

**Bancroft Neighborhood Association
Community Participation Program
2012 Annual Report**

Contact person: Luke Stultz, Community Organizer

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1. Stakeholder Involvement

Reviewing your CPP activities in 2012, Please provide information about:

- What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2012?
 - Face-to-face at listening sessions
 - Interaction at our various events: Mondays in the Meadows, Ice Cream Social, Annual Meeting, Board and Committee meetings
 - Media sources: Facebook, website, e-Newsletter, Bancroft Banner (print newsletter delivered to 1,500 households in neighborhood)
 - Several community meetings surrounding the River Lake Greenway and the Southern Bike Connection.
- How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2012?
 - Hired a new staff person who speaks English and Spanish.
 - Through the Outreach Committee, held a series of “listening sessions” to engage under-represented communities. These listening sessions were held in public spaces, private residences, and through block club meetings.
 - Built stronger partnerships with other organizations in and around Bancroft
- Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?

The larger events worked well to start building relationships with people. Later, at the listening sessions, we were successful because people were more apt to discuss certain topics in smaller groups (especially those that held groups in their houses/block clubs).
- What did not work so well? Why?

None.
- How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)?

Approximately 380

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

Approximately 30

- How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?

Approximately 500

- How many people receive your print publications?

Each household in the Bancroft neighborhood receives a quarterly print newsletter. There are approximately 1,500 newsletters sent out quarterly.

- How many people receive your electronic communications?

Facebook: 328 followers

eNewsletter: 349 recipients

2. 2012 Highlights

Please describe one or two major highlights, and if possible, please include digital photos or illustrations:

- What was the issue or opportunity the neighborhood was facing?
- Who was impacted?
- What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?
- What was the outcome?

The BNA Green Initiatives Committee took on the task of engaging the community around the two bike corridors that run through our neighborhood. We have the River Lake Greenway (which runs along 41st Street) and the Southern Bike Connection (which runs along 17th Ave).

Through a series of neighborhood get-togethers, the residents and staff from Public Works were able to have open dialogue about what the two corridors would become. There is now going to be a center median at 42nd Street & 17th Avenue, as well as at 40th Street & Cedar Avenue.

The decisions about the two corridors had impact on all neighborhood residents, not just those living along the corridors. The outcome was improved safety of the intersections for drivers, bikers, and pedestrians alike.

2012 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2012:

- What were your organization's major accomplishments?
- How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?

Great Streets Façade Grant: we were able to contract out almost all of the remaining funds in our Great Streets contract. Through this City of Minneapolis program, we were able to help three businesses at the 38th & Chicago intersection (Covet Consign & Design, Mi Sinaloa, and City Food Studio) and one business at the 38th & Bloomington intersection (Marla's Caribbean Cuisine). This has a positive effect on how people view our neighborhood.

Ballot Measures: we held a series of open discussions where people could come and learn about the two proposed amendments to the Minnesota Constitution that were on the Nov 2012 ballot (Amendment 1: Marriage and Amendment 2: Voter ID). Since these two ballot measures would have an effect on all residents of Bancroft, it was important that we provided a safe space for people to learn about and discuss the issues.

Economic Development: we supported local businesses by being active members in the 38th & Chicago Business Association and the West of the Rail Business Association. We also made it a point to buy from local businesses whenever possible. The Commercial Development Committee toured vacant commercial spaces in and around the neighborhood.

Green Initiatives: we passed a resolution to have all BNA-sponsored events be zero waste events. This is accomplished by using biodegradable items, composting and recycling on-site, and informing the community about the benefits of doing so.

Housing: during 2012 we had a property in Bancroft that garnered media attention through the Occupy Homes movement. While BNA didn't specifically engage with Occupy Homes, we did partner with other organizations that offered foreclosure prevention information to our residents. Information was disseminated through online and print media to the neighborhood residents and several people were referred through BNA to other organizations for help.

BNA was part of the organizing committee for the South Minneapolis Housing Fair and also tabled at that event. It was a good way to connect with both residents and other neighborhood organizations.

Events: we held an Ice Cream Social in the Bancroft Meadows that was well-attended. The event included live music, free ice cream, activities for children, and a petting zoo.

Outreach Committee: held a series of listening sessions to better understand how the un- and under-represented members of our community could better be engaged by BNA. Some of these listening sessions were well-attended and some were not, but it did give us a chance to connect with people that we had previously not been connecting with. The committee also worked on strengthening our relationship with other organizations in and around Bancroft neighborhood.

3. *Housing*

What percentage of time did your organization spend on housing-related activities?

30%

4. *Financial Reports*

Please provide an income and expense report for your organization for the year.
(Please include all funding sources).

Financial report is attached.

In addition to your annual report, please take time to describe your interactions with City departments and other jurisdictions.

1. *Impact*

What interactions with City departments occupied a major part of your time?
What worked well? What could be improved?

We worked most closely with Public Works, CPED, and NCR.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate your overall experience with your interactions with the City? 5

2. *City Communications – effectiveness*

Is the information that you receive from the City understandable and useful?

Yes.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City? 5

3. *City Communications – timeliness*

Do you receive adequate notice of City activities in your neighborhood? If not, did your organization inform somebody at the City of this? Did the City respond in a positive manner? Please explain.

Yes, we receive adequate notice of City activities.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the timeliness of communications from the City? 5

4. *City Departments*

How can City departments improve the way in which they function in your neighborhood?

It would be great to have people from City departments that we work with attend our events so we can further build relationships. Carrie from NCR has done a great job with this.

5. *City Assistance*

How can the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department improve the assistance it provides to your organization as a community participation group?

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the assistance provided to your neighborhood by NCR? 5

6. ***Other comments?***

None.