

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
2014-2016

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Date of Board review and approval: June 18, 2014

FUNDING ACTIVITIES.

1. **Eligibility.** The WBCC has been funded through the Community Participation Program in the past.
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?

We believe community engagement is the foundation of a strong and thriving community. With this in mind, we developed the following three step plans:

1. Engaging the residents, business owners and other neighborhood stakeholders by sharing relevant news and information about events and issues;
2. Educating community members about issues and policies of importance to them; and
3. Ensuring that a diverse group of community stakeholders are actively involved in the process.

This plan will enable a diverse group of community and stakeholders are actively involved in the process of defining critical policies and tools for the community's future growth. Civic engagement is important to the residents of the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood and the WBCC wants to tap into this energy and put it to work for the community.

In an effort to achieve these goals WBCC will use flyers, mass emails, phone calls and word of mouth to reach out to the community and to disseminate relevant information. We will also reach out to other groups and organizations with similar interests for potential partnerships. We employ the following methods to disseminates information to the neighborhood:

- Community meetings to discuss and engage residents by promoting best practices to reduce crime in the neighborhood;
- Participation and co-sponsorships of public engagement events and festivals that are part of a larger effort to effect community change;
- Through our monthly board meeting where neighborhood stakeholders and residents regularly participate;
- Through e-democracy forum & our mass distribution list where WBCC utilizes whenever when making public announcements;

- Through other partnership initiatives and meetings where we also announce any new updates and developments;
- By regularly attending West Bank Business Association monthly board meetings to discuss neighborhood issues and provide updates;
- Through the monthly subcommittee meetings such as the Safety Committee, Land Use Committee;
- By participating in key partner meetings such as the University District Alliance board meeting, Cedar Riverside Partnership meetings and Fairview Health Partners advisory board meetings.
- By using social media and internet forums such as Facebook and e-democracy.

All aforementioned are means of the WBCC shares information with the community and stakeholders.

3. **Building organizational capacity.** Through sustained community outreach, the WBCC will seek the input and participation of diverse constituents and stakeholders to help design and implement comprehensive plans aimed at furthering the common interest of the community. We believe better and lasting results can be achieved when citizens are given a greater share in shaping the policies that affect their lives. This Fall we plan to increase the frequency of our regular community meetings to keep members informed and become more involved in WBCC's work in the neighborhood. During these meetings we plan to identify and recruit more active members esp. in Land Use and Neighborhood Relations Committees to increase our activities and volunteer base.

We are acutely aware of how crucial board member participation is in fulfilling the organization mission and vision. As a result we are planning a more sustained effort to have a more engaged board members. The WBCC board will also be asked to play a more prominent role in the organization's community building efforts.

4. **Building neighborhood relationships.** WBCC strives to engage diverse groups of neighborhood residents. There are core groups who are regular attend our monthly meetings. We also work with other community organizations, nonprofit organizations, business associations as well as other committees. Our organization enjoys a solid support from the neighborhood and as a result we work hard to maintain the neighborhood trust. Our board composition is a reflection of our neighborhood diversity.

Over the years we have established good working relationships with neighborhood anchor Institutions. This Summer the WBCC is once again working with Augsburg College enroll 15-20 kids (Grades 9-11) from Cedar-Riverside

neighborhood into *Urban Scrubs Program*, a five-day scholarship program where students were given a rare opportunity to learn directly from healthcare professionals while participating in hands-on activities in a variety of healthcare fields such as dentistry, nursing, physical fitness, public health, Veterinary Medicine, emergency medicine and many more. Last year we had an enrollment of 17 kids out of the 20 available slots.

WBCC is important member of several neighborhood boards and committees such as the University District Alliance, the Cedar Riverside Safety Committee, University of MN/Fairview Health Commons Advisory Board, Community Engagement Steering Committee and more. Once again, The WBCC Executive Director was appointed by the Mayor R.T. Ryback (before his term ended) to represent the WBCC in the Downtown Minneapolis *Park Committee*. This is a testament to our commitment to being a force for change in the Cedar-Riverside/West Bank neighborhood and in the region as a whole. We have forged a strong working relationship with CR NRP. Currently we received Community Engagement Team (CET) grant from Nexus Community Partners to engage and empower small, immigrant owned businesses in Cedar Riverside/West Bank as part of the Corridors of Opportunity Initiative. In the coming months, we plan to collaborate in several projects involving housing, safety and youth related projects.

5. **Involvement of under-engaged stakeholders.** Over the past two years the WBCC has taken steps that resulted in increases involvement and participation of the diverse populations in the community, particularly Oromo and Ethiopians. We believe strong outreach effort is essential to building the core capacity of the organization. In an effort to achieve this, we informed City of Minneapolis' Neighborhood and Community Relations Department to help us in s translating event flyers into those languages in an effort to engage the small but growing Hispanic and Korean groups in the neighborhood. We have also reached out to and engaged local businesses to build stronger alliances and partnerships. Recently, Sherman Associates has given WBCC access to local TV channel that broadcasts into the Cedar Riverside Plaza high rises. This will most likely allow us to reach 1303 units with over 5,000 residents.
6. **Housing Activities.** Housing is one of the top priority for WBCC. The Cedar-Riverside neighborhood has one of the lowest incomes in the state. The 2010 census figures show that the neighborhood's median household income was \$14,400 compared with \$37,974 for the City of Minneapolis. There is a disproportionate number of renters than homeowners in West Bank. As a result, availability of affordable housing is a major issue facing this community. WBCC is committed to giving its members most relevant information on affordable housing. However, WBCC recognizes Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization Program (CRNRP) as the authority and is responsible for planning, implementing and reviewing the Cedar Riverside NRP Neighborhood Action Plans (I and II) and WBCC will work closely, and support them in this effort. About 25-30% of the organizations time is devoted to housing issues.

7. **Unused funds.** We would like to have any unused funding to be rolled over or carried over to next year's funding.
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 homeowners in this neighborhood. As a result finding affordable housing and the costs is a major burden to many members of the community.

BUDGET

CPP Budget	2014	2015	2016
Staff Expenses	\$58,059	\$58,059	\$58,059
Employee Benefits	\$5,805	\$5,805	\$5,805
Professional Services	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Occupancy	\$4,260	\$4,260	\$4,260
Communications/Outreach	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Supplies and Materials	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Meetings/community building events	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Development	\$1,497	\$1,496	\$1,496
Fundraising	\$0	\$0	\$0
Safety	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Land Use	\$500	\$500	\$500
Website	\$0	\$0	\$0
TV/Radio	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Consultant	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total for contract:	\$84,121	\$84,120	\$84,120
Neighborhood Priorities	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
TOTAL:	\$84,121	\$84,120	\$84,120

Notes:

- Staff expenses should include payroll, FICA, and withholding, or 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.
- Festivals and events can include any costs related to community events and festivals. Food is not an eligible expense.
- 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).
- Neighborhood Priorities: at this point you do not need to know what the priorities are. Just indicate what the organization would like to set aside at this time for future priorities.