



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

## Neighborhood Organization Information - *please confirm*

### NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc.

### ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Neighborhood Organization

Contact:

Lynn Regnier

Organization Address:

609 10th Street S, Suite 170

Organization Address 2:

Organization ZIP:

55404

Organization Email Address:

info@elliottpark.org

Organization Phone Number:

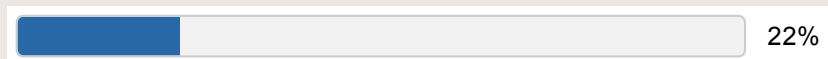
612-335-5846

### 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 |
|----|----|------|
| 03 | 14 | 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?*

**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

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?*

Most of the residential properties in Elliot Park are multi-unit secure buildings with locked entrances. EPNI has not engaged in door knocking activities for over 10 years. Many of our properties are owned by nonprofit organizations, Aeon owns over 1,000 units in Elliot Park, and we connect with property owners and managers to help disperse community information.

#### **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.)

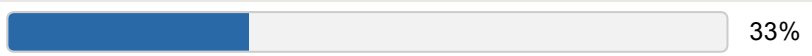
*What more would you like to tell NCR or the community about your events?*

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

**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):

While EPNI did not conduct its own surveys in 2015 we did connect the community to survey opportunities conducted by other organizations and entities on topics that were relevant to Elliot Park. Those opportunities were promoted through our E-newsletter, website, Facebook page and by bulletin board postings.



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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):



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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?

1

*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?*

**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)

Community meetings are posted on Facebook and bulletin bo

*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?*

Activities and events are posted on community bulletin boards and flyers, announcements and press releases are sent to building managers and businesses to post for their residents and employees.



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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

Late in 2014 EPNI received notice that the City, County and MnDOT were working on the I-35W Lake Street Transit Access Project that included a noise analysis along I-94 between the Nicollet Avenue and 11th Avenue overpasses. Meetings were to be scheduled to inform the affected properties along 17th Street in Elliot Park between Chicago and 11th Avenue of the analysis results. If warranted by the analysis 20-foot sound barrier walls would be erected along that stretch of highway unless the affected property owners voted against the walls. While only the targeted property owners were allowed to vote on this issue the EPNI Board of Directors facilitated efforts to guarantee that everyone was informed and understood the issues. The Board developed a policy statement and shared it with the property owners and also communicated with the Ventura Village neighborhood to coordinate concerns and responses between the two communities. Of particular concern was the fact that a non-vote by a property owner would be registered as a "Yes-vote", thus favoring construction of the walls. Both communities worked hard to make sure that the property owners understood that they needed to vote in order to convey their wishes. Each side of the highway was also concerned that if a wall was constructed on only one side the traffic noise would bounce back over to the non-walled side, exacerbating the sound levels. Following months of meetings and information exchanges the property owners in both neighborhoods voted against constructing the proposed sound barrier walls.

## MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #2

In 2014 Kraus Anderson Construction Company approached the EPNI with plans for redevelopment of their full square block property in Elliot Park. The neighborhood response was tepid at best, not at all excited about the building design and the fact that the rest of the block would remain as a surface parking lot, its current state, with plans for additional development on that site 'some time in the future'. The community reviewed the proposal and approved it with the caveat that future development along the south edge of that block, nudging near and across from the South 9th Street Historic District, would receive more serious scrutiny and need to be sympathetic with the historic district. KA withdrew their first plans following pushback from the city, and then reintroduced a second plan with the same building design, only now relocated to stretch across historic 9th Street.

The neighborhood requested some modifications to just the 9th Street façade of the building to make it more compatible with nearby historic properties. The request was ignored and the community did not support the project. Neither did the city nor the Planning Commission that listened to the neighborhood and sent KA back to the drawing board to, in the words of Chair Ted Tucker, "... design an urban street front worthy of our downtown." Fast forward to 2015 when KA returned to the community with a full-block proposal containing four outstanding mixed-use buildings, underground parking, a publicly assessable courtyard space and building designs that enhanced and echoed architectural features inherent in the neighborhood's historic properties. This was a stunning project that rose out of community voices, was cognizant of community master planning, and celebrated the history and goals of the neighborhood. It did not happen in a vacuum. It happened because of a community that understood itself and was backed by years of experience and knowledge. Without neighborhood intervention the second proposal would likely have passed through to completion. But the community demanded and received a far better product because of volunteers who were informed and engaged in the process. Construction on the new development is scheduled to begin in April 2016.

### *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@minneapolis.gov](mailto:ncr@minneapolis.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.

