



Cultural Placekeeping Meeting 2 Summary

METRO Blue Line LRT Extension (BLE)

6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 600, St. Louis Park, MN 55426 www.bluelineext.org

Meeting Overview

DATE: JUNE 25, 2025

LOCATION: ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH, ROBBINSDALE

This second meeting of the Cultural Placekeeping Design Group convened community members, artists, and city representatives for a shared meal, introductions, a brief presentation, and in-depth small group discussions. The goal was to continue co-developing the process for this work as well as initiate conversations on cultural themes and placekeeping opportunities for station areas throughout the corridor.

Agenda Summary

SHARED MEAL + INTRODUCTIONS (15 MIN)

- Participants had time to connect, meet new group members, and ground themselves in the shared goals of the design group. Community members were provided binders to hold printed materials from meetings and provide space for notetaking if desired.

BRIEF PRESENTATION (25 MIN)

- **Activities Overview:** Introduction to the two primary engagement activities: *Mapping the Work* and *What Belongs Here*.
- **Approach + Resources:** Reviewed the evolving process timeline, explained resource tools available for developing cultural themes, and emphasized the open, iterative nature of this work. Introduced the Social Pinpoint website developed for this group to connect outside of our set meeting times.
- **Link to Social Pinpoint Site:** <https://engage.mendcollaborative.com/bluelineplacekeeping>
- **Breakout Groups:** Participants were divided into two small groups based on geography: (1) Brooklyn Park/Crystal and (2) Robbinsdale/Minneapolis.

SMALL GROUP BREAKOUTS (75 MIN)

Each group engaged in two activities:

- **Mapping the Work** focused on identifying desired outcomes at each stage of the process, resource/tool needs, outreach approaches, and collaboration preferences.
- **What Belongs Here** prompted participants to name people, places, events, identities, and values that should be honored and preserved within each community.

Brooklyn Park/Crystal Small Group Highlights

MAPPING THE WORK & TOOLS NEEDED:

- July Focus: Cultural celebrations and representations by station area; use of zoo census data, aerials, plan views, and community surveys (Dream Team, Jewel of the North).
- August Focus: Begin integrating plan views and 3D visualizations.
- Desired tools include visual layouts and cultural data to guide next phases.



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH APPROACHES:

- Engage youth through Brooklyn Bridge for Youth survey.
- Incorporate findings from Jewel of the North community goals report.
- Desire to remain in North/South groups throughout this process.

CRYSTAL – WHAT BELONGS HERE:

- **People/Places to Honor:** Crystal Frolics, park systems, multicultural community, VFW car show, lakes and trails, Crystal Aquatic Center.
- **Themes to Reflect:** Trail and park connections, strong homeownership, Crystal Airport connection, family friendly.
- **Preserve:** Safety, long-term community ties, welcoming environment.

BROOKLYN PARK – WHAT BELONGS HERE:

- **People/Places to Honor:** North Hennepin Community College, Ebenezer Church, African and Hmong communities, Juneteenth, Liberian Independence Day, Hmong community events, farmers markets, indigenous communities, charter schools, park facilities, Center for Asian and Pacific Islanders – World Refugee Day.
- **Themes to Reflect:** Immigration, migration, cultural diversity, collective resourcefulness.
- **Preserve:** Authenticity, cultural respect, community as a safety net.

Robbinsdale/Minneapolis Small Group Highlights

GENERAL DISCUSSION THEMES:

- Emphasized making Elim a visibly inclusive space (signage, language access, accessibility, no religious affiliation required).
- Suggested outreach methods: flyers, station-specific short events, and block party.
- Called for compensation and meaningful recognition of Northside involvement.
- Importance of meeting people where they are, not just inviting them in.

MAPPING THE WORK & TOOLS NEEDED:

- July–November Timeline:
 - July: Identify core themes, prep outreach materials.
 - August–September: Finalize themes, refine and develop opportunities.
 - October–November: Finalize design elements and celebrate the process.
- Suggested tools:
 - Preview materials before meetings. Prepare members for discussion prior to meeting times for deeper engagement.
 - CURA research, cultural history summaries from historical societies along the corridor, Northside archives, Minnesota Storytellers Association



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUGGESTIONS:

- Events like Whiz Bang Days, West Broadway Open Streets, repurpose a Cultural Placekeeping meeting as a block party in Elim parking lot, concert series throughout the corridor, North Memorial Manor Park events.
- Use public events to collect cultural theme/icon ideas for artistic translation
- Identify “containers for culture” (food, music, language, etc.) to spur public outreach feedback
- Involve multi-generational and multi-abled community members
- Consider community newspapers and a texting line for feedback

ROBBINSDALE – WHAT BELONGS HERE:

- **People/Places to Honor:** comic origins, rail history, Terrace Theater
- **Themes to Reflect:** First-ring suburb identity, walkability, emerging diversity
- **Preserve:** Local businesses, Victory Parkway, inclusive character

MINNEAPOLIS – WHAT BELONGS HERE:

- **People/Places to Honor:** JXTA, Cottman family, Black and Native artists, North Loop, civil rights legacy, music (Prince, Dylan), Capri Theater, Minneapolis Sound, Flow Northside Arts Crawl
- **Themes to Reflect:** Minneapolis Sound, food justice, youth engagement, rail development
- **Preserve:** Black and Hmong cultures, public art, youth spaces, neighborhood history

Next Steps

- Incorporate feedback into theme development and station-specific design opportunities.
- Refine outreach materials, including possible handouts, signage outside the event, and digital formats to support inclusive participation.
- Prepare for deeper community engagement in upcoming months.
- Continue theme co-development using tools, events, and networks identified by participants.