

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Bryant Neighborhood Organization (BNO)
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Board Contact: Sandra Smith BNO Chairperson

[REDACTED]

Staff Contact: Name: Nina Soffer

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Primary contact: Nina Soffer

Date of Board review and approval: 6/5/2012

1. Eligibility: If your organization has not previously been funded through the Community Participation Program, please provide evidence of the organization's eligibility, as identified in Section II.A of the Guidelines.

BNO was previously funded by the Community Participation Program. We qualify for Neighborhood participation funding by being a non-profit community driven neighborhood organization.

2. Community participation efforts. Describe proposed outreach activity in the neighborhood and methods and methods to involve residents and other stakeholders in one or more of the three key program purposes. How will you engage residents and other stakeholders of their neighborhood in developing a Neighborhood Priority Plan?

Programming/increasing involvement: The BNO believes that as we increase programming and show the Bryant neighborhood residents that we are here and

working toward ideals, our neighbors will begin to work with the organization more and take a more active role. With this philosophy in mind; the BNO wants to establish a core event for the children of the neighborhood by hosting a back to school event and social in late August. We want this event to help children be prepared for the upcoming school year and for parents of Bryant Neighborhood to know that the BNO exists and we are working on programming for the community.

This year we will be finishing up our work with Metro Blooms where with Metro Blooms and the BNO we will be installing rain gardens at various residential locations along the 40th street bikeway corridor. We sponsor "Movies in the Park" annually, we sponsored a "kitchen clean-up day" at the Boys and Girls Club, donated funds to PAC for athletics at Phelps Park, sponsored a historic tour of the Temple Israel cemetery and had a community bike ride along the new 40th street bike corridor. The BNO wants to work on some fundraisers as well by beginning with manageable ideas to help sustain the organization over and above what is received from the city. We are beginning the process of working on an art show and auction where neighbors can showcase their talents, and invite residents and surrounding neighborhoods and communities. We believe events like these will allow our neighbors to see that the BNO is a viable and an important part of the neighborhood matrix and will allow us to begin to attract the attention of our neighbors and businesses to participate in designing and assisting with such events. We believe this will lead to greater connections and commitments from our community

Communication: BNO sends out quarterly newsletters mailed to all our 1000 + households. Our newsletter is used as a vehicle to announce upcoming events, feature local businesses, what is happening at the BNO and outreaches to our residents and invites residents to become board members or to join a committee or event. The one mainstay in the newsletter is our NRP housing dollars and loans available to Bryant homeowners. We had our first article in Spanish in our spring newsletter and hope to continue that trend. We also have a website www.welovebryant.org where we have archives of newsletters and current events held in and around Bryant Neighborhood. It also lists our office hours and ways to contact the BNO. We have a neighborhood Facebook page where information is posted and community members can communicate with one another. Lastly, we are now linked with E-democracy, another forum for community members to keep abreast of issues in Bryant, trends and a way to meet other Bryant residents.

Identifying and acting on Neighborhood Priorities: We recently finished our NRP Phase 2 plan which allowed us to have focus groups and send out surveys to the neighborhood. This recent contact with our neighbors has given us a current understanding of our neighborhood priorities but it will be necessary for us to continue with a couple more focus groups and/or surveys throughout the next 18 months to get a more in-depth understanding of needs rather than the broader view we recently acquired.

3. Building organizational capacity. How will you work to: 1. provide opportunities for the direct involvement of members, 2. build your membership and volunteer base 3. encourage and develop new leadership and 4 expand the organizations capacity through self- assessment and other activities?

One of the most important things the BNO has done is to establish an Executive Committee and completed board training for all board members and staff. These two events have given order and direction to the organization. The other major change to the BNO structure is a greater commitment to staffing. The board recently allocated more funds to staffing to ensure that the goals and ideas of BNO and its' residents can be implemented and accomplished. These three acts will greatly increase capacity.

There are many opportunities for direct involvement from the community: we have a monthly Board Meetings; BNO meets the first Tuesday of every month from 7-8:30pm; the minutes of all board meetings are held in our office and will be posted on our website. All members of the community are welcome to attend board meetings which are held at the Southside Urban League, 411 E.38th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55409. We hold quarterly community meetings where every resident is invited to attend, where residents receive updates from Bryant representatives as well as the BNO and have direct access to our initiatives and a section where ideas are encouraged and heard.

The BNO just last year hired staff after many months of not having any and are in a new and more organized phase in getting all their finances and contracts in order. This work has slowed down the progress of community development, though we have had a few success in this past year (refer to section 2) that we can build on over the next 18 months. We are optimistic that these additional staff hours will give the board, staff and community more time to connect with neighbors and get the word out on the work that the BNO is doing and would like to move forward on. It will allow for door knocking and meeting neighbors face-to-face, explain who we are and what we are trying to accomplish. It will also let our residents know that we welcome their ideas and assistance in growing and implementing positive and sustainable changes in the community.

4. Involvement of under-engaged stakeholders. Organizations should discuss which stakeholder groups are typically un-engaged or under-engaged in their work, and how they will work to involve those groups. Organizations should also discuss how the NCR Department can help with this work.

The BNO believes the most under-engaged groups are the Latino/a community, Somolians and our youth. We have been working with the Boys and Girls club to try and develop some youths who would be interested in working with the BNO to learn about how the organization works and have them participate as a board member. We are also creating a stronger partnership with the Boys and Girls club which will extend to

a deeper commitment by the youth to their neighborhood and understanding of what it is to be a community member/leader.

The BNO currently has little connection to the Latino community in Bryant and without a Spanish speaking board member or staffer it is difficult to bridge this gap. This is where NCR may become really helpful to us, in translation work and methodology in reaching out other ethnic groups. There are local groups like Las Mujeres In Accion that seems to be making great strides in the Latino community and the BNO is exploring options within this program to possibly expand into other neighborhoods and assist our neighborhood in connecting to the Latino population. We will seek other organizations to do the same with the Somali population as well

5.Housing Activities. Neighborhood Organizations should discuss their work on housing and housing related activities. Organizations should estimate the percentage of time to be spent on these issues.

The BNO still has a pool of money from NRP towards housing and has an established program through GMHC. We have two programs we sponsor; a Revolving Loan Program with 3% interest and the second is a Forgivable Loan Program if you stay in your house for 5 years. This is an income based program. The two programs are a mainstay in our newsletter and are publicized at all meetings we have. We are currently looking into a marketing campaign with GMHC to get the word out even more. Bryant is also a part of the RSP program which is administered by the city and is also publicized in the newsletter and at all community meetings.

Through Phase 2 work the BNO is beginning to work on new housing initiatives for safety and maintenance of homes. There are dollars set aside for safety (i.e., motion detector lights, money to fix the exterior) including landscaping and other programs which we have yet to initiate. The BNO would like to have Welcome Packets for new residents and to be a service to potential home buyers providing a tour of the neighborhood and an inside look to what is happening. This will also serve as a connection service so potential buyers could have the opportunity to talk to a resident on the block where they are interested in purchasing. Currently 10% of our time is spent on housing.

6. Unused funds. Organizations should discuss how they plan to use unused funds from the previous cycle for community engagement or implementation of neighborhood priorities.

The majority of unused funds will go to staffing, community and outreach. This transference will give us the greatest ability to reach our goal to get to know our residents in a more meaningful way, to have them enrich our organization with their time and ideas.

7. Budgets. Submissions should include a budget showing how Community Participation Program funds will support the organization’s community participation work and an amount set-aside for implementation of Neighborhood Priority Plans. An annual budget for the organization should also be provided.

Cost Category - BNO	5/2/12 Balance	Add to Current Balance	2012-2013 Allocation
Staff	\$9,861.52	\$51,138.48	\$61,000.00
Employee Benefits			
Professional Services	\$2,134.78	\$865.22	\$3,000.00
Occupancy	\$3,484.02	\$1,269.56	\$12,000.00
Communications/Outreach	\$5,781.28	\$10,018.72	\$15,800.00
Supplies & Materials	\$648.09	\$4,427.55	\$5,075.64
Festivals & Events	\$1,969.61	\$1,030.39	\$3,000.00
Development	\$1,937.34	\$3,062.66	\$5,000.00
Fundraising	\$1,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00
Neighborhood Priority Plan	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
	\$28,316.64	\$82,559.00	\$110,875.64