

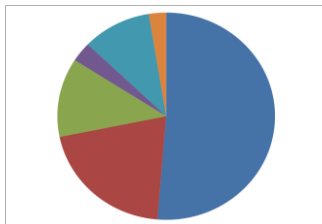
# Depot Youth Engagement Project Partners Report 2011

**Busy Year, Bright Future!**

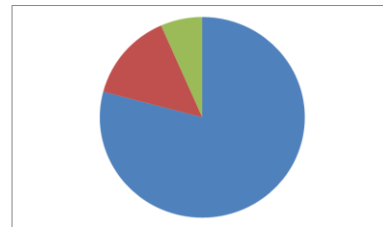


A good mix of innovation and building on successful past events kept everyone at the Depot very busy in 2011. Our goal for every event is youth participation - in the planning, in the marketing, in the activity, and in the evaluation. Our live music events continue to bring youth from the entire West Metro to the Depot.

Financially, we are finding our way in a nonprofit environment that has been shaken. Many of our traditional funders are experiencing a decline in investment income and donations. By limiting our expenses, working some unpaid hours, and seeking a broader base for funding, we have survived.



**Hopkins School District**  
**Park Nicollet Foundation**  
 Event Income  
 Donations  
 City of Hopkins  
 Rental Income



**Depot Income 2011 - \$97,500**  
**Depot Expenses 2011 - \$91,000**

**Personnel (1 FT, 4 PT)**  
**Building Expenses**  
**Program Expenses**

## Attendance/Participation for Depot events:

EVENT DESCRIPTION	% Youth	Annual Total Attendees
<p><b>OPEN MIC NIGHT</b> Held every Tuesday, “first come” sign ups, no charge to participate or be in audience. Volunteers run event, 1-2 staff. Average weekly audience is 35-40.</p>	90%	2000
<p><b>FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE AND LOCAL MUSIC</b> Held on Fridays throughout the year. Most bands are high school students – sometimes Depot “alumni” bands play. There are time slots for up to 4 bands. An average of 80 - 150 attendees and 10-15 performers each night. Volunteers (5-10 people) run event with a minimum of 2 staff.</p>	96%	7000
<p><b>BOARD SUPPORTED EVENTS</b> In order to find times for all the youth bands wishing to be on stage at the Depot, 1-2 Wednesdays per month will be run much like a Friday concert night. Additionally, the Depot hosts and staffs open admission events for other youth organizations like Teens Alone, Hopkins and Edina Earth Clubs, Wayzata KIVA.</p>	95%	1000
<p><b>BOARD MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE</b> Board members meet at least once a month for business and planning as well as representing the Depot at community meetings or in community service projects. It is the same 12-18 people throughout the year.</p>	96%	400
<b>ESTIMATED ANNUAL TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>		<b>10,400</b>

## 2011 Depot Highlights



The Depot annual MLK Weekend Board and Staff Retreat took place at YMCA Camp Ihduhapi and included group activities, individual challenges, review and evaluation of the past year's events, and, of course, *goal setting!!*

**Music Events** - The Depot reputation for hosting live music by and for area students continues to strengthen. In addition to bands, many solo performers take the stage to sing, play, do spoken word piece, stand-up comedy, even Shakespeare! It is a low risk, highly supportive environment with good equipment and with advance ticket sales promotion- can even provide pizza and gas money for performers. Teens Alone and other youth allied groups bring their fund-raising events to the Depot to share in the popularity of the venue and great customer service provided by our student event staff. At the very end of the year, the Depot was awarded a grant from the Minnesota Regional Arts Council to begin a sound stage recording and mixing program so that the live performances at the Depot can be captured and shared. We hope to have this set up by the early Spring.

### **New Positions - Youth Event Staff (Team YES!)**

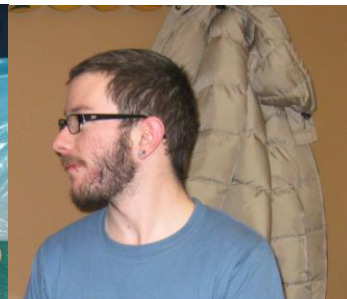
These part-time staffers have enabled the Depot to host more youth events and rent out the space more often for private use.



**Peter Mariutto**



**Rik Lundgren**



**Patrick Williamson**



## **(Re)New(able) Energy at the Depot!**

One of the biggest and most dramatic events for the Depot was the installation of solar panels on the entire south facing roof of our 100+ year old train station building. For years Depot students have been seeking out ways to "green" the Depot building and the ways the community uses it. The Depot has introduced commercial composting to Hopkins, switched to CFL light bulbs, planted native shrubs, trees, and flowers, installed a rain barrel to water all the plants, encouraged bicycle use, offered products that are organic and fair trade, and supported local businesses and artists whenever possible. In keeping with this commitment, the Depot sought funding to add solar energy producing panels to the south-facing roof. The work was completed just in time to take advantage of the longest day of the year on June 21st. The Depot has the first non-residential solar array located within the City of Hopkins. The funding came from the Solar Legacy Fund in the **MN Dept. of Natural Resources** and was administered by Depot Partner organization, **Three Rivers Park District**.



Now when people stop in for music, a meeting, or just to pick up a cold drink and an energy bar, it is possible to stop in to see on our flat screen monitor how much energy is being

produced at the Depot and how much is being used at any given time, or over a period of time. Coffeehouse and concert guests can also learn about renewable energy and how our system works. Field trip demonstrations can be arranged for any grade level - classrooms or science clubs.

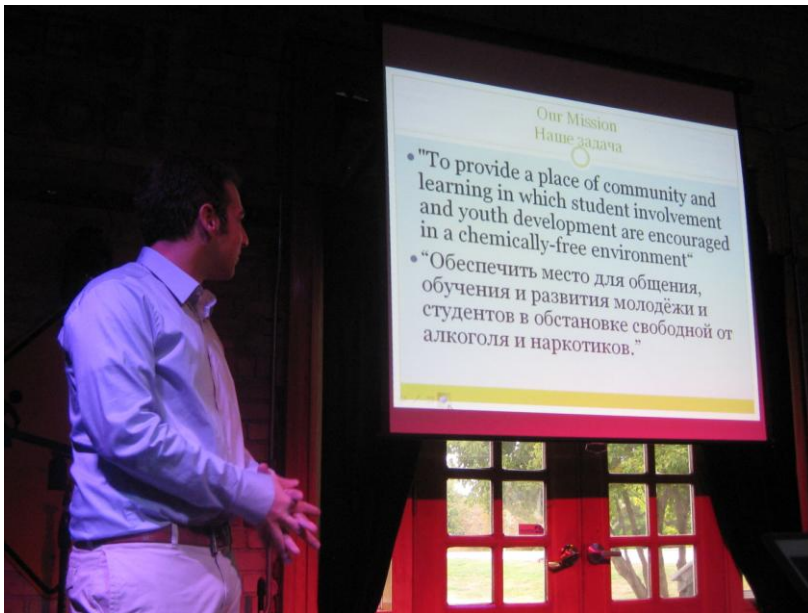
In the 13th year of our operations, it is clear that the Depot must continue to increase the number of sources from whom we receive support. With the help of *pro bono* legal counsel from the Minneapolis offices of **Dorsey and Whitney**, we have established the **Depot Youth Foundation**.

The Foundation will be able to participate in fund-raising efforts like Give MN and solicit funds from foundations and individuals who share our goals for the youth of the community. Another boost to our sustainability came from our relationship with the **Hopkins/Minnetonka Recreation Services** and the **City of Hopkins**. In addition to the significant in-kind support we receive from these Partners, we will now be part of their yearly budget cycles and **Depot Project Manager Ted Duepner** will be in charge of Youth events for **Minnetonka Recreation Services**.



After a meeting with members of the **Park Nicollet Foundation Board**, the Depot was recommended to **the Sapphire Consulting Team** at **Carlson Business School**. This group of business school students did some excellent market research and analysis over the course of a whole semester, providing our student Board with a package of actionable items to help us build our program and funding base.

When **Hopkins Mayor Gene Maxwell** traveled to Ukraine with a Sister City economic and civic development delegation, he presented a Depot slide show prepared by our Board Chair. When it came time for the reciprocal visit from the citizens of Boryspil, Ukraine, they all wanted to see the Depot! Board Chair **Alex Aronovich** happens to be a Russian speaker and served as host and interpreter at a wonderful breakfast reception at the Depot. In any language, the Depot message is one about youth empowerment and community partnerships!



Depot Board Chair Alex Aronovich from Wayzata HS speaks at Sister City Breakfast.

The slide, "*Nashi Zadacha*" is the Depot Mission Statement in English and Russian.

Depot staff and students continue to represent the Depot in community meetings and events. One of the most anticipated events of the year is the Depot Halloween Party which was, once again, a big success

To learn more about the Depot:  
**[thedepotcoffeehouse.com](http://thedepotcoffeehouse.com)**  
**9451 Excelsior Blvd.,**  
**Hopkins, MN 55343**



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