
CURA Annual Report, 2013-2014

The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) was created in 1968 to connect the University of Minnesota with the community and issues facing the state. This report summarizes the activities during the past year. For more information on any of the programs listed, visit our website at cura.umn.edu.

This is the third year CURA has used this format to present an annual report. The report provides an overview of more than 230 projects and events CURA conducted last year. These projects engaged nearly 70 different University departments/programs and more than 200 different local and state community organizations.

Research Projects: 86

33 Faculty and Graduate Student Research Projects

4 Faculty Interactive Research Program.

Competitive program that supports public policy research on issues of significance to Minnesota communities

- ▶ John A. Arthur (Department of Sociology and Anthropology, UMD), Structural and Individualistic Determinants of Access to Healthcare Services: A Case Study of Somali and Sudanese Immigrants and Refugees in Duluth, Minnesota
- ▶ Karen Gran (Department of Geological Sciences, UMD), Identifying and Mitigating Impacts from Expanding Urbanization to Duluth-Area Streams
- ▶ David Karjanen (Department of American Studies), Fringe Banking and Low-Income Communities in the Twin Cities
- ▶ Phyllis Moen (McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair, Department of Sociology), Minnesota Boomers at Work/in Transition

1 Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs.

Endowed chair honoring Bert Fesler and Jacob Lampert

- ▶ Hari Osofsky (Law School), Fostering Suburban Climate Change Efforts in the Twin Cities

1 Dissertation Research Grant.

Provides one year of support to a doctoral student to complete work on an issue of local significance.

- ▶ Daniel Nidzgorski (Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior), Green Cities and Clear Waters: Can Urban Trees Help Protect our Lakes and Streams?

10 Hennepin-University Partnership.

Facilitates strategic connections between Hennepin County and the University of Minnesota that support collaborative research, sharing of expertise, and student field experiences.

- ▶ Tim Sheldon (Center for Applied Research & Educational Improvement) Be@School Evaluation

- ▶ Ryan Allen (Humphrey School) Tax Forfeited Properties
- ▶ Amy Susman-Stillman (Center for Early Education and Development) Smart Play Spot Evaluation
- ▶ Mary Marczak (Extension, Center for Family Development) Drug Use Trends in Hennepin County
- ▶ John Gulliver, Bill Arnold and Lev Khazanovich (Civil Engineering) Literature review for feasibility of photocatalytic concrete use in Minnesota
- ▶ Yingling Fan (Humphrey School) Evaluation of Hennepin County Community Works Program
- ▶ 4 student research projects

17 Resilient Communities Projects.

For the City of North Saint Paul—works with one city partner per year to facilitate faculty-supervised course-based projects that meet city-identified sustainability needs

- ▶ Addressed 17 issues raised by the city. Projects ranged from facilitating aging in place, implementing a living streets project, establishing guidelines for community gardens, and creating adult environmental education programs to creating live/work housing, investigating a business improvement district to spur downtown revitalization, evaluating current city government communications efforts, and developing an emerald ash borer management plan.
- ▶ Involved 27 different courses over two semesters (37 unique project-course matches)
- ▶ Included 17 different departments in 10 different colleges plus UMD

53 Community-Based Research Projects.

(200+ hours per project of mostly graduate school assistance to nonprofit and government organizations)

36 Kris Nelson Community-Based Research Program

(Twin Cities metropolitan areas)

17 Community Assistantship Program

(Greater Minnesota)

Technical Assistance Projects: 188

74 Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing.

A total of 18 training sessions and 56 significant projects serving 64 different organizations

- ▶ Ned Moore - 9 trainings and 19 projects
- ▶ Jay Clark - 9 trainings and 37 projects

82 Community GIS.

Maps and other projects for community organizations requiring 5+ hours effort per project.

3 Charles R. Krusell Fellowship in Community Development.

Three organizations supported by graduate students of color enrolled in the Humphrey School.

15 Neighborhood Partnership Initiative.

Provides grants up to \$10,000 to community-based organizations and/or artists working to build vibrant neighborhoods that engage their diverse residents, build neighborhood resiliency, and increase the collective efficacy and action in a place.

4 CURA:Tech.

Small planning grants funding collaborations among diverse communities in the Twin Cities to design, create, and deploy civic technology tools and practices.

10 Hennepin-University Partnership.

HUP responded to specific requests from seven different county departments.

Public Events: 23

10 CURA-organized events

- ▶ Anchoring Equity: Minnesota's Tomorrow. March 2014: 240 attendees. (Neeraj Mehta with Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation, Nexus Community Partners, Northwest Area Foundation and The McKnight Foundation)
- ▶ Housing Forum: Two events with an average attendance of 50 people
- ▶ CURA:Tech: Two-day Human-Centered Design workshop on strategies for designing civic technologies (40 attended), and four collaboration sessions to develop proposals (average of 15 people at each) Spring 2014
- ▶ Community-Based Research Workshops. Two events with a total attendance of 25 people
- ▶ Minnesota Foreclosure Roundtable with Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, MN Housing and Minnesota Foreclosure Partners Council, February 2014 (25 people attended)

7 CURA co-sponsored conferences

- ▶ Policy Analysis Conference. October 2013 (provided scholarships for three organizations)
- ▶ Twin Cities Media Alliance Fall Forum: Getting the Word Out. November 2013

- ▶ Federal Housing Policy Forum. December 2013
- ▶ Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy forum on Race, Climate and Community Health. January 2014
- ▶ Minnesota Evaluation Studies Institute, March 2014 (provided scholarships to six organizations)
- ▶ North Minneapolis Vacant Lot, Urban Agriculture Assessment. April 2014
- ▶ Using Community Data to Enrich Community Development Efforts. May 2014

3 Hennepin-University Partnership events

- ▶ Ripple Effect Mapping. September 2013 — 40 people attended
- ▶ Family Shelter Dialogue. December 2013 — 42 people attended
- ▶ Diversity and Inclusion Exchange. April 2014 — 90 people attended

3 Resilient Communities Project

- ▶ RCP-North St. Paul Kickoff Event, September 2013, 50 people attended
- ▶ RCP-North St. Paul Community Open House, October 2013, 70 people attended
- ▶ RCP-North St. Paul End-of-Year Celebration, May 2014, 90 people attended

CURA Projects by Research Area			
14	Arts and Culture	24	Government and Public Policy
128	Communities and Neighborhoods	13	Health, Human, and Social Services
30	Economic Development and Employment	40	Housing
13	Education	15	Land Use and Population
35	Environment and Energy	37	Sustainability
19	Evaluation and Assessment	27	Transportation
13	Geographic Information Systems and Technology	85	Underserved and Disadvantaged Groups

CURA in the News

CURA projects, programs, and staff were featured in 20 local, state, and national news stories. Links to the news stories featuring CURA can be found on the CURA website at www.cura.umn.edu/about/newsmakers.

Student Counts: 508

83 Individual research. Students are hired by CURA to work on specific community-based or university-led research projects.

358 Class research projects. Students work on class projects that enhance their understanding of the material. Projects are proposed by community organizations. Student projects are graded by the instructor.

67 Other

- 60 Volunteer tutors for high school students
- 7 Facilitated agency hires. Known instances where CURA helped an agency find and hire a university student to work on a specific project.

Academic Departments and Programs Supported: 70

University of Minnesota: 67

Carlson School of Management

- ▶ Human Resources and Industrial Relations
- ▶ Marketing

College of Biological Sciences

- ▶ Conservation and Cell Biology
- ▶ Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior

College of Continuing Education

- ▶ Conference Services and Program Planning
- ▶ Liberal Studies

- ▶ Manufacturing Operations Management
- College of Design**
 - ▶ Architecture
 - ▶ Center for Changing Landscapes
 - ▶ Design Graduate Program
 - ▶ Design, Housing and Apparel
 - ▶ Graphic Design
 - ▶ Housing Studies
 - ▶ Landscape Architecture
 - ▶ Sustainable Design
- College of Education and Human Development**
 - ▶ Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare
 - ▶ Center for Applied Research and Education Improvement
 - ▶ Center for Early Education and Development
 - ▶ Institute of Child Development
 - ▶ Minnesota Evaluation Studies Institute
 - ▶ Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development
 - ▶ Social Work
- College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences**
 - ▶ Applied Economics
 - ▶ Conservation Biology
 - ▶ Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management
 - ▶ Forestry and Natural Resource Management
 - ▶ Horticulture
 - ▶ Natural Resource Science and Management
- College of Liberal Arts**
 - ▶ American Studies
 - ▶ Anthropology
 - ▶ Biology, Society, and Science
 - ▶ Communication Studies
 - ▶ Geographic Information Science
 - ▶ Geography
 - ▶ Sociology
 - ▶ Statistics
- College of Science and Engineering**
 - ▶ Civil Engineering
 - ▶ Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Humphrey School of Public Affairs**
 - ▶ MDP – Master of Development Practice in International Development
- ▶ Nonprofit Management
- ▶ Public Policy
- ▶ Urban and Regional Planning
- Law School**
- Medical School**
 - ▶ Program in Health Disparities Research
- School of Public Health**
 - ▶ Community Health Promotion
 - ▶ Environmental Health Sciences
 - ▶ Epidemiology
 - ▶ Gerontology
- University of Minnesota Extension**
 - ▶ Center for Family Development
 - ▶ Community Vitality
 - ▶ Cook County Office
 - ▶ Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships
- University-Wide Organizations**
 - ▶ Center for Transportation Studies
 - ▶ Community Campus Coordinators Alliance
 - ▶ Community Campus Network
 - ▶ Institute on the Environment
 - ▶ Measurement Services
 - ▶ Student Affairs
 - ▶ Sustainability Faculty Network
 - ▶ TC-PEN (Twin Cities Public Engagement Network)
 - ▶ UMore Park Academic Mission Advisory Board
 - ▶ University Senate
 - ▶ UROC (Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center)
 - ▶ U-Spatial
- University of Minnesota at Duluth**
 - ▶ Environmental Education
 - ▶ Geological Sciences
 - ▶ Sociology and Anthropology
- Other Colleges and Universities: 3**
 - Bemidji State University
 - Macalester College
 - St. Cloud State University

Community Organizations Served: 230

This section lists the outside nonprofit and governmental organizations that CURA served in the past year. Organizations are listed by geographic area impacted by their CURA project, not necessarily by their physical location or their service area. Because of this, an organization with multiple CURA projects can appear more than once.

Minneapolis-85

- ▶ 2909 Somali Residents–South Mpls
- ▶ Afro-Eco–North Minneapolis
- ▶ Appetite for Change–North Minneapolis
- ▶ Audubon Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Bancroft Neighborhood Association
- ▶ BBC (report on Somali community)
- ▶ Beltrami Neighborhood Council
- ▶ Bright Water Charter School–North Minneapolis
- ▶ Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Citizens for a Loring Park Community
- ▶ City of Minneapolis
 - ▶ CPED–Development Services
 - ▶ CPED–Housing
- ▶ City View Housing–North Mpls
- ▶ City View Soccer Team–North Mpls
- ▶ Cleveland Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Corcoran Neighborhood Association
- ▶ courageous heARTS–Standish
- ▶ CTUL–Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha–Phillips
- ▶ East Phillips Improvement Coalition
- ▶ EMPOWER–Education Matters: Parents Organized and Working for Education Reform
- ▶ Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
- ▶ Folwell Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Free Poet’s Press–Cleveland
- ▶ Green Central
- ▶ Harrison Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Hawthorne Eco Village
- ▶ Health Equity Engagement Cohort–North Minneapolis
- ▶ Henry High Students
- ▶ Heritage Park Residents Association
- ▶ Hmong Halloween
- ▶ Hmong Police Supporters
- ▶ Hmong Soccer
- ▶ Hope Community–Phillips
- ▶ Horn Towers–Lyndale Neighborhood
- ▶ Isuroon–Seeking Health and Empowerment for Somali Women
- ▶ Jordan Area Community Council
- ▶ Juxtaposition Arts–North Minneapolis
- ▶ Kingfield Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Land Stewardship Project–Phillips
- ▶ Lao Assistance Center–North Mpls
- ▶ Learning Dreams
- ▶ Legacy Village–North Mpls
- ▶ Little Earth of United Tribes–Phillips
- ▶ Little Earth Residents’ Association–Phillips
- ▶ Longfellow Community Council
- ▶ Lyndale Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Marcy–Holmes Neighborhood Association
- ▶ McKinley Community
- ▶ MCTC Homeless Students
- ▶ Minneapolis American Indian Center
- ▶ Minneapolis Asian Institutions
- ▶ Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition
- ▶ Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership
- ▶ Minnesota Internship Center Charter High School
- ▶ Native American Community Development Institute–Phillips
- ▶ Nicollet Island/East Bank Neighborhoods
- ▶ Northeast CDC
- ▶ Northside Fresh
- ▶ Northside Funders Group
- ▶ Northside Residents Redevelopment Council
- ▶ Phillips Bhutanese
- ▶ Pillsbury House Theater
- ▶ Pohlad Foundation–North Mpls
- ▶ Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Prevention Health Care Agency dba Isuroon Project
- ▶ PRG–Powderhorn Residents Group
- ▶ Project Footsteps–Lyndale
- ▶ Project for Pride in Living
- ▶ Project Sweetie Pie–North Minneapolis
- ▶ Rainbow Terrace Senior Highrise–North Mpls
- ▶ Seward Neighborhood Group
- ▶ Seward Redesign
- ▶ Southside United Neighborhoods
- ▶ Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association
- ▶ SUN Collaborative–South Minneapolis
- ▶ The Family Partnership–Corcoran
- ▶ Twin Cities Community Land Bank
- ▶ Twin Cities Media Alliance–Seward
- ▶ United Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Urban Homeworks
- ▶ Volunteers of America Residential Reentry Center
- ▶ Waite House–Pillsbury United Communities–Phillips
- ▶ Walker Art Center

- ▶ West Broadway Business and Area Coalition
- ▶ Whittier Alliance

St. Paul–31

- ▶ Ain Dah Yung Center
- ▶ Anderson Youth Science Center–Frogtown
- ▶ Aurora/St. Anthony Peace Sanctuary Garden
- ▶ Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa
- ▶ Dayton’s Bluff Community Council
- ▶ District 1 Community Council
- ▶ District Councils Executive Directors/Community Organizers Group
- ▶ East Side Prosperity Campaign
- ▶ Eastside Financial Center
- ▶ Frogtown Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Frogtown Rondo Home Fund
- ▶ Grand Avenue Business Association
- ▶ Hamline Midway Coalition
- ▶ Highland District Council
- ▶ Historic Saint Paul
- ▶ Lexington–Hamline Community Council
- ▶ Macalester–Groveland Community Council
- ▶ Model Cities
- ▶ NEDA–Neighborhood Development Alliance
- ▶ Neighborhood Development Center
- ▶ Neighborhood Energy Connection
- ▶ Nexus Community Partners
- ▶ Parkway Montessori/Community Middle School
- ▶ Payne-Phalen Residents
- ▶ Poetry for Thought–Hamline Midway
- ▶ Science Museum of Minnesota’s Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center
- ▶ Selby Avenue Action Coalition
- ▶ Skyline Tower Advantage Center–Union Park
- ▶ Union Park Community Council
- ▶ Westside Community Organization
- ▶ World Culture Heritage District–University Avenue

Hennepin County Departments–10

- ▶ Community Corrections and Rehabilitation
- ▶ Environmental Services
- ▶ Hennepin County Library
- ▶ Housing Community Works and Transit
- ▶ Human Resources
- ▶ Human Services and Public Health
- ▶ Information Technology
- ▶ Public Affairs
- ▶ Resident and Real Estate Services
- ▶ Transportation

North Saint Paul Departments–6

- ▶ Administration
- ▶ Community Development
- ▶ Economic Development
- ▶ Fire
- ▶ Police
- ▶ Public Works

Greater Twin Cities–50

- ▶ Accountability Minnesota
- ▶ ACER–African Career, Education & Resource, Inc.–Brooklyn Park
- ▶ African Immigrant Services
- ▶ Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
- ▶ Asamblea de Derechos Civiles
- ▶ Asian Indian Family Wellness
- ▶ Blue Line Coalition
- ▶ Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis
- ▶ Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy
- ▶ Center for Families
- ▶ Children’s Justice Initiative
- ▶ Community Engagement Team
- ▶ Corridors of Opportunity

- ▶ Dakota County Planning Commission
- ▶ District Councils Collaborative of St. Paul and Minneapolis
- ▶ Equitable Opportunities Project
- ▶ Fair Housing Equity Assessment
- ▶ FamilyWise
- ▶ Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
- ▶ Gardening Matters
- ▶ Hennepin County Teen Parent Connection
- ▶ Hmong American Partnership
- ▶ Homes Within Reach–Hennepin County
- ▶ Hopkins and Wayzata Hmong Students
- ▶ Hopkins Parents
- ▶ HousingLink
- ▶ Jewish Community Action
- ▶ La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles
- ▶ Lao Assistance Center
- ▶ Legacy Family Center–Hennepin County
- ▶ MetroGIS
- ▶ Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
- ▶ Metropolitan Council
- ▶ Mujeres en Accion y Poder (Women in Action and Power)
- ▶ New American Academy–Eden Prairie
- ▶ Nexus Community Partners
- ▶ Partnership for Regional Opportunity
- ▶ Peta Wakan Tipi/Dream of Wild Health
- ▶ Rainbow Health Initiative
- ▶ Sanneh Foundation
- ▶ SEIU Healthcare Minnesota
- ▶ SEWA–Asian Indian Family Wellness
- ▶ St. Paul Public Schools
- ▶ Sundance Family Foundation
- ▶ Twin Cities Agricultural Land Trust
- ▶ Twin Cities Community Land Bank
- ▶ Twin Cities Daily Planet
- ▶ Twin Cities RISE!
- ▶ Union Gospel Mission
- ▶ Vermillion River Watershed Wetland Engagement Team

Greater Minnesota–13

- ▶ Big Stone Products
- ▶ City of Duluth
- ▶ City of Winona
- ▶ Eagle Bluff Learning Center–SE Minnesota
- ▶ Fargo-Moorhead Kurd Association
- ▶ Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board
- ▶ Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council
- ▶ Isanti County Parks Department
- ▶ Melrose Lake Improvement Association
- ▶ Middle Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District–NW Minnesota
- ▶ Region 5 Development Commission
- ▶ Southeast Sheep and Fiber Advocates
- ▶ Zumbro Watershed Partnership

Statewide–20

- ▶ AMAZE
- ▶ American Planning Association–Minnesota Chapter
- ▶ Board of Water and Soil Resources
- ▶ Center for Victims of Torture
- ▶ Goodwill–Easter Seals
- ▶ Karen Association of Minnesota
- ▶ Legal Services Advisory Committee (Minnesota State Courts)
- ▶ Minnesota Association of Museums
- ▶ Minnesota Budget Project
- ▶ Minnesota Department of Human Services
- ▶ Minnesota Foreclosure Partners Council
- ▶ Minnesota Public Health Association
- ▶ MnGEO Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council
- ▶ MN GIS/LIS Consortium
- ▶ Organizing Apprenticeship Project
- ▶ Preservation Alliance of Minnesota

- ▶ Renewing the Countryside
- ▶ Rural Advantage
- ▶ SEIU Healthcare Minnesota
- ▶ Steppingstone Theater for Youth Development

National–15

- ▶ American Community Survey Data Users Group
- ▶ American Composers Forum
- ▶ Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
- ▶ GIS Certification Institute
- ▶ Imaging America
- ▶ Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago
- ▶ Minnesotans for the American Community Survey
- ▶ National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership
- ▶ National States Geographic Information Council
- ▶ Sustainable City Year National Network
- ▶ Technology Affinity Group serving foundations
- ▶ Transportation Research Board
- ▶ University Consortium for Geographic Information Science
- ▶ Urban & Regional Information Systems Association
- ▶ US Department of Justice

CURA Supporters

CURA would like to thank its funders for their support. Without them, our work would not be possible. Minnesota and the Twin Cities are better places because of you!

- Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
- Blandin Foundation
- City of Minneapolis
- City of North St. Paul
- Hennepin County
- The Initiative Foundation (through their support of rural communities)
- Local Community Organizations
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- The McKnight Foundation
- Metropolitan Council
- Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
- Nexus Community Partners
- Pohlad Family Foundation
- University of Minnesota:**
 - ▶ Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute
 - ▶ Humphrey School of Public Affairs
 - ▶ Institute on the Environment
 - ▶ Office for Public Engagement
 - ▶ Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships
 - ▶ Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
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 - ▶ Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center