

EPIC's ACOMPLISHMENTS listed below have been achieved by an all volunteer Board of 9 Directors meeting twice a month under the leadership of Carol Pass.

Since Carol's recent retirement there have been many more.

Housing:

- Initiated, coordinated and managed the land acquisition, RFP process and selection of developer, **Sherman & Associates**, fund raising, community design group process for **2909 Bloomington Ave. S., the East Phillips Commons Apartments, 46 units of affordable housing.** (Value approximately \$7,700,000)
- Initiated, coordinated and managed the land acquisition, RFP process and selection of developers **Powderhorn Resident's Group (PRG) and DJR**, fund raising, community design group process for the 28 townhomes of **Franklin Station development** on East **24th St.** (approximately \$6,000,000)
- Initiated, coordinated and managed the land acquisition, RFP process and selection of developer **Phoenix Developers**, fundraising, community design group process for **Greenway Heights affordable apartment building** at **2845 Bloomington Ave.** the only affordable rental housing on the Midtown Greenway. (42 affordable rental units for approximately \$8,000,000)
- Initiated and assisted the land acquisition, RFP process and selection of developers (**Greater metro Housing Corporation and Powderhorn residents Group**) for the **East Phillips Infill Campaign** to fill our vacant lots with single-family homes. We are now on our **42nd home** and have transformed the neighborhood. (approximately \$7,400,000)
- EPIC contributed funding to build the **Bii Di Gain Dash Anwebi Native American Elder Housing** developed by **American Indian Community Development Corporation** with **CommonBond Communities** .

Approximately \$30,100,000 in Affordable Housing and a total transformation of the neighborhood.

East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center:

- Creation of the **East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center** from concept to lobbying, fundraising, building, and even staffing, make this the only Community funded Community Center in the City.
- Initiated and led the lobbying process for most of the money for the **East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center** (\$3,500,000) added to \$200,000 from EPIC's NRP funds. We believe that the East Phillips Cultural & Community Center is the only Community Center paid for by the organizing and work of the community.
- C & B Pass wrote the grants to deal with newly discovered **asbestos and lead** that threatened construction of the new community center. (\$600,000)
- Assisted fund raising with the youth petition for the **East Phillips soccer fields** (\$300,000)
- **Surveyed entire community** to determine needs for East Phillips Park
- **Hired DJR Architecture** and led the Community process to **design the building** and Grounds (\$10,000)

East Phillips Programs, Resources and Initiatives:

- C. Pass wrote the 501©(3), started and financed the **Hispanic Baseball League of Minnesota**, (\$40,000)
- C. Pass wrote the 501©(3) and helped start and finance the **Somali American Community organization**
- Helped build financial support for their new **Somali radio station, KALY Radio.** (\$23,000)
- EPIC funded the business plan for Minneapolis Swims **for the new swimming pool** (\$25,000)
- EPIC helped fund the match for the matching grant for saving and renovating **the swimming pool** offered by **Shakopee Midewakanton Sioux Community** (\$50,000) & hired **DJR** to design the added Warm Water Teaching Pool to what is now the **Phillips Aquatic Center..**
- Organized and ran the **Bloomington Ave. Citizens Patrol** (requested by children and parents) from 6:00 to 8:00 AM every weekly morning to make it safe for kids to catch the school bus and help those struggling with drug addiction while providing Community eyes on the street.
- Provided over \$200,000 to **fund two Native American Elder Housing Buildings** at 24th St and Bloomington, and another \$200,000 plus of EPIC grant money for Little Earth Rehab.
- Founded and funded the **Hispanic Baseball League and the Somali-American Community Organization.**

- Created and funded numerous programs for East Phillips residents such as the Financial Literacy and Computer Literacy classes in the East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center, the Native Youth Arts Collective, Summer Basketball Camps Carol helped organize the Annual East Phillips SummerFest in the renovated Park.
- Throughout this journey , Carol chaired the incredible volunteers of the EPIC Board.

Environmental and Social Justice Efforts

- EPIC and Ms. Pass led the successful **struggle against the Midtown Eco-burner**, touted as a wonderful facility but discovered to be asthma causing and a terrible polluter. This took a year of strong organizing.
- EPIC also led the Neighborhood's successful **struggle against the Excel energy high-voltage power lines down the Midtown GreenWay**. Took another year of strong organizing. Karen Clark & C. Pass wrote the brief for the neighborhoods surrounding this problem and won against four corporate lawyers.
- EPIC and Ms. Pass initiated and coordinated **the resurgent effort to deindustrialize the heavy industry area** at the Roof Depot site. This gave rise to discovery that **the Roof Depot building** was for sale.
- **EPIC formed EPNI to determine a new use for the 7.6 acre site and the former Sears warehouse building** that would create green jobs for unskilled labor in the neighborhood They hired consultant **Dean Dovolis** and facilitated the creation of the **East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm project**, a job creating and environmentally friendly use for the Roof Depot site. The primary goal of this effort was and still is to prevent a polluting entity from buying the site and adding more pollution the this already polluted BIPOC neighborhood.
- C. Pass led the effort to enlist potential funders for the purchase of the **Roof Depot site** for \$5 million and the creation of the Urban farm Project for an additional \$4 million. **The community effort was thwarted when the City, with the threat of Eminent Domain, forced the sale of the site and newly renovated warehouse for \$7.6 million to the City.** A legal battle against the City to save the 230,000 Sq. ft. newly renovated warehouse and prevent more pollution is currently in progress.

East Phillips Park Programming Partnership – The only one in the Minneapolis Park System:

EPIC and C. and B. Pass formed the Programming Partnership - to assist the MPRB to provide Quality Programming and events in East Phillips Park

- **More than twenty organizations provide programming & events in our park for our people with their staff - a Win-Win for everyone!**
- **Worked with Osiris Organization to upgrade East Phillips Park computer labs & computers**
- **Worked to get Hi-Speed internet in the two Computer labs 1 adult & one youth lab.**
- **Free Computer Literacy Classes in Spanish and English**
- **Free Financial Literacy Classes in Spanish and English**
- **Free quality used lap-top computer give-away**
- **Working to get Microsoft's Imagine Academy and their MS Office Suite in our facility**
- **Working to host Free Computer Fix-It Clinics**
- **East Phillips Park Summer camps for kids with free lunch and dinner**
- **Free Basketball and Soccer clinics for boys and girls of all ages**
- **Pottery & Ceramics classes and much more**

East Phillips Park SummerFest:

This annual event celebrates our 5 ½ year struggle to transform “Cock-Roach Park” into East Phillips Park

- Features the talents of local youth from 4 years to 24 years of age
- Ethnic Dance Groups perform
- Information tables inform about neighborhood organizations and services
- Minneapolis & Park Police interact and party with neighbors
- The Police mounted patrol fascinate our youth, many of whom have never seen a horse up close
- The Fire Department and Bomb Squad bring their trucks

- Food from Holy Rosary & Local vendors
- Piñatas and games including Inflated Jumpers and Slides Keep the kids busy

East Phillips Community 17th Ave. Garden :

- When three homes were burned down in a drug war, EPIC surveyed the entire neighborhood suggesting that EPIC money be used to preserve the lots as a permanent Garden for East Phillips Residents. The survey was nearly unanimous in favor
 - **The resulting Garden has 34 plots, 34 families of multiple ethnicities are involved every summer, almost 100 people including children.**
 - **It has plots for two Native American pre-schools, the East Phillips Family Nurturing Center and the East Phillips Park Youth**
 - It serves 34 families over 100 people of this multi ethnic neighborhood many of whom rely on it for their summer & fall food.
 - **The EPIC Garden received a grant from the Seward Co-Op to renovate its fences and paths.** We wrote the grant to include money to pay neighborhood youth to help and learn and be involved in the garden.
 - The annual **Garden Fall Harvest Party & Pot-Luck** is the 3rd Saturday of October each year. It features the annual Pumpkin Carving Contest, food, campfire with S'mores, music & more

Annual Phillips Clean sweep:

- EPIC with the other Phillips Neighborhoods & Little Earth put on this huge community building event
 - Two Free Breakfast sites and free lunch is served after the clean-up at Stewart Park
 - 400 free Clean Sweep T-Shirts are given away each year
 - The neighborhoods together raise \$10,000 each year to pay for Garbage trucks, food & T-Shirts
 - Donors' names are on the back of the T-Shirts & design is chosen from youth Design Competition
 - Free lunch is served after the clean-up at Stewart Park
 - In the last two years we picked up 61,120 Lbs. of trash, 6,800 Lbs. of Metal, 62 TVs, 24 appliances and countless tires.

What is this all about?

You can see by the city's response to the EAW that there are only 2 things the city believes are standing in the way of their plans:

- 1) EPNI wants the building
- 2) There's arsenic under the building

The City does NOT mention the long term concern for the future health of the people of East Phillips. Traffic pollution is ongoing and doesn't go away even if the arsenic is appropriately remediated. Neither does the grandfathered pollution from the neighboring asphalt plant and foundry. The City seems quite content to pile on additional pollution to threaten the lives already at risk here.

This project began as an effort to save our children. The city has continuously focused on the building and the arsenic under the building. But the aim is eliminating pollution regardless of any future plan or project. If they don't solve or at least notice the problem of pollution and increased truck traffic, then they haven't responded to our concerns.

The city's failure to recognize the problem is asking for people in our neighborhood to give up their lives and die. The City is trying to market a plan that we do not buy! We aren't trying to market anything. The community plan creates a viable and wonderful future for our Native American, multi cultural and impoverished community and it flies in the face of any idea that the pollution is acceptable and can stay or that any more can be added. That's what this argument is about. This is why people won't back down.

Urban Farm NOT Toxic Harm