



**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
Application**

**Approved by the East Calhoun Community
Organization (ECCO) Board
on June 7, 2012**

East Calhoun Community Organization

2751 Hennepin Avenue S
Box 13
Minneapolis, MN 55408
www.eastcalhoun.org

Federal EIN: 31-1627352

Board President

Sarah Sponheim
president@eastcalhoun.org

**Primary Contact
Staff**

Monica Smith
nrp@eastcalhoun.org
612-821-0131

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. 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.**

East Calhoun is currently funded through CPP.

- 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?**

We communicate with residents and other stakeholders both informally and through information vehicles such as our website (www.eastcalhoun.org), Facebook page, monthly e-newsletter, annual brochure, community newspaper (Uptown Neighborhood News) and hand-delivered fliers. Our monthly Board, committee and task force meetings are open to the public, as is our Annual Meeting. Community social gatherings also serve as opportunities for sharing information face-to-face.

Our new Livability committee examines issues pertaining to zoning and planning/development, traffic and parking, and safety. Residents can attend monthly Livability meetings to become better informed and learn how they can influence decision-making in the City.

We will engage the community – both residents and business owners – in a process to identify and rank neighborhood priorities for 2012-13. We will convene a short-term task force to collect and assemble ideas from the neighborhood, using the means of outreach listed above. The task force will present a list of priorities at the October, 2012 Annual Meeting for approval from residents. These priorities will then serve as the basis of our NPP.

- 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.**

(1) We welcome community members to our monthly Board, committee and task force meetings; neighborhood events are widely publicized, as are calls for volunteer help. We are encouraging residents to attend upcoming events such as our June "Super Sale" (neighborhood-wide garage sale), an

educational Rain Garden workshop, National Night Out block parties and our annual Labor Day parade and potluck dinner.

- (2) We invite residents to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at every event, and we recruit volunteers via standing committees, our community newspaper and our annual brochure.
- (3) New leaders emerge naturally through involvement in committees, participation in projects and attendance at events.
- (4) The Board will undertake a self-review of our effectiveness in achieving neighborhood goals prior to our Annual Meeting in October and will present the results of the review at that time.

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.

We have a logo, designed recently by East Calhoun resident Ken Ushio, and we have just installed new East Calhoun street signs around the perimeter of the neighborhood.

The East Calhoun Green Team has initiated some projects that are serving to bring neighbors together and create bridges both with adjacent neighborhoods and local businesses. The Waste Watchers project aims to reduce residential waste via improved recycling and curbside organics collection. The project included creation of lawn signs to recognize households participating in organics collection. Waste Watchers has forged connections between residents through events like the Tour de Compost and waste-reduction workshops. Efforts to reduce storm water runoff include a Rain Garden workshop and a family storm sewer stenciling project. A neighborhood Tree Task Force is studying options for protecting our boulevard ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer. In addition, our Phase II NRP plan includes funding to encourage home energy conservation, tree treatments, storm water management and composting.

The Green Team also hopes to create connections with adjacent neighborhoods through collaboration with their Green Teams. Waste-reduction outreach efforts also extend to annual neighborhood events such as the Nature Valley Uptown Criterium bike race and the Community Wine-tasting.

East Calhoun is partnering with Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis by serving as the site of two waste-reduction pilot projects: source-separated organics and single-sort recycling. Participation in these pilots is creating a neighborhood sense of identity, and our community is profiting from enhanced consciousness regarding the benefits of composting and recycling.

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.

Renters and condominium owners are less engaged in neighborhood affairs than single home owners, and they are under-represented in neighborhood leadership. This is a significant population: 58% of our housing units are renter-occupied, and 62% of our housing structures have 2 or more units.

We are typically unable to access residents in larger buildings when we distribute fliers to promote neighborhood activities. One method we are currently employing to reach these residents is the neighborhood-wide mailing of an informational brochure, since our mailing list includes individual units in multi-family buildings. The brochure that we have just sent out provides our website address, staff contact information, an invitation to join our neighborhood email list, a schedule of all board and board committee meetings and a calendar of upcoming events in East Calhoun. We plan to use future CPP funding to pay for a mailing of this sort on an annual basis.

NCR can provide assistance to us in our effort to engage renters and condominium owners by sharing techniques that have proved successful in other neighborhoods.

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.

Our Phase II NRP plan includes matching grant and loan programs (administered by CEE) to help residents finance energy-efficiency and exterior improvements to their homes. East Calhoun was also actively involved with promoting the Community Energy Service program to our eligible households. Our Livability Committee addresses zoning and land use issues as they arise.

ECCO spend 10% of our staff and volunteer time on housing related activities.

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.

We anticipate that we will have up to \$4,700 of unused CPP funds that we would like to carry over to the upcoming cycle to fund the priorities that we will identify in our NPP.

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.

BUDGET

Staff Expenses	\$15,015
Employee Benefits	\$
Professional Services	\$
Occupancy	\$
Communications/Outreach	\$8,718
Supplies and Materials	\$300
Festivals and events	\$4,585
Development	\$
Fundraising	\$
Other Services	\$1,196
Neighborhood Priorities	\$6,066
TOTAL:	\$35,880

Notes:

- Staff expenses should include payroll, FICA, and withholding, or contract staff.
- Employee benefits should include any health insurance, retirement, or other benefits.
- Professional services should include the cost of temporary contractors, bookkeepers, accountants, etc.
- Occupancy should reflect costs related to rent, utilities, phone, websites and email expenses, and other similar expenses.
- Communications/Outreach should include costs of publications, printing, postage, delivery, flyers, etc.
- Supplies and materials should include office supplies as well as expenses for supplies related to ongoing programs such as block patrols, etc.
- Festivals and events can include any costs related to community events and festivals. Food is not an eligible expense.
- Development expenses could include costs related to training, education, recognition, or orientation for board, staff and volunteers.
- Fundraising could include any costs related to fundraising for your organization (hiring of consultants, costs of materials, postage, events, etc).
- Neighborhood Priorities: at this point you do not need to know what the priorities are. Just indicate what the organization would like to set aside at this time for future priorities.