



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

## Neighborhood Organization Information - *please confirm*

### NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Corcoran Neighborhood Organization

### ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Neighborhood Organization

Contact:

Eric Gustafson

Organization Address:

3451 Cedar Ave S

Organization Address 2:

Organization ZIP:

55407

Organization Email Address:

info@corcoranneighborhood.org

Organization Phone Number:

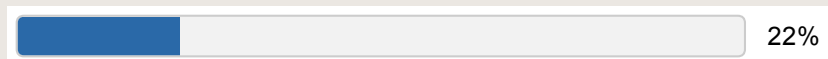
612-724-7457

### 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
05	12	2016





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**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?*

Our Renters committee is a space exclusively for renters to discuss and plan action around housing concerns.

**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?

*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?*

We door-knocked or flyered around 1,500 households over the course of the year. We door-knocked 50 weeks out of the year.

**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.)

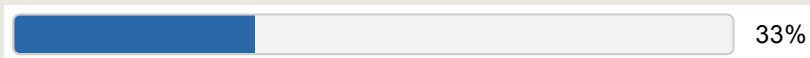
What more would you like to tell NCR or the community about your events?  
What are you doing that is new or particularly successful to involve residents and others?

Outreach at our farmers market is particularly effective. We also conduct substantial annual outreach to SNAP-EBT users to draw new people to the farmers market.

**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):

Our resident-written and -edited newspaper is mailed free to every household each month.



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

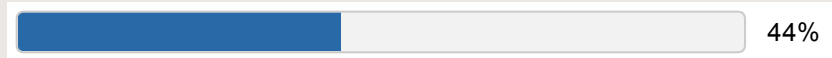
**HOW DID YOUR ORGANIZATION REACH OUT TO UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?** (please check all that apply)

- 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-represented groups?*

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

We have a committee and chair position on our board reserved exclusively for renters. We organize across geographies through the Minneapolis Renters Coalition, and utilize legal and technical partners such as HOME Line to realize greater impact. Effective work is crucial to recruiting new participation within under-represented groups.



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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?

6

*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?*

Board minutes are published in our free newspaper mailed monthly to every household.

**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?*

We post meeting notices and agendas on E-Democracy and social media.

**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.





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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

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) sought input in 2015 on future improvements to park amenities, programs and services, and recreation centers around the city, via its Closing the Gap and RecQuest initiatives. To this end, we explicitly asked MPRB leadership to partner with us to exploit our relationships and regular outreach in the neighborhood. Instead, the MPRB held its own community meeting with very limited publicity, drawing just 2 neighborhood residents. In response, we decided to move forward on our own engagement plan working with local park staff and to share the input gathered with MPRB.

In cooperation with Corcoran Park staff, we organized a community meeting with over 60 residents in attendance. Everyone who attended shared what they love about Corcoran Park and what they would most like to improve or change. We gathered additional input through a survey (reflecting questions used by MPRB at their poorly-attended meeting) via conversations at Corcoran Park with families, Twin Cities Native Lacrosse and other frequent park users, through door-knocking, through conversations with day care centers that use the park, and through an online version of the survey. Through this process we heard from over 150 households. We analyzed the input to identify the community's top priorities using a numeric method.

Our board sent a letter sharing the community's priorities and representative comments with MPRB superintendent and leadership and asked for their collaboration and partnership in phased implementation of these priorities, most of which would incur limited financial costs.

Our letter was well received, resulting in a meeting of our board and staff with top MPRB and Corcoran Park leadership to discuss next steps including the specific improvements being proposed in the MPRB's official Closing the Gap and RecQuest plans, which

changed in response to the community priorities shared.

One of the MPRB's proposed improvements was an urban agriculture area where we currently have mature shade trees in Corcoran Park – a beloved park feature according to the input we had gathered, and a potentially unworkable arrangement. We responded by conducting a second survey at our general membership meeting and online. Discussion at the general membership meeting raised an idea we had heard during our survey, to remove the lightly-used off-street parking lot at the park to make way for another use of this valuable space in our small park. The 25 responses we received to our second survey indicated support for preserving the shade trees and for establishing urban agriculture in a different location, and also indicated support for a longer-term plan to remove a portion of the parking lot to accommodate urban agriculture and maintain ADA-accessible parking near the park building. These changes have since been incorporated into MPRB plans.

Meanwhile, we heard from other neighborhoods and stakeholders who spent significant time this year attending Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings convened by the MPRB, who expressed frustration that the meetings were not community driven or an effective use of time. We are glad that we ignored the CAC process and focused on outreach and creating voice and influence for our community members.

We believe our approach to engagement around Park issues represents a best practice in collaborating with and/or engaging the MRPB around community needs and desires. We are happy to share additional advice and the tools we used with interested neighborhoods.

## **MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #2**

