Each issue of the CURA Reporter features a few capsule descriptions of new projects under way at CURA. The projects highlighted in this issue were made possible through one of CURA’s community-based research programs, which provide graduate-student assistance for community-based applied research projects, program planning and development, and other short-term projects. These projects represent only a portion of those that will receive support from CURA and its partners during the coming year.

**Immigrant and Ethnic Farming Traditions in Frogtown.** The mission of Frogtown Gardens is to grow a greener, healthier community by protecting greenspace, promoting household and community gardening for food, and advocating for sustainable development in the neighborhood. Frogtown Farm is envisioned as a demonstration farm within a park, in which the farming traditions of the many diverse cultures in the neighborhood are showcased and celebrated. To accurately present these traditions, Ryan McLaughlin, a student in the University of Minnesota’s Law School, will interview residents from various ethnic groups and collect oral histories about their respective gardening, farming, and cooking traditions. The project will provide a valuable record of immigrant and ethnic traditions that may be dying out and that have not been recorded by the Minnesota Historical Society. In addition, the histories will inform the planning and design of culture-specific demonstration gardens in the future Frogtown Farm. **Program:** Kris Nelson Neighborhood Research Program

**Multijurisdictional Housing Authorities and Regional Housing Development Organizations in Greater Minnesota.** Greater Minnesota Housing Fund is a nonprofit organization with a mission to invest in affordable housing and sustainable development to strengthen communities in greater Minnesota. Minnesota has scores of very small housing and redevelopment authorities (HRAs) whose existence is threatened by the prospect of future budget cuts. Many HRAs have identified economies of scale and a potential for greater impact by operating across multiple jurisdictions. Rachel Fang, a Ph.D. candidate in the Housing Studies Program in the College of Design at the University of Minnesota, will document how multijurisdiction HRAs in Minnesota transitioned from single-jurisdiction agencies into multijurisdictional entities. The research will be used by Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, Minnesota Housing, and the Minnesota chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (a statewide housing and redevelopment authority organization) to share lessons learned and best practices to assist local housing organizations to think creatively and collaboratively about their future. **Program:** Community Assistance Program

**Winona County Organic Food Composting Feasibility Study.** Winona County is a government agency that serves rural and urban communities in southeastern Minnesota. The County owns property that community and market gardeners use to grow fresh produce, and the soil needs regular enrichment to increase the nutrient value to support these crops. Commercial food industries and institutions in Winona County are seeking ways to compost their organics rather than disposing of them as solid waste. To address both these needs, the County intends to establish a composting program. Aron Reser, a graduate student in the Master of Public Affairs program at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School, will research and outline the requirements, costs, and process for creating a successful sustainable organics compost operation. Winona County and other stakeholders will use this information to evaluate the feasibility of an organic composting site, what resources would be needed, and how it would benefit the community. **Program:** Community Assistance Program

**Responsive Affordable Housing Redevelopment: Involving Neighbors in Shaping Priorities and Assessing Outcomes.** Project for Pride in Living, Inc. (PPL) is a community-development corporation dedicated to helping low-income individuals and families develop the tools they need to achieve self-sufficiency through a broad range of integrated programs and services. Although the organization has long maintained that residents and neighbors are in the best position to assess the true community impact and quality of a housing development, PPL has no systematic way to capture and respond to the knowledge of these critical stakeholders. Kirsten Anderson, a Ph.D. student in evaluation studies in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota, will create a study methodology and survey tools to capture the perceptions of neighbors around recently completed PPL redevelopment projects in north Minneapolis. The insight gained through these surveys will equip PPL to better address and respond to the development priorities of residents. **Program:** Communityuniversity

**Implementation of the Seclusion and Restraints Law: Progress and Barriers.** The National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota is a statewide, grassroots, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults living with mental illnesses and their families. Across the country, a movement is growing to decrease the use of seclusion and restraints in hospitals, treatment facilities, community programs, and schools. In Minnesota, legislation passed in 2008 limits the use of seclusion and restraints by child community mental-health providers. Under the new law, every school must develop a plan that includes a list of procedures they will use, how the restrictive procedures will be monitored and reviewed, and how staff training will be documented. Because schools are not required to report information to the state, methods do not exist to assess implementation. Sonal Markanda, a Ph.D. student in educational psychology in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota, will survey school districts about their implementation of the new law. The results will be documented in a report to the legislature, advocacy and
The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs supports research and technical assistance through a number of individual programs, each with its own deadlines and application procedures. If you represent a community organization or government agency and are unsure which program listed below is most suitable for your project proposal, simply complete a general Community-Based Research Programs Application Form at www.cura.umn.edu/cbr and we will route your request to the appropriate program.

- The Community Assistantship Program (CAP) matches community-based nonprofit organizations, citizen groups, and government agencies in greater Minnesota with students who can provide research assistance. Eligible organizations define a research project, submit an application, and if accepted, are matched with a qualified student to carry out the research. The application deadline for fall semester 2012 assistantships (September through mid-January) is June 30, 2012. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with applications, contact CAP coordinator Will Craig at 612-625-3321 or wcraig@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cap.

- The Community University Program funds quarter-time graduate-student assistantships for one semester to help community-based nonprofit organizations or government agencies with a specific project. The application deadline for fall semester 2012 assistantships (September through mid-January) is June 30, 2012. For more information, contact CURA community programs assistant Jeff Corn at 612-625-0744 or curacbr@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/communiversity.

- The Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing trains people to work effectively in organizing and staffing neighborhood organizations. It trains new organizers and increases the skills of existing neighborhood staff through internships, workshops, and other programs. For more information about the program and the training opportunities available, contact Jay Clark at 612-625-2513 or clark037@umn.edu, or Margaret Kaplan at 612-624-2300 or mkaplan@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/mcno.

- The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CGIS program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CGIS program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.

- The Community Research and Planning Program (CRPP) supports research and planning for community-based organizations, citizen groups, and government agencies in greater Minnesota with students who can provide research assistance related to Metropolitan Area. For more information, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.

- The Communing Community Resource Assistance (CRA) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CRA program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CRA program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.

- The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CGIS program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CGIS program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.

- The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CGIS program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CGIS program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.

- The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CGIS program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CGIS program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.

- The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CGIS program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CGIS program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.

- The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CGIS program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CGIS program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.

- The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CGIS program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CGIS program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.

- The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CGIS program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CGIS program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.

- The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CGIS program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CGIS program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.