
2014-2016 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
Submission Template

Please use this template as a guide to developing your submission for funding from the Community Participation Program. The level of detail should be appropriate to your organization's proposed activities, and to the level of funding allocated for your organization.

You may provide this submission electronically to ncr@minneapolismn.gov. Please include a copy of your bylaws if they have been revised since your last funding submission.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Bryant Neighborhood Organization
Address:	411 E. 38 th Street – Suite #105, Minneapolis, MN 55407
Website url:	www.welovebryant.org
Organization email:	bryantneighborhood@gmail.com
Federal EIN:	41-1694158
Board Contact: Name:	Aaron Goedtke
Staff Contact: Name:	Nina Soffer

Who should be the primary contact for this submission? Nina Soffer

Date of Board review and approval: March 4, 2014

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.

BNO was previously funded by the Community Participation Program. We qualify for Neighborhood participation funding by being a non-profit community driven neighborhood organization. Bryant Neighborhood Organization was created in 1987 with a mandate to improve the neighborhood making it a better place for everyone. Our mission is quite literally "To strive to achieve a safe, healthy, and desirable neighborhood for all residents, and to inspire others to actively participate in improving the quality of our neighborhood." We continue to work to these ends today. Every year Bryant neighborhood becomes a more vibrant place with reductions in crime, increased involvement from community members, and new business that make being a part of this neighborhood exciting.

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?

Programming/increasing involvement:

The BNO believes that we are increasing programming and showing the neighborhood residents that we are here and working hard to take a more active role in the community. BNO is still working on establishing a core event for the neighborhood by hosting a summer music in the park and picnic event on August 13th. We did this last year as well. This event is for neighborhood families to connect and feel community. We have a group play music for several hours, have a light picnic, and a petting zoo. A major focus for this event in 2014 is a heavy focus on community within Bryants Latino families. We have worked with the Park Board to select a Latino friendly movie in the park as well as bringing in a Latin music band.

This year we will be working with Metro Blooms, various neighborhood groups and volunteers to establish a maintenance schedule for the rain gardens at various residential locations along the 40th street bikeway corridor (three times per year).

The BNO wants to do more work on fundraisers as well by beginning with manageable ideas to help sustain the organization over and above what is received from the city. We put our first Fundraising Drive letter and received a great response from the neighborhood. We believe events like these will allow our neighbors to see that the BNO is a viable and an important part of the neighborhood matrix and will allow us to begin to attract the attention of our neighbors and businesses to participate in designing and assisting with such events. We believe this will lead to greater connections and commitments from our community

We have forged a partnership with the Friends of Hosmer to provide activities for the surrounding neighborhoods and residents. This collaboration made a great impact last year and we will continue the partnership. One of the goals for the year is have a Farmer's Market in the area so that residents can get fresh produce closer to home. The proposed site at this time is at the Hosmer Library grounds. We have begun the discussion and meetings to get this established.

Communication:

Bryant Neighborhood Organization uses several different types of communication. The organization spends most of its communication dollars on newsletters. When key events happen the organization will flyer the neighborhood and sometimes do word of mouth advertising through canvassing. The organization frequently uses direct mail for outreach as well. Finally the BNO uses a website home base and web communications through social media sites.

The most effective communication that we currently use to connect with our neighbors is newsletters. We send out quarterly newsletters mailed to all our 1000 + households. Our newsletter is used as a vehicle to announce upcoming events, feature local businesses, what is happening at the BNO and outreaches to our residents and invites residents to become board members or to join a committee or event. We currently have a Spanish speaking board member and this has given us the resource to have articles and events printed in Spanish to begin outreach to this large portion of our community that has previously been underserved. The one mainstay in the newsletter is our NRP housing dollars and loans available to Bryant homeowners. GMHC is the organization contracted to handle these home improvement loans. They notify the BNO that they see an increase in applications as soon as the newsletter advertises these programs.

We have begun work to update our website www.welovebryant.org where we have archives of newsletters and current events held in and around Bryant Neighborhood. It also lists our office hours and ways to contact the BNO, and donate. This website serves as a home base for the neighborhood. We also have Facebook, Twitter, and E-Democracy accounts. The goal for these accounts is to meet community members where they are already active, and tell them about the initiatives that are happening locally. These stories are usually mentioned in short wall posts about local stories as they come up on the Facebook feed. E-Democracy is a nonprofit social media website that a core group of BNO supports check out as well for the same reasons.

Identifying and acting on Neighborhood Priorities:

This recent contact with our neighbors through canvassing and surveys has given understanding of our neighborhood needs. The main priority at this time is the proposed opening of a 2nd site for the Seward Co-op in the neighborhood. The BNO did a lot of work to figure out how our residents feel about the project and its potential impacts both positive and negative. The BNO was a part of the Seward Task Force which partnered with CANDO and other stake holders in the area including residents. The process of outreach to the community began with a sponsored community meeting, then board members went door knocking and a survey was distributed in both English and Spanish to surrounding neighborhoods. Surveys were mailed out with a self-addressed stamped envelope as well as distributed electronically. The task force received 190 returned surveys from Bryant Residents which is approximately 20% of neighborhood households.

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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?

One of the most important things the BNO has done is to establish an Executive Committee and completed board training for all board members and staff. These two events have given order and direction to the organization. The other major change to the BNO structure is a greater commitment to staffing. The board recently allocated more funds to staffing to ensure that the goals and ideas of BNO and its' residents can be implemented and accomplished. These three acts will greatly increase capacity.

There are many opportunities for direct involvement from the community: we have a monthly Board Meetings; BNO meets the first Tuesday of every month from 7-8:30pm; the minutes of all board meetings are held in our office and will be posted on our website. All members of the community are welcome to attend board meetings which are held at the Southside Urban League, 411 E. 38th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55409. We hold quarterly community meetings where every resident is invited to attend where residents receive updates from Bryant representatives as well as the BNO and have direct access to our initiatives and a section where ideas are encouraged and heard.

The BNO is preparing to hire an additional staff member. A committee is currently working on the job description for this individual and this position will help with the increasing demands of the board becoming more organized getting all the finances and contracts in order. We are optimistic that an additional staff will give the board, staff and community more time to connect with neighbors and get the word out on the work that the BNO is doing and would like to move forward on. It will allow for door knocking and meeting neighbors face-to-face, explain who we are and what we are trying to accomplish. It will also let our residents know that we welcome their ideas and assistance in growing and implementing positive and sustainable changes in the community.

We went from a 7-member board to currently having 12 members strong and receiving more interests from residents to become board members. We have hired a consultant to assist the BNO on building capacity and assist in updating our Bylaws while forging a more concrete vision for the Bryant neighborhood into the future.

The BNO hired a bookkeeper to reconcile our QuickBooks and to submit reimbursement requests from CPP & NRP. This made it easier to assure that all information was accurate and that requests were done in a timely manner.

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.

Through work that was need for the proposed Seward project, a better collaboration has been established with the Central Neighborhood (CANDO) and the continued work with the SUN project which involves seven other neighborhoods. BNO and surrounding neighborhoods (CANDO, PPNA, Bancroft, Field Regina, etc.) have started to support each other's events and also collaborate on events and meetings within neighborhoods. There is a great uniting and sharing of resources that has been established and that will continue into the future.

Our Facebook Page and E-democracy membership has increased tremendously during 2013 and continues to grow. These forums along with our website and Newsletter are great tools to get the word out to the community. Partner with other neighborhoods helps us to reach a broader audience and the momentum is growing and attendance at events continues to increase.

Continued work with the SUN project is forming relations and sharing resources within the seven neighborhoods represented.

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.

The BNO believes the most under-engaged groups are the Latino community, Somolians and our youth. We are still working with the Southside Village Boys & Girls Club to try and develop some youths who would be interested in working with the BNO to learn about how the organization works and have them participate as a board member. We are also creating a stronger partnership with the Boys and Girls club which will extend to a deeper commitment by the youth to their neighborhood and understanding of what it is to be a community member/leader.

The BNO currently has little connection to the Latino community in Bryant but recently acquired a Spanish speaking board member that has agreed to translate information into Spanish to distribute in the neighborhood. Portions of our end of the year newsletter were translated into Spanish and this is our start to get the word out to this population of residents. This is also why we are focusing on have a Latino friendly summer event with the intention of bringing more Latino members out from the neighborhood. We have several committed staff members that have agreed to be of assistance in making sure the translated information posted on our Facebook Page, on E-democracy and in our newsletter. This is a great achievement and we will seek other organizations to do the same with the Somali population as well. This is where NCR may become really helpful to us, in translation work and methodology in reaching the other ethnic groups.

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.

The BNO still has a pool of money from NRP towards housing and has an established program through GMHC. We have two programs we sponsor; a Revolving Loan Program with 3% interest and the second is a Forgivable Loan Program if you stay in

your house for 5 years. This is an income based program. The two programs are a mainstay in our newsletter and are publicized at all our meetings. We also get the word out via Facebook and E-democracy. Bryant is also a part of the RSP program which is administered by the city and is also publicized in the newsletter and at all community meetings.

Through Phase 2 work the BNO is beginning to work on new housing initiatives for safety and maintenance of homes. There are dollars set aside for safety (i.e., motion detector lights, money to fix the exterior) including landscaping and other programs which we have yet to initiate. The BNO would like to have Welcome Packets for new residents and to be a service to potential home buyers providing a tour of the neighborhood and an inside look to what is happening. This will also serve as a connection service so potential buyers could have the opportunity to talk to a resident on the block where they are interested in purchasing. Currently 10% of our time is spent on housing.

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.

The majority of unused funds will go to staffing, community and outreach. This transference will give us the greatest ability to reach our goal to get to know our residents in a more meaningful way, to have them enrich our organization with their time and ideas.

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.

Please use this budget template when submitting your Community Participation Plan for approval.

Please note that not all expenses are eligible for reimbursement. Expenses related to neighborhood celebrations and events are only eligible if the event's purpose is to increase neighborhood awareness and involvement in the organization's planning and implementation efforts. Expenses such as pony rides, food, and entertainment are not eligible for funding and will not be reimbursed.

Expenses related to projects may only be eligible if they are related to implementation of an approved Neighborhood Priority Plan, and are identified in a CPP contract or an NRP contract or MoU.

Contact your Neighborhood Support Specialist at NCR for further details.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

CPP Budget	2014	2015	2016
Staff Expenses	\$21,600.00	\$22,800.00	\$23,500.00
Employee Benefits	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Professional Services	\$960.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00
Occupancy	\$9,000.00	\$9,600.00	\$9,800.00
Communications/Outreach	\$5,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Supplies and Materials	\$1,150.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Meetings/community building events	\$3,300.00	\$3,200.00	\$2,691.00
Development	\$1,082.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Fundraising	\$500.00	\$491.00	\$500.00
Other Services	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total for contract:	\$44,092.00	\$44,591.00	\$44,591.00
Neighborhood Priorities	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
TOTAL:	\$45,092.00	\$45,091.00	\$45,091.00

Notes:

- Staff expenses should include payroll, FICA, and withholding, and 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.
- Meetings and community building events can include those costs related to community meetings and events (excluding food and entertainment).
- 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.).