

Community Participation Program 2013 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Lind Bohanon Neighborhood Association _____

Contact person: Georgia Lynch, LBNA Chairperson

Date of Board Approval: November 7, 2013

1. Stakeholder Involvement

Reviewing your CPP activities in 2013, Please provide information about:

What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2013?

Our outreach and engagement activities for 2013 included:

**Regular communications and updates through LBNA's media sources:*

Facebook

Lind Bohanon website

LBNA newsletter

Monthly ads in Camdenews

Twitter

LBNA weekly email crime and events reports

**Monthly committee meetings (Board of Directors, Executive, Housing, Business, Social/Environment/Outreach, Crime and Safety, Transportation, Events, Volunteer Thank you, Walking group, Lind Community Garden, River and Development.)*

**Community meetings for on-going and emerging issues such as Salvation Army/Mereen Johnson, Camden Promise Housing potential, Crime, Block Club leader training.*

**Annual meeting and elections in September*

**LBNA programs and events*

**Meetings with Public Works, Three Rivers Parks District, CP Rail, Hennepin County, Camden Care Center, CommonBond Communities, and other partner meetings.*

How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2013?

In one of LBNA's most successful projects, LBNA partnered with CommonBond Communities, Camden Care Center, Shingle Creek Commons and Kingsley Commons, Contemporary Transportation, residents to create a program and reach out to and involve under represented communities in our neighborhood. Two of the key underrepresented groups LBNA focused on in 2013 were the disabled and the elderly in our community.

LBNA continued its dedicated transportation system which focuses first on the needs of transporting the disabled. With the help of CPP funds, LBNA continues to involve this under-represented community in our neighborhood by providing dedicated transportation to community events, volunteer opportunities, voting, art and nature classes, and shopping trips. Our dedicated ride system will have has increased from 89 trips to 115 trips in 2013. Since starting this program we have had five board members elected to the board who are in wheelchairs and 25 other seniors and disabled who regularly volunteer and participate with LBNA committees and events. This model program was started with the help of a University of Minnesota CURA/McKnight grant and has continued with the help of the LBNA CPP funds.

Also in 2013, in order to try and engage the elderly more we've tried adding listening devices and started providing minutes during the meeting on a large screen for the hard of hearing who want to be engaged and participate but who have difficulty hearing during the meetings.

Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?

Media: Attractively formatted printed newsletter: *This newsletter helps promote a positive and upbeat North Minneapolis image in this mostly low-moderate income community inspires community pride. We distribute 1700 monthly newsletters to our 4444 residents. It has helped us increase outreach by improving our brand image, mission message and increasing website visits again by 19.55% during the months of Jan-Oct 2013 going from 1,831 to 2,189 visitors.*

Social Media: *We have been working on steadily increased our Facebook likes increasing from 40 initially to 183 today. We used our media tools to design and distribute a community survey in the spring when Salvation Army was looking at moving their headquarters to our neighborhood. We are using the feedback from the 90 surveys received to help shape our decisions and take steps to improve our Lyndale business corridor and community.*

Committees: *Volunteer resident board members have taken pride in working to improve their community. Our board members either chair or cochair one of the several committees or initiatives and have increased their monthly volunteer hours in this past year from 131 to 185 collectively as a group.*

What did not work so well? Why?

Change is sometimes uncomfortable. Longtime board members sometimes feel threatened and resist proposed changes, even seemingly simple procedural changes, slowing progress and requiring more time, communication, and education on topics before progress can be made again.

How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)? LBNA's board and staff reached over 300 people directly through our partnerships, events and activities, office, transportation project, and various committees.

How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

LBNA has a volunteer pool of 150 individuals, who were engaged in our committees, programs, events, and activities in 2013.

How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?

LBNA has many successful events, projects, and activities throughout the year and has 3250 participants.

How many people receive your print publications? 1700 households and businesses receive our monthly newsletter. Monthly advertising of our meetings is also done in the local newspaper which reaches 19,000 households monthly.

How many people receive your electronic communications? 100

2. 2013 Highlights

Please describe one or two major highlights, and if possible, please include digital photos or illustrations:

- **What was the issue or opportunity the neighborhood was facing?**



Increasing Accessibility for Disabled Residents at the Humboldt Railroad Tracks

LBNA is full of change agents! LBNA's Social and Environment committee chair, Jenifer Scherer, was an invaluable spokesperson for her peers with MS and others when she advocated with representatives from the MDOT, CP Rail and City of Minneapolis as well as Hennepin County officials to improve the railway city street intersection at 45th and Humboldt Ave No. With

her leadership, improvements will be implemented in the fall of 2013 for wheelchair and foot access at this crucial crossing 100 yards from two apartment complexes front door that highly use this intersection. Her ability to communicate the needs in warm but assertive fashion melted away the resistance we saw in the CP Rail official and others as she and others demonstrated the hazards/challenges of the crossing. Her wit and charm empowered her argument more strongly than even her best legal explanation of the ADA and the dangers of the crossing.



Outcomes: *This will be additional improvements to our community to improve accessibility for disabled residents. Our LBNA Board member Jenifer Scherer also received one of six national Dorothy Richardson Awards in part for her volunteer leadership for this project.*



LBNA's Premiere Home and Art Fair

LBNA's Housing Committee led by new board member Georgia Lynch saw the housing trends in the local area. She and LBNA noticed that although we had been slow to catch the foreclosure wave, this year some of its homes were being sold for \$50,000 or under. This community also lacked a housing fair or summer community art fair.

To help try and attract new homeowners to the area, LBNA launched a community-wide Home and Art Fair, held at Jenny Lind School. This committee held monthly meetings with an average of 8 attendees and held their premiere event during graduation weekend which proved somewhat challenging but we had 250 people/40 vendors.

Outcomes: *LBNA revitalizes Housing Committee. Gains several new supporters and partners. Shingle Creek Commons, the local independent senior living building held an open house that didn't have any attendees the day of the event, but had 6 showings the week after the event and 4 properties sold in neighborhood the month after we held event. LBNA may have had a late start in planning but found these positive outcomes merited another attempt in 2014.*



LBNA Crime and Safety Committee Tackles “Scrapper Nuisance”

What do residents do when a neighbor moves in and brings their own blight with them? Residents have a right to do what they want in and on their property within the City

and State limitations. Causing noise, blight and environmental hazards by bringing home truckloads of “scrap” to dismantle can quickly become any neighbor’s worst nightmare. We also learned from the Home and Art Fair eventgoers that most people we talked to have “1” Problem Property on their block.

Outcomes: *This year the Crime and Safety committee working with elected officials, Tim Hammett, and residents, helped 2 blocks to find an effective solution to deal with one “scrapper” house and a drug house this year in the neighborhood*

Who was impacted? Increasing Accessibility for Disabled Residents at the Humboldt Railroad Tracks: *Chiefly the 100 residents living at the Shingle Creek Commons and Kingsley Commons independent living apartment buildings and many other community residents who travel the Minneapolis Park Board trail and Humboldt Greenway across one of the highest railroad traveled rail intersections in the city.*

LBNA’s Premiere Home and Art Fair: *The Lind Bohanon neighborhood, Camden planning district, North Minneapolis, and outside North Minneapolis were positively impacted by LBNA hosting this premiere event.*

LBNA Crime and Safety Committee Tackles “Scrapper Nuisance” *Lind Bohanon residents living nearby this and one other problem scrapper house were affected by this effort. Lind Bohanon Board members, committee members, residents all worked together to rally around resolving this growing issue.*

What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?

**Wrote letters and met with parties to help inform them of specific issues with the railroad crossing and why the intersection was impassible for most residents traveling in scooters and wheelchairs.*

**Created a Home and Art Fair to address the issue of attracting quality homeowners and buyers to our area.*

**Worked with CPP Safe, City Council, MPD, Inspections, and others to address the issue of problem “scrapers” in the neighborhood.*

What was the outcome?

(See above)

3. 2013 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2013:
What were your organization's major accomplishments?

LBNA's major accomplishments in 2013



****LBNA Board member Jenifer Scherer receives one of six national Dorothy Richardson Award for her volunteer leadership.***

Annual Meeting and Elections: Had 37 people attend and elected a full board of 15 again for the second time.



LBNA Board members are working for this community: The 2013 board increased in diversity and met monthly. They were able to cohesively work together as dedicated volunteers to selflessly achieve many benefits for their neighbors and their community! They contributed 1578 hours collectively or an average of 131 hours collectively in 2012 = \$34,945.78 in volunteer hours. As of October of 2013

they have increased that average to 185 and are on track to contribute almost \$48,000 in volunteer hours to this community as a group.

Increase community participation through Community-wide Events Promoting our entire community as a positive place to live, work, and play to build and promote community.

LBNA hosts fifth Winterfest and Chili cook-off 250 people attended our fun community-wide event in February to launch snowballs, play snow golf and be judges for the Camden Chili-cook off! We had great partners for this event, SCNA, and Minneapolis Park and Rec.

Picnic in the Park for NNO Another Huge Success! Nearly 250 people attended this year's National Night Out celebration to help Block Club leaders and to get started or reinvigorate their current blocks.

9th Annual Riverfest and Heritage Day LBNA Co-hosted Event

Three Rivers Parks District and LBNA co-hosted another fabulous Riverfest and Heritage Day event with 250 people attending. LBNA celebrates the river, local history and pride in our community. The Roe Family Singers were the main stage attraction for us in 2013.

Walking Group/Stroll Patrol

In 2013, the LBNA Walking averaged 10 weekly walkers. That diligently walked in the community and logged their miles on their way to Mexico this year. They stepped off a total mileage round trip of over 3000 miles.

How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?
The successes continued into 2013 from focusing on the underrepresented group. Railroad crossing will improve this heavily used CP Rail line crossing for the safety of all 4444 Lind Bohanon residents and primarily those that are disabled and traveling in scooters or wheelchairs in our community.

Dedicated Transportation Continues to Increase LBNA Participation and Capacity-A vendor was located that could directly transport more than two wheelchairs at a time, a bus route and calendar was launched with a primary focus of not being a shared ride transport to take residents in wheelchairs to the grocery store, shopping and local activities or events. This transportation continues to help LBNA build partnerships with local churches and service providers to assist in this work.

Salvation Army seeking Mereen Johnson site
LBNA hosted a spirited community meeting that packed their community room with over 50 concerned residents. LBNA also designed and distributed a community wide survey that had 90 participants. We also had over 700 hits on our Facebook page regarding this issue on one day which is the largest since starting in 2009. LBNA continues to use the answers from the community survey to shape its decisions regarding the Lyndale business corridor and our CPP Neighborhood Priority plan for the community.

Toys for Tots Distribution and Holiday on 44th outreach during the holidays.
LBNA organizes the annual Toys for Tots distribution at Jenny Lind School. It benefits on average 125 families, and distributes 700 toys to 350 children in the community. LBNA partners with Holiday on 44th to help on this amazingly popular art project for all ages of creating 350 artful graham cracker houses during this annual community-wide event that brings in over 1000 residents annually.

4. Housing

What percentage of time did your organization spend on housing-related activities?

In 2013, 30% of LBNA's efforts were spent on fostering the growth of the housing committee, promoting our home improvement loans in our printed and social media, reviewing the current loan statuses and evaluating the current guidelines, and working with our vendor to start to create new programs that will help serve the needs of residents. This effort has led to creating a new Home and Art Fair in our community in the summer of 2013.

5. Financial Reports

Please provide an income and expense report for your organization for the year.

**Information was provided to NCR.

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

1. Impact

What interactions with City departments occupied a major part of your time?

What worked well? What could be improved? *LBNA's interaction with City departments include City CPED Planning, Problem properties, NCR Department, Licensing, Zoning, and others. Work on redeveloping Lyndale Ave N has brought many and various questions to each department. The Mereen Johnson site continues to impact our community.*

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate your overall experience with your interactions with the City? 3

2. City Communications - effectiveness

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

There have been times when NCR department staff are not receptive or responsive with finding solutions but rather are dismissive and unresponsive when something contrary like discovering that four random neighborhoods were not receiving NCR information. To try and blame four different neighborhoods is also not a solution. It's imperative that important dates and information still be mailed in order to ensure impartial, timely, and effective communication.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City? 1

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. *LBNA and three other neighborhoods did not receive notices of report deadlines, applications, etc.*

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the timeliness of communications from the City? 1

4. City Departments

How can City departments improve the way in which they function in your neighborhood? *Crime and Safety are a key concern for most neighborhoods across the city. Having a responsive CCP/Safe Liaison is important to our neighborhood, so making sure they have all the tools at their disposal and resources needed would be helpful.*

5. City Assistance

How can the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department improve the assistance it provides to your organization as a community participation group? *NCR can continue to promote our events through the Google Calendar and other various social media outlets. Again the NCR may wish to hold informational meetings regarding the entire CPP program to offer an opportunity for residents to collectively ask questions and learn from each other.*

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the assistance provided to your neighborhood by NCR? 2

6. Other comments? N/A