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# CURA Annual Report, 2012–2013

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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. In this report, we present our activities during the past year. For more information on any of the programs listed, visit our website at [www.cura.umn.edu](http://www.cura.umn.edu).

This is the second year that CURA has used this format to present an annual report. It provides an overview of the 199 projects and events CURA conducted last year (July 2012 to June 2013). The projects served nearly 50 different academic departments/programs and 150 different local and state community organizations.

## Research Projects: 84

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### 39 Faculty, Staff, and Graduate-Student Research Projects

- 4 **Faculty Interactive Research Program**—competitive program that supports public policy research on issues of significance to Minnesota communities.
  - ▶ Ed Brands (Environmental Studies, University of Minnesota at Morris), Mapping Manure in West-Central Minnesota Watersheds
  - ▶ Ross VeLure Roholt and Katie Johnston-Goodstar (Social Work), Native American Youth Gang Assessment Project
  - ▶ Barbara J. McMorris (Nursing), A School-County-University Collaboration to Evaluate High School Achievement: Longitudinal Analysis of Participants in the Lead Peace Middle School Service-Learning Program
  - ▶ Lisa Harnack (Epidemiology and Community Health) and Marilyn Nanney (Family Medicine and Community Health), Evaluation of Nutritional Quality of Food Donations to the Emergency Food-shelf Network
- 1 **New Initiative Program**—supports projects initiated by faculty, community organizations, government agencies, or students that fall outside CURA's existing program areas.
  - ▶ Rosemarie Park (Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development) and Ken Root (Luther College, retired), Displaced Workers at Sartell Paper Plant
- 1 **Dissertation Research Grant**—provides one year of support to a doctoral student to complete research on a significant urban issue in the region.
  - ▶ Chunying Xie (Economics), MnPASS Pricing and the Split-second Consumer Decision to Enter the HOT Lane
- 3 **University Metropolitan Consortium**—supports multidisciplinary faculty research projects as part of a larger mission to gain synergy from the University's many urban-related programs.
  - ▶ Brad Hokanson (Design, Housing, and Apparel) and William Bart (Educational Psychology), Creativity and Achievement: Running Backwards
  - ▶ Lee Munnich (Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs), Yingling Fan (Humphrey School),

Nebiyou Tilahun (University of Illinois at Chicago), and Matt Schmit (Humphrey School), Minneapolis–St. Paul Regional Cluster Competitiveness Study

- ▶ Priscilla A. Gibson, Wendy Haight, and Misa Kayama (Social Work), Reducing Out-of-School Suspensions of African American and African Immigrant Students: Building a Well-Educated Minnesota Workforce for the 21st Century

16 **Hennepin–University Partnership** – facilitates strategic connections between Hennepin County and the University of Minnesota to support collaborative research, sharing of expertise, and student field experiences.

- ▶ Ryan Allen (Humphrey School), Tax-Forfeited Properties Research Project
- ▶ Lauren Martin (Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center), Gaining Independence for Females in Transition (GIFT) Research Project
- ▶ Jamie Stang (Epidemiology and Community Health), Strategies for Identifying Alternative Food Assistance in Hennepin County
- ▶ John Gulliver, Bill Arnold, and Lev Khazanovich (Civil Engineering), Photocatalytic Concrete Research Project
- ▶ Maria Hanratty (Humphrey School), Risk of Family Homelessness over the Recession: The Role of Earnings History
- ▶ 2 other faculty-led research projects studying homelessness
- ▶ 9 student research projects

14 **Resilient Communities Projects** for the City of Minnetonka – works with one city partner per year to facilitate faculty-supervised course-based projects that meet city-identified sustainability needs.

- ▶ Addressed 14 issues raised by the city, including storm water management and illicit discharge, housing aging in place, water and energy conservation, conservation development, neighborhood identities and resident engagement, water resources prioritization plan, parking and land use, transportation demand management, mid-priced housing, transit-oriented development, and green roofs and rooftop gardening.

- ▶ Involved 24 different courses over two semesters
- ▶ Included 12 different departments in eight different colleges

**45 Community-Based Research Projects** (200+ hours per project of mostly graduate-student assistance to nonprofit and government organizations)

**36 Kris Nelson Community-Based Research Program** (Twin Cities metropolitan area)

**9 Community Assistantship Program** (Greater Minnesota)

**Technical Assistance Projects: 96**

**26 Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing.** A total of 15 training sessions and 11 significant projects serving 41 different organizations.

**50 Community GIS.** Maps and other projects for community organizations requiring 5+ hours effort per project.

**2 Charles R. Krussell Fellowship in Community Development.** Two organizations supported by graduate students of color enrolled in the Humphrey School.

**14 Neighborhood Partnership Initiative.** Provides small grants 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 Hennepin–University Partnership.** Connects students in various University programs to address specific requests from Hennepin County departments.

**Public Events: 19**

**11 CURA-organized events**

- ▶ Housing Forum: six events held over the year with an average attendance of 40 people
- ▶ Visualizing Neighborhoods: A Hackathon for Good. May 2013—140 participated
- ▶ Reflective Seminars on Child Welfare for Practitioners: Codes of Silence, Confidentiality, and Secrets: Implications for the Child Welfare System. December 2012—60 attended
- ▶ EquityNow Twin Cities: three events held over the year with an average attendance of 50 people

- ▶ Fourth World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Ethnic Economic Inequality
- ▶ Earth Week: Night of Celebration

**4 CURA-cosponsored conferences**

- ▶ Policy Analysis Conference (provided six scholarships to four organizations)
- ▶ Minnesota Evaluation Studies Institute (provided scholarships to nine organizations)

**2 Hennepin–University Partnership events** (average attendance of 150 people)

- ▶ Connecting Research to Practice: Understanding Infant Brain Development. May 2013.
- ▶ Maladaptation and Resilience in Maltreated Children: A Multilevel Perspective. June 2013.

**2 Resilient Communities Project**

- ▶ RCP–Minnetonka Kick-Off Event, 45 attendees
- ▶ RCP–Minnetonka End-of-Year Celebration, 65 attendees

CURA Projects by Research Area	
33—Communities and Neighborhoods	9—Health, Human, and Social Services
19—Economic Development and Employment	27—Housing
8—Education	7—Land Use and Population
23—Environment and Energy	26—Sustainability
11—Evaluation and Assessment	15—Transportation
13—Geographic Information Systems	18—Underserved and Underrepresented Groups*
13—Government and Public Policy	

Note: Some projects were classified under more than one research area.

\*The following communities were served by at least one CURA project during the past year: African American, American Indian, Cambodian, Hmong, homeless, Latino, low-income, maltreated children, Somali, victims of sexual assault, Vietnamese.

## CURA in the News

CURA projects, programs, or personnel were featured in 39 local, state, and national new stories. Links to news stories featuring can be found on the CURA website at [www.cura.umn.edu/about/newsmakers](http://www.cura.umn.edu/about/newsmakers).

## Student Counts: 400

- 111 **Individual research.** Students are hired by CURA to work on specific community-based or university-based research projects.
- 235 **Class research projects.** Students work on class projects that enhance their understanding of the course material.
- 54 **Other**
- 30 Volunteer tutors for high school students
- 24 Facilitated agency hire. Known instances where CURA helped an agency find and hire a university student to work on a specific project.

## Academic Departments and Programs Supported: 55

### University of Minnesota: 48

- College of Continuing Education
  - ▶ Conference Services and Program Planning
  - ▶ Liberal Studies
- College of Design
  - ▶ Architecture
  - ▶ Center for Changing Landscapes
  - ▶ Center for Sustainable Building Research
  - ▶ Design, Housing, and Apparel
  - ▶ Landscape Architecture
- College of Education and Human Development
  - ▶ Educational Psychology
  - ▶ Family Social Science
  - ▶ Minnesota Evaluation Studies Institute
  - ▶ Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development
  - ▶ Social Work
- College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences
  - ▶ Agronomy and Plant Genetics
  - ▶ Applied Economics
  - ▶ Forest Resources
  - ▶ Natural Resources Science and Management

### College of Liberal Arts

- ▶ Biology, Society, and Environment
- ▶ Communication Studies
- ▶ Economics
- ▶ Geography
- ▶ Geographic Information Science
- ▶ Global Studies
- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Urban Studies
- ▶ Writing Studies

### College of Science and Engineering

- ▶ Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering
- ▶ Civil Engineering
- ▶ Industrial and Systems Engineering

### Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs

- ▶ Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership
- ▶ Public Affairs
- ▶ Public Policy
- ▶ State and Local Policy Program
- ▶ Urban and Regional Planning

### Law School

### Medical School

- ▶ Family Medicine and Community Health

### School of Nursing

### School of Public Health

- ▶ Environmental Health
- ▶ Epidemiology and Community Health
- ▶ Health Policy and Management

### University of Minnesota Extension

- ▶ Clean Energy Resource Teams
- ▶ Community Vitality
- ▶ Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships

### University-Wide Organizations

- ▶ Center for Transportation Studies
- ▶ Office of Government and Community Relations
- ▶ University Senate
- ▶ Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center

### Coordinate Campuses

- ▶ Crookston Campus
- ▶ Morris Campus – Environmental Studies

### Other Colleges and Universities: 7

- ▶ Bemidji State University
- ▶ Concordia University
- ▶ Macalester College
- ▶ St. Catherine University
- ▶ St. Cloud State University
- ▶ University of Illinois at Chicago
- ▶ University of Wisconsin at River Falls

## Community Organizations Served: 150

In this section, we list the outside nonprofit and governmental organizations that CURA served in the past year. Organizations are listed by the 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

- ▶ Appetite for Change - North Minneapolis
- ▶ Brightwater Montessori
- ▶ Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization Program
- ▶ Cedar Riverside Youth Council
- ▶ Center for Earth, Energy, and Democracy
- ▶ City of Lakes Community Land Trust
- ▶ City of Minneapolis
  - Mayor's Office
  - Health Department
  - Neighborhood and Community Relations Department
- ▶ Cleveland Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota
- ▶ Corcoran Neighborhood Organization
- ▶ Elliot Park Neighborhood Association
- ▶ EMERGE Community Development
- ▶ Employment Action Center
- ▶ Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
- ▶ Harrison Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Henry High Asian Club
- ▶ Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs
- ▶ Hmong Soccer Organizing Project—North Minneapolis
- ▶ Hope Community, Inc.—South Minneapolis
- ▶ Jewish Community Action
- ▶ Juxtaposition Arts
- ▶ Kingsley Commons Residents Association—North Minneapolis
- ▶ Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota
- ▶ Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Linden Hills Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Little Earth of United Tribes
- ▶ Longfellow Community Council
- ▶ Masjid An-Nur—North Minneapolis
- ▶ McKinley Community
- ▶ Midtown Greenway Coalition
- ▶ Minneapolis American Indian Center
- ▶ Minneapolis Public Schools
- ▶ Mississippi Riverfront Partnership
- ▶ Mujeres en Accion y Poder—South Minneapolis
- ▶ Nexus Community Partners
- ▶ Nicollet Island/East Bank Neighborhood Association
- ▶ North Minneapolis Hmong Tutoring Program
- ▶ North Minneapolis Workforce Center Community Engagement
- ▶ Northside Achievement Zone
- ▶ Northside Residents' Redevelopment Council
- ▶ Phillips West Neighborhood Association

## 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!

Blandin Foundation  
Hennepin County  
Local Community Organizations  
The McKnight Foundation  
Metropolitan Council  
The Minnesota Initiative Foundations (through their support of rural communities)  
Nexus Community Partners  
University of Minnesota:

- ▶ Academic Affairs and Provost
- ▶ Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs
- ▶ Institute on the Environment
- ▶ Office for Public Engagement/Office of the Vice President for Research
- ▶ Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships
- ▶ Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center

- ▶ Interfaith Outreach Community Partners
- ▶ Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
- ▶ MnGIS/LIS Consortium
- ▶ Minnesota Association of Museums
- ▶ Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- ▶ Minnesota Department of Human Services
- ▶ MnGeo Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council

### National

- ▶ Census Bureau—ACS Data Users Group
- ▶ Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
- ▶ GIS Certification Institute
- ▶ National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership
- ▶ National States Geographic Information Council
- ▶ Neighborhoods, USA
- ▶ Project for Public Spaces
- ▶ Transportation Research Board
- ▶ University Consortium for Geographic Information Science
- ▶ Urban and Regional Information Systems Association

- ▶ Project for Pride in Living—North Minneapolis
- ▶ Seward Redesign
- ▶ St. Anthony East Neighborhood Association
- ▶ University District Alliance
- ▶ Urban Homeworks—North Minneapolis
- ▶ Victory Neighborhood Association
- ▶ Volunteers of America—Longfellow
- ▶ West Bank Business Association
- ▶ West Broadway Business and Area Coalition
- ▶ Works Progress—North Minneapolis
- ▶ YouthCARE—South Minneapolis

### Minnetonka Departments

- ▶ Administrative Department (Community Relations)
- ▶ Community Development (Planning)
- ▶ Engineering Department (Street/Water Management)
- ▶ Public Works (Natural Resources)

### St. Paul

- ▶ Asian Economic Development Association—Central Corridor
- ▶ Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation
- ▶ Common Bond Communities Advantage Centers—West Side
- ▶ Dayton's Bluff Community Council
- ▶ District 1 Community Council
- ▶ District Councils Collaborative of St. Paul and Minneapolis—Central Corridor
- ▶ East Side Neighborhood Development Company
- ▶ East Side Prosperity Campaign
- ▶ Food Justice Coalition
- ▶ Frogtown Gardens
- ▶ Hamline Midway Coalition
- ▶ Highland District Council
- ▶ Macalester-Groveland Community Council
- ▶ Neighborhood Development Alliance (NeDA)—West Side
- ▶ Payne Phalen District 5 Planning Council
- ▶ Poetry for Thought—Midway
- ▶ Selby Avenue Action Coalition
- ▶ St. Anthony Park Community Council
- ▶ Students for Education Reform
- ▶ Summit-University Planning Council
- ▶ Summit Hill Association
- ▶ Thomas-Dale District 7 Planning Council
- ▶ West Side Community Organization
- ▶ Women's Initiative for Self Empowerment—Hamline Midway

### Hennepin County Departments

- ▶ Community Corrections and Rehabilitation
- ▶ County Attorney
- ▶ Environmental Services
- ▶ Housing, Community Works and Transit
- ▶ Human Resources
- ▶ Human Services and Public Health
- ▶ Information Technology
- ▶ Library
- ▶ Northpoint Health and Wellness Center
- ▶ Public Affairs
- ▶ Research, Planning, and Development
- ▶ Taxpayer Services

- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Veterans Affairs

### Greater Twin Cities

- ▶ Acer—Brooklyn Park
- ▶ Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
- ▶ Asamblea de Derechos Civiles
- ▶ Asian Economic Development Association
- ▶ Asian Media Access
- ▶ Blake Road Corridor Collaborative
- ▶ CAPI—Northwest Hennepin County
- ▶ Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis
- ▶ Center for Earth, Energy, and Democracy
- ▶ Comunidades Latinas Unidas Ed Servicio (CLUES)
- ▶ Corridors of Opportunity — Community Engagement Team — Evaluation Team
- ▶ Dakota County Planning Commission
- ▶ E-Democracy
- ▶ Emergency Foodshelf Network
- ▶ EquityNow Twin Cities
- ▶ Fair Housing Equity Assessment—Metropolitan Council
- ▶ FamilyWise
- ▶ Gardening Matters
- ▶ Greater Twin Cities United Way
- ▶ Hennepin County Teen-Parent Connection
- ▶ Jewish Community Action
- ▶ MetroGIS
- ▶ Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
- ▶ Neighborhood Development Alliance (NeDA)
- ▶ New American Academy—Eden Prairie
- ▶ Nexus Community Partners
- ▶ Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council
- ▶ Open Twin Cities
- ▶ St. Paul City Schools—surrounding districts
- ▶ Twin Cities Community Land Bank
- ▶ Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

### Greater Minnesota

- ▶ Conservation Core—Upper Minnesota River Valley
- ▶ Crow Wing County Land Service Department
- ▶ Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District
- ▶ Friends of the Band Shell Park—Two Harbors
- ▶ Headwaters Regional Development Commission
- ▶ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency—western Minnesota offices
- ▶ Onamia Healthy Communities Partnership

### Statewide

- ▶ American Planning Association—Minnesota Chapter
- ▶ Casa de Esperanza
- ▶ Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER)
- ▶ Hunger Solutions