



Cultural Wellness Center

Health · Heritage · Harmony

September 8, 2020

Board of Directors

Mary K. Boyd, Co-Chair
Rekhet Si-Asar, Co-Chair
Craig Hassel, PhD, Treasurer
Esther Fulks, Secretary
Atum Azzahir, Executive Dir.
Elder Mae Adams
Sara Axtell, PhD
Elder Birdie Carter
Jose William Castellanos, PhD
Elder Lequetta Diggs
Harvey D. Linder, PhD
Sehet Tat-Siaka
Ptahmes Tat-Siaka

Advisors

Bernadette Bauer
Mari Harris
Repa Mekha
T. Mychael Rambo

Elder Council

Elder Ahmed Azzahir
Elder Pam James
Elder JoeAnn Rembert
Elder Semerit Seankh-Ka
Elder Setchem Thesmaat

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to submit a letter of support for Abbott Northwestern Hospital's campus development project. This campus development project includes the construction of a new Central Utility Plant, to be located at the corner of Chicago Avenue and 26th Street, and a new Transportation Hub to be located just south of 28th Street on Chicago Avenue. These foundational infrastructure upgrades will allow Abbott Northwestern to make space for re-imagined patient care facilities while still maintaining their commitment to the neighborhood to remain in their current geographic footprint.

Abbott Northwestern has been an important part of this community for more than 50 years. As one of Minneapolis' largest employers, Abbott Northwestern has provided stable, good-paying jobs and opportunities for many members of our community for many years. The hospital's commitment to community can be seen in their long history of supporting local non-profits with charitable contribution dollars. The Cultural Wellness Center, through Community Benefit and Engagement has been a benefactor for 10 plus years. The Backyard Initiative, a 10-year commitment was made, in response to the community needs assessment of 25,000 residents within a 7-block radius surrounding Abbott Northwestern. The overall health and wellness of 6,000 plus residents were improved. At the end of the 10-year commitment, the Backyard Community Health Hub was launched, as we enter into the second year of financial support, an additional unduplicated 5,014 residents to date have been impacted.

Allina Health and Abbot Northwestern's commitment and partnership with the Cultural Wellness Center has not been limited to financial or charitable support, they share educational resources and material, their expertise through staff and interns who volunteer to enhance our community efforts. The Cultural Wellness Center has leveraged this very valued relationship to access other relationships and resources.

Allina Health and Abbott Northwestern is an important and intricate part of our community, community partners who are always at the table, engaged in and needed in the conversations about social determinants of health. It is vital having them at the table especially during this time, COVID-19 and the civil unrest that adversely affected our area, engaged in conversations about how to make improvements to the areas around Lake Street and Chicago Avenue.

612-721-5745

info@culturalwellnesscenter.org
culturalwellnesscenter.org
2025 Portland Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55404



Cultural Wellness Center

Health · Heritage · Harmony

Board of Directors

Mary K. Boyd, Co-Chair
Rekhet Si-Asar, Co-Chair
Craig Hassel, PhD, Treasurer
Esther Fulks, Secretary
Atum Azzahir, Executive Dir.
Elder Mae Adams
Sara Axtell, PhD
Elder Birdie Carter
Jose William Castellanos, PhD
Elder Lequetta Diggs
Harvey D. Linder, PhD
Sehet Tat-Siaka
Ptahmes Tat-Siaka

Advisors

Bernadette Bauer
Mari Harris
Repa Mekha
T. Mychael Rambo

Elder Council

Elder Ahmed Azzahir
Elder Pam James
Elder JoeAnn Rembert
Elder Semerit Seankh-Ka
Elder Setchem Thesmaat

Abbott Northwestern has made south Minneapolis their home for many years and they want to further invest in this community. In order to make the improvements to their hospital campus to provide high-quality care into the future, they first need to improve these essential components of their physical infrastructure. Their representatives have explained their needs, the plans and the reasoning for their decisions, and we support their desire to further improve the hospital by constructing a new Central Utility Plant and creating a new campus Transportation Hub. The completion of this project will allow them to care for patients, families, and communities for another 50 years.

Sincerely,

Roberta Barnes

Roberta Barnes
Cultural Wellness Center
2025 Portland Avenue South/920 East Lake Street Suite 137E
Minneapolis, MN 55404/Minneapolis, MN 55407

612-721-5745

info@culturalwellnesscenter.org
culturalwellnesscenter.org
2025 Portland Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55404