

Community Participation Program 2014 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization

Contact person: Henry Jiménez

Date of Board Approval: April 14th

1. Stakeholder Involvement

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

- What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2014?
 - Canvassing door to door 400 homes in three consecutive weekends in April
 - Quarterly Newsletters sent to 1700 households
 - Facebook page with 550 likes / friends
 - Flyers delivered to all addresses for Central Fair in September and Annual Meeting in October.
 - Surveys on Seward Store sent to all households and link to website emailed to list of 297 subscribers on Mailchimp.
 - Each Task Force (Community Housing, Economic Development, Sustainability and Food Access) maintained list of participants and sent invitations and information via email and phone calls.

- How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2014?
 - The majority of our Neighborhood is “under-represented” so all of our neighborhood-wide outreach efforts involved “under-represented” folks. The majority of the work of our board and staff involved engaging and collaborating with individuals and organizations of under-represented people. We made our newsletters, handouts and flyers available in Spanish our communities second most prevalent language we also provided Spanish interpreting for all of our events.

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

Yes. Having a fabulous organizer on staff who coordinated door-to-door canvassing and partnering with other organizations such as Green Central School and the 38th and Chicago Business association connected us to many under-represented folks in our neighborhood.

- What did not work so well? Why?

- Having staff who lacked experience and training in organizing and identifying leaders.

- How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)?
 - *door knocking...400*
 - *meetings... 90*
 - *one-to ones... 30*

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?
 - *door-knock... 70*
 - *task-forces... 20*
 - *board... 15*
 - *events... 20*

- How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?
 - *fair... 50*
 - *breaking ice... 200*
 - *yoga, pilates, movies... 60*
 - *Green Central project... 70*
 - *board meetings...30*

- How many people receive your print publications?
 - *1700 households*

- How many people receive your electronic communications?

297 people are registered to received E-Newsletter and other emails. Over 560 like us on facebook.

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?
- We had a neighborhood wide Diversity, Cultural Competency and Racial Equity workshops. They were provided in three consecutive weekends at our neighborhood office.
- What was the issue or opportunity the neighborhood was facing?
Tensions around race, class, gender and orientation between the diverse groups that make up the Central Neighborhood.

There was also tension around the establishment of the new coop.

- Who was impacted?
Everyone who lives, works or visits the Central Neighborhood.
- What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?
On May 10, 17 and 31, Central residents and staff gathered for three workshops on Diversity, Cultural Competency and Racial Equity.

CANDO board members along with volunteers door knocked and talk to neighbors about the new coop and try to get input from them on what they new about the new development and how they felt about it.

Surveys were also mailed out to Central residents. A report was submitted to the City outlining concerns and CANDO facilitated a process of drafting a Community Benefits Agreement to be negotiated with the Seward Co-op which addresses the concerns of employment, affordability and community integration important to Central neighborhood residents.

- What was the outcome?
Central Residents and CANDO volunteers learned a lot about developing sympathy and understanding for their neighbors, how mutually reinforcing oppressions can divide us and how to genuinely connect to people who are different.

3. 2014 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2014:

- What were your organization's major accomplishments?
 - Being able to door knock over 400 households with the support of many volunteers.
 - Neighborhood wide Diversity, Cultural Competency and Racial Equity workshops.
 - Drafted a Community Benefits Agreement to present to Seward Community Co-op.

- How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?
 - More neighbors became engaged in the programming the neighborhood association is working on. The association also provided an additional community space to be used.

4. Housing

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

Over half the time was spent on housing related activities and programming.

CANDO hopes to increase participation in our housing programs by our lower-income neighbors. In 2014 CANDO promoted our housing programs (First Time Homebuyers Forgivable Loans, Low Interest Revolving Home Improvement Loans and Emergency Grants) which raise awareness of the organization and offer resources to the community. The CANDO Curb Appeal Lottery engages many homeowners and supports their efforts to maintain their houses. Housing Task Force meetings addresses the lack of support for renters in our neighborhood which make up about half of the residents. Due to a lack of staff for almost six months of the year kept CANDO from moving forward with new initiatives on housing issues.

5. Financial Reports

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

See attachment

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?

CANDO received the support of NCR and its neighborhood specialist throughout the year. Most of the time was spent in communications with Carrie CANDO's neighborhood specialist as the board underwent a lot of changes a long with having no staff towards the end of the 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? 3

2. ***City Communications - effectiveness***

Is the information that you receive from the City understandable and useful? Perhaps because of the lack of staff, much of the information from the city was not received in a timely manner. It all seems to be email base.

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.

We do received mail and email from the city on activities that are planned in the neighborhood. However, we are rarely asked to be part of the planning process for such activities. Or even asked about timing to make sure their activities don't interfere with CANDO plan events.

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? 2

4. ***City Departments***

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

Connect with us, door knock with us. Intentionally do outreach together. Understand that neighborhood associations have strong personal relationships with their neighbors because the board is made up of Central residents.

5. ***City Assistance***

How can the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department improve the assistance it provides to your organization as a community participation group? Help support our CANDO staff. Fast track the reimbursement process for neighborhoods, making the processing time shorter.

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? 3

6. ***Other comments?***

There seems to be more restrictions on the way CPP money can be spent. Can NCR help researching for additional ways to support neighborhoods be able to provide some of the items like food and entertainment?