

## Community Participation Program 2012 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: **Southeast Como Improvement Association**

Contact person: **Ricardo McCurley**

Date of Board Approval: October 1, 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? Gateway Mural Project, Como Cookout, Blueprint Public meetings, Blueprint Focus Groups, Board Meetings, Environment Committee meetings, Livability Committee meetings, FairShare Farm gardening days, Como Corner Gardening days, Talmage Crossing Gardening days, National Community garden day, National Night Out, Little Free Library Dedication
- How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2012? We created internship positions to bring students and seniors to work together on projects. We communicated with PPL (Project for Pride Living) staff who manage a low-income housing program in Como to better connect and inform their residents of our activities. We continued expanding the Como Cookout.
- Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why? The Cookout had a record number of attendees at over 900. The event's longevity and variety of activities (food, music, resources fair, arm wrestling tournament, tomato tasting, etc.) make it bigger each year. Our internship program connects with students so profoundly that must continue to work with us after their required time is completed.
- What did not work so well? Why? Outreach to the PPL was slow for two reasons: Human Resource conflicts at Van Cleve park spread to the PPL residents and we were waiting for a resident council to form. The resident council is active in 2013 and we are creating a board seat for them.
- How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)? Approximately 165 individuals, not including our events like the Como Cookout.

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities? About 115 student interns, committee members, gardeners, focus group members and neighbors
- How many individuals participated in your organization's activities? Over 1000!
- How many people receive your print publications? 2700
- How many people receive your electronic communications? 485

**2. 2012 Highlights**

Please describe one or two major highlights, and if possible, please include digital photos or illustrations: Our Blueprint Committee, in an effort to complete our Small Area Plan, organized 7 focus groups to survey the neighborhood on a variety of issue. They hired Biko Associates to facilitate and create a report on the data collected. The report is included. While we are still working to complete the Small Area Plan, the report has already proved valuable in reaffirming some of our organizational focuses (environmental issues, parking) and reenergizing other (housing ordinance enforcement and landlord/tenant education).

Our Fairshare Garden has become a model for other community gardens here in Minneapolis as well as other states. Unlike traditional community gardens where gardeners work their own plot, Fairshare gardeners work 13 plots communally between 30 neighbor/members and donate extra produce to local food shelves.

**3. 2012 Accomplishments**

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2012:

- We received an Allina Healthy connections grant with which we bought locally sourced foods for our Cookout and did a seed garlic giveaway.
- Our Como Cookout celebrated it's 10<sup>th</sup> year. Our Como Corner Garden celebrated 20 years.
- We redesigned our website.
- We hosted preservation workshops in connection with Fairshare
- We created an Environmental Inventory, noting key emitters around the neighborhood.
- We built and supported the building of three Little Free Libraries.
- We completed the Gateway Mural, a mural on either side of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ave SE rail bridge.

**4. Housing**

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

20%

**5. Financial Reports**

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

*See separate document.*

**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 work predominantly with Stacy Sorenson of 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? \_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_

2. ***City Communications - effectiveness***

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

**We did have a few incidents last year where we received information late our not at all. Otherwise, the information is understandable**

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.

**We did notice NCR of the lag in communications and they seem to have corrected the issue**

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?

No suggestions

5. ***City Assistance***

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

No suggestions

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? \_\_\_4\_\_\_

6. ***Other comments?***