

## **Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc.**

### **Future Scenarios Assessment**

*Revised and Approved by the Board of Directors, August 10, 2016*

In 2014 Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. (EPNI) was awarded a \$25,000 grant from The McKnight Foundation to explore the future of the neighborhood organization and to develop alternative organizational structures and sustainability plans that might provide opportunities for future growth and sustainability.

The Dendros Group was hired to facilitate this grant with consultants Jonathan Bucki and Amy Arcand (Willow Consulting) to direct the work. A Guiding Team with the consultants and Patti Wettlin, Board Vice President, and Lynn Regnier, EPNI staff, was established to coordinate the grant process and planning.

The consultants conducted individual interviews with EPNI Board members and selected community stakeholders. Additionally, several community Think Tank sessions were held to provide additional feedback. A *Stakeholders Voices* report of these interviews and sessions was prepared for review and discussion.

A Planning Team of key stakeholders was engaged in next developing and assessing a variety of future scenarios for EPNI. Meeting bi-weekly throughout most of the summer they began by creating six criteria they deemed necessary in order to continue the mission work of EPNI. They next also determined four strategies relevant for the future of EPNI.

Each team member was then charged with presenting their own ideas for the future growth and sustainability of EPNI. The ideas could be related to programming activities, possible collaborations, mergers or anything else that they deemed possible. The team was also instructed to advance every idea, even those that might easily be rejected, in order to encourage group discussion and review of all of the possibilities. Eighteen scenarios were ultimately developed and then assessed by each team member. A report of these assessments was then compiled: *Future Scenarios Assessment Results, Updated August 26, 2014.*

The report was reviewed and studied by the EPNI Board of Directors. They were then directed to individually vote for their top five scenarios. The details of this selection exercise are reviewed on the following pages. Specifically five scenarios overall emerged as clear favorites. As well, these choices fell naturally into two distinct categories:

- Marketing Plan and an Historic Preservation Program **focused on the internal work of EPNI and organizational work of EPNI.**
- Organizing Volunteer Resources Across Downtown Neighborhoods; District-Wide Collaborative; and, Community Advancement, **focused on building external relationships and collaborations with organizational partners.**