A UNIVERSITY DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

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W EST BANK/ CEDAR-RIVERSIDE

The Cedar-Riverside neighborhood, aka “the West Bank,” is located on the bluffs of the Mississippi River, east of downtown Minneapolis. Its history is nearly as old as the city itself. In the late 1890s, the neighborhood was known as “Snoose Boulevard,” a thriving community of Scandinavian immigrants, many of whom worked in the milling and lumber industries. In the 1960s and 1970s, the neighborhood became a beehive of hippies, intellectuals, actors, artists, and musicians. The towers of Riverside Plaza were the model for high-rise living of the future. Today, the West Bank boasts the largest community of immigrants in the Twin Cities, continuing its history of ethnic and cultural diversity.

The West Bank is packed with venues offering live performance, music, and dance. Exotic shops and restaurants blend with traditional establishments.

The West Bank is a civically active community. Among its many community-based organizations are the African Development Center, Cedar Riverside NRP Steering Committee, Cedar Riverside Peoples’ Center, Confederation of Somali Communities in Minnesota, East African Women’s Resource Center, West Bank Business Association, West Bank Community Coalition (WBCC), West Bank Community Development Corporation.

FIVE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WEST BANK/ CEDAR-RIVERSIDE

- Most culturally diverse neighborhood in the state, with a long history of welcoming first generation immigrants, including European immigrants in the 19th and early 20th centuries and currently Korean, Vietnamese, and East African communities
- Has per capita the most entertainment venues outside of Los Angeles or New York, with music of every genre (West African folk, Balkan Jazz, Punk, Ska, traditional, etc), four theatres, and the University’s performance and visual arts schools
- Most densely populated area in the state, offering an eclectic array of housing options, from high-rise living to cooperative housing and single family homes along Riverside Park

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Fully 45 percent of current residents are foreign born. The University’s presence includes the west bank of the Minneapolis campus, with Wilson and Andersen Libraries; professional schools of law, business, and public affairs; and the social sciences departments. The University’s Arts Quarter and off-campus theaters and music venues draw patrons from a wide region into the neighborhood for cultural programs and entertainment. The neighborhood is also home for the Fairview-University medical campus and Augsburg College along Riverside Avenue, both institutions planning new facilities that will provide additional amenities along this corridor.