



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

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January 27, 2017

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
200 South Biscayne Boulevard
Suite 3300
Miami, FL 33131

Dear Knight Foundation:

RE: Support of Saint Paul's Knight Cities Challenge Application

The Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development strongly supports the City of Saint Paul's Knight Cities Challenge application, *Bring Pop Up Meeting and Power to the People*. Expanding on the success of Pop Up Meeting we will create a suite of fun civic engagement tools to increase the number and type of public meetings in our city.

Saint Paul is very fortunate to have Pop Up Meeting, a City-run popsicle truck that exchanges popsicles for residents' ideas on issues. This non-traditional form of civic engagement is used to reach those who do not typically attend public meetings and allows us to connect with people where they are, not asking them to come to us.

During the summer of 2016 Pop Up Meeting helped us engage with hundreds of people around the topic of updating the City's comprehensive plan. We reached more people than we would through traditional means. More importantly, Pop Up Meeting helped us reach far and wide gathering input from people who truly reflect Saint Paul's population.

While our team was in the community last summer with Pop Up Meeting many people asked how they could host a Pop Up Meeting of their own. That got us thinking about how the model could be modified to allow a broader set of users. Saint Paul is excited about the possibility of sharing a creative, interactive engagement tool with others by making it accessible and easy to use for individuals, community groups, and non-profit organizations. This democratizes the process for gathering public input and shares the City's expertise while increasing civic engagement. With the combination of different sized tools and engagement training we will build capacity around civic engagement across the City of Saint Paul so that more voices can be heard.

Please contact Kady Dadlez at 651-266-6619 or kady.dadlez@ci.stpaul.mn.us if you need further assistance.

Regards,


Jonathan Sage-Martinson
Director