
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.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Sheridan Neighborhood Organization
Address:	1304 University Ave. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413
Website url:	www.sheridanneighborhood.org
Organization email:	sno@sheridanneighborhood.org
Federal EIN:	411940413
Board Contact:	Name: Adam Axvig, chair Address: 1304 University Ave NE Minneapolis, MN 55413
Staff Contact:	Name: Phone: Email: Address:

Who should be the primary contact for this submission? ___John Akre_____

Date of Board review and approval: ___December 9, 2013_____

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.

Sheridan Neighborhood Organization was funded through the Community Participation Program in 2011-13.

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?

The Sheridan Neighborhood Organization (SNO) plans to continue the volunteer-led community outreach it has been practicing. We reach out to the neighborhood through fun projects that involve neighbors working together to achieve goals.

We plan to continue the outreach activities that we ramped up in 2013 while working to produced the **Sheridan Small Area Plan**. The work that we did on the development of this plan will inform the Neighborhood Priority Plans we will work on in the coming years.

SNO also reaches out to the neighborhood and stakeholders by organizing unique events like the **SNO Ball**. This is a fundraising and networking event for anyone who lives, works in, or just wants to celebrate our neighborhood. Another annual event is the **Ice Cream SNOcial**, which takes place in September. The SNOcial brings out neighbors who don't come to meetings, and SNO a chance to get information to them.

SNO uses social media and neighborhood newspapers to advertise our monthly meeting and other projects. Our meetings are lively and well-attended. Our meetings always include an "Open Mic" section, where people can say anything they want to say on any topic. We are an all-volunteer organization, and new members join the board every year.

SNO also is a sponsor of the **Northeast Farmer's Market**. This sponsorship allows the organization to do outreach at this popular event in the summer.

SNO also reaches out to get neighbors involved to accomplish goals, like cleaning up the neighborhood's riverfront. Last year's cleanup event was so successful that we ran out of the supplies received from the park board. Next year's goal is to do a river clean up in the spring and fall, and that the events include an educational element, to inform neighbors of river issues.

For all these activities we plan to reach out to under-represented groups in the neighborhood, groups that do not normally come to meetings. We also would like to

influence city decision-making, particularly in regard the public commercial areas in our neighborhood, our park, and the areas along the river.

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.

Because SNO has no staff person, volunteers do all the work. This is a key way that we provide direct involvement by members. Our members volunteer hard on the work of the organization, planning and carrying out events, conducting meetings, writing proposals, organizing residents and so on. Through events like the ones SNO is planning, we hope to build our organization by getting more people involved as volunteers.

The SNO Boards elected in the last two years have included new members. SNO has a new president this year, Adam Axvig. Adam's leadership developed over the last few years as a member of the Board. The SNO Board also sent two of its members to a training on increasing involvement of under-represented groups in community organizations. They will bring the skills they learned through this experience to their volunteering with SNO.

The process of developing the Small Area Plan also brought new community members into the work of SNO as members of the **Small Area Plan Task Force**. The events that we organize bring even more new members into the organization. As we look at bringing our Small Area Plan to action by carrying out neighborhood activities, we will bring even more new members to the organization.

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.

We have used a combination of events and projects to build a sense of neighborhood among residents. The **Ice Cream SNOcial** and **SNO Ball** both attract a large number of neighbors who do not attend regular monthly meetings. **SNO Ball 2014** will have a Latino theme. We hope to use the event to reach out to the Hispanic community. The SNO Ball and our other events bring in a diverse group of neighbors together. Our **Ice Cream SNOcial**, held on our commercial corridor, in particular brings out a diverse slice of our neighborhood to enjoy free ice cream and meet each other. We have also piggybacked on events that go beyond our neighborhood, such as Art-A-Whirl, to do neighborhood planning and publicizing neighborhood programs.

Our monthly meetings are advertised in the Northeast News Paper. We also a kiosk that we own on 13th Avenue to post information about events in our neighborhood or of interest to members of our community.

SNO created a **Small Area Plan** in 2013. As part of that process, we held three town hall meetings and did some creative things to get input, including posting a chalk board around the neighborhood to allow neighbors to share their thoughts and ideas for the neighborhood.

This summer we are, again, a major sponsor of the **Northeast Farmer's Market**, and will use the market to do outreach to come up with Neighborhood Priority Projects. The Northeast Farmer's Market has been a close partner for the last few years.

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.

SNO is an all-volunteer organization, so reaching out to un- and under-engaged residents is a challenge. We worked hard to reach out to a broad range of neighbors in the development of our Small Area Plan, but we also know that we have further to go. But we are also looking at some upcoming opportunities to help us engage more of our neighborhood's residents in the work that we do.

Several active neighbors have formed a new language school and have expressed interest in working together with SNO on this project, to be a conduit between SNO and the Latino and Somali community within Sheridan.

This summer two members of the SNO board attended a community organization and leadership development training workshop through National People's Action. SNO helped support their attendance to help them build skills to increase the group's outreach activities.

SNO has always engaged participation through its events and projects, and will continue to do this in the next three years.

SNO would also like to work with the NCR to develop our skills and success in reaching out to under-represented members of our community through translation and the sharing of best practices.

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.

SNO continues to support the Housing programs set up in its NRP Phase I and Phase II plans. We remain actively working with the Housing Resource Center, which administers those programs. We have found ways to stretch our NRP Housing funds, re-directing program income to continue to operate our Fix and Paint Grant program, which provides a matching grant for an exterior improvement. This high profile program helps to promote our other programs. We have had initial discussions with the City of Lakes Community Land Trust about exploring land trust housing in the neighborhood. Our active Community Development Committee dedicates approximately a third to half of its

time to work on these Housing programs. SNO in general spends approximately 10 to 20% of its time on housing programs and issues.

Based on neighborhood priorities identified in the past, we expect that some of our Neighborhood Priority Project funds may well go to housing programs.

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.

Because SNO is a volunteer driven organization with no staff person, we have been frugal with our city funding, using these funds primarily on projects that residents identify as important.

SNO just completed a Small Area Plan, which we were able to pay for though our city funding. This plan ends with several pages of suggested projects, many of which will only happen with sufficient funding. Because we have found that projects are a great way to increase involvement by residents in neighborhood activities, we will look at the projects and prioritize those that will create opportunities to building resident involvement. Projects are expensive, but they bring people together and create positive change. We would like to use our unused funds to developing Neighborhood Priority Projects.

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.

BUDGET

CPP Budget	2014	2015	2016
Staff Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$500	\$500	\$500
Occupancy	\$2,400	\$4,000	\$5,000
Communications/Outreach	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
Supplies and Materials	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,200
Meetings/Community Building events	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
Development	\$	\$	\$
Fundraising	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Other Services	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
Total for Contract	\$12,700	\$14,800	\$16,200
Neighborhood Priorities	\$23,766	\$21,665	\$20,265
TOTAL:	\$36,466	\$36,465	\$36,465

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.