



The
**Lexington-
Hamline**
Community
Council

Strategic Plan 2021



Lexington-Hamline Community Council Strategic Plan

February 2021

The mission of the Lexington-Hamline Community Council is to improve the quality of life and bring about positive community change in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood of Saint Paul.

This is done through the active involvement of neighborhood residents in community projects, programs, and direct action on issues which affect the neighborhood.

Contents

Background	2
Process	2
Roles and Responsibilities	3
Focus Areas, Goals, and Objectives	4

Background

The Lexington-Hamline Community Council (LHCC) originated in the late 1960s as a grassroots organization to address community problems including: sub-standard infrastructure, increased crime, inadequate recreational facilities, and a lack of youth programming. In 2019 the LHCC celebrated its 50th anniversary. While celebrating its history it was also preparing to look to the future. In June of 2020 the Board of Directors established a committee to produce a Strategic Plan to focus the work of the council for the next three to five years. The committee was made up of Karen Randall-consultant and mentor, Amy Gundermann-advisor, Lynne Heuton-chair, Yahye Awad, Jeremy Lostetter, Kelly Matthias, Gregory Northrop, Patricia Sullivan, Emmy Treichel, and Mahadev Dovre Wudali.

Process

A formal process was implemented to produce the Strategic Plan. One of the guiding principles of the committee was to identify and respond to community input. The first steps of the process were to initiate community engagement and conduct a demographic analysis of the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood. To capture community input a survey was conducted along with focus groups and listening sessions. The committee met through the fall of 2020 to interpret the responses and to draft initial focus areas, goals and objectives. At each step in the process recommendations were shared with the LHCC and Executive Director for comments, recommendations, and approval. Updates were also made available to the community. Specific action plans were then developed in small group sessions consisting of committee and board members. The formal plan, including phase one priorities, was finalized during the first quarter of 2021.

Roles and Responsibilities

This table defines the roles of those responsible for implementing the Strategic Plan.

LHCC President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assist ED in identifying solution pathways as issues arise that may deter the progress of the Strategic Plan
Executive Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ultimate responsibility for vision, direction, actions, timeline, advocacy, and resources for the Strategic Plan ● Monitor high-level plan implementation ● Make recommendations regarding resource allocation ● Address risks and barriers ● Approve high-level deliverables
Board of Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Champions for completing goals and objectives. ● Monitor overall stakeholder engagement and communications plans ● Receive and respond to monthly committee reports from committee chairs ● Final authority for spending and resources ● Receive and respond to annual reports evaluating activities against the Strategic Plan objectives submitted by each committee
Executive Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitate the alignment of the work plan action steps with goals and objectives articulated in the Strategic Plan, other work of the council ● Support committee chairs in work plan management ● Consider potential issues and risks ● Compile and present content for overall Strategic Plan annual reports and communications ● Make day-to-day decisions regarding Strategic Plan deliverable, escalate high-level items to Executive Board ● Direct new issues to the appropriate committee chair for assistance in resolution
Committee Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide day-to-day planning, implementation, and closing leadership ● Set work group agendas, assign tasks, facilitate completing them
Committee Members or Other Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recommend solutions ● Complete tasks

Focus Areas, Goals, and Objectives

I. Crime and Safety	
Goal	Respond to community concerns regarding neighborhood safety and crime trends.
Objectives	<p>LHCC will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a standardized, consistent crime report and communication plan to inform neighbors of crime patterns and provide specific response recommendations. 2. Strengthen our relationship with the Western District Community Liason to create positive opportunities for the community and the police to connect. 3. Inform and educate neighbors to be responsible anti-racist observers and/or conscientious witnesses.
II. Housing and Development	
Goal	Advocate for housing and development issues that impact Lexington Hamline residents—affordable housing, aging in place, assistance with home maintenance, neighborhood preservation.
Objectives	<p>LHCC will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively monitor and engage in development planning initiatives that impact the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood. 2. Support opportunities for neighborhood preservation in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood. 3. Identify and consolidate resources and programs to assist with housing needs. 4. Deepen the LHCC's understanding of affordable housing needs and consider opportunities for advocacy.
III. Building Community	
Goal	Continue to foster inclusive engagement through community activities and service opportunities.
Objectives	<p>LHCC will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and celebrate LHCC's history and traditions. 2. Develop opportunities that encourage broader, more diverse participation across ages, ethnicities, and abilities. 3. Create a communications strategy for reaching the entire community. 4. Maintain timely response to community needs.

IV. Parks and Open Spaces	
Goal	Enhance parks and open spaces with improvements, programming, and general uses that are mindful of all constituents.
Objectives	LHCC will: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide leadership in the development of Friends of Midway Peace Park.2. Actively engage in city planning regarding parks and open spaces.3. Support upgrades and community access to all neighborhood parks and open spaces.
V. Financial Planning	
Goal	Develop a long term financial plan.