

**THE 1997 STATE OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS ADDRESS:
DOES THIS NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS HAVE A FUTURE,
ROUND II**

May 29, 1997
Intermedia Arts

May 19, 1997 Draft

OUTLINE

- I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
- II. WORK OF THE MINNEAPOLIS CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOODS
- III. THE STATE OF NEIGHBORHOOD CAPACITY AMONG MPLS NGHDS

Assumption 1: the core of capacity is engaging citizens broadly and actively around common values and shared goals.

Assumption 2: neighborhood capacity is not confined to neighborhood organizations.

Assumption 3: neighborhood capacity takes different forms in different neighborhoods.

Assumption 4: neighborhood capacity must be defined over time.

Areas of capacity:

- **Building Social Capital: A Sense of Community**

Neighborhoods can help build and strengthen social capital – those networks of social relationships, both formal and informal, that promote cooperation for mutual benefit.

- **Strengthening Neighborhood Building Blocks: A Sense of Shared Place**

Much of the focus of neighborhood activity under NRP has been to build things: housing, park upgrades, streetscape improvements, community centers.

- **Connecting Institutional Activity: A Sense of Shared Responsibility**

Neighborhoods can be the focal point at which multiple agencies, institutions, and residents converge in common strategies for meeting individual and group needs. Neighborhood organizations can play a variety of roles in making that happen: convenor, facilitator, catalyst, clearinghouse.

- **Sharing Information: A Sense of Shared Experience**

Cross-neighborhood lessons and conversations

- **Creating the Basis for Collective Action: A Sense of Shared Power**

It is tempting to think of the NRP as an endpoint, a process that produces bricks and mortar within a defined period and then dissolves into the general ongoing work of community life. It is more instructive, even if more difficult, to think of the NRP as a process by which neighborhoods can learn, refine, or strengthen an ability to participate meaningfully in shaping the social, political, and economic policies and systems that affect their community.

Dimension 1: organizing internally within neighborhood organizations

Dimension 2: working to affect change outside the neighborhood

IV. A CONTINUING ASSESSMENT OF STRATEGIES FOR STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

We propose that the Center pursue a number of steps in the year ahead.

First, we propose to continue our analysis of the factors that are critical to capacity.

Second, we will examine through roundtables and other forums which governmental, business, foundation, non-profit, and neighborhood policies and practices promote or weaken neighborhood capacity.

Third, we will continue to highlight what works and offer suggestions for how these models can be extended or strengthened.

Fourth, we will evaluate specific forms of technical assistance the Center can provide to build neighborhood capacity.

V. THE PUBLIC PARTNERS AWARDS

VI. THE NEIGHBORHOODS ISSUES PLATFORM [OR PRIMER?]

Question topics

- Question 1: Neighborhood Capacity
- Question 2: Neighborhood Plans
- Question 3: Service Delivery Reform
- Question 4: Interdependence of Housing, Jobs, and Education
- Question 5: Community-Based Economic Development
- Question 6: Cross-Neighborhood Collaboration
- Question 7: Integrating Neighborhood Strategies with City-Wide Goals
- Question 8: The Regional Context
- Question 9: Natural Systems
- Question 10: Welfare to Work