



## ANA Executive Directors Report 11/24/2024

**Movie Night at the Hollywood** - Over the past couple of weeks, I've met with the management staff of the Hollywood Theater to discuss ways in which ANA can collaborate with the theater as a way to encourage greater community engagement. There are various opportunities, especially during their off-peak season. One is a regularly scheduled movie night, probably on Wednesday evenings. We are discussing co-hosting various "makers markets" possibly coinciding with the Thursday Audubon Farmers Markets. We also discussed possible collaboration on a Hennepin County Zero Waste pilot project revolving around a reduction in waste during big events.

**Open Streets** - I've met with Thomas from neighboring Windom Park to discuss the possibility of organizing and overseeing a version of Open Streets on Central Avenue next year. It appears that there may be \$50,000 to do some version for Central Avenue that the City would be willing to fund. City Council President, Elliott Payne hinted that that may be an option. However, \$50,000 is not enough to do this properly. Thomas from Windom Park and I briefly discussed exploring other funding to match this amount, and Great Streets was an option, however, proposals are due Monday 11/25 so we'll look at other options (one being US Bank).

**Target Grant** - We just received notification that a \$5,000 check has been cut and was finally sent. We should see it this week. The grant is for the Audubon Farmers Market and Northeast Market Garden.

**City of Minneapolis Public Works Grant** - Last week, I helped draft a \$300,000 grant proposal along with Windom Park, Northeast Park and Beltrami that puts our collective hats in the ring as bidders for potential community engagement work with Public Works over the next couple of years (2025-27). There is not a specific project that we are applying for, but instead, letting the City of Minneapolis know that we have the skills to carry out public engagement when Public Works needs to coordinate meetings, focus groups, surveys, displays, etc. on a variety of projects such as transportation planning, surface and sewer water, solid waste management and more. Steve Gallagher from Neighborhood and Community Relations recommended this grant as a way to extend our already ridiculously limited (to the tune of \$20,000/year) City Equitable Engagement and Neighborhood Network funding.

**Give to the Max Day** - An annual one-day event for giving to nonprofits like the Audubon Neighborhood Association was done on November 21 this year. Our goal was to raise \$5,000 for our Power of Produce program where kids 3-12 can sign up and receive \$2 tokens each week. They can then save the tokens, or spend them at our farmers booths during the Audubon Farmers Market to get \$2 worth of fruits or veggies. This past season we had over 260 kids participate in the program and we're hoping that we can build up enough funding to get a Seniors Power of Produce program next year. If you have not yet donated, please consider doing so as this is a great way to turn little ones into lifelong veggie eaters! To donate, go to our [audubonneighbor.org](http://audubonneighbor.org) website and click on the Donate button. Super easy to do.

**Press Forward Grant** - Last week I assisted Vince Brown with a grant proposal for one of our most important businesses in the Audubon Neighborhood, the Northeast Newspaper. The proposal was for \$40,000 to go to additional journalists to cover in more depth the happenings in our Northeast neighborhoods. The importance of this grant is that this is a new, multi-foundation grant opportunity and a chance for us to get in front of eyeballs such as the McKnight Foundation. Why is this important? We are trying to build a strong track record of successful projects, programs and businesses that we can leverage for larger (\$100,000 to \$200,000) grants that are not restricted and cover our operating expenses.

**Hennepin County Zero Waste Grant** - Over the past several months, I have met with various business owners discussing possible ways we can start to move towards being “microplastic free by 2033” through the use of reuse materials and a massive reduction in single-use plastics. I’ve met with Hennepin County Solid Waste & Recycling, Minneapolis Recycling and others to look at the \$200,000 Hennepin County Zero Waste grant opportunity as a multiple year project, first through an extensive education and outreach effort, followed by a multiple business pilot project that, besides brick and mortar businesses, would also include vendors from our Audubon Farmers Market.

**Upcoming Community Meeting - December 2 at 6:30pm** - Minneapolis Recycling will be hosting a “Barriers to Swaps, Reuse and Repair” listening session at our next Audubon Community meeting from 6:30 to 8pm. We are also planning a “Paw to Paw Pet Gear Swap” on the same day starting at 3:30pm and going until 8pm when the community meeting ends. Our hope is that cherished pet gear will find a new purpose with pets in our community. We understand that each collar, leash, and toy holds memories and meaning—sometimes tied to pets who are no longer with us. This event offers a heartfelt opportunity to give these items a second life, allowing them to bring comfort and joy to another pet. We have more information on our website, [audubonneighbor.org](http://audubonneighbor.org) and will cover what folks should and shouldn’t bring. Finally, we are also doing a small canned pet food drive at the same time. If people dropped off pet food, they are eligible for a \$25 Target gift card that was generously donated by Target (along with the grant).