Engagement Plan

Neighborhood: South Uptown Years: 2023- 2024

Targeted Demographic Group: Renters

Numbers/ Percentage: 76% of resident households/ 70% of residents/ 4,340 residents Program: Renter Outreach

Barriers

- Renters on average live in South Uptown for shorter periods of time and often are unfamiliar with the South Uptown neighborhood and neighborhood association.
- Many apartment buildings have security access limiting ability to door knock.
- Many young renters in the neighborhood work evenings and weekends when neighborhood meetings and events take place.
- The COVID pandemic is unpredictable and may make it difficult to engage neighbors through in-person interactions.

Engagement Strategies

- Social media campaigns to target renters including activation of the South Uptown Insta Gram account.
- Neighborhood mailings, flyering and door knocking to reach renters with materials about South Uptown programs and activities.
- Partnering with apartment management companies to access buildings, drop materials and host pop-up events.
- Targeted renter outreach during South Uptown meetings and events.
- Conduct renter focus groups to determine concerns, barriers to participation and interests.
- Tailoring events to appeal to renters.

Resources

- Flyers, brochures, postcards & door-knocker printing.
- Food & refreshments for meetings, events and pop-up activities.
- Gift cards for focus group participants. (non-City funds)

Partners

- Apartment Owners/ Management Companies
- Minneapolis Parks/ Bryant Square Park.
- South Uptown Board of Directors
- South Uptown Livability & Engagement Committee
- Homeline and other nonprofits that support renter rights.

Person Responsible: Scott Engel, Executive Coordinator

- Board of Directors
- Livability & Engagement Committee

Timeline 2023:

January- March

- Schedule 2023 event calendar and social media plan.

- Create 2023 South Uptown brochure.
- Make connections with apartment owners/ management companies.
- Plan new events and activities to engage renters such as renter rights workshops.
- Organize Luminary Skating Party, Chili fest and happy hour events and engage with renters as they happen.
- Recruit renters for spring focus group.

April- May

- Host renter focus group.
- Organize Earth Day Clean Up and happy hour events, and engage with renters as they take place.
- Begin door-knocking campaign and pop-up events at larger apartment buildings.
- Analyze results of renter focus group and use results to recruit renters for the Board and committees.

June- August

- Organize Bryant Square Park Concert Series and Garden Tour, and engage with renters as they take place.
- Host pop-up events to engage renters.
- Continue door-knocking campaign.
- Recruit renters to run for the Board.

September October

- Host South Uptown Annual Meeting and use the event as a way to engage renters.
- Orient newly-elected Board about renter engagement efforts and discuss goals for improvement.
- Organize Fall Clean Up and happy hour events, and engage renters as they take place.

November- December

- Assess results of 2023 and create 2024 timeline.

Quantitative Goals

- Maintain strong renter participation on the South Uptown Board. Goal to maintain or increase level of participation.
- Goal to increase renter participation in all South Uptown committees by the end of 2024.

Qualitative Goals

- Increase engagement with and awareness of the South Uptown Neighborhood Association.
- Build a sense of community and neighborhood identity for renters.
- Address issues identified by renters through engagement.

Outcomes

- More South Uptown renters are engaged and participate in the South Uptown Neighborhood Association.

Next Steps

Livability & Engagement Committee determines first steps to target renters.--.

Demographic Group: people of Color

Number/ Percentages: People of color make up 18% of South Uptown residents. This includes about 6% African American, 6% LatinX, 4% Asian and 1% multi-racial. 1,100 residents

Program: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Activities

Barriers:

- Participation in the South Uptown Neighborhood Association has been made up mostly of white residents, so the organization may not be seen as a safe place by people of color.
- It is not clear where individual people of color live in South Uptown as residents are spread throughout the neighborhood in hundreds of different homes, condos and apartment build-ings.
- About 70% of South Uptown residents are renters who often live for short periods of time in the neighborhood.
- COVID is unpredictable and it has the potential to make in-person engagement difficult.

Engagement Strategies

- Implement continued Diversity, Equity & Inclusion training for the Board.
- Assign a DEI Officer from the Board to guide efforts...
- Work towards addressing issues from the 2022 South Uptown DEI Action Plan.
- Assess social media and the website to ensure it is up to date, includes resources relevant to people of color and is welcoming to all residents in South Uptown.
- Assess community events and meetings to make them more accessible and welcoming.
- Host a focus group of POC residents.
- Implement the Renter Outreach program since many people of color in South Uptown are renters.
- Reach out to local businesses owned by people of color to understand their issues and address them when possible.

Resources

- Flyer, brochure, postcard and door-knocker printing.
- Food & refreshments for meetings, events and pop-up activities.
- Gift cards for focus group participants (non-City funds).
- DEI consultants/ guidance.

Partners

- South Uptown Board
- South Uptown Committees
- Neighborhood businesses
- Area nonprofits.
- Area business organizations.

Person Responsible: Scott Engel, Executive Coordinator

- Board of Directors
- Board DEI Officer

Timeline 2023 January- March

- Board reviews the DEI Action Plan and determines the first strategies to implement.
- Draft DEI statement of inclusion to guide future direction.
- Schedule DEI training.
- Develop Board demographic survey.
- Organize Luminary Skating Party, Chili Fest and happy hour events, and engage with POC while they take place.
- Schedule performers for the Bryant Square Park Concert Series ensuring a diverse mix of music that attracts and engages POC.
- Review and revise website and social media to ensure inclusivity.

April-May

- Begin renter door-knocking campaign and engage with POC.
- Recruit for and host a POC focus group.
- Engage POC business owners in South Uptown and highlight them through social media.

June- August

- Organize Bryant Square Park Concert Series and engage BIPOC while they take place.
- Continue door-knocking campaign and engage with BIPOC.
- Recruit BIPOC residents to run for the South Uptown Board.

September-October

- Host South Uptown Annual Meeting and use the event as a way to engage POC neighbors.
- Orient new Board of Directors to DEI activities and priorities.
- Board elects DEI officer.
- Board Members complete demographic survey.

November- December

- Assess efforts to engage POC and develop 2024 timeline.
- Host Board of Directors Retreat to discuss DEI and determine priorities for 2024.

Quantitative Goals

- Increase the number of people of color applying for and participating on the South Uptown Board by the 2024 Annual Meeting.
- Count the number of BIPOC attending events/ meetings in 2023 and increase the attendance for 2024.
- Ensure full completion of Board demographic survey.

Qualitative Goals

- Become a more welcoming and inclusive organization.
- Increase the sense of community and neighborhood identity for all South Uptown residents.

Outcomes

- More people of color feel engaged and become involved with the South Uptown organization.

Next Steps

- Board of Directors chooses next steps from the DEI Action Plan to work on first.
- Board of Directors selects options for continued DEI training.

2025 Amendment

South Uptown

TIMELINE

2025 Timeline

January - March

- Schedule 2025 event calendar and social media plan.
- Create 2025 South Uptown brochure. Highlight diversity in promotional materials and ensure accessible language and translation availability.
- Host Luminary Skating Party, Chili Fest, and Happy Hour events as a means to engage renters.

April - May

- Host Earth Day Clean Up and happy hour events as a means to engage renters.
- Organize and begin pop-up events and activities to engage renters. Ensure pop-up events occur at varied times and locations, with translation and accessibility options. June - August
- Host Bryant Square Park Concert Series, Garden Tour and happy hour events as a means to engage renters.
- Continue renter pop-up events and engagement activities.
- Host a workshop on board leadership for renters from diverse backgrounds.
- Recruit renters to run for the Board of Directors.

September - October

- Recruit renters to run for the South Uptown Board.
- Host South Uptown Annual Meeting and use the event to engage with renters.
- Orient new Board about renter engagement efforts and discuss strategies to increase participation.
- Host Fall Clean Up and happy hour events as a means to engage renters.

November - December

- Host a Board Retreat to discuss renter engagement next steps.
- Assess renter engagement efforts to inform next steps. Involve diverse renter voices in assessing engagement efforts and shaping the 2026-2028 plan.
- Develop a new Equitable Engagement Plan for 2026 2028, and consider strategies to better engage our diverse renter population.

GOALS

1. Maintain strong renter participation on the South Uptown Board of Directors.

- 2. Maintain and increase renter participation on South Uptown committees.
- 3. Address issues identified by renters through engagement activities.

4. Increase participation and leadership opportunities for renters from diverse racial, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds.