



We are grateful to the City of Minneapolis for their long history of supporting neighborhood organizations that help create our vibrant and engaged city. The Tangletown Neighborhood Association supports the new equitable engagement program and looks forward to furthering our outreach to underrepresented populations. In the past, we have supported equity goals through funding an affordable housing project, prioritizing renter-targeted events and outreach, offering a low-income-targeted security rebate program, and dedicating funds towards rebuilding efforts after the 2020 civic unrest. We have an Equity Committee working in the areas of education, advocacy, programs, and partnerships. In 2022, we plan to use our limited (\$3,204) equitable engagement funds to hire community organizers to doorknock and host pop-up outreach throughout our community to reach residents we are currently missing, collect feedback, and set a new equity minded strategic plan.

We are concerned, however, that the neighborhood network fund is not sufficient to meet the goal as outlined in the approved guidelines for a citywide network of “neighborhood associations supporting every residents’ ability to engage in grass-roots activities, work on neighborhood identified priorities and partner with the city.” In 2022, as budgeted, we will receive \$15,000, which represents half what we received under previous funding models. We support the focus on equity in this plan; however, neighborhoods like Tangletown cannot provide the level of engagement, services, and programs the City is expecting with such a dramatic decrease in funding. In 2020, we stood with several of our fellow neighborhood associations in requesting more financial support from the City of Minneapolis for neighborhood associations. **We continue to ask the City Council and Mayor to increase funding for neighborhood associations to a level that would allow for at least \$20,000 in base funding while maintaining or increasing the equitable engagement fund.** We understand and appreciate both that these are challenging economic times for many and that difficult decisions need to be made by our city leaders. Nevertheless, we continue to believe that neighborhoods are key to addressing the issues that the city faces.

While board members and volunteers are at the core of the work we do, we simply would not be able to execute the level of programs, events, and outreach we currently offer without a paid staff person. For many years, Tangletown struggled to fulfill its mission as a primarily volunteer-run organization. In 2017, we hired an Executive Director who helps recruit and train board members; organizes volunteers; ensures communications are regular and consistent; has secured over \$40,000 in grants; executes the logistics of our programs and events; manages bookkeeping; and generally ensures all city, state, and federal requirements are met. The cost of our part-time Executive Director employee (who receives neither health nor retirement benefits) is currently \$39,000 per year. Without sufficient funding for an experienced, paid staff person to advance the vision of the board, we will have to drastically reduce both the ways we engage with our residents and the programs and events we offer.



What could be lost under this reduction in funding:

- Over 1,100 Tangletown volunteer hours per year.
- Regular, in-depth communications and outreach to 1,800 households in Tangletown via biannual print newsletter, over 1,100 people via monthly email newsletter, over 800 people on Facebook, over 2,700 people on Nextdoor, and supporting the growth of local publications like SW Voices.
- Significant work to reduce the impact of the climate crisis such as:
 - Reducing energy use through rebates that encourage insulation and attic sealing
 - Decreasing storm water runoff and issues through rain garden and bioswale installation, promotion and support of storm drain adoptees, and storm drain stenciling
 - Increasing sign ups and use of organics recycling through innovative organics captain program as well as outreach through event tabling, door knocking, and educational events
 - Reducing waste through educational events and efforts targeting reduction in use, repurposing tips, donation resources, advocacy, and more
 - Spreading awareness of environmental issues, programs, and events through Sustainability Sam monthly blog and email newsletter
- Work that extends beyond the borders of Tangletown such as our food drive, winter coat drive, City of Lakes Community Land Trust investment in affordable housing, environmental education, investment in rebuilding efforts, and more. Our work contributes to making our entire city better, not just our specific neighborhood.
- Providing a forum for residents to ask questions and provide feedback related to neighborhood road improvement projects, school and park construction projects, housing developments, city planning, and more.
- Community-building events that have existed for decades plus new ones that keep things fresh including Tangletown Winterfest and Fourth of July Parade and Party.
- Voter education both through hosting nonpartisan candidate and issue-based forums and sharing accurate voting information to residents.
- Neighborhood beautification, accessibility, and safety initiatives which include our Spring Spruce Up and Autumn Alley Clean Up events driving individuals to improve their properties and a security rebate for lower-income residents.
- Partnerships with entities that enhance our neighborhood. Past partnerships include:
 - Minneapolis Water Works to organize volunteers to plant and maintain landscaping at the base of the Washburn Water Tower.
 - Justice Page Middle School where we provided vital funding support throughout the renaming process and new exterior murals that celebrate the school's new identity.
 - LaMac Dry Cleaners, Windom Community Council, and the City of Minneapolis partnered to assist the cleaner in removing PERC from their process. We won the 2018 Green Business Partnership Award for this work and played a role in helping the city to be 100% PERC free.

Approved by the Tangletown Neighborhood Association Board of Directors on November 16, 2021