
Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
Application

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association	
Address:	LHNA, PO Box 3978 Minneapolis, MN 55403	
Website url:	http://lowryhillneighborhood.org/	
Organization email:	lhna@lowryhillneighborhood.org	
Federal EIN:		
Board Contact:	Name:	Marty Broan
Staff Contact:	Name:	NONE
	Phone:	
	Email:	
	Address:	

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?

Lowry Hill residents are hungry for information that affects their lives, their safety, their taxes, their trees and their parks. Recently, when there was a rash of burglaries, we received several comments about how our neighborhood needed a service to inform its residents quickly to be aware of incidents like this.

LHNA has begun to develop tools to better communicate with our residents. We have gathered several hundred email addresses and have judiciously sent out monthly "e-blasts," which are electronic communications with information pertinent to our neighborhood such as meeting announcements, crime alerts, funding opportunities and highlighting the work of the LHNA Board.

Given the historic nature of Lowry Hill and its architecture, LHNA is developing a conservation district proposal that will require significant citizen input.

LHNA would like to begin by hiring part-time (perhaps as little as 10 hrs/month) staff to:

- *Identify block captains on each block in the neighborhood.*

-
- *Continue to collect contact information (especially emails) for as many residents as possible to further expand upon our “eblast” system. In the case of renters, that may entail meeting with property owners to gain the most direct access.*
 - *Work with LHNA Board members, Neighborhood leaders and City/County/Park/State officials to gather information that affects LH residents for regular electronic communication.*
 - *Further develop LHNA’s web site to allow for bulletin board postings as a way to hear from residents about their concerns, allow residents to share ideas with one another and for LHNA to gather ideas about the neighborhood’s priorities.*
 - *Conduct occasional polling (either mailed out or via our web site) to get feedback on issues of concern for LH residents.*
 - *Develop and execute a broader fund-raising strategy, with special attention to grants and opportunities for collaboration with other neighborhoods.*
 - *Collect information from residents about their opinions on our proposal to make Lowry Hill a “conservation district.”*

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

LHNA will send out monthly e-blasts to its newly broadened list and give people to opportunity to sign up for more regular or ad hoc communications in certain subject areas such as crime, taxes, trees, etc. We will either flesh out LHNA’s current web site or identify low cost/no cost online neighborhood bulletin board services to launch ongoing discussions for our neighborhood to use. We would conduct a poll in 2012 to identify the neighborhood’s current priorities.

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

Though Lowry Hill is known for its historic houses, more than 60% of its residents are renters – largely in apartment buildings toward the east perimeter of the neighborhood. Specifically, most renters reside along the eastern perimeter of the neighborhood – especially within three blocks of Hennepin Avenue. The new LHNA staffer would be responsible for improving outreach to renters in Lowry Hill. Strategically, it would mean establishing and nurturing relationships with the owners of Lowry Hill’s rental properties but also could entail researching what other neighborhoods have done to engage renters – either through direct communication with other neighborhoods or through discussions with the Neighborhood and Community Relations department.

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

LHNA would like to conduct planning on two fronts – NRP Phase II planning and Hennepin/Lyndale corridor planning.

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

Currently, LHNA simply uses a monthly e-blast to disseminate information. We have also hosted ad hoc forums on various subjects such as escalating property taxes. Several years ago, we did conduct an online poll to get impressions on Park Board activities at Parade and to identify which issues were of most importance.

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

LHNA conducts an annual ice cream social (in August) at Thomas Lowry Park, its annual meeting (in May) at Walker Art Center and co-hosts the annual Palio Festival (in October) at Kenwood Park.

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

LHNA has been run entirely by the volunteer services of its board members for many years. We have been fortunate to have several people engaged that were able to spend substantial time in the efforts it takes to run LHNA, but we all agree that the time needed to succeed as a board is too substantial for any one volunteer. We passed a motion at our meeting in September, 2011, to apply for Community Participation Program Funds in order to hire a staff member to improve upon our communications infrastructure and help LHNA succeed in bettering its historic neighborhood.

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

We are often amazed at the volume of valuable information that comes from City Hall every month and would very much like to be in closer contact City Staff, especially from NCR and NCEC, to be apprised of current opportunities. In the short run, we would like City Staff to help us with our efforts to staff LHNA. In the longer run, we would like advice on how best to conduct discussions on planning to use our Phase II NRP funds.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Staff Expenses	\$14,000
Employee Benefits	\$0
Professional Services	\$0
Occupancy	\$2,000

Communications/Outreach	\$2,000
Supplies and Materials	\$1,000
Festivals and events	\$1,000
Food and refreshments	\$984
Development	\$0
Fundraising	\$1,000
Other Services	\$0
TOTAL:	21,984

Notes:

- *Staff expenses do not include payroll, FICA, withholding nor benefits. We plan to hire a self-sufficient contract employee.*
- *Occupancy reflects costs related to websites and email expenses.*
- *Communications/Outreach includes costs of publications, printing, postage, delivery, flyers, etc.*
- *Supplies and materials includes office supplies as well as expenses for supplies related to ongoing programs such as block patrols, etc.*
- *Development expenses could include costs related to training, education, recognition, or orientation for board, staff and volunteers.*
- *Fundraising includes costs related to fundraising for LHNA, especially for an annual fund-raising mailer.*