

Community Participation Program
2013 Annual Report
Kenwood Isles Area Association

1. *Accomplishments*

What were your organization's major accomplishments in 2013? How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work? (Note: focus on your accomplishments, not your activities, such as "Field Regina Northrup organized the Lee Family 80th Anniversary Commemoration on July 16, 2011, recognizing an important story in the history of Civil Rights in Minneapolis. In addition to engaging more than 1,000 residents, the event coincided with the City's Community One Read event, providing the opportunity to connect the commemoration with broader city events.")

KIAA's major accomplishments in 2013 revolved around ways to improve communication with the community: to provide information and seek feedback on the important current issues, most importantly focusing on crime and safety and the potential SW light rail line (SWLRT) route proposed to run through Kenwood. For residents who chose to use the website or read the newsletters or monthly emails, this provided a way to stay up to date on these important issues and to attend meetings and provide input for KIAA's resolutions and other input on LRT.

2. *2013 CPP Submission*

Reviewing your submission for CPP funds for 2012, what outreach and engagement activities did you carry out? What worked well, and what did not work so well? Why?

Here is the listing of the major outreach and engagement activities that KIAA carried out:

- Published a Spring KIAA newsletter and a Fall KIAA newsletter and mailed them to Kenwood residents on the KIAA distribution list.
- Maintained and distributed the neighborhood welcome kit to new residents.
- Hired communications consultant to manage the publication of the Spring and Fall KIAA newsletters, monthly e-newsletter, and community announcements, and manage the KIAA website.
- Conducted a neighborhood survey to identify neighborhood priorities and update the KIAA Neighborhood Priority Plan
- Community integration: Conducted Annual KIAA Meeting at Kenwood Recreation Center on May 19, 2013 from 3-5 pm.
- Mark Johnson, Chair of Crime and Safety Committee, and Jean Deatruck met with Chelsea Adams and Luther Krueger of the Mpls Police Dept. to discuss neighborhood crime alerts.
- KIAA supported neighborhood activities through a donation to "Thrill Kenwood" to cover costs of the DJ/Sound Equipment and art activity stations.
- KIAA board members Kathy Low and Mike Bono filed the KIAA 2014 CPP applications to the City of Minneapolis NCR. The board approved the application for submittal to the NCR and request for funds.
- KIAA provided financial support to the joint neighborhood Ice Skating Party on Lake of the Isles.

Analysis of outreach and engagement activities

KIAA sent surveys by mail and email to the neighborhood residents to identify neighborhood priorities and update the KIAA Neighborhood Priority Plan. The survey included 10 issues related to community

safety, the proposed Southwest Light Rail Transit, KIAA communications activities, the Kenwood Recreation Center, and the Kenwood business district. Out of a total of 566 surveys sent out, 112 responses were received - 68 by email and 44 by postal mail.

Based on the result of the neighborhood survey, KIAA allocated Community Participation Program funds to the Neighborhood Priority Plan to four (4) major activities:

- 1) support community outreach and consulting services related to the proposed Southwest Light Rail Transit,
- 2) provide funding for increased crime prevention and safety activities,
- 3) fund a resource to assist KIAA with its communication efforts, and
- 4) support the Kenwood Recreation Center with funding to ensure that bathroom facilities continue to be made available to the community.

A communications consultant was hired to manage the website and publish the Spring and Fall newsletters and the monthly e-newsletters. The KIAA web site is regularly updated with KIAA monthly meeting minutes and community developments affecting Kenwood. The monthly email newsletter includes information on community activities, including those sponsored by the businesses in the neighborhood.

As for what did not work well, we would have liked to get input from more people on KIAA resolutions, but we believe that it is not because of lack of communication but rather people's busy lives and lack of time for meetings. Also, in part because of the delayed release of the DEIS for the SW light rail line, we did not yet use the budgeted CPP funds to pay for professional services for additional study and design alternatives for the area of the proposed light rail route through Kenwood. Last, our efforts to find more volunteers for the Board and committees has met with limited success.

3. Stakeholder Involvement

Reviewing your submission for CPP funds for 2013, how did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities? Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful?

Kenwood has a small underrepresented community. We use print and electronic communications to reach all neighborhood residents and businesses. We have ten Board members. One person who is not a Board member heads up our Crime and Safety subcommittee. Approximately 25 people attended the annual meeting in May. Close to 300 addressees receive the KIAA e-newsletter, and the printed KIAA newsletters are mailed to every Kenwood household, totaling over 550. CPP funds also help defray the cost of distributing the Hill & Lake Press to Kenwood households.

Please provide the following:

- A. *How many people currently serve on your board? 10 (ten) Are there vacancies? Yes.*
- B. *Approximately how many individuals have participated in committee meetings in the last year? 5*
- C. *How many people attended your annual meeting? 25*
- D. *How many households regularly receive your publications (such as newsletters or newspapers)? Approximately 550.*
- E. *Approximately how many people participate in other activities of the organization? 5*

4. Financial Reports

Please provide an income and expense report for your organization for the year. (Please include all funding sources.)

In addition to your annual report, please take time to describe your interactions with City departments and other jurisdictions.

1. *Impact*

What interactions occupied a major part of your time? What worked well, what could be improved?

The CPP application, annual report, and guideline process was time consuming. Understanding the program, educating the KIAA Board, and completing the required paperwork continues to be a challenge.

2. *City Communications – effectiveness*

Is the information that you receive from the City understandable and useful?

The email communications we receive are very good although KIAA generally does not have enough volunteers to participate in many of the NCR meetings that are mentioned in the newsletters.

3. *City Communications – timeliness*

Do you receive adequate notice of City activities in your neighborhood? If not, did your organization inform somebody at the City of this? Did the City respond in a positive manner? Please explain.

KIAA continues to be appreciative of the NCR staff, who are so responsive to our questions and provide much-needed support given our limited, all-volunteer structure. KIAA received adequate notice of City activities in our neighborhood.

4. *City Departments*

How can City departments improve the way in which they function in your neighborhood?

Generally we are kept up to date about City policies and practices by the attendance of City Council Member Lisa Goodman at our monthly meetings and her e-newsletters.

5. *City Assistance*

How can the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department improve the assistance it provides to your organization as a citizen participation group?

As a very small and volunteer neighborhood association, we do not have the resources to devote to CPP planning and reporting that some of the larger neighborhood associations do. Any efforts to keep requirements simple for neighborhoods like ours that receive the lowest allocations are appreciated.

6. *Other comments?*

7.

None