tesha Saballos, Clyde Quarles and Sebastian Wells, again collaborated with Northside Safety NET, Environmental Initiative interns as well as engaging with community co design event participants.

