



MASLA members wanted for Mayor Rybak's Great City Design Teams:

MASLA has been assisting the Minneapolis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in the Mayor's effort to "reweave" the City. Five Minneapolis neighborhoods have been chosen to receive assistance from the design teams. We need to identify 15 volunteers for each team to assist with the design/ planning process to assist each neighborhood with their project.

The time commitment will vary from project to project, but could entail a couple of community meetings and/or design charettes. A process for each project will be more clearly defined by the team leaders to outline potential time commitments.

Nicollet Avenue and 18th Street Co-Leaders Destin Nygard and Jeremiah Sagel – A Design Team will work with Stevens Square Community Organization to re-vision Nicollet Avenue just south of I-94 including the Johnson Meat site, which is essentially a vacant city block on the east side of Nicollet. The goal of this project is to provide the community with more affordable housing ownership, add essential businesses (grocery store, bank etc.), develop mixed-use buildings on Nicollet Avenue and improve Nicollet Avenue's perception. This Design Team will explore ideas for the Mall Center, which includes a one-story mall with several small businesses and a community garden, and the Strip Mall, which has a single-level strip and interior mall with small businesses that come and go every few years. Additionally, the Team will study options for the vacant building at 1911 Nicollet Avenue and several nearby surface parking lots.

46th Street S. and 46th Avenue E. Co-Leaders Paul May and Kathy O'Connell– A Design Team will work with Longfellow Community Council on the area along E. 46th Street between 46th Avenue S. and the Ford Bridge in order to create a landmark gateway into Minneapolis and the Longfellow community and link to City development efforts at the 46th Avenue light rail station. Longfellow hopes to find more ways to reach Minnehaha Park from all directions and evaluate opportunities for signage, landscaping, boulevard treatment and monuments. The project hopes to look at how landscape and design enhancements can provide a higher-quality environment for pedestrians and bicyclists, make Minnehaha Park more of a regional recreational destination and make general aesthetic improvements. Lastly, the project will look to better educate residents about the history and amenities the Longfellow area has to offer.

40th Street and Lyndale Avenue S. Co Leaders Adam Arvidson and Christine Albertson– A Design Team will work with the 40th and Lyndale Task Force to study options for the 40th and Lyndale Avenue S. intersection, which currently houses two Super America gas stations across the street from each other. Earlier this year one of the gas stations closed and stands empty with a vacant lot next to it and the remaining station is outdated and poorly designed. The 40th and Lyndale Task Force wants the Design Team to help them develop a vision for the intersection, with a primary goal of creating a proposal for land use that reflects the interests of the residents and takes into account proposed street design changes on Lyndale. The design proposal document would be presented to East Harriet Farmstead and Kingfield neighborhood associations, City Council representatives, Super America, and other commercial property owners at the intersection.

Central Avenue NE and NE Lowry Avenue Co-Leaders Neil Weber and Wynne Yelland – A Design Team will work with Northeast Chamber of Commerce to study the SE corner of Lowry Avenue and Central Avenue, where a fire destroyed three businesses and nine apartments in May 2005. A large hole in the ground now exists where the corner buildings once stood. Central Avenue is Northeast's Main Street, is a major bus line and is a candidate for a streetcar line. The Northeast Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce hopes the Design Team can help bring fresh perspective on how to fill the hole on the southeast corner of the intersection and help local business owners and residents come to an agreement on development for the corner.

Penn Avenue N. and N. Lowry Avenue Co-Leaders Raymond Dehn and Wayne Olson – A Design Team will work with Cleveland Neighborhood Association to envision a vibrant community space on the northwest corner of Penn and Lowry Avenues in north Minneapolis by building a vibrant public space that opens up Cleveland Park and creates a stronger neighborhood identity. This intersection has supported small businesses within a walk-able community in the past, but Lowry Avenue is being reconstructed and many businesses will relocate. As a result, the northwest corner of the Penn/Lowry intersection will need to be redeveloped to provide the community with businesses they need and integrate the interests of property owners after the reconstruction. The vision for this site hopes to maximize development planned for the intersection and explore creating a green gateway to the park, along with a four-story mixed-use building on the corner and a future bus rapid transit station.

More information on AIA Minnesota's website at
<http://www.aia-mn.org/chapters/minneapolis.cfm>

Let Ellen Stewart know which project you are interested in by
February 23rd 612.252.9070 or estewart@landformmsp.com

