



Cultural Placekeeping 6/25/2025 Meeting

METRO Blue Line LRT Extension (BLE)

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

General Summary:

Attendees: Joshua Uloth, Costanza Carballo, Jan Peterson, Heather Rand, Richie Song, Etta Gbeizon-Bornor, Cara Donavan, Rattana Sengsoulchanh, Adrian Lowe, Philli Irvin, Ilan Gordon, Jonathon Hansen, Felicia Perry, Richielieu Morris, Zoe Levin, Ryan Kronzer, Lyssa Washington, Vivian Jefferies, Sandy Meulners, John Sutter, Colin Owens, Amáda Márquez Simula, Marlissa Karpeh

Brooklyn Park/Crystal Small Group Feedback

TIMELINE / MAPPING THE WORK

- What do you want to achieve at this stage?
 - July – Celebrations/representations station by station
- What tools do you need / how do you want to use them?
 - July:
 - Zoo census data
 - Aerials, key landmarks within walking distance
 - Dream Team survey/report
 - Plan view layouts
 - August:
 - Plan view layouts
 - 3D renders
- How do you want to be involved with community outreach?
 - Brooklyn Bridge for Youth – youth survey
 - Jewel of the North goals survey/report
- How do you want to work together?
 - Stay in North/South groups for the entire project
 - Brooklyn Park/Crystal and Robbinsdale/Minneapolis

CRYSTAL – WHAT BELONGS HERE

- What people, places or events should be honored here?
 - Crystal Aquatic Center
 - Crystal Frolics
 - Park system
 - Multicultural identity
 - Great place to raise a family
 - Municipal airport, Father's Day plane rides
 - VFW car show
 - Stop on New London to New Brighton car run
 - Lakes, trails, park system – two major trails join (or will join) in Crystal
- What stories or identities should this place reflect?



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- Where pathway connections happen (trails, Becker Park, nature)
- Majority homeownership (80% single family, 92% owner occupied)
- What about this community should never be lost?
 - Homey, safe, a place to build a nest
 - Long-term community connections
 - Arrival, airplane landing

BROOKLYN PARK – WHAT BELONGS HERE

- What people, places or events should be honored here?
 - North Hennepin Community College – represents Brooklyn Park's diversity
 - Ebenezer Community Church (93rd station) – celebrates independence of all cultures
 - Honoring Indigenous community
 - Asian/Hmong communities
 - African communities
 - Represent current community
 - Celebrate and explore history of a younger suburb
 - Immigrant community – many first settled here, large part of business community, symbol of unity
 - 1 in 5 residents are from outside the U.S.
 - Juneteenth
 - Liberian Independence Day
 - Hmong Explore Your Parks Day
 - Farmers markets – NHCC and Dragon Star Market
 - World Refugee Day = CAPI (Center for Asian and Pacific Islanders)
 - NHCC Cultural Resource Fair or Health Fair?
 - Charter schools (Excel, Prairie Seeds, Athlos, wrestling school)
 - Zanewood
 - Northview
 - Park Center (ISD 279)
- What stories or identities should this place reflect?
 - Immigrant story, migration, integration of identities (1980s migration)
 - Blossoming of new opportunities
 - Community-provided resources (monetary, career, consultation, food)
 - Culturally rich community
 - Melting pot
 - Liberian culture cloth
- What about this community should never be lost?
 - Preserving authenticity, sense of community, respect
 - Mutual respect, welcoming
 - Safety net of home
 - Celebration of cultures and their interconnected migration



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Robbinsdale/Minneapolis Small Group Feedback

GENERAL FEEDBACK

- Need to communicate that Elim is an accessible, open-minded, friendly, and welcoming location – no need to be religious.
- What *don't* we talk about when we talk about culture?
- Cultural prompt: *Where are we at? Where are we going?*
- Clarify that there are no right or wrong answers, especially during public outreach activities.
- Identify wayfinding opportunities – direct people toward trails and destinations.
- DREAM BIG.
- Idea to create a small, single-sheet handout to invite others to join.
 - Include that this is a 5-meeting commitment (once per month).
 - The group wants broader representation.
- Could also promote these meetings as “20-minute conversations per station” so time commitment feels more manageable—people could tune in just for the station(s) they care about.
- Community involvement on the Northside really adds up fast.
 - Would like compensation.
 - This project is a huge deal for the Northside and they shouldn't have to settle—we are asking for what we need and want.

INVITING PEOPLE TO THESE MEETINGS

- How do people feel they belong in this space?
- The Northside is overburdened with community engagement requests.
- Kenna Cottman is a great resource for ensuring events are accessible and welcoming—she is an expert in this area.
- How do we invite people while making it clear that there is no need to be religious to attend?
 - Space matters.
 - No affiliation with ICE.
 - Ensure meetings are language- and ability-inclusive.
 - Communicate that this is an accessible and welcoming space.
 - Post signage outside the event that *everyone is welcome* (even though it's on church property).
 - The project team should directly communicate that the space is welcoming.
 - Alternatively, meet people where they are rather than expecting them to come to these meetings.

LOWRY STATION

- How do we approach culture and placemaking in such a complex intersection of culture?
 - It can't be everything.

TIMELINE / MAPPING THE WORK

- What do you want to achieve at this stage?



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- July:
 - Consensus on initial themes
 - Review/input on materials for outreach
 - Name the “containers” for culture (e.g., food, music, religion, language) as a springboard for outreach
 - August:
 - Finalize themes
 - Dig into opportunities (allow room for iteration and refinement)
 - Review/input on materials for outreach
 - September:
 - Draft of opportunities/applications
 - Review/input on materials for outreach
 - October:
 - Final draft of opportunities/applications
 - November:
 - Finalize process / celebrate
- What tools do you need / how do you want to use them?
 - Preview of topics/research ahead of each meeting—helps participants prepare and provide meaningful feedback
 - Get input from neighborhood and cultural groups per station—ask them to provide themes for that specific area
 - **July/August – Theme Development Needs:**
 - CURA research (speaker?) – Greg Donofrio?
 - Info from historical societies along the corridor—consider a one-sheet overview with deeper reference links
 - MN Storytellers Association
 - Voice of Culture
 - Northside Archives
 - Drum and Dance
 - Ancestor Puppet
 - August/September/October – Opportunities Development:
 - Break down what elements will be present per station (e.g., stamped concrete, fencing?)
 - How do you want to work together?
 - No specific responses

COMMUNITY OUTREACH INVOLVEMENT

- Camden Days (mentioned, but need to confirm existence/details)
- Use “containers” for culture as a springboard for outreach
- Talk to multigenerational and multi-abled community members
- Robbinsdale Whiz Bang Days – July 10–15, 2025
- Summer concert series along the corridor
- Host a block party in Elim’s parking lot to reach more people



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- West Broadway Open Streets – September 20, 2025
- North Memorial Manor Park events
- Community newspaper advertisements
- Text line for public input
- Gather ideas from community for cultural icons
 - Artists can translate icons
 - Co-develop themes from outreach outcomes
- Use a chart/range of icon/theme ideas at events, with fill-in-the-blank space for new ideas
 - Bring input back to meetings to refine direction

ROBBINSDALE – WHAT BELONGS HERE

- What people, places or events should be honored here?
 - Birthplace of the comic book company that became Marvel
 - Grand Rounds / Victory Memorial
 - Rail / tram history
- What stories or identities should this place reflect?
 - Robbinsdale was Minneapolis' first suburb
 - Terrace Theater – beloved mid-century theater that was torn down
- What about this community should never be lost?
 - Walkability and small local businesses
 - Victory Memorial Parkway
 - Diversity (Robbinsdale has become more diverse over time)

MINNEAPOLIS – WHAT BELONGS HERE

- What people, places or events should be honored here?
 - Creativity and storytelling (concept)
 - JXTA
 - Comic books
 - Various artists
 - African American, Native American contributions
 - Bill and Beverly Cottman / the Cottman family
 - Black-owned businesses
 - North Loop
 - Warehouses/storage
 - Transition from warehouses to today
 - Civil rights movement
 - Music
 - Prince



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- Minneapolis sound
- Bob Dylan
- What stories or identities should this place reflect?
 - Origin of the Minneapolis sound
 - Capri Theater
 - Food justice
 - Project Sweetie Pie
 - Youth Farm
 - Green Garden Bakery
 - Appetite for Change
 - Organizations that employ youth
 - Rail history – passenger rail and trams critical to city development
 - FLOW Northside Arts Crawl – 3-day art festival
 - Balance of historical context and current population
 - Plymouth Avenue history (station concept)
 - Silhouette of Prince at North Minneapolis station
- What about this community should never be lost?
 - Black culture
 - Hmong culture
 - History of the area
 - Public art
 - Spaces for youth