

Community Participation Program 2014 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Bancroft Neighborhood Association

Contact person: Luke Stultz, Community Organizer

Date of Board Approval: 1-24-2015

1. Stakeholder Involvement

Reviewing your CPP activities in 2014, Please provide information about:

- **What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2014?**
 - Early in 2014, we did outreach (for planning) around the Meridian Garden.
 - In April, we engaged consumers and businesses at the 38th & Bloomington commercial node while completing a market profile.
 - In July we held our annual Ice Cream Social.
 - In September, we held a neighborhood-wide garage sale.
 - In November, we held our Annual Meeting (and silent auction).
 - **How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2014?**

Through partnership with the SUN Project, and various other organizations in the community, we reached out to low-income renters around renters rights and other housing issues.
 - **Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?**

Sending reminder postcards for meetings, events, surveys, and fundraising proved to be successful and got more neighborhood residents involved.
 - **What did not work so well? Why?**

Door knocking did not prove to be very successful. One reason for this is the abundance of political volunteers also doing door knocking prior to the election in November. Those residents who were door knocked weren't very receptive.
 - **How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)?**

Approximately 200
 - **How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?**

Approximately 80 (an increase over last year)
 - **How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?**
-

The annual Ice Cream Social had the largest turn out in a number of years. Between that event, the installation of the Food Forest, and various other activities, over 700 people participated in BNA activities in 2014.

- **How many people receive your print publications?**
1,500 households in the Bancroft neighborhood and various other neighborhood organizations, City departments, and businesses receive our print publications quarterly.
- **How many people receive your electronic communications?**
Our e-newsletter is sent to 396 people each month. We also have 491 followers on Facebook, which is a 25% increase over the year.

2. 2014 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?
- Who was impacted?
- What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?
- What was the outcome?

Bancroft Meridian Garden (NPP)

The vacant lot at 38th Street and 12th Avenue was turned into a garden in the 1990s. Over the last few years, as volunteers moved away, the garden had become overgrown. Neighborhood residents came together to breathe life back into the vacant space, which ended up as the first food forest in Minneapolis.



The entire geographic area was impacted through this project. It brought people together from around the entire City for a common goal. Over 50 people helped with planning, clearing, and planting. Numerous more have been engaged while enjoying the fruits of our labor (literally).

The outcome of our project is a beautiful space in the neighborhood that can be enjoyed by everyone who visits. Many of the plants are edible and we invite people to come out, eat some fresh fruits, and visit with their neighbors (and maybe pull a few weeds!)



2014 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2014:

- What were your organization's major accomplishments?
- How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?

SUN Project Policy Agenda: In partnership with six other neighborhood organizations (Bryant, Central, Corcoran, Longfellow, Standish-Ericsson, and Powderhorn), we were able to shed some light on the unlivable conditions present in quite a few multi-unit apartment buildings. We worked hard to bring several organizations to the table (including HomeLine and Mujeres en Acción y Poder) in order to engage a previously under-represented part of our community—renters. We took our findings to our City Council members and the Regulatory Services department who have been open to learning about the existing problems and working on a solution. This is an area that impacts everyone in the community, whether directly or indirectly.

Events: We held our annual Ice Cream Social outside at Bethel Lutheran Church and it was very well-attended. In addition to ice cream, we had food from Taco Taxi, Walton's Hollow petting zoo, arts and crafts through Urban Arts Academy (and neighborhood resident Niky Duxbury), live music, and a bouncy castle for the kids (and a couple adults!).

We also held a number of garden clean up days, a neighborhood-wide garage sale, our Annual Meeting, Yoga and Open Gym, and monthly board and committee meetings. Though these events, we were able to engage the neighborhood residents and businesses in a fun and inviting manner. By doing so, we had a total of three new board members run for a seat at our November election.

Great Streets Façade Grant: In 2014, BNA awarded \$32,893.03 to local businesses in order to improve their façades and improve the look of the neighborhood as a whole. In addition, another \$5,600 has been contracted for further improvements to be completed in 2015.

3. *Housing*

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

BNA staff spent approximately 7% of their time on housing-related activities.

4. *Financial Reports*

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

Attached.

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?

For a good portion of 2014, interactions with CPED took a lot more effort and time than necessary. Staffing changes have since streamlined the process of communication and program management with CPED.

Both Carrie at NCR and Bob Cooper in Finance have been a great help when dealing with questions related to CPP and NRP over this last year.

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? 4

2. *City Communications – effectiveness*

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

Yes, for the most part, the information received from the City is easily understandable. In the off chance that something isn't clear, it has been easy to get clarification.

It has been difficult to get clear information from the Zoning Department regarding signage in the neighborhood. We are still working with the department on clarification of current codes for signage.

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

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.

The BNA office receives adequate notice of City activities in the neighborhood. This has greatly improved over the last two years.

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? 4

4. *City Departments*

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

Changes recently made in the CPED Department have greatly improved the way staff interacts with the department. CPED programs administered by BNA have been ironed out and streamlined to be most effective.

5. *City Assistance*

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

It would be helpful to have a list of services that the NCR Department could offer to neighborhood organizations. Organizations don't always know what it is they need (or what services could help them at any given time) and having a list of resources the NCR Department could offer would be a great help.

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? 5

6. *Other comments?*