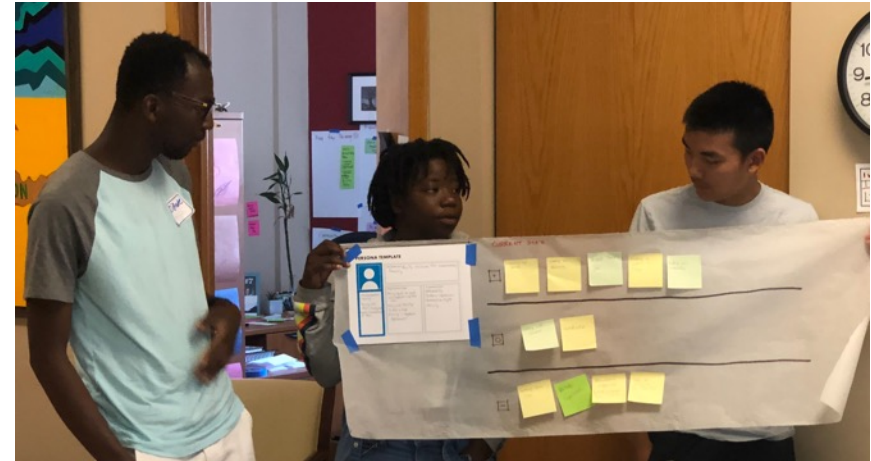


Young leaders vision project



background + why

key stakeholder partners

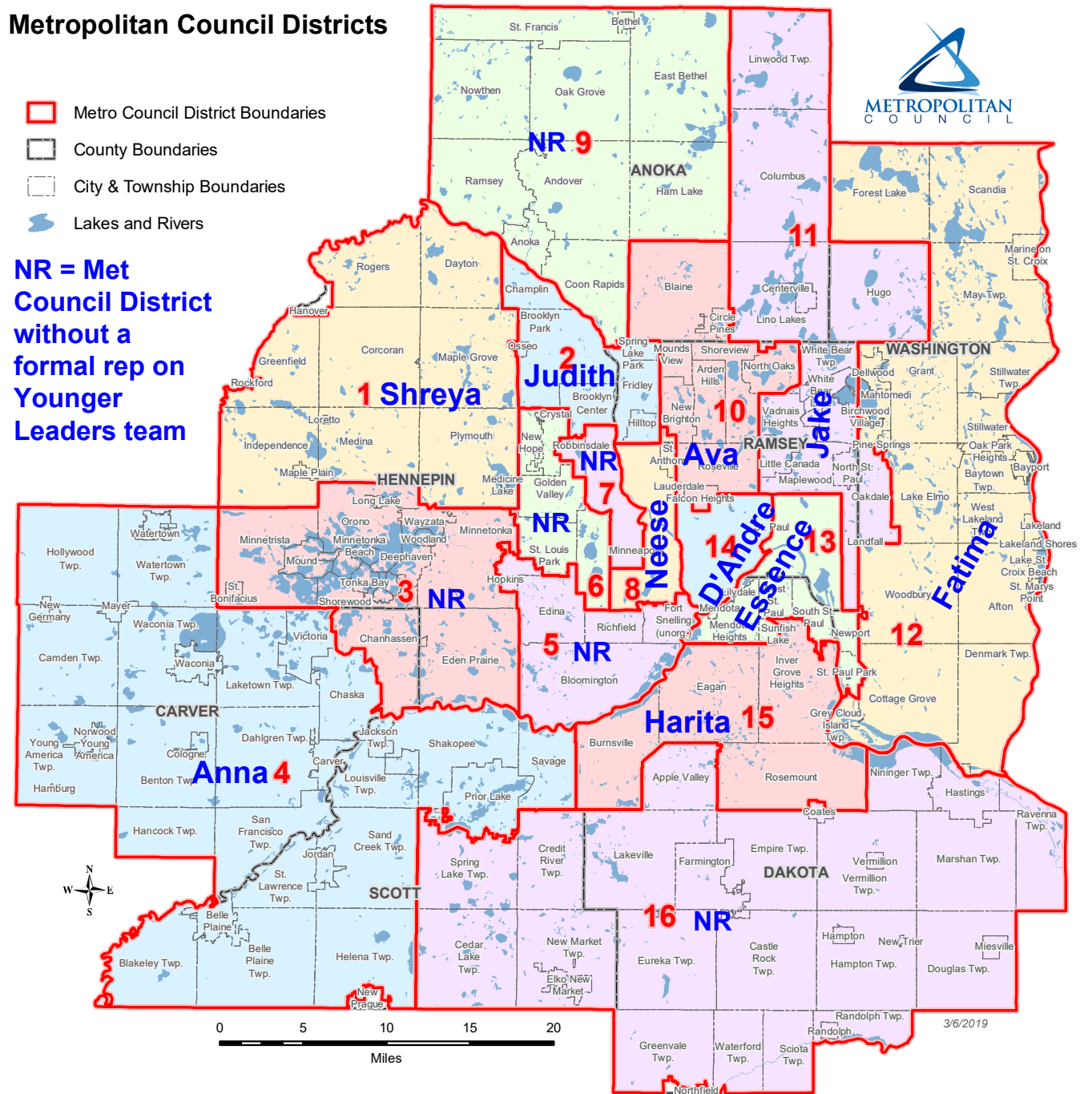


who?

Metropolitan Council Districts

-  Metro Council District Boundaries
-  County Boundaries
-  City & Township Boundaries
-  Lakes and Rivers

**NR = Met
Council District
without a
formal rep on
Younger
Leaders team**



hcd

THINKING LIKE A FUTURIST

LINEAR vs EXPONENTIAL

UNLEARNING

CONVERGENCE

GENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

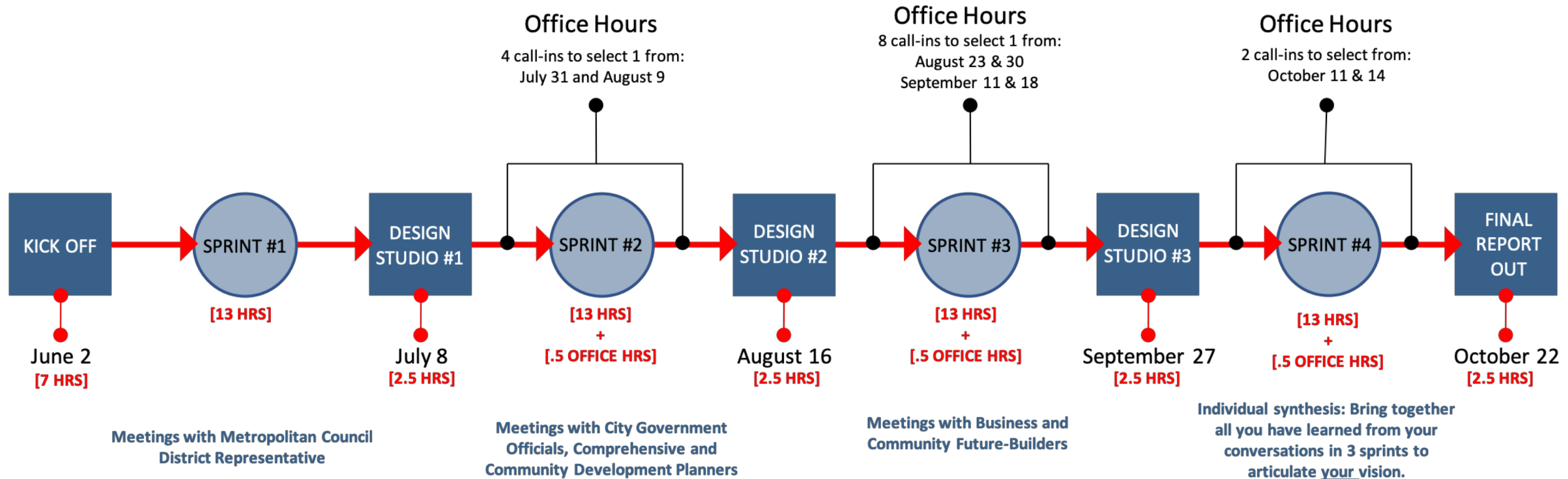
“

the space where people can come together and interpret the ways that conditions (often changing) challenge the meanings, patterns, and relationships that they had long taken for granted

- Natasha Iskander

PROJECT SEQUENCE

Total time commitment for project: **70.5 hours**



Learn more about the comprehensive planning process and issues affecting our community

Better understand the role(s) of key stakeholders, including ourselves, in the planning process

Build a capacity for articulating a vision for the future and building momentum around it

Learn about potential careers in business, non-profit, government and policy

Neese Parker

Artist



Youthprise Youth Engagement Manager



Community Advocate



The C-Line Experience



C is for Community

Summarized Research Summary

(This will be fast so read my handout! they gave me 10 minutes 🤖.)

Full summary is in your handout.

Methods:

1. Interviews:
 - a. Community members and Met and City Council Members
 - b. Ages 16-50
 - c. 90% Indigenous and/or People of Color
2. Literature Review
3. Data from Metropolitan Council

Analysis Summary

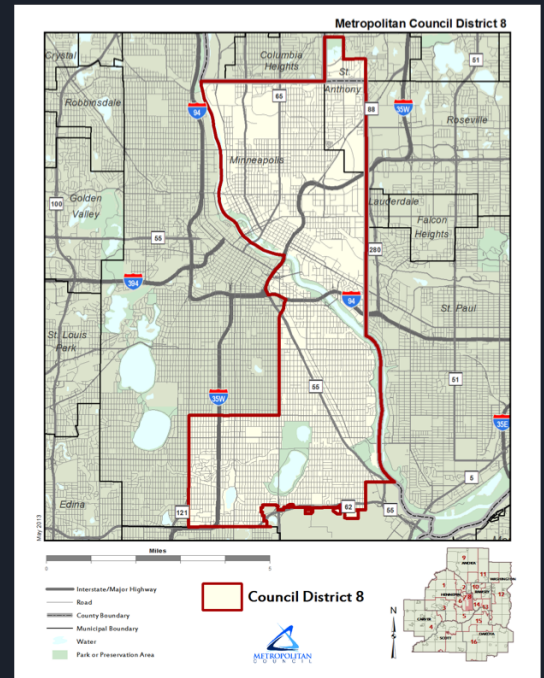
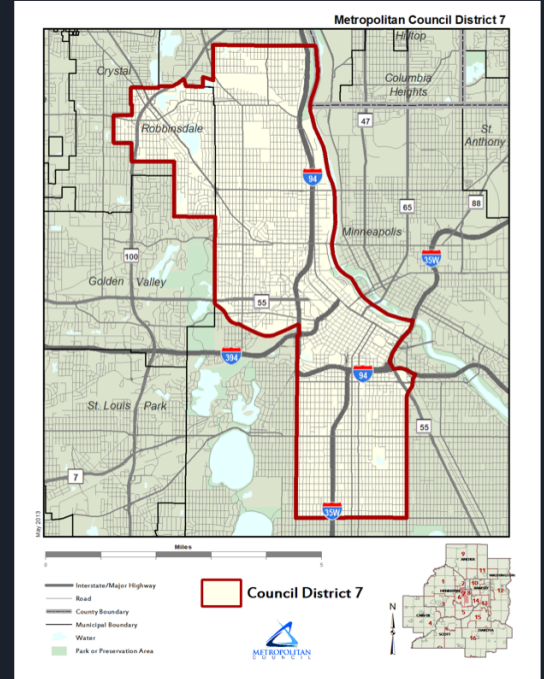
Districts 7 and 8 has had a large growth in terms of construction and population.

100% of Interviewees voiced concerns about the gentrification in these districts.

Main Theme

Long-term Residents of historically disinvested neighborhoods communicated that gentrifying neighbors carry cultural power and privilege that they use and it impacts in two key ways:

- New “gentrifying neighbors” communicate that they feel unsafe and see long-term residents as threats (ex: calling 911/311 on BBQ smoke or people “loitering in their own yard”).
- A sense that new gentrifying neighbors are causing more harm than good.



Gentrification

Despite the belief of some that there are positive effects of gentrification has for homeowners, landlords and middle class individuals, Marilyn Pineda at the UMass Boston has shared on the topic...

...there are individuals who face negative effects due to gentrification.

There will be some renters that no longer are capable of paying the rent and will be displaced.

In terms of education, low income families are displaced and that means changing the school the child goes to...

Research has found that the people that are migrating into the gentrified neighborhoods are primarily white, professionals and single parents, and it is the lower to working class, elderly and unemployed that are being displaced."

Impacts of Gentrification is the Root of Three Major Themes

1. **Fear of community members, encouraging isolation and further social separation**
1. **Community resources are modified to feel exclusive no longer welcoming to long-term residents**
1. **Loss affordable home/land ownership**



Re-Recommend With The Met-Council

City Planning

Water Management

Housing and Parks

Metro Transit

Challenge:

The process of the City Planning system makes it hard to implement new ideas that address community issues.

Big Ideas!

C is for Community - App

Pay for bus fair

- **Use your phone instead of you go-to card**
- **Reduce the use of plastic/paper**
- **Employers can deposit funds into your C-app account to support and incentivize transportation benefits**

C-Line Community Representatives

- **Super users can register as a community representative and schedule events to host on the c-line**
- **App will show upcoming community events on and off the C-Line**

C-cash gives you free rides through App Engagement

- **Earn “cash” by becoming a frequent rider**
- **Participating in c-line events**
- **Participating in Met Council community engagement on plans, policies, and projects**

Recommendations

1. Invest into more first time home/landowner programs specified for long-term residents at risk of displacement stabilizing communities.
 - a. Allow for informational representatives to ride buses to provide information inspired by “Mad Dads” program but for land and home ownership opportunities
1. Invest into more shared community spaces (community gardens, parks and trails)
2. Provide more opportunities for community events (e.i. Block parties, movies in the parks)
 - a. Provide informational pamphlets at bus stops and on busses to inform community members about community events, farmers markets and park guides
1. Invest into community workshops (e.i. Cooking, financial literacy)
 - a. Allow for community facilitators to utilize the space of metro transit (with rider’s consent) to act as community researchers, informers and advocates. (i.e. appetite for change giving information sessions, YPAR groups gathering interviews, and rides with financial advisors)
1. Provide space for cross cultural learning (informational podiums at parks, community history teaching and neighborhood trainings)
 - a. Use bus design (outside visuals) to provide historical and local information about the communities of color in Minneapolis. (i.e. facts about Ojibwe and Dakota history, hmong cultural contributions to the city and black owned businesses in the area.)

Final Thoughts

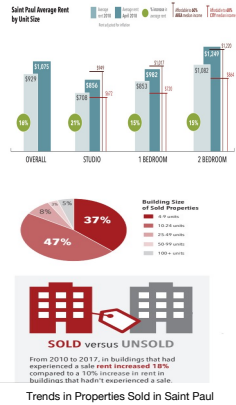
1. Transit, Parks, and Development all play a role in gentrification, so the Met Council has many opportunities to increase equity and address the negative impacts of gentrification.
2. The way planning and governmental systems work are too inflexible and not responsive enough to our dynamic community needs. These systems need to change.
3. Don't let our work and time be in vain.
4. Please look at the packet, I am available to talk more, hit me up!

YOUNG LEADER VISION PROJECT

FINAL REPORT AND FINDINGS

VISION

- Every ten years, the seven-county metropolitan area engages in a ten-year comprehensive planning process. This process can last two years or more and must include at least six months of public input. This comprehensive planning process guides cities policies on how they will accommodate growth.
- Even though the comprehensive planning process happens every ten years, many voices are excluded, namely renters and marginalized populations which includes young people and people of color.
- Before this project, I believed that the responsibility of learning how government works, and the comprehensive planning process fell largely on people. A person must actively seek information to educate themselves. However, upon completion of this project, I have since changed my vision to believe that many of the barriers that the public faces in accessing information about critical processes, such as the comprehensive planning process, were in fact created by the government and done so intentionally.
- My vision for the future of the region is one in which government entities such as the Metropolitan Council and local municipal governments, are more transparent about the comprehensive planning process. Public hearings must be accessible to as many people as possible and made available in multiple mediums. Essentially, public policy must be created that focuses on the recipients using their voices from the beginning until end.



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ACTION

SYSTEMS

First and foremost, elected officials need to have strong political will, even if it means going against powerful business interests, and a small group of well organized, predominantly white affluent homeowners. Cities and municipalities across the board need to strike single-family zoning ordinances from the books, as well as other exclusionary zoning policies. Further, when it comes to interagency government work, transparency must be of utmost importance. When policymakers make decisions, they must start from the place of consulting the community first and all throughout. In doing so, government must make concerted efforts to reach out to communities that have been historically excluded.

COMMUNITY

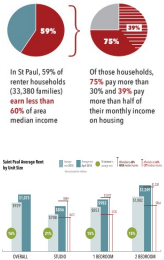
The community can help impact elected officials' efforts to create more affordable housing by launching social media campaigns, lobbying policymakers in person, showing up and testifying at public hearings, writing letters of support and joining coalitions. One of the boldest and most powerful tools community members have are their stories. If they don't share their stories, then policymakers are oblivious to their concerns. It's one thing for policy-makers to pass evidence-based policies, but for that to happen it is critical that community members engage their community leaders by sharing their stories, so that the policies passed reflect their voices and concerns.

BUSINESS

Private enterprises and non-profit businesses can lead the way when it comes to building more affordable housing by developing housing that aligns with what houses in an area look like. This means that any housing that built is accessible and sustainable. However, for private enterprises and non-profit businesses to develop affordable housing reflective of community values, there needs to be significant reduction in government red tape that hinders progress. As movement is made on affordable housing, it is critical that the private-public partnership between government and private enterprise is socially conscious and does not become predatory. Serving people must be the motive and not profit.

INSIGHTS

- The most surprising thing that I learned throughout this entire project is the utter lack of communication amongst and within government agencies. The bureaucracy is strong and provides for good governance; however, as a result of this, one agency may be restricted by the actions of another. An example of this is how powerful the Met Council is, but also very limited in their scope by state statute. The Met Council cannot compel cities to prioritize affordable housing even though the Metro area is in the midst of a growing housing crisis. By government bureaucracies' own doing, the complex intricate webs of rules and regulations creates seemingly unsolvable problems for the government.
- This project affirmed my previous beliefs that government works slowly, and sometimes will only work in the best interest of the people they serve if pressure is put on the government by external forces. The frustrations I experienced, along with government officials and non-profit leaders, reflect a much larger problem- the set-up American political system, namely money in politics. Government inaction on some issues are due to powerful interests influencing elected officials which makes their seats vulnerable come reelection time.





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YOUNG LEADER VISION PROJECT

FINAL REPORT AND FINDINGS

VISION

My original vision for the project was to, in general, make my community more sustainable and environmentally friendly. Through conversations with city officials and community leaders I became aware that there are many initiatives dedicated to making this vision a reality -- many cities in Minnesota that show dedication to sustainability are given the "GreenStep" qualification. Unfortunately, policy often moves more slowly than what is necessary for progress, so my vision morphed into a more focused sustainability. With food waste being a major contributor to atmospheric warming and economic loss in our world, I stumbled upon organics recycling and the positive effect it has on communities. My vision is now to see communities recycle their food waste sustainably and reduce their carbon footprints through local investments into the earth.



ACTION STEPS

SYSTEMS

Today, it is the responsibility of every public institution (at every level) to implement actions and policies that will support the longevity of its communities. Whether it's the Comprehensive Planning process (Met Council), state regulations (legislature), grant opportunities (counties), or independent programs, systems have the ability to control major environmental changes of the future.

COMMUNITIES

The actions of individuals and small groups can have major impacts on the environment, especially when it comes to participation in programs provided to citizens. Whether a public or private institution provides access to sustainable resources, it will not be successful without participation from citizens. Organics recycling programs are simple and user-friendly. Grant programs are available statewide.

BUSINESSES

Businesses and private entities that impress upon consumers can also contribute to a vision of sustainability. Strong efforts to eliminate single-use plastics, reduce water usage and pollution, and stopping overproduction are only a few ways that companies can reduce their carbon footprints. Innovations, like organics recycling and residential solar energy are also extremely beneficial.

INSIGHTS

As with any form of government or bureaucracy, I've learned that the Comprehensive Planning process moves slowly. I've learned that progress towards more sustainable communities is slow -- even if the clock for "making change" is ticking. However, regional planning is so necessary to zoning and structuring our communities. In Metropolitan District 10, there is an incredible diversity of need.

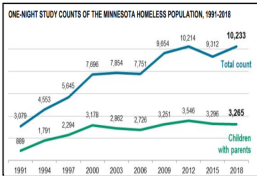
Suburban cities like North Oaks and Blaine have vastly different populations and issues than first-ring suburbs like Falcon Heights and New Brighton, but somehow, equity and sustainability are not nearly prioritized enough in any of these communities. I have learned that regional planning is a meticulous, stubborn process that quite literally never ends.

YOUNG LEADER VISION PROJECT

FINAL REPORT AND FINDINGS

VISION

- Minnesota's comprehensive plans help benefit cities and regions by guiding them along a ten year path. The plans for the future are decided and influenced by people that are not very well connected to the youth and other underrepresented voices.
- An underrepresented voice is homeless and people with low income. The homeless and people with low income are usually unable to attend the hearings for the plans and the majority are never aware of the plans.
- Before the project I have never heard of the comprehensive plan and I have always been naive to local government and the national to world news. I never thought of how the government was dealing with homelessness and low income individuals and families. I only had basic knowledge of homeless shelters.
- My vision for the future has been opened to see how the comprehensive plan can be used to help the homeless, low income individuals, and others in need. The plan can help them by creating new zoning for areas that can be used for the homeless tiny homes, more affordable housing, and use the land more efficiently.



ACTION

SYSTEMS

Changes in how the government can help the homeless is by changing the zoning laws to make the homeless tiny homes more widely available in more areas. The zoning can also be changed to make it so that we can more efficiently use the land for more units of housing and making those units more affordable to everyone.

COMMUNITY

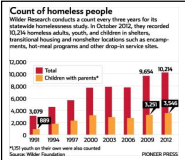
The community can help impact these changes by being more aware of how they can influence the change in the comprehensive plan, the zoning law changes, and also how they want their community to look in the future. The community can also help by welcoming the ideas of the tiny homes into their communities and be welcoming to the new people. The faith community can also assist because the churches land is able to be used for the tiny homes. The faith community is able to do this because of the RLUIPA law, the religious land use and institutionalized persons act, states that the churches can do what they want with their land and that if it follows their mission then the government cannot intervene. For example the church in Maplewood, called Woodland Hills already has one tiny home

BUSINESS

Non-profit businesses can help the movement of the tiny homes for the homeless and help influence the zoning laws to make the homes more widely available for more people in need. Also, they can be instrumental in making the homes more visible to the public and educate others on what they are. Communities can also help support non-profits by donating their time and materials to building the homes.

INSIGHTS

- The thing that most surprised me when doing this project is the existence of the comprehensive plan, how extensive the plan is, how the plan is so far projected into the future, and how much the plan guides our cities. Another thing that surprised me is how the project process grew my skills for future research, interviewing, networking, and a glimpse into local to state government operations. Something that my community and I can do is that we can be more active in the next comprehensive planning process. Another thing we can do is become more involved in getting to know each other within a community.
- This project has changed my view towards the comprehensive planning process by showing me how my community evolves and how local government shapes it. Also, it shows how my community can be a important part of the planning process.

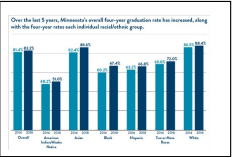


YOUNG LEADER VISION PROJECT

FINAL REPORT AND FINDINGS

VISION

- My vision for the future of the region is for more collaboration between companies and regional planners when creating and adopting new policies and technology and providing more representation of minority groups in the developmental and planning processes.
- Before this project, I viewed the development of new technology, and the development of new regional policies as completely separate bodies that unintentionally crossed paths when convenient. I knew and accepted the idea that technology had a trickle down effect and that it was only introduced to the general public once completely developed and ready for use. However, through my conversations with community leaders, tech CEOs, and my team members, I now understand that each individual has their own frame of reference in which they see the world and everyone's thought processes are shaped by their experiences. Therefore the policies and technologies built are always made for a certain demographic even when unintended.
- As I continued with this project I learned the necessity of accounting for unintended consequences during the developmental process of creating policies and technology. Even though it may slow down the initial process, it will pay dividends later when dealing with the nuances. However, in order to acknowledge these unintended consequences, a diverse body of people need to be actively engaged in the development and planning processes which requires a fundamental change in the requirements to hold these positions as well as in the education system in order to allow more representation in these jobs.



51%
Graduation rate for Native American/Alaskan Native

ACTION

SYSTEMS

In order to develop technology and policies that best represent the people's needs and does not inherently disadvantage a certain population, we need to insure their populations are actively engaged in the planning and developmental process. A short term solution is reducing the level of education needed to become a regional planner. A long term initiative should be to fundamentally change the educational systems to create more pipelines for underrepresented populations to enter into higher education. A possible solution for the communication gap between businesses and regional planners is mandatory job fairs with local companies for regional planners to become aware of the technology they are building and how it could be incorporated into the plan. Another potential solution to address the subconscious biases within regional planning is a required "Day in the Life of a resident" where planners are required to spend a day living the life of the demographic they are planning for.

COMMUNITY

The GradMinnesota Initiative is currently making great strides to increase the graduation rate to 90% by 2020. I will continue supporting legislation on increasing more teachers of color and allocating more funding towards programs for "English Language learning students, special education, integration aid, early childhood education, and all-day Kindergarten".

I will work with my community to expand this initiative and promoting underrepresented groups in technology development to explore the field.

BUSINESS

In order to facilitate the collaboration between local companies and regional planners, our communities must incentivize this communication through entertaining events in order to also engage a more diverse population.

MediBio, a company located in Shakopee is developing technology to detect symptoms of mental illnesses through biometrics such as heart rate and sleeping patterns in order for corporations to better track the wellness of their company. In the future technology like this can be used to collect data about the residents in the community in order to objectively determine how to most effectively allocate resources.

INSIGHTS

- I was surprised to learn how technical the comprehensive planning processes was and the amount of time it takes to pass. Through conversations with my city mayor and director of community development, I learned the need for more aspirational elements in the planning process in order to maximize community engagement.
- The biggest lesson I learned from the project process was the power of the nuance and the power of the informed outsider to introduce a new way of thinking.
- How has this project/approach changed your views on regional planning?**
Regional planning needs to encompass more than just planning for the roads and sewage system, but is unique to each community's needs and needs to engage members from the communities as well as local businesses in order to be most effective. For example, in Eagan we are mostly developed, so we need to focus on redevelopment and accommodating for our growing older population.



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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO.....
David B Kaysen, and Kristi Hamilton CEO and Director of communication for MediBio.
Alex Korn CEO of Atlas Portfolio
Met Council Representative Philip Stern
Mike Maguire Mayor of Eagan
Jill Hutmacher Director of Community Development Eagan

YOUNG LEADER VISION PROJECT

FINAL REPORT AND FINDINGS

VISION

Historically, Minnesota's urban planning and development have been primarily adult-focused. While the public-engagement process is highly prevalent in comprehensive planning and local governance, these meetings typically end up including the "usual suspects"—planning commissions and city staff—because the public process flies under the radar. This causes community meetings to be inaccessible to youth and young adults.

Before this project, I believed that the responsibility fell on youth to be more civically engaged and aware of local governance. I looked at federal news and saw the causal relationship between youth activism in areas like gun rights and the increase in nationwide conversation.

However, after completing this project, I see that the larger burden falls on external entities, like the government, to meet people at their doors rather than to expect them to always engage. Given the busy lives of youth and young adults, it's important that we find new ways to ensure that youth voice is included in the comprehensive planning process by extending the process to areas where youth are engaged, such as the classroom and local events that have a larger youth demographic.



ACTION

SYSTEMS

Government systems should actively use their funding incentives and alignments to broaden youth engagement. For example, the Met Council conducts workshops for their members to discuss their equity-related goals. The Met Council should put youth on their agenda and discuss how funding incentives can be used to persuade cities to increase youth engagement or involve youth in the comprehensive planning process. Additionally, the City of Plymouth recently tried a new social media initiative and found that it didn't increase engagement due to its passive nature. More active strategies should be used such as partnerships with youth engagement organizations.

COMMUNITY

While the responsibility falls on governmental systems to actively, rather than passively, reach out to communities, there are ways for people to be more engaged. Communities, especially youth, need to familiarize themselves with the comprehensive plan and encourage their peers to do the same. Although meeting with elected officials can be difficult, youth who wish to be engaged can schedule meetings with local or state officials. Reaching out to organizations that specialize in youth education over local governance and planning can serve as a way to attain knowledge and pass it onto others for a greater push for engagement.

BUSINESS

YEP! Youth Engagement Planning! is a non-profit organization that teaches youth nationwide about urban planning and civic engagement. YEP works in partnership with organizations like Girl, Inc. and local communities and counties in Minnesota to ensure that students have the resources to engage with their local government. Whether this be teaching about the comprehensive plan or recent happenings in cities, the organization has seen benefits through increased engagement and activism.

Communities should accept a larger role of similar organizations, for they highlight and elevate the voices of youth in the local planning process.

INSIGHTS

I was very excited to learn that despite there being many differences between the cities in District 1, they face similarities as well. For example, all the cities agree that the legislature should support more funding for infrastructure and that certain communities deserve more local government aid. I also found it interesting that the main way the Met Council urges cities to follow certain paths is through funding incentives. Additionally, through conversation I found that there is an amendment process to the comprehensive plan, so small yearly updates can be made if necessary.

Knowing that agreement exists among cities has made my view more opportunistic in terms of future compromise. Increased advocacy can make youth voice a bipartisan issue in District 1 and beyond.



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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:
Metropolitan Council Member Judy Johnson
Steve Juetten, Plymouth Community Development Director
Freya Thamann, Met Council District 1 Sector Rep
Corrin Wendel, YEP! Executive Director



YOUNG LEADER VISION PROJECT

FINAL REPORT AND FINDINGS

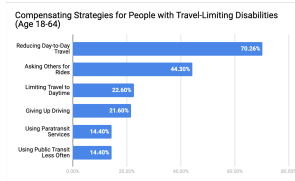
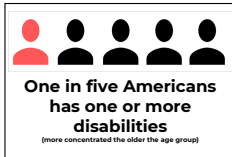
VISION

Minnesota's seniors and residents with disabilities meaningfully contribute to the vibrancy of our communities. Too frequently, however, the institutions, industries, and environments within our communities are not structured to provide access to full and equal participation. Such lack of access commonly leads to social isolation.

One significant barrier to community access is lack of suitable transportation options for seniors and people with disabilities (PWDs.) Many of these individuals need or desire transportation services that go above and beyond what typical public transportation is able to provide. Within limited areas of the Twin Cities metro, paratransit systems are available; however, many are afflicted by persistent service problems.

Before this project began, I believed that many of the problems that Minnesota's seniors and PWDs face could be solved primarily through governmental action. Throughout the course of this project, I came to the understanding that, in order to effectively offer alternative transportation options for the aforementioned groups, we must foster collaboration between public and private entities.

Through increased transportation options, seniors and people with disabilities in the Twin Cities region will have access to their communities. This access will serve to (1) improve quality of life for seniors and PWDs by decreasing social isolation and (2) increase community participation, leading to renewed community vibrancy.



ACTION

SYSTEMS

The MN Department of Human Services offers "Live Well at Home" grants each year to organizations who help seniors "maintain their health, independence, and community involvement."

Governmental organizations - on both a legislative and departmental level - need to:

1. Approve additional grant funding for the development of accessible transportation options targeting both seniors and PWDs.
2. Promote equity by requiring a significant portion of the grant money mentioned above be used to subsidize transportation of low income seniors and PWDs.
3. Develop incentives for the creation of on-demand accessible transit options

COMMUNITY

Each community must (1) educate themselves on access needs and general disability etiquette, as dictated by disabled and/or elderly persons and (2) work to create both physical and nonphysical environments that are accessible to all.

I will work to create a coalition of individuals ranging from those who would benefit from this transportation to existing community leaders to potential accessible transportation providers. Together we will advocate for the aforementioned grant funding and educate others on the effect of social isolation on mental and physical health.

I will also continue to educate my community members on disability and aging-related topics.

BUSINESS

Businesses looking to work on this issue must consult with the seniors and people with disabilities within their communities who will be impacted by their services. Stakeholder input gathering should continue throughout the entire development and operation process.

Mobility4All, GBC is a Twin-Cities-based startup that is working to offer transportation options that increase the ability of seniors and PWDs to participate in their communities. They offer on-demand rides that are customizable based on an individual's accessibility needs. Mobility4All's CareDrivers™ are specially trained on how to effectively and respectfully serve seniors and PWDs. Mobility4All is a recipient of a 2019 Live Well at Home Grant.



INSIGHTS

I was surprised to observe that, for several cities within my Metropolitan Council district, the comprehensive planning process did not include specific steps to document how their comprehensive plan took into account the unique needs of various marginalized populations (i.e. seniors, people with disabilities, people of color, etc.) It appeared that the officials responsible for creating their community's comprehensive plan had made efforts to reach out to and consider the needs of these populations, however no formal recognition or documentation of this process was available.

To me, this drove home the message that it is vital for people to be cognizant of the unique needs of various marginalized populations within their community. Even more importantly, these community members must act as allies in the fight to get the voices of marginalized communities heard in the comprehensive planning process.

Another interesting thing that I discovered throughout this process was how essential it is that a community feels invested in their strategic plan. The most successful plans seemed to be the ones that were created through extensive community input, thereby leading community members to feel as sense of ownership over the plan and be invested in its success.

Social isolation increases risk of:

- Heart disease
- Weakened immune system
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Cognitive decline
- Etc.



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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO.....

John Doan & the Mobility4All team
The Younger Leaders Project team
Susan Arnt Kori Redepinning
Noah McCourt Steve Washburn

YOUNG LEADER VISION PROJECT

FINAL REPORT AND FINDINGS

VISION

- My vision for the future of the region is a stronger relationship between local governments and youths who live in the region. I would like to see more support and advocacy for youth-led initiatives especially when it comes to social/climate education and policies that impact students and those that belong to marginalized groups.
- Starting this project, I was not really aware of any specific challenges in the region. I was already aware of the issue of inclusivity. The region - Woodbury, Lake Elmo, Stillwater - is growing in terms of diversity and one issue that has risen is conversations around race/culture. A challenge I personally viewed was the support of young people of color that were making up that diversity. So going in to this project I was dedicated to advocating for more youth spaces in decision making processes.

- My vision for the future of the region, would be a more youth inclusive initiative around climate change with a focus on education. As I interviewed people one issue that stuck out to me was sustainability and the promotion of sustainability within the community. Climate change is a huge area of concern for youth, and though the city promotes it, youth want to see more education. So many youths in this region are opening up important dialogue around not just climate change but youth advocacy in all social issues/policy issues



ACTION

SYSTEMS

What I would like to see change is how young voices are supported. Young people in this region are already doing the work and using their voices, what they need is a community that listens.

I would say what we need is:

- more spaces for young people to speak and have their voices being amplified.
- Support of the messages and education that youths are developing around conversations of race and

COMMUNITY

I think there is already a significant amount of work being done in communities around supporting students of color and amplifying their voices.

- StoryArk- Amplifying the experiences of youth of color and LGBTQ+ youth through story-telling in a way that is youth led. The students write and direct their own stories based on their experience.
- Minnesota Youth Climate Strike- Chapters in schools around this region, educating those in their schools/communities.

BUSINESS

Partnerships with groups that are amplifying youth voice:

- Donating time, money, or giving space to work collaborate etc.
- Making an effort to promote and collaborate

INSIGHTS

What do you feel were your biggest lessons or surprises about 1) the regional planning process, 2) the project process and 3) about yourself and your/your community's role in developing a strong/equitable future?

What surprised me and seemed to echo throughout my conversations was how much of the process lacked relevance. No matter how the cities felt about the process itself, positive or negative, the general consensus seemed to be that it left little space for individualized planning. The issue of development and sustainability looked way different for an older, more compact city like Stillwater compared to a bigger, growing one like Woodbury.

What I learned about my communities role is that though there were a lot of local youth initiatives, none were given much recognition or support from local governments. How has this project/approach changed your views on regional planning?

I also learned that engagement can only go so far with a regional planning process that is so tightly defined and structured. I think what people want to see in their communities and what the comprehensive plan allows do not match up.

StoryArk



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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO.....

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Story Ark