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# Community Participation Program Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association July 1, 2012-December 31, 2013

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

|                     |                                         |                |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Organization Name:  | Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association      |                |
| Address:            | P.O. Box 19445<br>Minneapolis, MN 55419 |                |
| Website url:        | www.lynnhurst.org                       |                |
| Organization email: | info@lynnhurst.org                      |                |
| Federal EIN:        | 41-1794442                              |                |
| Board Contact:      | Name:                                   | Paul Ragozzino |
| Staff Contact:      | Name:                                   | Ruth Olson     |

Who should be the primary contact for this submission? \_\_\_\_ Ruth Olson \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Board review and approval: \_\_\_\_ June 14, 2012 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association (LYNAS) has previously been deemed eligible and received funding in the previous cycle. We have recently adopted ADA and EEO Policies, bringing us up-to-date with current requirements. A 2011 Annual Report was filed with our NCR Specialist on May 11, 2012.

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?

LYNAS has a variety of established outreach activities:

- Annual Meeting Celebration in February
- Summer Festival in August
- Earth Day Clean-Up Event in April
- Other periodic events (such as Buckthorn Removal Day, Bryant Avenue Bridge Re-Opening Celebration, etc.) as needed
- Monthly neighborhood board meetings, open to all residents and other interested stakeholders
- Mail-back surveys and dotmocracy votes to identify neighborhood issues and priorities
- Promotion of neighborhood events and activities through e-newsletter, Lynnhurst website, Lynnhurst Facebook page, postcard mailings, and sandwich board signs at busy intersections
- Occasional Environmental Newsletter mailed to 2250 residences
- Environmental Enduring Environs Blog
- Annual Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sale
- Annual neighborhood-wide garage sales in September
- Renewed commitment to a Business Façade Matching Grant Program
- New Phase II Housing Program available to all residents

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In order to develop Neighborhood Priority Plans we will rely on those priorities set forth in our NRP Phase II Plan. This Plan was formally adopted in July, 2011 and is very current in terms of neighborhood needs and wishes. We will also use large scale neighborhood gatherings to query residents for other goals.

The information gathered from questions and the surveying done in our Phase II Plan will guide our NPP submission.

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?

LYNAS will use all of the activities listed in question #1 to solicit involvement and engagement of all residents of Lynnhurst neighborhood. We will continue to build our membership base and encourage new leadership through direct one-on-one contact made possible through our community events. Existing and past Board members and neighborhood staff will continue to reach out to neighbors to recruit volunteers for various activities of the neighborhood. With decreased public funding available, LYNAS will be looking at all possible opportunities to join forces with other neighborhood associations and community groups in order to combine resources and support so that activities and events are not compromised.

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.

LYNAS works hard to create a sense of togetherness for the entirety of the neighborhood. In fact, one of our major NRP strategies in both Phase I and II is Building a Sense of Community. We sponsor a variety of events and activities to reach out to different segments of population in the neighborhood. We would like to develop a Welcome Packet to distribute to all new residents. This Welcome Packet would include information regarding the neighborhood as a whole, LYNAS, businesses in the neighborhood, City of Minneapolis contacts and would demonstrate our commitment to inclusion of all residents. We would also like to sponsor quarterly symposiums on a variety of topics that could bring together a wider cross-section of neighborhood residents. Possible topics for these symposiums could be zero-waste recycling, safety measures, sustainable yard design including rain gardens, etc.

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Over the past 10 years, LYNAS and Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA) have worked together to address common concerns regarding traffic and safety issues that affect both neighborhoods. Through the Fulton-Lynnhurst Neighbors for Safe Driving Task Force, a slow-down driving campaign was conducted. Both neighborhoods also worked together to re-design the lane striping on W 50<sup>th</sup> St which allowed for better traffic flow patterns.

More recently, LYNAS and FNA have continued to build bonds through their respective Environmental Committees. Conversations have begun as to how to best support the efforts of each neighborhood, how to duplicate successful programs and how to communicate important environmental information. LYNAS and FNA have also begun discussions with one another regarding improvement to the shared Minnehaha Creek that flows through both neighborhoods.

Over the course of several years, LYNAS has worked closely with their neighbors in Kenny, Tangletown and Windom neighborhoods to develop and move forward a streetscape plan for the intersection of 54<sup>th</sup> St and Lyndale Ave S. Representatives of all four neighborhoods have worked closely with Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis to participate in the planning of the replacement of the bridge over Minnehaha Creek and the reconstruction of Lyndale Ave from the bridge to 56<sup>th</sup> St. This has been a very long and arduous process full of starts and stops, but the combined voice of the four neighborhoods have influenced change that is beneficial to the overall health of the intersection. The neighborhoods have also joined together to provide funding to the businesses for streetscape elements that will also positively affect the look and financial well-being of its business assets.

LYNAS has recently been more involved with the Nicollet East Harriet Business Association (NEHBA) and has been actively reaching out to neighborhood businesses to provide support during a disruptive construction project. LYNAS has also engaged neighborhood businesses, new and old, to provide funding for façade improvements. These improvements strengthen the framework of the neighborhood.

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.

Historically, senior citizens are not well represented in the activities of the neighborhood. LYNAS has specifically chosen to support senior citizens in the guidelines of its new Housing revolving loan program. Eligible improvements to accommodate the elderly and/or disabled and allow them to stay in their homes include but are not limited to wheelchair ramps, chair lifts, and stair railings.

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NCR could help further engage senior citizens by spreading the word of the available housing funds and working with LYNAS to develop programming and facilities focused on the unique needs of aging in an urban environment.

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.

LYNAS has very recently contracted its Phase II NRP dollars in a revolving, low-interest home improvement loan program. It is our hope that this program will help home owners in the neighborhood improve their homes and, thus, raise the property values of not only their own home but those surrounding properties. This, in turn, strengthens the entire neighborhood. The guidelines of the program specify eligible projects are to be exterior home/yard improvements, energy-efficiency improvements (exterior or interior) or elderly/disabled accommodation projects. Initial interest in this program is quite high and nearly all of the designated funds have been used.

Due to the recent initiation of this housing program, LYNAS estimates that 1-2 hours of staff time per month will be needed to establish strong communications with the neighborhood and the housing vendor and then to monitor the effectiveness of the program. Alterations to the guidelines and funding levels to meet the needs of Lynnhurst residents will be made, as necessary.

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.

LYNAS will need to roll forward approximately \$8000.00 of funds from the previous cycle. These funds will be used to further engage residents in this CPP Plan and allow us to pursue funding Neighborhood Priority Plans.

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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.

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|-------------------------|----------|
| Staff Expenses          | \$19,000 |
| Employee Benefits       | \$       |
| Professional Services   | \$3,500  |
| Occupancy               | \$800    |
| Communications/Outreach | \$12,000 |
| Supplies and Materials  | \$3,500  |
| Festivals and events    | \$5,000  |
| Development             | \$       |
| Fundraising             | \$       |
| Other Services          | \$       |
| Neighborhood Priorities | \$7,255  |
| TOTAL:                  | \$51,055 |

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.