# **Engagement Plan**

Neighborhood

Fulton

**Time frame** 2023-2024

# Plan detail

| Demographic group                              | Tenants                   | People of Color, disability, 65+                           | FNA Board               |
|--|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Numbers or percentage                          | Renters: (13.6%)          | People of color: (11.5%)  Disability: (6.4%)  65+: (15.8%) |                         |
| Initiative,<br>activity, project<br>or program | Tenant Engagement Program | Community Listening  | Welcoming Board Culture |

# Barriers to engagement

- Accessing apartments/rental units
- Transient population
- Lack of connection to neighborhood
- Feeling unwelcome at meetings
- Topics are oriented to homeowners or do not resonate with renters
- Meeting times inflexible and may not align to nontraditional work hours
- Unclear paths to engagement

- Feeling unwelcome at meetings and in community in general
  - ex: formal board atmosphere may feel intimidating, confusing, or boring
- Topics that don't resonate or alienate residents
  - Ex: topics may focus more on homeowners and home improvement vs. topics of affordability which may be more interesting to renters
- Historical institutional exclusion
- Unclear paths to engagement

- Resistance to change
- Incorporating new habits

# Outreach and engagement strategies

- Fulton Welcome packets to renters (mug + coffee – using non-City funds)
  - Connect with property managers/owners
  - Purchase a list of all rental properties for direct engagement with residents.
- Hold focus group with renters to better understand their perspective and needs
  - Focus group will be an informal space and we will provide food using non-City funds
- Build relationship with renters by being in spaces they may already be
  - Advertise focus groups at laundry mat on 50/Xerxes and coffee shops
  - Continue FNA presence at Pershing Park events (community event held 3rd weds of each month)
  - Continue FNA presence at Farmers Market, which is located steps from a bus stop, in a Church and Sr. Living Community parking

- 2022: send survey to residents to best understand current experiences, barriers, and interests.
- Survey will be sent out in the mail, and residents can complete it via QR code or a paper copy of survey
- We will provide paper copies of the survey to The Waters, a senior living community
- Survey will provide a baseline so that we can understand everyone's experiences, and also measure progress year over year
- Since many underrepresented groups in our neighborhood don't have specific gathering places, the best way to hear from the most people is through a survey

## 2023:

- Board will create specific strategies to further engage and build relationships with these residents based on survey feedback. Strategies we already plan to pursue include:
  - Building relationships with The Waters by connecting with their social coordinator and

Use of <u>Racial Equity Toolkit</u> to align board work

FNA has been doing ongoing work since 2021 to create a more welcoming board culture, and will continue this work going forward.

#### We:

- Added use of Instagram and increased use of facebook to reach wider audiences
- Our social media voice is casual and less formal, highlighting things that would most interest our community and framing board meetings as more for community meetings vs. formal board events.
- Holding annual meeting at restaurant to make it a more informal and social event

## New strategies will be:

- Use Racial Equity Worksheet when reviewing survey data and incorporating new outreach strategies
- Board creates equity statement
- We will ask all committees to answer this question, with a goal of all committees considering how they can

| lots. FNA committees table there 9+ times/year | dropping off our printed newsletter  Continue to evaluate our community events to create a variety of ways for community members to connect (happy hour, neighborhood tours, connecting with farmers market)  Incorporate accessibility questions into all event planning | engage all community members: How do you engage with community members who are renters, 65+, BIPOC, or those who have disabilities? |
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| Resources                | <ul> <li>Staff time</li> <li>Contact information for property owners/managers</li> <li>Printing</li> <li>Postage</li> <li>Gift cards for participation (using non-City funds)</li> <li>Flyers with neighborhood organization information</li> <li>Welcome Kit materials</li> <li>Food</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Printing</li> <li>Postage</li> <li>Staff time</li> <li>Survey monkey account</li> </ul>                      | Staff time     Survey Monkey Account                |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| Partners in the work     | Neighborhood Roots, Southwest<br>Business Association, Hennepin<br>County Library, Pershing Park   | Pershing Park, Neighborhood Roots,<br>FNA's Racial Equity Committee, The<br>Waters                                    | FNA's Racial Equity Committee,<br>Pershing Park     |
| Person(s)<br>responsible | <ul> <li>Paid Independent         Contractor/staff         FNA Board, Racial Equity         Committee     </li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>Paid Independent         Contractor/staff         FNA Board, Racial Equity         Committee     </li> </ul> | <ul><li>FNA Board Chair</li><li>FNA Board</li></ul> |

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Jan.-March: Draft language for flyer and letters; Send letters to property managers and/or owners;

April-May: Send tenants flyers/mail; post flyers in laundromat; Follow-up phone calls;

May-July: Host focus groups

Jan-Dec: focus small group outreach within existing events, programs, communications, etc.

2024: Outreach based on focus group findings

January-March: create survey; create language for marketing

April-June: collect survey responses and analyze data

July-September: determine actions and next steps; draft plan for 2024

October-Dec: Adopt 2024 plan and finalize 2024 planning

- November: Braver Angels Facilitation
- Dec-February: Create and adopt equity statement
- January-March: ask committees how they do engage or plan to engage underrepresented groups
- Increase in social media followers and newsletter subscribers will happen throughout the year by doing the following:
  - Mentioning enews and social media in quarterly printed newsletter and at events
  - Mention social media in enews
  - Mention enews in social media

| Quantitative<br>goals | <ul> <li>Hold focus group with 5-8 tenants</li> <li>Provide welcome kits to 50% of new tenants</li> <li>Increase tenant representation on the board and committees in 2023</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Ongoing survey questions we<br/>can measure progress on over<br/>time: I feel welcome in my<br/>neighborhood; I know how to<br/>be engaged in neighborhood<br/>decision-making, etc.</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Implement equity statement</li> <li>Track who attends our events</li> <li>Implement standard survey to give out after every FNA event</li> <li>Add 100 followers to both Facebook and Instagram.</li> <li>Add 10 people to our email</li> </ul>   |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|
|                       |   |  | distribution list  |
| Qualitative<br>goals  | <ul> <li>Learn about what tenants care about in the neighborhoods</li> <li>Create and build connections with tenants</li> </ul>   | Understand barriers to participation   | <ul> <li>Board adopts equitable practices</li> <li>Committees consider how they engage community members and change strategies</li> <li>Create board practices and approaches that are more welcoming and inclusive for all residents</li> <li>Consistently implemented questions "who benefits from this?" "Who is burdened"</li> </ul> |

| Outcome of engagement | More representation of tenants on neighborhood board and/or committee membership  More tenants receive neighborhood organization updates, newsletters and other information  Tenants have the knowledge and ability to become involved in the organization and in decision-making  Issue is identified in the community | Increase understanding of challenges and concerns of underrepresented populations within Fulton.  Identify actions and priorities FNA can take to engage these groups and support equity. | All residents of Fulton feel welcome at Board meetings and are able to engage with board activities. |
|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| Next steps            | Community conversations around issues identified to discuss issues further, come up solutions and possible program implementation.  | Drafting community listening survey   | Implementation of new processes  |

## 2025 Amendment

Fulton

## **TIMELINE**

January-March: Neighborhood meetup - TBD

April 20th Earth Day (Park clean up and engagement events)

**Community Dinner** June 18th June 25th **Community Dinner Community Dinner** July 9th July 16th Ice Cream Social July 23rd **Community Dinner** July 30th **Community Dinner** August 6th **Community Dinner** August 13th **Community Dinner** August 20th Chili Cook Off September 13th Fulton Fall Festival October 8th **Annual Meeting** December Date TBD Caroling

## **GOALS**

- 1. Increase renter engagement by increasing communication that is most critical to renters (identified via door knocking campaign).
  - a. Consistent quarterly newsletter
  - b. Increase social media following. Sept 2024: 427 Instagram followers, FB 693 followers
  - c. Maintain consistent posting on social media
  - d. Increase e-news subscribers. Sept 2024: 1,094 contacts
- 2. Provide weekly opportunities to connect with neighbors during the summer months while providing Community Dinners
- 3. Invest in Fulton Neighborhood merchandise and brand enhancement
- 4. Engage in cross-neighborhood collaboration Ongoing
- 5. Provide neighborhood meetups during the winter that focus on increasing engagement with 65+ residents. Success will be measured with pre/post numbers for each of the above (minus newsletter measured by 4 newsletters in 2025)