

# LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

annual report

2023



**3101 Minnehaha Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55406**

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612-722-4529  
longfellow.org  
@longfellowcommunitycouncil

# new staff



**LCC hired a new community organizer and welcomed two incredible interns. These new internship programs will focus on racial justice work and communications starting early 2024**



Darby joined LCC in November. She is a freshman at Hamline University studying communications with a minor in data visualization. She was previously a communications intern for the Center for Gender + Sexualities at Hamline, communications co-chair & social media coordinator for SADD, as well as working with Amnesty International.



**darby comiskey**  
communications intern

Ben joined LCC in August from the Southeast Como Improvement Association where he organized around community development & equitable engagement. Ben has a BA in Urban Studies with a concentration in community engagement and placemaking.

**ben howery**  
community organizer



**eleanor wirtz**

racial justice  
intern



Eleanor started with LLC in November. She is propelling the Council's involvement with Free the Deeds. Eleanor is a student at UMN pursuing a dual major in Non-Profit Management and Entrepreneurship, with a minor in Spanish. With an unwavering dedication to defining social responsibility and a keen eye for entrepreneurial endeavors, she's committed to making a meaningful difference in Longfellow.

# 2023

# snapshot

**8** grants  
awarded to  
LCC for events,  
programming,  
& partnerships

In 2023, LCC dedicated mission-based projects, events, and programs to improve the well-being of our community, including funding community-led initiatives. *Here's a snapshot of what we accomplished...*

**42**

events  
hosted or  
participated  
in



**611.5**

hours of community  
volunteer time dedicated to  
Longfellow Community Council



**92**

community meetings  
and events hosted or  
attended in 2023.

including committee  
meetings, community  
conversations,  
interagency meetings,  
workshops, and trainings

**14**

home improvement  
grants awarded to  
the total of  
\$31,671.92

**\$123,115**

invested into community initiatives through  
our grants program to organizations,  
community members, or businesses in the  
Greater Longfellow Neighborhood





# communications

We continue building upon our successes with printed communication efforts, especially our seasonal event calendars. **We continually distribute around 2,000** annually, in addition to flyers that are frequently posted in locations throughout the neighborhood and a mailer and door knocking campaign to support our Free the Deeds program. We created new merchandise in an effort to expand our reach and marketing and build off of the brand we have been creating. **Check out our new stickers, totebags, t-shirts and hats on our website.**



**1.8K**  
newsletter  
subscribers

subscribe to  
our email  
newsletter



## partnership expansion

Partnerships are an important way to expand our outreach. Being able to connect with networks beyond our own, we can connect with different demographics in our neighborhood. Some of the organizations, businesses we worked with in 2023 include: **Curiosity Studio, KRSM Radio, Toolbox Collective, Arbeiter Brewing, Longfellow Rising, Urban Bird Collective, Lake Street Council, Better Futures, Friends of the Mississippi River, Redesign, and more!**

## LCC in the media...

Longfellow Community Council was mentioned in over 10 local news stories in 2023 in print and on TV. We were featured in a Twin Cities PBS doc, mentioned on local radio, and ran monthly articles and ads in the local paper.

**20+**  
mentions in  
local media

**850+**

**followers on Instagram**  
a 500% increase in  
followers from last year

**4,467**  
followers

**4,082**  
likes on  
Facebook

200+ more likes from 2022

**follow us!**



@longfellowcommunity council



# events



## solace at the palace

A free day of art, music, and joy in the Longfellow neighborhood. Art workshops, vendors, food, and local bands brought community together to create & heal



Rallying in Solidarity 4 Equity was a health equity event in Brackett Park that brought resources & a health fair to underserved members in our communities



# GMMs

# RISE





# Trivia Night

LCC hosted over 90 large and small events and meetings. We supported engagement sessions on the 3rd Precinct; brought neighbors together for a day of free fiber arts at Mittenfest; and hosted our first Trivia Night fundraiser + more clean ups, GMMs and our annual River Gorge Festival

## community cleanups



Our annual festival celebrating the beauty of the Mississippi River Gorge with free canoe rides, nature tours, interactive kids activities, information booths & ice cream

## river gorge festival





# programs

## LCC provides a variety of ongoing programming

- **Weed Wrench Rental** – Our highly popular program provides residents with tools to remove tree and bush stumps and roots
- **Building Ambassador Program** – Tenant leaders in rental properties working with LCC to help engage renters for a small stipend
- **Community Clean-ups** – Volunteer-run quarterly neighborhood clean-ups including community sites & at the Mississippi River
- **Volunteer Snow Shoveling** – connects neighbors who need snow removal services with volunteers to keep our community accessible and safe
- **Technical Assistance for Community Initiatives** – We provide technical assistance to community members, which includes funding and communications support, connection to community partners or government agencies



## HOME improvement program

The Longfellow Community Council has made available \$91,712 in Neighborhood Revitalization Program funds to be used for home improvement rebates. Qualified homeowners can be rebated up to 80% of their home improvement costs up to \$5,000.



**10** property owners helped in 2023



# programs

## free the deeds

Longfellow Community Council expanded our efforts with Free the Deeds programming. We sent out mailers to the 1,000 houses with remaining racial covenants in our neighborhood with a coordinated door knocking campaign. We tabled at events like Open Streets, River Gorge Festival, our GMM, and monthly tabling at the Midtown Farmers Market.



# 200+

racial covenants  
discharged

# 60.5

# of volunteer hours  
given to discharging  
racial covenants in  
Greater Longfellow  
through doorknocking,  
tabling, working at  
events and more

## reclaim the outdoors

As recipients of a Hennepin County Green Partners Grant, LCC partnered with three organizations to center BIPOC in our outdoor spaces in spring 2023.

1. We built Leopold benches from recycled and reclaimed wood with Better Futures MN
2. Black Table Arts led a workshop to paint those benches
3. Urban Bird Collective led bird walks through our neighborhood's natural spaces



# Leadership Statement

2023 brought many new events and programs to Longfellow that simply couldn't have been the amazing fun community connecting activities they were without our volunteers!

We are continuously awed by the time this community gives to LCC and we are thankful for our dedicated volunteers each and every day. We have Board and committee members creating the vision for how LCC should best serve greater Longfellow. We have working groups organizing events like the River Gorge Festival and developing initiatives like Renaming Edmund Boulevard. We have event volunteers ensuring success at events like Solace at the Palace and Mittenfest. We have project volunteers doorknocking to remove racial covenants. And so many others doing beautiful work for this community. We can't thank them enough!

Join the community building fun with LCC in 2024! We hope to see you at an event, meeting, or in community soon!



Rachel Boeke  
Executive Director

**Join the fun – get involved!**



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  @longfellowcommunitycouncil

**SUPPORT  
OUR WORK  
WITH A  
DONATION  
TODAY!**



**VOLUNTEER  
WITH LCC!**



**SIGN UP FOR OUR  
NEWSLETTER!**

