Moving Forward Together...

01. Develop the critical Interagency partnerships that support the planning and research around the proposed Rondo Land Bridge Project.

02. Seek out the technical advisement and expertise from CSP, METC, and MNDOT around the proposed Rondo Land Bridge Project.

03. Define the Viable Path and Viable Project related to the engineering, legal and environmental aspects of the RLB Project.

04. Pursue CSP’s co-leadership role related to the pre-development, public resources, master planning and design, construction, operations and maintenance of the RLB Project.

05. Partner in the ongoing public engagement work in both the local and regional outreaches conducted to solicit maximum community input and involvement.

Develop the critical Interagency partnerships that support the planning and research around the proposed Rondo Land Bridge Project.

Define the Viable Path and Viable Project related to the engineering, legal and environmental aspects of the RLB Project.

Pursue CSP’s co-leadership role related to the pre-development, public resources, master planning and design, construction, operations and maintenance of the RLB Project.

Partner in the ongoing public engagement work in both the local and regional outreaches conducted to solicit maximum community input and involvement.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rondo Historical Footprint</th>
<th>Rondo Cultural District</th>
<th>Rondo Historic District Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross Streets:</td>
<td>A geographical area that outlines the business, cultural and historic boundaries of the Rondo community</td>
<td>A joint collaborative effort of Rondo Avenue, Inc, Aurora Saint Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation, and ReconnectRondo, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lexington to Rice (East and West)</td>
<td>- Selby and University (North and South)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rondo’s Strategic Partnerships

Rondo’s Strategic Partners are the local and state agencies with the capacity, knowledge and resources needed to help with the research, resiliency and restoration efforts of ReConnectRondo in the Rondo community, as well as with the planning efforts and due diligence surrounding the proposed Rondo Land Bridge Project.

01 City of Saint Paul (Mayor’s Office, PED, and Planning Commission) is RCR’s critical co-leading partner on the comprehensive planning, phased development, and approval process of the Rondo Land Bridge (RLB) Project.

02 MNDOT (I-94 Project Office & Community Connections Office) is RCR’s transportation partner, providing the engineering, environmental and technical guidance needed for the Rondo Land Bridge (RLB) Project.

03 Met Council is RCR’s regional planning and development partner that provides guidance around transportation planning, housing opportunities, and infrastructure that supports economic development.

04 Ramsey County is RCR’s public health partner providing data and guidance concerning the related health impacts and environmental assessments that surrounds the potential of the Rondo Land Bridge Project.

05 The One Minnesota Council on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity will convene and coordinate the expertise and resources of the Governor’s cabinet and staff in partnership with communities throughout the State.
Rondo’s Strategic Goals align perfectly with the vision of Governor Tim Walz and Lt Governor Peggy Flanagan for “One Minnesota”.

Rondo’s P4 Approach is a neighborhood regeneration model established to facilitate:

1. **Equitable Development** (Eliminating Education, Income and Housing Gaps)

2. **Triple Bottom Line** (Developing Economic, Environmental and Social Benefits)

3. **Strategic Placemaking** (Leveraging Cultural, Historical and Local Resources)

P4 Approach = Public + Private + Philanthropic Partnerships for Community Benefit

The Rondo Community looks forward to a strategic partnership with The One Minnesota Council on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity to accomplish its strategic goals in 2019 and beyond.
“My first executive order will help ensure every action by our administration is done through the lens of One Minnesota,” Gov. Walz said.

“Disparities in Minnesota, including those based on race, geography, and economic status, keep our entire state from reaching its full potential. If we are going to address these challenges, we must work hand-in-hand with the communities themselves. This council will help give a voice to all Minnesotans, whether they live on the East Side of St. Paul or in East Grand Forks.”

1. The Council should involve all of the Commissioners that comprise the Governor’s Cabinet in its work, as their visible strong leadership is critical to establishing and achieving the Council’s diversity, inclusion, and equity goals.

2. In consultation with State agencies, boards, and commissions, as well as external partners across Minnesota, the Council will establish goals and work collaboratively to address diversity, inclusion, and equity in State government practices, including recruiting; retaining and promoting state employees; state government contracting; and civic engagement.

3. The Council will work in consultation with State agencies, boards, and commissions, as well as external partners, to design, create, and implement effective, inclusive, and equitable practices for the State to address disparities and inequities in our community.

4. The Council will develop a long-range plan to identify barriers to success, metrics for measuring progress, and recommendations to achieve the Council’s goals.
Rondo’s 2019 Priorities

Priority #1
Feasibility Study & Economic Analysis

Priority #2
Viable Path & Viable Project

Priority #3
MOU Formation

Priority #4
Community Engagement 2.0

Priority #5
Health Impact Assessment

Priority #6
Fund Development Planning

Priority #7
Advocacy Efforts

Priority #8
Defining Rondo

Priority #9
Master Planning & Design

Feasibility Study & Economic Analysis - baseline community and economic data on Rondo, as well as the formation of RCR’s business and marketing plan for the research, resiliency and restorative efforts and the RLB Project due diligence

Viable Path & Viable Project - land and legal issues, MnTrust/RCR agreement, and MNDOT/RCR Lease agreement around the chosen concept that agrees with the planning and recommendations from the community, feasibility study, evaluation criteria, and other professional and industry expertise that best positions the RLB project

MOU Formation - RCR/Rondo community’s agency and neighborhood CBA’s concerning the research, resiliency and restorative efforts, along with joint targeted funding proposals, SWOTT analyses, and strategic development planning around the RLB project in alignment with CSP’s Comprehensive Plan

Community Engagement 2.0 - Rethinking I-94 Environmental Analysis (Phase 2), ImaginingRondo.org, and all the community/regional research, resiliency, and restoration efforts and RLB Project planning of RCR’s RLBPAG and its strategic partners

RCR’s Health Impact Assessment - neighborhood and regional health impact assessment surveying around the Triple Bottom Line (Economic, Environmental and Social) through the targeted efforts of local residents and a network of partner orgs

Fund Development Planning - MPP Grants, Kresge Grant, Planning Grant (Build, DOT), Pre-Development Capital (MN Legislature), Opportunity Funds, and Silent Philanthropic Campaign

Advocacy Efforts - establishing policy related priorities and actions necessary to advance the research, resiliency and restoration efforts and RLB Project planning of RCR in the Rondo community, in strategic partnership with CMAH/Ethnic Councils and Governor’s Council For Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

Defining Rondo - leveraging the Rondo Roundtable 2.0 to establish the Rondo Business & Cultural District — and the Rondo Historical Tour, Museum & Visitor’s Center; as well as research the possibilities of Rondo becoming its own recognized neighborhood and district by the City of Saint Paul

Master Planning & Design - development of a finalized project concept that highlights 21st century innovations, community ownership, assets, history, and cultural strengths of the Rondo community and the surrounding region, through a P4 Approach that leverages public, private and philanthropic expertise and resources to the direct benefit of the community.
Cultural districts are one “key” strategy that communities all over the country have adopted to boost their economies, while realizing many other cultural and civic benefits.

**Attracting artists and cultural enterprises to our local community.** Artists, cultural institutions and creative enterprises all contribute to a community's economic potential. Not only do they generate direct economic activity, but artists and creative entrepreneurs also can infuse communities with energy and innovation, which enhance the economic and civic capital of a location.

**Encouraging business and job development.** Cultural districts can create a hub of economic activity that helps an area become an appealing place to live, visit and conduct business. A thriving cultural scene helps a locality to prosper when consumers drawn to cultural attractions patronize other nearby businesses. This can result in the creation of new economic opportunities and jobs in both the cultural sector and other local industries.

**Addressing both urban and rural needs.** Metropolitan and rural areas present distinct economic development concerns. Cultural districts are a highly adaptable economic development approach that can take a community's unique conditions, assets, needs and opportunities into account because each district is uniquely developed according to these factors.

**Establishing tourism destinations.** Cultural districts are marketable tourism assets that highlight the distinct identity of communities and encourage in-state, out-of-state and even international visitors. Localities with strong related industries (such as restaurants, lodging and recreation) become especially attractive destinations for cultural, recreational and business travelers.

**Preserving and reusing historic buildings.** Some states use cultural districts as a way to stimulate historic preservation. Adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of older buildings through preservation tax credits can result in structural and façade improvements. Rehabilitated buildings and spaces are opportunities for affordable cultural work-force housing, artist live/ work space and new homes for cultural organizations that can serve as anchor attractions in a cultural district.

**Enhancing property values.** Cultural districts may revitalize and beautify cities, towns and regions. Many successful districts combine improvements to public spaces (such as parks, waterfronts and pedestrian corridors) with property development planning. These plans can include efforts to target the redevelopment of abandoned properties, rehabilitate historic sites, and recruit businesses to occupy vacant spaces or encourage the building of new mixed-use spaces. Together, these strategies facilitate a healthy mixture of business and residential activity and can contribute to reduced vacancy rates and enhanced property values.

**Fostering local cultural development.** The establishment of a cultural district provides a focal point for celebrating and strengthening a community's cultural identity. Cultural districts provide localities with opportunities to highlight existing cultural amenities as well as mechanisms to recruit and establish new artists, cultural industries and organizations.
ReConnectRondo, Inc (RCR), is leading an integrative community-economic development process and collective engagement model in the Rondo community that exists to address historic inequities and to harness the research, resiliency and restoration efforts for neighborhood connectivity, a civic ecological framework, as well as reshaping the economic, environmental and social needs, by leveraging public-private partnerships, systems alignment, local community leadership, and asset mapping to position the most qualified and committed citizens in the potential development process of the Rondo Land Bridge Project.

• Infuse creativity (arts, culture and community-engaged design) into comprehensive community development and urban planning practices.

• Build on a community’s assets and distinctive attributes, recognizing and highlighting narratives of place.

• Bridge cross-sector and cross-disciplinary – collaborations of multiple partners from different sectors (public/private) and disciplines (arts, health, environment, human services).

• Employ a theory of change and praxis that addresses the economically distressed aspects of our community, and ensures that residents with low incomes contribute to, engage in, benefit from, and are empowered by the forthcoming Equitable Development Planning activities of RCR’s developing partnerships with Everybody In, the Minnesota Equity Trust and MNVEST.
RONDO’S COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

• INTEGRATION OF THE PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC, & SOCIAL

• COLLECTIVE VISION/COMMUNITY PLAN AS A PLATFORM FOR ACTION

• COMMUNITY VOICE/ENGAGEMENT AS A DRIVER OF COLLECTIVE VISION

• ENGAGEMENT, EQUITY & INCLUSION AS A MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY

• PLACEMAKING BY CREATING COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY
Local and Regional Systems Approach
The board of ReConnectRondo knows that the proposed land bridge project cannot be approached without leveraging both the local and regional expertise and resources within the various ecosystems of Rondo and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Focusing on the Uniqueness of “Place”
By focusing upon the compelling story, history and cultural uniqueness of Rondo — as a treasured community in the City of Saint Paul, defining and pursuing Rondo as a business & cultural district, historical tour, and museum & visitor’s center, developing a localized economy becomes possible.

Developing a New Social Contract
The Rondo Commemorative Plaza has harnessed the diversity of the Rondo community more than fifty years later to bridge the with the present, by developing a “new” social contract and context for cooperation, unity and partnership with elders from all the various ethnic groups in the community.

Harnessing the Assets and Capacities
Through the strategic asset mapping and environmental analysis around the felt-needs and programmatic gaps in the community, the local and regional partners of RCR will facilitate planning and research efforts through the Rondo Land Bridge Project Advisory Group.

Rondo’s Civic Ecological Framework
Rondo Land Bridge Project

Rondo Land Bridge (RLB) Project was established to persuasively shape transportation policy of the Rondo, Frogtown and Summit-University communities, ultimately to achieve a higher quality of life, community ownership, and community wealth. The RLB Project will address the long-term strategic planning process that addresses: jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities; achievement of economic development without gentrification; preservation of historical legacy without homogenization or cultural displacement, by finding solutions to housing needs and affordability, public health and quality of life, accessibility and multi-modality transportation infrastructure through an equitable development lens for ensuring the inclusion of educational, cultural, artistic, and environmental concerns are properly addressed.

Listening – For over two years, the RCR team has worked tirelessly to develop the key relationships in Rondo and throughout the surrounding areas, to ensure that the Rondo community is fully informed and behind the project.

Learning – As relationships formed around the ongoing community engagement work and health impact assessment priorities, the RCR team has gained invaluable understanding about the "felt needs", gaps and opportunities available in Rondo.

Leveraging – The research, resiliency and restorative efforts of RCR has prioritized the "boost" of the Rondo community first, and made the due diligence, feasibility and planning of the land bridge as a secondary priority. By leveraging the expertise of neighborhood partners, RCR is streamlining regional efforts, planning, and resources.

Learning-In – The Rondo Land Bridge Project Advisory Group (RLBPAG) is the project management framework developed to capture all the ranging expertise of neighborhood and regional partners for determining the health, economic and environmental impacts, pre and post the potential land bridge project.
It’s been more than fifty years since the African-American community of Rondo in the City of Saint Paul, experienced the devastating loss of over 600 homes and 300 businesses that occurred during the height of urban renewal and the federal highway system movement of the late 1950’s that took place throughout the United States, which affected over 1600 communities. Fast forwarding to 2019, through the Rondo community’s leadership, the “8 Values of Rondo” are the groundwork for the “civic ecological framework” that’s leading the research, resiliency and restorative efforts of RCR.

Civic Ecology is a democracy-driven, whole-systems framework for creating sustainable communities. The framework focuses on empowering citizens of all ages, cultures, and abilities to envision, create, and manage their community’s unique “software” – the integrated energy, nutrient, water, waste, material, and food systems, as well as economic flows and cultural interactions, that animate their place.

Now, after more than thirty-five years of Rondo Days and the recent groundbreaking of the Rondo Commemorative Plaza, because of the excitement, hope and resiliency of a “firecracker” & well respected community pillar and elder — Marvin Roger Anderson, along with other community elders, the Rondo community is exploring and supporting these flows allows communities to enhance their local wealth (environmental, economic, and social), resilience, and competitiveness, and helps them take control of designing and managing their future through collaboration and innovation. We’ve learned that civic ecology is a fundamental first step in creating resilient communities and places.