
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

Submission Template

Please use this template as a guide to developing your submission for funding from the Community Participation Program. The level of detail should be appropriate to your organization's proposed activities, and to the level of funding allocated for your organization.

You may provide this submission electronically to ncr@minneapolismn.gov. Please include a copy of your bylaws.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Sheridan Neighborhood Organization
Address:	909 Main St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413
Website url:	www.sheridanneighborhood.org
Organization email:	sno@sheridanneighborhood.org
Federal EIN:	411940413
Board Contact:	Name: Jenny Fortman, chair
Staff Contact:	Name: Phone: Email: Address:

Who should be the primary contact for this submission? ___ John Akre _____

Date of Board review and approval: ___ July 23, 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.

Sheridan Neighborhood Organization was funded through the Community Participation Program in 2011-12.

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?

The Sheridan Neighborhood Organization will hold its **SNO Big Deal Picnic and Bike event** on August 4th. SNO will provide food at the event (donated by neighborhood vendors and SNO's general fund) at Sheridan Park along the Mississippi River. The event will feature music, bike activities, including a bike rodeo and bike decorating, and a bike ride of some of the new bike infrastructure in the Sheridan Neighborhood. We will also do a survey activity to ask neighbors what their concerns are so that we can develop a Neighborhood Priority Plan. This event will draw a wide and diverse group of neighbors and be a great place to gather this input.

SNO will also hold its **Ice Cream SNOcial** in early September. This event will feature free ice cream at a location on the 13th Avenue Business corridor. We will also do an activity to get neighborhood concerns that will also be used to develop Neighborhood Priority Plans.

July 21st will be Sheridan Neighborhood Organization day at the **Northeast Farmer's Market**. We will have a tent at the market to do outreach to help us select priorities.

SNO also has a neighborhood priorities survey on its website, sheridanneighborhood.org.

Over the next year we also plan to develop a Small Area Plan for the neighborhood that will address the commercial corridors of 13th Ave NE and Marshall, and the information gathered during their process will also help us develop Neighborhood Priority Plans.

For all these activities we plan to reach out to under-represented groups in the neighborhood, groups that do not normally come to meetings. We also would like to influence city decision-making, particularly in regard the public commercial areas in our neighborhood, our park, and the areas along the river.

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.

Because SNO has no staff person, volunteers do all the work. This is a key way that we provide direct involvement by members. Our members volunteer hard on the work of the organization, planning and carrying out events, conducting meetings, writing proposals, organizing residents and so on. Through events like the ones SNO is planning, we hope to build our organization by getting more people involved as volunteers. A planning committee of ten neighborhood residents is working on the development of the picnic this summer, and other events.

The SNO Board elected at the organization's last annual meeting in April was a majority of new members, so new leadership is rising to do the work of SNO. Much of this new leadership has gotten involved because of neighborhood events like the annual winter SNO Ball. We plan to expand the organization's capacity through the coming small area plan project, which will help us come up with a new goals and strategies to achieve them.

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 used a combination of events and projects to build a sense of neighborhood among residents. In addition to the events already mentioned, our summer **SNO Big Deal picnic** and fall **Ice Cream SNOcial**, we also hold a **SNO Ball** in the winter. This is a fundraiser for the neighborhood, but also brings neighbors together. We began the SNO Ball over ten years ago, so it has gained some recognition. In addition to bringing 200 people together, it also raises money for SNO. The SNO Ball and our other events bring in a diverse group of neighbors together. Our Ice Cream SNOcial, held on our commercial corridor, in particular brings out a diverse slice of our neighborhood to enjoy free ice cream and meet each other. We have also piggybacked on events that go beyond our neighborhood, such as Art-A-Whirl, to do neighborhood planning and publicizing neighborhood program.

This summer we are a major sponsor of the **Northeast Farmer's Market**, and will use the market to do outreach to come up with Neighborhood Priority Projects. The Northeast Farmer's Market has been a close partner for the last few years. A new partnership we are building is with **Bike Walk Twin Cities**. We have been working with them to develop our SNO Big Deal picnic, which will feature a Bike Rodeo and an expert-guided tour of the new bicycle infrastructure in 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.

One of the more successful SNO efforts to reach under-represented groups has been the **Shooting Stars** program, a youth photography initiative that received two CURA grants and engaged low income and immigrant youth and their parents. Contacts made through this program will be drawn upon as we do further planning. SNO outdoor events such as the annual **Ice Cream SNOcial**, the **SNO Big Deal picnic**, and **workshops on organic yard care** bring out a diversity of the neighborhood's residents. SNO has also partnered with and done outreach at events and opportunities such as **Art-A-Whirl**, the **Northeast Farmer's Market**, and many others.

SNO would like to work with the NCR department to translate some of the fliers for its events into the languages that some of our neighbors speak, such as Somali and Spanish. We also welcome other services that NCR can provide to help us conduct outreach activities to under-represented groups.

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.

SNO continues to support the Housing programs set up in its NRP Phase I and Phase II plans. We remain actively working with the Housing Resource Center, which administers those programs. We have found ways to stretch our NRP Housing funds, re-directing program income to continue to operate our Fix and Paint Grant program, which provides a matching grant for an exterior improvement. This high profile program helps to promote our other programs. We also plan this year to take a look at our full range of housing programs and the funding that remains in them all and make some recommendations about how to make our limited resources go as far as they can. Our active Community Development Committee dedicates approximately half its time to work on these Housing programs. SNO in general spends approximately 10 to 20% of its time on housing programs and issues.

Based on neighborhood priorities identified in the past, we expect that some of our Neighborhood Priority Project funds may well go to housing programs.

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.

Because SNO is a volunteer driven organization with no staff person, we move more slowly than other neighborhoods. This has left us with unused funds from the previous program. Our frugality with our NRP funds has allowed us to use those funds for purposes that were unforeseen when our NRP plans were initially written. When we realized that we would not be able to get streetlights for our 13th Ave. NE commercial corridor because of the city streetlight policy, we were able to redirect NRP funds to make this neighborhood priority happen. We would like to have such flexibility with NCR funds, and we hope that we will be able to direct some of our unspent NCR funds on the Neighborhood Priority Projects that we identify.

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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.

SAMPLE BUDGET

Staff Expenses	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$0
Professional Services	\$
Occupancy	\$
Communications/Outreach	\$2,080
Supplies and Materials	\$
Festivals and events	\$10,000
Development	\$
Fundraising	\$
Other Services	\$
Neighborhood Priorities	\$45,000
TOTAL:	\$57,080

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.