



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

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Community Vitality Task Force Meeting January 4, 2024 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Agenda & Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

Housekeeping & Progress Update

- o Minutes Approval – December 19th
- o Survey – please get your contacts in
- o March 1st Deadline: “Community Vitality Framework” 8 Page - Profile for CAAPB approval and to enter leg. process
 - o Vitality Grant Program ~\$1.5M
 - o Community Voices Process ~\$3.0M
 - o Implementation and Oversight ~\$0.5M

Vitality Grant Development: Research by SDK (20 min)

- o Subgroup for Vitality Grant Program—Gloria, Rep. Maria Perez-Vega, and Erik

Community Voices Process: Creation in Common (45 min)

- o Demographic Overview and Level Setting
- o Surveys and Next Steps for Stakeholder Engagement
- o Timeline and Important Dates

Adjourn 1:30 pm

PRESENT

In Person: Erik Dahl, Peter Musty, Cindy Kue, Senator Sandy Pappas*, Carlo Cuesta^, Stephanie Devitt^, Jay Kuvaas^

Virtual: Gloria Contreras-Edin*, Rep. Maria Isa Perez-Vega*, Rep. Isaac Schultz*, Emmanuel Donaby*, Tony Johnson, Noel Nix, Lindsey Burdick^, Jenie Gao^, Josh Bergeron^
(* Task Force Members, ** Task Force Chairs, ^Consultants)

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order: 12:06pm

Housekeeping & Progress Update

Approval of Meeting Minutes - 12/19/23 Task Force Meeting

Motioned by Gloria Contreras-Edin; seconded by Representative Maria Perez-Vega

Community Vitality Framework - March 1st Deadline

Due to the holiday, there had been no major changes since the 12/19/23 Task Force meeting. SDK Communications consultants will join the meeting later to discuss their role and vision for the Vitality Grant Program. Creation in Common (CIC) is heading up the Community Voices Process - Peter Musty reminded Task Force members to submit contacts for the CIC project team to survey and/or interview.

Vitality Grant Program

- Erik Dahl shared findings for how CAAPB could receive and allocate the Vitality Grant Program funds - noting that the CAAPB statute would need to change. He asked for the Task Force's help in determining the goals and funding categories, as well as overall and category-specific funding criteria. Pete reminded the Task Force that SDK would help determine logistical and organizational components of the grant program.

Community Voices Process: Creation in Common

Demographic Overview and Level Setting

Lindsey Burdick (CIC) presented an overview of the Capitol area's community demographics. (Attachment A)

Gloria noted categorization limitations, such as Hispanic/Latino populations self-categorizing as 'White', and expressed interest in finding broader demographic data.

Senator Sandy Pappas shared observations of shifting demographics, with a current trend toward young renter families, especially in the Frogtown area. Peter noted the area's long-standing identity as a transitional community, often for new Americans. Questions were raised about how quickly renter and housing cost burdens are changing, as well as leasing burdens for tenant small business owners - especially in the context of redevelopment efforts.

Erik suggested comparing income data for the area vs St. Paul vs the region, as well as income and rental-homeownership rate correlations.

Area challenges related to food insecurity, disability prevalence, and transportation were noted. Lindsey plans to delve into healthcare employment patterns, as it is a major area industry.

There was acknowledgment of ongoing developments, such as new school openings, and speculation of Sears site's redevelopment as crucial aspects of changing community dynamics.

Erik and Senator Pappas underscored a need for specificity regarding the data's geographical boundaries, as nearby elements (hospitals, public housing facilities, Hmongtown Market, etc.) could greatly skew the numbers. Carlo Cuesta (CIC) also highlighted a need for boundary clarification of where monetary investments can occur.

Gloria underscored the importance of highlighting community strengths, not only struggles.

Timeline, Important Dates, and Next Steps for Stakeholder Engagement

Following the January 16th Task Force meeting, the CIC project team, Erik, Peter, and Cindy Kue will take part in an on-the-ground Capitol district tour (1:30-3:30pm). Interested Task Force members were highly encouraged to take part. The first round of community member and stakeholder interviews will take place on January 17th.

Carlo encouraged Task Force member participation in the February 13 retreat. The reporting timeline was outlined, with first draft completion set for February 21, followed by a period of Task Force member input between February 21-29.

Vitality Grant Development: Research by SDK (20 min)

Stephanie Devitt and Jay Kuvaas of SDK Communications joined and shared about the people-centered nature of SDK's work - highlighting the Ramsey County-St.Paul Community Informed Digital Equity Strategy as a recent project. Stephanie noted the process of SDK joining the project and meeting the Task Force was slowed due to illness but, despite a tight timeline, underscored desire for a relational approach.

Subgroup for Vitality Grant Program

Erik shared about the Vitality Grant Development subgroup's role in collaborating with the SDK consultants - generating ideas and prioritizations between Task Force meetings and bringing them back to the whole group for discussion.

Pete requested that Task Force members share grant programs ideas, and suggested that SDK research precedent grant programs in the region.

Senator Pappas noted \$5M may not be sufficient, due to the area's size and high need. She expressed interest in outreach to the foundation community, given their propensity to match state funds for grant programs.

Peter referenced St. Paul's STAR Program and storefront property improvement work that was done as part of an offshoot grant program. Noel Nix shared about another program's successes through a crowdfund approach to determining improvements that would raise safety outcomes.

Senator Pappas shared disability community complaints regarding inadequate curb cuts, underscoring the necessity of Capitol event accessibility. Peter suggested improvement idea tracking, to be shared with the city and included in \$25M being used for infrastructure work.

To avoid duplication and maximize return on investment, Carlo requested access to a map/database of past and current Capitol area investments. Erik will meet with Noel to discuss current and future Capitol development plans, and will bring information back to the Task Force.

Adjourn

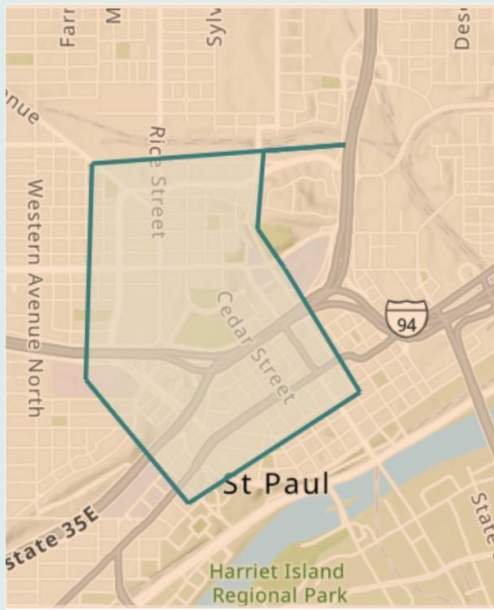
Meeting adjourned at 1:33 PM.

ATTACHMENTS:

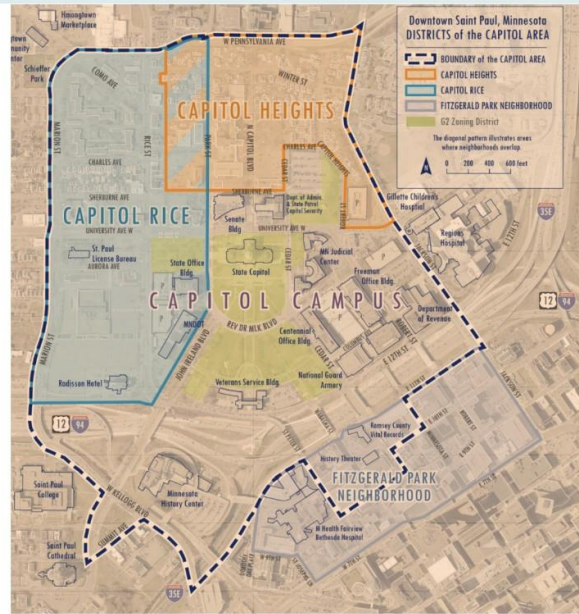
- A. Creation in Common - Capitol Area Community Demographics and Socioeconomics Presentation

Attachment A:

Creation in Common - Capitol Area Community Demographics and Socioeconomics Presentation



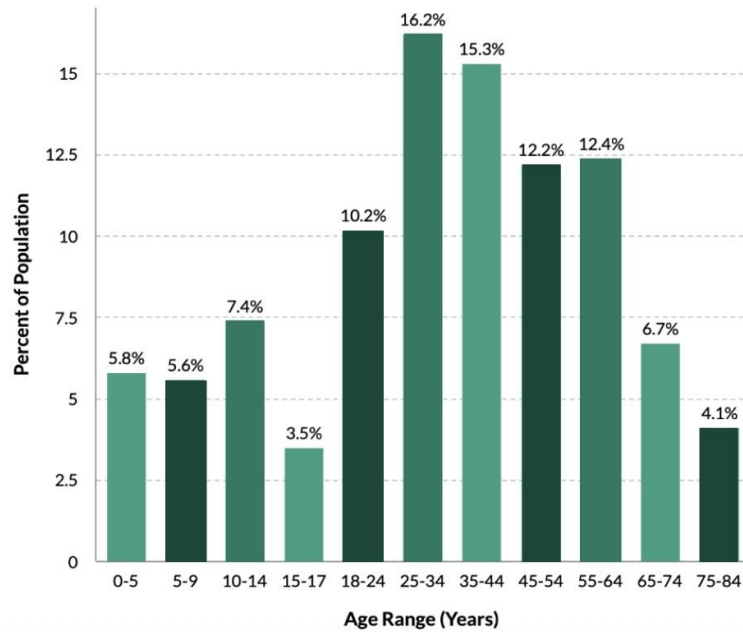
MN Compass Data Geo Area



CAAPB RFQ Capitol Area

Population by Age

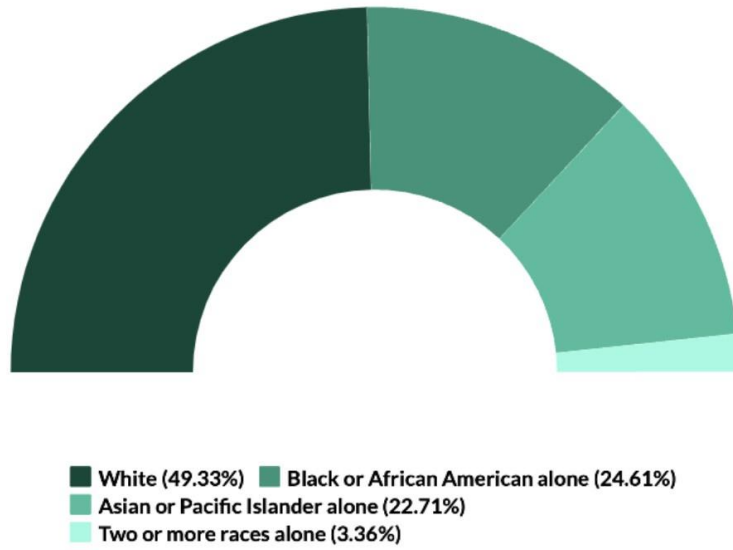
Population not shown due to small size
85 or higher



Population by Sex



Population by Race & Ethnicity



Population not shown due to small size
American Indian/Alaskan Native alone
Other alone
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

