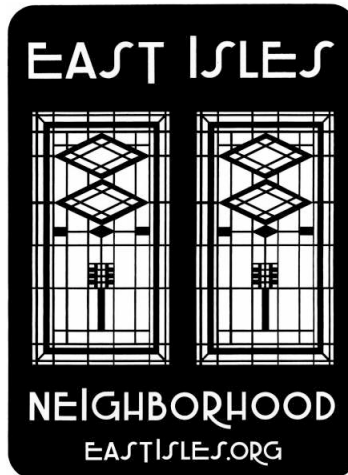




COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

Application

**Approved by East Isles Residents Association Board of Directors
on June 12, 2012**

East Isles Residents Association

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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 Isles Residents Association (EIRA) 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?

EIRA will continue outreach activities by utilizing resources we currently have available to communicate with residents. Outreach efforts include our annual membership mailing, website (www.eastisles.org), monthly e-newsletter, and community newspapers (Hill and Lake Press and Southwest Journal). Residents are invited to monthly board and committee meetings and the bi-annual members' meetings (April and October). Events such as the Ice Skating Party, Ice Cream Social and Wine Tasting Fundraiser are great ways to bring neighbors together, raise awareness about EIRA and increase involvement with the organization. Our new Green Team has been planning social and educational events as another avenue for engaging residents.

A neighborhood-wide survey was conducted in September 2010 to determine priorities and inform decisions as we wrote our Phase II Action Plan. EIRA was not able to fund all of the strategies in our Phase II plan because the City cut our funding in December 2010. Unfunded NRP strategies will be considered for an NPP.

New issues may have arisen in the neighborhood since the NRP plan was written. Our process for identifying a NPP will be identified in our strategic planning.

- 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 invite and welcome community members to our monthly Board and committee meetings; neighborhood events are widely publicized via our print and electronic methods, as are calls for volunteer help.
- 2) We invite residents to become members of the association at every event, and we recruit volunteers via standing committees, electronic communications, community newspaper and our annual membership mailing.
- 3) EIRA has a Nominations Committee that recruits new board members.
- 4) The EIRA Board is in the process of developing a strategic plan.

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.

- 1) We use our communication methods outlined above to help build a sense of the whole neighborhood. We have a mix of bustling businesses and nightlife along Lake and Hennepin corridors, multi-unit rental/condos and quiet tree-lined streets with single-family homes. Social events are our most successful way of creating the sense of a whole community and building bridges among the different communities
- 2) See number 1 above.
- 3) East Isles is engaging with the other Uptown neighborhood through collaboration of our Green Teams and through the Uptown Opportunity Task Force that is looking at issues the require a larger community process to address (such as zoning, traffic, parking and green space).
- 4) We continue to engage with Hennepin County Library during the design and construction of the new Walker Library and the Park Board for the parkland adjacent to the library. Metro Transit is conducting a transit study for the Lake Street/Midtown Greenway corridor and their recommendations will be an impact on our neighborhood. Our Green Team has applied for a grant from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization for an educational rain garden.
- 5) EIRA is working on a strategic plan to enable us to more proactive with issues that benefit the entire neighborhood. A board retreat is being organized. Board and committee structures will be reviewed to encourage broader community engagement.

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 are less engaged in neighborhood affairs than single homeowners, and they are under-represented in neighborhood leadership. This is a significant population: 62% of our housing units are renter-occupied, and 84% of our housing structures have 2 or more units. One-third of our residents moved to their home in the last year. It is a challenge to engage this transient segment of our population. Six (of the 11) EIRA Board members elected in May 2012 live in multi-unit buildings (three of whom are renters).

We reach out to every resident by sending our annual membership mailing to every address in the neighborhood and the Hill and Lake Press is delivered to every building (including rental properties).

We are partnering with the other Uptown Green teams to working on organizing an organics composting pilot in a multi-unit building and are hoping to build an educational rain garden on the grounds of a highly visible apartment building. Our Green Team is hosting a barbecue and movie night specifically targeting renters and held at an apartment building.

NCR can provide assistance to us in our effort to engage renters by sharing techniques that have proved successful in other neighborhoods. NCR could hosting a forum for neighborhoods with a large percentage of renters to share ideas and best practices.

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 a loan program (administered by CEE) to help residents finance energy-efficiency and exterior improvements to their homes and a grant program for home security improvements. East Isles was also actively involved with promoting the Community Energy Service program to our eligible households. Our Zoning Committee addresses zoning and land use issues as they arise.

EIRA spends 15% of our staff and volunteer time on housing related issues.

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 no more than \$1,000 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.

SAMPLE BUDGET

Staff Expenses	\$19,500
Employee Benefits	\$
Professional Services	\$
Occupancy	\$500
Communications/Outreach	\$6,415
Supplies and Materials	\$300
Festivals and events	\$4,787
Development	\$
Fundraising	\$
Other Services	\$3,238
Neighborhood Priorities	\$18,213
TOTAL:	\$52,953

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.