



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHiNC)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Linden Hills Neighborhood Council
Address:	P.O. Box 29049 Minneapolis, MN 55424
Website url:	Lindenhills.org
Organization email:	info@lindenhills.org
Federal EIN:	41-1805319
Board Contacts:	Name: Grant Hawthorne & Constance Pepin, Co-Chairs
Staff Contact:	Name: Christy Prediger

Who should be the primary contact for this submission? Grant Hawthorne & Constance Pepin

Date of Board review and approval: August 6, 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.** 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.

The Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHiNC) has previously been funded. LHiNC is a community and volunteer-based 501c3 nonprofit organization that strives to increase civic participation of the residents within its neighborhood and make Minneapolis a great place to live, work, and play.

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?

Proposed outreach activities: LHiNC will actively work to engage the community in a variety of ways. We will continue working with our Councilmember and City of Minneapolis Staff to explore the development of a Small Area Plan for the neighborhood. A Steering Committee representing the residents will be named to engage the neighborhood and determine whether the Small Area Plan for the neighborhood is something the residents want, and if so, will work on behalf of the residents in the development of such a plan. LHiNC will use a modified-consensus approach in the naming of the Steering Committee members, which will allow any and all residents interested in the process to weigh in on the Committee makeup. LHiNC is leading this 12 to 18 month open process, and we intend to involve the community and work with transparency through every step of the process.

Further, we will continue our attempt to reach all neighborhood residents and promote a sense of sharing and community through print and electronic media, and the use of neighborhood signage. We are committed to increasing the use of social media as a vehicle to reach more of the community. In the upcoming year, LHiNC will redesign its website with the intention of making it more engaging to a broader audience, while serving as a better tool for communication. LHiNC will actively encourage participation of its residents in its various committees, will continue to encourage attendance at its monthly Board Meetings, and will strive to reach a broader section of the neighborhood with news of neighborhood events which promote community, such as the Festival and Corn Feed.

LHiNC is committed to actively engaging its residents in the development of a Neighborhood Priority Plan, and as such, will survey the community at major neighborhood events such as the Linden Hills Spring Festival and Corn Feed. An Open

House will be scheduled for the purpose of obtaining feedback regarding priorities of the neighborhood residents. We will also communicate with residents to encourage feedback through our bi-monthly print newsletter, monthly e-news, e-mail distribution list, website and Facebook.

3. Building organizational capacity. How will you work to

(1) provide opportunities for the direct involvement of members:

LHiNC will work to provide opportunities for the direct involvement of members in a variety of ways. We will work to encourage the participation the neighborhood residents in LHiNC's various committees, ensuring that committee members have the opportunity to shape committee projects and goals. We will continue to invite the community to monthly Board Meetings, encouraging questions from those in attendance and endorsing the free-flow of information. LHiNC will continue to provide and promote volunteer opportunities at LHiNC-hosted and co-hosted events in and around the neighborhood. Further, LHiNC will ensure the Small Area Plan exploration will be open and transparent, with opportunities for all residents to be informed of the activities of the Steering Committee and status of the Small Area Plan.

(2) build your membership and volunteer base:

LHiNC will work to strengthen its volunteer base through the utilization of our bi-monthly print newsletter, monthly e-news, e-mail distribution list, website and Facebook. The placement of signs and flyers throughout the neighborhood will be used as well. LHiNC would like to further increase its membership and volunteer base by expanding and enhancing our neighborhood network of block leaders, thereby reaching a broader segment of the community.

(3) encourage and develop new leadership:

LHiNC plans to actively recruit new Board members for the fall elections with a neighborhood-wide media campaign to include the bi-monthly print newsletter, monthly e-news, e-mail distribution list, website and Facebook, in addition to a neighborhood-wide poster/flyer campaign and YouTube video encouraging involvement and promoting leadership opportunities.

(4) expand the organization's capacity through self-assessment and other activities:

LHiNC will maintain and periodically update its various manuals and handbooks for operation (Board Members Manual, Spring Festival Manual, Treasurer's Notes, Coordinators Handbook) based on lessons learned, feedback from residents, input from the City and other neighborhoods, which will benefit the future members of LHiNC with information regarding best practices, and will help to avoid reinventing the wheel.

3. **Building neighborhood relationships.** Describe your outreach, networking, and inclusivity efforts to

(1) build a sense of a whole neighborhood among residents:

LHiNC strives to build a sense of a whole through our communications outreach, including our bi-monthly print newsletter, monthly e-news, e-mail distribution list, website and Facebook, as well as signage at the Park Building and elsewhere within neighborhood. LHiNC also promotes the sense of community through events it hosts and co-hosts, which are free and open to all. It also offers openness in its Board meetings and encourages attendance and participation.

(2) build bridges among neighbors and diverse communities within the neighborhood:

LHiNC is working to gather a diverse representation of its residents and business owners to serve on a Steering Committee to explore the development of a Small Area Plan for the neighborhood. LHiNC is committed to collaborating with City staff to facilitate this process for the next 12 to 18 months, during which time individuals with differing viewpoints will be encouraged to work together to develop a plan for the good of the neighborhood.

LHiNC will continue to host and co-host events in and around the neighborhood which aim to attract a broad attendance and promote a sense of pride in community.

LHiNC will also continue its practice of hosting community Open Houses for the purpose of sharing and exchanging information about proposed, significant projects or developments which will have a considerable impact on community residents.

(3) work with other neighborhoods and organizations on issues of common interest:

LHiNC is actively involved in an ongoing collaboration with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB), East Harriet-Farmstead Neighborhood Association (EHFNA) and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) in the Roberts Revitalization Project (RRP). The overall goal of the project is to develop and implement a long-term management plan that will enhance and protect the Sanctuary as a natural and undeveloped area for birds.

LHiNC will continue to collaborate with the East Harriet-Farmstead Neighborhood Association to co-host KiteFest at Lake Harriet in January.

LHiNC will continue its involvement in supporting the Linden Hills Business Association in sponsoring and promoting various events in the commercial nodes, such as Reindeer Day and Linden Hills Live.

(4) build partnerships with private and public entities:

LHiNC will work with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to offer family-friendly events and programs at Linden Hills Park. We will also work with Linden Hills Library to promote programs at the library which are open to the public. The annual Spring Festival will provide a venue for private and public entities to promote causes and reach

a broad audience. LHiNC will strive to work more closely with the Linden Hills Business Association (LHBA)

(5) benefit the neighborhood as a whole:

LHiNC will continue to offer programs which benefit the neighborhood as a whole, such as the ongoing HOURCAR program, secured with NRP funds. LHiNC will be working to provide support for biking advocacy programs in the neighborhood. LHiNC will also continue to protect and enhance the urban forest and work to educate residents about ways to reduce negative effects on water and air quality.

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.

Seniors, renters, and ethnic minorities are typically under-engaged in Linden Hills. LHiNC is committed to resuming an Aging-in-place initiative. We will also work to engage landlords and property managers in the neighborhood. The NCR Department can help LHiNC with these goals by sharing success stories and case studies from other neighborhood organizations. An updated and redesigned LHiNC website may provide a better vehicle to reach additional under-engaged groups.

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.

LHiNC will continue work on housing-related issues, in such ways as continuing its program to offer low-interest, home-improvement loans, and maintaining its Zoning Committee to actively weigh in on building variance requests within the neighborhood. LHiNC will also continue its practice of hosting community Open Houses for the purpose of sharing and exchanging information about significant housing developments proposed within the neighborhood. LHiNC will spend approximately 5% of its overall time on housing activities.

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.

Unused funds from the previous funding cycle will be used to develop the Linden Hills Neighborhood Priority Plan, and also to redesign the lindenhills.org website for the purpose of reaching a wider audience of community members and having a more effective communications tool at our disposal.

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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.

2012 - 13

Category	Allocation	Notes
Staff Expenses	\$ 39,000	
Employee Benefits	\$ 0	N/A
Professional Services	\$8,200	N/A
Occupancy	\$2,500	Phone, USPS, Web host, Storage host, similar.
Communications/Outreach	\$17,500	Newsletter budget, does not include Welcome Packet, Spring Festival surveying and related Festival expenses.
Supplies and Materials	\$1,000	
Festivals and events	\$7,500	LHiNC sponsored events at LH Park, KiteFest.
Development	\$200	Board & volunteer orientation, education, training.
Fundraising	\$ 0	
Other Services	\$ 0	
Neighborhood Priorities & NRP Strategy cont	\$1,305	Total allocation minus all other budget items.
TOTAL w/o Neighborhood Priorities:	\$75,900	
TOTAL	\$77,205	