



Community Participation Program
Neighborhood Organization
2015 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization Information - *please confirm*

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Lyndale Neighborhood Association

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Neighborhood Organization

Contact:

Brad Bourn

Organization Address:

3537 Nicollet Ave

Organization Address 2:

Organization ZIP:

55408

Organization Email Address:

brad@lyndale.org

Organization Phone Number:

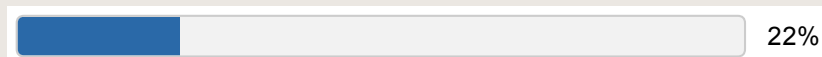
612-824-9402

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	09	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?

We have changed the name of our General Membership Meeting to the Lyndale Neighborhood meeting in an effort for the meeting to be more inclusionary. We heard feedback that some community members were confused by the wording and thought they needed to be a registered member to join the meeting.

While we still have monthly committee meetings for the Crime & Safety and Housing Planning & Development committees, the other committees have transformed into more project based action committees which are shorter term in nature. Community members have changed the way in which they want to serve, so LNA is working to work with a structure that is easier for people to work into their schedules and allows them to pick and choose the projects they want to be involved in. We're finding that for our diverse volunteer base, this works better to engage a new and more transient population.

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?

1000

*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?*

LNA does a lot of door-knocking including: informational door-knocking (gathering opinions), outreach for community members to get involved in specific events, and door-knocking as part of the experiential education of the Women's Leadership Program.

A significant outcome of this work was learning about all the housing issues our community members were facing. So many issues came up that LNA created a Renters' Rights Group which met twice monthly. This group partnered with local tenants' rights organizations and learned about their rights, advocacy, and carried out direct action. This work led to the creation of the Minneapolis Renters Coalition and Inquilinx Unidxs.

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?

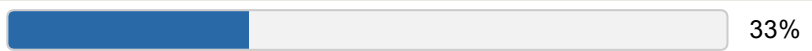
LNA generally has a presence at any event that happens in our neighborhood. We have a booth at the Lyndale Open Streets as well as put on our own large scale events. Our events are designed to engage all community members while providing opportunities for them to take on leadership roles and develop other vocational skills. While LNA has a number of yearly events, we also do events/gatherings/happenings for small issue based presentations that community members have told us they are interested in.

Lyndale also collaborates with Kingfield in organizing the Nicollet Open Streets event. This event has enjoyed major success, bringing over 11,000 people last year to Nicollet to enjoy our neighborhoods and the great local businesses here.

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 community organizer appeared on "Rocio TV", a Spanish language cable access show.





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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)

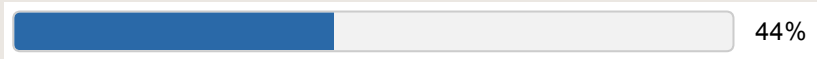
- Worked on an issue of particular interest to an under-represented group within the neighborhood.
- Provided notices of annual and special meetings in multiple languages.
- Provided newsletter articles or web pages in multiple languages.
- Targeted outreach in apartment buildings or blocks to reach 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):

Our programming such as the Women's Leadership and ESL Programs provide targeted outreach to under-represented communities with the goal being to engage and empower community members to get active in their communities. Through these programs community members learn how to get involved and how to have their issues/concerns heard by the larger community.

What more would you like to tell NOR of 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 learned that for true engagement to happen (especially with under-represented groups) we need to take the time to build the relationships and trust. Our long term programs are helping to establish this trust and changing the issues that we as a community address and work on.



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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?

4

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?

In 2015, LNA increased our intentionality in creating leadership pathways in underrepresented communities. A graduate from our Women's Leadership Program expressed interest in getting more involved in the decision making processes of our neighborhood. LNA staff and board members mentored her after her graduation and she expressed an interest in running for a seat on our board. LNA staff, volunteers and graduates from our leadership program all took the time to "campaign" for her and make help ensure turnout was sufficient to elect her. This was the first time many new Minnesotans participated in a neighborhood election and many expressed a sense of pride and a feeling that their votes and participation actually mattered.

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)

General Membership Meeting minutes are published in our Ly

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?

N/A

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?

In addition to using targeted outreach and materials in three different languages, our strategy of using longer-term programs and activities, particularly the Women's Leadership and ESL programs to engage under-represented community members is paying off. These are some of the innovative ways we nurture relationships with diverse community members and provide opportunities for community members to get connected with each other and develop their leadership skills. This work is enabling us to build meaningful relationships in ways that we could not do with community events or door knocking alone.

It takes a long time to build trust and engage people, especially within new immigrant communities where community members have reasons to be wary of governmental institutions and may not have had any experience with community-based organizations. The combination of structured programs, community events, projects, and direct advocacy work is helping us develop meaningful relationships. Having a long-term approach based on respect and trust is changing who is involved in the neighborhood, how they are involved, and what we work on as an organization. It is also getting us closer to our goal of having a working multi-cultural community.

Listening to the community and providing opportunities for community members to interact in different situations has helped to bridge perceived barriers. E.g. we have knowledge building workshops, educational programs, committee work, one-time projects, and various social opportunities.



56%



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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 year 2015 was really the year of renters' rights for Lyndale. Through organizing and outreach conducted by both our community organizers and Women's Leadership Program participants, LNA learned that there were many housing issues in our neighborhood. Most of these issues dealt with absurd fines, broken lease agreements, delinquent landlords, and unsafe living conditions. However, a strong theme of discriminatory practices became evident.

Due to the sheer volume of complaints and community members facing evictions and false charges, the Renters' Rights Group was born and held meetings twice monthly. These meetings connected tenants with local tenants' rights organizations, they became aware of their rights, and planned actions to fight for their rights. LNA also helped to create and is a current member of the Minneapolis Renters' Coalition, a group of neighborhood organizations and other community based organizations that work across Minneapolis for renters' rights.

By learning how to work through the City's process to ensure their rights as tenants were respected, the group won many victories and landlords were held accountable and some of the repairs were made. The biggest victory however is that tenants now had protection from being evicted because of speaking out.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #2

Another highlight of 2015 was how the community came together to fight crime and safety issues. While LNA has had a citizen's patrol group, the Lyndale Walkers, and enjoys a good working relationship with the 5th Precinct, many underrepresented community members hadn't participated in our safety initiatives before. We do know that many immigrant and refugee populations are wary of authorities and reluctant to contact the police when problems occur.

Two major incidents, women from the leadership program being robbed at gun-point, and a murder of a Somali man served as a catalyst for action. After the robbery, a group of women from the leadership program joined the Lyndale Walkers, met with the leaders of the group, and have initiated walks ever since. What's more is that a group of Somali women also plan on joining the Walkers once walking season starts. This represents a significant change for us! LNA is excited to finally have a Walkers group that is more representative of the community we live in.

Late last year a Somali man who was the security guard from the Horn Towers, the public housing entity in Lyndale, was murdered on his way to work at Horn Towers. This had a huge impact on the community, and led by women from the Somali cohort of the leadership program, the community mobilized. Within the space of a day or two they organized a huge public safety meeting, conducted outreach, connected with the 5th precinct, the precinct's Inspector, and the Somali Crime Prevention Specialist. This public meeting drew massive crowds and left the women feeling empowered to act and confident in their skills to organize.

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 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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