VISION:
“The University District will be the subject of joint efforts to preserve and maintain a vital, safe, and attractive community that will be a premiere destination and choice of a place to live, learn and work”
The University DISTRICT

- Neighborhoods surrounding the U of M in Minneapolis and the campus itself, positioned on the Mississippi River and at the center of the metropolitan area

- Center of learning and discovery, arts music, performances – historic neighborhoods and architecture, international communities, natural corridors parkways, bike routes, walking trails, river boating, where youth and history meet.
Background and History

- **May 2006**
  Legislature approves new stadium funding – directs a study “to assess the impact of the University on the surrounding community and the relationship of the community to the University.”

- **January 2007**
  Neighborhoods, the University, and the City of Minneapolis present an impact report: “Moving Forward Together” to legislature

- **May 2007**
  Legislature appropriates $750,000 for the work of an alliance

- **September 2007**
  Alliance steering committee membership is determined.

- **December 2007**
  Alliance steering committee convenes and begins work.
Partnership ALLIANCE

Charge to the Alliance from the Legislature:

“...facilitate, initiate, or manage projects with the University, City, or other public or private entities that are intended to maintain the district as a viable place to study, research and live.” and report progress to the Legislature by January 15, 2009
Goals for Alliance
from the Impact Report

• Preserve, maintain and increase home ownership in the district.

• Reverse the growing trend to convert owner occupied housing to rental property.

• Promote the District as a premier place to live, work, do business, and learn.

• Show how these and other livability goals can be accomplished by working cooperatively as an alliance.
Goals for Alliance

short term (2008)

• Formalize the alliance to plan and implement actions in the University District

• Follow-up on early initiatives
  - Housing inspections and enforcement
  - U student education on housing

• Prepare to present a progress report to the legislature
  - Plan and implement a demonstration project
  - Develop a comprehensive vision statement
  - Identify partners and resources
The Alliance Steering Committee

• Neighborhoods
  – Marcy Holmes: Arvonne Fraser
  – Southeast Como: Wendy Menken
  – Prospect Park: Dick Poppele *
  – West Bank Coalition: Doris Wickstrom
  – University neighborhood: Ron Lischeid

• Businesses
  – Dinkytown: Skott Johnson
  – Cedar Riverdrside: Mark Johnson
  – Stadium Village: Nancy Rose Fribyl
  – SE Business: Michael McLaughlin

• University of Minnesota Students
  – MSA: Adam Engelman
  – GAPSA: rep to be named

* Steering Committee Co-Chair
The Alliance Steering Committee

continued

• City of Minneapolis
  – Cam Gordon, Council Member Ward 2
  – Diane Hofstede, Council Member Ward 3
  – Mike Christenson, Director, CPED

• University of Minnesota
  – Thomas Sullivan, Provost
  – Karen Himle*, VP University Relations
  – Brian Swanson, Office of Budget and Finance

* Steering Committee Co-Chair
Alliance work groups

Steering Committee

Demonstration: Identify and implement specific Demonstration projects

Current Initiatives: City: inspections, rental licenses. Students: rental education and community citizenship

Vision & Planning: Develop a clear and comprehensive statement of vision

Partners: Identify partners and financial resources

THE ALLIANCE
A UNIVERSITY DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP
Current Work

• Demonstration projects:

  – **Preserving and Maintaining Homeownership**: Initially targeted to the SE Como and Marcy-Holmes neighborhoods, for continued owner occupancy through options to buy mechanism. Homes will be purchased and then marketed to potential owner occupants.

  – **Homebuyer Incentives** Provide down payment assistance for any owner occupied home purchased in the University District.

  – **Live Near Your Work** A website providing information about homeownership opportunities and the benefits of living in the University District.
Current Work

• **Early Start:** Housing inspections and enforcement

  – **Rental property.** Inspections were completed on all 1 to 3 unit rental dwellings in the District, and the City has passed a new ordinance requiring inspections for all properties converted from owner occupied to rental.

  – **District Zoning and Planning Review.** A task force staffed by several City departments together with neighborhood and business representatives will determine where zoning, regulatory, or ordinance changes may be needed to meet the unique demands of the University District.

  – **Moratorium on demolition and new building.** A one-year halt on demolition and construction of 1 – 4 unit buildings will provide “breathing space” for the zoning and planning review.
Current Work

- **Early Start: U student education on housing**
  - Safety, Civility, Livability and Student Engagement: A Campus Community Coalition for Safety, Civility, and Livability has been created-- includes students, business owners, campus neighbors, police, and University staff.
  - Student Liaison program. U’s Office of Student Affairs has hired 20 student leaders who reside in the neighborhoods to serve as facilitators and liaisons among student tenants, their neighbors, and community organizations.
Current Work

• Vision/Planning:

  – Basic Vision Statement: developed around the basic elements of – Who and what is the District - The unique sense of place - What it will become and how it will get there. This was the subject of a series of ads in *The Bridge* community newspaper.

  – A Conceptual District Plan. A shared vision among District partners and communicated to other potential partners and investors - It includes an overall District theme based on sustainable development.
Current Work

- **Vision/Planning:**
  - **Communication Plan.** Communicate the objectives of the Alliance to the University District using full page ads in *The Bridge*. Develop informational materials for communication with larger community.
  - **District workshops.** To implement the planning process by bringing together District stakeholders to discuss current plans and issues involved in developing a District master plan.
  - **CURA Housing Forum.** on Community Development in the University District, hosted by CURA and the Alliance. It compares the Campus Partners of Ohio State University with the University District Partnership Alliance of Minnesota.
Current Work

• **Partners:**
  
  – An important part of the demonstration is to leverage the Alliance partnership and its legislative dollars.
  
  – Additional partners who share in the overall Alliance goals are being identified and additional sources of funds and staffing are being sought.
  
  – These are expected to support the high priority, year-one projects of the Alliance in the form of public partners and resources for funding.
Long Range Goals

• Develop an operational structure for the Alliance, and develop a longer range strategy to reach livability goals.

• Focus on livability issues such as education, transit, design, and development.

• Bring together University, Public Schools, Community groups to develop a common vision for a complete learning environment in the University District.

• Develop a University District master plan based on bottom-up planning and a green and sustainable over-riding theme.

• Establish a formal University District with special services, regulations, and capabilities that provide a legal structure for the implementation of the Alliance vision.
Participation

- Steering committee – 18 hours of formal meetings since January 2008
- Work groups – formal weekly and biweekly meetings with volunteers, partners and friends of the Alliance, plus many frequent sub-group meetings
- Friends of the Alliance – from City, neighborhoods, University and business – all participating on work groups
- Partners of the Alliance – Institutions and organizations in and around the University District – currently working on Alliance goals.
- Staff support from University, City and neighborhoods
University District Map

• The neighborhoods that make up the University District