December 23, 2020

Greetings South Side neighbors and Healthy Neighborhood Project partners!

As we write this update, we wish you all happy holidays. As many of you know, members of the Healthy By Design Coalition, South Side neighborhood organizations, leaders, and residents alike have been working together for the last 4 years to develop and implement a healthy neighborhood plan for the triangle. During that time, the Kresge Foundation, a national philanthropic foundation, provided our group with grant funds to make this project happen, and at the end of this month, that grant is ending. We actually never expected this funding to last more than a year, so the fact that Kresge kept supporting us for 3 more speaks highly of the excitement they witnessed happening on the South Side! We want to assure you that our Coalition and partners are committed to continuing to work together with residents to support the Bright Side of the Tracks, through newsletter updates, a few additional projects, and of course, the Gardeners’ Market at South Park.

On that note, here are several project updates we are eager to share with you!

**South Sidewalks**
Winter arrived a little sooner than expected and can’t seem to make up its mind on whether to stay or go. This has delayed the installation of the first round of sidewalk poetry, but as soon as it warms up for several days in a row, Knife River will get them installed. Rather than delay phase 2 of the project, the sidewalk poetry review committee has selected 7 more poems to be stamped into neighborhood sidewalks this spring. Poets will be working with former Montana poet laureate, Tami Haaland, to fine tune their submissions and we will share the final poems with you in spring 2021. (Photo: Final poetry stamps waiting for installation)

**South Side Stories**
Our podcast producers, Joe and Kayla, are putting the final touches on the two episodes that go alongside the walking routes. These will be added to our website soon! This winter, the Western Heritage Center is also working to create a digital version of their South Siders exhibit. Their South Siders display banners are also available for groups to check out. Contact Cecelia Gavinsky, archives@ywhc.org, 256-6809 Ext 122, to learn more.

**Grocery Store**
The grocery/neighborhood market committee continues to meet monthly to figure out this project! CLDI is in the process of acquiring a potential property and the committee has been tasked with envisioning how to use that space in a creative, sustainable way. We are currently reaching out to organizations in town to provide business planning support and workforce development partnership ideas.

**Bright Side Businesses**
South Side businesses are encouraged to take the Bright Side Business pledge! This free initiative recognizes business for their demonstrated commitment to making the South Side a healthy, more vibrant neighborhood. [Find out more!](#)
Remaining Funds – *drumroll* Survey Results!

Last month, we asked residents and project partners to submit ideas for use of our remaining funds via surveys. Here are the results!

Partner Projects:
- South Park Senior Center – Freezer to support meal donations and delivery to senior citizens on the South Side of Billings
- Project Lunch/Project Love – Art kits to go along with meals distributed to keep families fed during COVID-19, many of whom live on the South Side
- Friendship House – Lighting and a cement pad for the community greenhouse, which is currently located at the Senior Center and moving to Friendship House soon
- Gratitude in Action – Supplies for their serenity garden at 136 Viceroy
- Northern Plains Resource Council – Support for renovation of their outdoor community space, to include partnership with a South Side artist

Resident-Generated Projects – Coming 2021!
- Brighten Up Fund – Funds to support events, clean-ups, matching funds for placemaking grants, and other resident or agency-generated projects (application coming soon)
- Community information board

On Deck for Spring 2021
- Grocery store/neighborhood market planning
- Sidewalk poetry installation
- Two final box wrap installations at South Park (selected in 2019, delayed due to COVID and weather in 2020)
- Brighten Up fund
- Community information board

Again, we hope everyone has a wonderful new year and look forward to working together in 2021!

Healthy Neighborhood Project Staff
on behalf of the Healthy By Design Coalition

The Healthy Neighborhood Project is a collaboration of the Healthy By Design Coalition, made possible with funding from the Kresge Foundation. This e-newsletter will go out to anyone who has been involved in the project since summer 2016 and those who signed up to receive updates, including both organizational representatives and community residents. If you have any questions, comments, or something you would like to share related to this project or the South Side triangle, or if you would like to unsubscribe, please contact Melissa at info@hbdyc.org or 651.6569