



# VENTURA VILLAGE

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## MAIC celebrates 50 years on the Ave By: Natalie Rademacher, MAIC Communications Coordinator

This year, the Minneapolis American Indian Center is celebrating 50 years of providing essential services and community spaces to our relatives in the Twin Cities and beyond.

On May 4, 1975, then-Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey helped commemorate the center's grand opening – known at the time as the Minneapolis Regional Native American Center – with a speech about how the center could support Native people's right to self-determination by providing critical resources and a state-of-the-art community space.

"The [Center] is a good start toward achieving these goals at the grass-roots level, where there is first-hand knowledge of the job that needs to be done. And it can become a model for the nation of what can and must be accomplished," he said.

Since then, the center has served countless relatives through programs that help provide stability, strengthen connection to culture and community, improve health and wellness, achieve academic success, and establish pathways to living wage jobs that help break the cycle of generational poverty.

Native community leaders first launched the center in a modest storefront in the 1960s to support the influx of Native people who moved to Minneapolis from reservations through a federal Native urban relocation program. The current center's doors officially opened in 1975 after our home was built on Franklin Avenue. Since then, we've been the heart of the Twin Cities urban Native community, with more than 25,000 people visiting our building each year.



To celebrate our 50th anniversary, we are hosting a couple special events:

- An honorary powwow will be held in our gym on May 1.
- A gala will be held on Sept. 25 to celebrate this historic milestone and to increase support for our building and programs.

Everyone is invited to help honor 50 years of the center by attending an upcoming event, eating a meal at Gatherings Café, or by learning more about us at [www.maicnet.org](http://www.maicnet.org).

It's been an honor to be in the Ventura Village neighborhood for half a century. Our programs and spaces look very different than they did in 1975, but we remain deeply rooted in our mission and dedication to serving our relatives and being a welcome space for all. The center was started by leaders in the Twin Cities Native community, and we continue to be led by and for the people, with a majority Native leadership and staffing today.

As Sen. Humphrey said in 1975: "This Center is unique in that it shows that we can cooperate as citizens to put together this nation's first urban Native American Center. It is mainly the dedication, the conviction, the idealism, and the vision of the Native American population of this city, that are to be most highly commended."

We are deeply grateful to all who have supported and shaped the center over the years, and we look forward to continuing to serve our relatives for years to come.

Pidamaya ye / Miigwech / Thank You

### Ventura Village News

- Our May General Membership meeting will be Wednesday, May 14th, 7 PM at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue. See our website for more details and the Zoom Link.
- Interested in helping us plant our 60 planters on Franklin Avenue? Join our annual event Saturday morning, May 17, in the alley behind 1815 13th Avenue South starting at 10 AM. You can bring your own tools and wagons or use ours - we'll have plenty there.
- Hope Community invites you to help plant their gardens every Tuesday afternoon at 4 PM, beginning May 6th. Meet at their Rose Garden, 1910 Portland Avenue. Supplies and refreshments will be provided.
- Need help for your own projects in your garden or lawn? Contact our website for tools and ideas. We also have supplies for removing graffiti and trash cleanup.

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