

Recap of the Joint Minneapolis Downtown Council and East Town Business Partnership Business Forum

Non-Profits | Insights and Opportunities in 2021

March 18, 2021, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Conference

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtFcfeeKlM8>)

I. Welcome and Announcements

After greeting everyone and introducing herself, MDC Director of Membership and Partnership Marybeth Weiseberg provided details for the new format, i.e., change our view to speaker view while in the panel discussion, use the chat function to insert questions for the panelists, once we're moved into the breakout sessions microphones will be enabled so we can introduce ourselves and chat with each other. They are recording the program and will share it with those who are registered, and it may end up on their YouTube channel.

MDC President and CEO Steve Cramer thanked everyone for taking the time to focus on this incredibly important segment of our downtown community and hear from some of our leading nonprofit leaders. Then he announced the following upcoming programs:

- *Building Strong Communities*, an industry driven apprenticeship preparatory model targeting underrepresented populations in the construction trades on Wednesday, March 24th at 11:00 a.m. (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/apprenticeship-building-strong-communities-tickets-141854405345>).
- *Jobs in Downtown* on Tuesday, April 6th at 11:00 a.m. (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jobs-in-downtown-tickets-144075472617>).

Regarding current events, the trial of [former MPD police officer] Derek Chauvin (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derek_Chauvin) continues. Jury selection is continuing today, arguments are scheduled to start on March 29th, the MDC continues to send out regular communications to keep the downtown community apprised, and there's a link on their website (<https://www.mplsdowntown.com/trial/>).

Also, there was very encouraging news last week when Governor Walz appropriately turned the dial on some of the pandemic related restrictions that were impacting economic activity. They can start to come back a bit and are super excited they'll have 10,000 Twins fans at Target Field on April 8th for Opening day. They're also anxious to see restaurants bounce back with more in-person capacity as well as a significant investment from the federal government in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (<https://www.ncsl.org/ncsl-in-dc/publications-and-resources/american-rescue-plan-act-of-2021.aspx>); they'll be making sure all restaurants are aware of that opportunity.

ETBP Executive Director Dan Collison also thanked everybody for taking time today to be together; he's impressed at how everyone is showing up, doing hard work to understand themselves and their organizations to help Minnesota and downtown Minneapolis become a better place. He commented it's been an honor to serve on the staff of the MDC, and extended thanks to all ETBP Board and its members for caring, engaging, and being a part of leading all of this to a better place as the year moves forward.

Then he announced the ETBP annual meeting on Thursday, April 15th at 11:00 a.m., and described its program (<https://easttownmpls.org/etbp-annual-meeting-on-april-15-at-11-a-m-via-zoom/>). As the ETBP moves carefully, thoughtfully, and assertively into the year to bring visitors back, continue to grow housing, and focus on what matters to all Minnesotans in downtown, they really need our engagement and would love to have us participate.

II. Non-Profits | Insights and Opportunities in 2021

Collison advised what is clear to the MDC event planning team and ETBP is as we move through this phase of emergence, they need to pay attention to their nonprofits, and Minnesota is famous, perhaps worldwide, for being very civically minded and having nonprofits for all the needs and concerns they have, and they want to make sure the business community is paying attention to leading nonprofits. The three nonprofits on the panel were selected for different scopes and perspectives.

Collison then called upon each in turn to introduce themselves, share the personal and professional journey to their role, describe

how COVID has changed their organization, the trends in volunteerism, how they're evolving and tackling gaps, and what wisdom they'd like to impart. Watch the YouTube video for responses by:

- Jon Pratt, Executive Director, MN Council of Nonprofits (<https://www.minnesotanonprofits.org/about-mcn/staff/jon-pratt>), will be stepping down this summer but will still be involved (<https://www.minnesotanonprofits.org/about-mcn/news-detail/2020/12/21/mcn-to-begin-search-for-successor-for-founding-executive-director-jon-pratt-in-2021>).
- Karmit Bulman, Executive Director, MN Association for Volunteer Administration (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/karmitbulman/>), gave a heads up to a name change, i.e., the Alliance for Volunteer Advocacy. A link was provided in chat to the 2021 MAVA Conference (<https://mavanetwork.org/2021mavaconference>).
- Theresa Pesch, President, Hennepin Healthcare (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/theresa-pesch-b694a8b1/>), also shared her “shadow resume”. A link was provided in chat to the Redleaf Center for Family Healing Grand Opening on Wednesday, May 4th (<https://www.hennepinhealthcare.org/hennepin-healthcare-foundation/fundraising-events/>).

Next, the following leaders each led a breakout group: (1) Deborah Moses, Executive Director, St. Stephens Human Services (<https://ststephensmpls.org/merger>); (2) Dr. Heather Huseby, Executive Director, YouthLink (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-heather-huseby-a922b79/>); and (3) Dave Dorn, President & CEO, Special Olympics Minnesota (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dave-dorn-3bb9973/>).

III. Closing Remarks.

Upon returning from the breakout groups, Collison expressed gratitude to the three panelists and breakout group leaders for their leadership, to everyone who attended, to ETBP Executor Coordinator Christie Rock Hantge, and to the entire MDC team. He wished a terrific day and wonderful week.

IV. Other Zoom Attendees

Ezekiel Agbossou, Foster Klima	Margaret Lafferty, BKV Group
Carina Aleckson, Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis	Julia Lauwagie, Mn Adult & Teen Challenge
Sophie Ball, Community Emergency Assistance Programs	Jennifer Lindgren, Firm Ground Architects & Engineers
Beth Brown, North Central University	Julie Lux, BKV Group Brian Maupin, Allied Parking
Chris Brown	Wendy Merila, Valleyfair Family Amusement Park
Amy Carlson, Hennepin Healthcare Foundation	Ted Mondale, Atomic Data
John Campobasso, Kraus-Anderson	Stephen Morrison, Jones Day
Teri Cope, Mojo	Nancy O'Brien, Minnesota Twins
Chris Dunker, Firefighters for Healing	Roger Raina, National Item Processing
Jenna Egan, MAVA	Kristin Rortvedt, Minnesota Twins
Rodrick Fields, ACLU of Minnesota	Ross Naylor, Alliance Design
Chris Fleck, Auxanein Business Consulting	Rachel Shields, CenterPoint Energy
Dana Grady, Minneapolis Downtown Council	Alyson Straub, Topgolf
Meghan Gustafson, Minneapolis Downtown Council	Carletta Sweet, Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Assn
Vanessa Haight, Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc.	Kirsten Walstein, Kraus Anderson
Christie Rock Hantge, ETBP Staff	Annette Wanchena, Minnwest Bank
Jewelean Jackson, elder community servant	Kim Wiese, Hennepin Healthcare
Jean Johnson, City of Lakes Rotary Club	Matthew Wyka, Mn Adult & Teen Challenge
Alan Kaufman, Interstate Parking	
Mary Kennedy, Saint Olaf Catholic Church	
Zach Kramer, Young Professionals of Minneapolis	
Joe Kreisman, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District	