
**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
LOWRY HILL EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
2012-13 APPLICATION**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA)		
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Who should be the primary contact for this submission? Caroline Griepentrog

Date of Board review and approval: November 28, 2012

FUNDING ACTIVITIES.

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.***

LHENA has previously been funded and meets the criteria for eligibility.

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 (1. Identifying and Acting on Neighborhood Priorities, 2. Influencing City Decisions and Priorities, 3. Increasing Involvement). How will you engage residents and other stakeholders of their neighborhood in developing a Neighborhood Priority Plan?***

LHENA will engage residents and neighborhood stakeholders in developing a Neighborhood Priority Plan by utilizing its existing meeting structure, current communication channels, and other opportunities such as neighborhood events.

The LHENA Board of Directors and most LHENA committees meet on a monthly basis. LHENA employs committees to **identify and act on neighborhood priorities** in specific areas. Committees include: Neighborhood Revitalization, Zoning & Planning, Wedge Newspaper, Branding, and Environment/Green Team. Both the Neighborhood Revitalization and Zoning & Planning Committees are actively engaged with various City departments and aim to **influence City decisions and priorities** through recommendations and programming. LHENA will continue working to **increase involvement** by publicizing meetings, events, and activities through *The Wedge* neighborhood newspaper, online resources (LHENA website, Facebook, Twitter, email blasts), flier drops, direct mail, and postings at businesses, community locations, and additional media outlets. LHENA will specifically make use of its annual meeting in April 2013 as an opportunity to draw in new members and identify issues of importance.

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?***

LHENA will continue to offer opportunities for direct member involvement at monthly Board and committee meetings as well as through work on special projects. In January 2012, the LHENA Board of Directors adopted a two-year strategic plan which directs each LHENA committee to develop goals and strategies while increasing community participation. LHENA will periodically assess the progress each committee has made on achieving identified objectives. Board and committee members are recruited prior to and at the LHENA annual meeting. Following Board elections, an orientation retreat is held to help new members acclimate, take stock of the previous year's activities, and identify priorities for the upcoming year.

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.***

LHENA's mission is to represent the interests and values of its residents, property and business owners to the larger community and government. Lowry Hill East is unique in its eclectic mix of housing styles, ranging from historic Victorian and Edwardian era homes to mid-20th century apartment buildings to even newer modern lofts. This variety attracts populations diverse in age and income. LHENA works to take into account varying stakeholder perspectives when making decisions. All meetings are open to the public and are widely advertised to maximize participation. LHENA also hosts events to attract and facilitate interaction among residents. LHENA is currently redeveloping its 'brand' in hopes to better identify and promote the organization both within and outside the neighborhood.

In addition to increasing community participation, the 2012 LHENA strategic plan identifies an organizational goal of building collaborative relationships. LHENA works with surrounding neighborhood associations in areas such as sustainability/environment (an Uptown Green Team coalition was recently formed), development review, and crime concerns. LHENA also cultivates relationships with the three business associations representing the commercial corridors which form the neighborhood boundaries (South Hennepin, Uptown, and Lyn-Lake).

Additionally, the LHENA office is located inside Jefferson Community School, allowing the organization to maintain a relationship with Minneapolis Public Schools. LHENA has allocated significant resources for school and park improvements.

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.***

The majority of the population in Lowry Hill East is comprised of renters. Traditionally, it has been challenging to reach portions of this demographic due to high mobility, high levels of turnover, and difficulties obtaining contact information. LHENA will continue working to build relationships with this group of stakeholders by improving electronic forms of communication and establishing connections with rental property owners or management companies. LHENA will actively seek to increase the number of participants on its email list as well as Facebook/Twitter. LHENA plans to redesign the LHENA website once the branding campaign is complete and may consider creating a mobile version of the site. LHENA also hopes to engage younger renters through events and activities. One example of such an activity is the LHENA Uptown pub crawl scheduled for January 2013.

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.***

The LHENA Zoning & Planning Committee mission is to preserve housing stock and promote sensitive, sensible development in the Lowry Hill East neighborhood while engaging the public in the participation process. This Committee reviews any project, development, or zoning request in the neighborhood.

The LHENA Neighborhood Revitalization Committee mission is to make the Lowry Hill East neighborhood a vibrant, safe, and inviting place to live, work, learn, and play by improving and sustaining our neighborhood's housing, safety, economic development, recreation, environment, and transportation. This Committee implements the Neighborhood Revitalization

Program (NRP) Action Plans and other revitalization strategies. Active NRP housing programs include revolving home improvement loans, matching loans for exterior home improvements, green home improvements, and historic preservation. Educational programming and resources for property owners are offered as well.

It is estimated that LHENA spends approximately 45 percent of its time working 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.***

All funds from the previous funding cycle were used.

- 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.***

LHENA CPP Budget for June 2012 through December 2013

<i>Staff Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 44,462</i>
<i>Employee Benefits</i>	<i>\$ 6,678</i>
<i>Professional Services</i>	<i>\$ 7,252</i>
<i>Occupancy</i>	<i>\$ 2,317</i>
<i>Communications/Outreach</i>	<i>\$ 465</i>
<i>Supplies and Materials</i>	<i>\$ 1,825</i>
<i>Festivals and events</i>	<i>\$ 175</i>
<i>Fundraising</i>	<i>\$ 130</i>
<i>Other Services</i>	<i>\$ 600</i>
<i>Neighborhood Priorities</i>	<i>\$10,596</i>
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>\$74,500</i>