




COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHiNC) Application
February 11, 2011

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHiNC)
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Organization email:	info@lindenhills.org
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FUNDING ACTIVITIES

- 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?**

The Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHiNC) is a community and volunteer-based 501c3 nonprofit organization that strives to increase civic participation of the residents within its neighborhood and make Minneapolis a great place to live, work, and play.

During 2011, LHiNC will engage community members in a variety of ways to develop a proposal for the following three-year cycle. Starting with the Board and committees, strategic planning will be undertaken to transition from the NRP to the NCR/NCEC model of neighborhood planning and community outreach. LHiNC will continue to build on the public outreach model that was used in developing the NRP Phase I and Phase II Action Plans.

During the first year of CPP, LHiNC will survey the community at major events like the Spring Festival and our Annual Meeting held in partnership with Fall Fest at Linden Hills Park. We will schedule an open house to share ideas and get feedback about the three-year funding cycle. We will also communicate through our bi-monthly print newsletter, our monthly e-news, e-mail contacts listserv, and web and Facebook pages.

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

Regular outreach for LHiNC includes communications from the bi-monthly newsletter, monthly e-newsletters, open board and committee meetings, community events like the Spring Festival, and working with local businesses. We are also working to expand and enhance our neighborhood network of block leaders. One major project for 2011 is the redesign of the Linden Hills Welcome Packets for new neighbors.

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

We will enlist a variety of communication methods reach out to community members with varying degrees of communications technology usage, ranging from U.S. Mail and door-to-door delivery of the newsletter to enhanced use of our website and social media. Our events are also held on weeknights and weekends to engage residents and families who work fulltime. We host or co-host many events at local parks for free, such as the recent Winterfest celebration held at the Linden Hills Park on a Friday night in January.

As the lead participation organization for the neighborhood, LHiNC strives to connect with all neighbors. From the groups identified in the CPP handbook, the largest underrepresented group in Linden Hills is renters. One outreach strategy we are undertaking is to communicate further with landlords and building managers to improve distribution of the welcome packets to new tenants. Although census information shows that Linden Hills has a large white population, racial minorities, especially Hispanics, are a growing population in the neighborhood.¹ Linden Hills also has a growing senior population, and we are working on a series of aging-in-place initiatives to coordinate improved outreach to those residents to help them remain and thrive in our community.

Another underrepresented group we wish to engage with is business owners outside of “downtown” Linden Hills. We have a strong relationship with the Linden Hills Business Association and will continue to collaborate on ways to promote all neighborhood businesses. Through the strategic planning in 2011, LHiNC will develop more details on reaching out to all underrepresented groups in the neighborhood.

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

Planning activities that we will carry out in 2011 include strategic planning for the CPP program as well as planning for major neighborhood events like the Spring Festival. We will also work with our committees to implement projects funded by NRP, such as a solar panel installation project, as well as those NRP projects identified by the neighborhood as a priority but that are currently without a funding source. We are also continuing work

¹ City of Minneapolis, Linden Hills Neighborhood Profile
http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/neighborhoods/linden_hills_population.asp#TopOfPage

underway with City Planner Amanda Arnold in CPED to create a business development plan for the neighborhood.

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

As mentioned above, LHiNC provides information to the community through a variety of sources. The ***Linden Hills Line*** is a bi-monthly print newsletter hand delivered by service organizations in the neighborhood. We also publish a monthly electronic newsletter, update the organization's website, and use social media, like Facebook. We have regular contact with local media such as the Southwest Journal, SW Patch, and distribute flyers and communication materials at important institutions in the community such as the Linden Hills Park building and the Linden Hills Library. LHiNC provides a neighborhood welcome packet to new residents to connect them to LHiNC activities as well as provide information about City services and other community resources.

Linden Hills gathers information from community members by direct contact with the LHiNC board, at events, and through feedback from our website, phone, and emails.

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

LHiNC hosts and supports a variety of neighborhood events. LHiNC will organize and host the annual Spring Festival, which includes a neighborhood art fair, children's activities, silent auction, zero waste program, used book sale, and neighborhood garage sale. Other events include the Fall Fest/Annual Meeting held at Linden Hills Park, film screenings, and historic neighborhood walking tours. We also collaborate with other groups for events, such as the Minneapolis Park Board, Linden Hills Library, Southwest High School, and Linden Hills Business Association. One example of a partner-event is the recently-held Lake Harriet Winter Kite Festival co-sponsored by the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association, People for Parks, Minneapolis Park Board, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Kite Society.

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

LHiNC is undertaking additional projects in 2011 including a tennis court reconstruction project led by LHiNC and Save the Courts, completing a tree planting project, and expanding usage of home improvement loans.

In addition to giving to the community through organizing, communications, and outreach, LHiNC gives back financially to the neighborhood through its success with the Festival; this includes grants to local organizations that we partner with for the Festival and a spring and fall grant program for organizations and projects that make Linden Hills a better place to live and work, including the Linden Hills Park, Linden Hills Library, the Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra, and Southwest High School.

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

One of the key contributions the NCR/NCEC can provide is to promote the sharing of best practices and resources/expertise between neighborhood organizations and between neighborhood organizations and the City. Some other areas of assistance include:

- Assistance on reaching out to underrepresented communities, including data and current information on the community, and information on best practices for community participation;
- Provide information on City budget and other processes to provide to community members to facilitate engagement;
- Facilitate coordination and engagement with other government partners like the MPRB, Hennepin County Libraries, and Minneapolis School Board;
- Coordinate cost-shaving services to neighborhood groups, such as communication and technology services;
- Provide information and other resources for neighborhoods seeking to implement programs and projects identified as a priority by the neighborhood.

ESTIMATED BUDGET	Expenses	Notes on expenses
Staff Expenses	\$11,610.83	Staff expense is the total allocation minus all other budget items.
Employee Benefits	\$0	
Professional Services	\$0	
Occupancy	\$919	Phone and USPS charges
Communications/Outreach	\$4,600	Newsletter budget; does not include welcome packet
Supplies and Materials	\$250	Office expenses
Festivals and events	\$10,250	LHiNC sponsored events at LH Park, KiteFest, and \$8K for Spring Festival
Food and refreshments	\$200	Food for FallFest/LHiNC Annual Meeting at Linden Hills Park and Board Retreat
Development	\$0	
Fundraising	\$0	
Other Services:	\$0	
TOTAL w/out staff expenses:	\$16,218.67	
TOTAL :	27,829.50	

This proposal was approved by the LHiNC Board February 1, 2011.