In Memoriam: Kris Nelson

We are deeply saddened to report the loss of our dear colleague and friend Kris Nelson, who passed away in his sleep on the morning of Friday, June 17, 2011. A native of Indianapolis, Kris came to the Twin Cities in 1975 for an internship with the City of Minneapolis, working to create live-work spaces for artists in the Warehouse District. He continued this work as founding director of Artspace Projects, a nonprofit developer of arts space, and later served as director of the Whittier Alliance neighborhood group, where he helped to pioneer many now-common neighborhood revitalization strategies. Kris came to CURA in 1993 to serve as director of neighborhood programs. He worked tirelessly to ensure that faculty and students at the University of Minnesota and other Twin Cities colleges and universities responded to the research needs of neighborhoods, rather than merely using neighborhoods as research laboratories.

A memorial program for Kris will be held at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs on October 11, 2011, from 3–5 pm, with a reception to follow. Details about the memorial will be posted soon on the CURA events calendar at www.cura.umn.edu.

Kris touched the lives of many people in the Twin Cities metro area, and he will be deeply missed.