

# Emerging Leaders Forum

*Tomorrow's Philanthropic Leaders Building a Better Community Today*

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>> NEWS FLASH <<

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## Save the Date

ELF will kick off 2009 with a Murder Mystery Party at Pioneer Place in downtown St. Cloud on February 21, 2009. Watch for more details.

## Join ELF's Steering Committee

ELF is now accepting applications for its Steering Committee. Terms will begin April 1, 2009. [Learn more or Apply.](#)

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>> UPCOMING EVENTS <<

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View a list of community events at [www.CommunityVIEW.org](http://www.CommunityVIEW.org)

## → ELF Helps Drive River Plans Forward

The Emerging Leaders Forum helped ignite a community discussion on rediscovering our place on the Mississippi River. A four-part series, launched in August, has led to the start of a community plan on how to better leverage this valuable natural resource.

A group of more than 30 ELF members and other community members, led by Mississippi River Connections, prioritized ideas offered at the October visioning session. The top five priority areas are:

1. Leverage the St. Cloud Civic Center Expansion to improve access to the river and drive economic development
2. Increase access to the river (small boat landings, pedestrian access)
3. Increase involvement in the public planning process
4. Facilitate connected activity corridors (trail networks, "river district" retail zone)
5. Create new riverfront venues for dining, theater, shops, etc.

Mississippi River Connections of St. Cloud (MRC) continues to meet to develop action steps for each of these priorities. MRC is a community group that envisions St. Cloud as a "Vibrant River City" that embraces the unique values and assets of the Mississippi River. The group is currently led by ELF members, but is open to anyone.

For information about getting involved with MRC, please contact Marian Bender at [marianb@minnesotawaters.org](mailto:marianb@minnesotawaters.org).

## What's Next for ELF?

In addition to continuing our involvement with the River project, ELF is exploring where to next focus its efforts. The Community Impact Team has started reviewing the results of the donor survey, and ELF will be organizing some gatherings around the issues that most interest members. Watch your email for more details soon.

