

Cedar Riverside Neighborhood - Existing Land Use



Legend (Click here to view glossary)

Low-Density Housing (up to 20 DU/acre)	Congregate Living	Cultural/Entertainment	General Industrial
Medium-Density Housing (20-50 DU/acre)	Commercial	Transportation/Communication/Utilities	Parks/Open Space
High-Density Housing (50-120 DU/acre)	Mixed Use	Public/Institutional	Light Industrial
Very High-Density Housing (>120 DU/acre)	Vacant		

Locations of Existing Resources

- Brian Coyle
- Riverside Plaza
- Cedar 4-2-5

City of Minneapolis
Community Planning and Economic Development
Data as of: January 2010

Connecting the Dots: Empowering Young Adults in Cedar Riverside

Young adults living in Cedar Riverside want to be successful in life, but may lack the vision, confidence, role models, and support to get on a productive path. For those who are still in high school, many have aspirations to score highly on the ACT and go on to college. Others want to travel, land a good-paying job, or start families. Some become involved in gangs or criminal activity because they lack alternatives. Coordinating resources and improving communication to better serve young adults needs to be a priority for organizations working within Cedar Riverside.

This document summarizes feedback from young adults and organizations engaged with them, and offers suggestions to deliver short and long-term solutions to meet their needs.



Figure 1 - Word cloud of interview text from conversations with Cedar Riverside residents and service providers

Project Origin and Key Questions:
In January 2014, the Cedar Humphrey Action for Neighborhood Community Engagement (CHANCE) hosted a forum during which community leaders identified a common desire to understand the issues facing young adults age 18 to 24 and how they could be better served.

To accomplish this goal, the CHANCE team worked to answer four primary questions:

- How many young adult permanent residents are there in the neighborhood?
- What existing assets for this age group can the community leverage or build upon?
- What do youth and adult service providers identify as needs for 18-24 year olds?
- What strategies could be implemented to empower young adults to achieve their goals?

The Cedar Riverside Partnership and the West Bank Community Coalition were partners on this project, and are positioned to follow up on recommendations with action steps.

“I just need the connections to make things happen.”

“I want the University of Minnesota to notice me.”

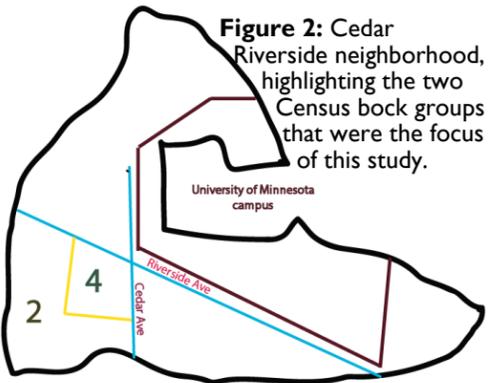
“I want to get a 30+ on the ACT.”

“Youth in the community need to have a seat at the table.”

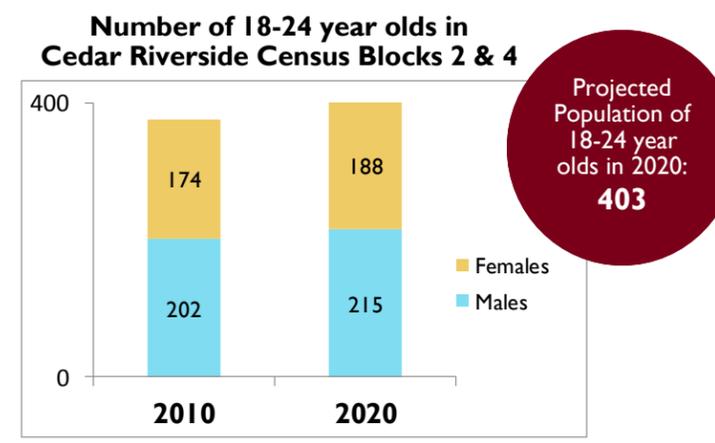
“The neighborhood needs a guidance counselor— a safe place to talk.”

How many young adults are there?
Effective action to solve a problem depends on knowing the magnitude of that problem. To better understand the challenge of meeting the needs of 18-24 year olds, we analyzed Census data and project the number of young adults with permanent addresses in Cedar Riverside.

These young adults live primarily in two blocks in the neighborhood, concentrated in the shadow of one of the best institutions of higher education in the world. Providing access to opportunities for this age group seems feasible.



Within the blocks, there were 1,437 residents under 25 year according to the 2010 Census. Our best estimate is that approximately 400 young adults ages 18-24 will be living in those blocks of Cedar Riverside in 2020, less than 1% the number of students who attend the University of Minnesota.



*Some Cedar Riverside residents we spoke with believe that these numbers may be inaccurate due to underreporting in the 2010 Census.

Listening to Community Voices:

Community residents agree— youth aged 18-24 want and need new opportunities to engage in the workforce and higher education. Through interviews, focus groups and informal canvassing with over 80 individuals in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood, three key themes emerged— access, opportunities and entrepreneurship.

Community Conversations	One-on-One Interviews: 18 people	Youth Focus Groups: 39 people	Informal Canvassing: 35 people
	Hussein Ahmed: West Bank Community Coalition Andrea Arts: Brian Coyle Center, Pillsbury United Communities Linda Bryant, Mohamed Ali: EMERGE Faith Cable Kumon: Cedar Riverside Partnership Andi Cheney: Bedlam Theater	FANS (Furthering Achievement Through a Network of Support): 9 Youth	Riverside Plaza
	Pastor Jane Buckley-Farley: Trinity Lutheran Church Ahmed Hersi, Seyou Nurie: Riverside Plaza Tenant's Association Matthew Hold, Rich Thomasgard: African Development Center Mohamed Jama: RPTA/Cedar Riverside Youth Council Ben Marcy: University of Minnesota Carla Nielson: Minneapolis Police Department	Sisterhood of the Traveling Scarf Advisory Committee: 13 Youth	Local cafes
	Molly and Tim Paulson: Cedar 425 Youth Center Marcela Sotela: Abdi Warsame's City Council Office Rachel Svano: Augsburg College - Sabo Center	Oromo Youth Group, Trinity Lutheran Church: 2 Youth Cedar Riverside Youth Council: 15 Youth	Cedar 4-2-5 space

What assets exist for young adults in Cedar Riverside?

There are a number of resources in the community to serve the entrepreneurial, educational, recreational and leadership development needs and interests of youth. These include:

- Youth Social Entrepreneurship Programs: Sisterhood of the Travelling Scarf, Triple C Coffee Cart
- College Preparation: Furthering Achievement Through a Network of Support (FANS)
- Workforce Development: Cedar Riverside Partnership Scrubs Camp, EMERGE, City of Minneapolis STEP-UP, RENEW
- Religious organizations: Mosques, Trinity Church Space, House of Hope Cedar 4-2-5 space
- Arts and Cultural Organizations: Mixed Blood Theatre, Ka Joog
- Leadership Organizations: Cedar Riverside Youth Council
- Cultural assets: Political engagement, intergenerational households, entrepreneurial spirit, aspirational mentality



What are the needs identified for this age group?

Workforce Development	Internships, job readiness programs Hiring events and job fairs Transportation to jobs Additional youth entrepreneurship opportunities
Education	Exposure to educational options ACT prep classes Admissions, financial aid, scholarship information
General	Mentorship and leadership training Life skills and personal connections

Through conversations with community members, a number of ideas converged among young adults and advocates. The individuals we spoke with recognized the benefits of the existing programs in the neighborhood, but confirmed the absence of sufficient opportunities for post-high-school age youth. Existing programs are serving 40-60 youth, only about 10% of those who will be college-age in 2020.

Community members told us that providers working in the neighborhood are eager to increase capacity to serve young adults, but resources are quite limited. These providers may be able to leverage additional resources and increase collaboration if they have solid and ongoing relationships with one another.

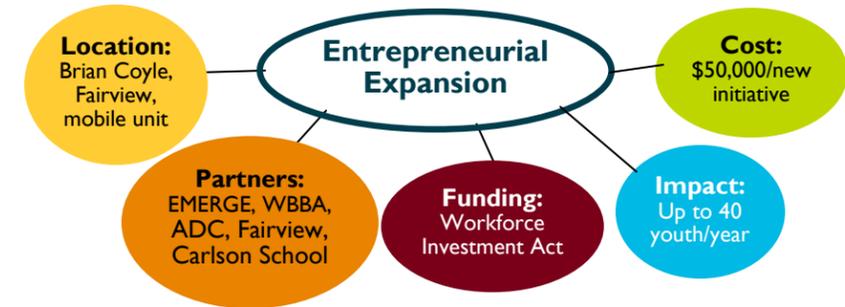
What strategies could be implemented to create empowerment opportunities?

Expand job training and entrepreneurship opportunities in the neighborhood

The young adults of Cedar Riverside have engaged in two entrepreneurial efforts with the assistance of the staff of Pillsbury United Communities, but one- the Triple C Coffee Cart- is closed due to a lack of funding. The latest venture - Sisterhood of the Traveling Scarf- provides job training and mentorship to approximately 15 girls in the neighborhood. Additional entrepreneurial ventures could be created to serve an additional 40-60 youth annually.

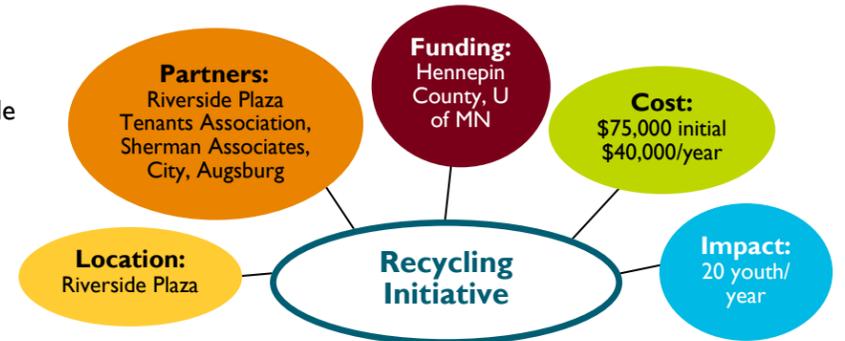
Coffee, Scarves & Sambusas

Increased impact could be achieved by modeling new youth social entrepreneurship programs such as reinvigorating the Coffee Cart, inviting a program like Cookie Cart to expand into the neighborhood, or creating a new venture like a mobile Sambusa Stand near the light rail station to take advantage of increased visitors to the neighborhood.



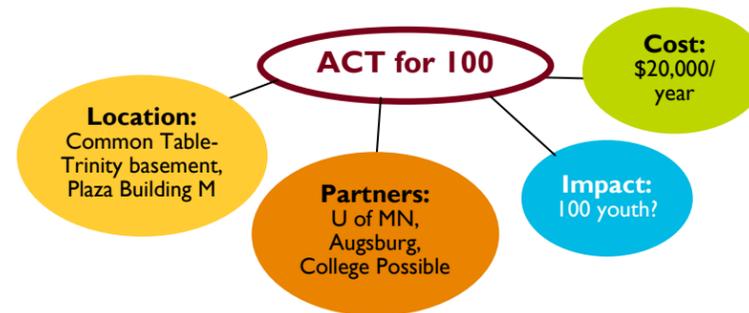
Pick-Me-Up Recycling Initiative

Due to a lack of infrastructure and awareness, and interest on behalf of the City and County, recycling isn't currently available in the Riverside Plaza towers. There is an opportunity to provide workforce development in property management and connect with resources from Hennepin County to design a recycling program in Riverside Plaza.



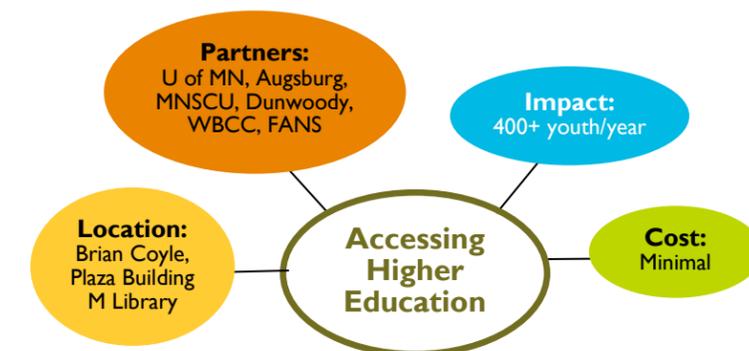
Proactive Preparation for Higher Education

These two recommendations will help young adults proactively prepare for higher education and understand the admission and financial aid processes. An early intervention strategy aimed at high school students will give them options for careers that pay the wages necessary for economic stability later in life.



ACT for 100

While ACT prep is offered at Minneapolis high schools, the programs are often full or un-affordable for low-income families. More students will take advantage of the training if a convenient, no-cost option is available. We recommend delivering free ACT prep classes in Cedar Riverside utilizing resources from the University of Minnesota, Augsburg College, or College Possible.



Accessing Higher Education

Despite physical proximity to a number of educational institutions and an interest among youth in attending college, young adults in the community don't have access to those resources. We recommend planned, regular exposure to both the closest higher educational institutions but also various technical and community colleges and vocational training opportunities. The schools need to take the lead on scheduling semi-annual visits at key recruiting times.