
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

You may provide this submission electronically to ncr@minneapolismn.gov. Please include a copy of your bylaws.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Calhoun Area Residents Action Group (CARAG)	
Address:	3612 Bryant Avenue S. 55409	
Website url:	www.carag.org	
Organization email:	carag@carag.org	
Federal EIN:	41-1822132	
Board Contact:	Name:	Diana Boegemann, President
Staff Contact:	Name:	Scott Engel, Executive Coordinator
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Who should be the primary contact for this submission? Scott Engel

Date of Board review and approval: June 19, 2012

FUNDING ACTIVITIES.

Use the following questions as a guide for your submission. For questions 1-8, please limit each response to no more than 3 paragraphs.

1. Eligibility.

Neighborhood Organization

- 2. Community participation efforts.** Describe proposed outreach activity in the neighborhood, 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?

CARAG will engage neighbors through regular outreach activities such as community meetings and events, as well as communication tools like the CARAG E-Update, flyers, social media, website and Uptown Neighborhood News. At the end of 2013 CARAG will consider developing a survey to be mailed to all residents, business owners, and property owners to gather feedback about neighborhood priorities.

CARAG is actively implementing our NRP Phase 2 Action Plan and will use this document as the outline for the Neighborhood Priority Plan. Also, agenda time during monthly CARAG Neighborhood Meetings will focus on discussion about engaging the neighborhood and how to utilize CPP funds over the following three years.

- 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 organization's capacity through self-assessment and other activities.

CARAG has established multiple committees that involve memrs in programs, issues, and activities Identified by the neighborhood as priorities (Neighborhood Livability & Engagement Committee, NRP Implementation Committee, Green Team, Zoning Committee, Uptown Market managing board, and Uptown Neighborhood News managing board.) These committees provide opportunities for volunteers to work on issues they care about while building capacity and the volunteer base for the organization.

The CARAG Board of Directors meets once at the beginning of the term and again mid-year to discuss the organization, set goals and priorities, review progress, and assess the association's efforts.

- 4. Building neighborhood relationships.** Describe your outreach, networking, and inclusivity efforts to: (1) build a sense of a whole neighborhood among residents, (2) build bridges among neighbors and diverse communities within the neighborhood, (3)

work with other neighborhoods and organizations on issues of common interest, (4) build partnerships with private and public entities, and (5) benefit the neighborhood as a whole.

The CARAG organization works to build neighborhood identity amongst all residents, business owners, and property owners and welcomes participation from each group. CARAG members are able to vote on most issues during the monthly CARAG Neighborhood Meeting and provide feedback. Communication from CARAG through flyers, mailings, the website, social media, etc. encourages neighbors to participate in community meetings, events, and activities.

5. **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.

Residents who rent their homes make up the most significant group of underrepresented participants in the CARAG organization. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, renters comprised approximately 75% of the neighborhood population, but participate at a much lower rate in CARAG activities.

CARAG renters tend to be young (18-35) and live in the neighborhood for shorter periods of time creating a barrier to participation. For the past few years CARAG has made efforts to involve renters in fun, community-building events and activities like music and movies in the park, the annual CARAG kickball game, and the CARAG Chilly Chili Fest.

CARAG has also focused on engaging and informing neighbors using social media including the CARAG e-Update email list, Facebook, Flick'r and Twitter.

6. **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.

CARAG is currently finalizing details of three NRP Phase 2 home loan programs- 1.) the 1-3 Unit Revolving Loan Program, 2.) the 4+ Unit Revolving Loan Program, and 3.) the Garage Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Program. When these programs launch in Fall 2012, we expect to spend at least 25% of the organization's time working with home loans.

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

NA There are no unused CPP funds.

8. **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	7/1/12- 12/31/13
1	Consultants	\$ 100.00
2	Personnel	55,000.00
3	Copies/Printing	700.00
4	Newspaper Advertising	3,800.00
5	Postage	750.00
6	Materials & Supplies	1,800.00
7	Liability Insurance	450.00
8	Rent	3,900.00
9	CARAG Green Team	1,000.00
10	Neighborhood Priorities	22,992.00
	Total:	\$ 90,492.00