

# We are Water Phase III - Futures on the North Minneapolis Waterfront

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The image shows a modern building with a prominent white, curved canopy over a set of stairs. The building has large, multi-paned windows and a textured, grey facade. In the foreground, there is a lush garden with green foliage and yellow and orange flowers. A bicycle is parked near the stairs on the left. The sky is blue with light clouds.

# Proposed Site: North Regional Library

# Upper Harbor Terminal Project



**48 ACRES**

**1 MILE RIVERFRONT**

**DOWLING AVE.**

**NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESS**

**TO NMRP**

**DOWNTOWN 2 MILES**

**NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESS**

**LOWRY AVE.**



# ACCESSIBLE WATERFRONT



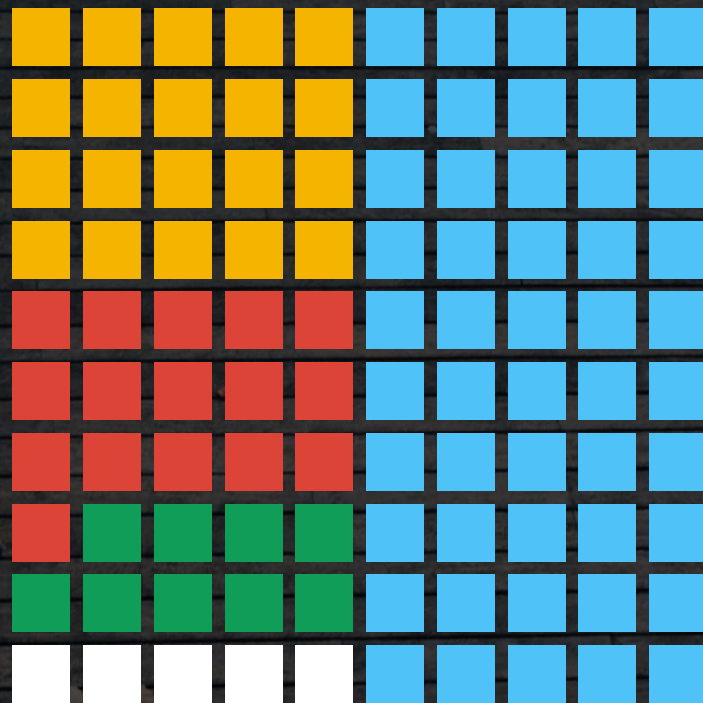


# Absent Narratives



# Understanding Near North today:

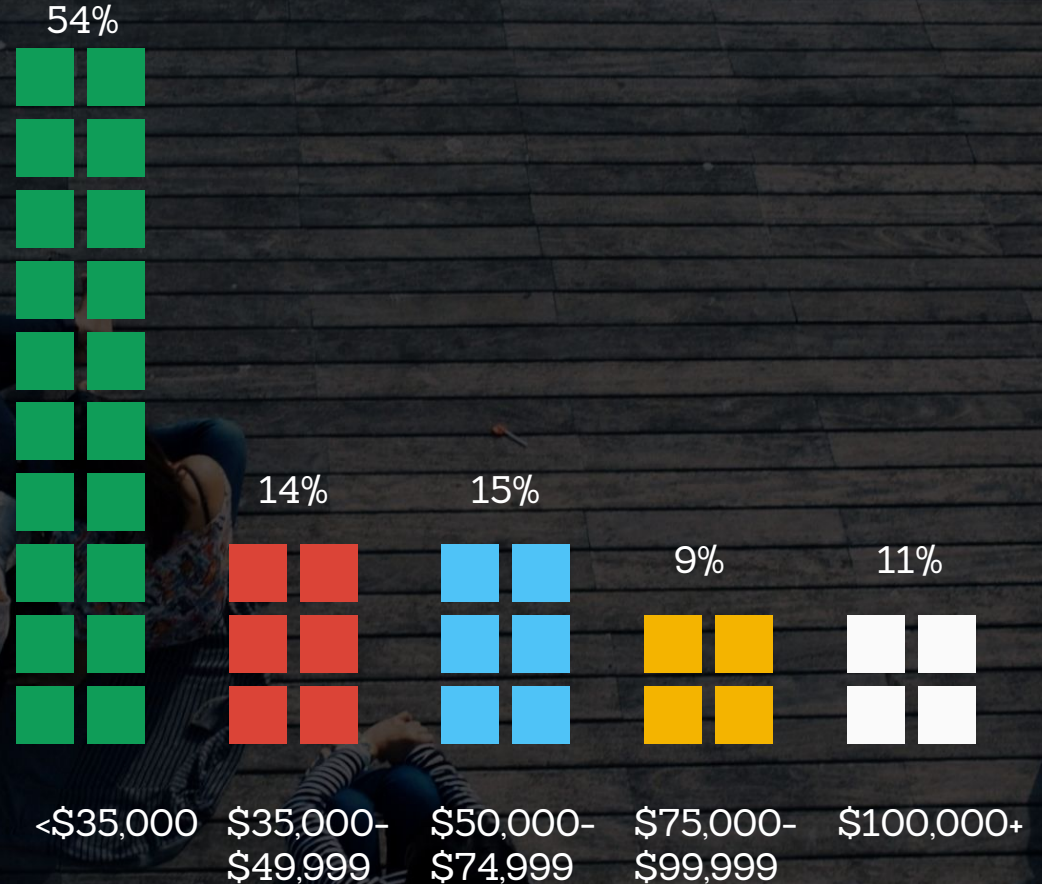
Racially diverse



Black White Asian or Pacific  
Latino Multi-Racial

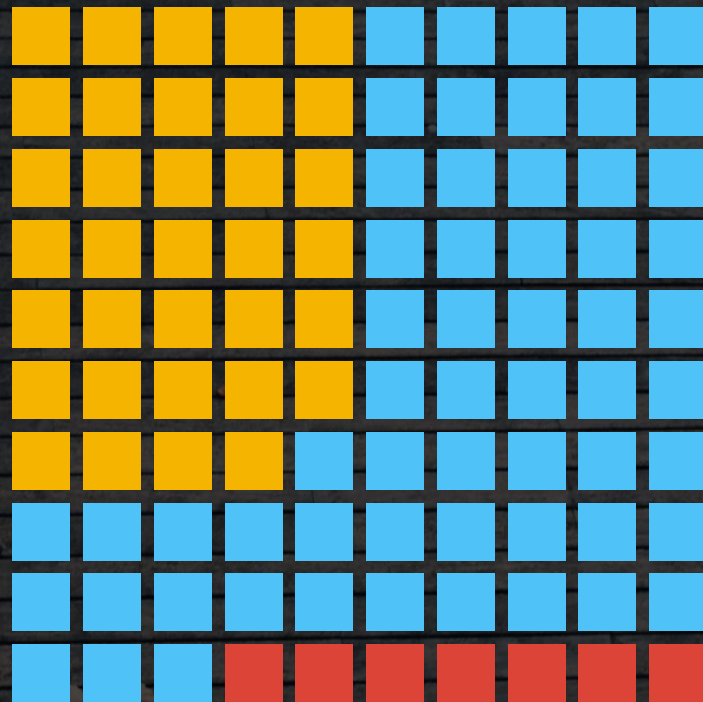
# Understanding Near North today:

## Lower incomes



# Understanding Near North today:

Young



17 and younger 18-64 65 and older



# Competing Narratives

## *Multiple co-existing perspectives:*

- *Housing and public health?*
- *What is North enough or black enough or man enough? Can there be trust?*
- *What does justice look like?*
- *What is river access?*

# Voices Left Out

*How can we elevate voices and sustain engagement?*

- *Early success in gathering input, but faltering to carry forward*
- *Indigenous, Hmong, youth, clergy*
- *Sustaining engagement in low-resource communities*

# Meandering forward in muddy waters

*Opportunity for We are Water to  
step in where traditional  
engagement has failed.*

- *Moving beyond disactivism, a zero-sum outlook*
- *Learning stories, building trust*
- *Sustained partnerships to create framework for community leadership on-site*





# Partners

# We are Water Phase III Partners

*Who's at the table?*



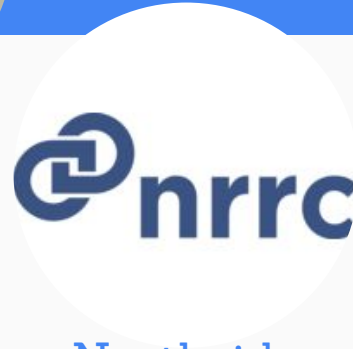
North Regional  
Library



Humphrey  
School of Public  
Affairs



Afro-Eco



Northside  
Residents  
Redevelopment  
Council



Juxtaposition  
Arts

**North  
Regional  
Library**

**Access**

**Venue**

**Audience**



Humphrey  
School of  
Public Affairs

Research centers

University resources

Common justice-focus

Afro-Eco

Community  
organization

Focus on equity and  
sustainability

Connect with youth

Northside  
Residents  
Redevelop-  
ment Council

Community  
organization

Focus on growing  
community assets

Connects with  
leaders, promote



Juxtaposition  
Arts

Youth Involvement

Community  
Involvement

Upper Harbor  
Terminal



# Water Stewardshi p

# Commit to cleaning the watershed

*Contaminants found  
near Upper Harbor  
Terminal*

- *Petroleum*
- *Phosphorus*
- *Bacteria*
- *Chloride*

*among others..*





An aerial photograph of a modern, multi-story apartment building under construction. The building has a white facade and numerous windows. In the foreground, there is a landscaped courtyard with a winding path, various plants, and a raised garden bed. A yellow construction crane is visible near the building. The overall scene is a mix of urban development and green space.

# Pursue shared water infrastructure

*Towerside District Stormwater System, Prospect Park*

# Engage with environmental justice

- *Build upon previous efforts to deepen community connections and understanding.*
- *Tailor outreach and public participation to specific community.*
- *Use understandable language.*
- *Hold community meetings and events early and frequently.*
- *Expand public notification methods.*
- *Encourage the facilities we regulate to plan for public participation*

*- MPCA Environmental  
Justice Framework*

**Integrate  
river and  
community**

**Education**

**Recreation**

**Programming**



# A river for everyone

