

**West Calhoun Neighborhood Council  
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM PLAN  
2012-13**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	West Calhoun Neighborhood Council	
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Board Contact:	Name:	David Rhees
Staff Contact:	Name:	Rhea Sullivan
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Who should be the primary contact for this submission? Rhea Sullivan

Date of Board review and approval: October 9, 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.

**West Calhoun Neighborhood Council (WCNC) has previously been deemed eligible and received funding in the previous cycle. At the July 2012 meeting, the WCNC adopted ADA and EEO Policies. The WCNC submitted a 2011 Annual Report on July 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?

**The WCNC has a variety of established outreach activities:**

- **Bi-annual newsletter mailed to each residence and business in the West Calhoun Neighborhood**
- **Regular updates to website and Facebook page**
- **Monthly E-newsletter and meeting notice**
- **Monthly neighborhood meetings**
- **Annual Meeting Celebration with food and speakers in May**

**In order to develop a Neighborhood Priority Plan, we will look to some of the priorities set forth in our NRP Phase I Plan. In addition, at each of our neighborhood meetings and through our periodic newsletters we will seek further input from residents with two questions:**

- **If you could change one thing about West Calhoun Neighborhood, what would it be?**
- **If the WCNC had money to invest in a project in the West Calhoun Neighborhood, what should they do?**

**The answers to these questions, along with previous surveying done for the Phase I 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.

**The WCNC will use all of the activities listed in question two to solicit involvement and engagement of all residents of the West Calhoun 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. These volunteers are then encouraged to take on more responsibility and possibly join the Board of Directors. With decreased public funding available, the WCNC 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.

The WCNC board has realized the importance of the business node of West Calhoun. It is the heart of the community and the board has invested in its relationship with the businesses of Lake and Excelsior to the benefit of West Calhoun residents and business owners. The WCNC and Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA) have a long history of working together with recent collaborations focused on the businesses of the two neighborhoods.

WCNC has built good relationships with the business partners of West Calhoun and CIDNA through the newly created Business Association "The Edge." Representatives from WCNC meet regularly with business owners to share information regarding the future impact of the SW LRT station in West Calhoun and other potential collaborations. The WCNC has created and distributed a shopping guide for the area and a website dedicated to the businesses of "The Edge" ([www.theedgeatcalhoun.com](http://www.theedgeatcalhoun.com)).

Past and future outreach will continue for planning for the West Lake Station on the Southwest Transitway. For residents and visitors to the West Calhoun area, traffic congestion and pedestrian safety are a high priority issue. In 2011, the WCNC engaged students for a traffic study and plan for how to address traffic problems in the neighborhood. A Capstone Senior Project in conjunction with the University of Minnesota, was led by former Vice Chair Jeff Peltola. The students provided traffic counts and a scope of work for a possible traffic study of the area (available at [www.westcalhoun.org](http://www.westcalhoun.org)). In 2012-13, the WCNC will work to review our Phase I NRP Plan and develop a plan to reallocate funds to current projects. Another priority for the WCNC will be the meetings, research and outreach to residents and businesses associated with the release and neighborhood response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the SW LRT.

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.

**West Calhoun has a high percentage of renters. Four renters were elected onto the WCNC board in May and September 2012 (up from one in 2011). To continue to reach more renters, WCNC plans to do two postcard mailings to all addresses in the neighborhood. We also plan to post information about our annual meeting and events in rental buildings where it is possible.**

**Another under-represented group in the community is business owners. West Calhoun Neighborhood Council created a group to begin to address this issue around the SW LRT Station Area Planning in late 2010. The SW LRT Stakeholders Group is made up of neighborhood representatives from WCNC and CIDNA neighborhoods, and business owners and property owners from both neighborhoods. In 2011-12, this group has continued to meet and created a shopping guide that was mailed to all West Calhoun and Cedar Isles Dean residents and distributed to all the businesses. In April of 2012, the WCNC sponsored a Wellness Event at Calhoun Village and Calhoun Commons that included a Blood Drive, blood pressure checks, bike tune ups and specials and promotions offered by many of the businesses. This newly formed group, The Edge, will continue to work together on future collaborations to the benefit of West Calhoun residents and businesses.**

**The NCR department can assist in this outreach with marketing assistance for events and open communication on any issues that may affect the renters or businesses of West Calhoun.**

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.

**West Calhoun's housing stock is unusual among Minneapolis neighborhoods. There are just a small number of single family homes. Of the 1,400 total housing units in the neighborhood, 898 are renter-occupied and 213 are vacant (2010 Census). The combined total of owner-occupied units (condo and single family) is just 288.**

**West Calhoun is a fragmented neighborhood with Lake Street, Excelsior Boulevard, the Midtown Greenway and the largest landowners being The Minikahda Country Club and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The WCNC Phase I NRP plan focused on neighborhood corridors and access to Lake Calhoun. At this time, there are not any housing related programs run by the WCNC.**

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.

**As of June 30, 2012, the WCNC has a 2011-12 CPP balance of \$4,982. The WCNC plans to use the remaining funds to pay for neighborhood staff and continued outreach to**

**the neighborhood regarding the high priority issues of traffic calming, pedestrian safety, SW LRT and smart growth and development in the neighborhood.**

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	\$25,000
Employee Benefits	
Professional Services	\$1,800
Occupancy	\$500
Communications/Outreach	\$7,000
Supplies and Materials	\$1,665
Festivals and events	\$3,000
Development	
Fundraising	
Other Services	
Neighborhood Priorities	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$43,965</b>

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.