
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group
Address:	1620 E 46 th St Minneapolis, Mn 55407
Website url:	www.frnng.org
Organization email:	frnng@mtn.org
Federal EIN:	41-1773302
Board Contact:	Name: Stearline Rucker
Staff Contact:	Name: Jennifer Case
Date of Board Approval	January 12, 2011

FUNDING ACTIVITIES.

Use the following questions as a guide for your submission.

1. *After this first funding year, neighborhood organizations will submit proposals for three years of funding from the Community Participation Program. How will your organization engage residents and other stakeholders in 2011 to develop your three-year proposal?*

Because it is a priority of FRNNG to hear as many voices as possible, we will begin by ensuring all groups are well represented on the board, on committees and at community meetings and events. In order to make certain everyone is aware of FRNNG events, notifications will be made in English as well as Spanish. Our regular media outlets, Close to Home and the FRNNG website, will be augmented with announcements of special events on public television as well as the addition of an automated voice messaging system which will allow those without television or computer access to remain informed.

In addition to this, each neighborhood representative will host quarterly meetings. Because these discussions will be open to the public, well advertised and include a social component, we are confident attendance will be high and neighbors will feel comfortable voicing concerns and opinions. In developing the three-year proposal, FRNNG plans to hire a facilitator to assist with one meeting in each of the three neighborhoods. At this meeting, residents will have the opportunity to take place in the strategic planning of FRNNG's future with the help of a professional. Finally, a portion of the Annual Neighborhood Meeting will be devoted to the proposal planning.

2. *What regular outreach and engagement activities will your organization carry out in 2011?*

Each neighborhood representative will hold quarterly meetings in order to better engage residents. These meetings will be well-publicized and open to the public. FRNNG will make efforts to extend the invitation to area churches, private and charter schools, as well as area businesses.

In addition to the quarterly neighborhood meetings, a monthly gathering of block club leaders is planned. At these meetings, FRNNG staff will be able to gather block and neighborhood level information as well as disburse any necessary news/updates.

As part of community engagement activities, FRNNG plans to sponsor several block competitions throughout the year. Examples of planned activities include: alley beautification and holiday lighting. Finally, the FRNNG Greening Committee is planning a community garden project which will serve to engage youth and adults alike throughout the community. Once start-up is complete on the garden, the committee will be selling garden plots which will serve as a fundraiser for FRNNG. Accompanying the garden project will be a Speaker Series, serving as additional outreach as well as education for our community members.

3. *How will your organization reach out to under-represented groups in your community? Who are these groups?*

In the coming year, FRNNG hopes to better represent the Latino populations of our neighborhoods. Using the 2010 U.S. Census, the FRNNG board will set specific goals related to the representation on both the board as well as individual committees. We plan to actively recruit volunteers and committee/board members in languages other than English. In addition, all printed material will be made available in Spanish and English. Through the efforts of a student intern, under-represented groups will be recruited to attend the quarterly neighborhood meetings in addition to having an increased presence at annual events such as the parade held each June.

Planned improvements to the website will also help FRNNG better reach under-represented groups in our community. For example, the Communications Committee currently has a plan in place to make the website handicap-accessible for individuals who may be blind or dyslexic, as well as having important information (meeting dates/times, etc.) translated into Spanish.

4. *What planning activities would your organization like to carry out in 2011? (This could include strategic planning, land use planning, NRP planning, etc).*

Committee specific planning activities:

Communication: Publish Close to Home newsletter, revamp website and maintain welcome packets.

Business: Oversee the Commercial Improvement program, market neighborhood businesses, help maintain the online business directory

Community and Safety: Help organize block clubs and support the online neighborhood/business directory

Parks: Install an outdoor information sign, shade for wading pool, and new baseball fencing

Housing: Oversee revolving loan program which supports property improvements

Greening: Manage the proposed community garden project which will serve as both a community engagement project as well as a fundraiser, assist with Speakers Series

5. *How does your organization provide information to the community? How do you gather information from the community?*

Provide

FRNNG provides information to area residents in a variety of ways. Two important modes of communication include the website and bi-monthly newsletter, Close to Home. By visiting the website, neighbors can view past board meeting minutes, organization by laws, contact information for committees and board members as well as upcoming news and events related to the neighborhood. A planned improvement to the website will also allow committee chairs to quickly and easily update their individual committee pages, ensuring information is always up to date. The Close to Home newsletter is a great tool for disseminating information on area issues, highlighting neighborhood businesses, and keeping those without computer/internet access in the know.

In addition to these methods, FRNNG provides information by employing part-time office staff as well as student interns. Relevant neighborhood news is announced monthly at the South Chicago Area Business Alliance (SCABA) meetings. Many Northrop neighbors participate in an online google group which has proven to be a valuable resource to FRNNG in the past.

Plans for 2011 include producing an online business directory, utilizing public television to promote area events, creating Field and Regina google groups similar to Northrop's, and paying a stipend to a student intern to help maintain the website.

Gather

Information from the community is gathered through monthly committee and board meetings which are all open to the public and advertised on the website, in the newsletter and recorded on the organization's voicemail. Office staff is able to respond to phone calls, emails and in-person visits and relay important information back to the board. Neighborhood representatives are also an effective way to garner information

through the use of meetings, phone calls, emails, and online google groups. In much the same way, block club leaders are able to record neighborhood questions and concerns. Information is both provided and gathered through the utilization of area council members' community meetings.

6. *What festivals and events will your organization host or support in 2011?*

February: South Minneapolis Housing Fair

April: Earth Week Celebration, Annual Neighborhood Meeting

June: Annual Neighborhood Celebration, Annual Parade

July: Get Fit Celebration (unveiling of outdoor exercise equipment, ethnic food festival)

August: National Night Out

September: SCABA Fall Festival, FRN alley beautification challenge

October: 1st Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

November: Night on 48th St Fund raiser

December: FRN holiday lighting competition

7. *What else would you like the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission to know about your organization?*

The FRNNG board would like NCEC to know that in 2011, the organization will be launching several efforts aimed at reinventing health initiatives and family togetherness throughout our neighborhoods. Programs and events will be developed which focus on increasing cultural/diversity awareness, health/wellness and spending time as a family and as a community. As an example, a community health fair is currently being researched at which residents could have simple tests performed (e.g. blood pressure) as well as be informed on common illnesses and how to avoid, prevent and/or care for them in addition to advice on how to stay healthy and active. Held in conjunction with the fair will be a world food day and the unveiling of the outdoor exercise equipment which FRNNG is currently pursuing the purchase of. Finally, FRNNG plans to begin highlighting neighborhood attributes and businesses through the creation of an online business directory which will be available on the FRNNG website.

8. *Besides funding, what are some other ways that the NCR and NCEC can help your neighborhood organization?*

FRNNG would appreciate the increased presence of NCR/NCEC representatives at neighborhood meetings and events. In addition, it would be great if NCR/NCEC staff expertise could occasionally be tapped into to help with the neighborhood group's project planning and development. FRNNG would also like to recommend NCR/NCEC become part of the 311 system. Finally, ensuring a link to the FRNNG website is available through the NCR/NCEC websites would be very helpful.

ESTIMATED BUDGET (see attached spreadsheet for more detail)

Staff Expenses	\$21832.81
Employee Benefits	\$0
Professional Services	\$2140.80
Occupancy	\$6229.96
Communications/Outreach	\$27000.00
Supplies and Materials	\$1200.00
Festivals and events	\$3350.00
Food and refreshments	\$2273.59
Development	\$500
Fundraising	\$9000.00
Other Services	\$0
TOTAL:	73527.16