



Community Participation Program  
**Neighborhood Organization**  
2015 Annual Report

## Neighborhood Organization Information - *please confirm*

### NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Calhoun Area Residents Action Group (CARAG)

### ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Neighborhood Organization

Contact:

Scott Engel

Organization Address:

3612 Bryant Avenue S.

Organization Address 2:

Organization ZIP:

55409

Organization Email Address:

carag@carag.org

Organization Phone Number:

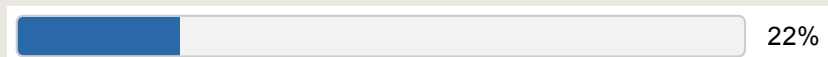
(612) 823-2520

### DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL

Once your board has reviewed this draft annual report, please provide the date of the meeting at which the board approved submission of this report to NCR. **Note:** Meeting minutes may be requested by NCR.

Date / Time

MM	DD	YYYY
04	19	2016



## Stakeholder Involvement - *basic outreach & engagement*

### WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTREACH ACTIVITIES DID YOUR ORGANIZATION USE IN 2015?

#### MEETINGS (please check all that apply)

- Held regular committee meetings or discussion groups that are open to all stakeholders.
- Held at least one general membership or community meeting (in addition to the annual meeting) to gather input from residents and other stakeholders for a neighborhood specific initiative.
- Hosted at least one general membership or committee meeting in response to a City request for input - such as a development proposal, transit planning or public works project.
- Conducted one or more focus groups.

*What more would you like to tell NCR or the community about your meetings?*

*What are you doing that is new or particularly successful to involve residents and others?*

All residents, business owners, and property owners are considered members and encouraged to vote during all monthly CARAG Neighborhood Meetings, not just at the Annual Meeting. So, we always draw attendance from at least some neighbors each month. We have made efforts to include a featured topic that will interest members of the community.

CARAG used our monthly Neighborhood Meeting to provide a forum about a redevelopment in the neighborhood drawing large crowds (65+). Such topics draw the most interest and participation.

#### DOOR-TO-DOOR (please check all that apply)

Door-Knocking or Dropping Flyers Door-to-Door

- At least once with goal of reaching a portion of neighborhood.

At least once with goal of reaching most or all of neighborhood.

For more than one issue/outreach effort.

On a routine basis.

#### Door-Knocking/Flyering

Was carried out primarily by staff

Was carried out primarily by volunteers

#### Door-Knocking/Flyering

Was carried out primarily to increase membership and participation

Was carried out primarily to gather input on a specific city or neighborhood issue

Was carried out primarily to inform stakeholders of a city or neighborhood issue

Approximately how many households did your organization reach through door-knocking in 2015?

3,400

*What more would you like to tell NCR or the community about your door-to-door outreach?*

*What are you doing that is new or particularly successful to involve residents and others?*

The individuals flyering the neighborhood tape them to doors of buildings with security entrances ensuring neighbors in those buildings see them.

#### **EVENTS** (please check all that apply)

Staffed a booth or table at neighborhood event or other community event that included sign-up sheets, surveys or information about your organization.

Organized one or more issue specific event (such as a safety forum, housing fair, Open Streets, Creative Citymaking, etc).

Organized smaller events for specific outreach to target audiences (e.g., sidewalk tabling to reach renters, lemonade stands, tabling at Farmer's Market, etc.)

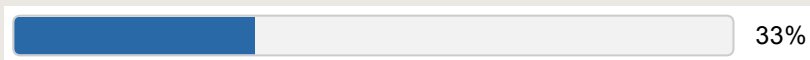
*What more would you like to tell NCR or the community about your events?*

What are you doing that is new or particularly successful to involve residents and others?

CARAG organizes many events over the year including the Chilly Chili Fest, Earth Day Clean Up, Super Sale, Bryant Square Park Concert Series Kick Off, Plant Swap & Pollinator Event, Garden Tour, Kids of CARAG Car Wash, Movie in the Park, Annual Meeting, Fall Neighborhood Clean Up, and Hennepin Lake Community Wine Tasting. Each event draws different demographic groups based on the nature of each event.

**OTHER** (please check all that apply)

- Conducted at least one community-wide survey (such as a random sample or all-household survey).
- Conducted another form of survey (e.g., intercept survey).
- Developed partnerships with cultural, religious, professional or business associations to expand outreach into under-represented populations.
- Distributed a quarterly or semi-annual newsletter to all households.
- Other activities (please describe here):



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**Stakeholder Involvement - *under-represented groups***

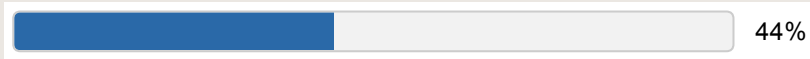
**HOW DID YOUR ORGANIZATION REACH OUT TO UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?** (please check all that apply)

- Worked on an issue of particular interest to an under-represented group within the neighborhood.
- Provided notices of annual and special meetings in multiple languages.
- Provided newsletter articles or web pages in multiple languages.
- Targeted outreach in apartment buildings or blocks to reach renters.
- Targeted tabling at other events or locations (such as farmers markets, cultural events, etc.).
- Held focus groups or open meeting formats for under-represented communities.
- Met with other agencies in the community that work closely with under-represented constituencies in the neighborhood.
- Included an Americans with Disabilities Act statement on meeting and event notices.
- Reviewed participation activities, and identified new leaders and volunteers for volunteer, committee and board participation.
- Held one-time/pop up events in areas of the neighborhood that don't often have neighborhood meetings
- Other activities (please describe here):

What more would you like to tell NCR or the community about your outreach to under-

What more would you like to tell NCR or the community about your outreach to under-represented groups?

What are you doing that is new or particularly successful to involve residents and others?



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**Stakeholder Involvement - *information & communication***

**HOW DID YOU INFORM THE COMMUNITY OF DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND THE STATUS OF THE ORGANIZATION?**

**BOARD MEETINGS** (please check all that apply)

- Board meeting minutes and financial reports and summaries are provided on the organization's website and kept current.
- Meeting agendas and minutes are easily available and posted on the organization's website before and after each meeting.
- Meeting notices and agendas are distributed to members prior to each meeting with ample notice.
- Time is allowed at board meetings for stakeholders to ask questions or raise issues.

How many new board members were elected/appointed to your board this year?

2

*What more would you like to tell NCR or the community about your board meetings?*

*What are you doing that is new or particularly successful to involve residents and others?*

CARAG does not have separate Board and Neighborhood Meetings, except for Board Retreats twice a year where the group discusses goals and progress of the organization. So, all monthly Neighborhood Meetings are promoted to the entire community.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** (please check all that apply)

- Meeting agendas and minutes are easily available and posted on the organization's website before and after each meeting.
- Affected residents and other stakeholders are contacted prior to an issue being discussed at a committee meeting.
- Meeting notices and agendas are distributed to members prior to each meeting with ample notice.

Other (please specify)

*What more would you like to tell NCR or the community about your regular meetings?*

*What are you doing that is new or particularly successful to involve residents and others?*

## **SPECIFIC ISSUES**

- Affected and interested stakeholders are notified and involved in your organization's decision-making process.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION** (please check all that apply)

- An annual report is available to all residents on the organization's website.
- The organization's bylaws, grievance procedures, meeting schedules and contact information are easily available on the organization's website and through other means.

## **OTHER** (please check all that apply)

- Our community events and meetings are regularly advertised in community newspapers.
- We use social media (such as e-democracy or Facebook) to share information.
- We share city news and information on our organization's website or through email, social media or other means.

*What more would you like to tell NCR or the community about participation in your organization?*

*What are you doing that is new or particularly successful to involve residents and others?*



CARAG now has more than 1,000 followers on Twitter, which is far higher than most neighborhood associations. Twitter appears to be an effective tool to engage young renters who make up a significant portion of the community.



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## 2015 Highlights

### PLEASE DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- 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?

#### MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #1

##### Bryant Square Park Mosaic Mural Project

A much-beloved mosaic mural, which was assembled by the community and attached to a prominent neighborhood business, had to be destroyed to make structural wall repairs. CARAG stepped in with an effort to replace the mosaics at a new, public location, Bryant Square Park, by matching NRP funds with a Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) art grant. The organization partnered with the MPRB, VOA SW Senior Center, and artist Sharra Frank on the project which involves the community in envisioning themes and images, as well as assembling the mosaics at a series of workshops. The project will result in five framed mosaics being attached to the Bryant Square Park recreation center in 2016 beautifying the park and securing a long term home for the mosaics.

The mosaic art form is fun and accessible to people of all ages with almost 200 children, adults, and seniors participating in the project. Many of the participants had no previous connection to CARAG, but this art project was able to engage them in a new way. Also, it was a great inter-generational effort bringing people 5 to 95 together.

#### MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #2

***We'd love to share your highlights with others.***

If possible, send digital photos, videos, illustrations or a link to any of these to [ncr@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ncr@minneapolismn.gov) with the Subject Line: ***2015 CPP Annual Report Images***. If you have a large digital file, please make arrangements to mail or deliver a copy directly to your NCR Neighborhood Specialist.



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