

## Community Participation Program 2012 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Lind Bohanon Neighborhood Association \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: Wes Countryman, LBNA Chairperson

Date of Board Approval: April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### **1. Stakeholder Involvement**

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

#### **What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2012?**

*Our outreach and engagement activities included focus group monthly conversations on crime and safety issues including the shooting of a child in our community, illegal scrap houses, and loose and threatening dogs, the foreclosures in the neighborhood and other livability issues. Feedback from these conversations helped steer LBNA's direction throughout the year.*

*LBNA surveyed 100 residents with paper surveys around improving our dedicated transportation for disabled project, it's transportation vendors, and other transportation needs of residents. These surveys help keep ridership and participation growing. Several various small surveys were distributed in the monthly newsletter, website, social media outlets. Our Business Committee surveyed 100 local business patrons and several businesses about lighting and safety of the Lyndale Ave N corridor and general area that has helped LBNA identify potential costs and some funding sources for improving lighting on Lyndale.*

*With the help of our monthly advertising in local newspaper and newsletters, we reached our full board capacity of 15 at the annual meeting in 2012. Through our social and print media campaigns we led a community-wide local restaurant positive renaming contest for a restaurant that had two years prior been tainted by criminal activity. We had nearly 300 Facebook hits and 66 entries for the contest from across the community. Our newly established Lind Bohanon youtube channel had 410 views for the renaming contest alone.*

#### **How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2012?**

*LBNA's efforts continue to grow as we reach out to and involve under represented communities in 2012. Two of the key underrepresented groups LBNA focused on in 2012 were the disabled and the elderly in our community.*

*In 2012, LBNA received its second grant for Empowering the Underrepresented from the University of MN \$10,000/CURA grant. This second grant was designed to increase access for this disabled residents and seniors to nature and the river through the arts. In total, to date, this dedicated local community transportation system has transported 1014 residents on 106 trips including 75 shopping trips, 16 special outings, 7 community outings and 37 art classes.*

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*Also in 2012, LBNA representatives attended 24 of the Shingle Creek Commons and Kingsley Commons 24 resident council meetings which helped with communication about ongoing projects, gathering input about the local community and its needs and to build on the relationship and partnership with these local 100 rental independent senior and disabled residents in our community.*

**Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?**

***Newly designed exciting and attractively formatted printed newsletter:***

*Continues to promote a positive and upbeat image in this mostly low-moderate income community inspiring pride in the community. We distribute 1700 monthly newsletters to our 4444 residents. It has inspired two other neighborhoods to take a more colorful and youthful approach to their newsletters. It has helped us increase outreach by improving our brand image and increasing website visits again in 2012 by 12.74% going from 1970 to 2221 visitors. It has helped grow our board to its full capacity of 15 for the first time in 2012.*

***Social Media:*** Facebook and YouTube were two of the identified top tools in the recent Kristin CiCi Uof M Research project helping current nonprofits with their work. In this chiefly, low to moderately income neighborhood of north Minneapolis, we have been slowly working on these two social media outlets and have steadily increased our Facebook likes now from 40 to 159. We established a YouTube channel that currently has a professionally created Crime and Safety Workshop by Tim Hammett done specifically on Home Crime Prevention, Haybale Garden demo at Shingle Creek Commons, and Increasing Access through Art and Nature and a few other videos that feature LBNA's work. Those that are more tech savvy, now have other options to attending committee meetings.

**What did not work so well? Why?**

*In the midst of a growing year, in July of 2012, LBNA lost their board chair, David Barnett, suddenly to a heart attack. LBNA's work was slowed as it grieved the loss of their friend, colleague and neighbor. It took some time to transition through the loss and helped the board to grow stronger in 2012.*

**How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)? LBNA's board and staff reached over 300 people directly through our partnerships, events and activities, office, transportation project, and various committees.**

**How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?**

*Due to people moving in and out of the neighborhood, LBNA continues to have a volunteer pool of 150 people.*

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

*LBNA has many successful events, projects, and activities throughout the year and has 3000 participants.*

**How many people receive your print publications? 1700 households and businesses receive our monthly newsletter. Monthly advertising of our meetings is also done in the local newspaper which reaches 19,000 households monthly.**

**How many people receive your electronic communications? 100**

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## 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?**



***Increasing Accessibility for Disabled Residents through Art and Nature*** In 2012, LBNA received its second grant for Empowering the Underrepresented from the University of MN \$10,000/CURA grant. LBNA is also using an additional \$10,000 NRP funds and some of its CPP increasing outreach funds to help continue this important work. This second grant was designed to increase access for this disabled residents and seniors to

*nature and the river through the arts. In total, to date, this dedicated local community transportation system has transported 1014 residents on 106 trips including 75 shopping trips, 16 special outings, 7 community outings and 37 art classes. This project led to two new ADA curb cuts in 2012 and improvements at the river to help with accessibility.*



***LBNA's Community Garden Program: Growing at the Lind-Community Garden***

*The Lind Community Garden has 32 gardeners gardening 60 garden plots. This garden continues to be a place for LBNA to grow our community as well as vegetables! The Lind Community Garden has a Spring Kick-off, Fall Closing events, Garden work days, a Malmborg's fundraiser, and is a Gardening Matters State-wide garden tour*

*participant. This year's participants also include: Volunteers of America Hmong Elders, Jenny Lind school, Creekview Park Summer Stars, and Camden Promise Food Shelf. 40 residents from across the city attended our Food Preservation workshop this summer also.*

***Who was impacted? Increasing Access through Art and Nature project*** not only impacted the nearly 40 residents who participated from Shingle Creek Commons(75 units of independent senior living), Kingsley Common(24 units of independent residents living with Multiple Sclerosis, and Camden Care Center(88 bed senior care facility) but those that live with them. It impacted the Kroening Interpretive Center enough to increase their accessibility by adding two new ADA curb cuts so countless more residents will have improved access to nature and the river. It gave 40 disabled and elderly low income residents the opportunity to participate in nearly 40 art classes and learn about nature at the Kroening Interpretive Center and Silverwood Park. These community members impacted their families and each other by participating in these classes that otherwise would have never met. They impacted a community by telling their stories through

*newsletters, photographs and videos. Through their participation LBNA's monthly volunteer base grew by 6.*

***Lind Community Garden** impacts parents and 596 students at Jenny Lind School, youth from the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Department summer stars program, 20 families of the Volunteers of America Hmong Elders who participate, the 150 families a month served by the Camden Promise Foodshelf, 32 residents growing healthy food for their families, countless potential new homeowners looking for a community with assets, other nonprofits looking for a successful community garden model. Forty residents also had the opportunity to learn and update their food preservation skills. Recipes that they may have had from Grandma are abit outdated due to current standards. Those new to canning or freezing food were teaming up to "start" on their canning adventures together by the time they left the workshop.*

**What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?** *The issue of serving the underrepresented group of the disabled and elderly continues to be a focus for LBNA. We started with holding a brainstorming session to identify community needs from their perspectives, applied for two grants, surveyed participants, raised awareness of the needs through contacts with elected officials, local, state officials, increased awareness through our success and media, held monthly and evaluation meetings to continue to assess and address the needs of the underrepresented group.*

**What was the outcome?**

*By increasing our outreach to the underrepresented group of the disabled, there have been many outcomes. By increasing dedicated transportation, we have increased our overall event and program participation. We have gained four new board members that have taken on committee leadership roles, increased awareness of disabled issues in our community through promoting the success of these residents in our printed and social medias. We have grown our partnerships by one and continue to leverage funds CPP and NRP funds to help this important effort.*

*LBNA's outcomes for the Lind Community Garden have helped us grow produce to help 32 families reduce their monthly grocery bills and eat healthier by growing their own produce. We held a Food Preservation workshop that had 40 people from across the city attending. It has helped raise fresh produce for the 125 families weekly at the local Camden Promise food shelf. The Lind Community Garden also serves as an outdoor learning classroom for teachers and the 596 students at Jenny Lind School.*

*Another outcome for LBNA is that we have worked to improve the lives of 125 families and 350 children through our Toys for Tots efforts and another 350 participants at our art booth at Holiday on 44<sup>th</sup> helping to create a positive and caring community.*

### **3. 2012 Accomplishments**

**Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2012: What were your organization's major accomplishments?**

#### ***LBNA's major accomplishments in 2012***

***Increased Board Capacity*** In spite of the death of the chair of their neighborhood association, LBNA grew to a group of 15 volunteer residents. This group from diverse backgrounds and meeting monthly were able to cohesively work together as dedicated volunteers to selflessly achieve many benefits for their neighbors and their community! They contributed 1549 hours collectively last year and \$33,854.39 in volunteer hours.

#### ***Increase community participation through Community-wide Events***

*Promoting our entire community as a positive place to live, work, and play to build and promote community.*

***LBNA hosts fourth Winterfest and Chili cook-off*** 250 people attended our fun community-wide event in February to launch snowballs, play snow golf and be judges for the Camden Chili-cook off! We had great partners for this event, SCNA, Herb Brooks Foundation, Jenny Lind Community Education and Minneapolis Park and Rec.

***Picnic in the Park for NNO Another Huge Success!*** Nearly 300 people attended this year's National Night Out celebration to help Block Club leaders and to get started or reinvigorate their current blocks.

#### ***7th Annual Riverfest and Heritage Day LBNA Co-hosted Event***

*Three Rivers Parks District and LBNA co-hosted another fabulous Riverfest and Heritage Day event with 350 people attending. LBNA celebrates the river, local history and pride in our community. The Okee Dokee Brothers were the main stage attraction for us in 2012.*

#### ***Walking Group/Stroll Patrol***

*In 2012, the LBNA Walking group grew from 12 to 17 weekly walkers. That diligently walked in the community and logged their miles as if they were the Intrepid Northern Nomads nudging toward New Orleans by way of the historical 450-mile Natchez Trace Parkway. They stepped off a total mileage round trip of--2628 miles.*

#### ***Community Crime Prevention Specialist Tim Hammett Home Security***

***Workshop.*** LBNA hired MTN to video this important workshop and launched it on youtube and our website. Mr. Hammett's valuable information about improving home security is available online for residents any time of day.

**How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?**

***The successes continued into 2012 from focusing on the underrepresented group. Shovel curb cuts, bus stops, rough sidewalk*** 12 Kingsley residents met multiple times to identify, map, photograph and send letters to elected officials articulating the need for improved curb cuts in our community. 40 new ADA curb cuts were added in our neighborhood through a county project.

***Neighborhood Events-Raise Awareness of Accessibility---*** 15 Kingsley residents met multiple times to design and implement the —Take the Great Mobility Challenge--a 10 station obstacle course to raise awareness about living with a disability

***Bench by railroad tracks-near side-both sides---***A \$4,000 Minneapolis Park Board bench was installed on the south side of the railroad tracks for community residents.

***Rough railroad tracks—***Improvements at the railroad intersection of 45<sup>th</sup> and Humboldt Ave N is the busiest in the city. Desperately needed crossing improvements will be made in the spring of 2013 largely due to the efforts of LBNA's advocacy and with the help of Council Member Johnson, MNDot, CPRail, Hennepin County and City staff.

***Dedicated Transportation Established*** -A vendor was located that could directly transport more than two wheelchairs at a time, a bus route and calendar was launched with a primary focus of not being a shared ride transport to take residents in wheelchairs to the grocery store, shopping and local activities or events. In 2012, a second grant was designed to increase access for this disabled residents and seniors to nature and the river through the arts. In total, to date, this dedicated local community transportation system has transported 1014 residents on 106 trips including 75 shopping trips, 16 special outings, 7 community outings and 37 art classes. This project also led to two new ADA curb cuts in 2012 and improvements at the river to help with accessibility.

***Toys for Tots Distribution and Holiday on 44<sup>th</sup> outreach during the holidays.*** LBNA organizes the annual Toys for Tots distribution at Jenny Lind School. It benefits on average 125 families, and distributes 700 toys to 350 children in the community. LBNA partners with Holiday on 44<sup>th</sup> to help on this amazingly popular art project for all ages of creating 350 artful graham cracker houses during this annual community-wide event that brings in over 2000 residents annually.

***Home Loans*** In a slow housing recovery market, the LBNA's Home Improvement Loan program helped three residents utilizing \$18,650 funds.

**4. Housing**

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

*In 2012, 30% of LBNA's efforts were spent on fostering the growth of the housing committee, promoting our home improvement loans in our printed and social media, reviewing the current loan statuses and evaluating the current guidelines, and working with our vendor to start to create new programs that will help serve the needs of residents. This effort has led to creating a new Home and Art Fair in our community in the summer of 2013.*

**5. Financial Reports**

Please provide an income and expense report for your organization for the year.

\*\*Information was provided to NCR.

**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? *LBNA's interaction with City departments include City CPED Planning, Problem properties, NCR Department, Licensing, Zoning, and others. Work on redeveloping Lyndale Ave N has brought many and various questions to each department. The Mereen Johnson site has taken over a year for any action to get through the City in order for any progress to be made on the purchase of the building. Along with these, the CPP process and new NCR Department and changes have occupied a major part of LBNA's time.* 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?   3  

**2. City Communications – effectiveness**

Is the information that you receive from the City understandable and useful? *The information that's received is useful. From time to time more details have to be interpreted and communicated. It's useful to have paper copies mailed of all important process changes, communications, and upcoming deadlines and requirements.* On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City?   3  

**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. *LBNA received notices 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?   3  

**4. City Departments**

How can City departments improve the way in which they function in your neighborhood? *Crime and Safety are a key concern for most neighborhoods across*

*the city. Having a responsive CCP/Safe Liaison is important to our neighborhood, so making sure they have all the tools at their disposal and resources needed would be helpful.*

**5. City Assistance**

How can the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department improve the assistance it provides to your organization as a community participation group? *NCR can continue to promote our events through the Google Calendar and other various social media outlets. NCR may wish to hold an informational meeting regarding the entire CPP program to offer an opportunity for residents to collectively ask questions and learn from each other.*

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?   3  

**6. Other comments? N/A**