



The Bancroft Banner

A newsletter for the Bancroft Neighborhood

Winter 2023 • Vol. XXXIII, No. 1



Our BNA team is growing!

Meet Mickella, our new Community Organizer. She lived in Powderhorn for seven years and has been organizing in South Minneapolis for almost as long. She is joining our team with a focus on deepening the collective anti-racism work in our community and supporting BNA's outreach efforts. She LOVES community organizing and is excited to connect with Bancroft neighbors. Feel free to reach out to her and say hi! She can be reached at mickella@bancroftneighborhood.org.

Root 2023 in Anti-Racism

Bancroft is proud to be a part of The South Central Minneapolis Anti-Racism Collective. Together, we are pleased to present Undoing Racism Workshops throughout the upcoming months in partnership with People's Institute for Survival and Beyond.

Attend a workshop in February to analyze structures of power and privilege that hinder equity, and prepare to be an effective organizer for justice. Participants will experience a humanistic process for laying a foundation to explore how we have been radicalized, socialized, and conditioned to think about race and racism.

If you're interested, the next one-day online 'Appetizer' Undoing Racism Training will be on February 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. over Zoom. Contact [mickella@bancroft-](mailto:mickella@bancroft-neighborhood.org)

[neighborhood.org](mailto:mickella@bancroft-neighborhood.org) if you're interested in attending.

All workshops are lead by trainers form the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond.

The South Central Minneapolis Anti-Racism Collective is a partnership of Bryant, Bancroft, Central, and Powderhorn Park neighborhoods, the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, and Hennepin County (Angela Conley, District 4). These four neighborhoods meet at the intersection of George Floyd Square (38th Street and Chicago Avenue in Minneapolis, MN where, on May 25, 2020, George Perry Floyd Jr. was murdered by the hands of the Minneapolis Police).

We have a vision of an Antiracism Zone across our four neighborhoods. Will you join us?



Minneapolis streetlights: Brighter isn't better

By Todd Burlet

Minneapolis will be investing millions of dollars in its streetlights over the next few years. The updated wiring and the transition to LED fixtures will improve reliability and save energy, but it's critical that the city pick the right LED fixtures. Unshielded or partially-shielded 'horizontal cutoff' fixtures will shine bright light into yards and homes, creating an unwelcoming outdoor environment that will disrupt neighborhood life, while the light shining through windows will disrupt sleep. Poorly shielded light also shines in the eyes of drivers and pedestrians, reducing public safety, and also dazzles the eyes of residents, reducing their ability to see any threats hidden in the shadows. For these reasons, full cutoff (not just horizontal cutoff) lights are what residents deserve.

Residents also deserve warm-color lights below 3,000 Kelvin (K).

Higher temperature lights, such as 4,000K emit a lot of blue light which shuts down melatonin production. Melatonin is the body's master 'sleep' signal, and without it sleep is disrupted. In the short term this leads to daytime sleepiness and brain fog, but in the long term it can lead to serious health problems including cancer, diabetes, obesity, and bipolar depression. In cities where 4000K lights have been installed residents report the harsh blue light makes them feel like they're in a prison, and in some cities the residents have forced the city to make costly retrofits to replace the 4000K lights with healthier, more welcoming 3000K lights. Minneapolis should protect the health of its residents and avoid a costly retrofit by installing 3000K or lower fixtures.

The city can go even further to improve its streetlights by using widely-available smart lights. Smart lights with timers can be bright during hours with high traffic, and then dim

late at night when few cars are present. Smart lights with motion sensors can be dim when no one is present, but can instantly switch to full brightness when a pedestrian approaches. Intelligent 'on demand' lighting solutions will save the city money over time, and will reduce the demand for electricity, while also ensuring light is there when we need it.

Minneapolis residents deserve reliable LED streetlights, but to protect the health and safety of residents and the vibrancy of neighborhoods those LED streetlights need to be fully shielded (not just horizontally shielded), warm color 3000K or lower, and they need to be smart lights that provide light when and where it's needed, instead of blazing at full brightness when no one is present.

Are you interested in learning more about the effects of improper lighting? If so, contact the BNA office as we are looking at putting together an information session.

Help support the BNA with a tax-deductible donation!

We warmly appreciate any amount you wish to give.

Yes, I want to support my neighborhood. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift. (Check one)

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$35 \$_____ other

Please sign me up to receive the *Bancroft Banner* newsletter (we will never give away your address).

Name(s) _____

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Please make checks payable to BNA and send to:

Bancroft Neighborhood Association
4120 17th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407

BNA Calendar

*All BNA meetings will continue to be held online. Call the BNA office at 612-724-5313 or email info@bancroftneighborhood.com for meeting information.

February

Black History Month

- 2 Board Meeting
- 13 Outreach Committee
- 14 Valentines Day
- 20 President's Day

March

Women's History Month

- 2 Board Meeting
- 12 Daylight Savings Begins
- 20 Outreach Committee
- Spring Equinox

April

Stress Awareness Month

- 6 Board Meeting
- 17 Outreach Committee
- 18 Tax Day
- 20 BNA Annual Meeting
- 22 Earth Day

Did you know...

You don't need to have a Facebook account to access neighborhood information on BNA's Facebook page. All information is public, so check us out today at: facebook.com/bancroftneighborhood

Save the Date!

The BNA Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Look for more information about the event in the next Bancroft Banner.



Powderhorn Art Fair call for artists

The Powderhorn Art Fair is a fine art and fine crafts event, celebrating 32 years on August 5 & 6, 2023 in Powderhorn Park. If you're interested in exhibiting at the fair, find more information and express interest at powderhornartfair.com/exhibit. Applications across all categories are currently open and close on February 28, 2023. The Powderhorn Art Fair is open to individual artists, collectives, galleries, and organizations. Artists should apply for the category that best fits them. Questions can be directed to Ashley at 612-722-4817. (Photo by David Pierini.)



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Newsletter Staff

Luke Stultz, *editor*
Holle Brian, *production*

For information, or to receive your copy of the *Banner*, write:

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Bancroft Neighborhood Association
4120 17th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

phone 612-724-5313 / fax 612-724-3694

e-mail info@bancroftneighborhood.org
www.bancroftneighborhood.org

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Great Streets Facade Improvement Program

Neighborhood business districts are the front door of our neighborhoods. A welcoming, vibrant business district sends a powerful, positive message, just as a poorly maintained or vacant row of storefronts conveys a negative impression.

The Façade Improvement Matching Grant Program works to revitalize and sustain the economic vitality of the city's businesses and commercial districts through public/private investments in façade projects for commercial properties.

Currently BNA administers the Great Streets Facade Improvement Grant for the City of Minneapolis. Depending on the geographic location, businesses could receive up to \$10,000 toward their project (with between a 1:0.5-1:2 private match). If you or someone you know is a business owner and would like more information on the grant, please contact the BNA office.

Youth job opportunities through STEP-UP

STEP-UP is a summer jobs program for Minneapolis youth, ages 14-21. After STEP-UP interns complete training, they are eligible to work for pay at Minneapolis businesses and nonprofit organizations to gain job experience, explore career interests, and build professional skills. More information, including eligibility requirements, can be found at www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/step-up or by contacting Tammy at 612-673-5041.

Bancroft In Brief

Youth programming

BNA has been focusing more on youth programming throughout every season of the year. Perhaps you've seen the youth out shoveling this winter? There are a team of 12 youth, ages 14-17, who have been doing a great job not only shoveling for the homes in the shoveling program, but also for those in need along the way.

This summer we'll be doing some more programs for youth—from gardening, to tapping maple trees and making syrup, to beekeeping, and more. In order to make the most out of the gardening program, we are looking for residents with space in their back yards that they'd like to offer the youth to grow vegetables. If you're interested please contact the BNA office for more information.

City of Minneapolis videos online

You can learn about City services and programs in English, Hmong, Spanish, and Somali in a series of short videos available on YouTube at [youtube.com/cityofminneapolis](https://www.youtube.com/cityofminneapolis) and on City cable channels 14 and 79. Topics covered include snow plowing, shoveling, 3-1-1, public safety, city council meetings, and more.

Community garden plots

BNA oversees the community garden located at Bethel Lutheran Church on 16th Avenue and 40th Street. There are 13 garden plots that are 10 feet x 20 feet, and currently a few are available to rent for this grow-

ing season. There is a \$30 fee, plus a refundable \$50 deposit, for each plot which includes water, access to seeds, and various plant donations. There is a limit of one garden plot per household and preference is given to Bancroft residents. If you're interested, contact the BNA office. Eligible people will be notified by April.



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